

FORsooth

Volume 17, No. 2

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March 2006

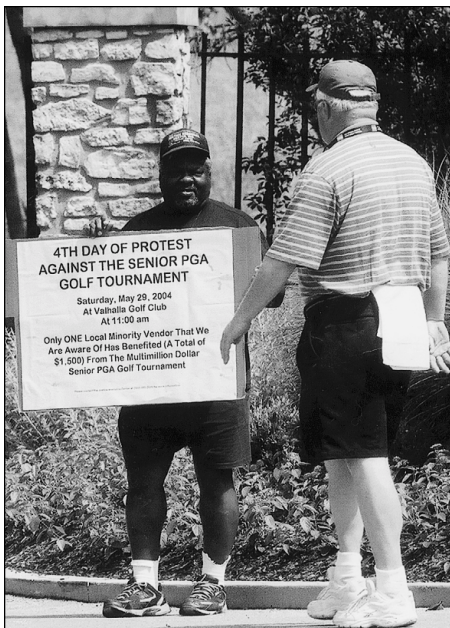
Justice's resource: thoughts on Louis Coleman, part 1

by Ike M. Thacker IV

Rev. Louis H. Coleman Jr. calls the much-needed brand of social and economic gadflying practiced by his Justice Resource Center (JRC) “spiritual activism.” He has been at it for 33 years now and from modest beginnings in Shelbyville, Ky. the JRC has achieved modest growth (compared to the Southern Christian Leadership or other national organizations), but quite impressive growth when one considers the powers that be it has taken on.

The JRC has six branch offices around Kentucky, and operates throughout the state. It has challenged E.I. Dupont Co., the Louisville Police Department, the University of Louisville and various state government agencies to be more inclusive and fair.

Coleman notes that one of the JRC's current struggles has been going on for some 20 years, in one form or another. This is the ongoing battle with Louisville Gas and Electric (LG & E) over rate hikes that it and the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC) allege are necessitated by the sharp increase in natural-gas prices that followed (especially) hurricane Katrina. Both L G & E and Kentucky Utilities (KU), along with a third company called PowerGen, are now owned by a German corporation named “E.ON;” Coleman argues that such a distant headquarters leaves the company lacking knowledge of the “pulse of the community,” leaving only “token” lawyers with no real power in town.



— photos by Eddie Davis

Justice Resource Center founder Rev. Louis Coleman speaks at a “teach out” (right) in 2004 during a peace and justice “tent city” at the University of Louisville. Left, he informs passersby at a pro golf event that year of the tournament’s failure to give fair opportunity for minority vendors. The effort was one of 51 actions the JRC has undertaken, some of which lasted for years.

As far back as 1987, the Justice Resource Center was protesting L G & E rate increases by paying utility bills in pennies, and the skirmishes (together constituting, almost, a war) continue today. The JRC is currently filing a lawsuit against both E.ON and the PSC, which is supposed to regulate utilities, saying that the two work hand-in-

hand to implement unjustified rate increases. Seldom or never, says Coleman, has the PSC denied a rate increase proposed by LG & E.

This collusion apparently does not surprise Coleman: he believes that the whole status quo is rotten. And the JRC is fighting on *several* current fronts, from working with REACT against obscenely high air pollution

in the Rubbertown neighborhood of West Louisville to protesting the rates of minority hiring in a handful of state agencies and low rates of minority-owned contractors being granted state contracts (echoes of his protests against the low rate of minority vendors at the Valhalla golf course during its PGA golf

(continued on page 6)

Mrs. King recalled as strong and courageous

by Gracie Lewis

Her homegoing symbolized the struggle for civil rights for blacks, the poor, for women and others since the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

When Dr. King was assassinated, Coretta Scott King immediately picked up the torch and spent her life making his dream a reality. We will miss her and her awesome contribution in the struggle for racial and economic justice.

Nationally, everything Dr. King gave his life for is under attack. He was a drum major for justice working against racism, poverty and war. Today we have a war going on that is draining our resources out of this country like, as Dr. King said, “a giant suction tube” and warrantless wiretapping, while the clergy remains *silent*.

(continued on page 6)

West: in one realm, race doesn't matter

by Ike M. Thacker IV
and Eustace Durrett

As the keynote speaker at the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression's ninth yearly Unity Dinner at the Louisville Gardens January 21, Dr. Cornel West had a simple but revolutionary idea: that the life of every downtrodden, down-and-out member of a racial minority in Louisville's disadvantaged West End is every bit as worthy as that of any well-to-do white ivy leaguer in the rich Eastern suburbs. Borrowing from the title of his heralded book, West said *Race Matters*, but most emphatically *not* in determining human value.

Many things undergird and follow from this unobjectionable premise. Most of them, though, most of us just don't seem to “get.” This seems especially so after our city-county “merger” and its shifting of the balance of power to the suburbs. We are neglecting the fact that Louisville doesn't end at 9th Street, or 12th, or even 23rd!! Even though he currently hails from Princeton, N.J. (having run afoul of the powers-that-be at Harvard by using hip-hop in his classes), West instinctively understands this — and much more.

He pointed out, for example, that U.S. “democracy” (such as it is) could never have

developed without the almost unimaginable cruelties of black slavery and the forcible conquest of the American Indians. As West argued, it really *is* a whole new lens through which to view the world when one realizes how fundamental the idea of white supremacy is to U.S. society. It is fundamental even for “chocolate” blacks; how much more so must it be for its “vanilla” white beneficiaries!

Given these views, it should not be surprising that West is not very sanguine about the future. The “movement,” the “struggle,” is in deep trouble, he says (“the evidence does not look good”). Evoking memories of Billie Holiday and the “Strange Fruit” (lynched blacks!) that hung from southern trees every two and a half days for 51 years under the approving glare of Jim and Jane Crow, he spoke of the terrorism that blacks faced for 400 years. Blacks actually suffered what whites now fear, and for centuries (black slavery in the U.S., he said, actually lasted 244 years, from 1619 to 1863). As West

put it, “It's a miracle that black folk are still walking around in their right minds today.”

But, are they? And, should they be? Princeton's finest made a good case that one *should* be “maladjusted” these days, telling the dinner “if you are maladjusted to injustice you must be doing something right.”

In this journey “between womb and tomb,” during which we can succeed or fail as human beings, we must ask Socratic questions such as looking at whether markets are really magic, West said. He notes that Socrates long ago saw that, “the unexamined life is not worth living,” but West said we are confusing “intelligence” (insightful, productive evaluation of society) with stale “intellect” (evaluation of the evaluation).

He said U.S. society now *fears* the Socratic questioning that is the essence of what W.E.B. Dubois called “the gift of black folk” and is at the heart of any true democracy; this, he said, is a symptom of its sickness.

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House for women is a refuge

by Jean Edwards
FORsooth editor

Ursuline Sister Sue Scharfenberger told a capacity crowd at the Rudyard Kipling Restaurant Jan. 19 of Latin American women risking death and facing poverty and loneliness, with many finding their way to Casa Latina in Old Louisville on Woodbine Street.

Sister Scharfenberger, speaking at the FOR's Third Thursday Lunch, said the house has grown from a support group when started in 1997 to a center for the study of nonviolence on the model of the Catholic Worker House established by Dorothy Day as a "House of Hospitality," advocating nonviolence and opposing the Vietnam War.

She also talked of working with Latin American women in Peru where Sister Scharfenberger served as a missionary for 25 years.

She spoke of the risk of death in crossing the U.S. border, crossing the water and then the need to run, adding that many refugees experience great loneliness after arriving, sleeping on a floor at first. They must have enough money to get to the U.S., and then their family expects some money to be sent back after they get a job, she added.

Usually there is very little to send, Sister Scharfenberger said, and maintaining their dignity is an overwhelming problem.

At first, Casa Latina served largely as support group for those concerned about the many problems being reported from Central America and below, then organizers began inviting speakers, especially on Thursday evenings, to study and discuss, she said

In 2002 the original members of this gathering needed to move on. Thus the character of the house changed to address the problems of Latina women, Sister Scharfenberger said.

She said some contact the house first

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by telephone; some are referred by the Center for Women and Families; some are directed by friends. All share in household responsibilities to maintain the house as a place of community, she added, and all are supposed to work.

Some problems do arise in the attempt to maintain community, Sister Scharfenberger said, explaining that prayer time becomes difficult because of schedules. There are struggles over shopping — what to buy, she added. The large house may have as many as ten adults and nine children ; all have needs, and day care is a special need right now, Sister Scharfenberger said.

Thursday night is a sharing time when

people from the community may join in, she said, adding that this also happens next door at the Chapel of Saint Philip. People from the community drop in to help with odd jobs, Sister Scharfenberger said.

It was a high point in her presentation when she held up a picture, described by George Edwards as follows: "It is a drawing depicting destitute, homeless men and women gathered about a table in which Dorothy Day is feeding them with the bread of life. The eucharistic symbolism of the scene echoes the messianic words of Matthew 25: 'I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.' "

Sister Scharfenberger's description of the Casa Latina and its outreach to women, homeless and hopeless, stabbed us awake to the charitability to which all true religion is summoned in every generation.

The Feb. 16 Third Thursday Lunch program about youth conflict resolution happened after deadline for this issue. The April FORsooth will include a story about it. The March 16 lunch will be about the Americana Community Center. The deadline for reservations is March 14 and the cost is \$6. For more information, call Polly Johnson at (502) 473-8435 or Jean Edwards at (502) 458-8056.

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91 Years on Peace Frontiers

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

In the development of its program FOR depends upon persons who seek to apply these principles to every area of life. If you are not already a member, we invite you to join us in this endeavor. Membership consists of signing the Statement of Purpose, indicating that you agree with FOR goals. To receive more information, please call 458-8056.

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Nurse unionist wins struggle with hospital corporation

On Feb. 9, a few days after this column is put to bed, the National Labor Relations Board regional office in Cincinnati will, one hopes, have presented Jane Gentry with checks from Louisville hospital conglomerate Norton Healthcare for gross back pay, expenses, and front pay. Norton Healthcare must pay a total of \$400,000. In July of 1999 Norton Audubon Hospital illegally terminated Jane, a registered nurse and Legislative Director of the Nurses Professional Organization (NPO), because of her union activities.

Norton Healthcare must post a notice at Audubon Hospital for 60 days. The Notice to Employees states: “The National Labor Relations Board has found that we violated Federal labor law and has ordered us to post and obey this Notice. We will not discharge you, report you to the Kentucky Board of Nursing, or otherwise discriminate against any of you for supporting the NURSES PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATION.”

For almost seven years our courageous nurse has been deprived of her job. Readers of Labor Paeans have been kept up to date on this battle for dignity over the years.

This situation was so egregious that even the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals, and the NLRB — which had twice shafted Jane on the regional level and once at the appeals level in Washington DC, finally ordered the NLRB region in Cincinnati to act civilized. “We won because we are a union - we worked relentlessly to bring forward the facts and the witnesses, to give support to telling the truth,” said Kay Tillow, NPO Director of Organization. “Our struggle for what is right made it possible to win.”

This victory, coming so close to Martin Luther King’s birthday, is also, for your scribe, a fitting tribute to Coretta Scott King, who recently died. Both MLK and Mrs. King fought for the right of labor to organize.

Yet, once again, the charlatans and Pharisees, who spit on Martin Luther King while alive and deify him now that he is dead, are back at work, some even attending, and speaking, at her funeral. Perhaps in preparation for such defiling, the nation’s largest Martin Luther King Day march, in San Antonio, Texas, included military fighter jets.

A broad coalition formed, consisting of the original creators of the San Antonio Martin Luther King March, civil and human rights groups, labor unions, peace organizations, neighborhood associations, media leaders, environmental groups, religious leaders, historians, teachers, elected officials and business leaders. The coalition organized plans to protest the inclusion of a fighter jet by displaying signs with quotes from Dr. King against militarization and war, wearing black and gold arm bands, and releasing doves after the fighter jets passed over.

One of my favorite King quotes is appropriate here: “A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.”

Speaking of spiritual death, and the battle against it, there is good news to report. Someone must have vacuumed out the saltpeter from Al Gore’s barbecue sandwich, for on January 16 he delivered a most courageous address.

Here is one excerpt: “America’s Constitution is in grave danger. (T)he American values we hold most dear have been placed at serious risk by the unprecedented claims of the Administration to a truly breathtaking expansion of executive (omnipotence). The Executive Branch of our government has been caught eavesdropping on huge numbers of American citizens and has brazenly declared that it has the unilateral right to continue without regard to the established law enacted by Congress to prevent such (abuses).”

The entire speech, which covers so many more topics, is really worth reading.

In fairness, we must give equal voice to those whose craving for the saltpeter that is U.S. officialdom outpaces their dedication to principles — so we turn now to Hillary Rodham Clinton. In an amazing column Jan. 20, Molly Ivins has this to say:



“Sen. Clinton is apparently incapable of taking a clear stand on the war in Iraq, and that alone is enough to disqualify her. Her failure to speak out on Terri Schiavo, not to mention that gross pandering on flag-burning, are just contemptible little dodges.

“There are times when regular politics will not do, and this is one of those times. There are times a country is so tired of bull that only the truth can provide relief.”

Amid the stench, there is ongoing struggle for justice. On Jan. 17, I had the honor of being one among maybe 1,500 unionists, retired union members and supporters who filled the rotunda of the Kentucky state capital in Frankfort to demand our benighted governor back off.

That is, back off from pushing right-to-work legislation.

On Feb. 7, a large union presence in Louisville gathered alongside several members from the Louisville Metro Council, which had passed a resolution calling on Governor Fletcher to keep right-to-work out of Kentucky. Dr. Fletcher also wants to gut regional prevailing wages for construction projects, and implement higher costs for the 700,000 in the state on Medicaid.

There is hope, however. On Jan. 19

the Kentucky House Health and Welfare Committee voted to urge the U. S. Congress to pass the United States National Health Insurance Act, initiated by Congressman John Conyers (D-Mich.). There are over half a million Kentuckians with no health insurance.

We received three comments on last month’s column. The first is from a union official and concerns comments your writer made critical of Democratic Party politics:

“Analyze more in depth issues you raise. You are accurate in what you say, but things are more complicated and nuanced. Perry Clark (whom I criticized — IG) is a moderate, 100 percent pro-labor, against criminalization of marijuana, worked against putting (the same-sex marriage ban) on the ballot.

On the other hand, he met with right-wingers on opposing gun control. His Republican opponent is the wife of Metro Councilperson James Peden (pro-labor, otherwise conservative).

“A Louisville Courier-Journal editorial pointed out that Virginia Woodward ran numerous times, has never won. Although she is pro-choice, Fairness and labor, she has no labor base.”

“Many Republicans in the (Kentucky) Assembly are pro-labor. Only thing stopping right-to-work is that Dems control House of Representatives. Right-to-work has no base. (Governor) Fletcher is so weak he went for old standbys: right-to-work, (eliminating) prevailing wage. We have to play in the arena.”

My union colleague, who does not want her/his name used, is right in Saying I need to be more nuanced. Also, I did make a factual error: Right-to-work won’t pass in the House. It’s the Kentucky Senate we have to worry about. Having said all

this, there needs to be a progressive pole which clearly elucidates a left analysis, as opposed to conciliating minimal overtures at pacification.

Two comments were received concerning the piece on Rudolph-the-red-nosed-reindeer in last month’s column. Cass Irvin, a member of Metrosweep, but representing only herself and not the group, wrote: “As a point of clarification, I sent it (Rudolph piece by Mary Johnson, editor of Ragged Edge Magazine) to MetroSweep — with the question: Is this Disability Cool? Mary Johnson sent it out several years ago as a nice message for all of us working for disability rights.”

My next upbraiding comes from lawyer-minister-activist Donna Morton: “I usually agree with most of what you write but I draw the line on one of my, heroes, Santa Claus. All my life, people have tried to convince me he doesn’t exist. At least, you did not do that. But to fault him for being the one to show those wicked reindeer the value of Rudolph, I just don’t buy it.”

Donna, I don’t fault Santa as much as the reindeer for allowing the objective paternalism.

Space does not permit commenting on the splendid remarks of rock-star Bono at the National Prayer Breakfast, recent wonderful news about Venezuela, phony allegations of Venezuelan anti-semitism, and more.

We will close with some clear thinking. Rep. Charles Rangel D-N.Y., who is black, was asked on public TV what he thought about President Bush.

“Well,” he said, “I really think it shatters the myth of white supremacy once and for all.

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation

February-April, 2006

March 16

A VITAL PRESENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY— THE AMERICANA COMMUNITY CENTER

Edgardo N. Mansilla, Executive Director of the Americana Community Center, will talk about the history of the center, the populations served, the programs, the challenges the center faces and the impact of its service on the Metro area.

April 20

VENEZUELA—HOW CITGO GAS FUELS DEMOCRACY

Walter Tillow, a Latin American solidarity activist, will explain how Citgo gas, wholly owned by the Venezuelan state oil company, gives a direct link to solidarity with the Venezuelan people.

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FOR STEERING COMMITTEE NEWS

Change is inevitable but hard to deal with. After five tumultuous years, Pat Geier and Mary Horvath have requested some relief from their responsibilities as cochairs of our local **FOR** chapter. They have been a remarkable team guiding us through numerous political challenges. One of their greatest gifts has been the ability to keep the group focused while coming to consensus, thereby eliminating endless hemming and hawing during our meetings. Their wisdom has kept us from proceeding down many a treacherous path. While keeping us in line, they have also provided leadership and education through times of uncertainty, especially during the war against Iraq, and the painful Palestinian/Israeli conflict.

The good news is that they will remain on the steering committee! This will be a blessing as a new team prepares to take over. We are pleased to announce that **Phil Schervish** has agreed to be the new chair. He will be ably assisted by **Dennis Bricking** who has at least 20 years of experience on the steering committee as well as many contacts with the national office.

Phil Schervish teaches in the School of Social Work at Spalding University. He and his wife, Peg, have been **FOR** members since 1983. Phil joined the steering committee in 2003 and has proved to be a very valuable member. He prepared an excellent presentation on war tax resistance for the Third Thursday Lunch which he is glad to repeat whenever invited. He demonstrated his skill with video and DVD at our 30th anniversary celebration last November, 2005, covering much of FOR local and national history. These are available for a nominal fee.

Thus our future looks very bright, especially considering the other strong leaders who will assist Phil and Dennis in making this transition—**Ruth Anne Boklage, Cathy Ford, Pat Geier, Chris Harmer, Mary Horvath, Polly Johnson, Peggy Kidwell, Beverley Marmion, Mark Meade, George Morrison, Erik Reinhart-Vidal, Cindy Scheldorf, Nancy Scheldorf, Tim Scheldorf. Two new members are David Golemboski and Sara Todd, both of whom have wonderful gifts to share.**

We also wish to spread the word that Phil Schervish has been nominated again to serve on the **FOR National Council**.

The ballot will be coming to you on line; so watch for it and make sure that Phil gets your vote.

Jean's Journal

An update on area events by Jean Edwards

PHASING OUT IS HARD TO DO

One morning recently I received a telephone call from Margaret Hofstetter from the Dominican Community at Saint Catharine, Kentucky. It was like a call from mother! Or even a call from God! I refer to the joy that comes from conversing with someone who is completely compatible, who shares your dreams and knows your political views without even asking and who appreciates you even with all of your warts. Since we are both in our 85th year, and since we both grew up in Nashville, Tennessee, it is like music to my ears to hear that particular accent. Margaret and her sister Adrian have been our unwavering supporters ever since 1975 when it was announced that an **FOR** chapter was being started. They were already members!

Besides discussing the state of affairs, Margaret called because she had read in the **FOR** minutes that I was planning to start phasing out some of my activities, to stop going to night meetings and hoping to actually “retire” by the end of the year. Yes, it is true that this is my goal; and now we are searching for volunteers to assume some of these responsibilities.

One thing is very clear. **Phasing out is hard to do.**

REMEMBERING CHAP MORRISON

Many friends and several relatives gathered on Saturday afternoon, February 4, to celebrate the life and contributions of Chaplain W. Morrison who died on January 6 after a long struggle with depression. He was 73 years old. His sister, Barbara Gognat arranged for the service at the Church of the Ascension in Louisville.

Those of us who have worked closely with Chap in the Fellowship of Reconciliation and in the Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America (KITLAC) felt overwhelming remorse at the news of his death. We were saddened by the intense suffering he had withstood and by our inability to help him.

Our spirits were lifted during the memorial service as various ones spoke about Chap’s life. Our memories were revived. We had an opportunity to converse with Chap’s two daughters, Lynette and Laura, who came from Vancouver, as well as with Chap’s grandson, Dylan Morrison Myers, 24 years old, who lives in Louisville. Their remarks during the service helped to round out for us the picture of Chap’s life when his children were growing up.

For the last ten years, Chap had been part of the spiritual family of the communal household in Old Louisville of Joe and Arden Martos. Arden spoke of Chap’s outrage over injustices in our society and in our world. He supported movements for peace and justice and nonviolence. She reminded us that Chap once had his arm broken at an anti-war demonstration when he was knocked down by a policeman’s horse. His quiet peaceful presence was a great gift to those in their household, she said. “When Chap smiled, his eyes could light up the whole room.”

Joe Martos reminded us that Chap had a Ph.D. in history. This knowledge made him a great person to have around the supper table. His knowledge of history was also a motivation in his concern for social justice. “The event I remember most about Chap’s involvement in demonstrations was when he volunteered to wear a Mickey Mouse costume during the St. James Art Fair, where KITLAC was protesting the slave wages being paid to Haitians making children’s clothing for the Walt Disney company. Imagine Mickey being over six feet tall!”

Joe continued. “Chap was a man of simple habits and unassuming tastes. One of his favorite T-shirts said, ‘Live simply that others may simply live.’ If everyone lived as simply as Chap Morrison, with concern for the environment and the welfare of others, our world would be a happier and richer and safer place.”

Chap always joined in the tax day demonstration calling attention to the bloated military budget. His tall lean body was perfect for the Uncle Sam costume. We will be longing for him when tax day comes in April. He was also very helpful on the **FOR** steering committee in preparing book reviews and in writing letters to the editor.

In the long obituary that appeared in the Courier-Journal (2/2/06) it was mentioned that memorial gifts should be sent to the Fellowship of Reconciliation, 2236 Kaelin Ave, Louisville, KY 40205 or to the Louisville Free Public Library, Iroquois Branch, where he worked part time and spent many hours reading.



The Reel Revolution

Film Series

A project of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression presents

A Place of Rage

Directed by Prabha Parmar, 1991, 52 minutes

This exuberant celebration of African American women and their achievements features interviews with Angela Davis, June Jordan and Alice Walker. Within the context of the civil rights, Black power and feminist movements, the trio reassess how women such as Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer revolutionized American society. A stirring chapter in African American history, highlighted by music from Prince, Janet Jackson, the Neville Brothers and the Staple Singers.

Thursday, February 23rd, 7 pm

UPCOMING FILMS

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Directed by Eli Jacobs-Fantauzzi, 2005
Unique insight into contemporary Cuba through the eyes of Cuban hip hop artists

Apr. 27, *Desire*
A film by Julie Gustafson and Teenage Girls' Documentary Project, 2005, 84 minutes
Refreshingly honest film documents the challenges and desires of a group of young women in pre-Katrina New Orleans by letting them film their own stories.

The last Thursday of every month, 7 pm

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March 2006

Page 5

Poverty, disease would be reduced by an 8-goal effort

by David Hulefeld

The agony of the conflicts in the Middle East confronts us on a daily basis. Each day’s paper yields a numbing toll of lives lost and hopes shattered. In focusing on the effects of war, we risk overlooking the vast loss of life each day that is attributable to poverty and is entirely preventable. Jeffrey Sachs’s *The End of Poverty* opens with the shocking tally: Each day, 20,000 die of extreme poverty’s effects, including 8,000 children dead from malaria, 5,000 tuberculosis victims, and thousands more dead from chronic hunger and related diseases. The technology and resources to prevent these deaths are readily available. Extreme poverty is inconsistent with a peaceful world. The inequitable distribution of wealth in an age of global communication fuels conflict. “The war against terror is bound up in the war against poverty” (Colin Powell). In an attempt to alleviate suffering and eliminate some of the root causes of conflict, the largest gathering of world leaders in history adopted the Millenium Declaration in September 2000. The

Declaration includes eight specific, quantifiable goals to reduce poverty and disease. The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) include these targets to be met by the year 2015:

- Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
- Achieve universal primary education.
- Promote gender equality, empower women.
- Reduce child mortality.

United Nations Millennium Project, aid must be increased substantially to reach the MDGs by 2015. Wealthy countries will need to contribute an additional \$75 billion per year. One-half of the current aid short-fall can be attributed to the US. Our country would need to contribute an additional \$25 billion per year, an amount equal to one percent of the federal budget. By contrast, direct costs for the Iraq War were

who would participate in their annual letter writing campaign, which this year will focus on funding the MDGs. Letters to Congress will demonstrate grass roots support for poverty reduction. The only commodity needed to remedy extreme poverty is the political will to do so. As citizens in a democracy, it is our right and our duty to help form that political will. We encourage interested persons to attend a local monthly meeting or to contact the local Bread for the World group (see FOR Calendar on page eight for contact information, or dhulefeld@iglou.com) about helping in this vital work. As with all Bread for the World initiatives, this effort is non-partisan, non-sectarian and coordinated at a national level, so as to effectively engage the budget process on Capitol Hill. More information is available at Bread’s web site: www.bread.org.

The writer is the co-chairperson of the Louisville Bread for the World Chapter and member of the St. William Church Peace and Justice Committee.

Book sale, forum aid mountains

by Peggy Kidwell

Carmichael’s Bookstore and Kentuckians for the Commonwealth presented a program about Mountain Top Removal last October at Crescent Hill Baptist Church. It was a community forum, book sale and silent auction with Kentucky writers speaking against mountain top removal mining. The event was a benefit for Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, (KFTC) a statewide nonprofit organization working to challenge injustices, right wrongs, and improve life for all Kentuckians. Carmichael’s bookstore donated 100 percent of the money raised at this event to KFTC specifically to support the fight against Mountain Top Removal Mining. A central speaker was Wendell Berry, author of more than 40 books of poetry and essays. He still lives and farms in his native Henry County, Ky. Other writers who spoke included Dianne April, a teacher at Spalding University; Wade Hall, a professor emeritus at Bellarmine University; and Chris Holbrook, who has published stories in “Kentucky Voices” and other publications. Many more authors presented excerpts from their essays and other pertinent writings.

The writer is a member of the Louisville FOR steering committee.

Activist to to talk on Mideast

Penny Rosenwasser, a longtime peace and social justice activist and member of the Board of directors of Jewish Voice for Peace, will share her experience and discuss the current situation in the Middle East Staurday March 18 at Central Presbyterian Church in Louisville. The program will be from 6-8 p.m. at the church at Fourth and Kentucky streets. Rosenwasser will also discuss the campaign to stop the Caterpillar corporation from selling its weaponized bulldozers to the Israeli military. She has toured nationally with her slide show “Women Waging Peace in Israel/Palestine,” has led four women’s peace delegations to the region, and published *Voices from a ‘Promised Land’: Palestinian & Israeli Peace Activists Speak Their Hearts* (Curbstone, 1992). She has said she warmly remembers her first trip to Louisville on this book tour. In May, Penny received her Ph.D. in Transformative Learning & Change from the California Institute of Integral Studies in San Francisco. She was awarded the National Women’s Studies Association Jewish Caucus Prize for her dissertation work about the psychological and political effects of anti-Semitism on Jews. Call (502) 558-3568 for more information about the March 18 program, to set up interviews with Rossenwasser or to invite her to speak to your organization while she is in Louisville.

Louis Coleman

(continued from page 1)

tournament). The Center is also advocating for the rights of teen killer Aaron Hardin and with Citizens Against Police Abuse (CAPA) against rogue policemen in the James Edward Taylor and Michael Newby cases. Further, the JRC is investigating judges’ bias in sentencing and granting bond. The center also has signed contracts with several agencies and companies that empower the JRC to find minority job applicants to apply for positions and minority-owned businesses to bid on contracts. Unfortunately, Coleman said, the companies and agencies seldom have awarded them the jobs or contracts. Altogether, Coleman’s autobiographical booklet lists some 51 different actions the JRC has led, many of which lasted for years. Some of this wide-ranging work dovetails with the LG & E struggle: Coleman says that the second-worst West End air pollutant (behind the carcinogen 1-2-3-butadiene, discharged by three Rubbertown companies) is the “fine particulates” spewed by LG & E’s smokestacks, which cause many severe respiratory problems. Those smokestacks, Coleman said, netted E.ON enough profit from LG & E alone to pay stockholder dividends of \$59 million in 2004 and increase “accounts receivable” that same year from \$44 to \$93 million; the company had some \$77.5 million in gas stored underground, much of it (then and now) purchased at peak prices. With available resources like that, Coleman argues that it doesn’t much matter whether the proposed hike in natural-gas rates was 64 percent as originally requested or the 43 percent spike that was implemented: No increase at all was needed, period. And the steep increase that occurred is hurting especially the poor, downtrod-

den, and infirm: there was no increase in the electricity rate, Coleman said, and the poor use natural gas for their heat disproportionately (presumably because it is usually cheaper). There is little recourse for people who can’t pay their utility bills, either, Coleman asserted. The governmental Community Action Agency (CAA) is tasked to help, but pays in many cases much less than the utility customer’s shortfall. Likewise, he said, churches and other community sources of aid can only do so much. And LG & E’s own aid program, while admirable, is both limited and extremely hypocritical, Coleman believes. First you spike up everybody’s natural-gas bill, and then you “help” some of the people you just hurt, while using a lot of your money to buy up a bunch of newspaper/magazine space and TV time to tell everybody what a good company you are, Coleman explained. Community leaders believe we can afford to build stadiums like Slugger Field and propose multimillion-dollar all-purpose indoor sports arenas, while ignoring the fact that lots of people can’t even do something as basic as paying their utility bills, Coleman noted. He thinks there’s something wrong with that picture. At the very least, the Justice Resource Center’s call to the Kentucky Attorney General for a moratorium on future rate increases pending analysis of E.ON’s financial statements in detail is absolutely essential. I believe that it can also save human lives.

Next month: Ike Thacker looks at the history and media coverage of the Justice Resource Center and examines whether its work has been good for the community.

Mrs. King (continued from page 1)

Coretta Scott King was a woman of strength and courage. Immediately following the funeral of Dr. King, Coretta joined striking garbage workers in Memphis, Tenn. She fully understood their plight. These men, wearing picket signs saying, “I Am A Man,” were striking because white city leaders refused to recognize their union and demands for an increase in pay. In August of 1968 she helped mobilize the Poor Peoples March on Washington for which her husband had planned. Just four days after Dr. King’s death, U.S. Representative John Conyers introduced a bill to pay tribute to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and to commemorate the cause of freedom and justice with a national holiday. In 1983, an act of Congress instituted the Martin Luther King, Jr. Federal Holiday Commission, which Coretta chaired for its duration. On January 20, 1986, the day the first national King Holiday was observed, I signed a pledge card stating that I would “live the dream.” Coretta Scott King was there, collecting the cards, which read, “In honor of Martin Luther King, Jr.’s life and work, I pledge to do everything

I can to make America and the world a place where equality and justice, freedom and peace will grow and flourish.” Today his birthday is celebrated in more than 100 countries. In 1969, Coretta founded the Atlanta-based King Center, the first institution built in memory of Dr. King. She was the CEO and primary fundraiser. She held concerts and went on speaking engagements while still raising her children. Coretta was an extremely well educated woman who overcame many challenges. Dr. King left her virtually penniless with four children. He put everything he had back into the movement. The Civil Rights Movement was just that important. The \$50,000 he received from the Nobel Peace Prize went back into the social and economic justice movement. Coretta Scott King, who was always at his side and working in the movement, fully understood the sacrifice he made as she “kept her eyes on the prize.” She was faithful to God and her people! In 1983, she helped mobilize more than 800 organizations to form the Coalition of Conscience and sponsor the 20th Anniversary of the March on Washington. This Coalition sought legislation in

the areas of jobs and employment, peace and civil rights. More than 200,000 people attended. Coretta Scott King knew that something is radically wrong, and that — as her husband had said — “a nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death.” Every year when the Congressional Black Caucus, the conscience of Congress, has held its Annual Legislative Weekend, Coretta Scott King has been there. She worked along with congressional leaders in promoting legislation that would help create the “Beloved Community” in education, health care, social security, gay and lesbian rights, and protecting the rights of black farmers. In October 1995, she spoke, along with Rosa Parks, during the Million Man March. Mrs. King fought for federal monitoring of police profiling or “Driving While Black.” On August 26, 2000, two days before the 37th Anniversary of his father’s “I Have a Dream” speech, her son, Martin Luther King III and the Rev. Al Sharpton, planned the “Redeem the

Dream March” to speak out against racial profiling as a state and local civil rights issue.” She campaigned against apartheid in South Africa. In 1985, Mrs. King and three of her children were arrested at the South African embassy in Washington, D.C. for protesting apartheid. In 1986, her convictions led her to South Africa where she met with Winnie Mandela. She wanted Mrs. King to urge President Ronald Reagan to approve sanctions against South Africa where the majority of Africans lived under apartheid. I was living in Washington, D.C. at the time this happened. Mrs. King received many awards. She has received honorary documents from more than 60 colleges and universities. In memory of Coretta Scott King, I pledge to rededicate my life for the long and bitter, but beautiful, struggle for a new world. Who can find a virtuous woman? Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. did.

The writer is a member of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

Oh boy – an opportunity and a challenge for feminism

Dutch-born Johanna Bos, a professor at the Louisville Presbyterian Theology Seminary, defined feminism in a piece in this newspaper about 15 years ago as clearly as I have seen anyone do so when she described it as a movement which holds that neither gender shall dominate the other.

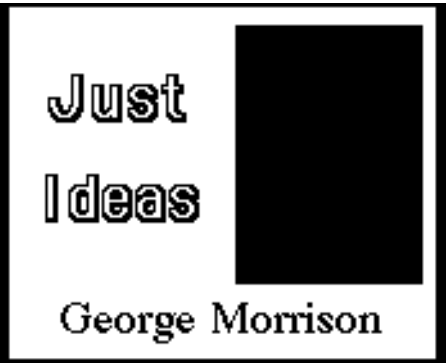
As a person dedicated to feminism since the late 1970s, I quickly absorbed that definition and all that it entailed. I liked it for its succinctness and its strong vision for a post-patriarchal world.

It is a definition that serves us well as we confront a disturbing trend among youth: that boys, according to some statistics, are falling behind in elementary, secondary and higher education.

Newsweek magazine reported in January that fourth-grade girls score 12 percent higher than boys on standardized reading tests and the gap is 16 points in favor of girls on reading tests in the 12th grade and 24 points higher on writing tests among seniors.

Placement in special education and ending up in detention is more common for boys, too.

Some would insist that while this is troubling and demands action, it isn’t a feminist issue - that the problem may have more to do with the mysterious increase in diagnosed attention deficit problems in boys or just with the fact that males usually bear the brunt of society’s shortcomings - i.e.



being in prison and dying in industrial and mine accidents in disproportional numbers.

Add in the prevalence of fatherless homes and you have another possible culprit.

To be sure, however, the adversaries of the women’s movement are using it an anti-feminist issue. After decades of seeing the population come to accept, usually quite warmly, feminist ideals from the Equal Rights Amendment to birth control availability, the rightwing finally has an issue they can try to drape around our necks.

Christina Hoff Sommers, a fellow at the rightist American Enterprise Institute, wrote a groundbreaking cover story in *The Atlantic* magazine in 2000 asserting that while the media portrayed girls as being academically behind and suffering emotional strife, boys were the gender really in trouble.

She was right that the focus on teen

and college-age girls suffering depression and eating disorders had obscured the troubles boys were experiencing, but she then seemed more interested in extracting her pound of flesh from the feminist movement - blaming it for the problem - than looking into solutions.

The statistic that males make up only 44 percent of the college undergraduate population spurred another conservative activist to assert that anti-sexual harassment initiatives made young men feel unwelcome on campuses - she presented no evidence that this was true, but, hey, we’re talking about a spin artist and they seldom are pressed to prove their claims.

The *Newsweek* article included a sidebar by feminist scholar Carol Gilligan, the mother of three sons and an ardent advocate of new societal rules that would help prevent teen girls from suffering disproportional depression and eating disorders.

She said that the effort to help girls overcome these problems can help us understand and solve the boy gender gap.

“To me, the remarkable transformation in the lives of girls over the past 20 years suggests that similar results could be achieved with boys,” Gilligan wrote.

Simply put, Gilligan said the traditional “rough and tumble” lifestyle established for boys is a big part of their educational slump - that the fear of being seen as un-masculine causes teen boys to recoil

from expressions of sensitivity and emotional openness.

Feminism is the answer, under this analysis of the problem.

There is another trend related to what Gilligan expressed, but not touched on in the stories in *Newsweek* or *The Atlantic*. That is the phenomenon of male megasuccesses eschewing education.

There has never been a business or technology success story like Bill Gates; his name has evoked awed reverence among some boys I have interviewed as a freelance journalist.

Gates never finished college.

Tiger Woods, whose astonishing concentration and form have re-written the standards of sports success, never set foot on a college campus. In fact, name any stellar male pro athlete and you will almost always be naming someone with no college degree.

Of utmost importance in helping boys do better in school is dismantling this pipe-dream belief system that a Gates- or Woods-like success story is just around the corner if you practice your putting or moves to the hoop or cyber-skills all day, neglecting your grammar or math.

Just like prison, this mistaken notion of success falls more heavily on males.

Contact George Morrison at klm86@netzero.net.

Polemics or healthy talk?

To the letter in last month’s FORsooth titled “Gaza program plagued by polemics” I would respond “Yes, there were polemics.” It is inevitable that emotions are aroused in discussing the Israeli/Palestinian conflict, especially for those who actually address the root causes of the conflict and refuse to skirt the issues.

The members of the Planning Committee fully expected differences of perspective from the panelists and from the audience. The specific questions of the program challenged the panelists to take a stand and challenged the audience to engage.

In contrast to Mr. Kenneth George (the letter writer), the Planning Committee views the November 30th panel discussion “The Israeli pullout from the Gaza Strip: What does it mean for Israeli/Palestinian peace?” held at Bellarmine University to be one of constructive engagement as well as the first of its kind in Louisville.

Between 125-150 people attended the event. The gathering was valuable because it brought together for the first time representatives from four local groups (APPAF: the American Palestine Public Affairs Forum, the Community Relations Council of the Jewish Community Federation, the Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East and the Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States) all with a stake in the intertwined problems of Israel, the Palestinian people and the United States. It also reached beyond the various members of these groups to include newcomers to this crucial international human rights issue, especially students.

Our purpose in organizing this program was twofold: to remind Louis-villians that



Letters to FORsooth

the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands grinds on with all its attendant misery regardless of the Israeli pullout from the Gaza Strip and, by asking the panelists to discuss the U.S. role in ending the conflict and securing peace, to emphasize the fact that the American government plays a pivotal role in either prolonging the Israeli/Palestinian conflict or working constructively to bring about a peace agreement that will guarantee liberty and security for both Palestinians and Israelis. We hope that November 30th event will bring opportunities for further engagement and dialogue.

Mark Meade,
planning committee

Louisville Committee for
Israeli/Palestinian States

Cornel West

(continued from page 1)

And that fear is well-founded, for plumbing deeply into the “dogmas” of capitalism (free markets etc.) reveals their wretchedness and treachery, West said.

Blacks, West added, could morally start a civil war every generation [echoes of Trotsky’s “permanent revolution” here]. Why, Nelson Mandela, West noted, the current “Santafication” of whom West laments, was on the U.S. most-wanted list for more than 20 years.

Given all this, West said it’s a wonder that blacks have not rebelled even more than they have, and rebelled more violently.

West recalled that when Johnny Carson asked Malcolm X what blacks really wanted, the latter responded by saying: “I’m the man you think you are. What do *you* want, Johnny?”

West warned that 150 cities could burn again as they did on April 4, 1968, in response to the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Civil war is still a possibility. After all, violence has been used *against* blacks for centuries, he noted

So, what to do? West said that the blues (he includes Tennessee Williams and William Faulkner as “blues people”) are neither optimistic nor pessimistic, but rather *hopeful*. He exhorted his listeners to *participate* in society rather than just *observing* it, and to Herculean efforts of organization, organization, and more organization — all undertaken in the spirit of Christian love. The good doctor also wants to see more than a dollop of determination in our attempts. Who knows, maybe he’ll run for president someday.

West’s speech was preceded by music, a

thoughtful invocation by Rev. Steven Crymes, and by other entertainment. One “Unsung Hero” (Temy Douglas) and two other people were honored — Eboni Neal Cochran (for her work with Rubbertown Emergency ACTION, or RE-ACT, which has successfully fought for a Strategic Toxic Air Reduction through its efforts to curb obscenely high air pollution in the West End) and Henry Wallace (for his more than 50 years of activism).

Unfortunately, Wallace couldn’t make the dinner, but his daughter Carla Wallace eloquently accepted for him, saying that he had been instrumental in the early days of her LGBT movement Fairness and supported a plethora of causes “speaking truth to power,” from sup-

porting the civil rights movement to demonstrating against the Vietnam War to protesting our invasions of Grenada and Iraq.

Some 1,000 people, a record, attended this 2005-2006 Unity Dinner. They were treated to the presentation of these awards, good food, some entertainment, and (most importantly) to an amazing informal extemporaneous tour de force by a public intellectual of the highest order, Dr. Cornel West.

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

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Calendar for peacemakers

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

Feb 20 (Mon) **VIPASSANA MEDITATION**, a Buddhist practice, initially uses the breath as focus of the awareness and to see clearly, being deeply present for each moment of life. Every Monday, 6:30 pm. Taught by Glenda Hodges-Cook. Center for Faith and Action, 1741 Frankfort Ave. Call 896-0172. No fee. Register on line: www.faith-action.org

Feb 23 (Thu) **PRESS CONFERENCE and RALLY IN THE CAPITOL ROTUNDA, 10:00 am. Come to Frankfort to support the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (HB338).** This legislation would enable Kentucky to join a growing number of states that have both created a state housing trust fund and enabled localities to partner in creating their own housing trust funds. Call Nick Braden, 584-6858. www.metropolitanhousing.org

Feb 23-Mar 30 (Six Thursdays) **INTERFAITH GROUP SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**, Taught by Mary Jo Ruccio and Linda Leeser. Explore and deepen your understanding of the divine’s presence through a long, loving look at your unique personal life experiences in a confidential setting. Center for Faith and Action, 1741 Frankfort Ave, 7-9pm. \$60. Call 896-0172. Register ten days beforehand: www.faith-action.org

Feb 23 (Thursdays through March 16): **BEING CHURCH TODAY: Confessions & Explorations in Postmodern Ecclesiology.** Brown bag lunch roundtable discussion of how cultural changes impact how we think about and practice being church today. Facilitated by John Sonnneday, Director, Center for Faith and Action, 1741 Frankfort Ave, 12:30-2:00. Call 896-0172. Register ten days beforehand. www.faith-action.org

Feb 23 (Thu) **REEL REVOLUTION FILM: “A Place of Rage.”** Exuberant celebration of African American women and their achievements, featuring interviews with Angela Davis, June Jordan and Alice Walker. Within the context of the civil rights, Black power and feminist movements, the trio reassess how women such as Rosa Parks and Fannie Lou Hamer revolutionized American society. Includes music from Prince, Janet Jackson, the Neville Brothers and the Staple Singers. Kentucky Theater, 651 S 4th St., 7:00 pm. Suggested donation \$5-25; no one turned away. Benefit for the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. Wheelchair accessible. Call 558-3568.

Feb 24 (Fri) **NOON VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**, including a news update. **EVERY FRIDAY AT SIXTH AND BROADWAY**, in front of the Federal Court House (where Senator McConnell’s office is located). We vigil in solidarity with the **“Women in Black”** who vigil every Friday at noon in Israel. Sponsored by the Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Feb 25 (Sat) **AWAKE, DREAMERS, AND ACT.** All day workshop. By making friends with our dream images, we can begin to hear the messages of love and wisdom that come from within us. Using Mindful Reflection, Journaling, Gestalt Techniques, Prayer, Song, and Sharing we will make a space for the healing messages we long for to be revealed. Taught by Lois Luckett, Center for Faith and Action, 1741 Frankfort Ave. \$35 includes lunch. Call 896-0172. Register ten days beforehand: www.faith-action.org

Feb 27 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, #10, 7:30pm. Visitors welcome. Call cochairs, Phil Schervish, 451-6638 or Dennis Bricking, 895-8516.

Feb 28 (Tue) **FORUM: “Ripped from the Headlines - Utilizing the Media to Affect Social Change,”** featuring **DR. NEAL BAER**, Executive Producer of *Law and Order, Special Victims Unit*. Luncheon hosted by Jewish Family & Vocational Services at the Hyatt Regency. \$40. Call 452-6341.

Feb 28 (Tue) **KCADP (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)** every last Tuesday. Highland Presbyterian Church, 1011 Cherokee Road, 6:30pm. Call Kaye Gallagher, 721-8885 or Mark Meade, 541-9998. kcadp@earthlink.net

Mar 1 (Wed) **LAST DAY TO ORDER TICKETS FOR THE DINNER ON MARCH 14 TO HEAR RICK UFFORD-CHASE**, Moderator of the Presbyterian General Assembly and cofounder of **BORDERLINKS** dealing with Migrants’ Concerns and Border Issues. (See entry for March 12-15 or call Jean Edwards, 458-8056)

Mar 4 (Sat) **WORKSHOP EXAMINING RACISM, PRIVILEGE and POWER** in Louisville’s Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community. Sponsored by the Fairness Campaign. Central Presbyterian Church, 4th & Ky, 10am to 5pm, lunch provided. Sliding scale \$1-\$50. Call Darnell, 893-0788 or Fairness@fairness.org

Mar 5 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE** every first Sunday evening remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign or a candle. Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. 7:00-8:00 pm. Sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. pcunity@yahoo.com www.louisvillepeace.org

Mar 7 - Apr 4 (five Tuesdays) **LIVING THE ABUNDANCE OF LENT.** Through contemplative dialogue and listening, explore the rich themes of Lent and practice various spiritual disciplines in the Christian tradition and others. Build community through a small group journey of deepening our faith and commitment. Taught by Marilyn Stoner and Phil Lloyd-Sidle. Center for Faith and Action, 1741 Frankfort Ave, 7:00 - 8:30pm, \$50. Call 896-0172. Register ten days beforehand. www.faith-action.org

Mar 9-30 (Thursdays during Lent) - **JONATHAN KOZOL: *The Shame of the Nation*, the re-segregation of our public schools.** Taught by Fritz Gutwein, Center for Faith and Action, 1741 Frankfort Ave, 6:30-8:00, \$40 plus text. Call 896-0172. Register ten days beforehand. www.faith-action.org

Mar 12 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter recruitment. Every 2nd Sunday at 6:00 pm, 2236 Kaelin Avenue at the **FOR** office. Please note change in meeting place. This group would welcome invitations to speak about conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for highschool students to “opt out” of having their names given to recruiters. Call Chris Harmer, 893-2334. charmer@ch2m.com

Mar 12-15 (SMTW) **FESTIVAL OF THEOLOGY & RE-UNION**, Presbyterian Seminary, featuring **Dr. Frank Anthony Thomas** of Memphis, **Dr. Robert M. Frank** of Atlanta, **Dr. James Hudnut-Beumler** of Nashville, and **Dr. Barbara Z. Barnes** of Ohio. The speaker at the Moderator’s Dinner on March 14 will be **RICK UFFORD-CHASE**,

Moderator of the General Assembly, well-known for his work on the US/Mexico border and as cofounder of **Borderlinks**, providing experiential education on border issues such as trade, globalization, and migrants’ concerns. Rick is also co-moderator of the **Presbyterian Peace Fellowship** which has provided emergency assistance to migrants in the borderlands of southern Arizona. For more details and to reserve tickets for the dinner (\$22) call David Sawyer, 895-3411. dsawyer@lpts.edu Deadline is March 1

Mar 13 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Contact **George Morrison, editor**, 944-6460, E-mail: klm86@netzero.com **Note: For calendar listings**, contact Jean Edwards, 458-8056. E-mail: edwardsfor@bellsouth.net

Mar 15 (Wed) **GAY & LESBIAN RIGHTS**, discussion sponsored by the Ky American Civil Liberties Union Foundation. Main Library, 4th & York, 7:00 pm. Centennial Room. Free. Reservations requested. Call 581-9746.

Mar 15 (Wed) **KENYAN NOBEL PEACE PRIZE NOMINEE, Wahu Kaara**, will speak about her work on international debt relief. She is the Millennium Development Goals Coordinator for Africa’s Council of Churches and also candidate for President of Kenya. Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church, 142 Crescent Ave. 7:30 pm. Call 425-3844.

Mar 16 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH** sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, featuring **EDGARDO N. MANSILLA**, Executive Director of the **AMERICANA COMMUNITY CENTER — A VITAL PRESENCE IN OUR COMMUNITY.** He will discuss the history of the Center, the populations served, the programs, the challenges the center faces and the impact of its service on the Metro area. Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 422 W Oak St, 11:30am buffet, \$6. Reservations required. **RSVP** to Polly Johnson, 473-8435 or Jean Edwards, 458-8056 by Tuesday beforehand.

Mar 16 (Thu) **SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Monthly meeting, every third Thursday, 5:30 pm. The meeting place has been changed to the downtown Free Public Library, 4th and York Sts., Room A downstairs. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

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

Mar 17 (Fri) **“REFUSENIKS”** — A Film by Sonja de Vries, premiere showing. Bomhard Theater, 501 W Main St, 8:00 pm (doors open at 7:30). Tickets \$20, call 584-7777. Benefit for Jewish Voice for Peace, Al Rowwad Palestinian Children’s Center, Courage to Refuse, and Iraq Veterans Against the War. **“Powerful, moving, inspiring”** — Howard Zinn

Mar 18 (Sat) **POLITICAL JUNCTURE ANALYSIS, Focus on Latin America/US.** Deepen your understanding of the current social and political dynamics within Latin America. In-depth and participatory sessions with a view to solidifying future strategies for accompaniment and solidarity work. Lunch included. Sponsored by KITLAC. Central Presbyterian Church, 4th and Ky streets. 10:00 to 2:00pm. Call Stephen Bartlett, 894-9308, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.

Mar 18 (Sat) **PENNY ROSENWASSER**, writer and board member of **Jewish Voice for Peace**. She will discuss the work of Jewish Voice for Peace, the Campaign against **Caterpillar** and other issues. Come and learn more, ask hard questions, and build bridges toward creating a just solution in the Middle East. Central Presbyterian Church. 4th and Ky. 6:00pm. Potluck supper. (Bring a dish if you can). Drinks provided. Free. Call 558-3568.

Mar 18 (Sat) **THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. INVASION OF IRAQ.** Between 1:00 and 3:00pm a major demonstration is planned by the Louisville Peace Action Community (LPAC) on Hurstbourne probably between Taylorsville Road and Stonybrook Theatre, displaying 2000-5000 T-shirts on both sides of the road for about a half mile. Call Sam Avery, 741-6944. sam.avery@Juno.com

Mar 22 (Wed) **COOPERATIVE GAMES DAY**, part one, sponsored by the Peace Education Program, 318 W. Kentucky St. Participants will be provided written material and hands-on learning of the games. 10:00am - 2:00pm. \$55, lunch provided. Limited to 40 persons. Call 589-6583 to register.

Mar 23 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING at Beverley’s house, 6:30 pm. Put your fingers to work to keep this important news flowing. Please come and help for one hour.** Call Beverley at 451-5658.

Mar 25 (Sat) **STATEWIDE YOUTH RIGHTS LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE** sponsored by the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky for ages 18 and under to become enpowered by learning about their constitutional rights and how they apply. From this conference a diverse group of young people will commit to serve on a Youth Advisory Council to the ACLU of Kentucky. Muhammad Ali Center, 401 W Main, 9:30-4:30. Call 502/581-9746. jenessa@aclu-ky.org

Mar 26-27 (SM) **LECTURE: DR. KATIE GENEVA CANNON**, the first African-American woman to be ordained to the ministry of Word and Sacrament in the Presbyterian denomination. Sponsored by the Women’s Center at Louisville Seminary, Justice for Women Committee & Presbyterian Women of Mid-Kentucky Presbytery. www.lpts.edu

Mar 30 (Thu) **REEL REVOLUTION FILM: “INVENTOS: HIP HOP CUBANO**, “ providing unique insight into contemporary Cuba through the eyes of Cuban hip hop artists. Kentucky Theater, 651 S. 4th. Suggested donation \$5-\$25, no one turned away. Benefit for the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. 7:00 pm. Wheelchair accessible. Call 558-3568.

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Mar 18/19 (SS) **THIRD ANNIVERSARY** of the start of the criminal war and occupation of Iraq. Peace actions in New York City and across the country coordinated by the International Action Center founded by Ramsey Clark. Call 212-633-6646. www.iacenter.org

Apr 23-25 (SMT) **Washington Vigil to CLOSE THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS.** Join activists from around the nation for this annual spring event. Demand that your Representatives and Senators represent your interests and vote probably in June to close this school. Call 202/234-3440. www.soaw.org

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

AD HOC COALITION FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION – (778-8130)

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

AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB – 4th Tuesday (459-0616)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (637-8951)

BIONEERS / SUSTAINABLE LOUISVILLE – Tuesdays (336-9440)

BREAD FOR THE WORLD – 1st Tuesday (239-4317)

CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse) – 2nd & 4th Thursdays (778-8130)

C.E.A.S.E. [Citizens for Equitable Assignment to School Environments] – (778-9427)

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

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

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

COMMON CAUSE – 1st Tuesday, every other month (228-1534)

COMMUNIST PARTY USA – Sunday evenings (473-2659)

CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (454-4820)

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

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

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

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

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

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays (583-6599)

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

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

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (625-3724)

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

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

KY AIDS LIFE ALLIANCE (KALA) – Every Thursday (479-7884)

KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 3rd Monday (778-8130)

KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – Last Tuesday (541-9998)

KITLAC (KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN) – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)

KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (774-4000)

LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP – 2nd and 4th Thursdays (587-6225)

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

LOUISVILLE MEDIA REFORM COMMUNITY – 3rd Wednesday (584-4811)

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

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

LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (454-3300), www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org

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

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

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

NAACP Youth Council – 3rd Saturday

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

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

PAX CHRISTI – Last Wednesday (456-9342)

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

PEOPLE’S AGENDA – 2nd Tuesday (778-8130)

POWER [PEOPLE ORGANIZED AND WORKING FOR ENERGY REFORM] – 2nd Monday, jointly with KFTC (778-2687)

RCRC [Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice] – (585-3050)

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

SHADHULIYYAH SUFI SPIRITUALITY GROUP – Thursday nights (893-6122)

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

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