

FORsooth

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April 2008

Is a sanctuary movement needed again?

by Amy Robinson

The current crisis in immigration policy has led religious leaders to examine what Christian theology requires in the ways we relate to the immigrants in our community. Specifically focusing on those who are undocumented, one of the responses the church has developed to support and stand in solidarity with the immigrant population has been the “New Sanctuary Movement.”

This movement is a coalition of churches across the country who have chosen to open their doors and allow those who are in danger of being deported to live within their walls, in hopes that doing so will lend the immigrants safety and security in the midst of their struggle to stay within the United States.

The original U.S. “Sanctuary Movement” was born in the deserts of Arizona in the 1980s. In response to the wars in Central America, funded and supported by the U.S. Government, several churches throughout the United States declared that it was their moral obligation to open their doors to Central American refugees (whether they were in the country legally or illegally), in order to show their solidarity with the victims of the Central American wars, to make reparations for their government’s participation in the violence, and as to serve as a witness to prophetic role of Christianity in political life.

The current New Sanctuary Movement has drawn on this tradition, likening the economic effects of neo-liberal trade policies



— FORsooth file photo

Father Jim Flynn, reading a statement in the 1990s, was the pastor of St. William Church in West Louisville, which became a sanctuary church in 1983. Do today’s trade policies mandate a new such movement?

to ravages caused by the armies of Guatemala, El Salvador, and Nicaragua, and proclaiming that such dire circumstances require public witness from religious institutions in a very direct and visible way.

There are many who take issue with the Sanctuary Movement because of its seeming disregard for the law. These thinkers point to the fact that the immigrants

(continued on page 4)

Many note Merton’s epiphany, Iraq war

About 100 people marched to or gathered at Fourth Street and Muhammad Ali Boulevard in downtown Louisville March 18 to see the intersection dedicated “Thomas Merton Square.”

The corner’s new designation, which was the idea of Metro Councilman David Tandy, was unveiled in the form of blue and white signs bearing the Catholic monk’s name on the 50th anniversary of his moment of awareness that transformed him from an inwardly focused scholar at the Abbey of Gethsemani in Nelson County, Ky. to a major figure in 1960s social justice movements.

Merton later wrote that while standing at Fourth and what was then called Walnut Street on March 18, 1958, he was “suddenly overwhelmed with the realization that I loved all these people” whom he described as “walking around shining like the sun.”

The crowd at the dedication included Buddhists, Catholics, Baptists and others. Some came from as far away as New Zealand.

The next day, the anniversary of the Iraq War’s start, about 30 people partly acting on Merton’s belief in peace protested

(continued on page 3)

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Part 2 on Latin America: growth and resisting US

Following is the final of two portions of remarks by Ira Grupper Jan. 9, speaking as one of three panelists at a planning meeting of the Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean (KITLAC). Part one ran in the March FORsooth. The topic was “Notable victories and successes in Latin America, and possible flashpoints or things to watch.”

An op-ed piece a few days ago by Roger Cohen, datelined Sao Paulo, Brazil, provides a rare analysis by the New York Times of Latin America. Yet the author chose not to mention that Latin America has made a sea change in the last three decades to where 10 countries are ruled by leftist governments.

The insights provided by the authors I quoted above, and other writings — by Chomsky and still others — lead to six observations, and questions about some of these observations (note: I thank Eric Hershberg of NACLA for developing these points, and Felix Garza of Louisville for his critique). The six points:

1. After 25 years of sluggish or no economic growth in the wake of the debt crisis and in the context of neoliberal economic policies, the past five years have witnessed growth rates nearly matching those of the golden years of the 1950s-70s, particularly in countries where resistance to neoliberal economic policies has occurred, such as Argentina.

This means that in the numerous countries in which one or another current of the left has come to power, the task is not to grapple with stagnation but rather to administer growth. In short, the left is very lucky at the moment.

2. Particularly in South America (see #6 below), that economic growth is concentrated, however, in natural resource based activities, which are capital rather than labor

intensive. That means that employment growth has not evolved in tandem with the overall expansion of the economy.

In addition, there has been a significant shift in income earning from agriculture, to manufacturing to service to most recently the informal sector. Estimates are that almost 50 percent of working age people in Latin America are in the informal sector.

In the main that means people are hustling in the streets — prostitution, drug running, petty marketing — to survive. This matters, because employment and the quality of jobs are the principal mechanisms for reducing the region’s yawning inequalities.

So, the question KITLAC would need to discuss is: How does one deal, specifically, with providing for the needs of the people (proletariat and farmers) in a capital-intensive period? Well, we need to educate folk to see that there is a great need to recognize the necessity for fair compensation and retraining for displaced victims of expanded commerce.

If we look at who is coming to the U.S. as undocumented workers, they are current and former farmers in Latin America. In North Carolina, tobacco farmers prefer to hire tobacco farmers from Southern Mexico because they have already been exposed and have a resistance to the green tobacco sickness. Baldemar Velasquez, president of FLOC, (Farm Labor Organizing Committee) told a group of farm worker advocates that tobacco farmers in Southern Mexico can no longer make a living growing tobacco. (As you know, the U.S. agricultural subsidy is directly responsible for this.)

They continue to plant just enough to keep (have access to) their National Health Insurance, but they earn absolutely no income from the crops they grow. They are only able to carve out a meager living by

(continued on page 5)

INSIDE

It’s no myth – housing crisis is severe p. 2

To the nation’s health – a showing of SiCKO p. 2

Letter writer elaborates on school assignment p. 3

Carolina, Cuba and Ford – a labor perspective p. 7

Lunch speaker: housing crisis is ‘as bad as you think’

by Eustace Durrett
and Ike M. Thacker IV

Louisville used to be one of the very worst cities in the U.S. as regards the crisis in foreclosures and is now only the 45th worst, admitted Cathy Hinko, executive director of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition , at the monthly FOR Third Thursday Lunch March 20.

However, she said that this is absolutely not a cause for celebration. She maintained that we should not take delight in the pain of others, and pointed out that Louisville’s foreclosures have not decreased at all. It’s just that the rest of the country has gone way up.

Hinko noted that April is Fair Housing Month but said that the housing situation in Louisville is at best “fair.” The housing crisis, maintained Hinko, is “as bad as you think.”

The Metropolitan Housing Coalition has existed, said Hinko, for 19 years (Suzy Post was its first director); in 2003 it began issuing a yearly report with one highlighted separate topic per year, plus the same nine other measures of housing conditions in Louisville for the given year.

The first striking statistic that Hinko cited in support of this unfortunate and inconvenient truth was the fact that some 15,000 households (not individual people) are on the waiting list for housing assistance in Louisville. This fact in turn, she said, is created in large part by the fact



— photo courtesy
Metropolitan Housing Coalition
Cathy Hinko

there are lots of low-wage jobs in our city: 37 percent of them pay less than \$12.50/hour, which is about half of median income and is right at what it takes to minimally afford rent and utilities.

Thus housing in Louisville is segregated by income; it is also heavily segregated by race, said Hinko. We in this city have relied on the school system (which has voluntarily maintained a busing plan long after it was judicially required) to ameliorate the racial housing segregation that continues to exist. And Hinko maintains that this racial housing segregation is a very bad thing. For example, she said, it leads to increased stress and thus to bad

health, besides being inimical to the ideal of a fair society in itself.

As for the often-headlined current housing crisis in general, said Hinko, the key thing that led to it (and the crisis has now spread throughout the industry, even to “pillars” like Bear Stearns) was the exponential increase in foreclosures that began to rear its ugly head, for the few who were then watching, some time back in the African-American community. Like the spirit of Kentucky, “unbridled” indeed was the banks’ lending, Hinko said.

They wanted higher interest rates on their loans so they could make more profit, said Hinko, and in the very low-prime-rate environment the only way they could get it was to issue “subprime” loans to riskier borrowers at higher rates. These borrowers were lured, Hinko added, like the millions who have overextended on their credit cards, into borrowing more than they should have. And the banks played tricks on people, like telling them they had “fixed interest rate” loans when the rate was only fixed for two years, Hinko said.

Practices such as those outlined above have real human consequences, said Hinko. The foreclosure crisis, she said, has for example hit the African-American community particularly hard, because blacks tend to have lower incomes than whites. And significant levels of homelessness have been created especially since 1980, she said, with the average age

of a homeless person being nine years and 7,000 children in the Jefferson County Public Schools being homeless. Not surprisingly, Hinko noted, children are one of the fastest-growing groups in the homeless population. If you for some reason want to have your heart broken, she said, you can go watch the school bus pick up a load of children with their backpacks at Wayside Christian Mission.

Hinko closed by talking about one of the ways the MHC is trying to combat all of this, Affordable Housing Trust Funds both at the state and local (Louisville) level. But she admitted that, especially for the very poor, this “band-aid,” as one questioner in the spirited Q and A session that followed her presentation called it, simply isn’t good enough.

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

Kentucky Refugee Ministries director Carol Young will speak at the April 17 Third Thursday Lunch on refugees’ experience and contributions to the area. The \$7 lunch at the Rudyard Kipling restaurant, 422 W. Oak St. in Louisville, starts at 11:30 a.m. Reservations are required by April 15. Call Polly Johnson at (502) 473-8435 or Mary Ann Lambert at (502) 425-3844.



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.



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

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

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

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

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

Hoosier groups backing reforms to show SiCKO

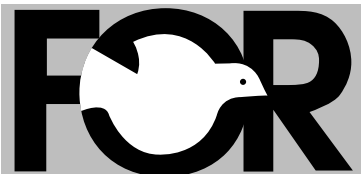
Southern Indiana groups working for a new health care system will show the Michael Moore movie SiCKO free, with limited seating, April 3 at 7 p.m. at Richo’s Public House, a restaurant at 3312 Plaza Dr. in New Albany.

The showing is being organized by Hoosiers for a Common Sense Health Plan, which favors a single-payer health insurance system; Destinations Booksellers in New Albany; and Constituency for Progress, a progressive New Albany-based

group formed based on issues raised at area forums and symposiums.

To reach Richo’s from Louisville, take the Kennedy Bridge and Interstate 65 north to Interstate 265 west, then exit south (turning left) onto Grantline Road. Turn left onto Plaza Drive (the second traffic light south of I-265). Richo’s is about one-half block ahead on the right.

For more information contact Dave Cox at (812) 246-2408 (local from Louisville).



Founded 1915

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

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93 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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On schools, more unites than divides justice activists

You did a great job with your story on the mixed responses to the new assignment plan. I appreciated the clarity with which you presented my reaction. Since I was not expecting your call it left me wondering if my comments had made sense.

There is one thing about the possible impression readers may get that does trouble me. This comes from the fact that once again long standing differences of opinion about the importance of desegregation and assignment plans tend to overshadow or obscure strong agreement on other issues affecting the quality of education in our schools.

If the question before the community right now was, whatever we decide about the assignment plan, what are the most important next steps Louisville’s school system needs to take to make sure every child gets the best possible education, I think Louis Coleman and I would be saying the same things and that the others you got comments from would also have very similar lists.

Your article made that quite clear, in my opinion, but unfortunately a good many people often get only a sound-bite view even from a full-coverage presentation....

Your article stated that Rev. Coleman was more concerned about achievement gaps and “push outs” than about numerical integration. It also ended with my related statement calling attention to class sizes and the fact that no matter how much you spread the children around “if you don’t do a good job in the schools it doesn’t do a lot of good.”

I certainly agree strongly with his comment that this and previous desegregation plans do not really provide the needed emphasis on improving schools in poor and minority neighborhoods. I actually agree also that this is more important than racial balance, but I am less optimistic than he that Louisville will find ways to push ahead effectively with it unless we continue to maintain diversity of several kinds.



Letters to FORsooth

I agree with him that getting a fair share of the best teachers in those schools is a more direct way to improve the instruction than busing students, but again I’m thinking that giving those teachers a great deal more support as well as maintaining some diversity is still required in order to have much chance of our teachers being ready to stay for long in those schools. He’s right that moving teachers is better than moving students, but we have not shown much creative effort along those lines so far.

Although it is fair to say that Rev. Coleman and I put a different value on the importance of desegregation I think that is not because we have a different vision of the goal of overcoming racial divisions. I happen to feel more strongly than he does that in today’s America it is not likely that we will suddenly be able to allocate equal resources to schools unless we continue to work hard to maintain the kind of diversity that even this extremely reactionary Supreme Court still upholds as a compelling governmental interest.

Reducing the separation caused and con-

tinued largely by discriminatory practices in employment and housing is not necessary because Black and white children have unequal learning abilities. Desegregation and diversity and the attendance plans to achieve them are still necessary because even in Louisville today it is clear that schools with more than their share of Black (or poor) children are not getting the same kind of resources. Even if each school gets the same dollars per child they don’t get the same number of highly effective teachers or even as many text-books.

Those are things that directly determine the quality of instruction for each child in each classroom. For truly educational reasons the matter of diversity in each classroom is of minor importance, though it has a great value for the social health of the community. That is why I was willing to be optimistic about the assignment plan. I’m hoping that Louisville will smoothly accept it and move on to the major task of improving what happens in each classroom.

If the question for your article had been on educational improvements rather than simply the attendance plan I would also have been much better able to speak about positions taken by the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression. We have had many discussions and made many statements over more than ten years stressing the importance of changes in disciplinary practices, management of the assignment plans, and particularly matters related to the preparation of curriculum and teachers for effective instruction of children with different cultural backgrounds.

Many of us in the Kentucky Alliance believe that we have already experienced a greatly increased level of interest and action in these areas from the Jefferson County School System during the recent search for a superintendent and in the eight months that

Dr. Berman has served. We are hoping to continue this interaction together with many other individuals and community groups.

Although the proposed assignment plan has been the main item at the recent series of community presentation by JCPS, we found it very significant that at the first one, which was held at Central High School, early attention was also given to Dr. Berman’s Community Engagement Report, “Response to the 2007 Education Summit.”

That summit was convened by the Urban League and the NAACP in September to give the new superintendent an in-depth view of the major concerns within the African-American community.

My personal impression is that his response shows great readiness to listen and even act quickly to initiate changes designed to meet many of those concerns. His response includes ongoing activities and new initiatives already adopted or proposed in five areas: 1. Community Engagement and Student Family Support; 2. Teacher Quality; 3. Achievement Gap; 4. Minorities in Instructional and Administrative Positions; and 5. Other, such as School Funding.

It was actually the content of this report, which was handed out for information before the detailed presentation of the new assignment plan that was uppermost in my mind when you asked my reaction to the plan. I was feeling very hopeful that there will be rapidly growing positive reactions to this report in the African-American community. I believe it may well provide the basic framework through which Louisville takes a big step forward toward quality education in all its schools.

We will be building on our nationally recognized accomplishments among urban areas in maintaining diversity, but finally getting down to what schools are really about — giving every child the best possible chance to exercise their universal desire to learn and become the best. Surely we can all agree that is what we want, even if we have some difficulty figuring out the best way to assign students to particular schools.

I know I have gone on much too long, but you did such a good job getting many of these issues into your article that I couldn’t help trying to think it out further in my own mind.

Sincerely yours,
Thomas F. Moffett

Braden Historical Marker April 11, 2008

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Merton *(continued from page 1)*

the five-year-old war on the steps of the Jefferson County Courthouse and others held a vigil outside the home of U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, a fervent backer of the war.

Is a sanctuary movement needed again? (continued from page 1)

who are seeking shelter in the churches of Los Angeles, Chicago and Seattle have knowingly disobeyed the law upon their entry into the United States when there is a standing process for legal immigration.

They believe that the church has a responsibility to uphold the law, and see the actions of the sanctuary movement as flaunting their disobedience to this concept. As their theological grounding, they look to statements like the section “Of the Civil Magistrate,” in the Reformed tradition’s Westminster Confession of Faith, which states: “It is the duty of the people to pray for the magistrates, to honor their persons, to pay them tribute and other dues, to obey their lawful commands, and to be subject to their authority, for conscience’ sake.

“Infidelity, or difference in religion, doth not make void the magistrate’s just and legal authority, nor free the people from their due obedience to him: from which ecclesiastical persons are not exempted.” (6.130) And so, the opponents of the New Sanctuary Movement believe that its supporters are violating the call of Christians to obey the state and work for its benefit.

There are others who do not hold this view of the Christian’s relationship to the state but who still oppose participation in the New Sanctuary movement because of its potential costs and risks. For example, the Sanctuary movement of the 1980s was at the center of a lawsuit in which four Arizona church sought reparation from the state for the damages they received because of the ways in which the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service conducted proceedings against them.

It 1985, it was learned that the INS had been sending undercover investigators into the activities of four Tucson congregations, to record their meetings, worship sessions, and Bible studies as a way of gathering evidence for a trial that was underway involving church workers.

This discovery led to a sense of intimidation and fear among members of these four churches, and caused some (especially those for whom Spanish was their native language) to leave. There are many who see these potential negative effects and repercussions to the church as outweighing the positive effects of the New Sanctuary movement. For them, the risk is simply too high, and so they choose other forms of witness around the immigration crisis.

Those who counter these arguments tend to follow the thinking of Jon Sobrino, who published a theological analysis of Sanctuary in 1988. They justify the sanctuary movement because it defends the lives of the poor, because it carries on the tradition of the United States as a place of refuge and new beginnings, and because it serves as a model for the ways in which we can live as an international community.

This first argument for the New Sanctuary Movement is based in the concept from liberation theologies of “preferential option for the poor,” which states that God is always on the side of the oppressed and the marginalized, and that when we work on their behalf we work on God’s behalf.

This is supported by a vision of economic life and harmony set forth in the Deuteronomical Code, which presents a remarkably egalitarian society with systems

hospitality here when they arrived, so are we obligated to provide hospitality to those who are newcomers among us.

This is supported, in addition, by the repeated biblical injunction to love the emigrant, as stated in Lv 19:33, where it is written “When an emigrant settles with you in your country, do not oppress him. He shall be for you as one of your own people; you will love him as yourself.” And so, just as the United States has been called to serve as a refuge for the emigrant, a sanctuary from hostile homelands, in generations past, so the church is called to enable that vocation through actions like participation in the New Sanctuary Movement.

Finally, those who favor the New Sanctuary Movement see it as an example of the type of community we can establish as God’s people. In this way, it is an eschatological

church buildings, we act on the familial bonds we have through God our nursing mother. We share our common heritage with these newcomers as immigrants in a strange and new land. We acknowledge that our faith will ultimately be judged by the way we treat the marginalized in our midst.

In response to those who oppose the Sanctuary Movement, I remember that we, eventually, are not followers of a Christ who meekly follows the law of the land. It was Jesus’ willful resistance to an unjust religious and legal society that led to his imprisonment and execution as a political and religious prisoner. Jesus’ teachings brought him into direct conflict with the governmental authorities, and it was this conflict that caused his suffering and even his death.

If we claim Christ’s name, we must also be willing to come into direct conflict with unjust powers in our societies, at times disobeying the law in order to bear witness to the truth of justice and mercy. This will not be an easy path, but if we seem to suffer for the truth we declare, we must remember that we are suffering with Jesus himself. To claim to follow his tradition requires that we take on its potential consequence, even at the risk of the life of the church itself.

Today, I urge the churches of Louisville to prayerfully consider joining in the efforts of the “New Sanctuary Movement.” My hope is that the blessed community of justice and peace shown to us in Isaiah and Revelation will become realized through actions like these.

The writer is a senior at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She worships at James Lees Presbyterian Church in Louisville, and is a member of the Kentuckiana Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean.

This piece was based of her senior Statement of Faith at the seminary; it is an excerpt from a much longer paper which was required to include an ethical analysis of a current political issue.



Calendar (continued from back page)

- Apr 29 (Tue) **KCADP (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)** every last Tuesday. Highland Presbyterian Church, 1011 Cherokee Rd, 6:30 pm. Call Kaye Gallagher, 721-8885 or Mark Meade, 541-9998, E-mail: kcadp@earthlink.net
- May 6 (Tue) **METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION ANNUAL MEETING AND DINNER.** Hyatt Regency, 320 W. Jefferson. 5:00 pm beginning with a **power social hour.** The former Mayor of Metro Nashville, **Bill Purcell** will speak. His work as Mayor of Nashville in housing, health care and education garnered national attention. Currently he is Dean of Public Service and Urban Affairs at Tennessee State University. Individual tickets are \$50 (students \$35, young professionals \$40). Why not sponsor a table at \$500 or place an ad in the program? Scholarships available. For details call 584-6858, or visit www.metropolitanhousing.org
- May 6 (Tue) **SACRED SITES OF TIBET TOUR.** Rebecca Martin and Glenda Hodges-Cook share a photographic presentation from their Tibet tour in the summer of 2007. 7 to 9 PM at James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. Donations welcome. Call Center for Faith & Action for more info, 896-0172.
- May 8 (Thurs) **FORsooth LABELING,** at Beverley Marmion’s, 6:30 pm. **BOUQUETS to those who carry on this essential work every month!** Call 451-5658.
- May 9 (Fri) **DAVID BAILEY, SONGS OF HOPE.** A concert for the Michael Quinlan Brain Tumor Foundation. Bomhard Theater, Kentucky Center. 7 PM. \$10 in advance, \$12 day of show. Contact Kentucky Center box office for tickets, 584-7777 or www.kentuckycenter.org.
- May 10 (Sat) **KEEP ON WALKING:** Michael Quinlan Brain Tumor Foundation’s 7th Annual Walk. Registration 8 AM, walk at 9:30 AM. Riverfront Park, Great Lawn. \$25 registration includes tee shirt. For more information, visit www.mqbt.org or call 502-896-1701.
- June 23 (Mon) **PASTORS FOR PEACE CARAVAN TO CUBA.** There will be five buses in the caravan, one of which was purchased by (and will be driven by) a man who used to live in Louisville. Each bus will honor one of the “**Cuba Five**” who are languishing in US prisons without due process and without counsel or access to their families. The Louisville event is being coordinated by **KITLAC** with help from the **Henry Wallace Brigade.** David Horvath is asking for volunteers to serve on the planning team. Contact him at 479-9262 or davidh40204@yahoo.com

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

June 12-23. **Witness for Peace 25th Anniversary Delegation to Guatemala,** celebrating 25 years of service and solidarity with the people of Latin America. Led by **Rev. Jim Flynn.** Cost will be \$1,000 plus airfare. Apply by April 30. Send e-mail request to: jflynn@stmarysparkcity.com. See flyer in the March issue for more information.


Friday, April 18th

Join us for an evening of


LIVE MUSIC & SPOKEN WORD ART

to benefit the
Henry Wallace Community Center for the Elderly
in La Guinera, Cuba


Including performances by




Shadwick Wilde




Afrykah



Carol Kraemer



The Broken Carousel Orchestra



Poet Michael Bishop

and *Appalatin*

Performances begin at 9 pm

SILENT AUCTION OF CUBAN ART & CRAFTS, PHOTOGRAPHY & MORE throughout the evening

Recommended donation \$5-25 sliding scale

The Rudyard Kipling
422 W. Oak Street, Louisville

All proceeds benefit the
Henry Wallace Community Center for the Elderly
in La Guinera, Cuba

For information, please call 502.216.2060

Page 4

FORsooth

Part 2 on Latin America: resisting US *(continued from page 1)*

coming to North Carolina six to eight months out of the year and work as farm laborers in tobacco and cucumber fields.

It is terrible that they are not able to support themselves and their families in their own home towns. Additionally, the U.S. war on drugs is causing great havoc on the lives of the poor all over Latin America. Our responsibility is to continue to educate and challenge our population on the devastation we cause our Latin American brothers and sisters.

There needs to be a push for the wealthy in each Latin American country to invest in their own countries. Too many invest their wealth in other countries, where they can earn better return on their investments. There may be Latin American leaders that may have some ideas about how to do this, but I just have not heard any leaders speak on this issue, and I think it is a key point that can have drastic change in any country where local investment can be encouraged.

3. Nonetheless, some claim that over the past five years there has been some progress, albeit very modest, in reducing income inequality. Data on poverty are clear: a number of countries have advanced considerably toward achieving the United Nation’s Millenium Development Goal targets of reducing poverty by half by 2015. Even the World Bank still estimates that almost half the people in the world live on less than \$2 a day.

The percentage of those living on less than \$1 a day has declined considerably since the 1980s but the raw numbers have increased. It may be the case that the declining percentages of very poor have resulted from the reversal of neoliberal economic policies and the reestablishment of welfare programs that had been cut dramatically in the 1980s and 1990s during the neoliberal era.

The U.N. Millennium Goals question the ability of capital to function in the same old ways. But, as we learned with the fall of socialism in the USSR and Eastern Europe, capital has a remarkable ability to adapt to changed circumstances. So, what do Chavez, Evo et al need to do to stay in power, and what specific U.S./IMF/World Bank programs will they have to contend with in the next few years?

This is really a tough question for me. My concern is that there is not a sustainable political movement that will support the people at the bottom of the economic ladder. If Chavez is not able to hold on to power, who will take over? (This paper is not able

to cover the very impressive work of the new Venezuelan trade union federation, UNT, and its influence).

A Louisville colleague, Felix Garza, notes: “The sad thing for me is that the victories in Venezuela seem to be the result of one man’s efforts – Chavez. I hope I am wrong, but I don’t like the idea of not being able to replace dynamic leaders like Chavez. My question is, can the education and political training that is taking place among the poor and middle class in Venezuela (in particular) sustain long-term political and economic gains for them? I am not sure at this time.

“I have one big fear. If U.S. soldiers come home from Iraq, which I doubt they will any time soon, but if they do, they would not sit idle for very long. I think they would be sent into Venezuela right away.”

As far as the IMF and World Bank programs – their influence is being challenged and diminished.

4. Three questions stand out with regard to the most incontrovertibly “left” experiments underway in the region, (which, of course, had their inspiration in the Cuban revolution)—all of which are in the Andes, where political parties and other representative institutions are weak and where popular outrage over corruption and social exclusion is most pronounced. I refer to Bolivia, Ecuador and Venezuela.

The three questions are

- a) Are these not merely contemporary (and fragile) instances of populism, as opposed to something potentially conducive to a 21st century socialism?
- b) Will the processes of constitutional reform pursued in each country generate institutions consistent with liberal/representative democracy or will they will instead concentrate power in the executive and weaken checks and balances provided by legislatures and independent judiciaries?
- c) What will be the link between those reform governments and their personal charismatic leaders, on the one hand, and organized movements in civil society, on the other?

In Bolivia, Evo is the product of a social movement, but increasingly opposed by an increasingly organized regional movement (and in Bolivia the question of national viability is real). In Venezuela, Chavez tries to foster movements from above, yet is pressured in turn by those very movements, as well as by a finally somewhat organized opposition.

In Ecuador, one person I consulted feels Correa has no organized movement to draw from, and appeals instead to amorphous, multi-class discontent. Another person strongly disagrees with this.

Well, fundamental economic change won’t happen any time soon. So we are talking about a long period of educating the people, while also expropriating, if slowly, the means of production, distribution, and the land. Chavez seems to have thought about this — probably in his consultations with Fidel.

While time does not permit revisiting the Cuban revolution, we must never forget that this island country of 10 million people, just 90 miles from the Colossus of the North, has sustained a revolution that has institutionalized the public ownership and control of the means of production, and free and public access to education and health care. The revolution has struggled with some success to challenge the racism that developed in the colonial period and grew from the 1890s to 1959.

It has significantly begun to reverse the strong culture of homophobia on the island. In virtually every economic and social dimension Cuba has been a laboratory for experimentation with new policies, accepting the successful ones and reversing the policy failures.

In the end, the Cuban model of socialism remains an inspiration to the Western Hemisphere. As Cuba transitions from the period of Fidel to a post-Fidel era, we will see if this most durable of all revolutions has in fact become institutionalized. If Cuba succeeds, this will surely impact the changes now occurring in Venezuela, Bolivia, Ecuador, and the various liberal and social democratic regimes in Latin America.

What about Lula, Evo, etc.? I have not read enough about Lula and Evo regarding their long-term strategies. I sure hope they are working for long term sustainability of political and economic gains.

5. Several alternative scenarios are in the air with regard to regional inter-state relations and alliances. U.S. influence is at an all time low, yet there are no clear or fully coherent hegemonic alternatives.

At the economic level, Mercosur is experiencing growing pains, exacerbated by the dispute between Argentina and Uruguay over the latter’s construction of a paper mill along their common border. The Andean pact, meanwhile, has essentially collapsed.

Central America is being incorporated into the NAFTA bloc via CAFTA, while

numerous South American countries are entering into bilateral trade accords with the US. Politically, Latin American states increasingly shape the agenda of the OAS, with the US influence declining notably. Chavez promotes the Bolivarian Alternative, but it is not clear how much substance or credibility this has, beyond his distributing cash and cheap credit to prospective allies.

Note: Experts with more knowledge than me disagree about whether Chavez’s Bank of the South is likely or unlikely to become a significant institution (though he may personally continue to distribute cash and credit), even while the World Bank and IMF are increasingly insignificant to the region now that governments are not so cash-strapped.

What programs, then, are necessary? Hmm. I have not thought out the idea of good programs other than what is already in place. (Grameen Bank — i.e. microfinancing in Bangladesh and elsewhere, are being studied. In Venezuela, BanMujer (the Women’s Bank) is making many small-business loans.

6. Finally, we note the continuing division of Latin America into two broadly distinctive regions. Central America and Mexico are increasingly integrated into the U.S. and the latter retains hegemony there as well as in parts of the Caribbean.

Conversely, South America is increasingly independent of the States. Economic structures have a lot to do with this. Cent America/Mexico are the low cost manufacturers for the US market, whereas South America is the supplier of raw materials to developed (and, in the Chinese case, developing) economies worldwide.

I see hope for Central America in the next decade or so. Notwithstanding Ortega’s personal shenanigans, don’t you think the Sandinistas give us hope? Won’t Chavez’s willingness to build oil pipelines to supply Mexico, Santo Domingo, etc. possibly change the equation for the better?

This observer is very optimistic regarding the next decade in Latin America. Even though López Obrador did not take the presidency in Mexico, the struggle was intense, and there is a sense that people are not going to sit back and take dirty politics anymore.

The one thing that concerns me greatly and I mentioned above, is the U.S. so called “war on drugs.” Trying to resolve the drug dilemma as a legal and “war” issue justifies the violence and continues the corruption and destruction of people’s lives. The issue of drugs must be redefined as a social problem and not a legal problem. Until this happens it will continue to ruin lives not only in terms of consumption but in producing and trafficking as well.

The fight for a just economic order is vitally interconnected with overcoming the artificial divisions of racism, sexism, age-ism, homophobia, disability discrimination and xenophobia. Capitalism feeds off these divisions; they are vitally interconnected, in the U.S., and, indeed, in Latin America as well.

KITLAC must envision a just managing of the forces of production, and an equality of treatment of all people in society. This is essential, not only in guiding us in battling present conditions in Latin America, but also in charting a path to true human liberation.

Our task is both visionary and practical. Thank you for honoring me with this podium.

Ira Grupper writes the monthly Labor Paeans column in FORsooth. He is a retired factory worker, a former delegate to the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council, and has been an officer in many civic organizations. He has visited Central and South America and the Caribbean and lived in Israel for six months. He has spent much time in the West Bank, Gaza Strip and Amman, Jordan. Contact him at: irag@iglou.com.



Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation

April 17

Refugees and Our Community

Carol Young, Director, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, will discuss the changing fabric of Louisville and the role that KRM plays in the resettlement of refugees here. She will address such issues as how refugees get to Louisville, why they are being resettled here, how they restart their lives and what they contribute to our community

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



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

“WHILE DIPLOMATS TALK
PEACE, PALESTINIANS
TALK ABOUT SURVIVAL”

— Dr. Yacoub Yacoub (1936-2008)

TIRED OF PAYING
FOR THIS WAR?

Take a tip from **Colman McCarthy** who directs the Center for Teaching Peace. He is asking us once again to promote legislation that will really solve our dilemma — *The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund* — **H.R. 1921**. It was introduced by Representative John Lewis again this year. Colman McCarthy has been a strong supporter since it was first introduced in 1972.

Even as this newspaper lands in your mailbox (hopefully), the big lobby day is taking place in Washington, DC. The Peace Tax Fund Campaign is hosting an open house, beginning with a prayer breakfast for organizational leaders featuring stories from Citizens of Conscience. Lobby training follows and then visits to offices of Senators and Representatives.

If you are not in DC to witness the euphoria of those involved (and to see the Cherry Blossom Festival!), then you must do your part where you are. Contact your local Member of Congress about **H.R. 1921 — The Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill**. When it is passed, it will establish a trust fund within the U.S. Treasury to which conscientious objectors to war can pay their taxes with the assurance that the money will be used for nonmilitary appropriations.

For several years this legislation has been “stuck” in the **Ways & Means Committee** waiting for a hearing. This can come if we gather a significant number of cosponsors. We hope to have 60 cosponsors by April. This is a good time for us to approach our representatives to cosponsor because the “climate” in DC has relaxed considerably. You can accomplish this with a phone call. Dial **1-202-224-3121** and ask to speak with a staff person in your representative’s office who can discuss your concern.

In his recent letter, **Colman McCarthy** wrote: “I have been teaching courses on pacifism and nonviolence for the past 25 years. The facts and history of conscientious war tax resistance are central to my courses. Unless we teach our children peace, someone else will teach them violence. Unless we redirect our tax money toward peace, someone else will waste it on killing.”

The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund has been through a reorganization since our long-time inspirational leader, **MARIAN FRANZ** died in 2006. Our new leader, **Alan Gamble** joined an international panel last year to speak on the rights of conscience at a meeting of the UN Human Rights Council. Making strides in the next months depends a great deal on our financial help. Your tax deductible gift to the **Peace Tax Foundation, Inc.** should be mailed to The National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, 2121 Decatur Place NW, Washington, DC 20008. (Tel: 202-483-3751) *info@peacetaxfund.org*

DESERTERS FIND UNCERTAIN HAVEN
IN CANADA

An article in the Louisville Courier-Journal (3-18-08) attracted my attention. First of all, I was not aware that an estimated 200 Iraq-war deserters had fled to Canada. Only two or three cases had come to my attention, and I had heard that the authorities were much stricter about accepting them than they had been during the Vietnam War. I wondered who was helping them survive.

Many of us can recall the tragic days of the Vietnam War when the 6:00 news every night described very vividly the death and destruction taking place. Our family became involved with draft counseling during 1968-72 because our older son turned 18 and was drafted. He went before the draft board to defend his position as a conscientious objector.

Some of the young men that we counseled decided to go to Canada although we did not counsel them to follow that alternative. We could only make them aware of the trauma they would face in leaving their family, never to return even for a visit, of being destitute without a job or a place to live. We were quite torn by the agony they were experiencing.

In 1970 we happened to find ourselves in Toronto on a study leave. We sought out the “exiles” from Louisville and became good friends. Now, in reading this news article about deserters, I discover that it is this whole class of those who fled during Vietnam that has come to the rescue of the new arrivals. Somehow, after crossing the border the deserters have found their way to the AWOL network that Lee Zaslofsky, 63, has organized. Across Canada, these earlier “draft dodgers” now “graying grandfathers” are helping the Iraq-war deserters. “They share little beyond their difficult choice to forsake their citizenship, and the timeless debate whether theirs was an act of courage or cowardice.”

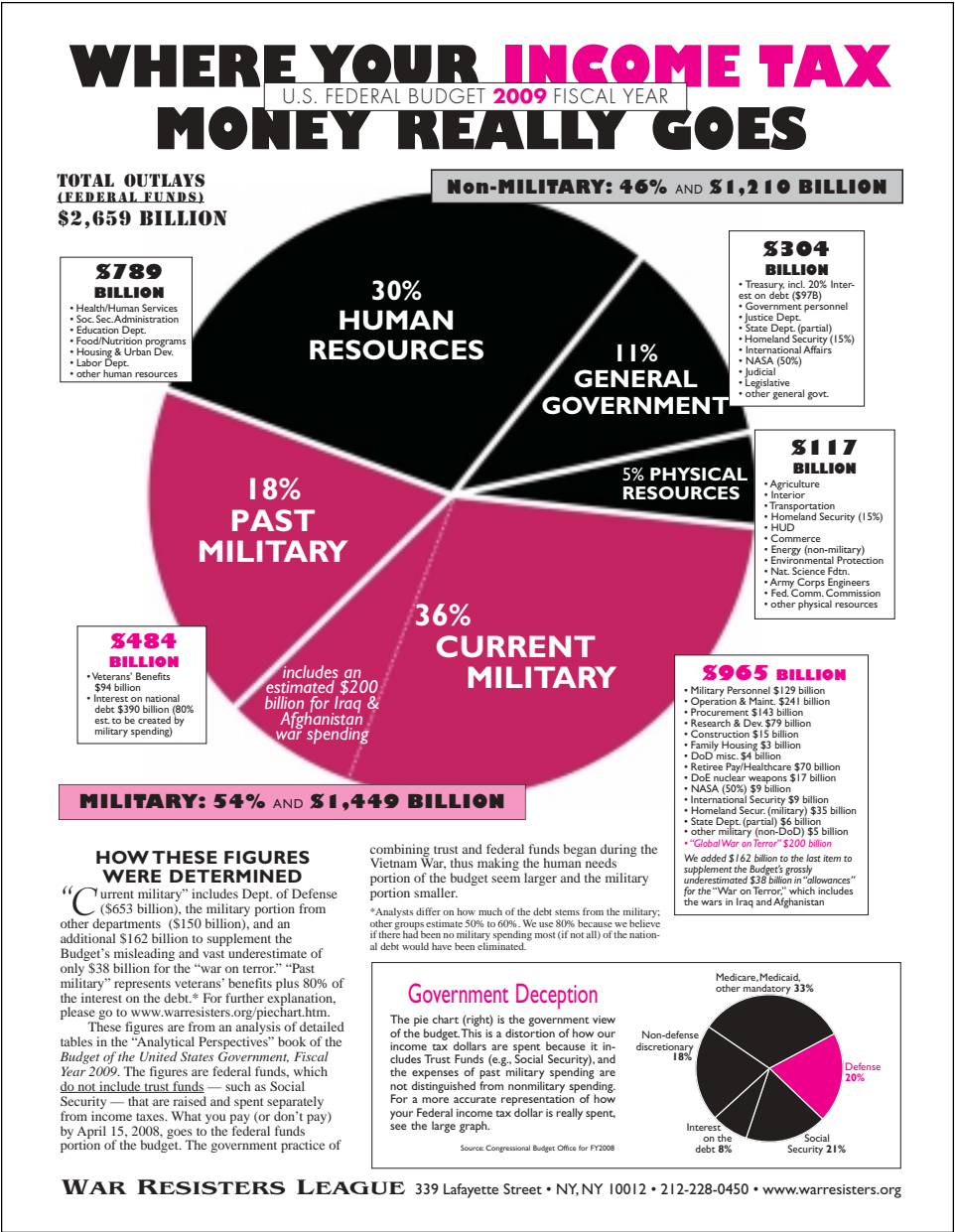
The article describes a gathering in a downtown Toronto church. Banners and T-shirts tell the purpose of the meeting in big letters, **LET THEM STAY**. Lee moves from pew to pew greeting the “politicians, academics, musicians, pacifists and a handful of runaway American soldiers.” He knows each of the ex-soldiers by name and need.

The story of Phil McDowell is told at length. At age 21, he joined the military after 9/11 while finishing his studies. The terrorist attacks had filled him with a sense of destiny. He completed his tour but in Iraq he became embittered. No weapons of mass destruction had been found. They were told that the mission had “changed to helping the Iraqi people, to bring them freedom and democracy.” Back in the US he was hiking on the Appalachian Trail to clear his mind. When he called home his wife reported a letter had come from the army stating that the discharge he had just received had been rescinded. The army could reinstate him for nearly two more years of active duty. He offered to stay in the Army “and not do war,” but no such deal was possible. He sought help from lawyers, senators and representatives but to no avail. Now 27 years old, his eyes have turned toward Canada.

Since the US invaded Iraq in March 2003, more than 16,000 troops (mostly Army) have deserted. Some have returned to active duty with a mere reprimand. Others face court-martial. A felony conviction can carry a five-year prison sentence. Canada has denied asylum to the deserters, but no one has been deported yet.

Jean's
Journal

An update on area events
by Jean Edwards



Two who shared a jail share the stage at SNCC event

Several readers have inquired about the source of the James Baldwin quote included in the March Labor Paeans column. It is from Chapter 1 of “The Devil Finds Work,” originally published in 1976. Others of you wanted the address to send protest letters re: jailing and torture of Afghani journalist Parviz Kambakhsh. Unfortunately, the original email I got on this has vaporized, but I’m working on getting the information. And now, let the music begin.

Ella Baker Tour

At the end of February your humble scribe was in North Carolina, part of a tour by veteran civil rights workers who had been on the staff of SNCC, the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee, in the 1960s. Theresa El-Amin got us a grant, and my part of the tour took several of us to Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, and to North Carolina State University in Raleigh. (In a future column we will write about that marvelous woman, the late Ella Baker).

We spoke to large audiences, 250 at the first venue and almost that number at the second. At the first event our remarks were beamed live by the college television station to two other campuses, and they were also taped.

The tour was envisioned not so much as us just telling war stories, important as they might be, about where we were beaten and where we were jailed—but rather as an inter-generational dialog (interestingly, Isaac Coleman, one of my co-panelists, and I were in jail together once, so many years ago, in Mississippi, and didn’t realize it until we were speaking on this recent panel!).

The students made comments and asked questions that showed great interest and perceptiveness. It seems the Obama phenomenon has lit a fire under young people, and we would have to travel back to President John F. Kennedy, and the Civil Rights and anti-Vietnam War movements, to find a parallel.

Please don’t let me hear palaver about student apathy and lack of involvement. But do comment on how we older activists can better convey what we know to these glorious young folk, mentoring them — and then work together with them. Or, get out of their way and allow their creativity to lead them onward.

And they, to be sure, will have to be creative, given the massive layoffs and foreclosures our free market free-fall has gifted us.

Ford

Let’s talk a little about the systemic gifts of free market capital. Ford Motor Company has a truck plant and an auto plant here in Louisville. As this column is being put to bed, Ford Motor Company workers at the auto assembly factory will have finished letting the company know whether they will accept a “buyout,” or take their chances — hoping they won’t be one of the 800 workers Ford will force onto the unemployment line. The entire night shift is being eliminated.

And Ford’s promise to build a new vehicle in Louisville within two years, the lure to get UAW members to accept the recent contract offer? And Ford’s new two-tier wage system, whereby new hires get half the pay of more senior employees — did Ford figure out all this before it forced its most recent contract on the auto workers’ union? What will happen at the Ford Truck Plant, where F-Series Super Duty trucks are built? Stay tuned.

What is happening in Louisville is also the case all over the United States.

Reports the Louisville Courier-Journal March 8: “In February, (layoffs in the U.S. equaled) 63,000 jobs, compared with 22,000 positions cut in January, the Labor Department reported.... The grim snapshot of the employment climate underscored the heavy toll that the housing slump and credit crunch are taking on companies, job seekers and the economy as a whole.”

But, wait. Could this be happening all over the world? General Motors announced it will cut production in nearly all its Euro-



pean plants — in Germany, Great Britain, Belgium, Spain, Sweden and France. In February GM announced the opening of a “voluntary separation window” which could affect 74,000 workers worldwide.

L’Humanité, a French newspaper, reported in March: Yet, “ ‘GM Europe’s profits have increased and the GM factory in Strasburg has been profitable for years. But the plant is in direct competition with another GM plant in Mexico, where labor costs less,’ Jean-Marc Ruhl of the CFDT trade union explained....

“GM argues losses of 38.7 billion Euros in 2007, as against 2 billion in 2006. But these figures are above all the result of an accounting trick: to adjust for the value of its tax credits, GM included an enormous reserve for the third quarter in its statement. Moreover, the results are more than satisfactory for the shareholders, with an eight-cent profit on each share in the fourth quarter, as against an average 55-cent loss on the stock market.

“Finally, the CEO, Rick Wagoner, after having ‘tightened his belt’ a little over the preceding years, has granted himself a 33 percent pay raise and an annual bonus of 3.52 million dollars, thus renewing with the pay level he enjoyed in 2006. That’s proof that, for some, hard times are already a thing of the past.”

Divide and Conquer

Well, we can’t have workers uniting to battle these attacks, can we? Let’s divide people. Is it an accident the number of employment-discrimination charges filed with the EEOC jumped 9 percent in the last year? Coupled with the increase in African Americans and Latinos behind bars — things are not looking up.

But life must go on, and that’s why the Good Lord gave us football. Writes Ruthie Ackerman in Nation online in January: “Bridgestone Firestone North American Tire, the world’s largest seller of tires, is spending more than \$10 million as “official

tire sponsor” of the Super Bowl halftime show in Phoenix... and will likely spend that much and more to sponsor the event in 2009. But the entertainment and advertising images beamed into American living rooms during the most-watched sporting event of the year stand in sharp contrast to the harsh working conditions, child labor and exposure to toxic chemicals at the company’s rubber plantations in Liberia.”

“Firestone, which is owned by Bridgestone, a Japanese company, but has headquarters in Nashville, Tenn., also has been accused by the Liberian Environmental Protection Agency of dumping toxic waste into the river that feeds into the community’s water supply.”

To your health — l’chaim

Your columnist has no word space left to little more than mention the largest recall of ground beef in history — by Westland/Hallmark Meat Company. “The recall... comes after a widening animal-abuse scandal that started after the Humane Society of the United States distributed an undercover video on Jan. 30 that showed workers kicking sick cows and using forklifts to force them to walk,” the New York Times reported in February.

And Alternet reported in February: “The Center for Public Integrity, a public interest investigative journalism organization, has obtained copies of a Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) study of environmental and health data in eight Great Lakes states that was scheduled for publication in July 2007. The report, which pointed to elevated rates of lung, colon, and breast cancer; low birth weight; and infant mortality in several of the geographical areas of concern has not yet been made public.

“A few days before the report was slated to be released, it was pulled. Meanwhile, at precisely the same time, its lead author, Christopher De Rosa, has been removed from the position he held since 1992. The Center for Public Integrity is asking why.”

Coda

Your columnist too often closes with depressing news. This time we will close with depressing news in one society, and hopeful news in another. This comes from peace activist Nihut Nes:

“Our politicians and pundits in media keep reminding us of the terrible tragedy of being Cuban.... They are so excited that with Castro’s failing health, Cuba’s misery is about to end... finally long waited opportunity to exploit?

“In face of 46 years of economic embargo and constant threat from powerful neighbor like USA, tiny island of 11.4 million people,” Nes notes:

- Cuba has fed 100 percent of its population. In the U.S., 35.5 million are hungry every year.

- One-hundred percent of Cubans are housed. In the U.S., there are 3.5 million homeless.

- One-hundred percent of Cubans are educated. Thirty million are illiterate in the U.S.

- One-hundred percent of Cubans have health care. In the U.S., 47 million have none.

- In Cuba, there are no or very few murders with guns and an average of 27,767 yearly in the U.S.

- Cuba has security in the face of constant U.S. intimidation and an angry world. The U.S. has sparked hatred and condemnation throughout the world for causing misery, death and a ruined environment.

“I have no doubt life is difficult for Cubans,” Nihut Nes added. “But in the face of adversity they showed resourcefulness and proved with ingenuity, one can survive, by living within their means.... This silly old game of propaganda and constant meddling to exploit neighbors in their vulnerable situation is immoral and parasitical.”

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

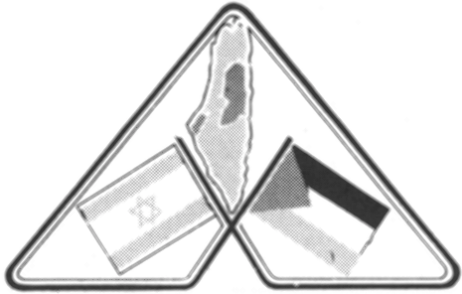


40th Anniversary of the Israeli Military Occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem June 1967-June 2007

*Call upon the U.S. to act with courage and determination
to end the occupation and secure a state of Palestine
beside the state of Israel*

at the VIGIL

**Every Friday: 12 Noon – 1:00 PM
Corner of 6th Street & Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky**



Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States (502.451.5658) www.louisvillepeace.org/twostates.html

Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)/Louisville Chapter (502.458.8056) www.louisville-for.org

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

Calendar for peacemakers

Mar 30 (Sun) **CONCERT FOR PEACE.** Jazz musicians Dick Sisto and Steve Allen will present a program of contemplative jazz to mark the 5th anniversary of the Iraq War. Program will also include a period of silent meditation. Christ Church Cathedral, 425 S. Second St. 3 PM. Donations welcome.

Mar 31 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR NOMINATIONS: PEACEMAKING EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD.** School Year 2007-2008. Contact Peace Education Program for application to nominate yourself or a colleague: 589-6583.

Apr 1 (Tues) **TRANSPORTATION: A KEYSTONE ISSUE FOR SUSTAINABILITY AND ECONOMIC JUSTICE.** Social and environmental activist David Coyte speaks on how reordering transportation priorities can save lives, reduce greenhouse emissions, serve the underserved, and protect our economy. 7 PM to 8:30 PM at James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. Donations welcome. For more info, contact the Center for Faith & Action, 896-0172.

Apr 2 (Wed) **SPIRITUAL PATHWAYS OF THE WORLD’S RELIGIONS:** An Invitation to Nurturing the Spiritual Life. A course designed to help participants gain clarity and focus about the journey of faith, to learn about various other pathways, and to gain greater understanding, openness and acceptance of those whose views differ from our own. Six Wednesdays, April 2 – May 14, 7 PM to 9 PM, James Lees Presbyterian Church. \$70 for series or \$15 per session. For more info, contact the Center for Faith & Action, 896-0172.

Apr 3-4 (Thurs-Fri) **SYMPOSIUM: “Social Justice and Engaged Scholarship,”** hosted by UofL’s recently established **Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research — connecting university research to problems and activities in the greater community.** Opening plenary on Thursday (4:30 pm) Ekstrom Library Chao Auditorium, featuring **Dr. Steven Rovenstone**, U of Minn, **“Social Justice and the Engaged University.”** Reception follows. Friday schedule includes a box lunch/plenary panel with case studies presented by scholars from U of Cincinnati. Closing plenary, 3:15 pm, featuring **Dr. Peniel E. Joseph** of Brandeis Univ: **“Black Studies As Engaged Scholarship.”** Followed by a brief theatrical tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., on the 40th anniversary of his death, presented by UofL’s African American Theatre program. Register for this free event at: <http://louisville.edu/annebradeninstitute/symposium> or call Cate Fosl, 852-6142. *e-mail: cfosl@louisville.edu*

Apr 3 (Thurs) **SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**, every first and third Thursday, 5:30 PM. Main Library, 4th & York St., Board Room, Mezzanine. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

Apr 4 (Fri) **NOON VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**, including a news update. *EVERY FRIDAY AT SIXTH AND BROADWAY*, in front of the Federal Court House (where Senator McConnell’s office is located). We vigil for a two state solution in solidarity with the **“Women in Black”** who vigil every Friday at noon in Israel. Sponsored by the Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Apr 5 (Sat) **TREES TO BE GIVEN AWAY ON ARBOR DAY.** 800 seedlings from the Kentucky Division of Forestry will be given to anyone who promises to plant and nurture them to adulthood. Organized by Stephen Spanyer, the giveaway will take place at Warheim Park, 1832 Overlook Terrace, four blocks from the Douglass Loop at Bardstown Rd. Watch for balloons to show the way. Refreshments, entertainment, and advice from foresters, arborists and others will be available. For more details, call the Belknap Arbor Day Committee, 459-1405.

Apr 5 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Dr. Blaine Hudson begins with Black and African World History (11 AM – 12:30 PM). Followed by “AARP Caregiving Workshop: Resources for the Elderly” (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue, at 35th St just north of Algonquin Parkway. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Apr 6 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE** every first Sunday evening remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. 7–8 PM, sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914.

Apr 7 (Mon) PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE held each Monday at 12:15 PM at James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. This is a 20-minute service of silent prayer. For anyone who wishes to stay, lunch is provided following the service. For more info, call 896-0172.

Apr 7 (Mon) **“PALESTINE IS STILL THE ISSUE,”** film by John Pilger. Sponsored by the Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East. Ray’s Monkey House, 1578 Bardstown Rd (formerly Twice Told Books), 7:30 pm, Free. Call 456-6586.

Apr 8 (Tues) **FORECLOSURE CRISIS FORUM PANEL DISCUSSION.** Hosted by the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission. Panelists include representatives from the Legal Aid Society, Metropolitan Housing Coalition, Louisville Urban League and Louisville Metro Housing and Family Services. 11:30 AM–1 PM. Free light lunch provided. Legal Aid Society Conference Room, 416 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd., Suite 300. Call 574-3631 to RSVP.

Apr 9 (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.

Apr 10 (Thurs) **APPAP** (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum). Meets every second Thursday. Documentary: “The Killing Zone: Gaza.” 7:30 PM, League of Women Voters, 115 S Ewing. Call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Apr 10 (Thurs) **CITIZENS AGAINST POLICE ABUSE (CAPA)**, every second Thursday at the office of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, 3208 W Broadway. 7:00 pm. Call K. A. Owens, 778-8130.

Apr 11 (Fri) **THE UNVEILING OF THE CARLAND ANNE BRADEN HISTORICAL MARKER.** To be held at their former home at 4403 Virginia Avenue, located three blocks east of Southwestern Pkwy and Chickasaw Park. Presented by the Metropolitan Housing Coalition’s Annual Fair Housing Month Program. Bring your family, friends and colleagues to honor the memory of two Louisvillians who fought racial injustice all their lives. 11 AM.

Apr 11 (Fri) **NOURISHING YOUR LEADERSHIP WORLDVIEW.** A workshop that facilitates awakening to aspects of your leadership not often discussed in traditional leadership programs. Workshop is based on the Jungian theory of archetypes and uses the Mythic Leader Profile survey. Offered by Mythic Leaders LLC. Presented by Wendy Jo Johnson, LPCC and Lana Wertz. 9 AM to 4 PM. \$95. The Barn at St. Agnes. For more info or to register, contact Lana at lana@mythicleaders.com or 502-412-3826.

Apr 12 (Sat) **PEAK OIL** Every 2nd Saturday, Main Library, 4th & York, Mezzanine, Boardroom. 9:00 AM. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

Apr 12 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Dr. Blaine Hudson begins with Black and African World History (11 AM – 12:30 PM). Followed by “Perspectives on Hurricane Katrina” (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue, at 35th St just north of Algonquin Parkway. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Apr 12 (Sat) **SILENCE OVER THUNDER!** to end the military presence at Thunder. Leaflet and witness against the warplanes and what they represent. Assemble at 2:30 PM in the garden at Christ Church Cathedral, 421 S 2nd Street. Sponsored by **Peaceful Skies Coalition**. Call Chris Harmer, 893-2334.

Apr 12 (Sat) **PEACEFUL SKIES PICNIC!** A family-friendly alternative to the militarized airshow. Bring picnic food, enjoy music, arts and crafts, fly kites. Noon to 4 PM at the Americana soccer field. Sponsored by the **Peaceful Skies Coalition**. For details call Terry Taylor, 214-7322. E-mail: tatduende2@yahoo.com.

Apr 13 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter-recruitment. Every 2nd Sunday at 7:00 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. Also learn about the Second Annual Peace Essay Contest. Call Chris Harmer, 893-2334. *colonel221@yahoo.com*.

Apr 15 (Tue) **TAX DAY! Protest this illegal war. Boycott the IRS.** (See flyer in this issue of **FORsooth**.) Join in leafleting and street theatre at **noon** for one hour on the corner of Fifth and Market Streets. Call Jean Edwards, 458-8056.

Apr 16 (Wed) **MARGARET FARLEY**, author of *Just Love: A Framework for Christian Sexual Ethics*, will present the **Grawemeyer Award in Religion Lecture** at the Presbyterian Seminary Caldwell Chapel, 1044 Alta Vista Road, 7:00 pm, free. Margaret Farley, professor emerita of Christian Ethics at Yale Divinity School, is a Roman Catholic nun and the first woman to teach full time at Yale Divinity School. Call 895-3411.

Apr 16 (Wed) **ROBERT SEDLER**, Distinguished Professor, Wayne State University Law School: **”The Constitution and Voluntary School Desegregation.”** For details, contact Avery Kolers, 852-0453. <http://louisville.edu/socialchange/>

Apr 17 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH** sponsored by Fellowship of Reconciliation. **“Refugees and Our Community.”** Carol Young, Director of Kentucky Refugee Ministries, will discuss the changing fabric of Louisville and the role that KRM plays in the resettlement of refugees here. She will address such issues as how refugees get to Louisville, why they are being resettled here, how they restart their lives, and what they contribute to our community. Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 422 W. Oak St. \$7 buffet lunch begins at 11:30 AM. Presentation at noon. Reservations required. Call Polly Johnson, 473-8435 or Mary Ann Lambert, 425-3844.

Apr 17 (Thu) **SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**, every first and third Thursday, 5:30 PM. Main library, 4th & York Sts, Mezzanine Board Room. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

Apr 17 (Thurs) **LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community)** every third Thursday evening. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:00 pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914. Website: www.louisvillepeace.org E-mail: pcunity@yahoo.com

Apr 19 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Dr. Blaine Hudson begins with Black and African World History (11 AM–12:30 PM). Followed by “Gender, Race and Healthcare” (12:45 PM – 2 PM). Congressman John Yarmuth will also be a special guest this week. DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue, at 35th St just north of Algonquin Parkway. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Apr 20 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** (Every third Sunday) First Unitarian Church, 4th & York Streets, 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Apr 21 (Mon) **LAST DAY TO REGISTER TO VOTE IN THE MAY 20th PRIMARY ELECTION!**

Apr 26 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Dr. Blaine Hudson begins with Black and African World History (11 AM–12:30 PM). Followed by “Cruising the Divide: Getting Derby Cruising and Kentucky Derby Stories to the Stage” (12:45 PM – 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue, at 35th St just north of Algonquin Parkway. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Apr 26 (Sat) **PIZZA AND A MOVIE.** Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace. Featuring the Iranian film, “BAM 6.6” followed by a discussion led by guest Rostam Pourzal, Founder of Campaign Against Sanctions Against Iran. 6 PM, Christ Church Cathedral, Bishops Hall, 425 South Second St. For more info, see www.InterfaithPathstoPeace.org or call 502-214-7322.

Apr 28 (Mon) **DEADLINE for the May issue of FORsooth.** Contact **George Morrison, editor**, 944-6460, E-mail: klm86@att.net **Note: Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com, or call Nikki at 451-3402.**

Apr 28 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road. Visitors encouraged. Call co-chairs Phil Schervish, 451-6638, or Dennis Bricking, 298-0590.

(continued on page 4)

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – 2nd Thursday (585-3375)

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 – 1st Tuesday (239-4317)

CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse) – 2nd Thursday (778-8130)

CLOUT [Citizens of Louisville Organized and Working Together] -(583-1267)

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

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

COMMUNIST PARTY USA – First Sunday at 5:00 PM (384-3875)

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

CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (560-0085)

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

EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Sunday (569-1876)

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

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (451-6638 or 895-8516)

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

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

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

HATE FREE SCHOOLS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (454-3300)

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

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)

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

JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – 3rd Saturday (562-6737)

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

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) – 3rd Thursday (558-9124)

LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – Meditation 1st & 3rd Sundays (473-8435)

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

METRO SWEEP FOR ACCESS – 3rd Tuesday (895-0866 or 899-9261)

METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)

MUHAMMAD ALI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, at UL (852-6372)

NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) – 3rd Monday (776-7608)

NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) – 2nd Monday (245-5287)

PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)

PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, brozier@bellsouth.net)

RCRC [Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice] – (866-606-0988)

RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)

SINGLE WOMEN’S GROUP – 3rd Sunday (812-866-1667)

911 TRUTH LOUISVILLE (502-609-6020)

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

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

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