

Dear Congressman Yarmuth

Your help is needed to restore a crucial right

Following is a letter written April 3 to first-term U.S. Rep. John Yarmuth of the 3rd district in Kentucky from Carl Wedekind on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky:

Dear Representative Yarmuth,

We write to you as our new representative in Congress, and our strong hope for change.

We have been taught and we believe that there are core rules established in civilized society that guarantee to each of us an opportunity to seek the goals of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. One of the oldest and most coveted of these rules is the writ of habeas corpus. This legal writ grants to every person in prison the right to require the government to justify in open court why that person is being denied his or her freedom.

The establishment of the writ dates back to the 13th century, and its denial by the British to the Americans in colonial days played no small role in the oncoming revolution. The right of all persons to the writ of habeas corpus and the forbearance of it being suspended is now imbedded in Article 1 of our Constitution.

We know you are as aware of these facts as we are and we write to remind you that the President and the Congress of the

United States are currently denying the writ of habeas corpus to some four hundred men held in the American prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, and we know not how many others in American prisons in other countries.

This is not right, it is not fair, it is not just, that these men should be caged and held without any charge being placed against them, without any meaningful

“We do need to be successful against terrorists, but acting like them will not make us more, but less safe.”

opportunity to speak out in defense of their freedom. These men are being held indefinitely, some now for five years, without hope, without rights. These men, as we, have parents and siblings, and aunts and uncles, and cousins, and many have wives and children — all at home worrying, not knowing, not being cared for.

For United States government officials to capture and hold people because they don’t like them, or are scared of them, is both unconstitutional and unconscionable. Clearly these actions only create more potential terrorists and more fear and hatred

of America in the hearts and minds of people throughout much of the world.

Do the government and the Congress think these men are not human? That they have no rights? That the government can do anything they want with them, for as long as they want, and for whatever reason they want, and there will never be any accountability? The answer at this stage is yes, and the question is, will the people of

America stand for it? Will you as our congressman stand for it?

We call upon you to join with other members of Congress to support legislation to amend the 2006 Military Commission Act to give all persons held in Guantanamo and in other American prisons the right to a writ of habeas corpus; the right to require government lawyers to explain to a Federal District Judge why each prisoner is being held, and the right of the prisoner to explain why he should be free. If the prisoner has committed a crime against the United

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Hundreds enjoy skies free from militarism

About 300 people enjoyed the start of Kentucky Derby festivities April 21 without paying homage to violence by attending the “Peaceful Skies Picnic,” an alternative to the yearly all-day military air show that precedes the Thunder Over Louisville fireworks show kicking off the Kentucky Derby Festival.

The picnic, held at Iroquois Park, included kite making and flying, chalk drawing, food and music by John Gage, Anthony Redfeather Nava, Marcus Wilkerson and others and members of the ad hoc drumming group.

“The Peaceful Skies Picnic was a huge success,” an e-mail from an organizer said.

Sponsoring organizations included the FOR, Louisville Friends Meeting (Quakers), Jefferson Street Baptist Community, First Unitarian Church, Peace and Compassion Buddha Circle, Central Presbyterian Church and many groups making up the Peaceful Skies Coalition. They wanted a way to greet spring and the Derby festival without hours of fighter aircraft maneuvering overhead while military recruitment booths below enticed youth to join.

Brigadistas call embargo main source of Cuba’s woes

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

Shirley Moorman of the Newburg area grew up in a United States where almost everybody was taught that U.S. policy toward Cuba was part of a valiant attempt to stop communist aggression.

As part of the 23-member Henry Wallace Brigade traveling to Cuba in

See much more about Cuba on page 7.

December and January, Moorman learned why almost all of the rest of the world rejects that myth.

“The U.S. is the big bully,” Moorman told the Louisville FOR’s Third Thursday Lunch April 19, during which she joined brigade member Sonja de Vries at the podium.

Moorman noted that the Helms-Burton law, named for its two reactionary congressional sponsors, forbids ships that dock in Cuba from docking in the U.S. for six months thereafter. The law, signed by President Clinton, includes many draconian punish-

ments foreven non-U.S. companies that trade with Cuba, Moorman noted.

Further, she told the lunch, the Bush administration has said it will not negotiate with Cuba unless the island nation of 11 million people discontinues its internationally acclaimed health care system, which has wiped out a long list of diseases from Cuba and provided every citizen preventive and curative medicine, free of charge.

Moorman and de Vries blamed Cuba’s economic woes on the loss of Soviet-bloc trade and aid and on the 46-year-old U.S. trade embargo, problems that have created hundreds of thousands of refugees, most of whom have moved to the U.S.

De Vries, the daughter of leftist activist Henry Wallace, who died one year, to the day, before the talk, said the phenomenon of refugees is very complex, insisting they don’t nullify the social policy successes of Cuba’s health care and educational systems.

“Cuba is a poor country compared to here,” de Vries said, but she added: “The (Cuban) living standard is so much higher than the rest of Latin America.”

One person in the audience asked if



— photo by Cathy Ford

From left, Sonja de Vries and Shirley Moorman

the blame for the refugee problem shouldn’t be laid at Fidel Castro’s door.

Ryan Hite, of Louisville, who works

with Cuban refugees through Catholic Charities and said he was not speaking for that

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Julian Bond speech inaugurates Anne Braden Institute

by Eustace Durrett
and Ike M. Thacker IV

The Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research officially opened April 4 with the First Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture, given by Julian Bond, in which the national NAACP Chairman, writer and lecturer used the Bush administration’s response to Hurricane Katrina to point out the hazards of “anti-government government.”

The lecture drew an audience of at least 500. The institute is situated at the University of Louisville College of Arts and Sciences.

Its mission is to “bridge the gap between academic research and social activism,” institute literature said. The institute seeks to advance understanding of the beginning of the Southern civil rights movement and to honor the vision of longtime social-justice advocate and organizer Anne Braden, the literature added.

It said the institute sponsors, stimulates and disseminates interdisciplinary research relevant to the Louisville community and the social justice movement and citizen participation, public policy reform and social, sexual, gender, and income justice in the south.

Institute literature said some of the institute’s other programs, along with the yearly lecture, are:

- An online database of social justice resources relevant to Anne Braden and activism in Louisville and the south.
- A biennial symposium on social justice in public policy.
- A “Community Conversations” scholar-activist dialogue series held around Louisville.
- Interdisciplinary faculty research, reading, and discussion groups.
- Social justice internships and research awards for students.

Institute director Catherine Fosl is an assistant professor of Women’s and Gender Studies at U of L. She is also author of *Subversive Southerner*, Anne Braden’s biography.

Anne Braden (1924-2006) was a Louisville journalist, organizer, and educator. She was one of the earliest and most dedicated white allies of the civil rights movement. For 60 years she used the power of the printed word to advance human rights across the south. Rev. Martin Luther King

Jr. lauded her efforts in his “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” She was also a key adult advisor to youth, including Julian Bond, in the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in the 1960s.

Her primary message was whites’ responsibility to combat racism. Braden gained national prominence as far back as the 1950s, when she and her husband were tried for sedition by the state of Kentucky for their involvement in selling a house in a white neighborhood to a black family. She was acquitted.

Much of Braden’s philosophy is contained in her book *The Wall Between*, which was nominated for a National Book Award and has recently been reissued by the University of Tennessee Press. She was a founding mother of, and played a significant leading role in, the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

Julian Bond spoke at the Brown and Williamson Club at Papa John’s Cardinal Stadium. Bond was a civil rights pioneer and an early critic of the Vietnam War. He is noted for his participation in the 1960s “sit-ins,” and served more than 20 years in the Georgia state legislature. A key spokesperson for the disenfranchised, Bond teaches history at the University of Virginia. He is also a Distinguished Scholar in the School of Government at American University in Washington, D.C.

Bond’s speech, titled “2007 — A Race Odyssey,” was a riveting spellbinder, full of delicious turns of phrase along with its fundamental wisdom. One of its highlights was its comparison of President Lyndon Johnson’s response to a 1965 New Orleans hurricane to the Bush administration’s inaction in the wake of Katrina 40 years later.

“Imagine a major hurricane hits New Orleans,” Bond said. “Within hours the President of the United States is on Air Force One headed for the stricken city. Upon landing in the no-electricity darkness, with a flashlight held to his face, he announces, ‘This is the President of the United States and I’m here to help you!’ The year was 1965. The President — Lyndon Johnson. Forty years later a more devastating hurricane strikes New Orleans. Neither the President nor any other federal official is there to help.... Tens of thousands of people, mostly black, many

elderly and infirm, [are left] pleading from rooftops, herded into and around the city’s Convention Center and Superdome without food or water.”

Thus, says Julian Bond, are the hazards of “anti-government government.”

Turning to the institute’s namesake, Bond said Anne Braden was a “foot soldier by choice,” but also a writer, a thinker, and even a leader nonetheless, who influenced many others into and in the movement. It was not lost on Braden, he says, that “I am race” is an anagram of “America.” Race does count, Bond said, so we must count it.

This, in fact, was one of the major themes of his speech — that all of us, black, white, and Latino, must fight racism. Bond, the grandson of a slave (“Only my father’s generation separates Julian Bond from human bondage,” he said), says that the Civil Rights Act of 1964 was our nation’s “finest hour.” Now, on the other hand, the press are just “stenographers for the powerful,” and people of color live “in constant tiptoe stance” — although not at Berea College in Madison County, Ky., which was founded by abolitionists and from which, Bond noted, his grandfather graduated in 1892.

Bond also notes that blacks and whites have very different beliefs about the current extent of people of color’s “equality:” nearly 80 percent of blacks believe they never will have equality or at least not in their lifetime, while some two-thirds of whites think blacks *already have* equality. This reflects a fundamental bifurcation of belief about the “inherited white privilege” which results in the fact that the top 20 percent of income earners in the U.S. have more than 50 percent of the income, while the bottom 20 percent have only 3.4 percent, Bond said.

To say that we have a colorblind society thanks to the civil rights movement is thus balderdash, said Bond, adding that the nation needs affirmative action. Blacks have been discriminated against for centuries, but there have only been 40 to 45 years of even *legal* equality, he noted, adding that legal segregation was eliminated in



— photo by Eddie Davis

Anne Braden (1924-2006) speaks to youth in 2004 at a peace and justice “teach out” at the University of Louisville, where an institute inaugurated April 4 bears her name.

less than a decade; but its roots were not. Now, we find ourselves “refighting battles we thought we had already won,” and it seems that the powers that be want to “give the canaries gas masks” rather than eliminating the poison in the air, said Bond. To deal with this distinctly unfriendly atmosphere, blacks and Hispanics, who together will make up 40 percent of the U.S. population by 2050, should ally with each other, Bond said.

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. They said they believe the newly founded Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research can play a significant role in achieving Julian Bond’s call for blacks and Hispanics to ally with each other.



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Bashar Masri
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Founded 1915

FORsooth

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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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.

Cochairs: Phil Schervish 558-7175
Dennis Bricking 895-8516

Immokalee workers win again, but a long race remains

by Stephen (Esteban) Bartlett

The Alliance for Fair Food led by the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW) is taking graceful and swift strides along a track full of painful hurdles and obstacles. As a member of the CIW said at Ivor Chodkowski’s tenant farm in Louisville April 10: “where it took nearly a four-year boycott to bring Taco Bell to the table of justice, McDonalds, even without a boycott, came around in only two years.”

Heading to Chicago on Friday the 13th (13 is actually a lucky number in Chinese cosmology) after the Fair Food Victory signed and announced at the Carter Center in Atlanta on April 9, we have cleared the second high hurdle without a nick and now glance at the brand name hurdles still ahead.

Call this the 400-meter high hurdle race for fast food and supermarket penny-per-pound labor-code justice. We may be at meter 40. The hurdles are boldly displayed in front of us and can be pictured

With the arrival of the 2007 Truth Tour in Chicago just days away, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, McDonald’s, and its suppliers gathered at the Carter Center in Atlanta April 9, to announce an agreement that guarantees:

- A penny more per pound to workers harvesting tomatoes for McDonald’s.
- A stronger code of conduct based on the principle of worker participation.
- And a collaborative effort to develop a third-party mechanism for monitoring conditions in the fields and investigating workers’ complaints of abuse.

as a drive-by video shooting down a corporate strip of Fast Food Nation: behind us Taco Bell/Yum! Brands and McDonalds, and out in front of us still: normal sized hurdles Burger King, Subway and then a Survivor-style parapet replete with a crocodile (lawyer)-filled mote reminiscent of feudal times: Wal-Mart (an economic warlord for our times).

Remembering always that only by means of farming such as is done by the Ivor Chodkowskis and the Jane Mgombes of this world, will we nourish future

generations of humanity. Certainly not under the Monsanto, Cargill, ADM, DOW Chemicals of this World! (May their poisonous half-lives be short). Long live Kurt Vonnegut Jr. and his masterly evocation of the absurd strivings of *industrial warriors*! (He died last night).

Yet with the strength of truth, righteousness and the broad-based coalition of student and faith-based organizations, church denominations, musicians, unions, celebrities and activists of many stripes lined up to run this race for the duration, it

truly does not seem like a stretch of the imagination to see us complete this race in gold medal time. However, the challenges of truly creating a just and sustainable world and a sustainable food economy are so much greater than this.

Therefore, let us consider this 400 high hurdle race a training run for a 1500 steeple chase which will make far deeper transformations in an economy of forced migration, agro-industrial monopoly control, death through a thousand psychic stabs, worker exploitation and slavery, racist structures and war, toward an economy echoing of the Jeffersonian (not to mention Judeo-Christian, Muslim, Buddhist, Indigenous, etc.) virtues of economic democracy, autonomy, agrarian humility, compassion and cultural integrity.

The writer is an activist with Agricultural Missions, Inc. and the Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean (KITLAC).



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April 2007

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 6,842.36
Bus scholarships	4,780.00
Reimbursement	31.00
Donations & Honorariums	.....	680.00
TOTAL	.....	\$12,333.36


EXPENDITURES:

FORsooth Editing	.....	\$150.00
FORsooth Layout	.....	100.00
FORsooth Printing	.....	264.00
FORsooth Mailing	.....	250.00
FOR National Dues	.....	75.00
TASSC	.....	100.00
Tent for Aim Higher	.....	40.00
Bus expenses	.....	2,507.99
Bus overage to KY All.	.....	757.34
Bus overage to LPAC	757.34
EJ Printing	161.18
Office Expenses	20.75
		<u>\$5,298.80</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$7,034.56

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Jubilee USA will hold its Second Annual Grassroots Conference and skills training on June 15 to 17 in Chicago, Illinois on the beautiful Loyola University Watertower Campus.

Democracy Now!'s Amy Goodman will be among our featured guests. The conference will include speakers from the Global South, skill-building sessions for grassroots economic justice activists (advocacy, media work, engaging congregations, etc.), and workshops that will deepen participants' understanding of debt and economic justice issues. And of course there will also be down time for networking and having fun with global economic justice activists from around the United States.

Join the 2007 Sabbath Year Call for Debt Cancellation and Economic Justice. Apply to Janette McCabe at kitlac@yahoo.com For more information and complete schedule <http://www.jubileeusa.org/>

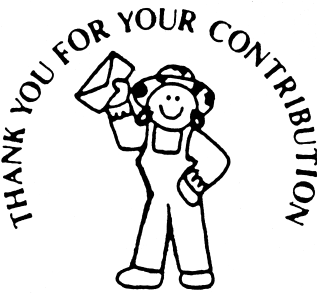


OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

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

June 27-July 1 (WTFSS) **FIRST UNITED STATES SOCIAL FORUM.** Atlanta Civic Center, Atlanta, GA. Call 404/586-0460 x32. The National Women’s Working Group of the United States Social Forum invites all U.S. Women to join them. Join the Woman’s Working Group via e-mail: USSFwomenscaucus-subscribe@yahooogroups.com More details at www.USSF2007.org

Aug 31- Sept 2 (FSS) **HIGHLANDER CENTER CELEBRATES 75 YEARS working for social justice and human rights in Appalachia and the South!** For information contact Anasa Troutman, 865/933-3443, ext 226. anasa@highlandercenter.org



Being faithful to non-violence in the belly of the beast

God and Empire

by John Dominic Crossan

*reviewed by
Rev. Polk Culpepper*

Good morning, class. Please take out a piece of paper. Yes, this is a pop quiz. There was a human being in the first century who was called “Divine”, “Son of God”, “God”, and “God from God” and to whom the following titles were attributed, “Lord”, “Redeemer”, “Liberator”, and “Savior of the World”. Who was he?

Yes, this is a trick question. If you answered “Jesus of Nazareth” you are only half right. The first person to bear those names and titles was Caesar Augustus, wrote Crossan, professor emeritus of religious studies at DePaul University in Chicago, and writer of more than 20 books on the historical Jesus in the last 30 years.

Before Jesus was a gleam in Mary’s eye, Caesar was God. By defeating his rivals in civil war, Augustus had brought peace to the empire. For that feat, he was heralded as savior and deliverer. To proclaim that Jesus was God and Savior was to pit his “kingdom” against that of

BOOK REVIEW

Caesar. Such attribution was not only blasphemy to Jewish orthodoxy but high treason to Rome.

In his excellent book, Crossan discusses the implications of such action. At the core of Roman power and omnipotence was the belief that Caesar was God. Whoever sat on the throne was a son of Zeus or some other Roman god. And his power was created and sustained by what Crossan calls “the normalcy of civilization”: violent protection of power, privilege and injustice.

The first civilizations arose in the Fertile Crescent 4,000 years ago. Farming became the future of the human race. (See Genesis 4 - Cain and Abel) Crop surpluses accumulated. Wealth trickled up. Civilization was then created to protect the power and privilege of those at the top. Violence was used to achieve that end. The very many began to be ruled by the very few. Inequality and injustice ruled the day and have continued to be part of every civilization.

Crossan nevertheless asserts that the

normalcy of civilization’s brutality is not humanity’s inevitable fate. Jesus, and later Paul, offers an alternative that criticizes greed, injustice and inequality and witness that “violence is not the inevitability of human nature but only the normalcy of human civilization”. Crossan contrasts the Kingdom of Rome (and all civilizations) as violent oppression and Jesus’ Kingdom of God as nonviolent resistance. In other words, we have a choice: to worship and follow Caesar who achieves peace through violent victory or Jesus, who advocates peace through non-violence. In Crossan’s words, the “Roman Empire ... is based on the injustice of violence, but [Jesus’] divine kingdom is based on the justice of nonviolence”. Our fate is not inevitable. But God will not save us from ourselves. Our hope (and possibly the future of the human race) lies in our working with God to transform how civilization works.

Crossan’s comments on the USA (born in Ireland, he is now a U.S. citizen) begin with what he calls “the two most important lessons of a classical education. Greece ... warns us that we can have a democracy or an empire, but not both at the same time ... Rome .. warns us that we can have a republic or an empire, but not both at the same time.

Do we think that those lessons do not apply to a *democratic republic*?” He concludes with three questions which should be obvious to anyone who is both a Christian and an American:

- How is it possible to be a faithful Christian in the American Empire?
- How is it possible to be a non-violent Christian within a violent Christianity based on a violent Christian bible? (Note: Crossan’s characterization of Christianity and the bible as violent is influenced by his disgust over the eager anticipation of so many American Christians for the Final Violent Battle of the Book of Revelation in which God violently punishes evil-doers.)
- How is it possible to be a faithful Christian in an American Empire facilitated by a violent Christian bible?

For me, these are the most important questions facing the American church today. How we answer them may well determine not only what kind of church we have but what kind of world we pass on to our descendants.

The reviewer is the Rector at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church in New Albany, Ind. and an FOR member.

Yarmuth

(continued from page 1)

States, so be it. If he has not, let him return to his home and family.

We do need to be successful against terrorists, but acting like them will not make us more, but less safe.

On behalf of the board and more than four thousand members of the American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky we respectfully ask for your consideration and action.

Yours truly,

Carl Wedekind
American Civil Liberties Union
of Kentucky

Cuba’s woes

(continued from page 1)

organization, said that he admired Cuba’s health care accomplishments, but added:

“It’s important to recognize that Cuba has a long way to go as far as human rights and political oppression. There’s a reason why we have so many refugees here, why so many people are throwing themselves into the seas on rafts that they make.”

De Vries said economic need in the post-Soviet era - even though the Cuban economy has improved significantly in the last ten years - still prompts many to leave, describing a conversation with a Cuban refugee woman on an airplane.

She said the woman summed up her decision to leave by saying: “It’s just too hard. It’s just too hard to make ends meet.”

Moorman said stories like the woman’s serve to condemn the embargo.

“Just think if the U.S. didn’t have this embargo on them,” she said. “If they ... have survived in the way they have survived, if the U.S. would lift this embargo, just think how they could live.... Everybody’s living standards would go up.”

Members of a delegation which recently toured Venezuela will speak at the May 17 Third Thursday Lunch. 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 May 15. For more information, call Polly Johnson at (502) 473-8435 or Mary Ann Lambert at (502) 425-3844.

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PHIL SCHERVISH
BRINGS NEWS
FROM ISRAEL/
PALESTINE

This is the first time that the Louisville FOR chapter has been represented on a national FOR delegation to Israel/Palestine. Our cochair, Phil Schervish, professor of Social Work at Spalding University, was part of the 21st delegation that entered Israel at the Ben-Gurion airport on March 19, 2007. The moving account from the delegation may be found at <http://www.ifpbdel.org/del21/default.html> Please mark your calendar for **September 20** when Phil will make a full report at the **FOR Third Thursday Lunch**. He is available now for speaking engagements. Contact him at 451-6638, or e-mail: pschervish@spalding.edu

Three more FOR Interfaith Peace-BUILDER delegations are planned for this year by the national office. We urge you to note these dates and plan to join a delegation: May 26-June 9. July 28-August 11. Oct 27-Nov 10. The purpose is to inform North American citizens about the region and deepen their understanding of its conflicts.

The schedule will include meetings with an array of Palestinians and Israelis who will share their observations on the current situation, the effects of United States foreign policy in the region, and the possibilities for a just and sustainable peace. Individual meetings will be held with Jeff Halper (nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize last year), and with the committee in Bil'in leading a popular nonviolent struggle against land confiscation. Also delegates will meet Israeli and Palestinian college students, inhabitants of a Palestinian refugee camp, Israelis who refuse to serve in the military, and Palestinian farmers. They will travel to the south of Israel and speak with both Israeli Jews and Israeli Palestinians about environmental conditions and the fate of the Bedouins of the Negev desert.

Upon their return to the United States, delegates will share their experiences with the public, the media, and their political representatives. To apply for a delegation, contact:

Interfaith Peace Builders
1326 9th St., NW
Washington, DC 20001
phone: 202.244.0821
fax: 202.232.0143
office@ifpbdel.org

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MARK JOHNSON WELCOMED AS NEW
F.O.R EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

After reading Mark's letter of introduction we felt drawn to him, realizing that he has traveled down many of the same roads that we in the Louisville FOR have been trudging along on — the arms race, the nuclear threat and the demonizing of the Soviet Union, the civil rights movement, Vietnam war protests, and a growing awareness of the inequities in the world.

The following paragraph indicated that he also is keenly aware of tensions in the near east:

"A junior undergraduate year abroad in Beirut, Lebanon in the late '60s showed me how Vietnam was but one of many places where conflict prevailed, and the need for nonviolent responses to injustice. That year extended to six as I did alternative service as a conscientious objector and began graduate studies; I taught at the Haigazian College in Beirut and staffed a campus ministry to local colleges."

Mark praises **FOR** for having sent a third delegation to Iran — "at a time when tensions permit only a handful of Americans to be allowed into the country." He pays tribute to the persistence of the peace community of San Jose Apartado in Colombia where over a year has passed since anyone in the community has been killed by armed groups.

Now the spotlight is on **ECUADOR**. "**FOR** recently helped organize a conference in Ecuador that formed a worldwide network to abolish foreign military bases there (95% of these are U.S. bases). Over 400 participants from 40 countries not only learned from each other, but constructed a global network, met with Ecuador's president, and marched in support of Ecuador's movement to close the U.S. base at Manta that, according to its commander, is 'important for Plan Colombia.' The president has pledged to close the base when its lease expires in 2009."

Mark calls our attention to the Winter 2007 issue of *Fellowship* magazine — "**Closing Bases, Supporting Communities**" — which was developed as a resource to support this conference in Ecuador. It is a masterpiece! Copies still available. Call the FOR Bookstore, 1/845/358-4601, ext. 20 or bookstore@forusa.org

His letter leaves us with a closing thought. "FOR's work is by and large a conversation and a walk.

We come to know one another only when we commit ourselves to a deepening and widening conversation about our beliefs and how they lead us to a common desire to heal the earth. And then each day we do justice and love mercy, as we walk gently with that which enlivens our spirit."

Welcome aboard, Mark. We look forward to your leadership and hope to meet you soon.



STEP IT UP 2007 CAMPAIGN
(to cut heat-trapping emissions)

Despite chilly temperatures and rain, some 140 determined people gathered at the Mazzoli Federal Building in Louisville on April 15 to share ideas about what can be done to reduce the production of greenhouse gases and other pollutants. The movement is finally growing! On that same day over 1300 actions were planned in fifty states according to the MoveOn Political Action Team, www.events.stepitup2007.org/ally/move_on

Climate change is the topic on college campuses, at the Academy Awards, and at town hall meetings where mayors are taking the lead. Speaker Pelosi has demanded a plan by June, and even the Supreme Court has told the Bush administration that they cannot ignore global warming any longer.

Bill McKibben, author and creator of **Step It Up 2007**, said that the oil companies and the coal barons know that their days of a free ride are coming to a close and people are demanding real action. The United Nations said last month that we still have a chance to turn things around if we demand action. The Campaign seeks to get Congress to pass a law forcing an 80 percent reduction in the emission of heat-trapping gases by 2050.

In Louisville, Rep. John Yarmuth spoke at the event which was cosponsored by a new organization called **The Louisville Climate Action Network (LCAN)** that hosted Louisville's participation in **Step It Up 2007**.

An article about global warming in The Louisville Courier-Journal (4/9/07) by Sarah Lynn Cunningham introduced **LCAN** to our community.

Activities at the event included political theater, live music, and children's activities. Also highlighted were alternative transportation, farmer's markets, gardening, energy-saving tips and more. Steph Jordan spoke for another new group **Earth Rescue Louisville**, expressing a very positive feeling that "the recent push by the public to address the issue of global warming is paying off."

Sue Archibald spoke for **LCAN** which is now offering presentations to community groups. Contact them via info@louisvillecan.org or P.O. Box 4594, Louisville, KY 40204

LETTER OF CONDOLENCE TO THE
ADMINISTRATION OF NAGASAKI, JAPAN

(sent via the German organization of Mayors for Peace, referring to the death of **Mayor Itcho Ito** of Nagasaki)

With great sadness we have to register that one of the most active members of Mayors for Peace was shot down. We have heard that the person who shot him was involved in right wing politics or fascist movements. We have to insist that any person who is working for peace and nuclear disarmament must be supported and kept in mind as an honorable human being.

With our hope and feeling for the murdered Mayor Itcho Ito of Nagasaki, we wish the city council to continue working for a better world without nuclear power.

Friedensforum Freiburg (Peace Center, Freiburg), Germany
Virginia Edwards, Chair
19 April, 2007



Enjoy Thunder!
But we can make it
family entertainment
for everyone
next year...

Demilitarize Thunder – Say NO to the
warplanes. Tell Derby Festival:

- Don't mistake fighters and nuclear-capable bombers flying overhead for "family entertainment".
- Respect and welcome Louisville's growing immigrant communities, some of whom relive the terror of warplanes bombing their towns
- Don't equate reveling in glamorized military might with patriotism.
- Take these symbols of the divisive war, and the recruiters that are a part of the air show deal, out of our celebration
- The Derby is about friendly competition. Bombers never will be.

Let's create alternatives for our children and friends – here, and around the world. How about peaceful skies, more aerobatics, more skydivers, more music, but no bombers over – or military recruiters on – the Great Lawn. Call KY Derby Festival President Mike Berry (584-6383), Mayor Abramson (574-2003), Metro Council (574-1100), or e-mail the sponsors (Caesars, Chase Bank, E-on, and UPS).

Sponsors: Louisville Friends Meeting (Quakers); Central Presbyterian Church; The Peace and Compassion Buddha Circle; Jeff Street Baptist Community at Liberty; First Unitarian Church Social Concerns committee; Interfaith Paths to Peace; Pax Christi; Fellowship of Reconciliation; Louisville Peace Action Community; The Board of Kentucky Refugee Ministries; Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression; American Veterans Against War; Feminist Peace Network; St. Williams Catholic Church Peace and Social Justice committee; Fairness Campaign

Venezuelan women taking reins in Chavez revolution

Last month’s column focused on a recent trip your reporter made to Venezuela. Space prevented more than mention of BanMujer (Banco de Desarrollo de la Mujer), the Women’s Development Bank.

We met with two officials of the bank. We quote extensively from their remarks, as we did with the various Venezuelans quoted in last month’s column. This may violate columnist protocol, but it is a breath of fresh air to hear poor and working class people speak for themselves (and George Will and Mona Charen be damned).

Zuraima Martinez is Assistant to the President and Coordinator for Indigenous and Afro-Venezuelan Populations. She traced the bank’s roots: “It came from the women’s movement... in 2001. It coordinates research and action... in Venezuela and Central America.... The Women’s Institute raised awareness in President Chavez seeing the need for this.

“BanMujer is a micro-credit development, working with women living in poverty, and offering financial and non-financial services. Non-financial services include organizing women, training, accompaniment and follow-up for creditor and borrower. We make small loans.

“Teams of promoters (are) in all twenty four states of the country. Women joined with government, women’s organizations and (U.N.) NGOs. This is not a traditional bank. We want to democratize capital for women who never before got help.

“Until now (Venezuelan) women in poverty didn’t have access because... they couldn’t pay (back). Also, loans (had been) given out to the man in a (man-woman) couple. The bank came to understand the need to reduce discrimination between men and women.... Most important is training and raising the level of awareness.”

Compañera Martinez continued: “I’m coordinator for indigenous and African (Venezuelans). The bank has focused on these populations because they were excluded and discriminated against. BanMujer focuses on women from 35 to 45 years of age. (As regards) indigenous populations, we’ve offered two thousand micro-credit loans affecting 4,000 people, and indirectly affecting 10,000.

“With Afro-Venezuelans we work with communities, not just women, respecting (their cultures).

“Women are organized into associations, as socio-economic units or coops. Women decide method and size of organization, from two to nine people. Men can be involved, but (must be) in a minority number. The only restrictions (to organization): they must have a project in mind, and must pay back the loan. (The associations) must be led by a woman, never a man.

“The other way we organize: cooperatives. They are based on solidarity, cooperation and mutual support.... This is completely new (for us as women).

“(With Hugo Chavez) we now have a person in power who takes into account the needs of the people. To have someone who listens... makes us more committed to this process.”

The second woman who addressed us was Lidice Navas, Coordinator of Action Investigation of BanMujer. Her remarks, like the previous speaker’s, were nothing short of inspirational.

“BanMujer was founded on the birthday of International Women’s Day. It was a gesture of our president. Without women playing an important role, transformation would not be possible.

“(This is) because a woman is not just an individual — she is a mother of Venezuelans. Women now have the tools to make a difference. (You need to) talk to women who have received loans. They can tell you how their lives, relationship with family and community (have) changed — how they have begun to support other women... creating a people’s economy and economy of solidarity. Participation in education, through education missions. The opportunity to get healthcare, build together with men this new society, where a woman is a breadwinner and a protagonist.

“A woman, accompanied by her children, and sometimes her husband, can par-



ticipate. (We may not yet have) the Venezuela we want, but it is not the (repressed society) of the ‘80s and 90s,” commented Compañera Navas.

“Everyone is debating politics, knows and talks about oil — issues never (before) topics (of discussion). (We are) debating socialism, analyzing government today, and tomorrow.

“This is the achievement of President Chavez: to study, build, men and women alike, a socialism that is adequate for our roots and history.

In the interest of full disclosure, be it known that your reporter never has been overjoyed with the petit-bourgeois (small-business) mindset. But the reality is that in a destitute country like Venezuela, and this applies as well to Asian nations that encourage micro-lending, people in dire poverty need to determine how best to raise themselves from that poverty.

In Venezuela, of course, the government in power today looks to that new world, “when the earth is owned by labor and there’s joy and peace for all”. The women’s movement, like the government, has the best interests of the people at heart. So your humble correspondent, white and male and living in the real axis of evil, will suspend judgment and see how things progress.

Several responses were received regarding the April *Labor Paeans* column on Venezuela. I did not list Uruguay and Argentina among Latin American and Caribbean nations moving in a progressive direction. This was not a value judgment, since I support what has transpired in Uruguay and Argentina. It is, rather, lack of attention to a complete list.

The tour leader of our Witness for Peace delegation, who lives in the region, wrote to explain that delegates were not asked to refrain from naming people with whom we met, but just not name two people and organizations. This is not my recollection, nor that of several others, but I greatly respect our compañero’s integrity—so maybe I/we simply misunderstood.

Irrespective, my use of the word “ridiculous” in making the above criticism last month was criticized. I will try not to be so ridiculous in the future—these are my sisters and brothers in struggle, and I will be more respectful.

Another reader wants to know how I put this column together. It is, to be truthful, mostly divinely inspired. But the rest of the time: I read through hundreds of emails, websites, magazines and newspapers. And you readers are to be thanked for emailing articles and suggestions.

This laborious process may also serve as an alternative form of birth control, given finite energy levels. And assuming all one does is read.

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the
Fellowship of Reconciliation

May 17th **Venezuela’s Social Realities and US Responses:
DELEGATION REPORT BACK**
What we saw and heard in Venezuela

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.

40th Anniversary of the Israeli Military Occupation of Palestine June 1967-June 2007

*Call upon the U.S. to act with courage and
determination to end the occupation and secure
a state of Palestine beside the state of Israel*

at the VIGIL

**Friday, June 8: 12 Noon – 1:00 PM
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*

US record justifies some of Castro’s security measures

Think for a moment how much less democratic the United States has become because of one day of feeling under siege.

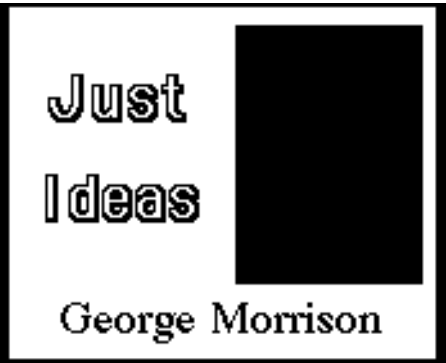
Since Sept. you-know-when, 2001, we have suspended the fourth amendment’s protections against unreasonable search and seizure, allowing the federal government to enter and search our homes without notifying us, unless we are later charged with a crime.

Wiretaps are now done routinely without a court order (on the notion that court orders take too long in the face of fast-moving terrorists).

Library book selections and credit card purchases are entered into a super computer maintained by the government.

All this after one day of feeling vulnerable.

Now imagine having felt insecure to 9/11-like attacks every day since January 1961 - that’s when the Eisenhower administration slapped a total trade embargo on Cuba and when wide-scale sabotage, assassination attempts and invasions were hatched by the U.S. against the agricultural nation of then about six million people.



How much less democratic would we be?

Imagine we were 90 miles from an unmatched nuclear superpower with more than 25 times our population and where real terrorists who committed murder against our people are allowed to walk the streets while those who reported their illegal activities to authorities are jailed

Unquestionably, some of Cuba’s non-democratic nature has external causes that aren’t Fidel Castro’s fault. Not all of it, however - this isn’t a blanket excuse for

Fidel’s lack of human rights, an issue raised, along with the U.S. embargo, at the Third Thursday Lunch April 19.

If I were a Cuban, I expect, I would want an independent press, elections and free speech. However, my background as a resident of that nation, where every election held prior to Castro’s revolution was rigged to keep various dictators in power, might make me less clamoring for those rights.

I don’t have to be a Cuban, furthermore, to understand that human rights are more complex in the Latin American experience.

Guatemalan president of *Jacobo Arbenz Guzman* served as a freely-elected head of state favoring reform, rather than revolution, to solve the problems of economic inequality. He did what critics of the Cuban revolution call on Castro to do.

Arbenz maintained free elections and didn’t have Guatemalans keeping tabs on other Guatemalans to report on subversive activity, as Fidel Castro has done with Cubans.

What was the reaction of the “freedom-loving” U.S. to Arbenz adhering to human rights? The CIA overthrew his government

and replaced it with one of the worst dictatorships in history.

This CIA covert action was motivated not by the communist threat, but by the threat to the private profits of the United Fruit Co. posed by Arbenz’ land reforms. Two United Fruit officials were also high-ranking CIA officials.

This episode was vile, hypocritical and all too typical — Iran, Cambodia and Brazil also saw their governments overthrown fully or in part by the CIA and Chilean freely-elected Marxist president Salvador Allende’s economy was sabotaged by a U.S. campaign approved by President Nixon.

It’s the same fate that would very likely have greeted Castro had he governed democratically, which makes the absence of political freedoms in Cuba a shortcoming of his revolution that any reasonable assessment would have to place partly at Washington’s door.

Contact George Morrison at klm86@netzero.net.

Always evolving revolution acts to end discrimination

by Sonja de Vries

In late December, 26 Kentuckians from the Louisville area traveled to Cuba to learn about the country for themselves and to build bridges with the Cuban people.

We called ourselves the Henry Wallace Brigade, honoring the memory of a longtime Louisville activist who fought for civil rights, GLBT rights, conservation and an end to war.

Wallace worked in Cuba as a journalist in the 1940s and 1950s during the Batista regime. There he witnessed the brutality, racism and exploitation that in 1959 led to the Cuban Revolution. Returning to Cuba many times after the revolution, he was deeply moved by the changes underway there.

A small nation was carrying out missions aimed at ending institutionalized racism and establishing universal health care and education. Inequalities created over decades of rampant capitalism and tyranny were under attack.

Back at home in Prospect, Ky., Wallace wrote countless letters to local editors urging people to go see Cuba for themselves. Over the years, he provided encouragement and support for people to go there. His passion for the Cuban Revolution lasted to the end of his days.

Henry Wallace died in April 2006 at 90. On his death, his comrades, friends and family members decided that a good way to honor his legacy would be for them to visit the country he loved so much. The Henry Wallace Brigade was born.

A diverse delegation

Organizers were committed to making sure the brigade would be a diverse and grassroots group of people. It came to include teachers, farmers, civil rights activists, LGBT rights activists, anti-racism educators, artists, students, filmmakers, a hip-hop producer and HIV/AIDS advocates.

Three of Wallace’s daughters (including myself), a son-in-law and five grandchildren were part of a delegation remarkable overall for its diversity of racial and sexual identities, gender and income.

All of the participants undertook fund-raising efforts aimed at guaranteeing that low-income people could go on the trip. One of the most effective ways we did this was to write personal fundraising letters and send them to everyone we knew; my list included my chiropractor and dentist as well as old friends. In this way we not only raised money, we raised awareness and got people thinking about Cuba. Bolstered by incredible community support and drawing upon love for Henry Wallace, we raised almost \$25,000 toward travel expenses.

Challenging the travel ban

Brigade members, who met almost weekly prior to their departure, engaged in a collective decision-making process that was instrumental in their decision to carry out the trip as a “travel challenge.” As with trips to Cuba organized by the U.S.-Cuba Labor Exchange, Pastors for Peace and the Venceremos Brigade, we traveled without the permission of or a license from the

U.S. Treasury Department, which is responsible for enforcing the U.S. blockade of Cuba.

The decision to openly to challenge U.S. policies restricting travel to Cuba reflected our conviction that the 45-year-long trade embargo against the island nation should be ended. A majority of U.S. citizens, including Cuban Americans immigrants, concurs.

Many of the travelers had never been to Cuba. A few had never been outside the United States. The brigade held educational sessions on Cuban history and culture, international travel and possible customs problems upon our return to the United States.

Visiting an organic farm

On our first day in Cuba, most members of the group visited an organic farm in Alamar, just outside Havana, that grows fruits and vegetables. There we learned about the Cuban model of sustainable agriculture and about the farm’s collective ownership and service to surrounding communities.

The Cuban people have often turned adversity into opportunity. Faced with a lack of pesticides and chemical fertilizers, due to the U.S. trade embargo and the collapse of the Soviet Union, farmers undertook to expand organic farming. Now the economy has improved, and organic farming is a matter of a choice and a source of pride.

Meeting children of Che

A highlight of the visit was a morning meeting with Camilo and Aleida Guevara, children of Che Guevara, who described the origins and work of the Center for Che Guevara Studies.

Their discussion covered both the U.S. blockade of Cuba and the U.S. war in Iraq. Aleida pointed out the importance for Cubans of U.S. citizens protesting the actions and policies of our government. She recalled, “The Vietnam War was ended when the people in the U.S. demanded an end to it, and the same will be true for Iraq and for U.S. policy toward Cuba.”

Families of the Cuban 5

At an emotion-filled meeting between Brigadistas and family members of the Cuban Five — five Cuban nationals being held in U.S. prisons for having tried to foil terrorist plots against Cuba — we met wives, mothers and fathers who expressed the pain of their loved ones being so far away and of wives not allowed to see their husbands.

Imprisoned since 1998, the five men endure sentences ranging from 15 years to life. As we left the encounter, we committed ourselves to work for release of the Cuban Five and to fight for the right of family members to visit them in prison.

Center for sex education

During our visit we met with Mariela Castro, director of the Center for National Sex Education (CENESEX). The organization approaches its work in a revolutionary way.

The center’s original focus was mainly on basic sex education, reproduction and health. It held workshops with mental health professionals, teachers and youth. It also identified homosexuality and bisexuality as healthy expressions of human behavior.

Today CENESEX, with centers in every province and in major cities, attempts to get rid of past stereotypes and lead in the recovery from past repression in Cuba of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) people.

The goal of CENESEX, announced in 1986, is to “eradicate homophobia through education.” It attempts to add a dimension to the campaign against prejudice, moving beyond strictly economic and legal measures. It originated during the era of the government’s “rectification process” that had been aimed at mistakes and weaknesses within the revolution.

Mariela Castro, the organization’s director, has been instrumental in advancing knowledge about the lives of transgender people and devising methods for supporting LGBT people and their families through counseling, legal assistance and other services.

Having a wide impact

Mariela Castro provided examples of the organization’s influence. Representatives met with the director and production associates of a popular television soap opera, “The Dark Side of the Moon,” seen as portraying a transgender character in stereotypical and negative fashion. The show’s producers went on to remove that character from the show, and afterward featured a story line in which a married man falls in love with another man. Another soap opera, “Garden of Ferns,” now features a lesbian couple.

The visitors learned that CENESEX takes direction from communities and individuals themselves in carrying out projects. Transgender people, for example, have formed a team to carry out HIV education and outreach in their communities. Brigadistas visited an HIV/AIDS support center and toured its bus, which is driven by activists to social events and city centers, where they dispense information and condoms. The team provides anonymous counseling through a help line. HIV testing, while not mandatory in Cuba, is routine.

Uprooting racism

Delegation members had left Kentucky with questions about the persistence of racism in Cuba. Journalist and writer Gisela Arandia, a member of “Cuban Colors,” told about her group’s campaign to challenge racist images in the media and advertising, billboards being a prime example. She recalled Fidel Castro once commenting, “We are not a Latin American country but a Latin-African country.”

Arandia was critical of residual paternalist tendencies and the predominance of light-skinned and male Cubans in positions of political power. She pointed to efforts to bring more women, youth and Afro-Cuban people into elected positions.

Her description of the problem of the continuing dominance of Spanish influences

on cultural expression in Cuba recalled for me a May 1 celebration I had witnessed on an earlier trip. Both West African Yoruba traditions and hip-hop dancing were featured, as well as salsa and some modern ballet.

Afro-Cuban empowerment

Arandia introduced us to the “California Project” with which she is involved. Residents of a district with a rich cultural heritage organized themselves into work brigades to repair and restore substandard housing. In the process, talents and experience came to the fore as proud, empowered people created a vibrant community.

The La Guinera community became for the group a symbol of Afro-Cuban empowerment. Fifi, one of the leaders, described the projects of a women’s brigade that ended up transforming “a marginalized neighborhood.” They built a day care center, houses, health centers and community centers. Eventually, according to Fifi, the whole community joined in. The women made special efforts to involve at-risk youth, ex-prisoners and the unemployed.

Fifi described with pride the sense of unity felt within her community as the project, assisted by the government, evolved. Fifi had a leading role in a 1995 film titled “Butterflies on the Scaffold,” made by U.S. journalist Margaret Gilpin. Depicting drag queens from the community organizing themselves into work brigades, the film promoted sympathy and understanding for the struggles of oppressed peoples, in particular those of La Guinera.

Coming home

When we returned to U.S. soil after our week in Cuba, many of us were defiantly wearing “Free the Cuban Five” T-shirts. While we encountered no serious problems from U.S. customs agents, we did experience some harassment. This was especially true for the members of our group who are people of color or obviously queer; racism and homophobia are alive and well within Homeland Security.

While we brought back no cigars or souvenirs, we did bring back enthusiasm and love from people we had encountered in Cuba. Now we are committed to doing all we can to end the U.S. blockade, to free the Cuban 5 and to support the right of all people everywhere to self-determination and dignity.

In the days following our return, I recall the words of a young Cuban lesbian I interviewed: “The Cuban Revolution has never been static, it has always been changing.”

And once more after returning from Cuba, I am inspired by the creativity, ingenuity, and determination of the Cuban people to improve their society, to admit and address their mistakes and to include all of their citizens in the constantly evolving process that is the Cuban Revolution.

One final point: We learned during the trip that in honor of the brigade, a Henry Wallace Center for Senior Citizens is going to be built in the heart of Havana.

The writer is a filmmaker and activist in Louisville.

Calendar for peacemakers

May 5 (Sat) **THE SATURDAY ACADEMY** (Every Saturday through May 19). DuValle Education Center, 3610 Bohne Ave, 11:00-2:00. Dr. Blaine Hudson presents “The African World/Black History,” a community based enrichment program in African world history. Includes interest groups and community presentations on a broad range of topics with guest presenters. Registration not required. Drop-ins welcome. No fee. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 852-5506. bhineshudson@yahoo.com

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

May 9 (Wed) **KITLAC** (Ky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean). Every second Wednesday at the Presbyterian Seminary. Nelson Hall, Room 10, 7:30 pm. Call David Horvath, 479-9262, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.

May 10 (Thu) **METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION’S 18th ANNUAL MEETING**, featuring Andrea Levere, President of CFED: “Assets and Opportunities: Building a True Ownership Society.” The theme for the annual meeting will be “YES IN MY BACK YARD” (YIMBY). Table centerpieces will develop that theme and will be for sale afterwards. YIMBY aprons will be sold for a mere \$10. Hyatt Regency, 320 W Jefferson St. 5pm Socializing, 6pm Dinner. \$50. Call 584-6858.

May 10 (Thu) **Announcing Movies Every Thursday at the Brick House!!** Stop by any Thursday evening at 7:00 and there will be an interesting movie showing. And it’s free!! (Donations gladly accepted, of course). Or just stop by for coffee and conversation. The pot’s on from 7 to 9 pm. Located at 1103 S Second St (at St. Catherine). Call 589-4978.

May 10 (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. Film: **THE STORY OF THE PHILISTINES: Christians and Muslims Living and Dying Side by Side**, by Dr. Abu Hamza. The story starts with the Balfour Declaration. Call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

May 11 (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.

May 12 (Sat) **MAY FRIENDSHIP DAY: “Friends Under God’s Wings.”** Sponsored by Church Women United, Middletown Christian Church, 500 North Watterson Trail. Registration at 10:00. Program at 10:30 am. Call Helen Mudd, 448-5014.

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.

May 13 (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

May 15 (Tue) **NEW PHOENIX HILL FARMERS’ MARKET — “Grand Opening Celebration.” 829 E. Market St** (at the Felice Complex). 3:00 - 7:00 pm. Call the Phoenix Hill Neighborhood Association, 583-7133.

May 15 (Tue) **PROGRAMMING ON DRUGS AND ALCOHOL FROM A FAITH PERSPECTIVE**. Come to lunch, (12:00 - 2:00 pm). St. Vincent DePaul, 1015C, S. Preston St. Meet with members from other faith communities. Sponsored by representatives of Louisville’s medical, corporate, social service and faith communities. RSVP to Nancy Troy, ntroy@ctr.pcusa.org

May 17 (Thu) **PRAYERS NEEDED**. Oral arguments begin for a new trial for Mumia Abu-Jamal before the 3rd Circuit US Court of Appeals, Philadelphia, PA. 415-648-4505. www.prisonradio.org

May 17 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation**, featuring the **DELEGATION REPORT BACK: “What We Saw and Heard in Venezuela last December.”** The discussion will focus on Venezuela’s Social Realities and U.S. Responses. 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.

May 17 (Thu) **SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**, every third Thursday, 5:30pm. Main library, 4th & York Sts, Board Room, Mezzanine. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

May 17 (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

May 20 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES**. (Every third Sunday) First Unitarian Church, 4th & York Streets, 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Mamion, 451-5658.

May 21 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE JUNE 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

May 21 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). **Note change of date for this month only to avoid meeting on Memorial Day**. Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall #10, 7:30pm. Call cochair Phil Schervish, 451-6638, or Dennis Bricking, 895-8516.

May 25 (Fri) **PIZZA and A MOVIE: “King of Hearts”** part of the Family Classics series sponsored by the Center for Faith & Action and Interfaith Paths to Peace. 6:00pm. James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. at William St. Free. Donations welcome for pizza. Call 896-0172.

May 28 (Mon) **23rd ANNUAL MEMORIAL DAY INTERFAITH SERVICE honoring all who have died in war** (civilian as well as military). 11:00 am. Christ Church Cathedral, 421 S Second St. Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace and the Kentucky Council of Churches. Reception follows. For information call 214-7322. www.interfaithpathstopeace.org See flyer in this issue of FORsooth.

May 31 (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.

June 8 (Fri) **PLEASE JOIN THE NOON VIGIL OBSERVING THE 40th ANNIVERSARY OF THE MILITARY OCCUPATION OF PALESTINE (June 1967 - June 2007). We will call upon the U.S. to act with courage and determination to end the Occupation and secure a state of Palestine beside the state of Israel.** Come to the corner of 6th and Broadway. 12:00 noon to 1:00 pm. Sponsored by the Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

June 8-10 (FSS) **EarthSpirit Rising 2007 Conference: RETURN TO EARTH WISDOM. Join the Green Revolution**. For full conference details, go to www.earthspiritrising.org/index.html Conference designed for spiritual leaders, educators, business leaders, social workers, artists, environmentalists, social entrepreneurs and other concerned citizens of Earth. Bellarmine University. Register now at <http://www.earthspiritrising.org/eregister.html>

July 8 (Sun) **POTLUCK DINNER TO WELCOME THE 18th PASTORS FOR PEACE FRIENDSHIPMENT CARAVAN ON ITS WAY TO CUBA**. Traveling in school buses, trucks and cars, collecting medical and educational supplies along the way through some 120 U.S. and Canadian cities, the Caravanistas will enter Cuba via Mexico as a collective challenge to the blockade and travel ban. People are needed to go to Cuba with the caravan. Information can be found at pastorsforpeace.org Call David Horvath, 502/479-9262.

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.

(Our of Town Events continued on page 3)