

FORsooth

Volume 15, No. 4

A publication of the Louisville Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation www.louisville-for.org

May 2004

Difference needn't divide, rabbi tells center listeners

by Ike M. Thacker IV
and Eustace Durrett

Difference need not identify nor divide — in a sense, these six words sum up the theme of Rabbi Dr. Jonathan Sacks' 2004 Grawemeyer Award Lecture in Religion given at the Louisville Jewish Community Center March 30.

Sacks has been Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the ("British") Commonwealth since 1991, and has written 13 books on widely varying subjects. He was awarded the 2004 Louisville Grawemeyer Award in Religion based on one of these books, *The Dignity of Difference: How to Avoid the Clash of Civilizations*.

The key idea both of the book and of the required lecture by the recipient of the award is that we must exorcise "Plato's Ghost," the idea that there is one universal, immutable truth for everybody.

Noting with Alfred North Whitehead that all of Western philosophy is "a footnote to Plato," Sacks says that this ghastly notion of a single truth leads to the belief that, "I'm right and you're wrong," and thus to Inquisitions, jihads, overtly religious wars, World Wars, etc. Universalism, says the Chief Rabbi, is "inadequate to the human condition."

This is because systems that confer identity inherently divide, creating a "them" as well as an "us" and leading all too often to armed battle, as for example between Protestants and Catholics, Hindus and Moslems (notably in Kashmir), and Jews and Arabs. Sacks said religion is rarely the

cause of the conflict, but becomes the "fault line" on which the various parties to the hostilities divide.

Religion, he says, has returned to the forefront in the late 20th and early 21st centuries, especially in conflict zones such as Bosnia, Kashmir, Northern Ireland, the Sudan, and the Middle East. Bosnia, he added, is a particularly relevant example: the warring "enemies" there were of the same ethnicity and spoke the same language. The only thing dividing the Muslims, Croats (Catholic), and Serbs (Orthodox) was religion, Sacks noted. It appears, Sacks says, that whereas the 20th century was defined by the politics of ideology, the 21st will be defined by the politics of identity, which answers unusually fundamental questions such as "Who am I?," "Why am I here?" and "To which civilization do I belong?"

These questions contrast sharply with all three modalities of the modern world identified by Sacks — economics, science, and politics — which he said don't answer questions of "who" and "why," questions which he said are unresolved queries fundamental to human existence, so religions and ideologies develop.

And dealing with difference has become more important than ever, according to Rabbi Sacks, because with the advent of weapons of mass destruction, economic globalization and increased international communication, there is more international interaction today than ever before.

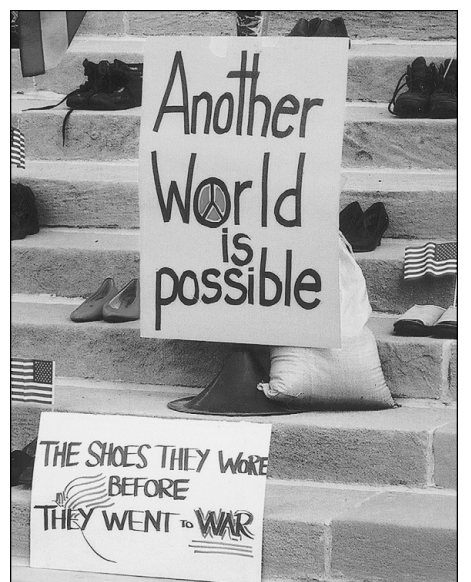
(continued on page 4)



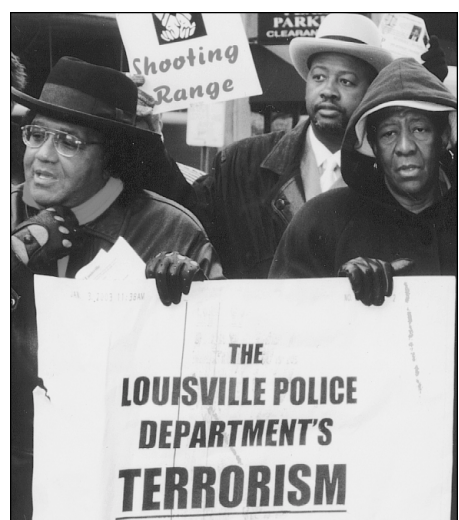
— photos by Eddie Davis

Lives recalled

Five-hundred eighty pairs of shoes, representing the number of Americans killed in the Iraq war, cover the Jefferson County Courthouse steps at the anniversary of the war's start in late March. Elementary students at St. Thomas More School donated the shoes after Sister Miriam Corcoran spoke to them of the demonstration. Trinity High School's Youth for Peace will donate the shoes to the Rosebud Indian Reservation in South Dakota, said Ken Nevitt, an organizer with Louisville Peace Action Community, which organized the event and a vigil where names of Americans and Iraqis killed were read.



Firing of officer praised, but more metro action sought



— photos by Eddie Davis

Weekly protests at Metro Police headquarters helped get action, Rev. Louis Coleman said.

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

Louisvillians working to reform police practices in the wake of 11 deaths at the hands of officers or jailers since 1998 welcomed the firing of Metro Police officer McKenzie Mattingly in April, but said the dismissal is but one note in a symphony of needed reforms.

Metro Chief Robert White fired Mattingly in April after concluding that the officer violated department procedure in fatally shooting drug suspect Michael Newby Jan. 3 as Newby fled him.

The chief's letter to Mattingly said there was no evidence that Newby posed "an immediate threat" to Mattingly or others as Newby ran.

"Your conduct clearly brought discredit upon our department and you as a member" and damaged the bonds between the police and community, the letter said.

Justice Resource Center director Rev. Louis Coleman said the firing was a "long overdue" act of disciplining officers.

"After years and decades... of police abuse of citizens, especially in the West End of Louisville, finally we see one just decision made by the police officials," he said. "It takes justice a long time to come about in Louisville, Ky.

"This is the first time a police officer has been terminated for killing a citizen in this community in the history of this police department."

Seven of the 11 people who died in police shootings or jail custody since 1998 were African-American, Coleman noted.

Coleman said the vigils held each Sunday outside Metro Police headquarters went on as normal after the firing of Mattingly and his being charged in March with murder and wanton endangerment — a turnout that should send police officials a message.

"Last Sunday we had over 50 people out there," Coleman said. "I guess they felt that just because a decision was made to fire this police officer" that the protests would subside.

The Sunday vigils at police headquarters, at Seventh and Jefferson streets, start at 2:30 p.m. and last about an hour.

(continued on page 4)

INSIDE

Illegal, but moral, ways to spent taxes on peace p. 2

A labor and civil rights icon recalled on his passing p. 3

His (dis?)honor the mayor is unfair to the non-rich p. 6

Newly freed Mordechai Vanunu's ties to this area p. 7

Call F.O.R. at 502/458-8056

Fellowship of Reconciliation
Louisville Chapter
2236 Kaelin Avenue
Louisville, KY 40205-2658
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Louisville, KY
Permit No. 962

Schervish: resisting war taxes can stem militarist trend

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

The simplest way to avoid paying for war and militarism Phil Schervish told the Third Thursday Lunch of April 15 is to take the idea of the human family to its furthest extent, which he and his wife have done.

“There have been times when we have claimed 6 billion dependents. You know... every person is my brother or sister, right?” Schervish told the lunch crowd of about 30 people, many of whom chuckled at the idea.

However, Schervish, professor and chairperson of the School of Social Work at Spalding University, said war tax resistance is a serious subject because of the horrible destructiveness of modern war – and because of the serious consequences that resisters face.

“What you have to remember... is that any form of war tax resistance is illegal and brings with it the potential for criminal consequences,” Schervish said. “In addition to everything else, you can get a \$10,000 fine and a five year jail sentence.”

The Internal Revenue Service, hoping to avoiding making war resisters martyrs, does not seek such punishments, Schervish added, but he described some chilling ways the IRS does clamp down.



Phil Schervish

The agency can garnishee a resister’s pay and take money out of a bank account without telling the resister in advance, he said.

“And the first you’ll hear about this is when you get notices that your checks are bouncing,” he said.

Despite this message of caution, Schervish, paraphrasing Henry David Thoreau, told the lunch the real criminality is in paying taxes to support war.

Schervish, citing Congressional Budget Office figures, said spending on the Penta-

gon is to rise seven percent in the proposed 2005 federal budget. The Homeland Security office budget is to rise 15 percent, Schervish added, but all other non-military spending is to rise by just one percent.

This, he said, means housing, energy, transportation, community development, science, social services and education will either be cut or increase slightly.

After describing various philosophical views of human rights, Schervish said: “I don’t think we can meet those ordinary human rights with spending patterns like we’re seeing.... We can conclude the federal budget does not reflect very well this idea of social justice.”

Turning to needs in other nations, Schervish described how the U.S. could meet those needs and its own people’s by spending less if it stopped militarizing the world.

He said that for \$60 billion, the nation could provide adequate health care and food for the entire world’s poor, reduce U.S. school class size to 15 students, fully fund the very successful program Head Start, erase Third World debt, secure health insurance for all U.S. children, pass tax incentives for clean energy and publicly fund all U.S. elections.

While \$60 billion is a huge amount of money, it is \$27 billion less than what we are spending on the wars in Afghanistan

and Iraq, Schervish said.

He said ways to resist the militarism trend include refusing to pay roughly half of one’s federal income taxes, proportional to the nearly half of the federal budget (46 percent this year, a War Resisters League study said) that is spent on the military and refusing to pay the federal tax on one’s telephone bill. That tax, enacted during the Spanish-American war, goes to the military, Schervish said.

He said living simply without earning much income can help, but probably won’t end tax collections, as a person or family still will need enough income to be taxed.

Schervish said a Catholic Church parish in Indianapolis to which he belongs has created escrow accounts, where would-be tax payments are placed and spent on social needs.

Still, action by the IRS to prompt full payment is a fact of life for war tax resisters, he said.

“Taking action for peace often entails risk. You know, it’s kind of the old adage – if you’re going to talk the talk, you’ve got to walk the walk.”

The FOR’s Third Thursday Lunch series will pause for the summer, resuming in September.

Dominicans to give honor to founders of city’s FOR

The Dominicans of St. Catharine, Ky. will give the 2004 Catherine of Siena Award to Jean and George Edwards of Louisville May 16 to honor their decades of work for justice and peace.

The couple, founders of the Louisville FOR chapter, will receive the honor from the order of nuns at 2 p.m. at St. Catharine Hall on the campus of St. Catharine Motherhouse.

“Jean and George Edwards, deeply committed members of the Presbyterian Church, have been tireless leaders in social justice activity in Kentucky and nationally since the 1970s,” A Dominican news release said. “During the ’70s, they helped form the Louisville Peace Council, engaged in draft counseling and worked for amnesty for draft resisters who had fled. In addition, they formed the Louisville chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.”

The release added that the two have traveled frequently to Washington, D.C. to demonstrate and lobby for justice for the poor and marginalized, to Ft. Benning, Georgia to call for the closing of the School of the Americas, to Oak Ridge to seek an end to nuclear weapons and to Nicaragua and El Salvador to stand in solidarity with the poor of both countries.

The Edwards helped organize and maintain the Nuclear Free Louisville Committee, the Louisville Council on Peacemaking and Religion, the Pledge of Resistance, Jubilee 2000 and the Committee on Militarism and the Draft, the release said.

“Through the efforts of Jean and George Edwards, William Gregory was freed from

prison in 2000 after serving several years of a 70-year sentence for a rape he did not commit. The Edwards raised \$5,000 to cover expenses for DNA testing that proved Gregory’s innocence,” it said.

St. Catherine of Siena (Caterina de Iacopo de Benincasa), a 14th century woman of faith, advised and admonished kings, popes, political and military leaders and clergy serving a peacemaker among feuding factions in Italy, caring for the poor and sick of Siena and accompanying a prisoner to his execution, the Dominicans said.

“She spoke out courageously for change in her church. Her wisdom and deep faith merited for her the title of Doctor of the Church, one of the highest honors of the Roman Catholic Church,” the release said.

It said the Catherine of Siena Award is given to “persons of prophetic vision who selflessly and with deep compassion have given of themselves without thought of the promotion of their own self-image. They have dealt with ecclesial issues honestly and courageously, have contributed to the empowerment of the poor and marginalized, and are concerned with the quest for peace and justice.”

“Like Catherine of Siena, Jean and George Edwards, motivated by their faith, have gone the extra mile to bring peace and justice to a desperately needy world,” the release said.

For more information about the presentation of the Catharine of Siena Award, contact Dana Hinton, Coordinator of Community Relations at (859) 262-5697.

May Day throng sought

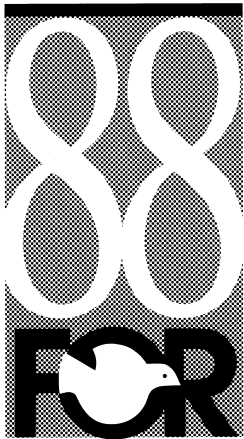
Louisvillians tired of the Kentucky Derby Festival becoming increasingly known for militarism and conspicuous consumption have organized an alternative event May 1

May Day is to begin at 8 p.m. on May 1, Derby eve, at Willow Park in Louisville’s Cherokee Triangle neighborhood.

Few details were known at press time, but organizers said: “Our aim is to have a

dance party while aligning ourselves with international labor and worker’s rights movements, and all causes that empower those who are oppressed.... This Derby Day, don’t be pacified with simulated festivities to distract you from more pressing problems.”

Banners and art are welcome, organizers said. For more information, contact Sam Kaviar at (502) 893-4403.



Founded 1915

FORsooth

is published by the Louisville chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

Send submissions for news stories or commentaries to
2236 Kaelin Ave., Louisville, KY 40205, e-mail: <edwardsfor@aol.com>.

Staff

Editor George Morrison
Calendar editor Jean Edwards
Production manager Barbara Powers
Bulk mailing Beverley Marmion

88 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. To receive more information, please call 458-8056.

Co-chairs: Mary Horvath 583-4670
Pat Geier 456-6586

Paid advertisement

If Money is Speech, Speech is not Free

That’s common sense
Support Common Cause/Kentucky

www.commoncause.org

Paid advertisement

“Once you’re in Congress, people get in line to give you money, and it’s a lot easier to do TV ads and cable shows than to knock on doors.” Joe Scarborough, former member of Congress.

Just one reason why we need free TV time for candidates

Join THE ALLIANCE FOR BETTER CAMPAIGNS
www.ourairwaves.org

Roosevelt Roberts dies, recalled as committed activist



— photos by Eddie Davis
Roosevelt Roberts, left, joins with Rev. Louis Coleman in a vigil last year.

Cleaner air main cause of Roberts

by Gracie Lewis

On Saturday morning, April 17, Roosevelt Roberts, civil rights activist, gave me a ride to the community forum sponsored by several state legislators. The hosts included State Senator Gerald Neal of the 33rd District and State Representative Reginald Meeks of the 42nd District. Two profound issues were to be discussed – the state budget and air pollution.

In an effort to let the community know what is going on with air pollution studies especially in the West End of Louisville, a distinguished panel gathered including Dr. Adewale Troutman of the Metro Health Department and Art Williams of the Air Pollution Control District.

Roosevelt Roberts, Rubbertown resident who had conducted air-quality monitoring, rose to ask a question and then sat down. He was followed by community activists among whom was Eboni Neal, dedicated community environmentalist, and Rev. Louis Coleman.

While waiting for my turn to ask questions, I left the room momentarily and took note of the time, which was about ten minutes past noon. When I returned I saw people moving around and calling “911” on their cell phones. Then I saw that Roosevelt Roberts was lying on the floor and Dr. Troutman was giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation while waiting for EMS to arrive. He was being assisted by Deborah Stallworth, a registered nurse at Jewish Hospital, and by Roosevelt’s lovely and dedicated wife Dorothy, a retired nurse.

I began to pray, “O my Lord, please have mercy. I am calling on your grace and mercy.”

Then EMS arrived. Roosevelt was taken to Caritas Hospital where he was pronounced dead around 12:45 pm.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said “the ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of times of challenge and controversy. Roosevelt Roberts was there on the battlefield in “times of challenge and controversy.” I met the Roberts during the activity surrounding the James Taylor case where a Louisville detective handcuffed James Taylor’s hands behind his back and shot him eleven times. Neither the detective nor his partner were indicted for killing this African American man. We organized. What we wanted was justice, and we wanted it now. In other words, “No Justice, No Peace.”

From that point on, Roosevelt was on the battlefield with the Justice Resource Center. On every Sunday afternoon from December 5, 2002 until now, Roosevelt was with those who marched in front of the police department saying “no justice, no peace.” His lovely wife, Dorothy, was at his side. She was his “helpmate” and staunch warrior living out her “divine purpose.”

What I most remember about Roosevelt was his total commitment to clean air. Air

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

A Louisville man who dedicated his life to bringing equal opportunity to minorities by working on labor, civil rights and environmental issues died April 17 after collapsing at a meeting called to discuss community issues.

Roosevelt Roberts, who in the 1970s was the chairman of the Black Workers Coalition, died after being rushed to a hospital after collapsing at a meeting concerning education, health care and air pollution held at the Canaan Community Development Corporation on Dixie Highway.

He was 64. Jefferson County coroner’s office officials said the death was heart related, but gave few details.

“I knew Roosevelt starting in the early 1970s. He was a consistent activist against racism and injustice on the job,” said Ira Grupper, a civil rights and labor activist. “I worked with him when he was part of the Black Workers Coalition in Louisville in the late 70s and early 80s. He was very principled and committed.”

Roberts was also a member of the United Automobile Workers union, Grupper said.

Bob Cunningham, an activist with the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, said tenacity marked Roberts, who was called “Rosie” by friends.

“He was one of those guys that wouldn’t give up,” Cunningham said.

Roberts worked at a Ford Motor Company plant while he and Cunningham worked together in the coalition, Cunningham recalled, adding that the coalition’s focus was “primarily trying to get jobs for black workers and at the same time making sure black workers were represented on the job. We found that unions at times were just as prejudiced and racist as the boss.”

The coalition filed charges or organized protests over alleged racial discrimination at many employers in Louisville and Southern Indiana, Cunningham said, including at Ford. Other companies involved were Brown-Foreman Corp., Jeffboat Inc. and Churchill Downs.

Cunningham said Roberts also led efforts to open the doors of industries in the black community wider to residents of that community.

“There were companies that were in the black community and had, maybe, no blacks or a sprinkling of black folks,” Cunningham, said.

In the 2000s, Roberts was active with Rubbertown Emergency Action (REACT), a group fighting toxic pollution from a dense concentration of industries in a mostly African-American neighborhood.

He also joined efforts of the Justice Resource Center and other groups to enact strong police civilian review in the wake of the killing of 11 people by Louisville and Metro police since 1998.

Cunningham regrets that Roberts’ name isn’t more of a household word among youth in Louisville.

“It’s sad that many people don’t know him,” he said. “Young people should know — particularly those who went on to Ford... that Roosevelt Roberts at that time was quite a voice for black workers in this city.”

COLOMBIA
HUMANITARIAN DELEGATION

Join us to visit two
extraordinary communities:

CITIES and CACARICA: July 18-August 7, 2004
CITIES and SAN JOSE DE APARTADO: July 18-31, 2004

* In Bogotá and Medellín, meet human rights defenders, grassroots groups resisting violence, barrios of displaced people and government and diplomatic officials.

* Then divide in two groups either travelling to the Peace Community of San José de Apartadó (short visit) or to Cacarica (longer stay).

Cacarica is an Afro-Colombian community under siege. They have pledged not to collaborate with either side in the civil war. They seek to protect the diverse ecosystem of their rainforest territory and to preserve their traditional way of life. Chicagoans for a Peaceful Colombia has long-standing relationships with Cacarica.

The Peace Community of **San José de Apartadó** has taken an extraordinary and nonviolent stand by refusing to support any armed actor involved in Colombia's conflict. They are building a community based on solidarity and communal work as campesinos. The FOR has a permanent accompaniment team living in the community.

Our visit and dissemination of their courageous and peaceful struggle to build alternatives to war increases the safety for these communities and constitutes vital moral support for them.

REQUIREMENTS:

- * be over 21
- * be in good health
- * flexibility, spiritual/emotional resilience, willingness to learn, a sense of adventure!
- * facility in Spanish is helpful but not required
- * Cacarica group: ability to tolerate primitive conditions (heat and humidity; mosquitoes, mice, cockroaches and other pests); ability to handle jungle hiking for up to an hour

COST: \$1400 (covers food, lodging, in-country transportation), plus round-trip airfare for U.S.-Colombia travel. Fundraising tips can be provided if needed.

CONTACT:
Space is limited. Application deadline: May 18.
Chicagoans for a Peaceful Colombia
773-454-0820
colombia@chicagoans.net
or
Fellowship of Reconciliation
415-495-6334
forcolombia@igc.net

quality affects the health and economic well-being of the community. Because of the death from cancer of a dear friend who lived in the Rubbertown area, I have committed myself to the struggle for “zero emissions.” That is one of the goals of REACT (Rubbertown Emergency Action). Clean air is possible and there is a role for everyone to get involved.

On the day that Roosevelt died, I learned two very profound lessons – The importance of not wasting time and the importance of living life with a purpose. I can still hear Roosevelt and Dorothy saying, “No justice, no peace!”

The writer is an activist with REACT.

Chief executives gather to answer an ancient question

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

If you use the internet, you undoubtedly receive humorous e-mails regularly, which are great for relieving the tension of constantly reading of war, stolen elections and racial profiling. Occasionally, you may get one where great figures from history answer one of the most enduring questions: Why did the chicken cross the road?

These being e-mails, no one knows where they originated, but they showcase someone’s or several people’s cleverness, i.e. showing Karl Marx answering that the chicken crossed

the road because it was an historical inevitability, or Freud saying it did so because of a sexual conflict from its childhood.

As a public service — and because stealing someone else’s routine is still a staple of humor — I have gathered a panel of the presidents of our time to tackle the question “why did the chicken cross the road?” All their answers are original and none has appeared on the internet – so far.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The chicken crossed the road because it had a rendezvous with destiny.

Harry Truman

The @#%& chicken crossed the @#%& road to take a @#%&. Why the @#%& else would it have?

Dwight Eisenhower

Even though I federalized the national guard to safely escort the chicken across the road, I believe chickens’ rights to cross roads is a local matter best left to local authorities.

John F. Kennedy

The chicken’s public self crossed the uh, the uh, road to lead other chickens to the

new frontiers. Its private self crossed the road to go to the hen house.

Lyndon B. Johnson

The chicken crossed the road to find a great society. Unfortunately, halfway across, I turned it around and marched it to Vietnam instead.

Richard Nixon

The chicken could cross the road, but it would be wrong.

Gerald Ford

I pardoned the chicken, so I won’t be on this panel long enough to answer the question.

Jimmy Carter

The chicken crossed the road to work for human rights and peace. Oops, I’ve just been handed a bulletin – the Soviets have invaded Afghanistan, so the chicken crossed the road to militarize the world to protect oil interests and make other chickens register for the draft.

Ronald Reagan

The chicken crossed the road to... to... uh oh, I can’t find my cue card. Here it is. The chicken crossing the road is another example of big government overtaxing us and eroding away our freedoms.

George Bush

The chicken crossed the road to drive Saddam Hussein out of Kuwait, but not to drive him from power. Only an idiot would try that.

Bill Clinton

The chicken crossed the road to reform health care. NO, make that to reform welfare. Yeah, that’s it. Actually, I don’t know why the chicken crossed the road because I didn’t ask and it didn’t tell.

G eorge W. Bush

Don’t ask me — I was absent the year the chicken crossed the road.

If you’re not feeling too chicken, you can cross the information superhighway and comment to George Morrison at klm86@netzero.net.

Firing of officer

(continued from page 1)

Coleman, credited the persistence of demonstrators at the Sunday vigils and other rallies and marches after police shootings with finally prompting discipline of an officer. About 500 marched around police headquarters in January days after Newby’s death, demanding prosecution of Mattingly and the implementation of a strong civilian review of Metro Louisville Police

The struggle goes on, Coleman said, noting that the shooting death of James Taylor last year while Taylor was handcuffed (officers said Taylor had lunged at them with a box cutter and they were not indicted) and the others since 1998.

“This is a marathon,” Coleman said. “This (Mattingly’s firing) is only part of the journey.”

Like Coleman, Citizens Against Police Abuse (CAPA), a group founded in 1998, was pleased but cautious about the firing.

“It has taken years of struggle by concerned citizens who finally, at least once, were able to demand that a peace officer be held to account,” CAPA spokesperson K.A. Owens said. “However, citizens cannot rest easy. Our system is not self-correcting. We must remain vigilant and always demand the best of our public servants.”

The Justice Resource Center is asking concerned people to boycott Louisville malls to prompt more city action on the police shootings. Shoppers are invited to shop in Indiana and bring receipts to the Justice Resource Center at 1321 Cecil Ave. Call (502) 562-6737 for more information.

Difference needn’t divide, rabbi says (continued from page 1)

No “global village,” he says, has yet developed as a result of this interaction, partly because multi-ethnic societies used to be rare in history, and so we must learn to cope with difference, or else the 21st century may look a lot like the 16th and 17th, with constant religious conflicts. (By the way, Sacks notes that WMD’s are not the problem: 9/11/01 was accomplished with box-cutters, and the genocidal murder of 800,000 people in Rwanda’s 100 days of hell was mostly with machetes. The problem, rather, is “the human heart and its capacity to hate,” he said.)

According to Sacks, there have been two major forces at work in human history, tribalism and universalism.

Tribalism (recently as nationalism), on the one hand, where for example in Afghanistan there is a tribe for every mountain valley, is in its very essence polytheistic and has thus led to frequent conflict.

Likewise universalism, according to the Rabbi, has a history at least as far back as Plato. Plato’s idea, Sacks said, was that humans exist as if in a cave, seeing only shadows of the ideal Forms (including a Form of Truth) that alone are real. Universalism has also led to conflict, because different peoples have had very different ideas of what the true ideas are, he added. Different civilizations, says Sacks, have believed very differently as to what the one final truth for “everyone, everywhere, at all times” is.

To wit, he posits, there have been six major Western civilizations: Ancient Greece, Ancient Rome, Medieval Christianity, Medieval Islam, the European Enlightenment with its after-effects, and Globalization. Each, according to Sacks, has had its own Truth. On the other hand, “The Bible is the great anti-Platonic narrative.” Plato had started with the particular and generalized to the universal;

the Bible, after the Tower of Babel in Genesis 11 (the first attempt at universalism), goes from the universal to the particular and is the necessary alternative to tribalism and universalism.

For, says Sacks, the God of Abraham is the God for all mankind, but Judaism is not the only religion. After all, he says, it was Pharoah’s daughter who saved Moses’ life! She was even given the privilege, meaningful in Judaism, of giving the baby she saved his (Egyptian) name. We are all created in God’s image, but we all turn out different. The challenge is to see in someone unlike me God’s image, a child of God.

Deism, which saw all Creation as one giant, interlocking machine, was wrong, says Sacks. We have since its time learned the fact of biodiversity, which the economist David Ricardo anticipated in his theory of comparative advantage: because we and our abilities differ, cooperation is good! If we were all the same this would not be so. Sacks, citing Ricardo, lauds the fact that as things are we can all specialize in that at which we are best.

This is the key idea behind international trade, which is one of the two main possible responses to diversity in the international sphere (the other, cataclysmically, being war). The market (trade) uses diversity, whereas through war diversity wreaks havoc on multiple civilizations. God, though, loves us like good human parents love their children: each for our uniqueness. Hence the dignity of difference for which Sacks argues. The real miracle of monotheism he sees is that unity “up there” creates difference “down here.” This difference is by design, not by accident; and the God of Abraham graciously loves all His children.

Two of the most frequently-cited prognosticators of how life will be after the Cold War, says Sacks, are Fukuyama (who

posited the “end of history” in which bourgeois capitalism would rule forever everywhere, with people glued to their TV sets) and Huntington (who begged to differ, saying that “tribal”-type conflict would become dominant, in a “clash of civilizations”). Sacks says that we can avoid both of these fates by recognizing the dignity of others while remaining true to our own.

Thus can the 21st century be a more “peaceful and gracious” one than those that preceded it, a time when the dignity of difference is understood.

In addition to being Chief Rabbi for the Commonwealth, the theologian and philosopher Jonathan Sacks is well known outside the Jewish community as a broadcaster and writer. He delivered the 1990 BBC Reith lectures, and has served as a visiting professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He is an Honorary Fellow of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and was awarded The Jerusalem Prize in 1995.

The Grawemeyer Award in Religion was first awarded in 1990. The purpose of the award is to “honor and publicize insights into the relationship between human beings and the divine and the ways this relationship may empower human beings to attain wholeness, integrity, or meaning.” A cash prize of \$200,000 is made payable in five annual installments of \$40,000. The Grawemeyer Foundation seeks ideas on issues including, but not limited to, “pluralism and religious truth;” preference is given to ideas that “...foster greater understanding and cooperation among diverse religious traditions and views.”

Ike M. Thacker IV has taught history and computer science at the university level. Eustace Durrett is an activist for rail transit. Both live in Louisville.

Ending the Israeli Occupation of Palestine IS an American Issue

Call upon the U.S. to be a friend to both Israelis and Palestinians

at the VIGIL

12 Noon – 1:00 PM each Friday
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

Two who worked for justice die, but their causes go on

Two important battlers against discrimination, one around disability rights and the other around racism, recently passed away. Henry Viscardi, who fought to integrate the disabled into the workaday world, died at age 91 in New York. From World War II and onward, his was a voice for inclusion, through various groups he founded (National Center for Disability Services, Just One Break) and otherwise.

However much my militant approach might have differed with Viscardi’s, he was among the strong forefathers-in-struggle who provided example in the battle for mainstream inclusion.

Roosevelt Roberts died recently at age 64. I remember his work in building the Black Workers Coalition here in Louisville in the 1970s, and the joint work we undertook in several arenas around that time. He was a United Automobile Workers committeeman (similar to a chief shop steward) at Ford. Most recently, he distinguished himself with his leadership in the Michael Newby Network (protesting a white police officer’s shooting in the back an unarmed African American man), and in REACT, protesting the pollution in Louisville’s Rubbertown area.

The Wall Street Journal, that expectoration of big business acid reflux, published on April 2 an interesting article on outsourcing: “The Future of Jobs...” Staff reporter David Wessel writes: “Much of the American anxiety about outsourcing to India and China can be boiled down to this simple question: Will there be good jobs left for our kids?”

Wessel predicts that the U.S. won’t run out of jobs. However, with the exception of some high-end stuff, most of the jobs remaining will hardly pay enough to live on comfortably. Well, thank God for small favors.

The U.S. debacle in Iraq, unlike past wars, has not bailed out the economy. Nor has it fooled a majority in organized labor, which has not always been the case in times past. The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO



Executive Council, on March 18, passed the following resolution:

“WHEREAS, we are currently involved in a major struggle in Iraq which we feel negatively impacts working families here in our nation, and we must support our armed forces no matter what...the PA AFL-CIO Executive Council condemns the misleading principles under which the Bush Administration made the decision to wage a war with Iraq and that the United States entered into a war with Iraq on March 19, 2003, deploying thousands of American troops to Iraq...

“The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Executive Council is concerned that while we are engaged in a major armed conflict, the current Republican-led Congress will try to pass a federal budget that will severely hurt our citizenry here at home....

“The Pennsylvania AFL-CIO Executive Council expresses disapproval of the Bush administration for proposing cutbacks in veteran’s benefits, education, health and employment and training... (and) condemns the Bush/Republican push for continuing massive tax cuts which, in fact, only benefits one percent of the tax-paying public; and... denounces the Bush/Republican failure to really address the current health care crisis, job crisis and the potential threat to our social security system.”

The United Mine Workers (UMW), many years ago, won portal-to-portal pay,

meaning miners would be paid from the time they entered the mine to the time they exited. Not so at D’Arrigo Brothers, one of California’s largest vegetable producers, which just would not pay its mostly-Mexican employees for the time they traveled in company vans to and from the crops they picked.

The United Farm Workers (UFW) contacted a law firm in Chicago, which in turn filed suit. In a major victory, a U.S. Circuit judge, sitting in San Jose, Cal., has ruled in favor of the workers. A final amount has not as yet been determined, but the 3,000 workers may be due \$13 million total, or more. Stay tuned.

When I was considering my employer’s early retirement offer about five years ago, a main feature that impelled me to accept was comprehensive healthcare coverage. But this is no longer assured, not for me nor anyone else.

One example should suffice. Weirton Steel Corp. recently announced it would cut off healthcare benefits to its retirees. The company is in Ohio bankruptcy and petitioned the court to do away with its union contracting obligation with the Independent Steelworkers Union (no relation to United Steelworkers—USWA).

Congressman John Conyers (D-Michigan) is spearheading a campaign for passage of national health insurance legislation. It is called HR 676 — the “Expanded and Improved Medicare for All Act.”

Jobs With Justice reports: “There’s nothing sexy about getting burned or losing a finger at work. But that’s what many workers at Quebecor World, the company that prints the Victoria’s Secret catalog, face every day on the job. (It) is the second largest commercial printing company in the world. Graphic Communications Intl. Union (GCIU) has a major drive going to organize over 3,200 workers in seven of its plants.”

When Wal-Mart purchased the old Bashford Manor Mall in Louisville, last year, and made plans to convert it to a

mega-store, hardly a protest was launched, much to the shame of the progressive movement hereabouts, your humble scribe included, and much to the glee of our mayor.

Not so in Inglewood, California, a multi-ethnic Los Angeles suburb, and notwithstanding the \$1 million Wal-Mart pumped into the campaign. Its voters “have soundly rejected a ballot initiative to permit the building of a 60-acre Wal-Mart... exempt from (any state or local oversight).

“The Inglewood vote against Wal-Mart, 60 percent to 40 percent, was a victory for a coalition of unions, churches and community groups who said the development would have driven local retailers out of business and gutted the city’s legal, environmental and planning powers,” the New York Times reported April 7.

In 1971 Daniel Ellsberg leaked thousands of secret U.S. government Vietnam War plans, helping significantly to end U.S. imperial designs in that country, as well as to impeach President Richard Nixon. Similarly, Mordechai Vanunu, 18 years ago, revealed that Israel had a nuclear reactor, and a nuclear weapons program. His reward? He was kidnapped by the Israeli secret service in Europe, returned to Israel, and languished lo these many years in an Israeli prison.

Mordechai was recently released from prison, but is not allowed to speak to most people, certainly not foreigners, and cannot leave the country. He is a real hero and serves as a model for those willing to forsake personal security and comfort for integrity and the quest for a world at peace.

The calculated murders by Israel of Sheikh Ahmad Yassin, and his successor, Rantisi, Hamas leaders, are extrajudicial acts in violation of international law: “The U.S. alone has real influence with Israel. But it has forfeited its credibility in the Arab world because of its willingness to endorse almost anything Israel does,” The Financial Times of London wrote March 23.

“It is in its and all our interests to ask itself whether the tail is wagging the dog in this relationship. Moreover, as much as Mr. Sharon may try to insert his decades-old campaign to impose a solution on the Palestinians into the international ‘war on terror,’ his assassinations campaign will encourage terror, not counter it.”

To return to the U.S.: companero Esteban Bartlett sent me the following, from the Coalition of Immokolee Workers (CIW): Subject — Student solidarity hunger strikes vs. Taco Bell Recently, Grand Valley State University (GVSU, Allendale, Michigan). Administration officials prepared for the university’s annual awards dinner, honoring the 2003-2004 Niemeyer Award winner. The Niemeyer Award is GVSU’s most prestigious prize, going to the “Outstanding Student of the Year” as voted by the school’s deans on the recommendations of faculty.

There was only one hitch with the 2004 award dinner — this year, GVSU’s most outstanding student was not eating. Pennie Alger — the winner of the 2003-04 Niemeyer Award — is one of the Students Against Sweatshops hunger strikers, demanding that GVSU boot the Taco Bell restaurant from the campus until Taco Bell recognizes its responsibility for the atrocious working conditions in the fields where the fast-food giant buys its tomatoes.

“The CIW congratulates Pennie on her award, and on her courage — not just for undertaking the hunger strike, but for showing administration officials what it really means to be GVSU’s Outstanding Student!”

Pennie and the other GVSU hunger strikers’ message was definitely heard by students around the country. Students at the University of Florida pledged to continue Grand Valley students’ hunger strike, beginning their own fast. Tom Feeney of the UF Student Farmworker Alliance group, said: “This is about our three-year campaign to kick Taco Bell off campus, and it’s about standing in solidarity with students at Grand Valley, too. Students nationwide are united, fighting for farmworkers’ rights.”

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

Extending the Circle of Compassion: Christianity and Food Justice

with

Bruce Friedrich

from the National Office of PETA in Norfolk, Virginia

**Tuesday, 11 May 2004
7pm – Presentation and Dialogue**

**Maria Hall, Nazareth Home (Chapel)
2000 Newburg Road
Louisville, Kentucky**

Before joining the work of PETA in 1996, Bruce Friedrich spent more than 6 years as a part of the intentional community at the **Dorothy Day Catholic Worker** in Washington, D.C., a hospitality house for homeless families, and has been a member of *Pax Christi* since the late 1980s. **Bruce was recently rated No. 5 on Details magazine’s 2003 list of “The 50 Most Influential People Under 38”** — ahead of Tiger Woods, Leonardo di Caprio and Justin Timberlake. He is on the governing board of the *Catholic Vegetarian Society* and the advisory board of the *Christian Vegetarian Society*. He is also a founding member of the *Society of Religious and Ethical Vegetarians*. In 1994 Bruce spent 8 months in a small NC jail cell with Philip Berrigan and John Dear, S.J., former Executive Director of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, who said recently, “*Bruce Friedrich is dedicated to the vision of nonviolence, that protects life for all people and all creatures. As an activist and writer, he has upheld the vision that all life is sacred. We all need to listen to his voice.*” This experience is detailed in Fr. Dear’s book *Peace Behind Bars*.

Free and open to the public.

**Contact John Borders (894-9200) or
Anne Walter (583-6419) for more information.**

Mayor or CEO — which title best fits Jerry Abramson?

by Eustace Durrett
and Ike M. Thacker IV

Perhaps the very worst of many pernicious legacies from the 1970s and 80s is the notion that government should be run like a business. The business model dictates financial profit as the goal of operations. This business model does not apply, however, in the areas of health care, education, and indeed of government generally. Profit is simply not the purpose in these pursuits.

For instance, the purpose of health care is binding (and preventing) wounds rather than cutting throats. The purpose of education, similarly, is threefold: socialization, the imparting of knowledge, and teaching critical thinking. The aim, finally, of government generally, to borrow a phrase from Noam Chomsky, is to promote the “common good.”

All of these are goals entirely different from the profit motive, and require a different model for their associated structures. The entire implied value systems are at fundamental odds.

The typical business CEO (chief executive officer) these days is concerned more with profits than people, but such an

attitude would be disastrous if generally applied in the antithetical realm of government, where people and their needs are paramount. To accomplish his goals, the modern CEO will fight the organizing efforts of workers, try to bust existent unions, cut workers’ benefits, ignore the environmental impacts of his company’s doings (e.g., at Rubbertown), and create

more than 12 years of “leading” Louisville, he has refused to accept responsibility for the destruction of neighborhoods — for example, the destruction of three South End neighborhoods for the benefit of United Parcel Service; the impending destruction of the Clarksdale housing projects for the benefit of the Louisville medical complex; and the stealth, speed, and thoroughness

Republican CEOs who lead Greater Louisville, Inc. (GLI, “our” Chamber of Commerce), Mayor Abramson even turned a blind eye to the horrific air pollution in Rubbertown for 12 years. He has also privatized more than 100 jobs in the Corrections Department, just as if he had sent them “offshore.” In addition to all that, and perhaps so that Wal-Mart employees wouldn’t feel uniquely exploited, Abramson has also made lower-level metro employees work more hours each week — for the same pay they were already getting. At the same time, he hired four new deputy mayors, paying each at least \$100,000 per year.

But, does Abramson accept responsibility for any of these listed grievances? Of course not! Like a true CEO, he blames it all on higher labor costs in the unionized police department, quirks in accounting caused by merger, and “the” sluggish economy. Mayor

Abramson may never get to be a national cabinet member, but based on his record so far he will never lack for lavish retainers offered by GLI and GLI-like companies. Would he really want it that way?

“(Mayor) Abramson has also made lower-level metro employees work more hours each week — for the same pay they were already getting. At the same time, he hired four new deputy mayors, paying each at least \$100,000 per year.”

deadly hazards for both his employees and the public at large; for “none of the above” is he willing to accept responsibility. There is always *something* else to blame, he it high(er) labor costs, accounting snafus, or the general economic climate.

Louisville Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson has long bought into the idea of running government like a business. In his

with which the destruction has been accomplished, so that almost overnight people’s worlds have been turned upside down, against their will. To make already open sores fester, the government has even tried to cheat, CEO-like, those displaced when the time has come for financial arrangements to be made.

As if to slavishly mimic the type of

Social justice and socializing can fit each other nicely

by Tom Louderback

Many of us think of vigils, marches, walks, rallies, and letter writing campaigns when we think of social justice. We want to speak up and show the world that people care about justice.

That is only part of the picture, though. Social justice is a very big field that covers many more kinds of action too, including public issue education, various organizing tasks, prayer, meditation and direct service to others. The rest of this column is mostly about the last kind of social action — service, the point of which is to get in touch personally with social justice. Let’s make friends with some of the folks who actually need and want social justice.

One of the many ways we can do this is to volunteer as a sponsor, English as a Second Language (ESL) tutor, or family advocate for a refugee family in Metro Louisville. Three local agencies that work for refugee families here are the Refugee Service of Catholic Charities, Kentucky Refugee Ministries, and the Jewish Family and Vocational Services. Since last July Carolyn (my spouse) and I have been “advocating” as volunteers with Catholic Charities. It’s been immensely inspiring and mostly it’s been fun.

What we’ve found out is that most of the things you might do with a family new to Louisville and this country are just plain fun. So many things are new and exciting to these folks. You’ll find that the thrill of these discoveries is contagious. That is what led us to jot down the following tips, which we hope will encourage more *FORsooth* readers to do this kind of volunteer work (fun), too.

Most of the time we’ve needed to work without an interpreter because there just aren’t enough interpreters to go around. Don’t worry about that, though. You’ll find out that talking by pointing or with pictures works pretty well most of the time. You’ll also find out that these families are eager to learn new things any way they can.

Getting Started: On our second visit, we asked our new friends to allow us to tape some basic primary-grade instructional materials on the walls of their apartment and they immediately agreed; materials such as an illustrated alphabet line, a number line, placards about shapes and colors. We’ve referred to these things many times. *Getting Our Bearings:* We brought our new friends maps of the world, the

United States, Kentucky, Louisville, and TARC bus maps. The first two maps you can find at a dollar store. The rest are free. We also brought lots of pamphlets about places in Louisville and Kentucky. We got them at the Visitors and Convention Bureau, the Main Street Visitors’ Center, and the Interstate 64 Visitors’ Center near Simpsonville. This is a lot of stuff. For us, it covered three visits.

Magazines, Newspapers and Books: We looked through a lot of picture books together; children’s books about letters, numbers, people at work, and so forth, photo books of places in Kentucky and the United States, and picture book biographies of famous African-Americans. Most of these books came from the public library; some came from yard sales, thrift stores, and dollar stores. We gave our friends those books. We did a lot of pointing as we went through them. We also brought our newspapers, including the glossy ad sections, and some back issues of *Sports Illustrated* and *National Geographic*.

The Public Library: First, we helped our friends obtain library cards over the Internet. Later, we called the reference desk for ideas on what to check out besides children’s books. They suggested ESL books, adult basic education books (ABE), English tutorial tapes and videos. Then, we found that the Iroquois branch has a resource librarian on staff for ESL materials. She helped us select quite a few interesting items. Early this year, she also started an English Conversation Club, which our friends enjoyed quite a bit.

Postcards and mail: We mailed our friends a postcard a week about some place in Louisville or Kentucky. You’ll find them at the discount stores for only 25 cents. In the Internet, we found a bunch of free magazines such as Baby Talk and Postcards and helped them sign up for a few free subscriptions. They enjoyed receiving mail.

Child car seats: This was a barrier for us in the early weeks. Without car seats, we could not take our friends on any outings. We eventually found that the Health Department gives away child car seats to eligible families, however some local churches donated a few to us first.

Outings: We took a walk together to a nearby park and everyone had a great time, including the adults. It was the first time our friends had seen playground equipment. They wanted very much to see the river, so we drove to the waterfront on our

third visit. I think that seeing the river helped give them a sense of place. Soon, we were taking trips to the zoo, the Iroquois Park overlook, Cave Hill to the feed the ducks, and Belknap Campus to feed the squirrels. Our most important trips, though, were our grocery shopping trips to the Valu Market grocery store near South Third Street. It’s one of the few international grocery stores, here. We frequently met other refugee families there.

Toys: We brought the children several inexpensive toys, one at a time and not every visit; balls, coloring books, puzzles, toys and dolls from thrift stores, plastic jack-o-lanterns, a snowman figurine, a box of children’s valentines, and some games such as the Barrel of Monkeys and Picture Dominos. And, we played with the kids, too!

Fun stuff: We brought along a few other things on some of our visits; refrigerator magnets, a U.S. flag window decal, a houseplant from the grocery store, and fruits from their native country, such as mangoes.

Photos: We thought it would be fun to bring a camera and take photos for the family to keep, but they beat us to that idea. On one of our early visits, they showed us about a half dozen new photos they’d arranged on their living room wall. One of their neighbors had snapped them.

Radio and TV: We found a clock radio at the thrift store for \$4 that worked just fine and one of our friends gave us a TV out of her basement that worked perfectly. A neighbor helped them find a cheap VCR. So, pretty soon we were taping some TV programs for them out of the cable channels and helping them find videos at the public library.

Vacuum cleaner: One day we brought our vacuum cleaner from home and demonstrated how it works. A few weeks later, they bought an electric broom.

Community Garden: There was a community garden only about three blocks away from their apartment run the by Metro government. Everything is provided for free. The father had done farm work and wanted to give it a try. So, we helped him sign up for a plot.

Driver Education: One day, the father asked about how he could learn to drive a car. We made a few phone calls and found that the Kentucky Refugee Ministries offers a driver education class for refugees as needed. For the time being, we picked up some Kentucky driver test booklets and went through the pictures and illustrations with him.

Other Community Resources: On our third or fourth visit, we found that the father had started visiting the Islamic Center on 4th Street near the University of Louisville. He’d found it entirely on his own talking with the neighbors. As I write this column, we are just starting to explore the various programs offered by the Arcadia Community Center.

Internet Resources: If you’d like to learn a little bit about the basics of ESL tutoring, there are some free interactive online training programs out there, including ozpk.tripod.com/coach. You’ll also find that many refugee groups have websites with historical and current information.

The writer is an alumnus of the Just Faith program and a volunteer with social justice organizations. You can contact him at tlouderback11@hotmail.com.



MORDECHAI VANUNU FREE AT LAST, BUT RESTRICTED

As we go to press on Sunday night, we have the great joy to report that Sharon Wallace and her son Luka Vanunu-Wallace, who is Mordechai’s nephew, have just arrived at the Louisville airport, along with Sharon’s two daughters following a long flight from Jerusalem.

While the entire peace community rejoices over Vanunu’s release, there is grave concern for his safety after witnessing the angry mob that harrassed him when he walked out of the Ashkelon prison and tried to leave in an automobile. At present Vanunu and his brother Meir are housed in an apartment in Jerusalem, and Meir will be staying close by him at all times. They are under constant accompaniment for their own protection.

Severe restrictions have been placed upon Vanunu. He cannot leave Israel for a year and he must tell authorities in advance before traveling even in Israel. He will not be permitted to talk to foreigners Vanunu’s adoptive parents, Nick and Mary Eoloff, were on hand and had anticipated bringing him back to the USA, but that plan will have to wait.

The release of Vanunu brings to mind the person that started the campaign for his release many years ago - SAM DAY - who produced a splendid video and came to Louisville to speak. Sam spent his life revealing the truth about nuclear weapons, spent time in prison for protesting and suffered degenerative visual difficulties as a result. He boosted Mordechai’s spirits by taking delegations to the prison and demonstrated there numerous times. How happy Sam would have been to welcome Mordechai.

We have the new video about Vanunu and would like to share it. Please call Jean Edwards, 458-8056.

ACTION ALERT ON NEW NUCLEAR WEAPONS

An urgent message has come from Sister Rose Marie Cummins, Dominican Earth Center Coordinator at St. Catharine, Ky, and frequent columnist in FORsooth. She is urging us to contact our Congressional leaders about legislation that will be debated the first week of May. No time to waste!

The Bush administration is requesting increased funding for the Robust Nuclear Earth Penetrator (RNEP) and for the Advanced Concepts Initiative for nuclear weapons. We cannot afford to sit back and let this happen. The analysis by Sister Rose Marie is as follows.

For the last 20 years and during the last two administrations, our country has worked to delegitimize the use of nuclear weapons. Up until now, we had reduced U.S. reliance on these mortal weapons. Indeed, we have even heard our President speaking about the evils of nuclear arms buildup and capabilities in Pakistan, North Korea, Iran and in other parts of the world.

Now, this Administration is promoting the creation of a new class of earth-penetrating weapons called “bunker busters” - so called because they would be designed to go deep into the ground to destroy buried facilities that are protected by rock or concrete.

The Energy Department is requesting \$27.6 million for this RNEP program. These “bunker busters” would have an explosive power up to 70 times that of the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. In addition, this Administration is increasing its request to \$9 million in the coming year to research low yield nuclear weapons or “mini-nukes.” This money would be used to further studies on advanced concepts ranging from modification of existing weapons to the exploration of new nuclear weapons technologies.



While the Administration claims that this RNEP program is only a study, Hiroshima and Nagasaki remind us that if we build such weapons, we will find reason to use them. Moreover, the initial three-year study, purported to cost \$45 million, will, in reality, come close to a half billion dollars (\$485 million) in the next five years. This will move the program into development and engineering states and, into use in the future.

What can we do? We can:

- 1) Use our right to vote
- 2) Let our concerns be known to our Congressional leaders. Urge them to eliminate funding for new nuclear weapons (RNEP and Advanced Concepts Initiative) in the 2005 fiscal budget’.
- 3) Share this information with family and friends.
- 4) Learn more about the issue by logging onto the Friends (Quakers) Committee on National Legislation at www.fcnl.org.

This is a timely issue that needs our voices.

AN EVENING WITH DAN BERRIGAN (and Thomas Merton)

A large crowd gathered to hear Dan Berrigan. The air was filled with anticipation. The Sisters of Loretto graced a large section of the front row right in front of the lectern. Among them was Sister Mary Luke Tobin who was recognizd by Terry Taylor at the end for her many years in the Denver office focusing on peace issues.

Upon entering Frazier Hall at Bellarmine University, one felt immediately the excitement in the air as long time members of the peace community rejoiced at seeing each other again and reliving some of those memorable experiences during the Vietnam protests and the anti-nuclear demonstrations when Daniel Berrigan, a Catholic priest residing with the Jesuit community in New York City, was often in the news along with his brother Philip for acts of nonviolent resistance.

Although the meeting had been announced as a presentation by Dan Berrigan, before it was over we felt that we had also been graced by the presence of Thomas Merton, as Dan’s recollections of him were so vivid. Opening remarks were made by Dr. Paul Pearson, Director of the Merton Center on the Bellarmine campus where the extensive Merton library is housed. He quoted a paragraph from a letter Merton wrote in 1963 which aptly applies to Dan Berrigan as well:

“It is my intention to make my entire life a rejection of, a protest against the crimes and injustices of war and political tyranny which threaten to destroy the world and the whole human race. By my monastic life and vows I am saying NO to all the concentration camps, the aerial bombardments, the nuclear weapons and wars]. If I say NO to all these secular forces, I also say staged political trials, the judicial murders, the racial injustices, [the YES to all that is good in the world and in humanity.”

The format for the evening was a dialogue between Dan Berrigan and Terry Taylor, former director of the Cathedral Heritage Foundation and now on the staff of Stand And Be Counted. When asked how he happened to become friends with Merton, Dan replied that it started some time in 1960 after reading one of Merton’s articles. He began corresponding and Merton invited him to visit. After that Dan went to the monastery at Gethsemani at least once a year until Merton’s death in 1968 while traveling in Bankok. Dan described the shock and despair that came over him upon hearing of Merton’s death. He spoke of 1968 as the year of everything awful, referring to the assassinations of President Kennedy and his brother Robert, in addition to Merton’s untimely death.

Berrigan spoke of the community to which Philip belonged. They go every week to the airport where many soldiers are leaving for duty in Iraq. They leaflet and tell the soldiers that they are praying for their survival. The enemy of the American government is not our enemy. A terrorist says, “I will give up my life in order to take life.” Our enemy is violence itself which our own government embraces.

It was a rare moment of closure when Dan described one of the last liturgies with Phil when the family and his community were gathered around his bedside.

Someone asked what to do about those responsible for this war. Philip said, “We pray for them and we resist them.” Dan concluded, “That is the legacy of my brother.”

Who are the real terrorists? Gareau examines question

State Terrorism and the United States: From Counterinsurgency to the War on Terrorism

by Frederick H. Gareau;
Clarity Press; 2004; 254 pp.

reviewed by Tracy McLellan

In the United States, practically by birthright, we are supplied with all the consumables our digestion will handle, and then some. By birthright also, we inherit a public sphere every last trace of which is or soon will be branded, goading us to satisfy every hunger, and creating many which we would never consider. We have a president who can open his mouth only to lie and dissemble and a Congress in which this talent is prerequisite and institutionalized. Ignorance is bliss as Orwell had it.

Imagine what our world might look like instead if all the energy and resources that go now to encourage our insatiable lust for more of every tangible material manifestation were rather concentrated on bringing a modicum of a decent standard of living to the three billion people, half the world’s population, who now survive on the equivalent of \$2 U.S. a day. Such a political arrangement has been attempted, and invariably in conspiracy with U.S. power, murdered in its infancy.

Before launching into an objectively scathing critique of U.S. foreign policy, Gareau cites as his own the Archbishop of Sao Paolo: “This entire book is written in blood and with much love for our country.” Would that I were so noble.

To date, and as far as one can see in the future, any attempt at a socialist government is bound to meet the same fate as governments described herein by Gareau.

Better late than never I guess, but it is almost embarrassing for me to admit how perfect this book was to me as someone who only in the late 1990s became more than peripherally engaged and interested in politics and especially U.S. foreign policy.

BOOK REVIEW

Rebels, Contras, Sandanistas, leftists, guerrillas, insurgents, counterinsurgents, terrorists, communists, all these terms were confusing and difficult to hold and fully understand in context.

State Terrorism and the United States is an enlighteningly complex yet simple exposition of the state-terror in which the U.S. has been engaged and complicit. Sadly, what it amounts to is where the repressed have organized to better their living conditions they are branded “communist,” “terrorist,” “rebel.” Ipso facto their activities – union organizing, education, strikes, agitating for better wages and working conditions – are branded “insurgency,” a word sinister enough to warrant any reprisal. Thus when a government, often with massive U.S. aid of one kind or another represses such a movement it is “counter-insurgency.”

In each of six case studies – the School of the Americas and El Salvador, Guatemala, Chile, Argentina, South Africa, and Indonesia – Gareau examines and answers with a bracing honesty three basic questions: did the government commit state terrorism? How much of the terror was committed by the state, and how much by private guerrillas? And, was the country that perpetrated terror upon its own citizens supported by the United States? Anyone with a basic understanding of U.S. foreign policy can intuit the answers. Still, Gareau’s analysis is revealing and educational.

In addition to the six main case studies, Gareau also takes brief inventories of U.S. policy in Cambodia, Iraq, Colombia, Nicaragua, the Congo, Iran and elsewhere. Inevitably we discover that no country was too vicious or brutal to receive aid so long as it opposed the Soviet Union in the Cold War. Such countries were innocuously labeled “democratic,” with all that intimates. Similar errors are being made in the name of fighting the war on terror, says Gareau, and the same methods supposedly used to combat terrorism historically, are not

used upon the far greater state terrorism of our country, our friends and allies. In this scenario, terrorism is by definition something “they” do, and thusly only then resisted, vilified, prevented and attacked. When we and our friends engage in the very same activity, often to an aggravated degree, it is called something else entirely.

Several of the twenty-one truth commissions that Gareau notes have been established worldwide to investigate terrorism provide focus to much of the material here. Understanding, he says is the first step of contrition, and thusly, prevention.

Truth commissions usually operate under the “two-devils principle,” Gareau said. This examines atrocities and violations of both liberation and counterinsurgency movements. Under this rubric says Gareau, liberation movements are often judged more leniently. As this study shows, they are often guilty of far less barbarity. Liberation movements’ cause, often that of throwing off the yoke of economic and violent repression, also earns leniency, he wrote. However, liberation movements that use unjust means to achieve their ends are not exonerated of perpetrating atrocities and violations. Conversely, state-sponsored terrorism is usually far more culpable for several reasons, Gareau said, adding that it is usually guilty of vastly more terrorism; the terrorism is more brutal and monstrous; and worse, is employed for unjust ends.

Much of U.S. foreign policy, including its wide support for rightwing dictators during the Cold War, was and is predicated on the Root Doctrine, says Gareau. This doctrine, promulgated in 1922 by Elihu Root, said a sovereign state had a right to “prevent a condition of affairs in which it will be too late to protect itself.” According to Root this justified support of dictators because the populations in those countries were incapable of democracy. This doctrine proved bloody in practice when the goal, achieved with the success at least of avoiding nuclear holocaust, was deterrence, containment and non-proliferation, the book said. Under terms of the Bush administration’s National Security Strategy of 2002, pre-emption and counter-proliferation threaten aggression, and represent a severe setback for the development of international law, according to Gareau.

Finally, Gareau makes recommendations for preventing terrorism. The U.S., he says, should oppose terrorism in all its guises, and not just where it threatens its narrowly defined interests. It should change the name of the war against to the defense against terrorism. It should quit its aid of state terrorism, he said, which engenders much hatred of and inspires more terrorism against, the United States. Terrorism should be treated as criminal, and reacted to as such, rather than by acts of war. Prisoners like those at Guantanamo should be afforded the rights of criminals, Gareau wrote. Particularly salient in light of Europe’s recent refusal to even consider it, a negotiating posture ought be adopted to ameliorate the grievances of terrorists and potential terrorists. This should be especially true in the case of those with grievances against Israel, says Gareau, whose close relationship with the United States fuels much terrorist hatred. The living standards of the world’s poor should be raised, he added.

In perhaps the only approval of Bush administration policies, or past Democratic administrations for that matter, Gareau affirms expanding and reforming intelligence agencies, improving security of air and sea-ports, and increased regulation on the transfer of money from country to country. Contrary to the adamant protestations of the Bush administration, however, Gareau says the U.S. should eagerly join the International Criminal Court. He said it should more readily participate with international institutions such as the International Atomic Energy Commission and the United Nations and should not undermine human rights. It should remedy as far as possible the victims of state terrorism it has supported in the past, Gareau said. And, a truth commission for the United States should be created so that the American public knows what has been done in its name.

These suggestions of Gareau, a doctor of international relations and organizations are reasonable, if not brilliant. Thusly, their chance of U.S. adoption is nil.

Contact the reviewer at tracymclellan@netzero.com.

Calendar for peacemakers

May 2 (Sun) **PROTEST AGAINST POLICE ABUSE**, 2:30 pm *Every Sunday* at Seventh & Jefferson. Call the Justice Resource Center, 562-6737.

May 2 (Sun) **THE FOURTH WORLD WAR, passionate new film shot on the front lines of struggles spanning five continents. A radical story of hope and human connection in the face of a war that shatters and divides.** Ky Theater, 651 S 4th, 3:00 and 5:30 pm. The codirector, Richard Rowley will speak after the 3:00 showing. Silent auction also. Call 589-6419 or 541-0758

May 2 (Sun) **CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR PEACE**, every first Sunday evening remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign or a candle. Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. 7:00-8:00 pm. Sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. E-mail: pcunity@yahoo.com www.louisvillepeace.org

May 3 (Mon) **PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE, every Monday at 12:15**, followed by a simple lunch. All welcome. James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave Call 896-0172.

May 3 (Mon) **PEACE & KUCINICH. On tour in Kentucky.** Fundraiser to meet and greet at 5:00, Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, \$50. Memorial Auditorium, 4th & Ky, 7:00 pm. Tickets are \$5 in advance, \$10 at the door. (No one turned away). Contact Jennifer Lantz, 432-9354

May 4 (Tue) **ABED ABU SROUR**, Director of the Alrowwad Cultural & Theater Training Center at the Aida Refugee Camp in Bethlehem. Visiting Louisville to prepare for the 2005 tour of this youth theater group. Abu Srour created the Center in 1998 to give the frustrated, angry, despairing children of the refugee camp the opportunity to express themselves in a nonviolent and creative way through theater, painting, and education. Join Abed for lunch at Saffron's Restaurant, 131 West Market, at 12:00 noon. RSVP by 4/29 to Carla Wallace at Ccarnewt@aol.com Call 558-7556. Website: <http://alrowwad.virtualactivism.net>

May 7 (Fri) **MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY**, sponsored by Church Women United in the Louisville Area. "In Faith, Women Shape the Future through Friendship." Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church, 2224 W. Chestnut St, 9:30 am. Please bring Church World Service Health Kit items or money and the Least Coin Offering. A light lunch will be served. Call 893-3352.

May 7 (Fri) **NOON VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**, including a news update. **EVERY FRIDAY AT SIXTH AND BROADWAY**, in front of the Federal Court House (where Senator McConnell's office is located). We vigil in solidarity with the **"Women in Black"** who vigil every Friday at noon in Israel. Sponsored by the Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

May 11 (Tue) **BRUCE FRIEDRICH: "Extending the Circle of Compassion – Christianity and Food Justice."** Bruce is from the national office of **PETA** in Norfolk, Virginia. Presentation and dialogue in Maria Hall, Nazareth Home (Chapel), 2000 Newburg Road, 7:00 pm. Open to everyone. Free. Contact John Borders (894-9200) or AnneWalter (583-6419).

May12 (Wed) **KITLAC (Ky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean)**. Presbyterian Seminary. 7:30 pm. Call David Horvath, 479-9262, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.

May 13 (Thu) **DEMONSTRATE! At Ford Motor Company's Annual Shareholder Meeting. Seelbach, 500 S. 4th St, 9:00 –10:30 am.** Tell Ford to do the right thing, to protect the environment, our national security, and public health by producing **more fuel-efficient vehicles**. Contact Jason Mark, clean car campaigner, at Global Exchange. 1/800/497-1994, ext 230. Jason@globalexchange.org (Or call Jobs with Justice, 625-3724)

May 16 (Sun) **COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES**. First Unitarian Church, 4th & York, 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

May 20 (Thu) **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community) monthly meeting. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:00 pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914, Ellen Schagene, 456-5288, or Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. PCunity@yahoo.com www.louisvillepeace.org

May 24 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (Every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, #10, 7:30 pm. Visitors are welcome. Call cochairs, Pat Geier, 456-6586, or Mary Horvath, 479-9262.

June 1 (Tue) **DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF FORsooth**. Contact George Morrison, editor, 944-6460. E-mail: klm86@netzero.com For calendar listings, contact Jean Edwards, 458-8056. E-mail: edwardsfor@aol.com

June 6 (Sun) **CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR PEACE** every first Sunday evening remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign or a candle. Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. 7:00-8:00 pm. Sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. E-mail: pcunity@yahoo.com www.louisvillepeace.org

June 10 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING EXTRA-ORDINAIRE** at Beverley Marmion's House. We need many warm bodies to help with this joyous endeavor. 6:30 pm. Call 451-5658

June 28 (Mon) **PASTORS FOR PEACE CARAVAN TO CUBA**. Hosted by **KITLAC** (Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean). Potluck supper planned. Call Nancy Jakubiak, 280-9034. E-mail: nancyjak@hotmail.com.

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

June 5-11 (SSMTWT) **NATIONAL WEEK OF ACTION TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION. Our government must end its military, economic, and diplomatic support for Israel's illegal military occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, in DC.** Local Organizers Conference, June 4-7: **"Speaking Out & Being Effective"**. Sign the petition to the State Department and Congress. See <http://endtheoccupation.org/petition.php?pid=2>.

June 8-10 **G-8 LEADERS COMING TO GEORGIA. The leaders of the 8 richest countries will converge in Sea Island, Ga for their annual summit.** This will be the first time the G-8 has met in the United States since founded in 1975. It includes the United States, Canada, Japan, Germany, France, the United Kingdom, Italy and Russia. The Jubilee USA Network has criticized the G-8 because they have failed to live up to promises made at the Cologne summit in 1999 to cancel the debts of the world's poorest nations. To learn more, call 1/202/783-3566. E-mail: coordjubileeusa.org.

June 20-July 3 **FIFTEENTH US/USA FRIEND-SHIP-MENT CARAVAN TO CUBA. "THE BLOCKADE MUST END!"** Contact IFCO/Pastors for Peace, 402 W 145th St, NY, NY 10031 (212-926-5757) Email: cucaravan@igc.org Arriving in Louisville on June 28. Contact Nancy Jakubiak, 812/280-9034. Email: nancyjak@hotmail.com

July 18-31 or July 18-Aug 7 **TRAVEL TO COLOMBIA TO VISIT THE F.O.R. PEACE COMMUNITY OF SAN JOSE de APARTADO** (short trip) or continue on to **CACARICA**, an Afro-Colombian community under siege. Our visits will increase the support and safety of these courageous communities. \$1400 covers food, lodging, travel inside Colombia. Does not cover round trip air fare to Colombia. Contact F.O.R., 2017 Mission St. #305, San Francisco, CA 94110. (415/495-6334) Forcolombia@igc.net **or** contact Chicagoans for a Peaceful Colombia, PO Box 302, Wheaton, IL 60189 colombia@chicagoans.net

July 19 (Mon) **DEMOCRATIC PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION**, Boston. Headquarters in Louisville, 901 Barret Ave. (582-1999)

Aug 5-9 (TFSSM) **NATIONAL F.O.R. CONFERENCE, "Organizing the Real Superpower: People of the World Choose Peace!"** Come to Los Angeles for five powerful days of peacebuilding and justice-making. **F.O.R. CELEBRATES ITS 90TH YEAR OF EXPLORING THE POWER OF LOVE TO RESOLVE CONFLICT.** Occidental College. See the website, www.forusa.org or call 845/358-4601.

Aug 29, 2004 (Sun) **REPUBLICAN PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION**, NYC. Mass Worldwide Protest planned. E-mail: info@unitedforpeace.org



Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

AD HOC COALITION FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION – (778-8130)
ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – 2nd Thursday (585-3375)
AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB – 3rd Tuesday (451-2155)
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (637-8951)
BIONEERS / SUSTAINABLE LOUISVILLE – Tuesdays (336-9440)
BREAD FOR THE WORLD – 2nd Tuesday (239-4317)
CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse) – 2nd Thursday (778-8130)
C.E.A.S.E. [Citizens for Equitable Assignment to School Environments] – (778-9427)
C-SAW (Citizens Standing Against War) – (548-6845 or 636-5848)
CLARK & FLOYD COUNTIES AIDS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (288-2706)
CLOUT [Citizens of Louisville Organized and Working Together] -(583-1267)
COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)
COMMON CAUSE – 1st Tuesday, every other month (228-1534)
COMMUNIST PARTY USA – Sunday evenings (473-2659)
CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (454-4820)
CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD – Books by Neale Donald Walsch. 1st Monday (468-2305)
EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Sunday (569-1876)
FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)
FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (456-6586 or 583-4670)
GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday (897-3335)
GREEN PARTY – 1st Tuesday (456-9540)
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays (583-6599)
HATE FREE SCHOOLS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (454-3300)
INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 1st Wednesday (214-7322)
JEFFERSON COUNTY WELFARE REFORM COALITION – 2nd Friday (585-3556)
JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (625-3724)
JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – 3rd Saturday (774-1116)
KENTUCKIANA FOR KUCINICH – 1st Thursday (454-4820 or 459-6361)
KENTUCKIANA NATIVE AMERICAN SUPPORT GROUP (635-2817)
KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday, jointly with POWER (589-3188)
KY AIDS LIFE ALLIANCE (KALA) – Every Thursday (479-7884)
KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 3rd Monday (778-8130)
KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – Last Tuesday (721-8885)
KITLAC (KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN) – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)
KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (774-4000)
LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP – 2nd and 4th Thursdays (587-6225)
LPAC (LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY) – (558-9124)
LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – 2nd Sunday (456-5261)
LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (454-3300), www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org
LOUISVILLIANS IN FAVOR OF EQUALITY (L.I.F.E.) – Sunday evenings (473-2659)
METRO SWEEP FOR ACCESS – 3rd Tuesday (895-0866 or 899-9261)
METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)
NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) – 3rd Monday (634-1804)
NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) – 2nd Monday (245-5287)
PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)
PAX CHRISTI – Last Wednesday (456-9342)
PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, brozier@bellsouth.net)
PEOPLE'S AGENDA – 2nd Tuesday (778-8130)
POWER [PEOPLE ORGANIZED AND WORKING FOR ENERGY REFORM] – 2nd Monday, jointly with KFTC (778-2687)
PROGRESSIVE STUDENTS LEAGUE AT UL – Every Tuesday (635-1292)
RCRC [Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice] – (585-3050)
RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)
SHADHULIYYAH SUFI SPIRITUALITY GROUP – Thursday nights (893-6122)

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.