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June 2014

Interfaith Paths to Peace and Christopher 2X launch Summer of Hope

By Terry Taylor

Christopher 2X is a special kind of “first responder.”

Most of us have grown used to seeing TV news reports from crime scenes. We are used to seeing police, fire fighters, and EMT’s at work trying to help the bleeding and traumatized. These public servants represent one kind of first responder.



Terry Taylor

Christopher is frequently present at the site of deadly violence in our city as a different kind of first responder—one who can offer solace to the families of individuals who have been murdered or seriously wounded.

Yet, Christopher does much more than that. In addition to providing assistance to survivor families, he often reaches out to the relatives of individuals who are suspected of committing a deadly crime. Those families are usually devastated and mortified, too.

And people in the community trust Christopher enough that on numerous occasions suspects who are being searched for by the police will agree to turn themselves in...if Christopher accompanies them to the courthouse.

Over the last several years, Interfaith Paths to Peace (IPP) has had the honor of working closely with Christopher under a project they call, “Community Violence Reduction.” IPP provides support and outreach for Christopher in his efforts to heal situations that have turned violent, as well as his efforts to prevent violence, especially among young people in our community.

Here are just a few examples of the work Christopher has undertaken.

During the visit of the Dalai Lama to Louisville last year, Christopher organized, with the help of IPP, a community “March for Compassion” in Louisville’s West End. That event on May 18th drew over 500 people. The majority came from the West End, but for the first time in recent memory, dozens of people from East of Ninth Street joined in a peace rally “outside of their comfort zone.” Why? Because they wanted to add their voices to those of Christopher and the hundreds of youth who were present, to state clearly that it is time to “Put down the guns. We want our city back.”

Christopher 2X seems to have a great facility for reaching the people most at risk of being the victims of violence: young people in disadvantaged neighborhoods. They listen to him. They embrace his message of compassion and non-violence. And they have been quick to enlist in a special community violence reduction effort that



May of 2013 Compassion Walk. Left to right: Sheronda Morris and Erica Hughes (gunshot survivors and peace advocates); Christopher 2X; youth non-violence advocate Jayjuan Taylor.

he has initiated with the help of his friend and mentor, the internationally renowned Rap artist known as “Master P”.

Through an ongoing series of concerts and events, Master P. (Percy Miller) is reaching out to young fans to help them understand the wide ranging, catastrophic effects of street violence. Miller lost one of his brothers to gun violence, and wants

to do everything he can to ensure that the number of gun-related deaths in Louisville is radically reduced.

Miller, who is one of the top Rap artists in the U.S., has (among other things) provided funds to purchase book bags and school supplies for hundreds of deserving

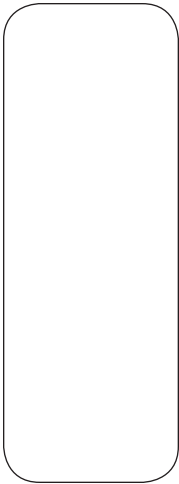
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AFL-CIO’s Londrigan upbeat as low-wage and young workers lead the fight back

By Alex Bradshaw

Bill Londrigan is the Kentucky State AFL-CIO president, who has maintained this position since 1999. He has taken the time to talk to the FORsooth about Kentucky labor, his thoughts on “right-to-work” legislation, the historical context of the corporate war on unions in America and more. As always, Bill is outspoken and passionate about these issues.

Alex Bradshaw (AB): First, Bill, I wanted to ask you first about any developments in the Kentucky labor movement that you’re particularly excited about right now.

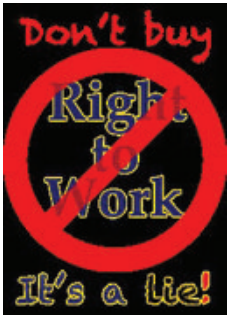
Bill Londrigan (BL): There are a number of things that have developed of late that I am excited about. The first is the increasing activism of low-wage workers and young workers that we have witnessed in various cities across America. Low-wage

workers in Kentucky are beginning to take notice. We have been working with allied groups to help make that happen.

The Kentucky State AFL-CIO is currently establishing the Kentucky Young Worker Group which will help coordinate and activate young worker groups already established by various unions and developing young worker groups in other unions and communities.

I’m also excited about our new radio program called “Workers’ Voice,” which is broadcast every Saturday from 9:00 – 11:00

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WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT!

Hello *FORsooth* Reader!

Did you know that it costs \$800.00 to produce and distribute each issue of *FORsooth*? FOR and the editors at *FORsooth* work hard to bring you progressive voices from your community—providing a rare and precious platform for issues that are too often drowned out in the mainstream media. If you value the news and opinions you read here, please consider supporting *FORsooth* by making a tax-deductible donation to the Louisville FOR.

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AFL-CIO’s Londrigan upbeat (continued frm page 1)

a.m. on WNDA-AM 1570 and WLRS-AM 1600. It provides a voice for workers, allies and supporters to get their message out and talk about the issues that are so very important to workers and their families: health care, union organizing, collective bargaining, legislation, etc. Workers’ Voice is the one radio program in Kentuckiana that is all about workers and unions.

AB: There has recently been a push from the Kentucky’s right-wing to pass “right-to-work” legislation. For those not familiar, what does “right-to-work” actually mean? Also, can you talk about what some of the implications would be for workers and existing unions if Kentucky did become a right-to-work state?

BL: In states that have adopted so-called right to work laws unions and employers are prohibited from negotiating



Bill Londrigan and Alex Bradshaw

collective bargaining agreements requiring the payment of union dues or fees as a condition of employment. Right to work is a unique feature of federal labor law in that it defers this singular element of labor market regulation to the states. While unions in right to work states cannot compel payment of dues or fees for the benefits of collective bargaining, such as higher wages and benefits, unions are required under the duty of fair representation to represent all workers in a bargaining unit equally whether or not they pay union dues or fees. Thus, providing the only instance

in federal law where services are provided but remuneration uncollectable.

If Kentucky were to pass right to work, the impact on existing unions would be the following: it would diminish their finances and their ability to effectively represent their members; and it would diminish unions’ abilities to fulfill their essential functions of collective bargaining and grievance processing, since a portion of the members will cease paying dues when they realize they get everything the union can offer for free. This undermines the unity and solidarity necessary to negotiate effective collective bargaining agreements.

AB: There has been a coordinated attack – spearheaded by conservative groups, business leaders, and right-wing politicians – against labor for the past 40-plus years. Talk about how this happened and what can be done to turn the tide.

BL: I trace the current war on workers back about forty years with the founding of the Business Roundtable, which brought together the largest industrial companies into an organization whose purpose was to rein in the building trades unions, which were recognized at the time as the backbone of the labor movement. Through a series of coordinated and well financed efforts, the members of the Business Roundtable implemented a series of steps, including hiring contractors like Brown and Root, lawsuits, studies and public relations campaigns to undermine the effectiveness of the building trades. After taking on the building trades, big business went after the industrial unions such as the United Steel Workers and the United Auto Workers and others by developing, promoting and passing so-called free trade agreements like NAFTA that shipped millions of union jobs to foreign countries.

The next target in the corporate war on workers was the only sector of the labor movement that had experienced any real growth in the past two decades: public sector unions. One needs only to look toward Wisconsin for a prime example of



how right-wing, wealthy elites financed the election of Gov. Scott Walker – who did their bidding with in an all-out offensive against Wisconsin’s public sector unions.

The first thing to be done is for workers to recognize there is a war on workers and unions in America and around the globe. This knowledge provides an understanding of “which side they are on.” Once the understanding that the interests of workers are not aligned with those of the wealthy elite, then a sense of class consciousness is created and workers begin to understand the necessity of working class solidarity which can then be translated into organizing unions, communities and other mutual support activities.

AB: Lastly, I’d like to talk about those who work in industries without much union presence and how they can change the status quo. I work in healthcare, an industry where the corporations have fought long-and-hard against unions. Because of this, union presence is almost non-existent. What advice would you have for people like me who work in industries with very little union presence who want to change things?

BL: My first recommendation for you and any of your like-minded co-workers is to become informed about your rights at your workplace. While the National Labor Relations Act governs most industries and employers engaged in interstate commerce, there are variations among occupations and employers. Hospitals and health care occupations have specific guidelines about which groups or classifications of employees are eligible to be in the same bargaining units.

The second is to acquire as much information as you can about your employer including a history of previous organizing or workplace actions that may have occurred to determine how the employer responded as well as how the workers responded. Identify like-minded, trustworthy co-workers, and begin to engage in a discussion with a small trusted group to plan how you can communicate with other workers and gauge interest in assisting, or to learn if they would

be opposed to organizing. The NLRB requires as showing of interest of at least 30 percent of the workers in a bargaining unit to petition for a representation election, and a majority must vote favorably to win the election.

That being the case, unions almost never petition for an election with only the 30 percent threshold of authorization cards and instead try to build that number to sometimes as high as 70-to-80 percent. This is to ensure that there is a large enough cushion to reach a majority when the vote is taken.

Having the support of an experienced union will be of primary importance once you have begun to do the work necessary to determine whether there is a legitimate chance of getting enough of your co-workers to agree they want to organize and bargain collectively.

You must always consider the legal implications of your actions and remember that protected concerted activity under the NLRA requires more than one worker actively seeking to organize their bargaining unit. Concerted protected activity gives some legal cover for you and your fellow committee members in that retaliation such as termination and other punitive actions provides the opportunity to file unfair labor practice charges with the NLRB and may possibly protect your job rights if you are terminated for union activity.

Bill Londrigan is the President of the Kentucky State AFL-CIO, and was first elected in 1999. Before being elected President he served numerous positions with the AFL-CIO, including Secretary-Treasurer/Business Manager of the Greater Louisville Building & Construction Trades Council, and many more. Bill is a member of Elevator Constructors, Local 20, Louisville, KY. Bill earned a B.A. in Labor Studies from Pennsylvania State University, and a Master of Public Administration from the University of Louisville. Bill is 56 and resides in Franklin County, KY with his wife, Jennifer and daughter, Stella. Reach Bill at blondrigan@kyafclcio.org

FOR’s Mission Statement

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



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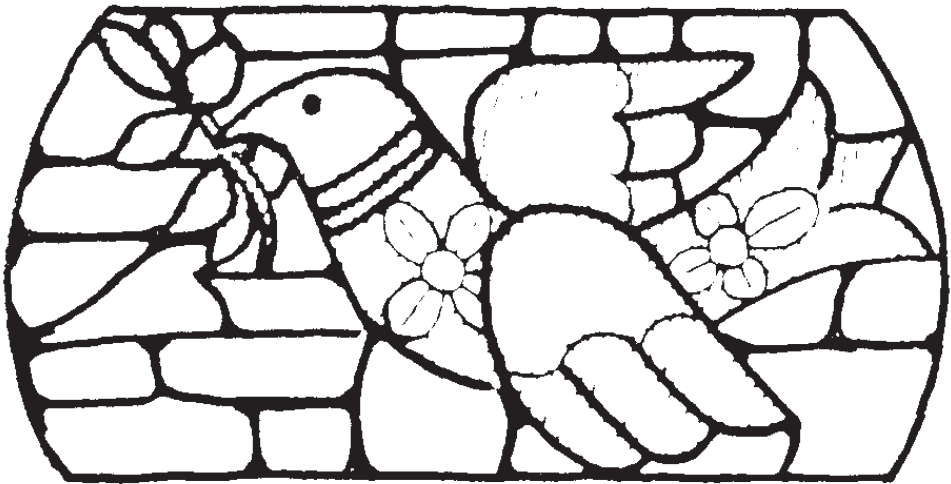
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95 Years on Peace Frontiers

Since 1915, the Fellowship of Reconciliation in the United States has led campaigns to obtain legal rights for conscientious objectors, win civil rights for all Americans, end the Vietnam War, oppose U.S. intervention in the Third World, and reverse the superpowers’ arms race. An interfaith pacifist organization, the FOR has members from many religious and ethnic traditions. It is part of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, with affiliates in 40 countries.

In the development of its program FOR depends upon persons who seek to apply these principles to every area of life. If you are not already a member, we invite you to join us in this endeavor. Membership consists of signing the Statement of Purpose, indicating that you agree with FOR goals.

Chair: Pat Geier.....609-7985



Correction

In our May, 2014 issue Dr. Judy Heitzman’s email from her article “Regaining the know-how to live well from the land in Nicaragua” on page 5 was incorrectly listed. The correct email address is swartsdoc@gmail.com.

Glen Stassen worked to change the world, answering Jesus’ call

By Jim Wallis

What is the best meaning of the word “evangelical?” Perhaps this: a deep belief in Jesus, a consistent commitment to follow Jesus, and a real love for Jesus — one who applies Jesus’ life and teachings to their everyday lives. By that definition, Glen Stassen was an evangelical — the best kind. If more evangelicals were like him, the term would have an enormously better image in our society.

Glen Stassen died on April 26 from an aggressive cancer. He leaves a great deficit in the church’s integrity and our nation’s ability to think and act ethically, as he influenced countless believers’ understanding of the gospel of the kingdom of God. I count myself among them. Glen was a dear friend, a kindred spirit, a key ally, and beloved member of Sojourners Board of Directors.

Many years ago, a very keen young man visited the Sojourners Community. He had been reading Sojourners magazine and following our little community in Washington, D.C. He told us he was a professor of ethics at Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, but he just came to volunteer and to live with us for a while. So Glen stayed in one of our households and helped with the food line that gave away bags of groceries to low-income families just 20 blocks from the White House — which he



Glen Stassen

thought was quite a moral parable. He spoke of how Christians must not just “believe” in Christ, but also follow him. When you were around Glen, you always ended up talking about Jesus and the kingdom of God. That was his life and his life work.

Glen Stassen was not only a professor of Christian ethics (both at Southern and later at Fuller Theological Seminary), but he was also an activist for ethics who knew how to affect society. Like his father, Harold Stassen, a former governor and presidential candidate from Minnesota, Glen sought to

bring Christian ethics to public life. When I worked with Glen on the strategy committee of the national Nuclear Weapons Freeze campaign, I saw not just an ethical theorist but a smart practitioner who knew how to mobilize movements and change public policy. Glen wanted to change the world, just as Jesus called his disciples to do.

Glen Stassen was a deeply respected scholar whose book, “Kingdom Ethics” — co-written with his friend and current Sojourners board member, David Gushee — was the constant theme of his life and work. He taught us all the meaning of Jesus and the new order Jesus brought into the world; he showed us what it meant to live by the values of that kingdom without ethical equivocation, false dualism, or political compromise. No American theologian of his generation taught us more about Jesus and what it truly means to follow Christ than Glen Stassen. As a professor, Glen was more than just an academic. He was a formative influence to students around the world, many of whom are also professors today, and all of whom were mentored, and not just taught, by Glen.

It was Glen Stassen who introduced the church and the nation to the powerful vision of just peacemaking, both going deeper than — and transcending — the old concepts of pacifism and just war. Just peacemaking guides us toward the faithful

and effective actions that both prevent and end wars, through the creative and critical practices of conflict resolution. More than any other voice on the theological scene, Glen moved us beyond peace loving to peacemaking. He showed us what the world needs most from Christians is not theoretical debates about war, but the courageous and risky vocation of being peacemakers in the world — the ones whom Jesus called “the children of God.” Rather than standing above the world’s conflicts in our pulpit debates, we must come down to the ground where the conflicts are occurring and find the best ways to reduce and end them. Glen’s just peacemaking writings called serious Christians to that task and provided substantial direction for actually doing it.

Beyond the shallow and privatized pietism of his era, Glen Stassen gave us “a thicker Jesus” — the title of his latest book about “incarnational discipleship” — and what it means to follow Jesus into the kingdom of God and into the world.

Glen kept calling us all to go deeper in our faith, and we will — with his ideas, his passion, and his spirit.

Jim Wallis is president of Sojourners. His book, “The (Un)Common Good: How the Gospel Brings Hope to a World Divided” will be released in paperback this spring. Follow Jim on Twitter @JimWallis.

Taylor Talks of “The Troubles” (Northern Ireland) with Perceived Inequality

By Isaac Marion Thacker IV

“Nobody knows the troubles I’ve seen,” the old-time song has it. Northern Ireland could certainly be excused for crooning this familiar tune, for Ulster has surely had its deadly share of “The Troubles,” as they are called, for decades. As we shall see, however, Northern Ireland is unfortunately far from unique in experiencing violent conflict that kills thousands of innocent human beings. Many countries know, if not the troubles Northern Ireland has seen then at least tragically similar ones. To focus only on Ulster and its environs would thus be a mistake (though its story, which makes up a large part of the rest of this article, is worth telling); in his excellent after-lunch remarks on April 17, Terry Taylor at the Third Thursday Lunch (TTL) at the Rudyard Kipling deftly and completely avoided this mistake.



Ike Thacker

The story of Northern Ireland (Ulster) is a familiar one, and one that Taylor got to know more personally than most of us during a trip there in the second half of September 2013. Despite the Good Friday Accord of 1998 facilitated largely by the U.S.’s George Mitchell, Taylor reported, “the troubles” among religious groups—Protestants and Catholics, of course, in this case—who cannot get along are not over. It is still Green vs. Orange, the heirs of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) vs. the heirs of the Ulster Defense Force (UDF). They fight now over much less deadly things than before, over flags and marches instead of killing each other with guns, bombs, etc. on any large scale, but they still fight.

This is largely the result, said Taylor (after pointing out that the green vs. orange symbolic colors came historically out of the victory of William of Orange over King James of England in the late seventeenth century), of a history of recent conflict that goes back some 100 years. Like African Americans in the United States—colonizers in Ireland even called their holdings “plantations” (!)—Catholics despite being

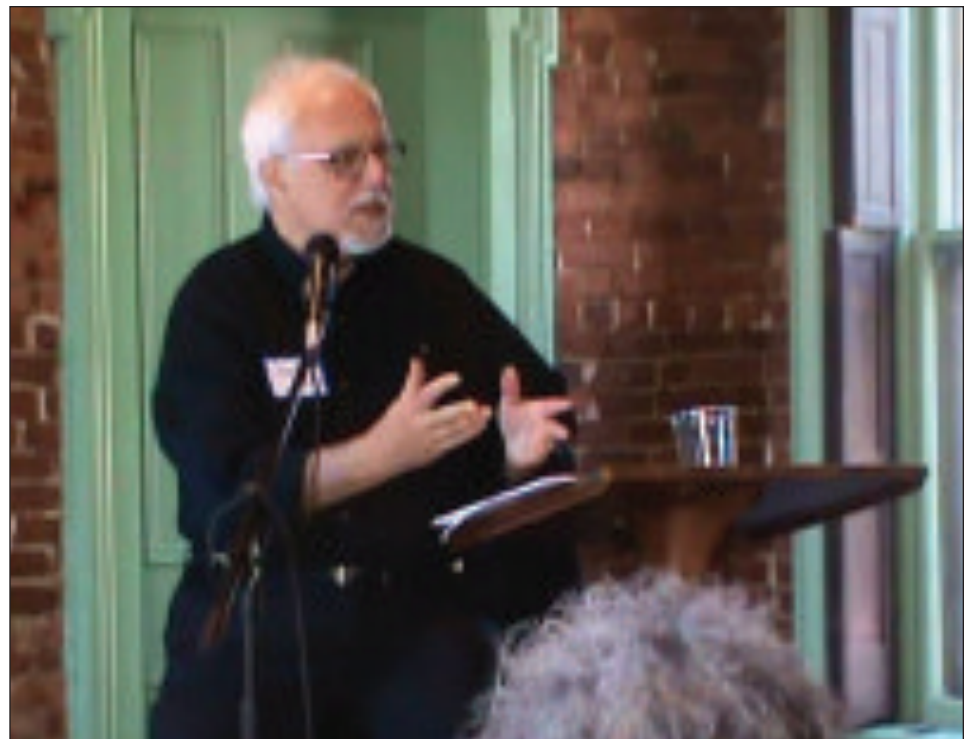
just as human as their Protestant counterparts were systematically discriminated against in Northern Ireland (a part of Great Britain geopolitically). They couldn’t get jobs, find housing or just generally live decently-situated lives, simply because they were Catholic.

As a result, a movement for reunification with the rest of Ireland arose especially in the early part of the twentieth century, flourishing particularly in the 1920s. It was led by the IRA and its political wing, Sinn Fein, and bubbled, cauldron-like, through the middle part of the century. The decade of the 1960s was another particularly active (and, of course, violent) time for the IRA, Sinn Fein, and the UDF, with many murders on both sides. That decade in a sense climaxed in Bloody Sunday in 1972, in which an elite British military unit fired on a massive, peaceful demonstration in Londonderry, killing more than a dozen people. This event, and the backlash from it, led to some three decades of violent unrest in which more than 3,000 people were killed before the aforementioned Good Friday Accord of 1998.

And that is 3,000 people in about three decades, in a city approximately half the size of Louisville! Taylor effectively pointed out this fact, and had his listeners take a moment to close their eyes and imagine bombs going off in their favorite restaurant or coffee house here in Derby City.

Things are still tense in Belfast and Ulster even today, said Taylor. One leader he talked to there, when asked what had to happen for true peace to reign in Northern Ireland, said that the current generation would have to die off—there has simply been too much blood spilled, there is still too much hurt.

But it is instructive to place the violence in Northern Ireland/Ulster in context, to follow through on a point made persuasively by Taylor when he called for donations and bumper-sticker purchases supporting local activist Christopher 2X’s effective local nonviolence group. Taylor also provided members of the audience with a Vow of Nonviolence linked to that peacemaking group led by 2X (who was in attendance), to sign if they so chose. During the Q and



Terry Taylor

A session that followed the presentation, during which Christopher 2X commented eloquently on the need to deal with horrible, violent acts through peace, Taylor also made what I think is a vital point that relates not only to Northern Ireland but also with special force to school desegregation in the United States. This was the idea that contact with other ethnic, racial, and religious groups (etc.), or rather the lack of it is as much the problem as the resultant prejudice. Getting people of different “identities” simply to interact is half the battle! Many Ulster Protestants don’t even know what a Mass is, noted Taylor; and Newt Gingrich has commented that one (Republican) U.S. politician, who was a former professional football player, had showered with more African Americans that most Republicans had ever met! When peoples get to really know each other, understanding and tolerance strongly tend to develop!

But back to putting the violence in Northern Ireland in context. Some 3,000 people died there, but during roughly the same time period (really a somewhat more

compressed one) more than ten times that number died in Algeria, to much less media notice. And of course some 800,000 died in Rwanda just in 1994, and 50-60 million during World War II; and the list could go on and on. I personally believe that Ulster’s “troubles” got disproportionate play because of where they were happening, the religions involved, and the amount of pigment in the skin of the participants and victims. This is wrong, pure and simple.

It is also instructive that all of the troubles mentioned in this article, including WWII, Ulster’s troubles, and vicious, despicable discrimination in the United States, were very largely caused by people in one religious/racial/ethnic/economic group believing they were superior—“more equal,” like certain of Orwell’s pigs in Animal Farm—to others. To the contrary, I believe one simple principle that has many philosophical implications: all 7.3 or 7.4 billion of us on this planet are absolutely equally human, regardless of absolutely everything. The closer we as a world,

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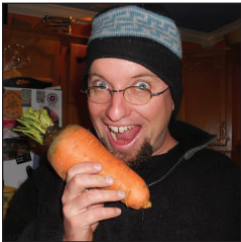
Grab a shovel, find some dirt, join the good food revolution

By Justin Mog

“I am done with apologies. If contrari-ness is my inheritance and destiny, so be it.” – Wendell Berry (from *Farming: A Hand Book*)

“Then I started hearing about other people who were even more independent than I dared to dream: people...turning ghettos into edenic gardens. ... Successful contrary farming depends crucially on re- ducing manual labor to a minimum by skill instead of expensive machines and making the hard work that remains more enjoyable. This is particularly important for those of us who must combine farm work with another job or career to make a living.” – Gene Logsdon (from *The Contrary Farmer*)

Like my fellow Kentuckian, Wendell Berry, and my fellow Ohio native, Gene Logsdon, I consider myself a bit of a contrary farmer. I reject the notion that agriculture can only occur in the



Justin Mog

wide-open coun- tryside on farms stretching for hun- dreds of acres. I question our in- sistence that our food must always be produced as a for-profit venture, reliant on consid- erable investments in acreage, heavy machinery, fossil fuels, genetically-modified seeds, herbicides, pes- ticides, fungicides, and – quite literally as a result of all this – even suicides amongst heavily indebted, hopeless farmers. I’m convinced there’s a much better way to produce the delicious, life-giving food we all need, and the solution isn’t dependent on finding more money, better technology, more land, improved genetics, or more energy. The solution is dependent upon us.

We need to change the way we think about food and our relationship to the land. We need to stop waiting for someone else to feed us. We need to take ownership of

our food system and control of our common destiny. It is time for all of us to start playing a role in the good food revolution. We need to become food producers, and not just food consumers. We need to relearn the skills that our grandparents held as second nature. We need to start growing, glean- ing, foraging, processing, preserving, preparing, and sharing food again.

When was the last time you enjoyed a meal that you not only had a hand in creating, but that you could create again without the unacknowledged luxuries of our destructive modern age? Without ingredients shipped in from hundreds and thousands of miles away? Without mega-stores offering any type of food imaginable any time of the year? Without a seemingly endless supply of fossil fuels, agrochemicals, water, and exploitable labor? The inconvenient truth, of course, is that none of these are limitless and that, ultimately, our success as a species will require us to one day treat all of these things as the luxuries they truly are. To get there, we must all learn the true value and meaning of work. We must get our hands dirty in the act of understanding how to once again sustain ourselves without con- venience. We must build the relationships necessary to bind communities together in order to weather the impending storms of climate change, financial collapse, social disruption, and peak everything.

I write these words, not as a purely idealistic academic, but as man with dirt very much under his nails and hands roughened by working the soil, the orchard, and the apiary. I am proud to say that I am an urban homesteader and a subsistence farmer. I wish to reclaim the dignity inherent in subsistence (or “peasant”) farming. I have savored the incomparable pleasures of food that I have grown, foraged, preserved, and prepared by my own hands and in communion with like- minded urban growers. Nothing I have ever done has filled me with more satisfaction, security, empowerment, and conviction. Though my body grows weary, I have never felt more alive.

I have also never learned more. This vocation is even more enriching than time



Justin Mog is helping turn a large vacant lot in downtown Louisville into a productive urban farm at the East Main Street Community Garden.

in a classroom or a library because it allows me to learn with my entire being and not just my intellect. In the garden, orchard and apiary, I am only successful when I engage my entire body in the work, utilizing all five senses and losing myself in the act. My soul is equally nourished by reconnecting with the land, with the cycles of life, and with the biorhythms that truly sustain us. I’m sure I’ve learned more about sustainability by carefully observing my beehives than I could ever comprehend from the writings, artistic creations, and other works of the human mind. There is much to be learned about living in right relationship with the Earth if we are quiet and humble enough to listen carefully.

The great irony here is that, even in a world that we are actively destroying with our voracious appetite for too much of everything, there is one thing we truly do not have enough of. We do not have enough farmers. Our once proud nation has been hemorrhaging farmers and farms for decades as we pursue a dangerously

mythical future separated from toil, nature, and connection. Those left behind on the land are told to “get big or get out” and are sold a bill of goods when it comes to agricultural inputs that promise little more than debt servitude.

But times are changing and a new generation is rising. Young people’s interest in farming is swelling in proportion to disaffection with the shallow trappings of modern life and a hunger for genuine connection and real productivity. New ideas about how and where to grow food are taking root in our under-invested urban cores like right here in “Possibility City.” Grassroots community organizations like Louisville Grows, 15 Thousand Farmers, and Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville are helping reacquaint citizens with the skills and creativity necessary to grow food. Projects like La Minga and the Refugee Agricultural Partnership Program are helping connect disadvantaged growers with land and tools. New Roots and the Food In Neighborhoods Community Coalition are striving to ensure that the benefits of this good food revolution are shared equitably and don’t just further privilege those who happen to live east of 9th Street. Even students at U of L and Bellarmine are taking time out from their academic studies and part-time jobs to manage vegetable gardens, fruit trees, greenhouses, rainwater catchment and composting systems.

The seeds have been sown. It is up to all of us to nurture them and share the bounty. It is time for us to turn off the television, shut down the computer, and put down our mobile distractions. Grab a shovel, find some dirt, and bring your friends. This is going to be the most vibrant, life-affirming, sustainable time in our lives.

Justin Mog, Ph.D. is the Assistant to the Provost for Sustainability Initiatives at the University of Louisville. He is a car-free, TV-free, vegetarian Quaker and Returned Peace Corps Volunteer with a fully solar-powered home in downtown Louisville. Contact: justin.mog@louisville.edu

‘Delightfully disarming’ sharing of prayers brings insights into nonviolence

By Michael Whiting

“Gravity is to matter as nonviolence is to consciousness.” – Michael Nagler

Sister Judy Morris, of the Dominican Sisters of Peace, and Sister Chris Dobrowolski, IHM, of the Sowers of Justice Network, started thinking about ways to help the local community address the problem of gun violence. Why is there no exact means of helping people develop a clear and concise understanding of nonviolence in their daily lives? This should be the hallmark of any religious education.

Their conversations led them to look toward developing a consistent and ongoing interfaith working group devoted to teaching and practicing nonviolence. They are hoping to receive assistance in this venture from anyone with similar passions, and they feel that Louisville contains plenty of fertile ground. Russ Greenleaf, of Jewish Voice for Peace, readily joined the working group, and so did I. We began calling this project “Building a Nonviolent City.”

What would happen, we wondered, if religiously observant people hosted monthly events planned as contemplative vigils which focused on healing the wounds already inflicted by violence but also highlighted teachings on nonviolence from the perspective of traditional wisdom? In other words, how could bearing witness, comforting the afflicted, and learning proactive nonviolence skills help our community? When St. William Catholic Church, an officially declared Compassionate Congregation, listened to the idea, they sensed its positive benefits for our city immediately.

Louisville has always been a very religious city. Due to Louisville’s very large refugee population, Louisville is now a city representing the world’s great religions. St. William hosted the first Building a Nonviolent City vigil last April. Jewish, Christian and Islamic prayers were offered together, and a teaching on nonviolence was presented. The goal was for everyone to leave the event with serious nonviolence homework to do.

Rev. Jason Crosby, Pastor of Crescent Hill Baptist Church, joined our group with the idea to host a prayer vigil focusing on the tragedy in Syria. Crescent Hill Baptist Church is home to many refugees who have escaped war, so this was only natural.

Rev. Chris Lieberman and the congrega- tion of Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church hosted the next vigil by creating a remarkably tranquil Saturday replete with meditative music as background for the reading of the mystics and ancient prayers.

A month later, Shawnee Presbyterian Church and its Pastor Rev. Ron D. Robinson hosted a vigil featuring the voices of experience of many speakers in Louisville working in the field of human conflict. Speakers that afternoon included Rev. Ron Robinson, Rev. Phil Lloyd-Sidle, K.A. Owens, Bonifacio Aleman, and Dr. Ricky Lee Jones, among others. The gathering produced a powerful inspiration to work for nonviolence.



Michael Whiting



Sowers of Justice Network members honor Good Friday Way of the Cross.

Drepung Gomang Institute Tibetan Buddhist Temple hosted a vigil focusing on a nonviolent life. The Buddhist Temple has a contemporary perspective acquired directly from His Holiness the Dalai Lama, whose well-known instruction into the nature and practice of nonviolence has helped launch the Compassionate Movement, in which Louisville is a participant. Thanks to Geshe Kalsang Rapgyal and the Institute’s President Anne Walter, their program and practical teaching on nonviolence seemed to be designed as a scientific formula that could be proven in everyone’s daily affairs.

The River Road Islamic Center hosted the next Building a Nonviolent City vigil. Imam Wasif Iqbal and Dr. Kia Jahed treated us to an informal get-to-know-each-other session with fresh fruits, sweets and tea. They explained that the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him) was a man who

personally experienced terrible persecution in his native land for 40 years. When he did eventually ascend to a position of authority, he took no revenge on his tormentors, but forgave all his enemies. Imam Iqbal and Dr. Jahed exemplified the epitome of what religious dialogue should be, and everyone’s questions were encouraged and addressed.

While Dr. Jahed was speaking, the beautiful melody of the Islamic call to prayer sounded, and he invited us to join him and the congregation for evening prayers. Muslims, Jews and Christians prayed together, answering the invitation to higher consciousness. I kept wondering if the quest for nonviolence by any religious person isn’t made easier by such close proximity to so many people of different faiths. I found it delightfully disarming and very refreshing

(continued on page 7)

Volunteers allow vulnerable youth to find a safe place

By Natalie Reteneller

The foundation of my social justice commitment was formed some thirty-two years ago when my mom hosted FORsooth mailings in our home and I would listen to the passionate truth-telling of people like Jean and George Edwards. Today the words I heard as a child still ring in my ears as I work with young people and advocate for their voices to be heard and their lives to be respected and nurtured. I have the honor and opportunity to do this every day in my role at YMCA Safe Place Services (YSPS) where we support over 1,700 teens, young adults and their families every year in getting the help they need, not only to survive, but to thrive.



Forty years ago, in cities all across the United States, young people found themselves on the street with nowhere to go. Whether kicked out of their homes or choosing to leave because of harsh and sometimes dangerous circumstances, youth found themselves in very compromising situations. In Louisville, because of the efforts of the YMCA of Greater Louisville, the National Council of Jewish Women and the Junior League of Louisville, Shelter House was established. This make-shift space set up in the old Downtown YMCA at Third and Broadway, with bunk beds made of two by fours, provided immediate shelter and safe adult support to over 600 runaway teens in 1974. Forty years later YMCA Safe Place Services continues to help teens and families who struggle to keep their families safely together and out of state's care. We are now located at 2400 Crittenden Drive.

YMCA Safe Place Services continues to provide unique and free services to vulnerable young people through a variety



Staff of Safe Place on a retreat

of programming. YSPS' Shelter House Program birthed what is today Project Safe Place, a network of community businesses and organizations that display the Safe Place sign and open their doors to teens who run away from home. Last year over 140 young people accessed a Safe Place site and were taken to Shelter House by trained volunteers. In the mid-nineties we started our Y-NOW Mentoring Program that today works with children who have an incarcerated parent. In 2004 Street Outreach started reaching more diligently to youth who were literally on the street and with those slightly older than the 12 to 17-year-olds who are served in Shelter House.

In 1974 the federal government passed the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act that continues to fund programs across the country that provide immediate and safe opportunities for young people to avoid sexual exploitation and provide basic needs. In recent years the Department of Health and Human Services mandated that programs adopt a Positive Youth Development model, implement a Trauma Informed-Care approach to services, and provide effective strategies that surround our young people with protective factors that set them up for success. It is very exciting to see that more

evidenced-based strategies are being used to support this vulnerable but very resilient group of young people.

Racism, classism, homophobia and adultism still exist in our community. They look different and play out in a variety of different ways but the impacts of the implicit biases we all carry, about one another and our young people, continue to unfold in ways that disproportionately put them in state and court placements and further away from strong and adequately resourced families. I am heartened by the staff team



Natalie Reteneller

we have at YSPS who work collaboratively with other agencies to address the disparate outcomes and disproportionate representation of children and more specifically children of color in state's care. Some of these groups include Children Exposed to Violence Collective Impact Initiative, Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative and the Race Community and Child Welfare Initiative. We also make great strides internally to educate and transform the way we work with young people and their families so that

everyone feels they can succeed.

People often only think of the YMCA as a place to go for youth sports or personal training but we are so much more. Our focus areas are Healthy Living, Youth Development and Social Responsibility. We touch almost one out of every four people in Louisville in some way and want people to know that the Y is here for everyone. Every staff person and volunteer becomes a face and voice that conveys a welcoming, nurturing, hopeful, determined and genuine belief in those with whom we come in contact.

When we look at what's missing when we see and hear about the struggles of young people in our community, it's the consistent message that each of them is a community asset worthy of our attention and our financial investment. We could all do well to reflect back to our own teenage experience and remember the trials and tribulations we had as we took risks, failed, tried again and succeeded. Every young person needs adults in their lives and places where they can do this safely. It can truly be as simple as smiling at a young person you pass on the street or investing in organizations that serve youth.

If you would like to learn more or are interested in volunteering please contact us. We hold a free Community Luncheon on the 2nd Wednesday of every month at noon.

Natalie Reteneller is the Development Director at Safe Place (YMCA) and has been there for nine years. She can be reached at 502-635-4404 or nreteneller@ymcalouisville.org. Jessi Gillis, Community Outreach Specialist, can connect you to volunteer opportunities, including Mentoring in our Y-NOW Program. She can be reached at 502-855-5142 or jgillis@ymcalouisville.org; Website: www.ymcasafeplaceservices.org; Facebook: Safe Place – Louisville.

PeaceCasters seek to reduce prejudice, expand horizons

By Mark Steiner

A healthy community is very much like a puzzle made of many interlocking pieces – each unique and each a necessary part of the whole. Fortunately, the pieces of Metro Louisville's healthy community puzzle are many, rich and varied. It will take all of us



working both independently and together to address our many mutual challenges around education, economics, violence, health and the lack of purpose and hope experienced by so many. Each of us will need to bring our unique pieces of the collective puzzle to the table if we are going to truly be a city of possibilities and compassion.

Peace Education Programs' PeaceCasters (PC) is one small piece of our collective puzzle. PeaceCasters was created in 2007 by Barbara West and myself under the leadership of Jan Arnow at the Center for Interfaith Relations (CIR). We wanted to respond to the need to find positive outlets for youth's emerging digital voices. Its mission: to explore messages of peace and cooperation through digital media. There, we worked with a socially economically, racially and culturally diverse group of middle school students producing simple videos with positive messages and acting as student journalists covering the Festival of Faiths and interviewing internationally recognized speakers.

After CIR scaled back operations at the close of 2010, suspending the PeaceCasters program, Barbara West and I collaborated with their Board of Directors' Chair John S. Reed and Peace Education Program Director Eileen

Blanton, to move the program to Peace Ed. At Peace Education, trainer and Coordinator of Community Programs, Janene Shakir, stepped in as the PCs' lead trainer and co-facilitator. Her focus on mediation, conflict resolution, respect for diversity and prejudice reduction has served the PCs well. Under Peace Ed's guidance they have refined their skills in peacemaking, communication and teamwork while developing short form videos that reflect and support Peace Education's mission.

While the video making process is a clear focus, it is the peacemaking skills that the PCs learn and explore in their creative projects that are the true heart of the program. These skills are essential for all youth if they are to succeed and thrive in the world and - these skills are essential pieces of our healthy community puzzle. Early on the PeaceCasters caught on to the value of producing simple creative videos that included positive messages from each and every participant. These messages, often expressed in 3 words, pursued a common theme while at the same time allowing for the expression of each PC's individual voice. This process provided a simple way to experience success early on while at the same time expressing core program values: that at PCs everybody is "in" and that all "voices" are valued and heard.

The PCs experience as young journalists has often had the unforeseen side effect of raising the video crew's sense of self-worth. As they film and interview renowned authors and thinkers they often find themselves lifted to previously unexperienced levels of value as these well regarded individuals meet them with



Mark Steiner



PeaceCasters at camp in 2013

mutual respect and admiration. Among the PeaceCasters interview subjects have been Yale Religious Scholar Mary Evelyn Tucker, author and star of PBS's Journey of the Universe program Brian Thomas Swimme, Muslim Scholar Shaykh Hamza Yusuf, Climate Activists Bill McKibben and Alec Looz as well as world famous tree-sitter and environmentalist Julia "Butterfly" Hill. More recently they have turned their attention to interviewing local peacemakers, folks that are committing to creating a community rooted in non-violence.

While the program's focus has been on middle school youths, it was always our hope and intent that some "aging out" participants would stay with the program evolving their roles to one of youth mentor. We took it as a great sign of the program's strength and appeal that last year's summer camp was mentored by two of the programs inaugural class members Shian Jordan and Eli Fosl, both now thriving college students. Their experience and steady

presence were core to the camp's success.

As indicated above, the PCs have been around long enough now that we on occasion have the great pleasure of hearing back from former participants. For some their PCs experience has greatly influenced their educational focus and career goals. Consistently, their heartfelt reflections and tales of present day successes stoke the fires in our bellies reminding us that every piece of the puzzle connects and strengthens all the other pieces.

Another key source of strength has been the community volunteers who have supported the PCs throughout our journey. Amazingly consistent and influential have been peace educator James McMillan, photographer Matthew Sandercock, and most especially videographer and editing wizard Rhoden Streeter. These gentlemen have been key to this program's success.

Next up for the PeaceCasters are the

(continued on page 7)

The manipulation of May Day, the world’s real day for labor

By Virginia Wilson

With May 31st around the corner, the “trifecta” of patriotic holidays in the U.S. ensues: Memorial Day, Fourth of July, and Labor Day. However, just behind us is May Day – a celebration of our Labor History Labor history in the U.S. is vast and deep. Unfortunately, it remains largely unknown to most Americans, who celebrate “Labor Day” in September of each year.

However, on May 1, workers around the world celebrate “May Day,” also known as “International Workers’ Day.” This holiday commemorates Labor struggles, and memorializes the Haymarket Martyrs. How did this labor holiday come about?

In the 1880s, many workers were growing restless with the system of wage-labor, impingements upon their freedom, and bosses’ control over their lives. Socialism, the idea of worker-owned, worker-controlled means of production, was gaining popularity.

Workers began to organize for their rights, and for drastic social and economic change. One such organization, The Knights of Labor (KOL), played a huge role in our Labor History. Disappointed in the efforts of trade unionism, the KOL sought greater gains for workers than mere collective bargaining. Abolition of the wage system was their ultimate goal.

As Jeremy Brecher points out in his book Strike!, KOL leaders envisioned “a society based on cooperative production,” and hoped for labor to become a force within government, influencing legislation.

At this time, revolutionary principles of anarchism were also gaining popularity among workers. Anarchists sought to revolutionize society, emancipate the worker, abolish wage labor, do away with

the ruling class and sought equity for workers regardless of race or gender. Some anarchists, such as Albert Parsons, had already grown weary with trade unionism and politics, having witnessed these avenues for change yield few results.

In 1884, revolutionary-minded workers in Chicago organized the Central Labor Union, which rapidly grew to include many of Chicago’s largest unions.

In 1886, nearly one-half million workers nationwide from thousands of organizations were involved in more than 1,400 strikes. This huge wave of strikes swept the country, beginning with the railroads.

The leadership of various sects of the labor movement did not always support strikes; however, a General Strike for the eight-hour workday gained tremendous popularity. Although the idea of a campaign centering around this one demand was disappointing for some – including the anarchists, who wished to see more sweeping change occur – in the end they conceded and agreed to join in the eight-hour day movement.

Across the country in many cities, workers were striking and gaining successes. However, in some instances, groups of workers were met with severe police brutality, leading to many injuries, and some deaths.

Similar events in Chicago would prove fateful for the labor movement. During a strike at the McCormack Reaper Works, police, leaving four dead, fired upon workers.

A rally was called for the next evening in Haymarket Square to protest police brutality. Ironically, police were dispatched to keep watch over the protest.

During the rally, rain discouraged some attendees, leaving about 300 in the crowd. As the final speech was concluding, a dynamite bomb was thrown in the midst of the police, killing one officer, and wounding dozens more.

To this day no one knows who threw the bomb. The police then fired into the crowd,



taking one life, and wounding many others.

The enthusiasm and unity of the labor movement was severely hampered as a result of what followed. Hysteria took hold and a “Red Scare” ensued. Police, governing officials, bosses, defenders of capital and even newspapers made labor the scourge of the day. Striking workers, union members, communists and anarchists – anyone involved in the labor movement – was vilified, seen as an “enemy of the state.”

Labor press was destroyed. Workers involved in unions or the labor struggle were harassed and interrogated. Eight anarchists were arrested, tried in a mockery of justice and convicted of murder. Only two of the men arrested had even been present at the Haymarket rally during the explosion.

Ocasr Neebe was sentenced to 15 years in the penitentiary. Michael Schwab and Samuel Fielden received life sentences. Louis Lingg committed suicide while imprisoned (some say he was assassinated). Albert Parsons, Adolf Fischer, George Engel, and August Spies were hanged.

The Labor uprising of 1886 came to its death under the heel of capital and the state. Workers who had been known to be anarchists or belong to labor unions such

as the Knights of Labor were fired; some were even blacklisted, preventing them from finding work at all. Some bosses required workers to take a “loyalty oath” swearing they would never join a union.

To undermine and erase the remembrance of May Day and the Haymarket Martyrs, President Grover Cleveland instituted “Labor Day” as an official holiday in September of 1887. May 1 became designated in later years as “Americanization Day,” then as “Loyalty Day” and finally as “Law Day,” under President Eisenhower.

During so-called “Labor Day” in the U.S., many workers, particularly those in the service and retail trades, must work longer hours on this “holiday,” which is celebrated, ironically with many sales -- again, ensuring capital triumphs over labor.

Others fortunate enough to have a “day off work” spend Labor Day gathering with family and friends, going on picnics, attending barbeques. This faux “labor day” in September has all but removed the memory, and lessons, of our rich labor heritage.

And so it is vital that we remember and celebrate our Labor History on May Day, May 1: International Workers’ Day!

Further reading on the Haymarket Affair and labor history:

“Catholic Social Teaching and Movements”, Marvin L. Krier Mich, Google Books.

“Haymarket and May Day,” Christopher Thale, Encyclopedia of Chicago, <http://www.encyclopedia.chicagohistory.org/>

“Remembering the Haymarket Martyrs,” Excerpt from The Haymarket Tragedy, Paul Avrich, www.iww.org.

Virginia Wilson has worked with “The Authority Smashing Hour,” a Blog Talk Radio program of radical news and analysis and No Borders: Louisville’s Radical Lending Library. A former educator, she is currently a member of the “Badass Teachers Association,” which fights corporate education reform, and advocates for teacher autonomy. Contact her at wilson.virginia25@gmail.com.

Anne Feeney and Brad Yoder in Concert with John Paul Wright

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Based in Pittsburgh, PA, Anne Feeney is the granddaughter of an intrepid mineworkers’ organizer, who also used music to carry the message of solidarity to working people. After two decades of community activism and regional performances at rallies, Anne took her message on the road.

Since 1991 Anne has traveled to the frontlines in 42 states, as well as Canada, Mexico, Denmark, Ireland and Sweden.



Anne Feeney, labor musician

Her anthem “Have You Been to Jail for Justice?” is being performed by activists everywhere, including Peter, Paul and Mary. Dubbed the “minister of culture” to the movements for economic and social justice and human rights, Anne is “the best labor singer in North America” according to Utah Phillips. In 2005, Anne received the Joe Hill Award from the Labor Heritage Foundation in Washington, DC. Past recipients include Cesar Chavez, Pete Seeger, Faith Petric and Hazel Dickens. Her critically acclaimed recordings are widely available

John Paul Wright – Locomotive Labor Singer Engineer

JP grew up in a German Singing family and was raised by a Hell Raiser activist Mother. Now this Locomotive Engineer labor activist sings about his experiences on the rail. Railroad Music is the thread in the quilt that is everything Americana. His latest CD “Singing To The Choir” is his third and includes several tunes about his reformer union experiences, railroading and Hobo Culture.

“The Troubles”

(continued frm page 3)

nation, state and city come to realizing this ideal—and simple extensive contact with each other is a good start—the better off we will all be. A beautiful world awaits us. All we, all of us, have to do is grab it.

Isaac Marion Thacker IV (Ike Thacker) is an advocate for political, social, and

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

Visit www.wFORradio.org

For interesting in-depth audio and video interviews of *FORsooth* writers, including Sam Avery, Cara Cooper and Carla Wallace by

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Summer of Hope (continued frm page 1)

students, offered free concerts built around a message of non-violence, and provided technical support for a major documentary film project that is underway in Louisville, and that is scheduled for release in the coming months.

In another recent response to street violence, Christopher 2X and IPP organized an event in early April to address a violent situation that occurred in the downtown area on a Saturday in March. The April 6 afternoon event took place at the Big Four Bridge. It was aimed at giving people from throughout the community an opportunity to grieve what had happened, show compassion for the crime victims, and renew our commitment to nonviolence. The Big Four event was unique among the responses to the violence, in that it brought together community religious leaders, families, and young people from both the West End and other parts of Louisville.

At the time of the event, Christopher was able to reach out to opinion leaders among the young people he works with and ask them to share with their peers the message that violence, whether directed at people or property, is unacceptable. He did this while at the same time trying to help young people find appropriate ways to express their anger and frustration at situations that leave them without opportunity; situations that shunt many of them into the “school to prison pipeline.” He is also working with other community leaders to find ways to eliminate the underlying economic and social problems that lead to anger and frustration.

One of the most moving of Christopher’s efforts is something that has never really received media coverage: his effort to

visit, comfort, and offer hope to survivors of violence who are hospitalized. In this effort, Christopher has enlisted the help of one of Louisville’s youngest and most powerful peacemakers. Her name is Erica Hughes and she is ten years old. When Erica was just a toddler, her mother was shot and killed. In the same incident, Erica herself was shot in the head and left to die. She survived, and became known as Louisville’s “Miracle Baby.”

These days the Miracle Baby has become an active peacemaker herself. She frequently joins Christopher on his trips to the hospital where, as a survivor of deadly violence herself, she can offer words of comfort and hope to young men and women lying in hospital beds recovering from gunshot wounds.

What lies ahead? As FORsooth goes to press, Christopher (with the support of IPP) is planning a series of events under the banner of “Let the Kids Grow: A Summer of Hope.” The events will begin with a community “Summer of Hope” Walk led by Master P. at 5 pm on Friday, June 6. The Walk will take hundreds of young people from the corner of 16th and Chestnut to the YMCA Building at 10th and Chestnut. Everyone is invited to take part. Why not join in and become part of efforts to reduce violence right here in Louisville. .

Terry Taylor is executive director of Interfaith Paths to Peace and the author of the 2009 book, “ASpiritualityforBrokenness”. He serves on the Board of the Louisville Metro Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention. You can follow Terry on twitter @interfaithterry and as “Terry Taylor” on Facebook. Contact Terry by email at interfaithterry@gmail.com

Nonviolence (continued frm page 4)

to be a part of this shared moment of prayer.

The Building a Nonviolent City project is actively seeking a consistent interfaith focus that is proactive toward peace and nonviolence in our community. Our temples, churches and mosques can provide the training to help all of us become lighthouses of nonviolence.

Key tenets of our nonviolence training include: 1) The nonviolent person is never against people; they instead seek just solutions to problems. 2) Nonviolence is not to be equated with passivity. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. called it “love in action.” 3) The nonviolent person seeks always to cooperate with good and to non-cooperate with evil. 4) The nonviolent person uses obstructive programs such as protests, but they also use constructive programs to create a just society instead of merely waiting for

it to arrive on its own. 5) The nonviolent person seeks to achieve realization of the unity of life through spiritual disciplines such as prayer and meditation.

Learn more about nonviolence at www.mettacenter.org

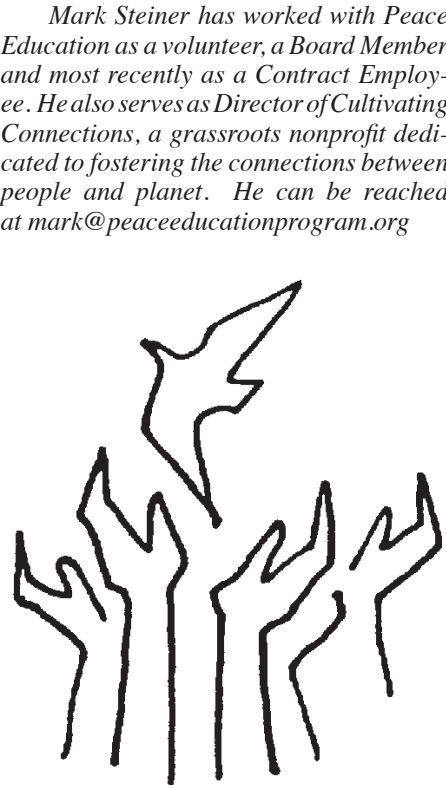
Let’s work together to Build a Nonviolent City by offering our own lives as the raw material. We ask for your help in growing these simple expressions of unity. Contact the Sowers of Justice Network at www.sowersofjusticenetwork.org if you would like to be a part of this interfaith nonviolence project. Phone: 502-821-8957.

Michael Whiting is a member of St. William Catholic Church. He serves on the St. William Peace and Justice Committee and on the board of the Sowers of Justice Network. Contact him at zygobeek1@gmail.com

PeaceCasters (continued frm page 5)

upcoming Teen Leaders for Diversity Summer Camps presented by Peace Education Program, The Muhammad Ali Center and Metro Louisville Human Relations Commission June 16 – 20 and July 14 – 18. The PeaceCasters will be participating alongside other area youth in conflict resolution and prejudice reduction skills-trainings developed by both Peace Ed and the National Coalition Building Institute. At the same time they will be applying their video-making skills to a few unique projects including conducting pre- and post-interviews with their fellow participants and documenting parts of the training.

Without a doubt Peace Ed is honored to bring PeaceCasters, as well as its other unique pieces of Metro Louisville’s healthy community puzzle, to the table. For more information on the PeaceCasters, the Teen Leaders for Diversity Summer Camps or Peace Education Program in general, please visit the website peaceeducationprogram.org. To see some of their videos visit the PeaceCasters on YouTube or Facebook!



Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

- ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – (485-1248)
- AIDS INTERFAITH MINISTRIES (AIM) OF KENTUCKIANA, INC. – (635-4510)
- AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB –4th Tuesday. Contact Enid Redman at 459-0616 or John Mine at pappajohn15@gmail.com. Also see www.America2000plus.net.
- AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE – Every month at noon (contact Paul Simmons: 608-7517)
- AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (Sharon: 637-8951) at Heine Bros. on Douglass Loop
- APPAF [American Palestine Public Affairs Forum] – 2nd Thursday (773-1836)
- BREAD FOR THE WORLD – Last Monday every other month (239-4317 for details)
- CAPA [Citizens Against Police Abuse] –2nd Thursday (778-8130) Meet at Braden Center, 3208 W. Broadway
- CART [Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation] – 3rd Wednesday, Union Station, TARC Board Room
- CLOUT [CITIZENS OF LOUISVILLE ORGANIZED AND WORKING TOGETHER] – (583-1267)
- COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST – 2nd Monday (456-6586)
- COMMON CAUSE – Ad hoc discussions. Continuous engagement. www.commoncause.org/ky
- COMMUNITY FARM ALLIANCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY – 2nd Tuesday (223-3655)
- COUNTER RECRUITMENT, “Aim Higher” – 1st Sunday, 7pm (899-4119)
- EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Saturday (299-9520) www.LouisvilleEarthSave.org
- FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)
- FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB – 1st Thursday, papajohn15@bellsouth.net
- FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (609-7985 or 291-2506)
- FRIENDS FOR HOPE (Support Group for Adult Cancer Survivors) – 4th Wednesday at 6:30 PM (451-9600).
- FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LOUISVILLE – 2nd Tuesday (893-8436)
- GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday, 7pm. (502-644-0659)
- HUMANISTS OF METRO LOUISVILLE – 2nd Monday, 7:00pm (896-4853)
- INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 3rd Wednesday, every other month. (214-7322)
- IRFI [ISLAMIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.] – Sundays at 6:00 PM (502-423-1988)
- JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE (jvp.org) – 1st Friday and 4th Thursday. Contact 256-525-5290 or sonrevolution@aol.com
- JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)
- JURISDICTIONARY CLUB OF LOUISVILLE – Know the law and how to use it (500-8161)
- JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – (345-5386)
- KENTUCKIANS FOR SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE – 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 5:30 PM. Board Room on the Mezzanine of the Louisville Free Public Library. www.kyhealthcare.org 636-1551
- KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday (589-3188)
- KITOD [KENTUCKIANA INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON DARFUR] – (553-6172)
- KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 3rd Monday (778-8130)
- KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – (541-9998)
- KITLAC [KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN] – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)
- LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (502-895-5218), www.louisville-org/lwv
- LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)
- LOUISVILLE PEAK OIL GROUP – 2nd Saturday (425-6645)
- LPAC [LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY] – (456-6914)
- LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – Meditation every Sunday (473-8435)
- LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (502-587-7755), louisvilleyouthgroup.com
- LOUISVILLIANS IN FAVOR OF EQUALITY (LIFE) – 4th Sunday (384-3875)
- METRO SWEEP FOR ACCESS – 3rd Tuesday (895-0866 or 899-9261)
- METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)
- MIGHTY KINDNESS – mightykindness@gmail.com (235-0711)
- MUHAMMAD ALI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, at UL (852-6372)
- NAACP [NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE] – 3rd Monday (776-7608)
- NAMI [NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL] – 2nd Monday (245-5287)
- PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)
- PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, brozier@bellsouth.net)
- RCRC [RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE] – (866-606-0988)
- RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)
- SIERRA CLUB INNER CITY OUTINGS – 2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM (558-0073)
- SOWERS OF JUSTICE NETWORK – sowersofjusticenetwork.org, sowersofjusticenetwork@gmail.com
- VETERANS FOR PEACE, Louisville Chapter 168 – (502) 500-6915, CRawertTrainer@twc.com
- WOMEN IN TRANSITION (WIT) – every Wednesday, 6-8 PM (636-0160)

Note: If your group would like to be added to this list or if information needs to be updated, please let us know by emailing calendar.peace@gmail.org

Calendar for peacemakers

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

June 2 (Mon) **BICYCLES FOR HEALTH AND CLEANER AIR.** Louisville Bicycle Club, Every Monday, weather permitting. Fat Forty at 8:45AM. Recovery Ride at 6:45PM. Visit www.louisvilleky.gov/bikelouisville.

June 2 (Mon) **COMMUNITY COALITION ON THE HEALTHY HOMETOWN.** Metro Health & Wellness Dept., 5:30PM. Committees meet every Monday on community goals for Mental Health, Violence Prevention, Tobacco Cessation, or Fitness & Nutrition. For more information, call 574-6209.

June 3 (Tues) **HOUR OF POWER BOOK DISCUSSIONS.** Newburg Public Library, every first Tuesday, 1PM. Discussions of books by contemporary authors on personal efforts to overcome the challenges of abuse, oppression, deprivation, discrimination, or disabilities. Visit www.lfpl.org

June 4 (Wed) **NOONTIME INTERFAITH MEDITATIONS.** Every Wednesday from 12:10 to 12:30 at Christ Church Cathedral, Downtown. Weekly rotation includes Zen Buddhist silence, Lecto Divina, Vipassana Buddhist practices, and Creative Visualization. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

June 4 (Wed) **NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEERS.** Blackacre State Nature Preserve. Every Wednesday, 9AM to Noon. Help care for gardens, trails, and farmland. Visit www.blackacreconservancy.org

June 4 (Wed) **CITIZENSHIP TUTORs.** Kentucky Refugee Ministries, 6:30 to 8:30PM. Every Wednesday & Thursday, 11AM to 1PM. Help students study for the citizenship exam. Ask about our other volunteer opportunities. Call 479-9180 Ext 57 for more information.

June 4 (Wed) **THE LOUISVILLE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM.** Every first Wednesday. Sustainability and relationships that create a community for change. Bring your lunch. Noon to 1:45 PM, Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, the Barn at 1924 Newburg Road.

June 4 (Wed) **MEETING OF THE MINDS.** Crescent Hill Public Library, 7 PM. A group discussion on many of today's most challenging public issues. Visit www.lfpl.org

June 4 (Wed) **HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES.** Immerse yourself in another community and experience first-hand the hardships associated with extreme poverty. Perform essential volunteer work. Make connections. Trips to Appalachia begin June 4th and June 11th. The trip to Belize begins June 29. Visit <http://myhandinhand.org>

June 4 (Wed) **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Every first Wednesday. Contact John Hartmann, editor, at 296-1793 or johart.john@gmail.com. Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com.

June 5 (Thurs) **REAL PEOPLE, REAL CHALLENGES, REAL SOLUTIONS.** Volunteers of America Family Emergency Shelter. 8:30AM to 9:30AM. One hour interactive tour of VOA's work and programs for self-determination. For more information, call 636-4660

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

June 6 to 7 **KENTUCKIANA BLUES SOCIETY.** Annual Germantown-Schnitzelburg Blues Festival at Check's Café. Free. Three blues bands each evening. Visit <http://kbsblues.org>

June 6 & 7 **WATER, HEALTH AND HYGENE TRAINING.** Water Step. Obtain skills for providing safe drinking water to tens of thousands of people. Visit <http://waterstep.org>

June 6 (Fri) **FRIDAY NIGHT ON THE STREET.** Wayside Christian Mission. Learn first-hand about homeless. Hear testimonies. Ask questions. Serve a meal. Bring a sleeping bag. Visit www.waysidechristianmission.org

June 7 to Sept 7 **EAT WELL, PLAY WELL.** Muhammad Ali Center, Monday to Saturday. Healthy choices are all around us. Children and families learn the science of nutrition. Activities for fun. Visit <http://alicenter.org>

June 7 (Sat) **AMERICAN WORLD FESTIVAL.** Iroquois Amphitheater, 11AM to 9PM. Hear live music of many cultures and sample recipes from around the world. Visit www.americanacc.org

June 7 (Sat) **HOME REPAIR VOLUNTEERS.** Fuller Center for Housing of Louisville. Every Saturday. All skill levels. Ask about our other volunteer opportunities. For more information, call 272-1377.

June 7 (Sat) **ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB.** Every Saturday at the Iroquois & Newburg Public Library Branches, 3PM. Also Main Library & Bon Air Library on Thursdays at 7PM. Practice conversational English with neighbors and friends from many parts of the world. Visit www.lfpl.org

June 7 (Sat) **SACK LUNCHES FOR THE HOMELESS.** Every Saturday, 12pm to 2PM, Bates Community Development Corporation, 1228 S. Jackson Street. Call 636-0573 for more information.

June 7 (Sat) **CANVASS NEIGHBORHOODS FOR FRESH FOOD.** Saturdays and Sundays. Join us any time. Fresh Stop Project volunteers take orders door to door for locally grown fruits and vegetables. Visit <http://newrootsproduce.org>

June 7 (Sat) **JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST VOLUNTEERS.** Land Stewart Project. Every first Saturday, 9AM to Noon. Also, Wednesdays. Help improve landscape and protect native flora. Visit www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/jeffersonmemorialforest/

June 7 (Sat) **LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE.** Every Saturday morning. Also, other days and times. 26 farmers' markets from California neighborhood to Norton Commons. Visit www.louisvilleky.gov/HealthyHometown

June 7 (Sat) **CAN VEGETARIANS SAVE THE PLANET?** Newburg Public Library, 11AM to 12PM. A lively discussion about vegetarianism and how it affects our environment. Visit www.lfpl.org

June 7 (Sat) **OLMSTEAD PARK VOLUNTEERS.** Bingham Park, 9AM to Noon. Help maintain and restore our urban forests. Visit www.olmsteadparks.org

June 7 (Sat) **WORLD REFUGEE DAY SOCCER TOURNAMENT.** Kentucky Refugee Ministries, 9AM to 6PM. Soccer brings diverse cultures together in celebration and play. Visit www.kyrm.org

June 8 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter-recruitment. Every first Sunday at 7 PM, 2236 Kaelin Avenue at the FOR office. Discuss conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for high school students to “opt out” of having their names given to recruiters. Call Jim Johnson, 262-0148.

June 8 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE.** Every second Sunday. A remembrance of all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. 4PM to 5PM, Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. Sponsored by LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community) and Veterans for Peace Chapter 168. For more information, call Carol Rawert Trainer at 500-6915.

June 9 (Mon) **KFTC JEFFERSON COUNTY ANNUAL MEETING.** Kentuckians For The Commonwealth at First Unitarian Church, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Help assess our work, celebrate victories, elected leaders, and join our potluck. Visit www.kftc.org

June 9 (Mon) **URBAN LEAGUE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS.** Louisville Urban League, Every 2nd Monday, 6PM. Networking opportunities for emerging leaders of all minority backgrounds. Call the Urban League office for more info: 561-6830.

June 10 (Tues) **FOOD IN NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY COALITION.** Shawnee Public Library, every 2nd Tuesday at 6:30PM. Help assess hunger needs and organize community action. For more information, call 819-2957.

June 10 (Tues) **FREE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY SEMINAR.** Energy Pros Sustainable Home Education Group, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Learn the basics. Visit www.theenergypros.net

June 10 (Tues) **GREEN CONVENE.** Every second Tuesday at The Highland Green Building, 6:30PM. Join residents and policymakers in examining ways to connect the health of our community with our environment. Visit www.greenconvene.org

June 10 (Tues) **AMERICAN COMMUNITY CENTER.** Orientation at 7pm every second Tuesday. Learn how you can help immigrant families learn practical skills, join social networks, and improve language skills. Call 366-7813 to RSVP.

June 10 (Tues) **MOVIMIENTO DE MUJERES LATINA -- LATINA WOMEN'S MOVEMENT,** La Casita Center, Every second Tuesday, 5:30PM. Network, mentor, find friends and share. Call 322-4036 for more information.

June 10 (Tues) **SINGAPORE'S AMBASSADOR TO THE US.** World Affairs Council, 11:30AM. Ambassador Ashok Mirpuri will discuss his experiences as ambassador to several countries. Visit www.worldkentucky.org

June 11 (Wed) **Y-NOW CHILDREN OF PRISONERS MENTORING.** Luncheon at YMCA Safe Place. Learn how you can help break the cycle through mentoring and encouragement. RSVP to 635-4404.

June 11 (Wed) **KENTUCKY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (KITLAC).** Every second Wednesday at the 1741 Building on Frankfort Avenue. 7:30 PM. For more information, call David Horvath at 479-9262 or Pat Geier at 456-6586.

June 11 (Wed) **LOUISVILLE FORUM.** Every 2nd Wednesday, Noon at Vincenzo's Downtown. Speakers on current public issues. nonpartisan discussion. For details, call 329-0111.

June 12 (Thurs) **AMERICAN PALESTINE PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM (APPAPF).** Every second Thursday. A documentary film exploring the situation in Middle East will be presented. 7 PM, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Nelson Hall, Room 119. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

June 13 (Fri) **AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHIVES TOUR.** Western Public Library, 10:30AM. Peruse the African American book collection. Short documentary. Light refreshments. Visit www.lfpl.org

June 13 (Fri) **A GLIMPSE OF ETERNITY.** The Louisville Astronomical Society at dusk in Tom Sawyer Park. Every 2nd Friday. Look through telescopes at planets, our moon, stars, double stars, the Orion nebula and other wonders. Visit www.louisville-astro.org

June 14 (Sat) **EARTHSAVE POTLUCK.** Crescent Hill Ministries, 6PM to 8PM. Every 2nd Saturday. Bring a plant-based dish and share your recipe. Discuss healthy food and behavior change. Mix, mingle, music. For more information call 299-9520.

June 14 (Sat) **PEAK OIL.** Every 2nd Saturday, St. Matthews Public Library, 10 AM to Noon. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

June 14 (Sat) **BIRDS, ECOLOGY AND RELATIONSHIPS.** Beckham Bird Club at the Clifton Center, 7PM. Every 2nd Saturday. Deepen your personal relationship with nature by observing and studying local birds. Visit www.beckhambirdclub.org

June 14 (Sat) **REPAIR AFFAIR.** New Directions Housing Corporation. Compassionate volunteers with building materials meet the home repair needs of economically disadvantaged elderly and disabled homeowners who are often coping with hazardous conditions. Visit www.ndhc.org

June 15 **GROWING FOOD AND COMMUNITY.** 15 Thousand Farmers, at Dismas St. Ann's on Algonquin Pkwy, the 15th day each month. Share ideas and experiences about growing your own food. Taste samples. Visit www.15thousandfarmers.com

June 16 (Mon) **SOCIAL CHANGE BOOK CLUB.** Every third Monday, Heine Bros., 119 Chenoweth, 6PM. For book list, Visit www.greenlistlouisville.com

June 16 (Mon) **LABOR MUSIC LIVE.** Hear Anne Feeney, Brad Yoder and John Paul Wright at The Rudyard Kipling, 7PM. Anne Feeney's anthem "Have You Been to Jail for Justice?" is being performed by activists everywhere, including Peter, Paul and Mary. The Rudyard Kipling is located at 422 W Oak Street.

June 17 (Tues) **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WORKSHOP.** Every third Tuesday, 11AM to 1PM. Expressions Café at The Council on Developmental Disabilities. Learn how an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is prepared for a child with a disability. Address barriers to inclusion. Call 584-1239

June 17 (Tues) **GARDENING AND URBAN FARMING.** Portland Public Library, 6PM. Learn about container gardening and farming in vacant lots. Practical information about planting. Visit www.lfpl.org

June 18 (Wed) **INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB.** Main Public Library, Noon. Every third Wednesday. Read your way around the world. See the booklist at our webpage. Visit www.lfpl.org

June 19 (Thurs) **MENTAL ILLNESS SUPPORT & ADVOCACY.** NAMI Louisville every third Thursday at 3PM. Also Saturdays and Sundays. Support group for families. Draw on years of experience. Visit www.namilouisville.org

June 19 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH.** Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 11:30AM. Recognized speakers on compelling social, political and spiritual subjects. For more information, contact Cathy Ford, 458-1223, fordhoff@bellsouth.net or Polk Culpepper, 948-2077, cathyculpepper@insightbb.com

June 19 (Thurs) **FORsooth LABELING.** Presbyterian Seminary, Nelson Hall, Room 10. 6:30 PM. Every 3rd Thursday. We need volunteers! Many hands make light work, and the opposite is also true! So please join us if you can. Call 451-5658 for more information.

June 19 (Thurs) **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (CASA).** Orientation, Noon to 1PM. Learn how you can help defend the rights of abused and neglected children in our community. Call 595-4911 to RSVP

June 20 (Fri) **DAUGHTERS OF GREATNESS.** Muhammad Ali Center, 8:30AM to 10AM. Cathe Dykstra of Family Scholar House discusses her agency's work to end the cycle of poverty for single parents and their children. Visit <http://alicenter.org>

June 21 (Sat) **KENTUCKIANA PRIDE FESTIVAL.** Show that we value lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender members of our community just as much as anyone else. Entertainment, food, and drink. Visit <http://www.kypride.com/>

June 21 (Sat) **SICKLE CELL ASSOCIATION OF KENTUCKIA (SCAK)** Support group meeting on 3rd Saturdays at St. Stephen Church. Call 569-2070 to RSVP

June 22 (Sun) **OHIO RIVER SWEEP.** The Ohio River Valley Sanitation Commission. Join 18,000 volunteers from six states come together to collect more 7,000 tons of trash and debris. Visit <http://kwalliance.org>

June 23 (Mon) **ARABIC SALON.** Iroquois Public Library, 7PM. Readings from the literature of Arabic culture and tradition. Meet neighbors who originated in other countries. Visit www.lfpl.org

June 24 (Tues) **FREE NONPROFIT STARTUP CLINIC.** Center for Nonprofit Excellence, 3:30PM. Learn about the fundaments and how to avoid the pitfalls. Visit www.cnpe.org

June 24 (Tues) **GREEN NETWORKING.** Louisville Green Drinks, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Every 4th Tuesday. Meet ecology-minded business people. Exchange ideas. Visit www.greendrinks.org

June 25 (Wed) **GRANTMANSHIP BASICS.** Main Public Library, 6PM TO 8PM. Learn the research process, find resources, and write successful proposals. Visit www.lfpl.org

June 25 (Wed) **COMPASSIONATE LOUISVILLE.** Noon, meeting locations rotate. Help monitor the progress of Metro Louisville's ten-year campaign for compassion. Call 214-7322 for more information.

June 26 (Tues) **SPIRIT AND SUCCESS.** Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services, 5:30PM. Our annual celebration of the strength and courage of Louisville's refugees and those who empower them. Call 636-9786 for more information.

June 26 (Thurs) **MY RECEIPE FOR PEACE.** Interfaith Paths to Peace at Keneseth Israel Synagogue. Hear local community leaders share their recipes for peacemaking in their daily lives and enjoy the dinner they have prepared. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

June 28 (Sat) **SUPPLIES OVER SEAS RECYCLING.** SOS office in Clifton. 9AM. Help sort through surplus medical supplies for distribution to overseas agencies. Visit www.suppliesoverseas.org

June 28 to Aug 16 **APH FILM FESTIVAL.** American Printing House for the Blind Museum. Explore how blindness is depicted by Hollywood. Free. Call 899-2213 to RSVP.

OUT OF TOWN

June 2 (Mon) **KENTUCKY MIGRANT NETWORK COALITION.** Lexington KY at the Cardinal Valley Center, 12PM. Every first Monday. Get better acquainted with Kentucky's immigrant and refugee families. For more information, call 859-258-3824.

Jun 5 to 19 **KENTUCKY ACLU / FAIRNESS ORGANIZING MEETINGS.** A Kentucky law that would prohibit discrimination against LGBT people received its first-ever hearing in the House Judiciary Committee in March. Participate in meetings to build on that milestone in Berea, Elizabethtown, Morehead, Frankfort, and Campbellsville. Visit www.aclu-ky.org

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

June 14 (Fri) **GREEN RIVER FEST.** Join volunteers to clean up one of our nation's most biological diverse rivers. Free canoe rentals. Lunch and water bottles provided. Visit <http://kwalliance.org>

June 19 (Thurs) **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP.** KSU Research Farm, Frankfort, KY. Every third Thursday. Participate in efforts to develop local food economies in Kentucky. Visit www.communityfarmalliance.org

June 20 (Fri) **WORLD REFUGEE SUMMIT IN LEXINGTON.** Central Lexington Public Library, 9AM to 2PM. Learn more about the advantages and challenges of welcoming refugees into our community. Visit www.peaceandjusticeky.org

June 21 (Sat) **FOUR RIVERS WATERSHED WATCH TRAINING,** KY Division of Water at Murray Univ, 9AM to 3PM. Training for volunteers who conduct surveys on streams, rivers and lakes. For more information, call 800-928-0045

Please recycle FORsooth to a friend, and please ask her or him to do the same.