

FORsooth

Carr: financial system crucial in housing

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

The financial services down the street are as important in the issue of affordable housing as homes themselves, the senior vice-president for research of the Fannie Mae Foundation said in Louisville May 17.

James Carr, speaking at the yearly dinner of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition, said credit, savings and fair lending are crucial in the struggle to make housing affordable.

Carr, an official of the Fannie Mae, a not-for-profit foundation designed to promote affordable housing and revitalized neighborhoods, said the proliferation of “payday loan” companies hurts communities. He said these companies, which make fast, high-interest loans, steer low-income people away from more established savings institutions, where they could get better interest rates and establish credit history.

“To the extent that the financial system does not work for these communities, it undermines these communities,” Carr said at a downtown Louisville hotel.

Still, Carr, a visiting professor at Columbia University and author of many books on housing policy, said there is hope rising from the financial sector. He said many banks are offering “stored value cards” that make it easier for low-income people to use more legitimate financial services and are offering banking at work sites.

Both trends could bring more low-wage people into the banking system, allowing them to develop a credit history, Carr said.



photo by Eddie Davis
James Carr

Carr also praised a policy of giving tax credits to low- and moderate-income residents of Washington, D.C. from 1997 to 2001, which he said resulted in a 68 percent increase in first-time homebuyers in D.C. The average increase for U.S. cities during that time was 50 percent, Carr said.

The surge in homeownership helped bring in revenue that helped defray the cost of the tax credits, he added.

“That tax credit aimed at low and moderate households was a win-win prospect,” Carr said.

Another way to boost homeownership Carr suggested was making more people aware that they qualify for the federal Earned Income Tax

Credit, explaining that 15 to 25 percent who are entitled to it don’t claim the credit. That results in \$2.7 billion unclaimed, Carr said.

Carr gave a best-of-times, worst-of-times appraisal of the last decade, telling the dinner that home ownership surged among all racial groups from 1993 to 2003, but adding that lack of affordability also grew, as measured by the percentage of people who pay a high percentage of their incomes for housing. That rose in 47 states during the same ten years, Carr explained.

“Affordability problems are growing and they are growing across the country,” he said. “Default and foreclosures are through the roof.”

The dinner also included honors presented to Jane Walsh, the outgoing executive director of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition, and community activist Leonard Watkins for their work on affordable housing.

Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson spoke before Carr, praising the coalition and calling for Congress to fully fund Community Development Block Grants, which it cut by eight percent last year.

Coalition for the Homeless community educator coordinator Maria Price said days later the cuts have eliminated a \$500,000 yearly program through which the city helped shelters renovate.

Abramson said: “I want to thank you for raising your voice... saying ‘no that’s unacceptable. Community Development Block Grants must continue.’.... The Metropolitan Housing Coalition has really become a partner of local government.... We look at the Metropolitan Housing Coalition to guide us, to join us and to assist us.”

Reductions in Section 8 ‘criminally unjust’

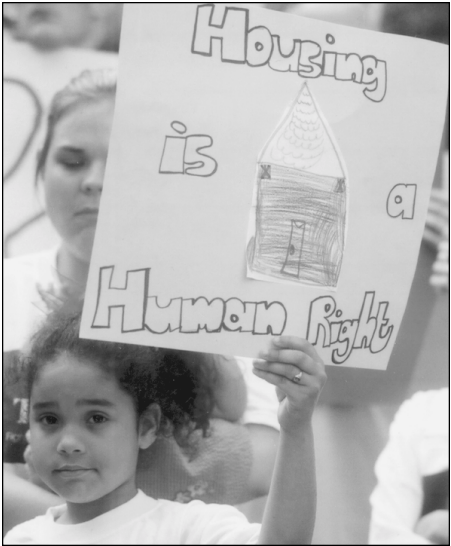


photo by Eddie Davis

A protestor May 24 decries federal housing aid cuts.

FORsooth staff report

About 700 protestors, including homeless people and Section 8 housing recipients, rallied May 24 in downtown Louisville against the four percent cut in the Section 8 program made by Congress last fall, a cut activists said will cause 356 metro families to go without housing assistance.

Protestors held signs with numbers one through 356 to represent the families organizers said who will be the victims of a loss of \$1.9 million in housing aid to Metro Louisville because of the cuts.

“We believe we are a better country than this bad proposal,” Metropolitan Housing Coalition executive director Jane Walsh said of the cuts. “We are people who believe housing is a right.... We believe working people should have safe and stable housing.”

Kelly Gray, whose family is on a waiting list for Section 8 money, held her 7-month-old daughter Shyane while speaking at the rally outside the Mazzoli Federal Building, which included the circulating of post cards addressed to congressional representatives. The rally culminated in a march to the Cathedral of the Assumption for an interfaith service.

Gray said her family is one of those whose plight was illustrated on protest signs which said a typical very low income person could afford to pay no more than \$422 monthly rent,

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Mayor of Hiroshima leads call for peace

by Eustace Durrett
and Ike M. Thacker IV

Hiroshima has experienced the sheer mayhem wrought by just one “small” atomic bomb; its Mayor, Tadatoshi Akiba, came to Louisville in late April to tout the Non-governmental Organization (NGO) of which he is President, Mayors for Peace, and which was expected to have 1,000 members by the end of May.

Among Akiba’s activities in Louisville were a visit with Mayor Jerry Abramson and a public presentation held at Memorial Auditorium April 28. Mayors for Peace seeks to eliminate all nuclear weapons by 2020, and to achieve intermediate reductions and stem nuclear proliferation in the years between now and then.

The presentation included Mayor Akiba’s slide show and comments and an invocation of the spirit of Thomas Merton, the “conscience of the 1960’s peace movement,” whose extremely powerful peace poem “Paper Crane” was read by Dr. Paul Pearson, Director of the Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University.

Also on tap for audience members was an iteration of the daily chant practiced by members of the Soka Gakkai Buddhist group, whose main focus is on world peace and individual happiness; and recognition of three Kentuckiana female hibakusha, or survivors of the atomic blast.

Louisville’s official welcome was offered by Omar Ayyash, Director of the Louisville Metro Office for International Relations, who



photo courtesy Eustace Durrett
Mayor Tadatoshi Akiba

made Mayor Akiba an honorary citizen of Louisville and presented him with a key to the city. Several local groups took the opportunity to welcome the audience and the Hiroshima Mayor; among them were representatives from the Catholic community, Interfaith Paths to Peace, Pax Christi, and the Jewish community. Celtic harp music was presented by Fran Delaney. The entire event was emceed by Janet Irwin, Vice President of Interfaith Paths to Peace. She also gave Akiba the International Peacemaker Award, the first time that the award

had been given to a non-Louisvillian.

Akiba’s presentation, which followed next, was co-sponsored by some 16 local groups, ranging from peace and justice organizations to governmental agencies to religious communities.

Mayor Akiba began his presentation with a slide show (after saying, right off the bat, that nuclear weapons had to be eliminated) that depicted through photographs some of the horror wreaked by the single 13-kiloton atomic bomb dropped by the Enola Gay on Hiroshima at 8:15 a.m. August 6, 1945. The bomb exploded some 580 meters above ground zero.

Pictures showed people near death from radiation sickness and multitudinous burn victims. Another showed a sort of silhouette that was all that was left of one unfortunate soul. Akiba said the temperatures created were several million degrees centigrade — whereas iron melts at 1,500 degrees and that the radiation from the tiny (by today’s standards) bomb had left Hiroshima uninhabitable by vegetation for 75 years.

After the slide show, Akiba also told the story of one man who went to pick up a fallen comrade by the hand; but the latter man fell

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ONE eyes an agenda for poor at upcoming G8 summit

by Kim Smith

More than one-half million Americans have lent their voices to ONE – an effort by Americans to fight the emergency of global AIDS and extreme poverty. In Louisville, thousands are part of this effort to create a constituency of Americans who speak out on the issues affecting over one billion people living on less than one dollar a day. They are also trying to form a constituency for that one billion who are unrepresented in the American government despite Congress and the White House making life and death decisions about the poorest of the poor every day.

Right now, ONE is working to help send President Bush to the upcoming G8 Summit in July with a clear agenda for the world’s wealthiest nations to make poverty history. The Summit has a focus on Africa and the president should work to deliver an historic deal for the continent that includes:

- 100 percent debt cancellation.
- More foreign assistance to help the world’s poorest people help themselves.

- Deliverance on the promise of the Millennium Challenge to help Africa achieve the Millennium Development goals.

You can help today by getting involved and taking action in Louisville. Throughout the month of June, ONE in Louisville will be the host of events to engage citizens on these issues:

June ONE, which lasts throughout this month, began on the date of its name. It is a kickoff of a Countdown to the G8 Africa Summit and features local music showcases all across the country followed by a series of policy and grassroots events and celebrity outreach culminating in a spectacular send off for President Bush before the G8. In Louisville, local musicians and artists will be supporting the campaign at their performances on June ONE and throughout the month.

International White Band Day, which starts July 1, draws its name from the white band being the international symbol of the Global Call to Action against Poverty. ONE is the American campaign within this global movement. While each

country has its own campaign – for instance, Make Poverty History in the U.K. and Canada – all of the national campaigns are symbolized by the white band. In Louisville we will have a White Band Rally to stand in solidarity with people all over the world fighting extreme poverty and AIDS.

Since you read last month’s article about ONE, over 255,000 people in the world’s poorest Countries have died of AIDS. The destructiveness of this disease does not have to be this way. For the first time we have the knowledge, technology, and planning to combat HIV/AIDS and extreme poverty. Our countries coming to

an agreement on 100 percent debt reduction and a plan to help Africa achieve the Millennium Development Goals at the G8 is crucial and will literally be the first major steps to make poverty history.

The writer is the Louisville field organizer for ONE, which is a coalition of 11 respected non-profit and humanitarian organizations, including Bread for the World, Care, DATA, PlanUS/Childreach, International Medical Corps, International Rescue Committee, Mercy Corps, Oxfam America, Save the Children, World Concern and World Vision. For more information, visit ONE.ORG.



Group faults metro report

A group favoring economic equality in Louisville said the much heralded recent Brookings Institution report “Beyond Merger” recommending action for the merged city and county suffers from “myopia” because it doesn’t mention radical changes needed to solve the community problems the report cited.

Louisvillians in Favor of Equality (LIFE), in a quarterly report recently released, strongly criticized the Brookings findings.

“In the chapter on housing... homelessness is not even mentioned; consequently, the report ignores the needs of the nearly 11,000 people who were homeless in Louisville in 2002,” the LIFE report said. “There is similarly no treatment of the quality and availability of health care, nor even a mention of the local or national unemployment rate and its myriad attendant problems. Indeed, Beyond Merger is mostly an upper-middle-class document, one which glosses over inconvenient realities generally and therefore does not deal with them.”

However, LIFE praised the Brookings report for noting Louisville’s overall low education levels, compared to other area cities, and the low level of innovative technologies.

“The new ‘knowledge economy’ requires knowledge, and Louisvillians as a group are lacking in exactly that commodity; even within current schooling, poor and minority students’ achievement lags behind,” LIFE said, noting Brookings statistics. “All of this is a very serious obstacle for the future economic health.”

LIFE, in contrast to the Brookings findings, calls in its quarterly report for a

living wage for all workers, a guaranteed annual income, free public, college and vocational education, more spending to help improve neighborhoods and much more centralized planning for development to prevent the central city from further declining due to sprawl.

The LIFE report also included an essay by Gail Helinger about gay rights, and more specifically, gay marriage.

“Some say this issue is about special rights,” she wrote. “If the only people who have all the benefits that a marriage gives you in our culture are heterosexual people, then WHO is getting the “special rights?””

The essay quoted Carla Wallace, a leader of the Fairness Campaign, which has won anti-discrimination ordinances by the city, county and metro government since 1999.

Wallace said “voter ID walks” through neighborhoods to find progressive voters and have them sign post cards backing gay rights were a key tactic.

To subscribe to LIFE’s quarterly reports or for more information about the group, contact Ike M. Thacker IV at (502) 473-2659 or Eustace Durrett at (502) 459-6361.

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90 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.

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FORsooth

Civil trial fails to end injustice

by Gracie Lewis

I attended the most notorious civil trial of this year. James Taylor a 50-year old black man was shot 11 times while his hands were handcuffed behind his back. In this case, you need to move beyond “mere appearances” to find the truth. To do so, you need to review the documentary of Emmitt Till involving a 14-year old black male killed in Money, Mississippi 50 years ago for whistling at white woman. This is a similar case.

First of all, Officer O’Neill’s life was not threatened because he was not called at that location. On December 5, 2002, Louisville Police detective Michael O’Neill and detective Bryan Luckett, dressed in plain clothes, were conducting an unrelated investigation in another apartment, when they heard a disturbance in Taylor’s apartment. The door was partially open, so they burst in after they allegedly heard a woman scream. Officer O’Neill was not threatened but happened to appear on the scene.

The all-white Jury was presented with a preponderance of evidence to the contrary, but due to white supremacy, and a state policy allowing police to use “deadly force,” Officer O’Neill was cleared of all charges. The City of Louisville had no intentions of paying the excessive damages in this case. O’Neill was guilty, he used deadly force to cover up his own fears and guilt. The totality of the evidence revealed that officer O’Neill was scared. He said so. Therefore, Officer O’Neill began shooting. He should be held accountable.

The first shot in this case brought James Taylor down. Expert witnesses testified to this. Yet, Officer O’Neill continued to shoot.

The rest is rehearsed testimony among the officers themselves, and intimidated witnesses who were in a crack house.

Expert witnesses said that when James Taylor was hit, it brought him down, and he slumped forward. He may have gotten up, but he was shot again, bringing him back down again. Therefore it is highly questionable how a drunk man high on crack would have been able to get out of his handcuffs, lunge a broken boxcutter knife, and continue to approach them, as he was being repeatedly shot execution style. Investigative reports reveal Mr. Taylor hands was still handcuffed at the time of autopsy.

James Taylor was never in control of the situation in that room. There was an open door, Detective Bryan Luckett used it. Officer O’Neill stayed in the room, and kept shooting even though Taylor no longer posed a threat.

A witness account of the police shooting doesn’t match the officers’ reports. Derrick Spaulding gave a sworn statement to the attorneys for the family of Taylor. According to Spaulding, the officers entered and handcuffed Taylor and sat him in a chair “over in a corner.”

Then they began to search Taylor. Taylor pulled out the broken box cutter knife, but he didn’t have the opportunity to lunge at the officers. He was shot four times in the chest. Bryan Luckett, O’Neill’s partner ran outside the apartment after the first round of shots from O’Neill. O’Neill was in full control of the situation, and he was not threatened. Yet, he continued to shoot, shooting 12 bullets from a gun loaded with 16 bullets.

Deadly force did not have to be used. Yet he continued to shoot, lying about the incident along the way. Aubrey Williams made it clear that James Taylor did not continue to come after him. After the first shot Mr. Taylor was down.

Officer O’Neill included in his job application that he took up “karate and martial arts” to enhance his training as a police officer. Considering the state that Mr. Taylor was in, Officer O’Neill, 27 years old at the time, could have used an alternative approach to bringing the situation under control, “martial arts or karate.”

Deadly force should only be used when an officer believes his life is being threatened. The officers were not called to Taylor’s house, but were investigating an entirely different case, when they heard voices inside Mr. Taylor’s apartment.

Officer O’Neill shot him because he could hide behind the deadly force policy. Medical Examiner Doctor Bill Ralston testified that there was medium and high velocity shooting which caused Mr. Taylor to slump forward when he was shot in the chest. According to Medical Examiner Report #02-964, James Taylor was handcuffed behind his back in a pair of hinged handcuffs. The handcuffs were released by a key at the time of the autopsy.

The problem with this case is pure and simple, there is no justice in Louisville due to white supremacy, backed up by a deadly force policy. A police officer cannot be found guilty of murder, this is state policy.

The writer is an activist with REACT, a group fighting toxic pollution in West Louisville. Before writing this commentary, she read the reports of the Metro Police investigation into the James Taylor killing and of the autopsy performed on Taylor.

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MISSION AGAINST TERROR

MISSION AGAINST TERROR is a critically acclaimed film that debuted at Havana's 26th Festival of New Latin American Cinema in December. The film raises the question: why are people who fight terrorism imprisoned in the U.S. while known terrorists are allowed to walk the streets of Miami freely? It follows the case of the five Cubans currently serving long sentences in U.S. jails for trying to prevent terrorist attacks on Cuba. It also depicts the long history of violence against innocent Cubans by right-wing groups based in Miami that are supported by the U.S. government.

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Deats hopes book will introduce Gandhi to generation

by Chap Morrison

In the preface to his book Mahatma Gandhi, Nonviolent Liberator, FOR director of communications and editor of Fellowship magazine Richard Deats states his purpose in writing it: “It is my hope that this biography will help introduce the life and message of Gandhi to a new generation of persons searching for a genuine alternative to war, intolerance, and injustice.” The book is short so that he only has the opportunity to touch upon some of the events of Gandhi’s life.

One experience which Deats does relate transformed Gandhi from a satisfied lawyer in South Africa to a resister against racial prejudice on behalf of the Indian community. The book recounts how Gandhi was traveling by train with a first class ticket sitting in a first class compartment unaware that Indians were not allowed to travel first class. When someone objected to him the conductor told Gandhi he would have to move to third class. Gandhi refused. So a policeman put him and his luggage off the train, and he had to spend the night in a deserted bitterly cold station. From that time on he became an enemy of the apartheid system in South Africa.

Deats said another thing Gandhi did in South Africa was to found an intentional community (which he called an ashram). It was in South Africa as well that he developed the concept of satyagraha and had his first satyagraha campaign, the book said.

Satyagraha combines the ideas of truth and nonviolence. As Gandhi is quoted in Deats’ book: “Nonviolence is the greatest force humanity has been endowed with. Truth is the only goal humanity has, for God is none other than truth. But truth cannot be and never will be reached except through nonviolence.”

To try to achieve a good end through violence is self defeating according to Gandhi. His thinking about ends and means is described in the book as follows: “They say means are after all just means. I would say means are everything. As the means, so the ends. Violent means will give violent



Reductions in Section 8

(continued from page 1)

while average area rent for a two-bedroom apartment is about \$700.

“I work and still cannot afford a one-bedroom apartment,” Gray told the rally.

State Rep Jim Wayne, of Kentucky’s 35th district, said what almost no elected official will even bring up, telling the crowd that middle class and wealthy homeowners have their housing subsidized, too, through the mortgage interest tax deduction.

In 2004, that cost the federal government \$80 billion, Wayne said, adding: “The majority of people who receive this welfare program earn more than \$80,000.”

Contrasting the almost universal support for this housing subsidy with the desire to cut aid for the poor, Wayne said the Section 8 cuts were “criminally unjust.”

Marlene Gordon, executive director of the Coalition for the Homeless, said one measure of the problem of lack of affordable housing in Louisville is the fact that one in 24 children in the Jefferson County Public Schools has no permanent address

She described those 356 families who will lose their housing aid because of the cuts as “people who have hopes and dreams. We have the elderly, disabled adults, low-income families for whom losing their housing assistance would be a devastating blow.”

swaraj (independence) ... There is no wall of separation between means and ends.”

The book describes Gandhi’s return to India in 1914, when he spent a year traveling around the country to get a sense of what the people were thinking. The next thing he did was to found another ashram. Gandhi wrote about this: “Our creed was devotion to truth and our business was the search for and insistence upon truth. I wanted to acquaint India with the method I had tried in South Africa, and I desired to test in India the extent to which its application might be possible.”

The book describes how in 1919 the British passed a law for the detention without trial of those suspected of sedition. Gandhi, emerging as the leader of the resistance to the law, called a general strike and launched a satyagraha campaign, the book notes. The British responded with violence; in one infamous event they fired on unarmed civilians, killing 369 of them. But the protesters also engaged in violence. As a result Gandhi performed a three-day penitential fast, admitting that his followers were not prepared for satyagraha. Eventually Gandhi was arrested and served two years in jail.

Perhaps the most famous of Gandhi’s actions on behalf of freedom was the so-called Salt March. The British had established a monopoly on salt, making it illegal for persons to make it on their own. The salt tax fell most heavily upon the poor

whose welfare was one of Gandhi’s primary concerns. Gandhi planned a 240-mile march to the sea through India during which he would explain the campaign in those villages he passed through. As he stepped off Gandhi announced: “We act on behalf of the hungry, the naked, the unemployed. We are marching in the name of God.” At the beginning Gandhi was joined by seventy-eight persons steeped in satyagraha, but as it continued it was joined by hundreds, then thousands, of people. Throughout India people began to evaporate sea water to produce salt crystals. After the march Gandhi was jailed yet again but the response to the campaign was overwhelming and the government eventually backed down and permitted the free manufacture of salt.

In his campaign for freedom in India Gandhi had worked for the unity of Hindus and Muslims and against the British effort to exploit their differences. This issue became of paramount importance when the newly elected labor government finally offered India its independence after World War II. But the president of the Moslem league in India, Mohammed Ali Jinnah, insisted that the Muslims should be given their own separate state even though that meant dividing many communities. Gandhi was strongly opposed to partition and did everything he could to prevent it.

Jinnah threatened civil war, which was

close to breaking out already and the British reluctantly acquiesced in partition. Chaos descended upon India. Fifteen million people were displaced as Hindus and Muslims fled to the safety of communities of their own people. On January 13 Gandhi began a fast unto death to try to stop the fighting. Five days later representatives of Hindus and Muslims visited Gandhi promising peace as the fighting subsided. Gandhi broke his fast. On January 30 Gandhi was leading a crowd in prayer when a Hindu fanatic shot him three times in the chest. Gandhi died with the name of God on his lips.

Gandhi’s principle of nonviolence has been successfully used by many groups in recent history. In particular, Martin Luther King became a disciple of Gandhi and used satyagraha in his struggle for civil rights for black people in the United States in the 1960s and 1970s. Like Gandhi, King had his life cut short by an assassin’s bullet but not before major progress had been made by the civil rights community. The spirit of Gandhi lived on in Martin Luther King and continues to live on to this day.

The writer is a member of the Louisville FOR steering committee. Richard Deats’ book Mahatma Gandhi: Nonviolent Liberator includes a foreword by Mary Evelyn Jegen and is published by Newcity Press, Hyde Park, NY, 2005.



NO MORE HIROSHIMAS! NO MORE NAGASAKIS! 1945-2005

Join the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance in marking the 60th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki by calling for an end to nuclear weapons production at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee.

On August 6 thousands of concerned citizens will gather at major US weapons sites including Lawrence Livermore Lab, the Nevada Test Site, Los Alamos National Lab and the Y12 Plant in Oak Ridge to send a clear message to the world that the people of the US say NO to all nuclear weapons.

WE NEED YOUR VOICE.

The Y12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee produced the highly enriched uranium that destroyed Hiroshima and it *continues* to build nuclear weapons today.

The United States has more than 9,000 deployed thermonuclear weapons on hair trigger alert and insists on holding other nations to a nuclear double standard—which will never be successful. Aging US warheads are being refurbished and upgraded to last for 100-120 years in Oak Ridge, TN under the Stockpile Life Extension Program.

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS -AUGUST 6, 2005

6:00 - 8:30 am	Remembrance and Names ceremony Y12 Nuclear Weapons Plant East Bear Creek Road Entrance
10:00 am	March to Y12 Nuclear Weapons Plant Gathering at Bissell Park corner Oak Ridge Turnpike and Tulane
12:00 noon - 4:30 pm	PEACE NOW! Rally for peace at Y12 Weapons Plant “Celebrating Life in the Land of Death” music, speakers, puppets, sno-cones, poetry, direct action East Bear Creek Road Entrance Oak Ridge, Tennessee
8:15 pm	Peace lantern ceremony location TBA

To join a local delegation to Oak Ridge on August 6 contact Pat Geier 456-6586 or pgeier@fastmail.fm for more information.

Poems by Ike M. Thacker IV

Veiled Vision

The god of Delos, poet, lyrist, bard:
Illusion viewed with veneration, awe
By restless mortals touching statues hard,
While longing themselves to transcend the law.

Apollo, vision dim, entices men.
The faint form looms ahead, beyond, before,
Forever feeding fast that yearning pen,
Pervading, penetrating every pore.

We strive, we grasp for things apart, unknown;
By thirst for truth our hopeful search is led.
Through throngs of petty falls our path is prone;
Still by that sight concealed desire is fed.

But we must ever leave the song undone,
For it is not the self-owned work of one.

Waterfall

I am the mass, the all,
the waterfall seems to say as
it roars
over the precipice.

Silently
the dispersed
water droplets
display
their exquisite
beauties

After the overture is through.



Palestinian children in Rafah in Gaza. Photo by [Myra J. Capulong](#) , 2003

The Children of Alrowwad On Tour in Louisville July 4-9, 2005

Join us in welcoming the Palestinian children of Alrowwad Cultural and Theatre Training Center located in Aida Refugee Camp, Bethlehem. Alrowwad is an independent center for artistic, cultural, and theatre training that provides a "safe" and healthy environment to help children creatively cope with the brutal conditions of war and occupation in which they are forced to live.

Plan to attend any of the following community events:

- € July 4, Monday, 4:30 PM Community welcome for the children as they arrive at Standiford Field.
- € July 6, Wednesday, 6:00 PM Peace and Justice Parade from West Broadway United Methodist Church, 3620 West Broadway to Chickasaw Park for a cook-out and community gathering.
- € July 7, Thursday, 7:30 PM Alrowwad presents "Beautiful Resistance"--an evening of performance art and drama at UL Thrust Theatre on Floyd Street. Tickets on sale at the door, \$10 - \$25 or call 456-6586.
- € July 8, Friday, 6 to 9 PM Pot luck supper followed by an evening Festival of Arts and Community Building at Urban Spirit, 448 N. 26th Street in the Portland neighborhood.
- € July 9, Saturday, 11 to 7 PM All day play at Moncada Farm, 7801 Rose Island Road for swimming, volleyball and a visit to the animal zoo, Henry's Ark.

For more information contact Pat Geier
at 456-6586 or email pgeier@fastmail.fm

Sponsored by Louisville Friends of Al-Rowwad. Partners include: Arab American Association of Louisville, American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, Americana Community Center, Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, Committee for Peace in the Middle East, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Genesis Arts, Islamic Cultural Center, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Ramallah Club of Louisville, Ramsi's Restaurant, River City Drum Corps, Squallis Puppeteers, Stage One Children's Theater, The Muhammad Ali Institute for Peacemaking and Understanding, University of Louisville Department of Theatre Arts, UrbanSpirit, West Broadway United Methodist Church Community Center, Youth Alive!



Painting by student at Al-Rowwad

Environmental Degradation

by Tracy McLellan

What you doin' with all that junk
On the railroad train?
Trying to find a logical dump
On the poorer part of town

But you junked it all up
There's nowhere left to dump
All the rest of the junk
You keep building every day

So it sits on a rail
And then two and then three
Then you find these cannisters
And mausoleums that have
a 2x3
To take just a little more
of the poisons you produce
Pretty soon the whole world to
a dumpster has been reduced

The upside, tradeoff
is the healthy bottom line
The cheerful stockholder, banker
the corporate chieftain
And their legislative bootlickers
toadies and accomplices.

Apartment for rent

Smoke free, one-bedroom
apartment for rent. Rubel
Avenue. Will consider pets.
Phoenix Heights coop.
589-0967 or 581-9729.

Supply and demand Bolivian style

Jobless and landless, many defy US, grow coca

by Fred Hicks

The coca leaf has been grown in Bolivia and Peru for about 4,000 years. It is chewed or made into a tea, said to be refreshing and to help people endure hard work at high altitudes. Consumed in this way, it does not yield cocaine. It was not until the mid-19th century that a German lab learned how to make cocaine from it. Beginning in the 1970s, massive unemployment and agricultural problems in Bolivia, plus a rising demand for cocaine in the United States and Europe, have led many Bolivians to plant extra coca, to supply the clandestine cocaine industry. Now, the United States is pushing for massive coca eradication.

The main coca producing areas are two lowland regions: the Chapare valley, east of Cochabamba, and the Yungas region, east of La Paz. In both areas, the Bolivian government allows coca to be grown for traditional use on a certain amount of land, and anything else is marked for eradication. In late February I joined a Global Exchange trip to Bolivia. We investigated the water and gas wars in Cochabamba and La Paz, which I described in Part 1 of this series in the May FORsooth, and we also traveled to the Chapare and the Yungas to learn about coca.

In 1988 the Bolivian government passed Law 1008, a draconian anti-drug law written by the United States government, which indicated where coca was to be eradicated, by Bolivian armed forces under U.S. oversight. In the Chapare, 3,200 hectares of coca were defined as traditional, meaning they were legal. However, the U.S. Embassy is committed to “zero coca,” and wanted this too to be eliminated. The first region targeted was the Chapare. In 2000, they sent in 7,000 troops, who pulled out and burned not only coca, but legal crops interplanted with it. There were clashes, and a 4-week blockade of the region by angry coca growers. Soon virtually all coca production in this area was ended, with 33 coca growers and 27 security officers dead, hundreds wounded, and 40,000 to 50,000 families in the

Chapare in severe economic straits. But with no alternatives, coca production rebounded, and in 2004 the State Dept. estimated that nationwide, coca production had risen 17 percent since 2002.

The coca growers were defended by Evo Morales, the congressman from the area, of the Movimiento al Socialismo (MAS) party. However, the U.S. embassy called him a “narco-terrorist” and got him expelled from congress. He regained his seat in 2002, ran for president, and came in a very close second. One reason he did so well was that the previous U.S. ambassador, Manuel Rocha, made several speeches warning Bolivians not to vote for Morales, and after every speech, Morales’s approval rating rose — which I guess is a commentary on how the U.S. Government is viewed in Bolivia.

In Cochabamba our group met with Leonida Zurita, head of the Chapare women coca growers and aide to Evo Morales. In the Chapare, we met with the sub-comandante of the military base at Chimore, Lt. Col. Dario Leigue Moreno, a two-time School of the Americas graduate, and with some of the other officers. Later, in La Paz, we met with the U.S. ambassador and officials of the embassy or USAID associated with the coca eradication project. USAID, working through private subcontractors, is supposed to help introduce alternative crops, but this does not seem to be a high priority. Most suggested crops are poorly suited for the conditions, and they have done no market studies nor set up facilities for marketing the crops. Nor have they gone after the major dealers, nor the importers of the material needed to make cocaine out of coca, who are believed to be mostly members of the urban elite. The small coca grower has borne the brunt of the army’s eradication effort. Moreover, there does not seem to have been sufficient effort to reduce demand in the United States. The impression is widely held that what the U.S. really wants is an excuse to control troops in the area. The so-called war on drugs is merely a means to this end.

In the Yungas, coca is legal, up to 12,000 hectares, but the U.S. embassy has its eyes on



Photo courtesy Fred Hicks

The main plaza of Cochabamba, Bolivia, where mass protests helped reverse a privatizing of the city’s water utility.

this region too, and could push for eradication. We visited Coroico, in the Yungas, with the congressman from the area, Tomás Calle, who also showed us his coca fields and explained how the leaves are sold in the legal market, which the U.S. wants shut down. He is concerned that the U.S. embassy is claiming, on poor evidence, that more than the legal amount of coca is being grown, and/or that the amount permitted is excessive, and he fears they are looking for an excuse to push for military eradication there too. If that happens, he predicts, there will be widespread violence.

Bolivia may be headed for a major

explosion, although the U.S. news media appears not to have noticed. The elite are worried about the people mobilizing to de-privatize the water and to regulate the exploitation of gas, and also about agitation for land reform. The president is reluctant to use more force against the people. The external debt forces Bolivia to rely on foreign aid, mainly from the U.S., and not to alienate the U.S., which has a strong influence over the Bolivian army.

The writer of this series is a retired professor of anthropology at the University of Louisville and activist against global neoliberal economics.

NUCLEAR TALKS END IN NEW YORK WITHOUT RESULTS

The handwriting was on the wall even before the New York meeting started on May 3, 2005. In Louisville our committee had been planning for several weeks to bring the Mayor of Hiroshima to speak on April 28. But just three days before this historic visit, our local paper featured a long story about Paul Tibbets, the young man who expressed “no regrets” over having guided his B-29 (the Enola Gay) over the heart of Hiroshima early in the morning on August 6 to drop the 9,700 pound bomb named “Little Boy,” the world’s first atomic bomb. More than 100,000 people were killed instantly. Many more have died throughout the following years from burns and radiation. It was not until 1978 that the US government released photographs documenting the dreadful suffering.

The newspaper article about Tibbets reinforced the popular notion that the bombing helped to avert the need to invade Japan, thereby saving many American lives and helping to end World War II. Thus the devastation and suffering brought on by the bombing have been minimized while history is being written to justify the bombing for saving the lives of our service men.

In preparation for the 60th anniversary of the bombing on August 6, the Mayor of Hiroshima, Tadatoshi Akiba, set out on a world wide tour campaigning to eliminate nuclear weapons by 2020. As President of the Mayors for Peace Campaign, now representing 700 cities, his goal was to be present in New York City for the review of the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) in order to make the nuclear threat an urgent issue. The treaty has been signed by the cities of all the nuclear-weapon states except Islamabad and Washington, DC. The mayors of 100 cities accompanied Mayor Akiba to the New York conference.

Naturally, we were quite surprised that the conference ended without producing a statement. A discussion on the Lehrer News Hour mentioned several reasons as to why this happened: the US refused to change its position on signing the treaty; Iran and Egypt wanted to turn up the heat on Israel by having them sign the treaty and submit to inspection in five years; the US wanted to highlight the nuclear threat after 911; other countries wanted to talk about disarmament; the US did not want any mention of commitments made by previous administrations. Suffice it to say, politically speaking, this is a very hot potato.

What can we do? First of all we must ask our Mayor Abramson to sign the mayors’ pledge to end nuclear weapons by the year 2020. Let us see how many calls we can generate by August 6. The telephone number is 574-2003.

We were fortunate to have Mayor Atiba to speak in Louisville. In addition to his eloquent presentation, during which he showed some pictures that we had never seen before, he was graciously welcomed as the guest on “State of Affairs” talk show reaching a wide audience with his hope of bringing the growing nuclear threat as an issue before the New York NPT Conference.

After the Mayor’s day in Louisville ended, the planning committee was quite surprised that the *Louisville Courier-Journal* failed to cover this excellent presentation. We interpreted the oversight as an indication that we must increase awareness of the events planned for our Hiroshima/Nagasaki observance this summer, August 3-9, a full week of commemorative activities beginning with a Concert for Contemplation and Nonviolence by Harry Pickens. Kindly help raise awareness.

In addition, we take very seriously the need to travel to Oak Ridge to participate in the activities there on August 6, especially in light of the plan to build new nuclear weapons at the Y-12 plant there. Bishop Gumbleton of Detroit is coming again to emphasize his concern. We will take several cars or even a van if enough people sign up. Please speak to Pat Geier (456-6586) if you foresee the possibility of joining this delegation to spend Saturday, August 6 at Oak Ridge, Tennessee.



GREENPEACE TO DOCUMENT GLOBAL WARMING

Greenpeace has launched one of the most ambitious undertakings in its history — “Project Thin Ice.” As part of this project they have teamed with two explorers, Lonnie Dupre and Eric Larson of *One World Expedition* who left on May 10 to attempt the first ever (and very dangerous) summer crossing of the Arctic Ocean to document and photograph the impacts of global warming. In addition to bearing witness to the polar meltdown through their eyes, the Greenpeace ship the “Arctic Sunrise” will be in Greenland as a platform for research and to support the explorers’ mission. For more information call 800/326-0959. greenpeaceusa.org

NERO FIDDLES AS THE EMPIRE CRUMBLES

There are signs every day that all is not well in Bushville. Over the last year there have been many rumblings of dissatisfaction. In the last month especially, the media has been unusually forthcoming in describing the increasing carnage in Iraq (as well as in Afghanistan).

In addition, more and more stories are being told of soldiers and youth speaking out against the war and of military recruiters having difficulty in meeting their quotas. In our local paper, The Courier-Journal (5/24/05) there was a large front page article in color about a Kentucky deserter, Joshua Despain, who was shown marching in Fayetteville, NC on the second anniversary of the day the war began. With 3,000 other veterans and peace activists he was helping to carry the large banner for IRAQ VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR. Another banner read MILITARY FAMILIES SPEAK OUT. Despain was quoted as saying, “Basically, after a while, I didn’t buy any of it. I saw the Iraqi people as no threat and couldn’t see why people were getting killed for this.”

Another story came in the newspaper “Linkages,” published by the Interfaith Justice and Peace Center, Sylvania, Ohio, May 2005. “Sgt. Kevin Benderman (40) is a U.S. Army mechanic with ten years of service under his belt, including a role in the assault on Baghdad. While there, his outfit was ordered to open fire on children who were throwing rocks at unit personnel. Troubled by this and other similar incidents, and facing a second tour of duty in Iraq, Benderman applied for conscientious objector status in December 2004.

The U.S. Army has charged him with desertion. He has been called a coward by his commanding officer, and his chaplain has told him that he is ashamed of him. Born in Alabama, Sgt. Benderman currently lives in Hinesville, Georgia, with his wife, Monica, and stepson Ryan.” Benderman’s eloquent statement is published in this issue of “Linkages.” For a copy call 419-885-5626.

A third story coming from Israel was printed in the same newspaper. In March of 2005, a group of 250 Israeli high school students sent a joint letter to the Israeli Prime Minister, declaring they will refuse to take any part in the occupation of the Palestinian territories and people. After five years of continuous bloodshed, these students decided it is time to raise their voices and call for an immediate end of the occupation.

In their moving statement, which is printed in its entirety, they said, “Israel is wasting its resources on the perpetuation of the occupation and repression in the territories, while hundreds of thousands of Israelis live in shameful poverty. In recent years Israeli citizens have experienced a deterioration of all public services. Education, medicine, welfare, pensions, everything to do with the well being of the citizenry has been neglected and sacrificed for the continued existence of settlements which the majority of the population wishes to be evacuated. ... We wish to live in a society which pushes justice, upholding equal rights to every single citizen. The occupation and repression policy is an obstacle to the realization of this vision. Therefore we will refuse to take part in it. We wish to contribute to society in an alternative way, which does not involve harming other human beings.” Their full statement is available. Call 419/885-5626.

Calendar for peacemakers

June 3 (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 Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

June 3 (Fri) **NEWBY NETWORK**, *every* Friday, West Broadway United Methodist Church, 3620 West Broadway, 5 to 6:30 pm. Call Cyd at 772-1178 or the Kentucky Alliance, 778-8130.

June 5 (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. 7:00-8:00 pm. Sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. E-mail: *pcunity@yahoo.com* *www.louisvillepeace.org*

June 7 (Tue) **INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE**, Board Meeting every first Tuesday at Christ Church Cathedral, 425 S 2nd St., 3rd floor. Call Terry Taylor, 214-7322. *director@InterfaithPathstoPeace.org*

June 7 (Tue) **PLANNING MEETING FOR THE AL-ROWWAD CHILDREN’S TOUR**. Potluck and Update, 7:00 pm. (Film maker, Sonja De Vries will be filming these preparations to include in her documentary). Come see how you can help with the tour, beginning July 4, such as with food, transportation, financial support, decorations, set-up, greeting people. Call Carla Wallace, or Pat Geier, 456-6586. *pgeier@fastmail.fm*

June 8 (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.

June 8 (Wed) **PUBLIC HEARINGS ON THE NEW CITY BUDGET**, City Hall, 6th & Jefferson, 3rd floor. 1-5 and again in the evening starting at 6:00. We must request funding for the **Civilian Police Review Ordinance**.. Call 574-1230 to sign up to speak.

June 8-July 6 (Wednesday evenings) **SHALOM DINNERS at Douglass Blvd Christian Church**, 2005 Douglass Blvd. 6:00 pm. Speaker at 6:30 pm. Everyone invited. Topics include: **Homelessness in Louisville, Social Security Reform, Environmental Issues, Domestic Violence, Sexuality and the Bible**. Separate program for children ages 3 through 6th grade. Call 452-2629.

June 9 (Thu) **METRO COUNCIL MEETING**, 6th & Jefferson, 3rd floor, 6:00 pm. Citizens Against Police Abuse will present three speakers advocating for a Civilian Police Review Board: **Jerry Bougess** (father of Michael Newby); **Shameka Parrish** (new intern at the Kentucky Alliance); **K. A. Owens** (CAPA coordinator). Observers need to be in the audience before 6:00 to hold small signs to stop police abuse. Call 778-8130 for more details.

June 9 & 23 (Thu) **CAPA** (Citizens Against Police Abuse) - Every second and fourth Thursday. 325 W. Oak Street. Call 778-8130.

June 9 (Thu) **MEDIA DEMOCRACY, Midwest convergence**. JFVS Roth Bldg, corner of Dutchman’s Lane and Cannon’s Lane at Bowman Field, beginning at 1:00 pm. Every television station in KY, IN, and TN is up for license renewal this summer. Deadline for public comment is July 1. Contact Victoria Strange, 502/458-8573. *open@theopencommunity.org* *www.theopencommunity.org*

June 10 (Fri) **MICHAEL NEWBY NETWORK. Every Friday**. West Louisville United Methodist Church, 3620 West Broadway. 5:00 pm.

June 10 (Fri) **PIZZA AND A MOVIE, “Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter, Spring.”** Enjoy pizza and soda while watching the film, with discussion following of the spiritual dimensions of the film led by Linda Peeno and Terry Taylor. James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave, 6:00 pm. Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace, 214-7322.

June 12 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter recruitment. Every 2nd Sunday at 6:00 pm, 2263 Frankfort Ave. Call Mike Slaton, 636-5848, *cheslaton@hotmail.com* This group would welcome invitations to speak about conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for highschool juniors and seniors to “opt out” of having their names given to recruiters.

June 13 (Mon) **COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**. Every Second Monday. Call Pat Geier, 456-6586.

June 13 (Mon) **DIALOGUE AT THE KENTUCKY ALLIANCE: “The Color of Justice: License to Kill.”** Speakers include **Aubrey Williams**, attorney in the James Taylor case. 3208 W. Broadway, 6:00 pm. Call 778-8130.

June 14-16 (TWT) **WORKSHOP: EMPOWERING the ANGRY CHILD for POSITIVE LEADERSHIP**, 3-day training for adults who work with angry disruptive youth. Participants receive training binder, practice leading hands-on activities. \$350 includes continental breakfast and lunch. Limited to 40. Sponsored by the Peace Education Program. Call 589-6583. *peaceeducation@iglou.com*

June 15 (Wed) **FREE THE CUBAN FIVE**, critically acclaimed film that debuted at Havana’s 26th Festival of New Latin American Cinema last December. The film asks why people who fight terrorism are in US prisons while known terrorists are walking freely on the streets of Miami. Focus is on five Cubans serving long sentences in U.S. jails for trying to prevent terrorist attacks on Cuba. Sponsored by the Louisville “Free The Five Committee.” Highlands-Shelby Park Branch Library, 1250 Bardstown Road, 7:00 pm. Call Walter Tillow, 917-623-1021. *fueldemocracy@yahoo.com*

June 16 (Thu) **SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**. Monthly meeting, every third Thursday, 5:30 pm. Central Presbyterian Church, 4th & Ky Streets, lower level. Use the rear entrance. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

June 16 (Thu) **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Monthly meeting every Third Thursday evening. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:00 pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914; Ellen Schagene, 451-6392; or Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. *www.louisvillepeace.org*

June 17-18 (FSS) **KENTUCKIANA PRIDE FESTIVAL**. Friday, **March to the Belvedere**. Download the entry form. Saturday,

Festival on the Belvedere, entertainment with **Jason Stuart**. Call 387-1265. *www.kentuckianapridefestival.com*

June 18 (Sat) **WORLD REFUGEE DAY**. Simulation of the refugee experience, sponsored by Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Waterfront Park. 10:00 am through dinner/discussion. Observers are welcome to stop by. Call 479-9180. *kyrm.org*

June 19 (Sun) **COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES**. (Every Third Sunday) First Unitarian Church, 4th & York. 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

June 20 (Mon) **KENTUCKY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION**. Braden Center, 3208 West Broadway. Call 778-8130.

June 20 (Mon) **NAACP GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**. 1245 Catalpa Court, 7:00 pm. For more information, call Raoul Cunningham, 776-7608. The NAACP Youth Council meets every 3rd Saturday at noon.

June 22 (Wed) **MEDIA REFORM DISCUSSION**. BRYCC HOUSE, 1101 S Second St at St Catherine. 7:00 pm 589-4978. Call David Horvath, 479-9262.

June 22-July 17 **SHAKESPEARE IN CENTRAL PARK**, Tuesdays through Sundays, 8:00 pm. Call 637-4933. *www.kyshakes.org*

June 24-26 (FSS) **GREEK FESTIVAL on the Belvedere**. 11 am to 10 pm, Sunday noon to 6. Call 587-6247.

June 27 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, #10, 7:30 pm. Visitors welcomed. Call cochairs, Pat Geier, 456-6586, or Mary Horvath, 479-9262.

July 4-9 (MTWTRFS) **CHILDREN’S THEATER TOUR from the ALROWWAD CENTER in the AIDA REFUGEE CAMP, BETHLEHEM**. Presented by **Abed Abu Srour**, and **accompanied by their teachers/directors**. An historic event for Louisville, bringing Palestinian children and local youth together, sharing their art and culture while contributing to our understanding of the realities of their daily lives. Their schedule follows: *Monday*, community welcome, Standiford Field, 4:30 pm. *Tuesday*, joining local children from Bosnia, Haiti, Cuba and other lands in the summer program hosted by the Americana Community Center. *Wednesday*, Peace and Justice Parade at 6:00 pm from West Louisville United Methodist Church to Chickasaw Park for a cook-out and community gathering. *Thursday*, **“Beautiful Resistance,”** an evening of performance art and drama by Alrowwad at UL Thrust Theatre on Floyd Street, 7:30 pm. Tickets at the door \$10-\$25, or call Pat Geier, 456-6586. *Friday*, Potluck Supper followed by Festival of Arts and Community Building, 6 to 9 pm. Urban Spirit, in Portland neighborhood, 448 N 26th St. *Saturday*, day at Moncada Farm, 780l Rose Island Road, for swimming, volleyball, animal zoo, Henry’s Ark. For more details, call Pat Geier, 456-6586, or Carla Wallace, 244-7855.

July 11 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR the JULY-AUGUST 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@bellsouth.net*

June 27 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, #10, 7:30 pm. Visitors are encouraged. Call cochairs, Pat Geier, 456-6586, or Mary Horvath, 479-9262.

July 12 (Tue) **FRIENDSHIPMENT CARAVAN TO CUBA, calling for a people to people foreign policy**, sponsored by Pastors for Peace. You can travel with the Caravan. Call 212/926-5757. Help break the blockade. Challenge the immoral US foreign policies against Cuba. Learn about Cuba and stand in solidarity with the people of Cuba. Deliver tons of humanitarian aid to Cuba where trade is restricted by the US. *cucaravan@igc* Join in a **Potluck Supper** to welcome the caravan to Louisville. Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church, 142 Crescent Ave. Call Mary Ann Lambert, 425-3844.

July 12-14- (TWT) **TRAINING OF EDUCATORS: Conflict resolution & peer mediation for school-based personnel**. Sponsored by the Peace Education Program. \$350 (\$650 for team of two). Call 589-6583. *peaceeducation@iglou.com*

July 21 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING at Beverley Marmion’s, 6:30 pm**. We’d love to see your smiling countenance there in person! Call 451-5658.

Aug 3 (Wed) **HIROSHIMA/NAGASAKI REMEMBRANCE WEEK, BEGINNING WITH A CONCERT FOR CONTEMPLATION and NONVIOLENCE BY HARRY PICKENS**. Call Terry Taylor, 214-7322. *www.InterfaithPathsToPeace.org*

Aug 5 (Fri) **STATEWIDE FAIRNESS DINNER**. The Brown Hotel, 4th & Broadway, Louisville, KY Tickets \$50 and \$100. To RSVP call the Kentucky Fairness Alliance, 502/897-1973.

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

June 18 (Sat) **CARING FOR BODIES & SOULS**, One-day Conference for parish nurses, clergy, denominational leaders and all those involved in congregational-based health ministries. Keynote: **Dr. Amy Plantinga Pauw**. Workshops by nationally known experts. \$8 includes lunch. Sponsored by the Kentucky Council of Churches. Midway College, Midway, Ky. Call 859/269-7715. *kcc@kycouncilofchurches.org*

June 29-July 2 (WTFS) **TWELFTH ANNUAL FAST & VIGIL TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY, at the Supreme Court**. Visit *www.ABOLITION.org* or call 800/973-6548 for details. For a complete list of national and local upcoming death penalty related events, please visit *www.CUADP.org* and click on “Event Calendar.”

July 15-19 (FSSMT) **INTER-CULTURAL TEEN DELEGATION to NICARAGUA**, sponsored by Witness for Peace Southeast. Contact Gail Phares, 1/919-856-9468. *wfpse@witnessforpeace.org*

July 30-31 (SS) **US CAMPAIGN TO END THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION**, 4th annual national organizers’ conference, Georgia State Univ in Atlanta. For details, go to *www.endtheoccupation.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 – 4th Tuesday (459-0616)

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)

CLARK & FLOYD COUNTIES AIDS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (288-2706)

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 (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)

COUNTER RECRUITMENT, “Aim Higher” – Second Sunday (636-5848)

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 479-9262)

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 Tuesday (214-7322)

JEFFERSON COUNTY WELFARE REFORM COALITION – 2nd Friday (585-3556)

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (625-3724)

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

KENTUCKIANA FOR KUCINICH IN 2008 – 1st Thursday (473-2659 or 459-6361)

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)

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

LPAC (LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY) – 3rd Thursday (558-9124)

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

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)

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.