

Trip to Palestine-Israel uncovers hope, spurs questions

by Terry Taylor

After three friends from Louisville and I returned from a two-week, first-hand look at the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, the four of us were interviewed by Peter Smith, the religion reporter for The Courier-Journal.

At the end of the two-hour discussion, Peter asked our group - who included Bashar Masri, an American citizen who is a Muslim and who was born and raised in Nablus in the West Bank; Mark Isaacs, an American Jew who spent a year living and studying in Israel; Omar Attum, an American Muslim of Palestinian heritage; and myself (these days I identify myself as a Quaker) — what major things were going to happen as a result of our trip.

I told him that we had not made our trip with any idea that we would or could significantly change the current situation in the Middle East. I added that not one of the hundreds of people we talked to during our two-week trip asked us to fix their problems.

All of the people we spoke with, however, asked us to come back home to the U.S. and tell their stories.

I heard many, each one of which could be turned into a book: stories of suffering, danger, economic collapse, isolation, acts of unexpected kindness and others of violence. A very few of the stories moved me to laughter. More often than not the stories took me to the brink of tears and awe.

As I listened to everyday people, I realized that their stories raised questions for me about my own life and how I would respond if I were in a similar situation. I hope the stories raise similar questions for all of us.

Here are a few:

We saw Israeli soldiers, some barely 17 years old (children really) with M16 rifles manning checkpoints, many of them with well-justified fear in their eyes. Could I imagine myself as that young man or woman? No.

We spent three nights in Nablus in the West bank. Each night we went to bed to the sound of gunfire and the “whump” of exploding bombs. This is daily life in this city. I asked myself if I would have the courage and stamina to endure this day after day, year after year. I’m not sure I would.

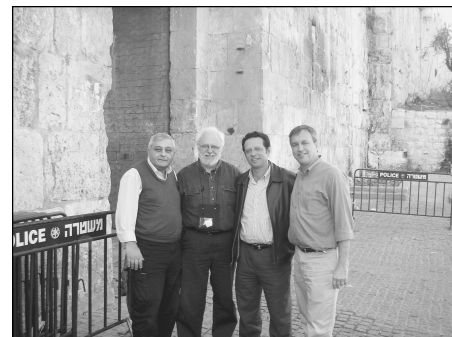
We noticed the calm way in which a Kibbutz resident who was our host 10 miles from the Israeli border with Lebanon told us that a Katyusha Rocket fell in his backyard last summer during the war that devastated parts of Israel, Gaza and Lebanon.

This gentle man, now in his seventies and seemingly unbowed by the devastating effects of a stroke, also talked of finding a way to compromise with Palestinians and said “a strong person can compromise; a weak person can’t.” Could I speak this way after experiencing such a direct threat to my life and the life of my family? I honestly don’t know.

We heard a 60-year -old woman who has spent much of her life living on a Kibbutz tell us, “When we Israelis became occupiers we destroyed our souls.” Would I have the courage to speak such scathing self-criticism? I doubt it.

We met a carpenter in the West Bank who hasn’t had a paying job in six months. Could I endure economic disaster without lashing out at someone? I wonder.

We had dinner with an 11-year-old Israeli boy and his family at their home in



— photos courtesy Terry Taylor

An image of Mahatma Gandhi on the Israeli security fence testifies to hope for nonviolence. Right picture: from left, an Israeli Orthodox Jewish cab driver joins Bashar Masri, Mark Isaacs and the author in a picture the driver asked be taken to prove to his friends that such a diverse group can work for peace.

a religious section of a huge settlement north of Jerusalem. When we asked how he felt about the prospects for peace between Israelis and Palestinians he sat in silence for a long time before finally whispering, “I don’t know; this is all I have ever known.” If I were the parent of this boy, would I be able to endure such despair in my child without doing something drastic?

We talked with a Catholic priest in Nazareth who has taken Arab children to visit Auschwitz, to help them realize that until we each understand the other’s pain, we cannot have real dialogue. Would I have had such wisdom? I would like to think so, but I doubt it.

We listened to an American Christian who lives in Bethlehem talk about how her neighborhood was locked down for 40 days during which anyone who appeared on the streets was shot at. She told us

calmly of hearing gunfire and saying to herself, “Oh, my husband must be taking out the garbage.” Could I tell such a story without rage in my voice? I doubt it.

I watched the pain in the face of the Deputy Mayor of Nablus as he told us that “Much blood has flowed.... Much blood must dry before peace can come.” What a nightmarish reality, and one I doubt that I could accept.

We heard the same official tell us that children in his city need playgrounds and school supplies so that they can just be normal children — something they can’t be now. Could I stand by without lashing out at someone or something in the face of such horrors? I wish I could say yes, but I don’t think so.

We saw dozens of groups of Israeli school children visiting the Wailing Wall
(continued on page 4)

Venezuelan president’s missions divisive yet effective

by Gracie Lewis

Meeting with trade unionists, scholars, professionals, business people and other grassroots Venezuelans on a Witness for Peace trip in February, our delegation

tion), an 18-year-old organization. Alvarado had mixed reactions to Chavez’ policies, which include “Bolivarian Missions.”

These are designed to reduce disease, illiteracy, malnutrition, poverty and other social ills. Alvarado said some Venezu-

Seventy percent of Chavez’ Fund for National Development is earmarked for infrastructure projects and 25 percent for social spending. Oil revenues and royalties yielded, in U.S. money, \$50 billion available for public spending in 2006.

This windfall is being used to empower the poor, Chavez’ number one goal.

The missions have entailed the construction of thousands of free medical clinics for the poor and educational campaigns that have made one million adult Venezuelans literate.

Chavez has granted thousands of free land titles, reportedly to formerly landless poor and indigenous communities. Several

allegedly unused estates and factories have been expropriated to provide this land.

Last year, the Communal Council Law was approved, giving councils the right to request funds and loans for projects to improve their communities.

On Feb 19, we traveled to Vargas, a rural mountain community. It was Carnival in Venezuela, so everybody was out on the streets. There, we met a leader of one of those newly formed communal councils, who was a teacher and was extremely hopeful.

The writer is an activist with REACT, a group fighting toxic pollution in West Louisville.

A pot luck dinner April 15 at 6 p.m. at Central Presbyterian Church, 4th and Kentucky streets in Louisville, will include a presentation about the Witness for Peace delegation trip to Venezuela. See ad on p. 3.

witnessed a whole new day dawning under president Hugo Chavez’ leadership.

We met early on the trip with Mariana Alvarado, director of Provea, (Venezuela Education Program and Human Rights Ac-

elans backed these, believing Chavez has empowered the poor and stimulated economic growth, while others want conditions to remain the same and have challenged Chavez every step of the way.

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Race and suffrage: tensions from a tangled legacy live

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

University of Louisville Women’s Center director Mary Karen Powers said March 15 that activists in the 1800s and early 1900s who devoted their lives to winning rights for women sometimes made deals with racism and classism to win the support of white, male legislators.

“These are not perfect people,” Powers told the FOR’s Third Thursday Lunch. “They betray class bias. They betray race bias.”

Powers then told the lunch crowd that the issue is alive and still hurts the progressive movement by limiting interaction between races and classes.

“If you’re me — that means if you’re a white southerner - what you’re afraid of, I think, is that engaging in a conversation will betray the vestiges of racism that you still carry around, internalize and don’t see in yourself,” Powers said, adding that the matter of race and social class “continues today to make it hard for black women and white women to really engage racism in conversation.”

Powers, speaking as part of Women’s



— photo courtesy UL Women’s Center
Mary Karen Powers

History Month, said many suffragists were good-hearted and passionately favored racial and social equality, but a great split in the movement revolved around the 14th and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution,

The 14th amendment guarantees equal protection of state laws and the latter guarantees the right vote regardless of race, color or previous condition of servitude.

The National Women’s Suffrage Association, noting that the amendments did not give woman any rights, opposed them, but the American Women’s Suffrage Association supported both amendments, Powers said.

A feeling of betrayal by the male power structure led some to oppose the amendments, as many had believed that backing the war effort would have been enough to win voting and property rights for women, she added.

“When the Civil War begins, the northern suffragists are urged by their allies in the abolitionist movement to quit advocating around the women question and to throw their weight behind the effort to end slavery and to end the Civil War. And they do,” Powers said. “And they believe that at the conclusion of the war they will receive the right to vote as a reward for their work in the war effort.”

After the amendments were ratified, the organizations put differences aside and merged, Powers said. Still, she added, the effort to win the right of women to vote involved using racial fears, telling the lunch that some northern and southern advocates warned that women’s votes were needed to offset black votes.

“Many of the northern suffragists are not, by moral conviction, seeking segregation, but they’re willing to live with it for political expediency.”

Members of the Henry Wallace Brigade, which traveled to Cuba in December, will talk at the April 19 Third Thursday Lunch about progress Cuba is making around the issues of race, homophobia and community building. The lunch, which costs \$7, starts at 11:30 a.m. and will be at the Rudyard Kipling restaurant, 422 W. Oak St. in Louisville. Reservations are required by April 17. For more information, call Polly Johnson at (502) 473-8435 or Mary Ann Lambert at (502) 425-3844.

FINANCIAL REPORT February 2007

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$8,245.21
Contributions	<u>285.00</u>
TOTAL	\$8,530.21

EXPENDITURES:		
FORsooth Editing	\$150.00	
FORsooth Layout	100.00	
FORsooth Printing	264.00	
FORsooth Mailing	212.00	
FOR National Dues	75.00	
TTL Lunches	14.00	
EJ Printing	15.90	
Office Expenses	<u>23.85</u>	
	\$854.75	<u>\$854.75</u>
ENDING BALANCE		\$7,675.46

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is published by the Louisville chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.
Send submissions for news stories or commentaries to George Morrison, editor,
c/o 2236 Kaelin Ave., Louisville, KY 40205, e-mail: <klm86@netzero.net>.

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Chavez’ left turn improving life for poor Venezuelans

While the U.S. has focused for the last few years on destroying Iraq and murdering our former CIA operative Saddam Hussein, slowly a specter of socialism has been sweeping Latin America and the Caribbean.

It is no longer just Cuba. Brazil, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Ecuador, Peru, Chile and Venezuela have been, to varying degrees and in different ways, changing our neighbors to the south toward production for human need and away from corporate avarice and private profit.

Of special interest to your columnist is Hugo Chavez, the democratically elected president of Venezuela. Here is a country, the fourth largest supplier of oil to the United States, whose president calls our president a donkey (so that’s what all that braying is at the White House), and who is regarded as a hero in so many quarters, all over the world.

It was with this in mind that your humble scribe visited Venezuela Feb. 16 to 25. Fourteen of us were from Louisville, one from Bowling Green, Ky, one from Chicago and the rest from Utah. Our trip was sponsored by Witness for Peace, which first came to my attention in the 1980s when they stood on the Nicaraguan border, unarmed, to try to block U.S.-backed Contra fighters from overthrowing the Sandinista government.

We spent most of our time in Caracas, a city of six million people, but also two days and nights in the tiny mountain hamlet of La Magdalena, and one day in a fishing village.

Note: We were requested by WFP not to mention names of spokespersons for the various organizations with whom we met. This seems ridiculous to me, but I will comply, with one exception, out of my respect for WFP.

Our delegation met with many groups. Provea (Venezuela Education Program — Human Rights Action), is an 18-year-old organization, we were told by its spokesperson. “President Chavez says we are in a revolutionary process, peaceful, but armed. Peaceful — to be carried out within the framework of the country, but with support of the army.”

He spoke of “public policies favoring the poor,” agrarian reforms and the elimination of illiteracy, promotion of health care with the support of 30,000 Cuban doctors. Also, “peaceful change within the framework of the constitution.”

Interspersed, however, were many serious criticisms “Poverty has (now) been reduced, but not as much (as should be) given eight years (of Chavez governance).

“The police force violates human rights. Executions by police of civilians (after detention) has risen. Police... also carry out tortures.” He emphasized kidnapping, murder, drug trafficking and rape, perpetrated by “national, state and local police forces.” Crime is rampant.

Your columnist did not know about every one of these charges, but has learned that many deeds, in many countries, carried out in the name of socialism, are nothing short of atrocities, and he will not whitewash atrocities. Yet, the harshly negative turn in the conversation seemed practiced and blanket, damning with faint praise. “Police corruption, not poverty, has led to crime,” and this led me to perk up.

Someone asked the Provea speaker if he voted for Chavez for president. “I didn’t vote for Chavez, or for the opposition. I consciously decided not to vote.” And then my suspicions of this group were confirmed: to not vote for Chavez was to objectively support the oil thieves and plunderers.

I began to question Witness for Peace’s judgment. Are there no human rights groups in Venezuela that are not right-wing?

The next day my friend Jim Flynn, a Roman Catholic priest originally from Louisville, and long-time Witness for Peace activist, restored my faith in WFP. His “reflection” at breakfast was on the word “compañero,” companion, friend. Jim parsed it into “con” (with) and “pan” (bread).

We met with the group Fundalatín, in the Carapita Barrio (poor neighborhood). It is a Christian ecumenical organization, “based in liberation theology,” commented our speaker. “In the 1970s, during the National Security Doctrine perpetuated by the SOA (School of the Americas) in the U.S... it (didn’t) matter if people violate(d) human rights if they (were) on our side.”

Fundalatín dealt first with people “disappeared” (kidnapped, never to be seen again) in three countries.

”When Chavez came to power, the IMF talked to him about privatizing the oil company to pay off debt.” Chavez, instead, raised the per-barrel price of oil, which “allowed us to pay down external debt and fund social programs.”

The social programs are set up in the form of “missions.” They function quite well today. Space does not permit quoting the compañero’s detailed historical presentation of the multi-national ALBA, Venezuela’s alternative to U.S.-backed control, and specifics about the missions.



Our Witness for Peace leader, later, gave a detailed explanation of U.S. policy, honing in on oil and regional stability. The U.S. has been bad-mouthing Chavez for years, and has meddled in internal Venezuelan affairs through the U.S. Congress-funded National Endowment for Democracy (NED), and CIA funding as well.

The U.S. supported the government that formed after the short-lived coup against President Chavez, stated WFP. The (U.S.) Office of Director of National Intelligence has a mission manager devoted solely to Cuba and Venezuela. And I don’t think they are scouting for baseball players for the New York Yankees.

We paid several visits to the Mercals, government-subsidized supermarkets. The Mercal (mission) is an effort to provide nourishment to the 80 percent of Venezuelans who live in poverty. It also has succeeded in preventing price speculation.

Printed on the sides of pasta and bean packages are small parts of the Venezuelan constitution, and information about the government—a most creative way of educating people. When was the last time you got informed by reading a Pepsi can?

Two Mercals in Caracas had many food staples; one store had a refrigeration compartment for perishables. In the tiny town of La Magdalena the Mercal was a counter and small room inside a cooperative bakery.

Government officials from two agencies, who were scheduled to speak to us, had to cancel, and I became depressed because two upcoming events were with the far-right: Primero Justicia (NED funded), and the armed fortress that is the U.S. Embassy (the latter I refused to attend, and not only because we were prevented from quoting the official by name).

WFP leadership, at my urging, set up a meeting with the progressive labor federation, UNT. It was an honor to hear from Eduardo Sanchez, national coordinator of the National Workers Union. He introduced several other UNT officials. Compañero Sanchez juxtaposed his federation to the CTV, “who keep ‘labor peace’ — low salaries below the standard of living.” Shades of the U.S. dilemma, at times.

“In 25 years (prior to Chavez), not a single strike was declared legal by the government. In 1998, Chavez wins, and proposes a referendum for a Constitutional Assembly.... (Organized) labor proposed labor law reforms, increasing social rights: the right to strike, collective bargaining... rights for the unemployed. It was put to a referendum, and passed by more than 90 percent. So, we now had workers’ power, (including) free elections in unions for the first time.

“We decided to create a new workers’ federation... in 2003. We are now the biggest labor federation in Venezuela in number of unions and number of workers. We’ve dealt with a coup, a management strike in the oil sector, La Guarimaba resurrection, and recall election. In all of these, the workers won.

“(We are) consolidating a new society: equality, solidarity, equitable distribution of

wealth. One thousand, seven hundred businesses, abandoned by owners or struck (by workers) are now in the hands of workers. The process of nationalization —telecommunications, electricity — is with the knowledge and participation of the workers. We are moving toward modification of the constitution — for a new socialist state.”

He romanced us with his knowledge of Malcolm X, Martin Luther King, the U.S. roots of May Day, and so much more. He encouraged us to get true information, “not the CNN truth.... There are economic conflicts, poverty, misery. But we are dealing with them. They are the consequences of forty years of brutal capitalism. Eighty percent of Venezuela is in poverty; 52 percent in crucial poverty, 18 percent of the workforce is unemployed.” I was, indeed, impressed with the progress that has been made.

In La Magdalena, the mountain hamlet, we went to a Bolivarian school. To become such a school you have to be open from 6 a.m. until 4 p.m., and provide two meals and a snack.

The principal introduced us to the president of the school, a fifth grader. She was the former chief justice of the school Supreme Court. Whereas most children that age, speaking before strangers, would look down and be uncomfortable, this girl, or rather this esteemed school president, looked directly at us, and spoke with knowledge and self-confidence about school programs, and plans for the future.

If the United States government has its way, this society would cease to be. Will we allow our government to dash the dreams of this young girl?

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com. He will write in a future column about BanMujer, the women’s bank that has empowered poor women, and other groups.

We went to Venezuela and WE’RE BACK!



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Trip to Palestine-Israel

(continued from page 1)

in Old Jerusalem, each group accompanied by gun-bearing security guards. How would I react to the reality of being unable to send my child to a public place without an armed guard?

I watched my traveling companion, Omar, take a picture of a poster on a wall in the old city of Nablus, a picture showing two young men who had been killed in the struggle with the Israelis. As Omar focused his camera, I heard an angry resident of the city say, "Why is he taking pictures of the poster? They [the Americans] did this; they probably have pictures of the actual killing." How would I have reacted if I were this Palestinian? Would I have responded to such an intrusion with more than just heated words?

We witnessed teenage Israeli and Palestinian musicians who had performed together in Louisville three years ago forced to play music to each other over cell phones because circumstances in their two lands currently prevent them from being in the same place at the same time. If I were the teachers or parents of these children, how would I deal with the humiliation of such senseless separation?

We explored the idea of getting these Israeli and Palestinian teenagers together on opposite sides of the checkpoint at Samaria (above Nablus). Later, we heard the father of an Israeli girl react to this idea by saying, "Are you crazy? I'm not letting my daughter go to a checkpoint." But then an hour later, after much discussion, we heard the same man say, "If it will help to bring peace, I will let my daughter go to a checkpoint." Would I be willing to entrust my beloved daughter to such danger in the cause of peace? Who among us would?

A Catholic priest in Nablus who, unable to leave his city to visit his religious superior in Jerusalem, said, "If I could see a real Palestinian state and real freedom for even one day, I could die in peace." Could I have that kind of despairing hope?

We were offered refreshments in the home of a woman in Nablus whose peace-maker husband and teenage son were gunned down, supposedly by accident. She still works for peace, in spite of the fact that she has had to send her oldest surviving son to Boston to keep him away from those who might recruit him as a suicide bomber. What would I do if the woman I love and one of my children were gunned down? Could I still speak for peace?

We heard the principal of a Quaker school in Ramallah in the West Bank (whose home had been demolished by the IDF) tell us that when her daughter was three years old this little girl believed that Israeli soldiers were literally robots.

That same principal then told us that when her house was invaded a few days later by Israeli soldiers she asked one uniformed young man to sit down on the sofa while she invited her terrified daughter to come into the room and put her tiny hand into his hand. "See, honey," she said to her daughter, "He's a person just like you and me." Would I,

could I, ask my child to do such a terrifying thing? I wish I could say yes.

We heard a calm official at the Israeli Foreign Ministry tell us that "It is a sad reality but, Israelis can learn to live with a suicide bomber every two months, but not one every day or even every week." Here in Kentucky, would we be willing to live with unpredictable violence every two weeks? What do you think?

These are just a few of the stories I encountered firsthand on my trip. The stories instilled in me a deep respect for the almost impossible level of courage I witnessed in the Jews, Muslims, Christians, Samaritans and Druse that I met, people who endured outrage, catastrophe and heartbreak, but never gave up on their hope of living side by side in peace.

(I wish I could say as much of the people we didn't meet: the leaders of the Palestinian Authority, Israel, the Arab Countries and the U.S — all of whom fail to act with the courage demonstrated by the average citizens I met, a courage that is and will be required if there is to be any hope of a successful two-state solution.)

But there is one more story I must tell. It is the story of two walls. The first is the

security wall that is being erected around the West Bank and Gaza.

We saw the security wall in its starkness. We saw portions of it decorated by the Israelis to make it less intimidating to tourists.

We saw one portion of the wall decorated on the Palestinian side with a 10 foot stenciled portrait of Gandhi.

The Security Wall raised many questions for me as I stood on the Israeli side of it and then on the Palestinian.

But more urgent questions were raised for me by another wall that drew our attention. Here is its story:

On the first night of our trip Mark and I visited Bethlehem. We returned to our rooms at a nearby ecumenical center in Jerusalem via a shortcut that took us through a crumbling place in the stone fence surrounding the center. As we stepped through the breach I came to the realization that this broken place held special symbolic meaning.

Rising, as it does, in the shadow of the taller Security Wall, the center's lesser wall seemed to me to be the perfect metaphor for the questions that had arisen in our hearts during our travels:

What must Israelis and Palestinians do to find a small crumbling place in the wall of hatred and distrust that now separates them?

How can they find some path through the wall of fear through which a few people from each side can move in the service of peace?

What if anything can we do here in Louisville to enlarge the breach in the service of increased understanding and cooperation?

How can we uncover additional openings that can make a two state solution viable?

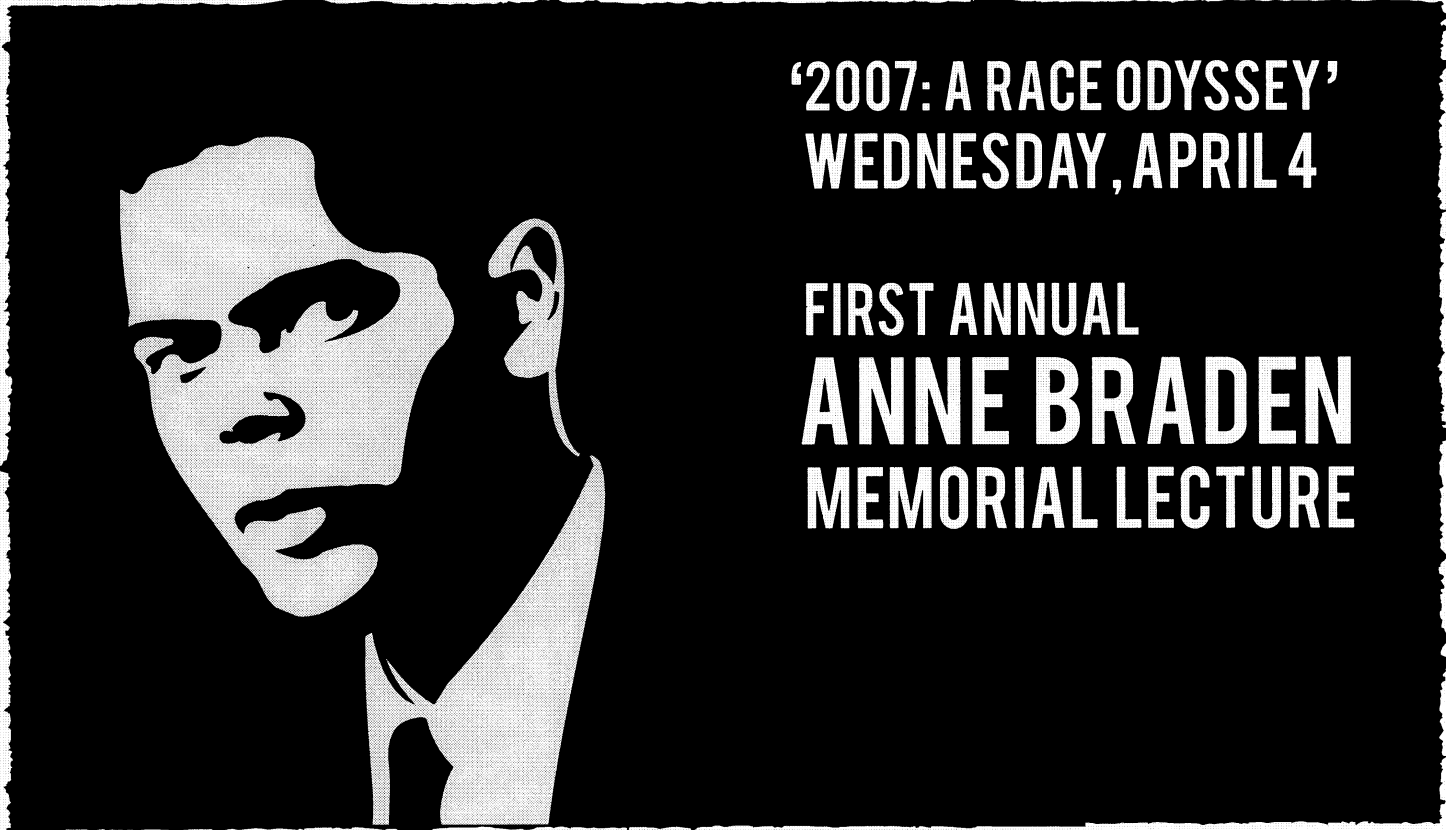
How can we gain the level of courage exhibited by the Israeli and Palestinian people who work for peace in the face of seemingly insurmountable obstacles?

There are many questions, but few definite answers. Yet, I am convinced that if we don't ask ourselves (and our leaders) hard questions, we will never be able to summon the courage required to further justice and bring a lasting peace to the Middle East, to our own city, or to ourselves.

The writer is the executive director of Interfaith Paths to Peace.

JULIAN BOND

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Notes from a march on Pentagon

by Eustace Durrett
and Ike M. Thacker IV

On March 17, the ANSWER. (Act Now to Stop War and End Racism) Coalition put together a “March on the Pentagon.”

No accurate attendance figures are available, but an Associated Press story estimated 10-to-20,000 participants came from across the country. The same AP story also reported that on the same day, similar demonstrations were held in other U.S. cities — Los Angeles; San Francisco; San Diego; New York; Hartford, Conn.; etc., and that tens of thousands marched in Madrid, as Spaniards called not only for the United States to get out of Iraq but also for the closing of the prison for “terrorist” suspects at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba.

The night of March 16 saw four packed buses organized by the Louisville Peace Action Community (LPAC) leave Louisville, carrying mostly Louisvillians, a few people from Lexington, and a smattering of trekkers from Somerset and other commonwealth communities — for a total of some 200 Kentuckians.

Their destination was 23rd Street and Constitution Avenue in the District of Columbia, where they would assemble with other U.S. citizens to march on the Pentagon and demand peace.

The bus ride was quiet and included a brief snow flurry somewhere in West Virginia.

The March followed the route of the famous 1967 demonstration against the war in Vietnam. That march had become a melee, with several arrests for trespassing and much unruly behavior. This March saw no more than five arrests for trespassing, which were for an unauthorized bridge crossing. The March took a route that led its participants about a mile to the Arlington Bridge, then across it and to the sprawling Pentagon, the architecturally ugly building of war and headquarters of the U.S. military. This meant about another two miles of bitter cold and wind.

The primary demands of the marchers were that President Bush bring the troops home *now* and that democrats use their newfound control of Congress to cut off funding for the fighting.

There were counter-protestors, probably 3,000 to 4,000. There were minimal contacts from either side. The two were kept apart by police on horseback. Probably the most insulting catcalls from the counter-demonstrators were, “You are traitors,” and, “You are terrorists.” These “patriots” put up a lot of signs, saying “Support our Troops,” “Support Our President “ and a sign implying fighting in Iraq would prevent the war from spreading: “There of Here.”

One banner that seemed a bit dated read, “Vietnam Veterans Against Kerry.” Perhaps, it was a recycling project.

There had apparently been a recent snowstorm that had thawed, making the grassy areas wet and treacherous; in the area in front of the Pentagon, anti-war protestors stood for three hours or more, listening to speeches, doing some anti-war chanting, and discovering old and making new friends.

This was three hours of bitter cold and strong winds, bringing the effective temperature down to zero.

There were speeches, banners, pamphlets, DVD’s, buttons, bumper stickers, and newspapers against the war in Iraq. There were also emphases on the Cuban Five, the 9/11/01 implosion of the twin towers, the Israeli occupation of Palestine, and the invasion threat to Iran. And socialism was not a dead issue: there were a surprising number of young cadres of college age to continue the fight. Copies of *The Socialist Worker*, *Worker’s World*, and similar newspapers were available. Several signs showed a likeness of Che’ Guevara and his quote, “The Struggle of the Workers Knows No Boundaries.” Also, the Socialist Workers Party and the Party for Socialism and Liberation made their presence known.

A Park Department’s snafu caused an additional amount of walking to the parking lot of Arlington Cemetery. Many buses were not allowed into the North Parking Lot of the Pentagon.

The trip home began late Saturday night and finished early Sunday morning. It was mostly without incident — just rest stops, sleep, and a sense of accomplishment.

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

Ending the Israeli Occupation of Palestine is an AMERICAN Issue

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

at the VIGIL

12 Noon – 1:00 PM each Friday
Corner of 6th Street & Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky

Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States (502.451.5658)
www.louisvillepeace.org/twostates.html

Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)/Louisville Chapter (502.458.8056)
www.louisville-for.org

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)/Kentucky Chapter (502.893.9828)
www.adckentucky.com



MCDONALD’S PROFIT\$ FROM FARMWORKER POVERTY

“Today, we are tired, in the words of Martin Luther King, Jr.,
of ‘relying on the good will and understanding
of those who profit by exploiting us.’”

-Coaliton of Immokalee Workers

Nearly two years have passed since the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) announced an historic initiative with Taco Bell to address **sub poverty wages** and **sweatshop conditions** of the farmworkers in its tomato supply chain.

McDonald’s has refused to step up to these same initiatives for **justice**.

In fact, they have taken steps to **undermine** the hard-won advances secured by the Taco Bell agreement.

Two years of “negotiations” with McDonald’s have yielded **zero results**.

Join the CIW in Chicago for a
Carnaval and
Parade for Fair Food!

Friday, April 13th Rally at McDonald’s headquarters, Oakbrook, IL
Saturday April 14th Carnaval and Parade for Fair Food, Chicago, IL

Bus leaving from Louisville! Get on the bus: \$35 round trip!

Contact: Aramie Bloom aramie@sfalliance.org
or Dana Fadel fadelda@gmail.com for more info
www.ciw-online.org



If you can’t make it to Chicago...Join us in a Louisville Action
When: Monday, April 9, 7:30AM-9AM
Where: The McDonald’s on 2nd & Broadway

Evangelicals poised to go own way in nation’s politics

The religious right is in trouble. We’ve been waiting more than 25 years to hear that said, but it really may be true, if recent assessments by several pundits are correct.

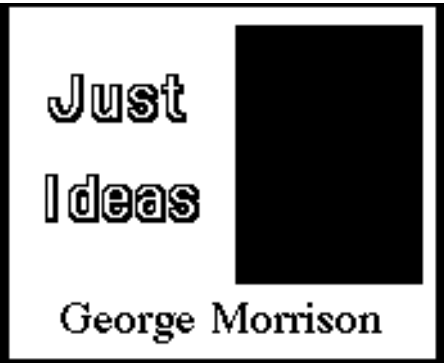
So what force is to be credited with finally forcing the partisan evangelical movement into retreat? Is it the American Civil Liberties Union with its many legal motions? Is the Democratic Party finally standing tall against the right wing?

Is it folks like us on the religious left?

No, the battering ram smashing the supposedly impenetrable fortress of evangelism is - are you sitting down - evangelicals themselves. There is evidence they are becoming non-partisan.

In a passive-aggressive way, grassroots evangelicals and leaders are choosing to abandon the status of partisan king makers afforded them by media two years ago when they were credited with deciding the 2004 election by solidly siding with President Bush as they helped send voter turnout soaring.

Suddenly, however, evangelical today no longer equals republican. An important step in this direction came when the



National Association of Evangelicals in March resisted reactionaries within its ranks and reaffirmed its position that global warming is a key moral issue.

The right wing condemned this move and blasted NAE vice-president for governmental affairs Rev. Rich Cizik, who strongly believes that concern for the poor and the environment (causes the right wingers worried will bring about more birth control) must be coupled with the more established social agenda of the religious right.

Columnist E.J. Dionne summarized the

situation this way: “Many evangelicals are boarding a new train. It runs along tracks defined by the broad demands of their faith, not by some party’s political agenda.”

So 10 years from now, no, we won’t be referring to evangelism in the past tense. That’s fine - they have as much right as anybody to proselytize through non-governmental means.

The change going on in their ranks, however, may mean that in a decade we may no longer see *partisan* evangelism. This would be a glorious development - it could mean the end the very serious threat of a melding of state and church that has intensified since the George W. Bush administration came to power.

It also could end the mistake of politicized Christianity - reducing the life and message of Jesus to a pocket-sized voter guide, and turning faith into something defiled by the brutally rough edges of today’s focus-group and negative-ad driven politics.

Best of all, it could return evangelical religion to a movement that - as I said before — proselytizes through non-governmental means.

By spreading their faith through voluntary channels, evangelicals will find - much to the surprise of those who accept Pat Robertson’s version of what the ACLU is all about - that civil liberties activists don’t object to them at all.

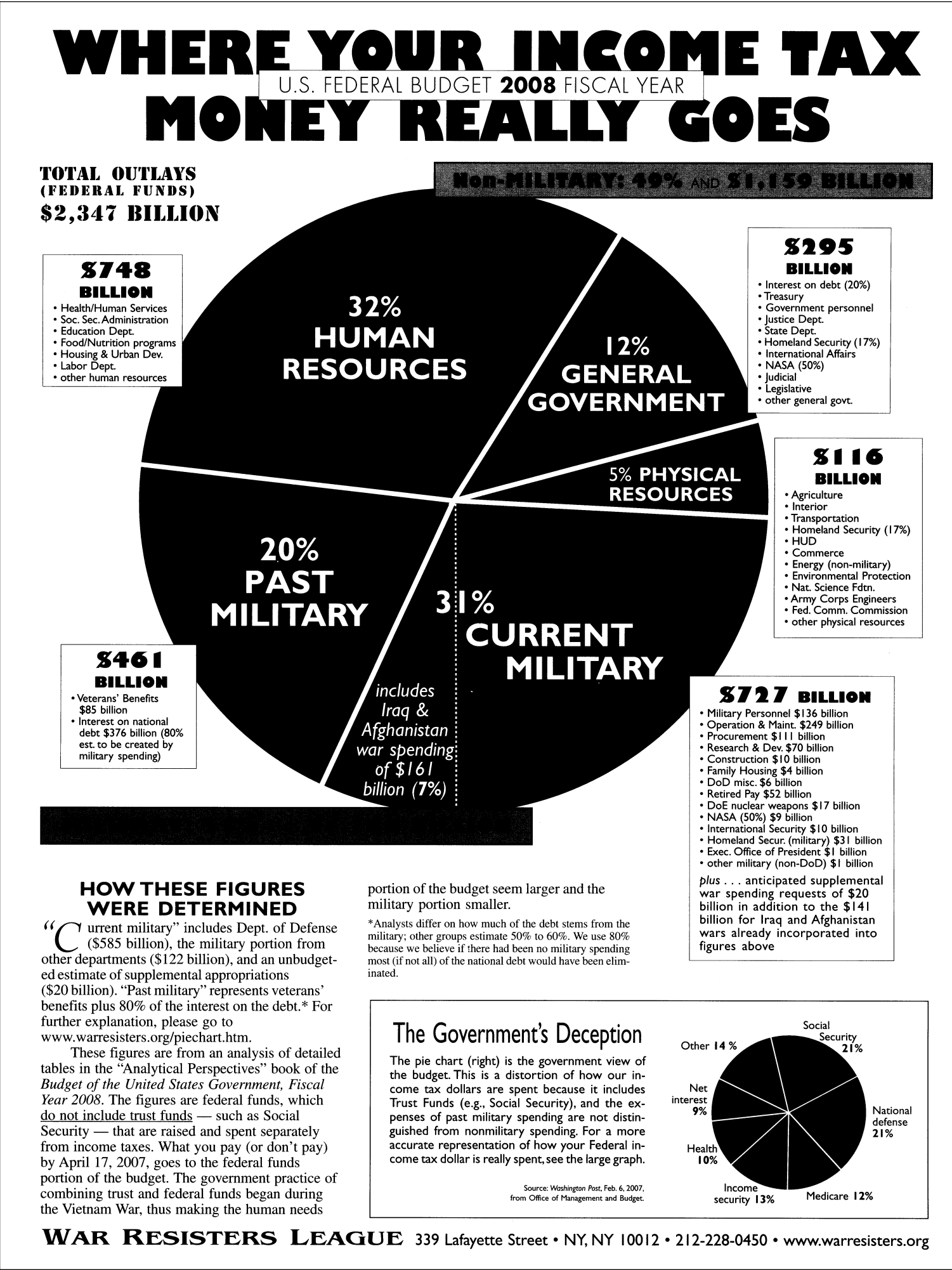
It’s only the clearly unconstitutional and very dangerous state establishment of religion that must be stopped.

As a civil libertarian, I would lie down in the street in front of a moving tank to protect the right of the Christian Coalition to spread its faith.

When, however, it’s Robertson or Jerry Falwell driving that tank in an effort to make their faith compulsory, I would (and did) join the ACLU and People for the American Way - in the figurative sense, lying down in the tank’s path.

If evangelicals are indeed rejecting the idea that they should be partisan, than those tactics, coupled with the patience that is an absolute necessity for nonviolent activists, could be working.

Contact George Morrison at klm86@netzero.net.



PASTORS FOR PEACE CARAVAN TO CUBA WILL CHALLENGE THE BLOCKADE

The Caravan in July will be as many people, vehicles, tons of aid, caravan outreach events, and media stories as possible The timing means it will be in Cuba for the July 26th celebrations, especially honoring the elderly Cubans who have worked so hard to meet their social, health and educational needs.

It may be that the tide is turning in the US against the blockade. We remember that in November 2006, the vote in the United Nations General Assembly was overwhelmingly in favor (183-4). Legislation is expected this year to remove some aspect of the blockade or travel ban.

Other travel challenges will join in at this time invluding, the Venceremos Brigade, the US-Cuba Labor Exchange, and the African Awareness Association. The return date is July 28 as they proudly acknowledge that they have challenged the US travel ban.

People are needed to come to Cuba with the caravan. Can you be a caravanista? Hslp spread the word. Flyers, applications and info are available. Go to www.pastorsforpeace.org

Save this date, July 8. A Potluck Dinner will be provided for the caravan as it comes through Louisville. Contact David Horvath, 502/479-9262.

LORETTO NUN BREAKS NEW GROUND

Sister Patricia J. Manion has finished her documentary which took her away from Louisville for quite a long time. *Venture into the Unknown* tells the story of some Sisters of Loretto in China, dating back to 1923, who assisted people fleeing overwhelming floodwaters, helped those caught up in the revolution, suffered through the Japanese invasion and American bombing to drive the Japanese out, and then Communist oppression. This part of history is rarely told.

The writer has dug through many letters, memoirs and other historical documents to bring to life the first six nuns and the sisters who followed them, as well as the priests and the way of life of the Chinese people they encountered.



The perceptive review of the book written by Prudy Moffett which appeared in the Courier-Journal (February 24, 2007) whets the appetite to read it all. ***Please take note: PJ Manion*** (as we affectionately call her) **will read and sign copies of her book at Carmichael’s Bookstore, 2866 Frankfort Ave, at 7 pm on Wednesday, April 12, 2007.**

CAMPAIGN TO REPEAL THE “TORTURE LAW”; SPECIAL REQUEST FROM SISTER DIANNA ORTIZ

Many of us can recall the dreadful experience suffered by Sister Dianna Ortiz in Guatemala.

Her detailed account was published by Orbis Books in 2002: *The Blindfold’s Eyes: My Journey from Torture to Truth*. Sister Helen Prejean called it “one of the most amazing human journeys I have ever read. Once you read the first few pages, you’re hooked.”

Her story actually began when she was in the Ursuline Convent, Mount Saint Joseph, located at Maple Mount, Kentucky, in western Kentuckyvery near the Indiana border. In 1987, she was commissioned to leave the convent and become a missionary. She joined the Ursuline community in San Miguel Acatan, a typical Mayan village. She wrote, “The literacy rate was one in ten. Nearly 80% of the children under five were malnourished, and one of every ten infants died.”

Very soon she had organized a class of youngsters (ages nine to twelve) which was “like teaching five grades at one time.”. Basically she emphasized learning skills needed prior to first grade – recognizing letters, sounds, numbers, cutting, writing, etc.

This was the scene when, two years later, she was kidnapped by security forces and brutally tortured. Dianna was 31 years old at this time. She learned later, from photos discovered in legal searches, that she had been targeted from the beginning.

After many years of therapy and recovery from the psychological and spiritual impact of torture, Sister Dianna was able to tell her story. She founded **TASSC International** (Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition) with an office in Washington, DC.

She writes to us now urging that we endorse a campaign against torture here in the United States. Contributions (tax deductible) will also be gratefully received.

“The recently enacted Military Commissions Act of 2006 not only constitutes a direct assault on habeas corpus, IT HAS EFFECTIVELY LEGALIZED THE USE OF TORTURE BY THE U.S. GOVERNMENT. It is, in effect, a Torture Law.”

By endorsing this campaign we allow our name to be put on a list of endorsers of the **Campaign to Repeal the Military Commissions Act Of 2006.**

Send to:
Torture Abolition and Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC INTERNATIONAL)
4121 Harewood Road NE, Suite B
Washington, DC 20017

Tel: 202/529-2991
E-mail: pmagno@tassc.org



Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the
Fellowship of Reconciliation

April 19th

Cuba: Revolution in Motion
Representatives of the “Henry Wallace Brigade”, (23 people who visited Cuba in December, 2006) will discuss the dynamic progress in Cuba around issues of racism, homophobia and community building. They will share how Cubans are dealing with issues that concern us all.

Please note: The Rudyard Kipling Continues to Welcome Us for These Luncheons!

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

For reservations, call Polly Johnson (473-8435) or Mary Ann Lambert (425-3844) by Tuesday before the Lunch.

**The Louisville Chapter
of
The American Palestine Public Affairs Forum (APPAF)
Invites you to watch**

Afif Safieh debating Yossi Alpher
In Memory of the late Kenneth George

**Thursday, April 19, 2007
7:30 PM**
**Location: League of Women Voters
115 South Ewing (off Frankfort Avenue)
Louisville, KY**

Afif Safieh is currently the representative of the Palestine Liberation Organization to the United States, after serving fifteen years as Palestine's representative to the United Kingdom.

Yossi (Joseph) Alpher is a consultant and writer on Israel-related strategic issues, and is co-editor, of bitterlemons.org , a web-based Israeli-Palestinian political dialogue magazine.

**For Directions and further info, please call
Bashar Masri
Cell Phone 773-1836
Home: 895-8150**

Justice for Genocide in Guatemala!

Emilio Tojín López from the **Assocation for Justice and Reconciliation** will be speaking about efforts to bring former Guatemalan military leaders, including former dictator Gen. Ríos Montt, to justice. Simultaneous legal proceedings in Guatemala and Spain are seeking to hold the former leaders responsible for genocide and other gross human rights abuses in the 1980s.

**MONDAY,
APRIL 16**
Church of the Epiphany
(in “The Lighthouse”)
7:30 p.m.
914 Old Harrods Creek Road (off Ward Ave or Shelbyville Rd.

Sponsored by The Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean and the Social Responsibility Committee, Church of the Epiphany

Despite an international arrest warrant issued against him for genocide, Rios Montt is planning to run for the Guatemalan Congress in September. According to the UN, over 100,000 people were killed during his 1982-1983 regime.

Calendar for peacemakers

Apr 4 (Wed) **JULIAN BOND: “2007 — A RACE ODYSSEY.”** **First Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture, and GRAND OPENING OF THE UofL Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research,** Free. Brown & Williamson Club, Cardinal Stadium. 5:30 pm. Reception follows. Call Cate Fosl, 291-3824.

April 6 (Good Friday) **A WALK FOR JUSTICE.** Everyone is invited to participate in this prayerful, justice-oriented “Stations of the Cross” throughout downtown focusing on the suffering of Jesus in our midst today. 9:30-11:30 AM, beginning at the Mazzoli Federal Building, 7th & Chestnut. Walk concludes at Founders Square Park, 5th & Muhammad Ali Blvd. Call Anne Walter, 583-6419.

Apr 6 (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.

Apr 7 (Sat) **WORKSHOP TO EXPLORE FEDERAL BUDGET ALTERNATIVES** based on Principles of Social Justice, leading to a set of “ordinary human rights and concern for issues of poverty, education and social services. Power point discussion led by Dr. Phil Schervish. Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Rd. 11:30-1:30 beginning with snacks. **Free. Register by calling Jean Edwards, 458-8056.**

Apr 7 (Sat) **2585 PEOPLE WANTED who are interested in income.** This healthy life style workshop makes it happen. We teach and train you to make it happen. No special skills or education needed. Free. Unity of Louisville Adult Action Center, 757 S Brook St. 9:00 am. Call Henry Lewis, 502/582-1267.

Apr 8 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter recruitment. Every 2nd Sunday at 7:00 pm, 2236 Kaelin Avenue at the FOR office. 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*

Apr 9 (Mon) **RISE AND SHINE! JOIN THE IMMOKALEE WORKERS at 9:30 am AS THEY RALLY AT McDONALD’S** (2nd & Broadway). Call David Horvath, 479-9262

April 11 (Wed) **COMMEMORATION of the 40th ANNIVERSARY of THE OPEN HOUSING MOVEMENT.** Panelists include former State Senator Georgia Powers, State Representative Reginald Meeks, and Metro Councilwoman Cheri Bryant Hamilton. Moderator, Dr Tracy K’Meyer. Noon at the new Legal Aid Society office, 416 W. Muhammad Ali Blvd. 3rd floor. Hosted by the Metro Housing Coalition, 584-6858

April 11 (Wed) **KITLAC (Ky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean).** Every second Wednesday, Presbyterian Seminary, Nelson Hall, Room 10, 7:30 pm. Call David Horvath, 479-9262, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.

April 13-14 (FS) **COME TO CHICAGO! JOIN THE IMMOKALEE WORKERS IN A MASS RALLY AT McDONALD’S WORLD HEADQUARTERS** demanding a penny more per pound. Saturday program includes **Carnival and Parade for Fair Food** in downtown Chicago. **Get on the bus for the overnight trip.** Sleeping space provided. To secure a seat, send check for \$35 made out to KITLAC to: **Aramie Bloom, 113 Travois Rd, Louisville, KY 40207. *aramie@sfalliance.org*** More info at *www.civ-online.org*

April 13-15 (FSS) **COME TOGETHER KENTUCKY**, bringing GLBT students of Kentucky’s colleges and universities together. Many workshops are planned. Contact Darnell Johnson, 893-0788. *fairmess@fairmess.org* or Tanisha Johnson *tanishamonet@yahoo.com*

April 14 (Sat) **2nd ANNUAL DISMANTLING CLASSISM CONFERENCE**, 10:00-4:30. At the **“Women In Transition”** office, Kling Center, 219 West Ormsby. A day-long interactive conference on how class effects and connects us all. Sliding scale: \$1-\$20. Fee covers the conference, lunch, snacks, and childcare. There will also be yourh activities exploring issues of poverty and human rights. To register, contact Jennifer Jewell, 636-0160. *jjewell506@juno.com*

April 15 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** (Every third Sunday) First Unitarian Church, 4th & York Streets, 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Mamion, 451-5658.

April 15 (Sun) **DELEGATION REPORT BACK: “What We Saw and Heard in Venezuela.”** An evening of sharing stories, music and photos as well as learning about Venezuela’s social realities and US responses. Also an exhibition of paintings from Venezuela by Ashley Cecil. Potluck dinner at Central Presbyterian Church, 4th & Ky Streets. 6:00 pm. Call Amy Shelton, 634-2109.

April 15 (Sun) **CONCERT FOR CONTEMPLATION with HARRY PICKENS**, internationally known jazz pianist. A sonic yoga tapping the power of music to help you slow down, relax and deepen your conscious connection with the divine. Sponsored by the Center for Faith and Action. Donations welcome. 7:30 pm. James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave at William St. Call 896-0172.

April 16 (Mon) **YOGA FOR CLERGY.** Five Mondays, 9:00-10:00 am, geared for needs of the participants to foster deep relaxation, flexibility and balance, as well as a personal yoga practice. \$50. The presenter, **Alex Cleveland**, has taught lyengar yoga for ten years. Crescent Hill United Methodist Church, 201 S Peterson. Sponsored by Center for Faith and Action. Call 896-0172. (No class Derby week)

April 16 (Mon) **TAX DAY! TAXES FOR PEACE, NOT WAR!** Join us for leafleting at noon, corner of Fifth and Market. Let your voice be heard during your lunch hour. It is surprising how many leaflets can be handed out in just 15 minutes. Stop by to vote in the penny poll to state how you would like for your tax dollars to be used. Come and stay as long as you can. For more info, call Phil Schervish, 451-6638, or Jean Edwards, 458-8056.

April 19 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation**, featuring representatives of the **Henry Wallace Brigade** that visited Cuba in December, presenting **“CUBA: REVOLUTION IN MOTION.”** They will discuss the dynamic progress Cuba has made in dealing with racism, homophobia, and community building — issues that concern us all. Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 422 W Oak St. Buffet lunch, \$7, begins at 11:30. Presentation at noon. Reservations required. Call Polly Johnson, 473-8435 or Mary Ann Lambert, 425-3844.

April 19 (Thu) **YOGA FOR BEGINNERS.** Five Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 pm, \$50. The presenter, **Alex Cleveland**, has taught lyengar yoga for ten years. Crescent Hill United Methodist Church, 201 S Peterson. Sponsored by Center for Faith and Action, 896-0172. (No class Derby Week.

April 19 (Thu) **SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**, every third Thursday, 5:30pm. Main library, 4th & York Sts, Board Room, Mezzanine. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

April 19 (Thu) **LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community)** every third Thursday evening. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:00pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914, or Ellen Schagene, 451-6392. *www.louisvillepeace.org* E-mail: *pcunity@yahoo.com*

April 19 (Thu) **AMERICAN PALESTINE PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM (APPAF).** Every second Thursday at the League of Women Voters Bldg, 115 S Ewing (off Frankfort Ave). 7:30 pm. (Note change of date for this month only.) We will watch the video of **Afif Safieh** debating **Yossi Alpher**. The debate took place in Louisville last December arranged by Kenneth George. League of Women Voters Bldg, 115 S Ewing, off Frankfort Avenue. 7:30 pm. Call Bashar Masri, 895-8155.

April 21 **PEACEFUL SKIES OVER LOUISVILLE! PEACEFUL SKIES PICNIC!** An alternative to the militarized airshow portion of “Thunder Over Louisville.” Families are invited to gather at Iroquois Park, bring picnic food, enjoy music, fly kites, make paper airplanes and learn about peacemaking. Kites and paper airplanes (with instructions) will be provided. 2 pm - 6 pm. Sponsored by the newly formed **Peaceful Skies Coalition**. For details call Terry Taylor, 214-7322. *tatduende2@yahoo.com*

April 21 **EARTH DAY FESTIVAL and COMMUNITY YARD SALE** at Douglass Blvd Christian Church at Bardstown Rd. 9:00-1:00. To reserve a booth (\$10) go to the church website, *douglassblvdcc.com* There will be Farmers’ Stalls, Kids Activities, Info Galore, and artists. Contact Jennifer Harris. 452-2629.

April 23 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall #10, 7:30pm. Call Phil Schervish, 451-6638, or Dennis Bricking, 895-8516.

Apr 23 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE MAY 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*

Apr 24 Tue) **KCADP (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)** every last Tuesday. Highland Presbyterian Church, 1011 Cherokee Rd, 6:30pm. Call Kaye Gallagher, 721-8885 or Mark Meade, 541-9998. *kcadp@earthlink.net*

Apr 27 (Fri) **PIZZA and A MOVIE: “HARVEY,”** part of the Family Classics series sponsored by the Center for Faith & Action and Interfaith Paths to Peace. 6:00pm at James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. at William St. Free. Donation suggested for pizza. Call 896-0172.

April 28 (Sat) **“WOMEN WITH A VISION,”** Annual Assembly Luncheon sponsored by **Church Women United.** Masterson’s Restaurant, 1830 S 3rd St. For details, call Cindy Scheldorf, 239-5931.

April 29 (Sun) **“THE NARROW PATH,”** World Premier documentary about the life and witness of John Dear, SJ. A film on Peace and Nonviolence. Special guest, John Dear. SJ. Bellarmine University, Cralle Theater, 3:00 pm. Contact Dr. Paul Pearson, 502/452-8177. *pmpearson@bellarmine.edu* Jointly sponsored with Interfaith Paths to Peace.

May 1 (Tue) **DEADLINE TO ENTER THE 2007 F.O.R. FIRST ANNUAL PEACE ESSAY CONTEST.** For students in Grades 9-12 as of May 1, 2007. See the flyer in this issue of FORSOOTH.

May 3 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING**, at Beverley Marmion’s, 6:30 pm. **This is a BIG JOB!** But it will go quickly if you provide your nimble fingers. Call 451-5658.

May 6 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE** every first Sunday evening remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a candle. Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. 7:00-8:00pm, sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914.

May 10 (Thu) **METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION’S 18th ANNUAL MEETING**, featuring **Andrea Levere**, President of CFED: **“Asset Building Among Low Wage Earners.”** Hyatt Regency, 320 W Jefferson St. 5pm Socializing, 6pm Dinner. Call 584-6858.

May 12 (Sat) **KENTUCKY JOBS WITH JUSTICE SOLIDARITY CELEBRATION, 15th Anniversary**, featuring **FRED AZCARATE — AFL-CIO’s new Voice@Work Director** (Former Executive Director of National Jobs with Justice). IBEW (International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers), 4315 Preston Hwy. **5-7 pm. \$15 suggested minimum. Silent Auction, Solidarity Awards, Just Desserts and Hors D’ouerves. Call 502/582-5454.**

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

June 15-17 (FSS) **JUBILEE USA 2nd ANNUAL GRASSROOTS CONFERENCE.** Loyola Univ Water Tower Campus, 820 N. Michigan Ave, Chicago, IL 60611. Workshops and networking. Join the 2007 Sabbath Year Call for Debt Cancellation and Economic Justice. Contact Nathan Fishman at Jubilee USA, 202/546.4470, *nathan@jubileeusa.org*

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

ACORN (Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now) – (568-1918)

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)

APPAF (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum) – 2nd Thursday (895-8155)

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

CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse) – 2nd Thursday (778-8130)

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

CLARK & FLOYD COUNTIES AIDS COALITION – (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 (454-7797)

COMMUNIST PARTY USA – First Sunday at 5:00 PM (409-8706)

COMMUNITY FARM ALLIANCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY – 2nd Tuesday (775-4041)

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)

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LOUISVILLE – 2nd Tuesday (893-8436)

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

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays (637-6265)

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

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

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)

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)

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 (893-0788), *www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org*

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

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

MUHAMMAD ALI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, at UL (852-6372)

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

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

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

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

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

RCRC [Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice] – (866-606-0988)

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

SHADHULIYYAH SUFI SPIRITUALITY GROUP – (637-5010)

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

911 TRUTH LOUISVILLE (502-609-6020)

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.