



Founded 1915



Harriett Comer and the FOR: 2 centuries of bold activism

By Margaret Comer

Harriett Malta Comer (nee Hardy) was born on June 22, 1914 in Scott County Indiana. She has been a member of the FOR since her twenties, and – like the FOR – turned 100 this year. As her daughter, I would like to tell her story:

Mom grew up on a farm in Scottsburg, Ind. where she worked alongside the men in the field and the dairy. She was active in school, 4-H and church. She has many early political memories including singing

“When Johnny Comes Marching Home” with the neighbors during WWI, women gaining the right to vote and her parents voting for Catholic Al Smith for president. After graduating from Butler University in 1934, she got her dream job: teaching first grade. She was soon also teaching kindergarten Sunday school, and did so well into her retirement.

Before WWII, Mom was becoming deeply disturbed about the upcoming war that would take the lives of cousins and friends. Mom’s New Albany friend Elizabeth Hartsfield persuaded her to attend an FOR meeting in Louisville. There, Mom met impassioned kindred spirits whose faith-filled words fueled and awakened in her a deep commitment to work toward the Gospel principles of peace and inclusion.



Margaret Comer

After that first meeting she hungrily read books circulating among members and continued to attend all meetings she was able to attend.

She had the chance to hear Muriel Lester and it was transforming to her. Through this deep soul searching she realized that she was being called to take an active stand against the status quo. Grounded in FOR principles, Mom began taking action in our conservative town of Scottsburg.

She insisted on donating the portion of her teaching paycheck that was allocated for war bonds to the FOR instead, despite the superintendent’s threats on her job security. She arranged to be guest speaker at local clubs presenting her anti-war message, and also invited a Louisville FOR member into her home to speak to the Scottsburg Rural Youth. Equally, Mom was concerned about integration. In Louisville she volunteered with Elizabeth at the Presbyterian Colored Missions. She incorporated FOR concepts in her Scottsburg kindergarten classroom, believing a war-free world and integrated world could begin with cooperative instead of competitive play and, a prejudice-free world could start with multicultural dolls. She studied cooperative games from cultures around the world and incorporated them. Her essay on how farmers could use FOR principles to help rebuild after the war won a writing contest.

All of this activity led in 1943 to an unusual calling for a woman at the time: to enter The College of the Bible in Lexington. Mom was one of several



Centenarian, Harriett Comer

members of that first Louisville FOR who embarked on a life of faith-based involvement. Elizabeth Hartsfield soon followed Mom to Lexington seminary and wrote a paper on women in the church that would be referenced for decades. Elizabeth also helped form progressive women’s church organizations on a national level, was active in peace and civil rights issues, and preached into her retirement.

Other members, Clarence and Florence Jordan graduated from seminary and returned to Georgia along with Martin and Mabel England to form the integrated Christian commune Koinonia, where they survived threats and cross burnings.

When Mom introduced me to a couple she’d known in those early years, I listened to their stories of civil rights actions in the 1940s. That early FOR folded in the 1940s. I am wondering if in part this was due to ones like Mom being called to move away from Louisville into deeper involvement. I realized the group didn’t fizzle out when gas rationing made meetings difficult to attend. It ignited when the war and segregation called members into deeper service.

In seminary, Mom took active advantage of the seminary pulpit to express her FOR-based beliefs in integration and peace.

In one sermon she examined a question that is often asked of God: “If you exist, why do you let war and inequality happen?” She viewed God’s response in a poem, *God Prays* by Angela Morgan: ““These things shall be/ nor help shall come from the darkened skies/ till the people rise!””

In 1944, Mom took a job as State Children’s Worker for the Christian Church that sent her all over Kentucky giving the Sunday sermon about children, forming modern Sunday schools, and helping churches rework their education programs. She was repeatedly told that she was the first woman ever to preach at the churches she visited. She traveled to rich, poor,

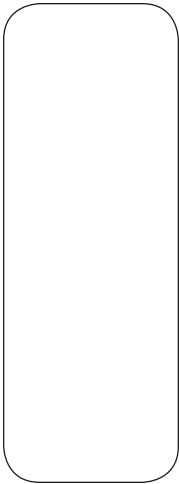
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Join the People’s Climate March, September 21

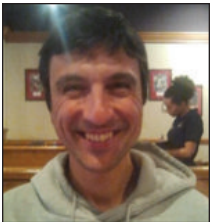
By Drew Foley and Avery Kolers

This is an invitation to change everything...

No more sitting on our hands, no more shrugging our shoulders. No more accepting elected leaders who fritter away our precious time and trifle with the lives of our children. Nothing less than a worldwide mass movement will finally turn the wheels of power.

On September 23, world leaders, including President Obama, are coming to New York City for a UN summit on the climate crisis. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is urging governments to support an ambitious global agreement to dramatically reduce global warming pollution.

So, with our future on the line and the whole world watching, we the people will take a stand to bend the course of history. On Sunday, September 21, we will take to the streets of New York to demand a world that we know is within our reach: a world with an economy that works for people and planet; a world that escapes the worst ravages of climate change; a world with good jobs, clean air and water, and healthy communities, both human and non-human. (See www.peoplesclimate.org.)



Drew Foley and Avery Kolers

Louisvillians (and Hoosiers) have two ways to pitch in: come to New York City, or join the Louisville mobilization.

Come to New York!

The Cumberland Chapter of Sierra Club and 350 Louisville are coordinating trips to New York:

(1) We are chartering buses to leave Louisville Saturday morning and return on Monday morning. Get your tickets here: www.eventjoy.com/e/kentucky-buses-to-peoples-climate-march-311374.

(2) For those who don’t ride the bus to New York, we are coordinating ride-shares. (Sorry, we’re not coordinating airplane-shares!)

(3) We are arranging free lodging for as many as 100 people (mostly floor-sleeping, I’m afraid). This boon is due to the awesome generosity of a group of Catholic sisters in New York, who were originally contacted by our own awesome Sisters of Loretto.

Louisville Mobilization!

Those who can’t go to New York can pitch in right here in Louisville on Sunday, September 21, at 12:30 pm. This march will be downtown, but the exact route had not been decided as of press time. (Join the “People’s Climate March Louisville Mobilization” on Facebook to get new details as they are set.)

This article is short on facts, short

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Phyllis Bennis: Policies launched here feed Gaza, Iraq carnage

The following is a phone interview between Phyllis Bennis of the Institute for Policy Studies and FORsooth editor John Hartmann which took place on July 31.

Phyllis Bennis directs the New Internationalism Project at IPS (Institute for Policy Studies). She is also a fellow of the Transnational Institute in Amsterdam. She has been a writer, analyst, and activist on Middle East and UN issues for many years. In 2001 she helped found and remains on the advisory board of the U.S. Campaign to End Israeli Occupation. She writes and speaks widely across the U.S. and around the world as part of the global peace movement. She continues to serve as an informal adviser to several top UN officials on Middle East and UN democratization issues.

John Hartmann (JH):

Phyllis, the situation in Gaza is horrible. What do we need to know about Gaza?

Phyllis Bennis (PB):

Well, I think the most important thing to know about Gaza is that Gaza is a tiny little snip of territory that is completely surrounded and besieged. Gaza is occupied. Israel and supporters of Israel will sometimes say Gaza is not occupied anymore because we withdrew the soldiers and the settlers back in 2005 but the reality is that while the settlers were in fact taken out, that most of them were resettled in equally illegal settlements in the West Bank. The soldiers were essentially redeployed, not removed. They were taken out of patrolling the streets of Gaza City and instead were assigned to patrolling the borders of Gaza. So at this point Israel controls the borders. Gaza is completely walled in except for the ocean. The ocean is patrolled by the Israeli navy, the skies are controlled by the Israeli air force, the border crossings are controlled by Israel and Egypt and Gazans have nowhere to run. They are walled in. It's like an ancient walled city under siege.

But that's the first thing. Gaza is still occupied. It's been besieged since 2007. Gazans cannot come and go. Goods cannot come and go. There is no economy to speak of in Gaza and as all of that was happening with all of the concomitant poverty, lack of sufficient electricity, lack of sufficient water, lack of sufficient medical care, lack of pretty much everything, on the day before this recent crisis began. So the conditions in Gaza have been horrific even before the current armed crisis began. And so when we hear about people saying well we just need to stop the violence I think the people in Gaza are not prepared to go back to the horrific conditions that they were facing before this particular crisis erupted. So, any ceasefire that's going to have any chance of lasting is going to have to include letting Gaza breathe, opening the crossings, opening the border controls, let Gazans in and out, let goods come and go. Then you can begin to think about what comes next.



Phyllis Bennis

JH: What else do you think is important for us to know about this situation?

PB: I think that on the other hand it's important to know the role of the United States. The US is enabling this catastrophe. We pay Israel starting with 3.1 billion dollars a year in military aid. It's more than any other country gets in economic or military aid anywhere in the world despite the fact that Israel is either the 23rd or the 26th wealthiest country in the world. We pay additional millions of dollars... hundreds of millions of dollars every year at the request of Congress for various Israeli military actions of various sorts. And, the combination of that and the fact that we provide absolute diplomatic and political support for Israel in the United Nations, so

that Israeli officials, military or political are never held accountable for their potential war crimes in the International Court of Justice or anywhere else. The effect of that is that the US is complicit in these war crimes. People all around the world blame the US for it and this is why. Not because people don't like the US but because we are enabling the Israelis to carry out these terrible atrocities.

JH: Phyllis, let's now talk about Iraq. What is going on there with ISIS? What is the situation in Iraq?

PB: The situation in Iraq is a disaster. This was something that was inevitably going to happen as a result of the US invasion and occupation that destabilized the whole country, destroyed the nationalist and secular parties and replaced them deliberately with a set of sectarian parties designed to keep the Iraqi people divided from each other. It led to one period of incredibly intense civil war in the period between about 2005 and 2008 and we're seeing the middle of another one right now with US-armed, US-trained military that is essentially one more Shia militia. And it's seen that way around the country. It's not seen as the national army that can stand above all the sectarian militias. It's just one more sectarian militia. It just happens to be better armed and have better uniforms because we provide them. This is a government based on corruption. It is a horrific situation and it is into that scenario that you have the rise of Islamist forces including most recently the rise of ISIS coming in from Syria where it has gained enormous strength fighting against the Syrian regime. At that time, ironically, a number of fighters that were in Syria came into Syria from Iraq where they had gotten training, they had gotten experience fighting against the US. Then went off to Syria to fight against the Assad regime. And, as new fighting broke out again in Iraq you see the traffic of fighters now moving back in the other direction. The border is essentially nonexistent at this point. The border between Iraq and Syria is not just porous but on one level might as well not even be there because fighters are able to go back and forth without any problem. So you have a tremendously difficult scenario where there is a regional struggle going on of sectarian forces backed by various governments in the region and the US throwing more and more arms at them as if that was going to make anything better. So, of course the US is now talking about sending bigger arms, stronger arms, more arms to the so-called moderate sector of the Syrian resistance. But the problem with that is even though everybody in the US government will say there is no military solution, they act as if there is a military solution and they are trying to win it militarily by sending more arms.

The reality is that the so-called moderate wing of the Syrian opposition has nowhere near the military capacity; not the training, not the arms, not the commitment, not the experience, not anything. The Islamist opposition that's been gaining experience for the last decade fighting against the US. So, the notion that somehow those weapons, particularly the dangerously if they send them these so-called MANPADS, the individually fired ground-to-air missiles that can take down a plane not so different than the kind of missiles that may have taken down the Malaysian aircraft. The notion that those weapons will remain under the control of the secular and moderate forces because they say they will is simply nonsense. They may want to keep it out of the hands of ISIS and other Islamist forces who they don't trust either but the notion that they could stop the other forces that are far better armed and stronger than they are from simply taking them just doesn't work and is not an argument that you can seriously make. So there is a need to be pushing the US. Right now there's a number of faith based organizations, there's a Nobel Peace laureate and other celebrities, signed on letters, all calling for an arms embargo against Israel which is very very important. We also need to work towards preventing any more arms from being sent to Syrian rebels that's only make this situation worse and not better.

JH: Phyllis is there anything else that's important in that area of the world that you would like to mention?

PB: There's a ton that's important! I will say one other thing and that is that there is a particular danger right now on the question of Palestine because the US is under special threat from Israel that if Israel gets angry enough at US on what they (Israel) define as US pressure in Gaza there is a fear that Israel could urge its supporters in the Congress, who are many and they are powerful, to really undermine the one area of potential success that the Obama administration has to look at which is the nuclear talks with Iran. Those talks are going well and there is absolutely a danger that Israel and its supporters could deliberately scuttle those talks by demanding new sanctions, by other things that would bring them to a screeching halt. The danger of that happening is greater if Israel reacts to US pressure around Gaza. So the Obama administration is in a very difficult position to try and balance those interests but that's one of the things that have to be made public that can only work if it can go on in private.

JH: Phyllis Bennis, thank you very much.

PB: You're welcome.

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.



FORsooth is published by the Louisville chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Send submissions for news stories or commentaries to John Hartmann, 220 Masonic Home Drive, Apt. 206, Masonic Home, KY 40041, e-mail: johart.john@gmail.com.

For subscriptions please contact David Horvath at dhorvath@fastmail.fm and please indicate whether you prefer an electronic edition, paper edition or both. (Electronic subscriptions save us printing costs.)

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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



Harriett Comer with Scottsburg first grade boys, school year 1940-41. This was the period she first joined the FOR

Why Should Louisville Care about Palestine?

By Matt Bewley

Imagine you are young, throwing rocks into a pond. Each rock makes a splash from which rippling waves emanate in circles. Perhaps if you throw a large enough rock, you would see many different-sized circles enlarging as they travel farther away. You are thrilled at the sight. What power you have to make waves!

Love also emanates in ever expanding circles. Our love for humanity should expand outward naturally, as ripples in

This love of people is the primary reason we should care about Palestinians, even though we live in faraway Louisville. As a compassionate city, we should be able to conceive of loving each and every Palestinian life as we do all human life.

Furthermore, as persons of compassion and justice, we must align ourselves primarily with the poor and marginalized of the world, those who suffer the greatest. This is an even more essential reason why we must care for Palestine.

Palestinians are certainly marginalized.



water do. When you are a child, you begin by loving your inner circle. These are people with whom you are closest, such as your parents and siblings. As your circles of love expand outward, by learning to love friends and acquaintances, you begin to empathize with humanity. You begin to love people of all races and religions.

I have seen their suffering while I was working in the crowded refugee camps of the West Bank. The refugees live in cramped mazes of poorly constructed concrete structures the United Nations built for them long ago. Schools and services are stretched thin.

I met a man named Muhammad, in Al-Azzah camp in Bethlehem. He lives in a small apartment with his wife, his mother, his nine children and his brother’s entire family. The dwelling’s windows are mostly broken, exposing them to the outside air. He sells tea at all hours along the roadside just to get by.

As refugees in the camp, Muhammad’s family has access to only one hospital, but its services often are not enough. His daughter died of an epileptic disorder because the hospital could not adequately treat her. Yasmin was four years old.

How did we get Palestinian refugee camps?

Palestinian refugee camps have existed since 1948 in Gaza, the West Bank, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan.

In 1948, in creating the state of Israel, Jewish forces terrorized and forcibly removed over 700,000 Palestinians from their villages and expelled them from Palestine. These Jewish forces (that would become the Israeli army) massacred thousands of people. It was a systematic plan of expulsion that eradicated 400 Palestinian villages.

Because Israel desired to create a Jewish majority in its newly conquered land, the Israeli government refused — and still refuses — to readmit Palestinian refugees, effectively banishing them forever. This is ethnic cleansing.

The resulting Palestinian refugee population has now grown to around five million, the largest refugee population in the world. Refugees I have talked with still long to go home to their villages. Muhammad certainly does.

Additionally, Israel has militarily occupied Gaza and the West Bank since the Six-Day War in 1967, denying those Palestinians equal rights within the state of Israel, while also denying them a separate Palestinian state of their own.

Context like this is vital to the

Palestinian story, because many Americans are not familiar with it. A deep understanding of someone often compels us to have compassion for them.

To come to the present, what is the context for what has happened in Gaza?

Gaza is home to about 1.8 million people. Half of the population are children. Up to 40 percent of the employable population of Gaza are unemployed. According to the United Nations, 900,000 people (more than the population of Louisville) do not have access to clean drinking water.

Conversely, Israel is a top world military power. For the last month, Israel has mercilessly bombed the densely populated territory of Gaza. Israel has bombed civilians, schools, homes and hospitals. Over 150,000 Palestinians have been displaced from their homes by the bombing.

An Israeli blockade of Gaza has crippled its economy since 2007. The International Committee of the Red Cross wrote that, “The whole of Gaza’s civilian population is being punished for acts for which they bear no responsibility. The closure therefore constitutes a collective punishment imposed in clear violation of Israel’s obligations under international humanitarian law.”

Israel and its ally Egypt control Gaza’s borders and seacoast, preventing travel out of Gaza. Israel will not allow Gaza to have an airport or seaport. Palestinian fisherman cannot fish farther than three miles off the shore of Gaza. If they go farther out, Israeli snipers fire upon them from naval vessels.

Though Gaza is far, it is imperative to remind ourselves of a concern for people

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Matt Bewley

Israel targets civilians in Gaza, kills 400 children

By Russ Greenleaf

Originally published in the *Courier-Journal*, on July 26, 2014, with the title, “Make no mistake: Israel is targeting citizens in Gaza.” Updated for *FORsooth* on August 6, 2014

When John Kerry said, “some pinpoint operation,” he was asking the obvious question: Why is it that over one third of the people that Israel recently killed in Gaza are women and children? That’s more than 400 children. If Israel was trying to avoid hitting civilians, why are over 70% of the casualties civilians?



Russ Greenleaf

Israel claims it is because Hamas was using civilians as human shields, but UN investigators disproved that claim when Israel made the same claim in 2009. The real explanation is much simpler: Israel was not really trying to avoid killing civilians.

Israel bombed densely populated areas. It’s warnings to civilians were inadequate and ineffective. A video shows Israel bombing a home 57 seconds after a warning was given — not enough time to escape the blast. Israel told 100,000 Palestinians to evacuate their homes at once -- an impossible task in a war zone.

The warnings were mostly for show. Israel publicized them to try to excuse its indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas. Indiscriminate bombing of civilian areas meets the definition of a war crime.

And there is plenty of evidence (from Israeli journalist Gideon Levy and others) that Israel deliberately targeted civilians. That is also a war crime. An Israeli drone targeted a taxi and killed a family of four. A navy ship targeted and killed four Palestinian children playing on the beach. (The navy has admitted it saw the children.)

Israel targeted a hospital and a nursing home, even after the doctors inside called the Israeli army and pleaded with them not to bomb them. Israel targeted three UN shelters crowded with women and children.

The real question is: why would Israeli soldiers deliberately target civilians? It turns out that extremist rabbis instructed Israeli soldiers to show no mercy to civilians, even children. The instructions are in a pamphlet called, “The King’s Torah,” which was distributed to soldiers. (The pamphlet is available on the internet, and in an article in the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, “The King’s Torah: a rabbinical text or a call to terror?”)

The attitude of showing no mercy to civilians is present in many Israeli soldiers today. It has been reported by the soldiers themselves, in a counseling program in Israel called “Breaking the Silence.”

Israel has the most precise weapons in the world. If it were really trying to avoid civilian deaths, would 70 percent of the dead be civilians?

The reality is: 1.8 million Palestinians are being held captive by Israel inside Gaza, and Israel was bombarding them with the most advanced weapons in the world, supplied by the United States. Human rights groups and people of all faiths were calling for an immediate end to this cruel slaughter of defenseless people.

But wasn’t Israel just trying to stop the rockets from Gaza?

No. Israel can easily stop the rockets from Gaza at any time by simply negotiating a truce with Hamas, which it did in 2012. Hamas obeyed that truce. Israel violated it frequently. Hamas has consistently called for a return to that truce (in which Israel had agreed to allow humanitarian supplies into Gaza.)

But didn’t Hamas start this war by firing rockets at Israel?

No. Israel started this war by invading the West Bank on June 14, 2014 in retaliation for the kidnapping of three settlers who were hitchhiking. In that invasion, Israel



Palestinian baby killed by Israeli bombing of Gaza

#GazaUnderAttack Live Blog

killed seven Palestinians, invaded and ransacked hundreds of Palestinian homes, and kidnapped hundreds of Palestinians.

In response, Hamas retaliated by firing rockets from Gaza, which killed no one. Israel used those non-lethal rockets as an excuse to launch its massive bombardment of Gaza that killed over 1,800 Palestinians, 70% of them civilians.

That disproportionate military response by Israel is also a war crime. That is why people of all faiths, including many Jews, are calling for the US to end military aid to Israel.

But aren’t the rockets from Gaza a real threat to Israel?

Not really. The rockets from Gaza are small and inaccurate. Even if hundreds are fired, most land in empty fields. They almost never kill anyone. And Israel can stop them anytime it wants, by simply negotiating a truce.

Then why was Israel bombing Gaza?

The bombing of Gaza was a con-

tinuation of Israel’s 66-year-long policy of driving the native Palestinians out of their homes and taking their land. Israel is doing to the Palestinians the same thing that was done to the Native Americans a hundred years ago. The proper term for it is ethnic cleansing. That too is a war crime, and a crime against humanity.

Russ Greenleaf is a Jewish peace activist and writer. He is a member of Louisville Jewish Voice for Peace, the Louisville Fellowship of Reconciliation, and the Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East.

This article is endorsed by: Louisville Jewish Voice for Peace, the Louisville Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), the Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East, Louisville Students for Justice in Palestine, and the Louisville Committee for Israeli and Palestinian States.

JCPS farcical negotiations deny support teachers need

By Flaco Aleman

My name is Flaco Aleman, and I am the Executive Director of Kentucky Jobs with Justice. Kentucky Jobs with Justice is a coalition of faith, labor, and community organizations across the state of Kentucky. I speak on behalf of this coalition and our over 10,000 activists across the state.

As a parent with a child who just graduated from Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS), another child who will be graduating in two years, and a third child who will be going into JCPS in a few years, I know how important the people who take part in educating my children are. I value every teacher, every assistant teacher, every clerk, every bookkeeper, every bus driver, and every employee who works in JCPS.

Of utmost importance are the current contract negotiations between JCPS and the teachers, represented by the Jefferson County Teachers Association (JCTA). Of equal importance are the wage-opener negotiations between JCPS and the Classified Employees, represented by the Jefferson County Association of Educational Support Personnel / American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (JCAESP-AFSCME) Local 4011.

As you may or may not know, the current contract negotiations with JCTA & wage-opener negotiations with JCAESP are not negotiations at all. They are, in reality, a farce, and nothing more than an opportunity for the JCPS negotiation team to figuratively



Bonifacio “Flaco” Aleman

slap every teacher, assistant teacher, classroom assistant, clerk, bookkeeper, and technical employee in the face. The fact that the JCPS bargaining team refuses to budge and negotiate is reprehensible, deplorable, and an embarrassment to JCPS, to Louisville, and to every parent with a child in JCPS.

As it stands, JCPS utterly refuses to offer anything over the one percent raise mandated by law to our teachers and classified employees, who are tasked with educating our children in a world where standards are fluid, competition is at an all-time high, and parents’ expectations are at new heights. As a point of reference, a one percent raise on an annual salary of \$15,000 (the average starting salary for classified employees) is only \$150 a year, or about \$3 a week.

JCPS further wants to freeze the step raises and take away the “me too clause” from Classified Employees -- from the very folks who work alongside our teachers, are subjected to physical violence, and who work for such low wages that only someone who loves our children would show up every day, knowing that they could make more in the fast food industry. Our teachers and classified workers deserve fair pay and a fair contract.

Data submitted by JCPS to the Kentucky Department of Education (KDE) reveal that while student enrollment in JCPS grew from last school year to this year, the superintendent actually eliminated 548 classroom teacher positions. Another fact that you should know is that due to retirement savings outpacing the cost of step increases, the average teacher salary in JCPS actually decreased by \$115 per year.



While it is useful and wonderful to purchase the old Presbyterian Community Center, more schools and more administrative buildings do not an education make. A happy employee is a productive employee.

Today, I implore you to join us in saying to the JCPS Board of Education: we demand that you (Jefferson County Board of Education) direct the JCPS Chief Financial Officer, Cordelia Hardin, to present to you a transparent and accurate budget, which reflects the real numbers and figures to show how fair raises will factor into the budget, and that you (Jefferson County Board of Education) direct the JCPS Superintendent Donna Hargens and the bargaining team to actually negotiate and bargain with both JCTA and JCAESP-AFSCME Local 4011,

who represent our teachers and classified employees, and to resolve these matters in a timely fashion.

You can send both the Jefferson County Board of Education and the JCPS Superintendent emails directly from our website: www.kyjjw.org

Bonifacio “Flaco” Aleman is the Executive Director of Kentucky Jobs with Justice. He holds an undergraduate degree in Social Work from Spalding University, with an emphasis in community organizing. He also serves on the Board of Directors of Sowers of Justice Network. He has three children, ages 18, 16, and 2 months. You can follow him on Twitter/@flacozbrain

Casa Materna – maternal care and moral support in rural Nicaragua

By Kitty Madden

It was Halloween night that the first baby was born – a hallowed night indeed for the Casa Materna in Matagalpa. As Catholics in Nicaragua prepared to celebrate All Saints’ Day, 32-year-old Erminia Ochoa gave to the light (the Spanish expression for birthing) her sixth daughter.

I can still see the happy gleam in Erminia’s eyes as we sat together on the bed with little Gloria (named for the Spanish physician on our team).

“I still can’t believe how lucky we were to come to the Casa Materna,” Erminia said. And we, too, felt lucky that she was the one to help us initiate this special project for high-risk pregnant women from the rural



Kitty Madden (right) with mother and newborn

areas. Sent from the Regional Hospital because she had come “too early” and there were neither beds nor food, Erminia had been dreading the trip home over rough roads back to her home in rural Susuli. In reality, her timing was great as we had just met with the hospital administrators, who were thrilled that we were opening our doors because less resources had forced them to cut their maternity beds from 50 to 25.

Sitting with Erminia and baby Gloria my thoughts went back to a meeting with another young Nicaraguan mother, Mary Ann Jackman. I first met Mary Ann in Ann Arbor, Michigan, in 1985. A 26-year-old sociologist working with Nicaraguan

campesinos displaced by the U.S.-backed contra war, Mary Ann quickly drew me into her world and her work. As she recounted the horrors of destruction and mutilation, I felt a growing desire to help rebuild and heal what my country was intentionally destroying.

Mary Ann’s invitation to me was simple: “Come and be with us so together we can help others know this war must end.”

Arriving in Matagalpa in early 1986, I was warmly welcomed into the lives and hearts of the people. With them I learned a new language. I was carefully taught that people are more important than possessions and status, and that slow can indeed be beautiful and most often healthier than fast.

Together with Mary Ann I also learned to mourn as my friends’ lives were brutally ended by bullets and bombs and land-mines made in the United States. At the end of my eight-month leave from my teaching at Siena Heights College in Michigan, with Mary Ann’s encouragement, I decided to stay on, not knowing that my deepest mourning was yet to come.

In January of 1987 I received a call. Mary Ann had been in a serious accident and was in a coma. She was only 27, the mother of two little girls and six months pregnant. Five days later Mary Ann and her unborn son were dead.

Gradually, out of the shared pain of our loss, a small collective of Mary Ann’s friends began to meet and address some of the needs of the people in rural Matagalpa to whom she had been so dedicated. Though many women still give birth at home with traditional midwives, high-risk women need to come to the city to birth at the regional hospital. For most women this means hours, sometimes days, of travel over rivers and rough roads, often with unreliable or no transport.

The idea of a casa materna (maternity house) was conceived to assist women with high-risk pregnancies. Through initial help



Expectant women at Casa Materna

from the people of Spain we purchased a house and an ambulance. Assistance was provided by the Cuban government, by groups from the U.S., from the Maryknoll community in Nicaragua and by women from Britain’s Greenham Common peace camp.

A Follow-Up Program

For years, we at the Casa watched as the total number of women grew from 2,000 in 1995 to 16,825 at present. Every year we asked, “But how can we do follow-up with so many women?” Then it dawned on us – even though we couldn’t visit all of the mothers, we could visit some of them. Thus, the follow-up project was conceived.

In early 2003, Casa promotoras, Rosa Lanzas and Socorro Urbina, with back-up assistance of our nurse educator Marcia Valdivia, ventured out into the mountainous rural Matagalpa communities to see how our Casa mothers and their children were doing. Together with the staff, they developed an initial survey that would help provide key insights into present conditions. They also encouraged the mothers to make critical input into the decisions that would guide future follow-up education and support of other women back in their home communities.

At present the Follow-Up program includes over 400 mothers from 12 rural communities. To date over 50 mothers have received leadership training for the local groups, some now passing this role of service on to others. These mother

leaders gather together twice a year at the Casa Materna to evaluate previous work and make a plan for the next 6 months. As communities feel able to continue on their own, other new groups are added.

The gatherings include educational sessions with topics such as: alternatives to violence; use and preparation of natural medicines; good nutrition; prevention of adolescent pregnancies; early identification and treatment of cervical cancer; regular breast exams; family planning; health care for children; HIV-AIDS prevention, identification and treatment.

Circles of support are a vital and indispensable part of our work. Whether gathering to share information or for moral support, these face to face meetings remind us that we are all part of a much larger circle of care for mothers giving birth in the most tenuous circumstances.

Nicaraguan Decrease in Maternal Death

1990 – 190 maternal deaths/
100,000 live births
2010 – 86.4/100,000 live births
2012 – 50.6/100,000 live births
1991-2013 – Casa Materna
2 maternal deaths/16,825 deliveries

How to Help

Form a Circle of Support in your local community to raise awareness & create long lasting relationships with the Casa Materna Stay with us at the Casita – our bed and Breakfast in Matagalpa

Make tax deductible donations. Donations can be made online through our website (www.casamaterna.org) or mailed to:

Friends of the Casa Materna
PO Box 7476
Detroit, MI 48207-0476

Kitty Madden is a volunteer social worker and fundraiser for Casa Materna in Matagalpa Nicaragua. She lives in Nicaragua and has been working with the Casa project for 28 years. She can be reached at kittynewmoon@gmail.com or Apartado Postal #262, Matagalpa, Nicaragua.

Renewable energy, capital for Africa’s growing economies

By Randy Nichols

At the time of this writing, the news media has been focused on the issues with Israel, Russia and Malaysia. One of the major international activities that is also going on is the U.S-Africa Business Forum. Former New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg, through his Bloomberg Philanthropies and the U.S. Department of Commerce are co-hosting this business summit.

The importance of a conference such as this is that many people do not realize or understand that ninety percent of the world’s natural resources wealth (i.e. gold, uranium, oil, etc) is located on the African continent. The business forum seeks to have people and organizations look to various nations in Africa and identify and explore investment potential as ten African nations are among the fastest growing global economies. The forum session included a panel discussion hosted by former President Bill Clinton with the CEOs of Dow Chemicals, Wal-Mart and GE and a couple of African CEOs discussed the need to provide trade and other business opportunities on the African continent. The forum not only offered information on business opportunities but how America and other nations can help African countries to develop opportunities to educate and train African youth to be prepared to work in the technology based global economy. The panel raised the issue of infrastructure and how alternative energy sources such as wind and solar could be developed as a way of making many of those African nations more attractive to investors and capital markets. This also can provide entrepreneurial ventures as the coming workforce can be trained to work in this field as well as create their own business opportunities.

The U.S. is working with the African Development Bank to help increase opportunities to improve roads, bridges and other infrastructure needs that in turn will create jobs and provide incentives and opportunities for young entrepreneurs to get involved in. President Obama and Vice-President Biden are also among the presenters at the conference. President Obama spoke to a group of young African entrepreneurs to offer this nation’s support for the idea of assisting African nations and to highlight some of the entrepreneurial opportunities many of those young people are already involved in.

The conference explained that less than one percent of the world’s private equity funding is given to Africa and if those nations are going to grow and develop, there needs to be more effort placed on the investment in African nations to help make their companies more productive and efficient as a way of increasing the amount of private equity being invested there. While there may be a greater risk in investing in emerging nations and their companies, the growth potential presents a great return on investment as the chairman of Blackstone Group (a private equity firm) observed.

The focus of the conference is to provide financial and business assistance for African nations, the other benefit is that their economic advancement will help to create jobs and other positives here in the U.S. Working together in this manner offers paths to financial and political stability on both sides of the Atlantic.

Randy Nichols, Ph.D. is a member of FORsooth’s editorial staff and holds a doctorate in business management/entrepreneurship. He can be contacted at randynic@gmail.com



Randy Nichols

Racial double standards and the ‘card’ conversation stopper

By Tom Louderback

No One Wants to Talk About Race, Why Not?

Pulitzer Prize columnists like Eugene Robinson of The Washington Post can really make you think sometimes. That’s something you might ordinarily expect. But, one particular column published on May 26th gave us even more than thought-provoking ideas. This time he offered some practical advice that related to local issues as well as national issues.

As he wrote, “Whenever I write about race, some readers react with one or the other of these end-of-discussion criticisms. Some people believe, or pretend to believe, that mentioning race in almost any context is ‘playing the race card.’

As for their “you can’t call me a racist” put-downs, “I go out of my way not to do that. Alright, I did make an exception for Cliven Bundy and Donald Sterling ... but I think most would agree that I was on solid ground. Their own words and actions proved my point. In general, I try to focus on what a person does or says rather than speculate on what he or she is.”

These two conversation stoppers sound familiar to many of us. We’ve heard them so many times; we just want to cover our ears. Hardly anyone pays attention anymore when right-wing U.S. Supreme Court justices say our country doesn’t need Affirmative

Action. Whatever these justices think, it’s pretty obvious they don’t want to talk about race or anything related to race. Their court decisions seem to swing between denials of racism in our institutions and culture on the one hand; and their paranoid effort to prevent plaintiffs from “playing the race card” on the other.

We see these conversation stoppers in many other places, too. All we need do is look around our own community, Metro Louisville. Like those right-wing U.S. Supreme Court justices, it appears our community has applied conversation stoppers several times in recent years. Ignoring the issue.

Let’s begin with the ethics complaint against former-Metro Council member Judy Green in 2011 (since deceased). Green was obviously very angry when she was brought before the Metro Ethics Commission. Was her anger justified? The local media didn’t think so and it showed. When Green’s supporters complained about racism and a double-standard, the media merely reported their words. No one asked why they thought there was racism. It seemed to be widely assumed they were just playing the race card.

No one wanted to even consider the possibility of institutional racism. For example, the Metro Council’s Code of Ethics allows many loopholes. There were a number of questions worth asking. Does the Metro Council’s ethics process discourage

complaints in favor of the status and power of the suspect? Is that effect disproportionate by race? Might a process that panders to power also indulge institutional racism? When does favoritism become racism? Green and her supporters gave us plenty to think about, but apparently most of us were not interested.

Veiled Intimidation

Over a year later, all the African American council members serving at the time voted against expelling their colleague, Barbara Shanklin. Two white members joined them. Shanklin was the second African American brought up on ethics charges within three years. The local media appeared to be a little kinder to Shanklin than they’d been towards Green. This might have been because Shanklin handled her media relations better. Their reaction to the vote for Shanklin’s survival was harshly critical, however.

As for those who voted for Shanklin, none offered an explanation; except for David James. What he had to say was short and sweet. “It wasn’t about race” he explained during his press conference. Those who voted for Shanklin just interpreted the evidence differently, he said. In all honesty, that wasn’t much of an explanation.

Some obvious questions were ignored by the media. Did these council members feel

(continued on page 6)

THIRD THURSDAY LUNCHES

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation

September-November 2014

September 18 Europe’s Shift to the Far-Right, and the Fightback

Ira Grupper, Journalist & Activist

Ira Grupper is a journalist, labor union activist and former Commissioner of the Metro Louisville Human Relations Commission. He spent five weeks in Europe this past Spring, examining **the anti-immigration movement in Europe** and the opposition to it. What is behind this anti-immigrant vehemence and how is the U.S. involved?

October 16 What We Can Do to Prevent Louisville’s #1 Cause of Violent Death

Gage Donohue, Louisville Chapter, American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

Every year, in Louisville and across the nation, suicide takes the lives of twice as many people as homicide. It is often preventable. Gage Donohue, **Founder of the Louisville Chapter of the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention**, will discuss how to identify people who may be at risk of committing suicide and the steps our community can take to help prevent this deadly act – especially among our young people.

November 20 Changing the World by Showing Up for Racial Justice

Carol Kraemer and Carla F Wallace

“Where are the white people organizing other white people for racial justice?” Longtime activists Carol Kraemer and Carla Wallace will share their work as co-conveners of **Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ)**. SURJ is a national network that, through community organizing and education, moves white people to act as part of a multiracial majority to challenge racism. It provides a space to build relationships, develop skills and act for change.

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

For reservations, contact Cathy Ford at 458-1223 or
fordhoff@bellsouth.net by Tuesday before the lunch

Through patience, we can transform our fears into courage

By Michael Whiting

Dive deep, O mind, dive deep
In the ocean of God’s beauty;
If you descend to the uttermost depths,
There you will find the gem of love.
— Bengali Hymn

For inspiration for what you want to do with your life, other people’s experience is often an invaluable aid. There is a pantheon of great personalities from all the world’s peoples to choose from, people who have sought to go beyond living for just themselves and their own wants and needs. It was an extraordinary person from modern times who caught my attention. Mahatma Gandhi worked 15 hours a day for 50 years to nonviolently liberate his people from foreign domination. He tried to answer all his correspondence, and his collected written works comprise 90 volumes! His reputation is one of great courage. What is unknown to most of us today is that he had to overcome many fears, ranging from being afraid of the dark, ghosts and snakes. After studying in London to become a lawyer, he returned to India to practice law. He was ashamed to realize that he was afraid to speak in public. Life had a way of conspiring to place him in difficult situations. After a while, Gandhi began to look forward to great challenges and embrace them. “Swaraj” is the basic core principle of the Gandhian vision of justice and peace. Swaraj is an ancient Sanskrit term composed of the particle “swa (or sva)” which means “self” or “one’s own,” and “raj” which means “rule.” “Self-rule” or self-restraint is the basis for human liberation from the influence of outward control

over the mind, as well as the starting point for nonviolent coexistence in society at large. The premise is that when a person is able to control his or her thoughts and desires, the inherent sense of connectedness or unity will be free to operate. He or she will spontaneously act in ways which are more beneficial to others as well as to him or herself. Like most of Gandhi’s key terms, swaraj was meant to be applied on various levels. Thus, along with the basic, just-mentioned meaning, it could and did mean political independence from foreign rule. What is patience? It is the capacity to accept or tolerate delay, trouble, or suffering without getting angry or upset. Is anyone born with patience in this age of anger? We don’t expect it of ourselves, but we demand it from others. What kind of accomplishments of any lasting value in human affairs, in small or large circles can be accomplished without patience? Erica Chenoweth and Maria Stephan, both authorities on the strategic logic of nonviolent conflict, for example, identify impatience as the major reason for the failure of most civil resistance movements in the world today. As I have wondered what part patience plays in the schema of justice and peacemaking, I have thought that the whole magnificent field of human potential is highlighted by that question. Gandhi has stated that if we could change ourselves, the tendencies in the world would also change. As a person changes his or her own nature, so does



Michael Whiting

the attitude of the world change with them. We need not wait to see what others do. Selfless action was one of the major focuses of Gandhi’s life. Always open to experimenting with truth, he was ready to change his tactics completely for the sake of the freedom movement’s goals. Long, drawn out campaigns were par for the course. Taking the easier route to victory was what most of Gandhi’s associates advised him to do. It never worked. Instead, he expounded the need for daily discipline as a fundamental requirement to attain freedom. It requires practicing patience with oneself by first starting to make wise choices for one’s physical well-being. Gandhi said that training the palate and making time for regular physical exercise in moderation are invaluable aids in learning to train the mind. That’s only the beginning though. The regular sincere, sustained and systematic practice of meditation is absolutely the essential ingredient for attaining freedom, both personally and collectively. Meditation is not a religion. It is a dynamic discipline for bringing the furious speed of the mind to a complete stillness, gradually and over a long period of time. When the mind is still, the knowledge of who you really are and what your existence is about is revealed. When this happens your life will become a permanent force for good. Meditation is a not a bubble bath, even though it can be refreshing. If we persist in meditation, we will see clearly the epic battle taking place 24/7 in our own consciousness. We are bound to come face-to-face with the enemy within: our self-will and our ego. As daunting as this sounds, this should appeal to our sense of daring. In the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, it will

allow us to access great resources from within ourselves to conquer anger, greed and fear of all descriptions. Eknath Easwaran, author of “Gandhi, the Man,” said, “In meditation we are going deep into ourselves, into the utter solitude that is within. As a counterbalance to this, it is necessary to be with people, to laugh with them, to sing with them, and to enjoy the healthy activities of life. Meditation and selfless action go hand in hand. When we try to live more for others than for ourselves, this will deepen our meditation. When we deepen our meditation, we will increasingly release the energy with which we can love and help others.” Patience will be part of that energy. (More insights from Easwaran can be found at: www.easwaran.org and www.mettacenter.org). Gandhi embodied these verses of scripture from the Bhagavad Gita: “They serve friend and foe with equal love, and they are not buoyed up by praise or cast down by blame. Alike in heat and cold and pleasure and pain. Free from selfish attachment and self-will. They are ever full, and live in harmony everywhere because they are firm in faith.” Patience is a fruit that can be enjoyed in season and out of season by means of our own individual compassionate experiments with truth. Patience will allow us to meet life with all its challenges, and we will witness our fears gradually being transformed into courage. I will try to be patient. 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

What’s in Louisville’s housing study – and what’s missing

By Misty Trunnell

The Louisville Metro Housing Authority (LMHA) is choosing to participate in the “Housing Choice Voucher Rent Reform Study,” a study which will set a minimum rent of \$75 for the chosen 1,000 households. It also will eliminate any deductions, which 93.3 percent of households currently receive. It will also change recertification periods to triennially instead of annually. This plan disproportionately affects low-income people of color as well as single-parent households. Eighty-two percent of LMHA’s clients are black, 10 percent are white, and 8 percent are listed as “other.” Their average annual income is \$12,076 per year. Forty-three percent of the housing population are children, and 94 percent of the households are run by single individuals. Some who are exempted from participating in the program are: heads-of-household over age 56 or disabled; heads-of-household participating in the Homeownership or Family Self-Sufficiency Programs; and families in certain project-based environments.



Misty Trunnell

A one-time childcare deduction will be allowed at recertification. This will be on a six-month «grace period» and will include only the portion of childcare expenses in excess of \$200 per month per child for children 12 or under. LMHA admits in its “2015 Fiscal Year Annual Moving to Work Plan” that «eliminating deductions may affect the housing subsidies of some households more than others,» and «those with large families and high deductions for childcare costs will likely find that, at their current income levels, their subsidies are reduced.» LMHA offers no solution to those families other than suggesting that families may increase their earnings, and that by having triennial certifications, they would be allowed to keep the differences in income, which would allow them more resources to cover their childcare costs. Currently households with three or more children make up 27.2 percent of all working-age non-disabled households. Let’s assume that a single-parent family whose head-of-household was not currently working, and had three children under age 12, were to go get a full-time minimum-wage job. This individual would make approximately \$1,257 a month, would have to pay \$600 a month out-of-pocket for childcare before any deductions were applied, and could be left with rent as high as \$352 per month. Between childcare and rent alone, expenses would have already consumed 75 percent of this family’s income. If all childcare expenses were exempt (as they should be if this program is expected to incentivize work,) it would free up 47 percent of this household’s income for other expenses, including utilities, increased

transportation costs for work, higher food costs, and saving for the future. Furthermore, currently 50.6 percent of the households in LMHA are headed by individuals with no earned income. In the Housing Choice Voucher Rent Reform Study, LMHA will notify heads of households of their rental changes at their next recertification, so families will have a thirty-day notice of rental increases. This doesn’t allow enough time for an individual who may not have a high-school diploma or GED, or job-readiness skills, or adequate transportation or childcare, to feasibly obtain a job and receive a paycheck in time to start paying rent. There will be hardship waivers, but the guidelines on these waivers are vague. A hardship waiver will be granted to those who: have a financial hardship that cannot be remedied by an interim certification to reduce their rent (but not below the minimum rent); are paying more than 40 percent of their monthly gross income in rent; face eviction due to non-payment of rent; or other circumstances that LMHA deems necessary.



It is important to note that LMHA could decide not to offer a hardship waiver to an individual who is taking more than the 30 days allocated to find employment. The best way to continue on with LMHA’s proposed changes is to allow a longer period of time to obtain employment, and to assist with adequate transportation, childcare, and other needs for employment. A three-month notice could be adequate to allow enough time to find employment. LMHA could possibly add assistance with finding employment, childcare, and transportation to individuals who haven’t been able to find employment in the first month. LMHA should also offer a childcare deduction for the full

amount as long as the family is paying childcare costs. Anything less is setting the program up for failure, needlessly causing a hardship to many families and dis-incentivizing work. Misty Trunnell is a Board Member at Women in Transition, (WIT). Misty is a full-time student studying Political Science. She has been a volunteer as a Campaign Leader with WIT for over a year now and joined the Board of Directors in December 2013. WIT has allowed her the opportunities to speak publicly about issues affecting the poor, meet many other social justice organizers, and even attend significant events like the 50th Anniversary March on Washington. WIT is a grassroots organization run by and for poor people working to create a world in which everyone’s economic human rights are provided as defined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. For more information: go to witky.org, visit us on Facebook at [facebook.co 2m/witky](https://www.facebook.com/2m/witky), or call us at 502-636-0160. Misty can be reached at misty.trunnell@gmail.com

Racial double standards (continued from page 5)

intimidated by either media or public opinion? Were they concerned about their working relationships with their white colleagues? Outright Intimidation Within a few weeks of James’ press conference, a remark by Council member Mary Woolridge was publically characterized by her white colleague Kelly Downard as reverse racism. That drew a newspaper story on October 19, 2013 and this headline – Barbara Shanklin ouster vote was directly affected by race councilmen claim. Inside the story, it was also reported that some other Council members thought Woolridge was merely expressing her frustration with the process. Here’s what Woolridge said according to the news stories. “I will never vote again to remove another African-American from Council.” This looks like an incomplete sentence. Note that Woolridge does not explain why she thinks what she said. Her remark might have continued with the conjunctive adverb “because.” She obviously stopped short. Woolridge’s reaction to Downard’s attack was conciliatory.” I think it’s time for all members of Council, including Kelly Downard, all of us to move on.” Like James, she had apparently decided not to say anything more.

A Bureaucratic Reaction Community Activist Janice Rucker was bolder than either James or Woolridge. In filing her ethics complaints against two white Metro Council members, Jim King and Tom Owen, late last year, she declared without reluctance – “when you deal in millions, you get away with it, and when you deal in thousands you don’t.” Her opinion is clear. Like Green’s supporters, she obviously believes there is a double-standard in the Metro Council’s ethics process. Commissioner Jonathan Rickett’s remark seemed to indicate an interest in examining the issues Rucker raised. “I think a business owner should be apprised of what his business is doing.” That remark also reminds us of the old Watergate era mantra, “What did the President know, and when did he know?” That famous question was posed to witness John Dean by US Senator Howard Baker as millions watched on TV. Ever since, Baker’s question has been a metaphor for persistent prosecution. That enthusiasm did not last very long, though. During a second meeting, the commissioners dismissed the case for lack of hard evidence. We can see the flaws in the Metro ethics process at work again here. The complainant was expected to conduct a professional investigation without resources and the time limit on filing complaints is short. Rucker lost, but she might have inspired a cause.

What the Voters Say On Primary Election Day last May, the voters of the Metro Council’s First District elected Judy Green’s daughter, Jessica Green, to be their next Metro Council member. Their dissatisfaction with the Metro Council’s treatment of Judy Green was pretty obvious. She was definitely remembered. Jessica Green told her supporters a few times “I am eager to build on the vision set forth by mother.” On Primary Election Day, Jessica Green declared “my mother has spoken and she is gotten the last word.” A chapter closed and another one opened, perhaps. At this point, it seems the meaning of these events is obvious to some and imperceptible to others. We have witnessed a wide range of obstacles to better communication; broad accusations, conversation stoppers, denial, knowing silence, and mistrust. Will we continue to avoid each other? Let’s hope not. Our community needs to talk this out. Tom Louderback is a member of the Healing Possible Quorum for sustainable policies to reduce structural and institutional racism and the Friends Meeting of Louisville (Quaker). The Religious Society of Friends has advocated unequivocal racial equality for over 250 years. He is also the Calendar Editor of FORsooth.

Harriett Comer *(continued from page 1)*

black, white, rural, and urban churches, practicing integration as much as possible by doing things like training teenagers in white churches, then having them help her teach preschoolers in a black church. Speaking to a group of pastors, a minister once said of her, “Invite Miss Hardy to your church. She’ll tear down the walls!” Mom was soon leading workshops at state and national conventions, and was even asked to speak at a Quaker convention. The women she mentored became a powerful group of volunteers, with a few even becoming seminary students.

In 1946 and ’47 Mom moved to New York City to teach Christian education at Union Theological Seminary. She created a Harlem Middle School group of students to give her seminary students a practical experience. She would come to find out that friends she met in peace meetings in New York were later tried in the Red Scare. She chose to decline the offer of a long term position at Union in part due to the conservative climate created by faculty member, Reinhold Niebuhr. Returning to her position in Kentucky, she remembers holding a black baby in the white section of a bus and scheduling rabbis as guest presenters at young people’s conferences in an effort to teach tolerance. She also created in cooperation with The College of The Bible a practical Christian education course. “The Prall Street Project” offered a weekday education program for poverty stricken preschoolers while also offering seminary students a teaching experience. In 1952 Mom returned home to marriage, children, and foster children.

When I was in first grade, Mom began teaching second grade and developed a passion for teaching reading. She tutored kids with ADD at our house for free; her busy

tutoring schedule continued 20 years into her retirement. Mom sees unique potential in people who are often overlooked, and when a person is on her radar, their life gets on path. The woman who cleaned our house didn’t have her high school degree. With Mom’s mentoring she got her GED, learned to tutor children, and became a grade school teacher.

Having lived through the Depression, she was the great creative re-user and employed reusing actively especially in her teaching. She gardened organically my whole life. and was a member of Save the Valley.

For a decade Mom has lived with me in Los Angeles and has continued to find ways to give. She has bought fruit trees for a Central American school, offered neighbors her library of politically liberal books, and donated significantly through a Franciscan monk who uses bus passes and McDonald’s meals to convince homeless men to get tested for AIDS. And of course she reads the news and combs through FORsooth.

She has witnessed a lot of history, but I think she feels most significantly grateful to have lived to see Obama become president.

My mother has been my inspiration. When questioned about her unique and impassioned stands, she points to that early Louisville FOR. That FOR challenged her to walk the talk of her religion her entire life. She is grateful for the inspiration she has received from this organization.

Happy 100th to Mom. Happy 100th to the FOR. Thank you for the decades of work toward peace and justice.

Margaret Comer lives in Los Angeles and divides her time between her career as a freelance harpist and caring for her mother. She can be reached at maggiesharp@earthlink.net.

Climate March *(continued from page 1)*

on science, short on persuasive arguments. That’s because I believe that the facts are clear, the science is beyond reproach, and the issues are no longer debatable. Human beings are warming Earth’s climate, devastating the land, and killing off our fellow Earth-species. We are becoming a monoculture species. Mother Earth will survive, but we may not. It’s time to act.

The following is quoted from www.peoplesclimate.org:

“Our demand is for Action, Not Words: take the action necessary to create a world with an economy that works for people and the planet – now. In short, we want a world safe from the ravages of climate change.

We know that no single meeting or summit will “solve climate change” and in many ways this moment will not even

really be about the summit. We want this moment to be about us – the people who are standing up in our communities, to organize, to build power, to confront the power of fossil fuels, and to shift power to a just, safe, peaceful world. To do that, we need to act – together.”

Please join us in the streets of New York City, or the streets of Louisville, on Sunday, September 21.

Drew Foley is co-chair of Greater Louisville Sierra Club. He also volunteers with 350 Louisville, Cultivating Connections, and NOKXL Pledge of Resistance. Avery Kolers is a Professor of Philosophy at the University of Louisville and a board member of the Louisville Climate Action Network.

About Palestine *(continued from page 3)*

everywhere. Each human life is equal, both Palestinian and Israeli. Every child is precious. Yet, some high-level decision-makers in the Israeli government clearly do not agree. The disproportionate violence Israel has used against the people of Gaza is appalling. Three Israeli civilians (and 64 Israeli soldiers) have been killed, while over 1,300 Palestinian civilians in Gaza have been killed, sometimes whole families at once. The Israeli Air Force bombs civilian homes on purpose. Their American-made bombs have killed and injured thousands.

The violence committed by Israel in Gaza has been going on for many years, and so has US support for that violence. The United States sends over 3.1 billion dollars per year to the Israeli military. This is the same Israeli military that is killing Palestinians with live ammunition at peaceful demonstrations in the West Bank.

The United States is the main supporter of Israel, using its Security Council veto to block any UN resolution that is sympathetic to the Palestinians or critical of Israel. Our

local senators and congressmen vote in lockstep with that agenda.

In Louisville we must provide a voice for the Palestinian people, when our leaders so casually dismiss their rights. We must take the lead.

Louisville must be a city of compassion, with a sense of justice. We must learn about the injustice faced by all peoples, befriend them, and maybe even travel to their lands. If we do, we will find our circles of love to be ever-expanding.

Matt Bewley is a recently graduated medical student from the University of Louisville. In his last two months of medical school, he traveled with Palestinian neuroscience researchers to West Bank refugee camps to study depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. He also has a B.A. in Religious Studies from the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. He was treasurer for Louisville Students for Justice in Palestine for the past two years. Matt can be contacted at lousivillesjp@gmail.com

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
- APPAP [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 – 1st Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. (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)
- NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK, LOUISVILLE METRO CHAPTER – 4th Sunday of each month, 5 p.m. (778-8624 or 470-362-0317)
- 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

Aug 29 to Sept 1 **WORLDVEST**. The Belvedere, Downtown. Live music, authentic cultural foods, and activities. Meet your neighbors who originated from other countries. Visit www.louisvilleky.gov/MetroParks/specialevents/WorldFest

Sept 1 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>

Sept 1 to 30 **SACRED EARTH SACRED SELF IMAGE**. Paul Paletti Gallery on East Market, 9AM to 5PM. 30 large scale photographs by Henry Horenstein who was one of the speakers during the Festival of Faiths last May. Visit <http://festivaloffaiths@interfaithrelations.org>

Sept 1 to 30 **REFUGEE YOUTH ART EXHIBIT**. Iroquois Public Library. See local artwork in several media. Learn more about our immigrant and refugee families. Visit www.lfpl.org

Sept 1 (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.

Sept 1 (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.

Sept 2 (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

Sept 3 (Wed) **SISTERS WHO CARE**. Parkland Family Scholar House, 10AM to 12PM. Every Wednesday. Share knowledge, experience and support. Help each other work through issues. For more information, call 583-6820.

Sept 3 (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

Sept 3 (Wed) **NOONTIME INTERFAITH MEDITATIONS**. Every Wednesday from 12:10 to 12:30 at Christ Church Cathedral, Downtown. Weekly rotation includes Zen Buddhist silence, Lectio Divina, Vipassana Buddhist practices, and Creative Visualization. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Sept 3 (Wed) **NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEERS**. Blackacre State Nature Preserve. Every Wednesday, 9AM to Noon. Help care for gardens, trails, and farmland. Visit www.blackacreconservancy.org

Sept 3 (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.

Sept 3 (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.

Sept 3 (Wed) **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF FOR-sooth**. 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.

Sept 4 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**. Every first & third Thursday, 5:30PM at Main Public Library. Call Kay Tillow 636-1551.

Sept 5 (Fri) **FRIDAY NIGHT ON THE STREET**. Wayside Christian Mission. Every Friday. Learn first-hand about homelessness. Hear testimonies. Ask questions. Serve a meal. Bring a sleeping bag. Visit www.waysidechristianmission.org

Sept 6 (Sat) **OLMSTEAD PARK VOLUNTEERS**. Bingham Park, 9AM to Noon. Help maintain and restore our urban forests. Visit www.olmsteadparks.org

Sept 6 (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.

Sept 6 (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

Sept 6 (Sat) **SACK LUNCHEONS FOR THE HOMELESS**. Every Saturday, 12pm to 2PM, Bates Community Development Corporation, 1228 S. Jackson Street. Call 636-0573 for more information.

Sept 6 (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>

Sept 6 (Sat) **SUPPLIES OVERSEAS RECYCLING**. SOS office in Clifton. Every Saturday, 9AM. Help sort through surplus medical supplies for distribution to overseas agencies. Other volunteer opportunities too. Visit www.suppliesoverseas.org

Sept 6 (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/

Sept 6 (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

Sept 7 (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.

Sept 8 (Mon) **JUSTICE MINISTRY ASSEMBLIES**. CLOUT (Citizens of Louisville Organized and United Together), 7PM. Nineteen diverse congregations assemble to identify critical community problems for group advocacy. Visit www.cloutky.org

Sept 8 (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.

Sept 8 to 13 **CUBAN FLOWERS**. Highlands – Shelby Park Public Library. Drop in anytime and make decorative paper tropical flowers native to Cuba. Visit www.lfpl.org

Sept 9 (Tues) **LUNCH & LEARN AT CATHOLIC CHARITIES**. Catholic Charities Migration and Refugee Services, 11:30AM. Tour facilities and learn more about our community programs. Call 636-9786 for more information.

Sept 9 (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.

Sept 9 (Tues) **FREE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY SEMINAR**. Energy Pros Sustainable Home Education Group, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Learn the basics. Visit www.theenergypros.net

Sept 9 (Tues) **GREEN CONVENE**. Every second Tuesday at The Highland Green Building, 6:30PM. Join residents and policy-makers in examining ways to connect the health of our community with our environment. Visit www.greenconvene.org

Sept 9 (Tues) **AMERICANA 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.

Sept 9 (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.

Sept 9 (Wed) **COMPASSIONATE LOUISVILLE**. Noon, meeting locations rotate. Help monitor the progress of Louisville's ten-year campaign for compassion. Call 214-7322 or visit <http://compassionatelouisville.org> for more information.

Sept 10 (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.

Sept 10 (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.

Sept 10 (Wed) **LOUISVILLE FORUM**. Every 2nd Wednesday, Noon at Vincenzo's Downtown. Speakers on current public issues. nonpartisan discussion. For details, call 329-0111.

Sept 10 (Wed) **REAL PEOPLE, REAL CHALLENGES, REAL SOLUTIONS**. Volunteers of America Family Emergency Shelter. 9AM to 10AM. One hour interactive tour of VOA's work and programs for self-determination. For more information, call 636-4660

Sept 11 (Thurs) **AMERICAN PALESTINE PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM (APPAF)**. 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.

Sept 11 (Thurs) **FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LOUISVILLE**. 2nd Thursday in odd months, 6:30PM. Help plans and participate in international goodwill exchanges. Visit www.thefriendshipforce.org

Sept 11 & 12 **HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES**. Immerse yourself in another community and experience first-hand the hardships associated with extreme poverty. Perform essential volunteer work. Make friends and connections. Trips to Appalachia this month. Trips to Belize in October. Visit <http://myhandinhand.org>

Sept 12 & 13 **DRAGON BOAT FESTIVAL**. Asia Institute – Crane House at Waterfront Park. Dragon boats are traditionally constructed of teak wood in the Pearl River Delta region of China's Guangdong province for team racing. See regional paddlers, drummers, and steerspersons recreate this tradition. Visit www.louisvilledragonboat.com

Sept 12 (Fri) **AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHIVES TOUR**. Western Public Library, 10:30AM. Peruse the African American book collection. Short documentary. Light refreshments. Visit www.lfpl.org

Sept 12 (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

Sept 12 & 13 **WATER & HEALTH TRAINING**. Water Step. Obtain skills for providing safe drinking water to tens of thousands of people. Visit <http://waterstep.org>

Sept 13 (Sat) **BARDS AND STORYTELLERS AT APH**. American Printing House for the Blind Museum. Meet Leona Godlin, a New York-based playwright blind since birth. Hear about the events and forces that have shaped her life. Call 899-2213 to RSVP.

Sept 13 (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.

Sept 13 (Sat) **PEAK OIL**. Every 2nd Saturday, St. Matthews Public Library, 10 AM to Noon. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

Sept 13 (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

Sept 14 (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.

Sept 14 (Sun) **DARE TO CARE HUNGER WALK**. The Belvedere and Waterfront Park, Downtown. Join over 2,000 people in our community to help improve access to healthy food for everyone. Visit www.daretocare.org

Sept 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

Sept 15 (Mon) **SOCIAL CHANGE BOOK CLUB**. Every third Monday, Heine Bros., 119 Chenoweth, 6PM. For book list, Visit www.greenlistlouisville.com

Sept 15 (Mon) **SPANISH BILINGUAL CAFÉ**. Okolona Public Library, 7PM. Practice Spanish language with your Spanish speaking neighbors. Visit www.lfpl.org

Sept 16 (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

Sept 17 (Wed) **GRANTSEEKING BASICS**. Main Public Library, 6PM TO 8PM. Learn the research process, find resources, and write successful proposals. Visit www.lfpl.org

Sept 17 (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

Sep 18 to 30 **WEEK WITHOUT VIOLENCE** at UofL. Participate in activities that raise awareness of positive action and non-violence in cooperation with the worldwide campaign. Visit <http://louisville.edu/sustainablity>

Sept 18 (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, cathyculpper@insightbb.com

Sept 18 (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

Sept 18 (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

Sept 18 (Thurs) **WOMEN 4 WOMEN ANNUAL LUNCHEON**. The Galt House, 11:30AM to 1:30PM. Women 4 Women works to improve the lives of women and girls in Louisville through education, advocacy, and grants. Visit www.w4w.org

Sept 18 (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.

Sept 20 (Sat) **CULTURAL SHOWCASE: DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO**. Iroquois Public Library, 1PM. Learn more about the history and traditions of The Congo. Meet your neighbors who originated in that country. Visit www.lfpl.org

Sept 20 (Sat) **SICKLE CELL ASSOCIATION OF KENTUCKIANA (SCAK)** Support group meeting on 3rd Saturdays at St. Stephen Church. Call 569-2070 to RSVP

Sept 20 (Sat) **AFGHAN STORYTIME**. St. Matthews Public Library, 10:30AM. Hear traditional Afghan folktales. Visit www.lfpl.org

Sept 20 (Sat) **NATIONAL JUG BAND JUBILEE**. Waterfront Park Amphitheater, Noon to 11PM. The original jug bands were firmly rooted in the Blues and earlier African American music. They usually include a jug player and a mix of traditional and home-made instrument players. Hear nine of the country's best today. Visit <http://jugbandjubilee.com>

Sept 21 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE AIDS WALK**. The Belvedere on the Waterfront, Noon. Help raise awareness and funds for local HIV/AIDS service organizations. Visit <http://www.louisvilleaidswalk.org>

Sept 23 (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

Sept 23 (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

Sept 25 (Thurs) **UNDERSTANDING MUSLIM SOCIETIES**. World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana at UofL University Club, 5:30PM. Author John Bowen of the University of Missouri discusses his studies of Muslim societies in Europe and Asia. Visit www.worldkentucky.org

Sept 26 (Fri) **DAUGHTERS OF GREATNESS**. Muhammad Ali Center, 8:30AM to 10AM. Hear journalist Molly Bingham describe her experiences from Russia to the Congo and discuss the sources of inspiration in her life. Visit <http://alicenter.org>

Sept 30 (Thurs) **TAKE BACK THE NIGHT** at UofL. Help raise awareness of violence against women in cooperation with the international campaign. Visit <http://louisville.edu/sustainability>

Sept 30 to Oct 3 **IDEA FESTIVAL**. Kentucky Center for the Performing Arts, 9AM to 5PM. Hear global thinkers on the future of arts, business, technology, design, science, philosophy, and education. Visit www.ideafestival.com

OUT OF TOWN

Sept 1 (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.

Sept 3 to 24 **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

Sept 4 (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.

Sep 6 & 7 **TRAIL OF TEARS NATIVE AMERICAN POW WOW**, Cherokee Trail of Tears Commemorative Park in Hopkinsville. Join us as we dance in praise, celebration, and fellowship. Visit www.powwows.com

Sept 12 (Fri) **KENTUCKY RIVER WATERSHED WATCH**, KY Division of Water, 7 AM to 10AM. Join volunteers in the Fall Bacteria Sampling. Training for volunteers who conduct surveys on streams, rivers and lakes offered throughout the year. For more information, call 800-928-0045.

Sept 16 & 17 **ROCKCASTLE RIVER MUSSEL WORKSHOP**. Kentucky Waterways Alliance. The Rockcastle is home to endangered fish, mussels, and bats. Learn how you can help protect this fragile eco-system. Visit <http://kwalliance.org>

Sept 18 (Thurs) **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP**. KSU Research Farm, Frankfort, KY. Every third Thursday. Participate in efforts to develop local food economies with the Community Farm Alliance and others. Visit www.communityfarmalliance.org

Sept 19 to 21 **HIGHLANDER HOMECOMING**. The Highlander Center in New Market, TN. Learn more about leadership and organizing from the catalyst for grassroots movements throughout our region. Visit <http://highlandercenter.org>