

FORsooth

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July/August 2007

Some applaud, others cry as high court ends race plan

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

The five-to-four U.S. Supreme Court decision June 28 greatly restricting the use of race in public school assignment - a case which grew partly out of a Louisville woman's efforts to enroll her white son in an advanced program - provoked support from some racial justice activists and dread from others.

All agreed the Jefferson County Public Schools should find alternative ways to ensure racial equality in education that are allowed under the Supreme Court's new guidelines, which sharply reduce but do not rule out using race in student assignment.

"I applaud the decision. I was hoping for it," said Mattie Jones, chairperson of the board of the Justice Resource Center and retired director of racial and economic justice for the national FOR. "There's a better way to (achieve racial equality) than tearing up predominantly African-American neighborhoods and schools. We have children being bused out to white schools and they are ashamed of their blackness."

Jones believes continuing the progress improving African-American neighborhoods will help black youth more than busing to achieve racial balance.

She noted the city's conversion of some of the poorest and most crime-ridden public housing projects to mixed-income neighborhoods, a trend Jones believes has reduced

racism by showing outsiders the black community beyond common stereotypes.

Jones said laws supporting open housing and access to public accommodation have also curbed racism among youth, compared to previous generations.

"Children will integrate themselves," Jones said. "They're enjoying the same types of music and they're enjoying the same types of movies. They're enjoying the pleasure of each other's company."

Where Jones sees an opportunity for progress, J. Blaine Hudson, dean of the College and Arts and Sciences at the University of Louisville and father of three children who graduated from the Jefferson County schools, worries the court decision will roll back progress toward equality.

"I don't think there's anything good in (the ruling). The only thing good was it could have been worse," said Hudson, an activist for racial equality in education since the 1960s. He noted that the decision did not overturn a 2003 Supreme Court ruling allowing but limiting diversity programs in college enrollment stemming from a University of Michigan program opponents of affirmative action hoped the court would declare unconstitutional.

"The court could have ruled more broadly and outlawed even the kind of diversity programs the Michigan ruling allowed to stand," he said. "It still allows some latitude."



J. Blaine Hudson

In the 2003 Michigan case, the court said race can be a factor in shaping university admission programs, saying a broad social value may be gained from diversity in the classroom, but that race cannot be an overriding factor for schools' admission policies.

Under the June 28 ruling, Hudson explained, "Race can... be used as one of a number of factors, just not the deciding one. This makes (de-segregation) more difficult."

Fifteen years ago, Hudson recalled, he was part of a committee looking into whether Jefferson County school district lines could be drawn to achieve de-segregation without race-based student assignment.



— photos by Eddie Davis

Mattie Jones

"It was clear that you could draw district lines... to attain reasonably de-segregated schools," he said. However, the committee found that the far corners of suburban northeastern and southwestern Jefferson County would probably still be overwhelmingly white under such a plan, Hudson said.

Jefferson County schools officials have said they will still aim for racial equality, possibly using income as a factor in student assignment. Hudson urged them "to think as creatively as possible and to remain committed to the goals not only of diversity, but raising achievement levels and... ensure

(continued on page 7)

Education summit needed in wake of school decision

by Gracie Lewis

A divided U.S. Supreme Court ruled June 28 in what is likely to be a landmark opinion that race could not be used as the deciding factor in school assignment but that there was a compelling interest to maintain diversity.

This decision will not only impact Jefferson County, but more than 1,500 school districts across the nation.

This is the heart of the issue. Dr. Cornel West stated in the title of his book that, "Race Matters." It surely does. Nevertheless, there is a need to have a community-wide "Educational Summit" to maintain diversity in our schools, and to ensure that all children receive a quality education.

All of our children must receive an education that will prepare them to compete in the global economy.

The 5-to-4 ruling rejected programs in Louisville and Seattle. Chief Justice John Roberts wrote the opinion for the conservative "George Bush" majority. Judge Anthony Kennedy, reading the concurring opinion from the bench said: "This nation has a moral and ethical obligation to fulfill its historic commitment to creating an inte-

grated society that ensures equal opportunity for all children. A compelling interest exists in avoiding racial isolation, an interest that a school district, in its discretion and expertise, may choose to continue."

What we have to do as a community is to ensure that our schools provide the highest standards, programs, and resources

and programs between Feb. 1 and March 1.

When in 2002 Meredith applied, she did not apply until August 2002. By this time, it was too late to have her application considered. This is the truth about why her son was unable to get into school.

Thus, this case was all about "white privilege" not "race."

The court's four liberals delivered a scathing dissent that was twice as long as Roberts' opinion. Justice Stephen G. Breyer said the decision is one "the court and the nation will come to regret."

for all our children. We have to guide the new Superintendent, Sheldon Berman, all the way and now!

What is unique about this case is how it all began. Jefferson County parent and plaintiff Crystal D. Meredith did not follow the guidelines to get her son into Bloom Elementary.

The guidelines at the beginning of this case called for parents to submit an application to traditional magnet schools

When she followed the guidelines, her son Josh was able to attend Bloom Elementary. By the time her case was heard by the Supreme Court he was in the fourth grade.

Lower Courts had ruled that the Jefferson County Public School Assignment Plan was constitutional. Plaintiffs petitioned the U.S.

Supreme Court. In 2006, the Supreme Court accepted petition from the plaintiffs. Although race was not a factor in this particular case, instead it was about failure to follow appropriate procedures, the Supreme Court ruled in her favor.

The court's four liberals delivered a scathing dissent that was twice as long as Roberts' opinion. Justice Stephen G. Breyer said the decision is one "the court and the nation will come to regret," adding: "The lesson of history is not that efforts to continue racial segregation are constitutionally indistinguishable from efforts to achieve racial integration.... Indeed, it is a true distortion of history to compare Topeka, Kansas in the 1950s to Louisville and Seattle in the modern day."

Now we await U.S. District Judge John Heyburn's decision as to how best to arrive at that and what kind of time line we are under.

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

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Could poverty, not race, guide students' assignment?

by Tom Louderback

As many of us read in the newspaper in June, civil rights advocate Suzy Post was pretty discouraged by the U.S. Supreme Court's recent rejection of the Jefferson County Public Schools student assignment plan.

Predicting dire consequences, she wrote, "This decision will undo years of good community relations among different races in our city. It will adulterate our educational goals once again and it will be a tragic step back to a time when we lived segregated lives, with segregated schools, and segregated relationships."

But another longtime civil rights advocate, Raoul Cunningham, sounded more optimistic. He promised, "The NAACP will make every effort to work with the school board, school board staff, and superintendent, to develop a plan that will ensure quality education for all students with as much diversity as we possibly can."

Cunningham's optimism seemed to be shared by Sheldon Berman, the new superintendent. "This community really values an integrated school system. It is a core value with Jefferson County," he told newspaper reporters. "We will find some creative ways to continue to model that."

Pat Todd, the JCPS director of student assignment, added, "We are not anticipating a major reshuffling. No school will be unfairly treated, or have the burden of significant change compared to other schools."

So, what's next for JCPS? One possible option would be a socio-economic student assignment plan along the lines of the plans already in place at more than 40 public school districts across the country including Wake County, N.C.; Manatee County, Fla.; and Omaha, Neb.

For an in-depth discussion of these kinds of plans, see the Century Foundation's issue brief by Richard D. Kahlenberg titled "A New Way on School Integration" at www.tcf.org.

According to The Century Foundation, these kinds of student assignment plans are appealing to more and more school districts across the country for a simple reason. They are perfectly legal.

The U.S. Supreme Court's strict "standard of review" for its Equal Protection Clause decisions pertains to use of race; not economic status. Even the ideological conservatives who oppose these plans concede this point.

Besides that, proponents of the socio-economic approach say educational

promoting racial integration. It works simply because it relates directly to the beneficial characteristics of good schools and the mechanics of creating them.

Looking around our urban communities, it is plain to see that efforts to break up concentrations of poverty can be expected to result in more racially integrated schools until our current neighborhood demographics change.

Still, we know that implementation of a socio-economic student assignment plan in Jefferson County would be contentious.

decision as a big step in this direction and will undoubtedly fight hard to solidify that supposed gain.

Attack ads on our local television screens and over our radio airwaves are sure to come.

Admittedly, I am not a neutral observer on this issue. The student assignment plan of Prince George's County, Maryland, back in the mid-sixties moved me from a pretty rough junior high school to an academically challenging senior high school and my grades reflected the difference.

I was a white kid living in neighborhood undergoing rapid change as a result of "white flight." Looking back, I believe this change was both racial and economic. I saw that my white friends were moving to new higher-priced homes in green pastures far from the city streets.

So, school desegregation turned out to be a very good thing for me. I am still grateful for it today.

The writer is a volunteer for local civic causes and a member of the Louisville Friends Meeting.

So, what's next for JCPS? One possible option would be a socio-economic student assignment plan...

research has long suggested that economic mix is more effective than racial mix in improving student academic achievement.

They say low-economic status students do better in middle-class schools due to positive peer influences, active parents, high expectations, and good teachers. Beneficial characteristics like these are believed to be associated with economic status; not race.

This seems to be born out by achievement test results. Test scores have increased where poor blacks attend schools with middle-class whites. But, poor blacks mixed with poor whites see no improvement.

Strange as it may sound, proponents believe that socio-economic student assignment is a race-neutral way of

Determined ideological conservative opposition will surely continue.

What these folks want are traditional neighborhoods school and school vouchers, whether or not their schools are integrated. They see the recent U.S. Supreme Court

Summer campaign seeks end to US fighting in Iraq

A new campaign to end the U.S. war in Iraq reaches back into civil rights history for its name.

Iraq Summer, a coalition of many groups named in honor of the Freedom Summer of 1964, when civil rights advocates rose up nonviolently in the deep south, seeks a pullout of U.S. troops.

"The Bush administration is waging a reckless, endless war and... members of Congress who continue to support the president's Iraq War are out of touch with

the American people," an Iraq Summer flier said.

Kentucky organizers of the non-partisan campaign are beginning to put pressure of U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell, the flier said, calling McConnell "out of touch with the majority of Kentuckians."

For more information, contact Daniel Ritchie, a U.S. Navy veteran and Kentucky deputy field director of Iraq Summer at kentucky2@iraqsummer.org or call the national office at 202-423-9795.

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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.

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Atlanta hope, Louisville disappointment mark June

Two monumental events occurred recently. On the plus side was the U.S. Social Forum in Atlanta. The negative was the U.S. Supreme Court’s effectively and objectively restoring racial segregation in the nation’s school systems.

U.S. Social Forum

The Kentucky Jobs with Justice vans and cars, packed with women and men, mostly young, multi-racial, multi-ethnic, arrived in Atlanta in the wee hours of June 27. Other Kentucky organizations arrived separately. We would, later that morning, be putting on our Jobs with Justice shirts, and joining the march that opened the U.S. Social Forum: Another World Is Possible, Another World is Necessary.

Ten thousand people gathered for the U.S. edition of the World Social Forum, a Brazilian-initiated antidote for the neo-liberal globalization poisons concocted by capitalist plunderers in Davos, Switzerland and elsewhere.

We gathered in plenaries, from discussions of the racist farce that was the U.S. response to Hurricane Katrina, to Workers’ Rights in the Global Economy. We met in workshops, nine hundred of them, discussing Venezuela, Cuba, gay rights, labor, independent politics — and so much more. The U.S. Left, the sleeping, sometimes alienated giant, is awakening.

The Committees of Correspondence



for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS), with which I am affiliated, put on two workshops: Envisioning Socialism in the Twenty First Century, and Building a Progressive Majority. Both were well attended.

The ever-expanding number of Atlanta skyscrapers shaded a large number of Atlanta homeless, and a large, well-armed Atlanta police force mostly hidden from view. Your scribe was a civil rights worker in Atlanta, in the 1960’s, and remembers well the segregated nature of “the city too busy to hate.” So this Social Forum is a recognition of change on the one hand, and continuing domination on the other.

If your humble correspondent was hoping for more cohesion of ideas and action, i.e. a plan of action, he came to realize that this first U.S. gathering — so rich in the many struggles being waged for a better world, so glorious in its multi-

cultural character — was a wonderful beginning. As was proclaimed by the U.S.S.F.: “We are sending a message to peoples’ movements around the world that there is an active movement in the U.S. that is committed to challenging U.S. empire and its policies at home and abroad. We are reaching out to our sisters and brothers around the world to help build a cooperative world of peace, justice, equality, solidarity, and self-determination.”

U.S. Supreme Court’s Racist Venom

The recent U.S. Supreme Court decision objectively restoring school segregation in Seattle and Louisville affects me personally. I was living in Louisville in

trade unionists, used their organizing skills to push a racist response.

The desegregation plan, actually, put the burden on the victims of Jim Crow. My (white) children were bused two of the twelve years in school, whereas Black kids were bused ten years. On the other hand, Central High School, a historically Black school, suddenly got a new track, new microscopes, and new textbooks. Why? Because kids from Douglass Hills, a rich white area, were being bused to Central H.S.

Over the years, the Board of Education did the minimum to comply with Judge Gordon’s order. But it did comply, even continuing after the busing order ended. Now comes the U.S. Supreme Court and puts us where we were before Brown vs. Board of Education.

The U.S. Left, the sleeping, sometimes alienated giant, is awakening.

1975 when a right-wing federal judge, fearing that dreaded higher-court reversal, courageously ordered school integration.

Ten thousand national guardsmen were called out in response to the racist protests. Although Boston’s racists were more violent overall than Louisville’s, ours had more potential for a fascist onslaught. As a labor activist I was shame-faced that the skilled trades, i.e. my fellow and sister

My children are all grown up. When the white racists called for a boycott of the schools, in 1975, my children, with their parents by their side, went to school. But I had a hammer, inside a paper bag—that’s the fear that was then engendered.

The high court threw out voluntary desegregation plans, i.e. municipal voluntary integration initiatives. Let there be no more talk about “activist judges,” meaning a left-leaning court. The truth is that the activists are white racists, returning us to the filthy era of separate-but-equal.

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

Louisville Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration Events for 2007

Sunday, August 5, 2007 8 p.m.
Candle Floating Ceremony, *free*
Location: the lake at Lexington and Grinstead,

This family-friendly activity will features prayers, readings about Hiroshima, testimony from a Hiroshima survivor and from one of the first Americans to visit Hiroshima after the atomic bombing in 1945, and music led by Harry Pickens. At the conclusion of the event, those present will be invited to float lighted candles in a fashion that has become a tradition in Japan. In Japan, the candle floating ceremony is a remembrance of departed loved ones, particularly those who died in the atomic bombings in World War II.

Monday, August 6, 2007 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., *free*
Leafleting for Nuclear Disarmament (featuring a puppet from Squallis Puppeteers)
Location: 4th and Muhammad Ali

Members of the Louisville peacemaking community (in the company of one of the wonderful puppets from Squallis Puppeteers) will distribute leaflets to passersby. The leaflets will promote local activities commemorating the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The leaflets will also provide details about the disastrous consequences of the use of nuclear weapons, and provide interested individuals with steps they can take to promote nuclear disarmament.



Tuesday, August 7, 2007, 7 p.m.
Two Short Films and Discussion “Sadako” and “The Last Epidemic,” *free*
Location: The Clifton Center, 2117 Payne Street, Louisville

This event will feature two short films, and a discussion, led by Dr. Walt Olson, of the effects of nuclear weapons. **Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes** is about Sadako Sasaki, a young Japanese girl who developed leukemia in 1955, from the effects of radiation caused by the bombing of Hiroshima. While she was hospitalized, her closest friend reminded her of the Japanese legend that if she folded a thousand paper cranes, the gods might grant her wish to be well again. With hope and determination, Sadako began folding. **“The Last Epidemic: Medical Consequences of Nuclear Weapons and Nuclear War”** is a thirty minute video that defines and demonstrates the horror of a nuclear attack.

Thursday, August 9, 2007 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m., *free*
Leafleting for Nuclear Disarmament (featuring a puppet from Squallis Puppeteers, *free*
Location: 6th and Jefferson
Free: Please stop by and lend your support!
(See the description for Monday, August 6, above for details)

Thursday, August 9, 2007 Noon to 12:15, *free*
Tolling of the Bell, *Free*
Location: Christ Church Cathedral, 425 South Second Street, Louisville

The Cathedral Bell will be tolled 62 times---once for each year since the dropping of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945. The Bell will be tolled in memory of all those who died in these bombings and all of the bombings directed at civilians in WWII. The bells will also be tolled in hope that no city will ever again be subjected to the horrors of a nuclear war. INVITE YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP TO TOLL ITS BELL AT NOON ON AUGUST 9!

The Events are sponsored and supported by the **Louisville Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration Committee** in cooperation with, **Interfaith Paths to Peace, The Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Center for Faith and Action,** and **Pax Christi**, the Roman Catholic peace and justice organization.
For further information about these events, call (502) 214-7322 or visit www.InterfaithPathsToPeace.org



SiCKO indicts nation’s priorities, not just health care

SiCKO
by Michael Moore

*reviewed by Ike M. Thacker IV
and Eustace Durrett*

Speaking of his latest documentary, *SiCKO*, a wide-ranging look at how health care in the United States is and how it could be, Michael Moore has said (to Canada’s *Globe and Mail* newspaper), “I cried for a whole year making this film.” And well he should have. For the United States health “care” “system,” dominated by profit-seeking insurance companies except in the halcyon days of Medicare before Bush’s reform (where administrative costs were two-to-three percent versus 20-to-30 percent in the private-sector), is necessarily nothing if not extremely sad.

But it seems from a close viewing of *SiCKO* that the “health” situation in this country occasioned for Moore, especially as compared to other countries and as it should for all of us, more *anger* than sadness. By the time he completes his look at the health care systems in (mostly) the U.S., Canada, Great Britain, France, and Cuba, Moore is steaming into Guantanamo Bay with three small boats, demanding that the 9/11/01 heroes he has in tow at least be treated as well as suspected terrorists in the health care they are provided, and marching up some steps in Washington, D.C., carrying his laundry for the U.S. government to do as the French government (whose doctors also make house calls!) does for some of its working Moms.

There are two main themes in *SiCKO*: first, that the U.S. needs, as every other industrialized country already has, a comprehensive system of free national health care (even if all we can manage here is having a “single payer,” the federal government, of all medical bills — basically, an expansion of Medicare); and second, that our nation should go even further and adopt socialism’s emphasis *in general* on “we” rather than “me.”

Moore begins what turns into a sort of journey from Keynes to Marx innocuously enough, mentioning almost in *passing* for example that nearly 50 million U.S. citizens now have no health insurance and that 18,000 of them die every year just because of this fact — a brief look at a Statistical Abstract confirms that this is more than the total number who are otherwise murdered yearly.

Statistics like these are too few and far between in *SiCKO*: Moore makes his arguments mostly by stacking apt example on top of apt example rather than quoting lots of “numbers.” For the most part this was probably wise on his part, but a better balance between proof and *pathos* could have been struck.

FILM REVIEW

SiCKO also shows briefly how the uninsured in the U.S. have to live (or die), giving the example of a man who cut off the ends of two of his fingers on a table saw while lacking health insurance and thus had to choose which (one) finger to reattach: the middle finger for \$60,000 or the ring finger for \$12,000.

But, as Moore is quick to point out, *SiCKO* is not really about such uninsured people. Instead, the parts of it that deal explicitly with the U.S. focus on what those who *have* health insurance here have to endure.

For example, there was the nine-month-old girl whose insurance company would approve only *one* cochlear implant (the second one would have been too “experimental”) to keep her from going deaf; and there were “Larry” and “Donna” who had to move into their daughter’s storage room after his three heart attacks and her

SiCKO also shows briefly how the uninsured in the U.S. have to live (or die), giving the example of a man who cut off the ends of two of his fingers on a table saw while lacking health insurance and thus had to choose which (one) finger to reattach.

cancer treatment — even though they both had had “good jobs,” with benefits including health insurance. Just the co-pays and deductibles did Larry and Donna in!

Remember, too, that all of this involved people who were *not* among the 10 percent whose applications for health insurance coverage that Humana, for example, expected its employees to deny, some because they were too fat or too thin. Humana also, reports former employee Dr. Linda Peeno, gave bonuses to doctors who reduced “costs” through broad interpretations of “pre-existing conditions” and later “experimental procedures” (which are often not covered even if the people who need them are) and narrow interpretations of “medically necessary.”

The result of all this, reports Moore, is that the U.S. ranks a miserable 37th in the world as regards its health “care” system — a notch above Slovenia.

How has our country come to rank so low? A large part of the reason according to Moore goes back to Richard M. Nixon’s presidency, when the president (who on “the tapes” said he didn’t much care about health care) supported the advent of a new idea:

medical treatment — even hospitals/plans like Kaiser Permanente — for *profit* through “health maintenance” organizations (HMO’s). Now all three major prongs of the U.S. health care system — pharmaceutical *companies*, insurance *companies*, and hospitals — operated for *money*. The problem, *SiCKO* contends, is that in the case of the insurance companies all the market incentives are to *deny* care; and profit-seeking causes drug companies to charge far more than is necessary for their medicines (usually they blame it on “R and D” costs) and for-profit hospitals to try at least as much to make money as to save lives.

Most nations have already seen that this situation is absurd and tragic; and the idea of single-payer government national health care has been around in the United States at least since Harry S. Truman. The Clintons even made a spirited effort to overhaul the U.S. system in the 1990s, but were defeated by the efforts of people in the health industry to frighten and demoralize the country’s population and perpetuate the myths (you won’t get to choose your own doctor; you’ll have to wait years

for elective surgery; etc.that Moore debunks in *SiCKO*. On this effort, the movie says, the industry spent some \$100 million, including (later) buying off Hillary Rodham Clinton, who had led the effort to reform health care, by making her the U.S. Senator who received the second most medical industry campaign contributions.

The biggest tragedy of all, though, is that it doesn’t have to be this way. TINA — there is no alternative (to capitalism) — certainly does *not* apply in the inherently socialistic realm of health care. The experiences of many nations (again, every other major industrialized country has comprehensive free government national health care) prove this, Moore says.

The first such nation Moore explores is Canada, to where many U.S. citizens try to go for health care. Even a Conservative Party member there, interviewed by Moore, says that virtually *no-one* in Canada looks on health care as anything but a birthright guaranteed free by the government, with whose provision by that government most people are pretty satisfied. The man who came up with Canada’s nationalized health insurance system, says this Conservative fellow, is

Canada’s most popular national hero. Other countries that have comprehensive free national health care systems include England (where doctors make *plenty* of money and people live three years longer than in the U.S., and where, Moore said, even Margaret Thatcher didn’t much try to “privatize” health care), France (where people live at least as long as here despite unhealthy lifestyles, and where, Moore notes, the government pays college and sometimes laundering expenses!), and of course Cuba (where education and health care are the linchpins of an amazingly successful socialism).

Moore examines each of these nations in turn, relying here on both examples *and* statistics, and concludes by physically taking some 9/11/01 heroes who are sick from (for example) breathing dust for multiple months but have been denied care in the U.S., to Guantanamo and then to Cuba proper for excellent free treatment that is gladly provided there but was withheld in the U.S. as dictated by capitalism.

Our socio-economic/political system, by the way, has also, as Moore points out, dictated the “dumping” of hospital patients who can’t pay their bills, sick, confused, and disoriented, on the street — with the hospitals’ names removed from their wristbands.

But *SiCKO* makes clear that “we, the people” do not have to put up with this vicious nonsense. In Europe, Moore says, the governments *fear* the people rather than the reverse, and the people have demanded and gotten a much better deal (read: social democracy).

Against such overwhelming international evidence, the shrill cry from some editorial writers and reviewers that Moore doesn’t present evidence from the “other side” seems small-minded indeed. We suppose this “other side” consists of representatives from the U.S. health “care” industry; probably the same charge made against Moore could be levelled at Zola for *J’Accuse* and Picasso for “Guernica.”

One can almost hear Michael Moore (who does, one must admit, apparently have a pretty big ego) slightly changing the words of Robert Kennedy to say: “Some men see things as they are and ask why. I see things as they never were in the U.S. and ask why not.”

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

They added that Kentuckians for Single Payer Health Care (KSPH, Kay Tillow, Coordinator, 502-636-1551) meets on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 5:30-7 p.m. in the board room of the main Library, 4th and York Streets. www.kyhealthcare.org.

Precise but flawed, Kolko examines Marx’s doctrine

After Socialism: Reconstructing Critical Social Thought
by Gabriel Kolko, 195 pp., Routledge, 2006

reviewed by Tracy McLellan

Gabriel Kolko’s answers to so many questions I had, both formulated and not, about socialism is liberating. I learned more at Kolko’s instruction about Marx than I ever had from Marx’s writings or their acolytes.

As Kolko illustrates, Marx is hard to understand because he is obtuse, supercilious, opaque, boring and utopian. Marx’s notions of the withering away of the state, and classes, are romantic. Marx’s economic theory owes a debt practically to its very existence to the assumptions of laissez-faire economists and theorists such as David Ricardo and Ferdinand Lassalle; as well as Hegelian dialectical mysticism.

There is no Marxism without Hegelian dialecticism, observes Kolko, which doesn’t exist in the real world. “The result of trying to employ Hegel was utter confusion and mystery wrapped around a cause and sense of injustice that was really quite simple and, had it remained that way, would

BOOK REVIEW

have appealed to more people and retained their commitment for far longer.... [Socialist goals should] have been far simpler and more easily expressed and defended, but socialism from its inception was hobbled with an incomprehensible Marxist method and mysticism.... Analytically, it [should have been] far less determinist and far more useful in a world full of unpredictable surprises and changes.... Faith, in large part to confront its obscurity and inconsistencies, thereby became integral to Marx’s entire system.” These are just some of the unscientific, utopian, confusing traits in Marxism, writes Kolko.

Kolko dwells on 19th and early 20th century thinkers, whence socialist theory arose. It did not originate autonomously out of Marxist thought. Kolko also examines in detail the catastrophic appearance of the World War in 1914 and its deleterious effects on the socialist movement, the human psyche, and the world. There would have been no Bolshevism, says Kolko,

without the German Social Democratic Party’s nationalist support of the world war. Thusly, says Kolko, there would have been no repressive, autocratic model to further tarnish the socialist ideal, of which, Marxism was only one strain of a much wider movement.

Indeed, Marx referred to his thought as communist, notes Kolko, to distinguish it from this larger current. The goals and the reasons for them that socialists, including Marx, held were laudable; thusly Kolko assails the illusionary foundation of Marx’s socialist economic theory: Marxism was a less formidable challenge to capitalism than might have emerged in the absence of its relative significant organizational strength.

Marxism, says Kolko, avers economic and thusly social laws - positivistic, deterministic, and mechanistic - that unfold inexorably; and it is practically a matter of awaiting the expropriation of the expropriators by the proletariat, the workers - whose present and past historical role has been distorted, says Kolko.

Unfortunately also, he says, these objective facts and unvarying laws don’t exist in a real world subject to contingency,

unpredictability, especially wars, more recently serious ecological challenges, human greed and capriciousness. Marxism is penurious in its predictive character, says Kolko, a trait by which the advantageousness of a social theory should be judged. Marxism’s indecipherability makes impossible the application of its principles to the colossal modern challenges, says Kolko. It follows with almost mathematical precision that is thusly has no principles.

Kolko shows that Marxism provides no useful analytic tools or framework to understand, and thusly to respond, to collusion of capitalists to maintain their privileges, state intervention in the economy, or wars. These are only several of the many factors that Kolko demonstrates exist outside the unyielding laws of Marxist economic theory.

These are monumental errors, according to Kolko.

Ambition of leaders, always a political problem, was one also in the socialist movement, as Kolko shows.

These leaders and their ambitions manipulated the socialist movement and Marxist economic theory to serve too often

(continued on page 7)

MUMIA’S LIFE HANGS IN THE BALANCE

It was in 1982 that I became aware of Mumia Abu-Jamal by means of an invitation to attend a march and rally in front of the Federal Court House on Broadway in Louisville. For the previous few months I had been out of the country, while George was on a study leave, where I heard very little news of what was happening in Louisville.

Those attending the large rally were mostly students, along with a few peace and justice advocates.

They were indignant and determined, reacting to the death sentence verdict for Mumia in his Philadelphia trial on the July Fourth weekend of 1982. The case had attracted world-wide attention. I soon heard from my daughter in Germany that a rally had taken place there. And it was in Italy, walking down the streets of Naples that award-winning author **Terry Bisson** read a series of posters plastered on a building there.

It was not until 2000 that Terry published the first biography of Mumia Abu-jamal, bringing to light the world’s most famous prisoner since Nelson Mandela. After reading this book — ***On a Move: The Story of Mumia Abu-Jamal*** — acclaimed historian and author **Howard Zinn** wrote,”To read this book is to gain deep insights into issues of race and poverty — and the pretenses of our nation with regard to equal justice before the law.”

After I read this moving account of another innocent man’s life made impotent — the story of a brilliant young author and radio journalist, spending his life in isolation on death row, cooped up in a small cell 24 hours a day, but still victorious through his writings and brilliant radio broadcasts even from prison — I knew that I would never stop praying for his release. A picture of him is posted on my wall where I see him every day and wish that I knew him.

The scene is always before my eyes. Mumia, a taxi driver, when he was not involved with his radio reporting, came to the ill-fated intersection where he saw a white police officer beating a black man with a flashlight who was spread-eagled over the hood of a police car. Mumia recognized his brother! He jumped out of his cab, leaving the motor running, and ran across the street to intervene.

What happened next is unclear. He was shot in the chest; the bullet pierced a lung and split his liver. He was beaten, arrested, beaten again. His wife arrived at the hospital to see him barely conscious, his face and abdomen swollen, chained to a hospital guernsey and taken to surgery. The next morning he woke up in a hospital room, guarded by five policemen. The front-page headlines were: **“Policeman shot to death; Radio newsman charged.”**

Mumia, having spent 25 years on death row, still continues speaking the truth no matter what the cost.

He is the author of five books which have been translated into seven languages. His essays reach over 89 stations on **Free Speech Radio News**. We are indebted to Noelle Hanrahan, an investigative journalist, who maintains Mumia ‘s weekly broadcasts through **Prison Radio**, a project of the Redwood Justice Fund. Call 415/648-4505. E-mail: info@prisonradio.org. Also go to the web: www.prisonradio.org

Sister Helen Prejean, author of *Dead Man Walking*, wrote: “Mumia is a dramatic example of how the criminal justice system can be brought to bear on someone who is African-American, articulate, and involved in change in society. The system is threatened by someone like Mumia.”

We know that justice moves slowly through the court system. Thus it was not until 2001 that a federal judge threw out the death sentence for Mumia. However instead of ordering a new trial, he only ordered a new sentence hearing, and the conviction was upheld awaiting the hearing. Attornies on both sides appealed, thereby ushering in another long wait. Also he was ordered to remain on death row while waiting.

Breaking News — On May 17, 2007, Oral Arguments for a New Trial were finally made before the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia. Now everyone is waiting for the decision to be handed down. To see an excellent legal summary of the case visit: www.freemumia.org/Petition.Mar.8.pdf

DEATH ROW MUST GO

Fighting the Death Penalty is a constant battle, but the tide is turning, according to a recent lster from the **National Council to Abolish the Death Penalty**. “More and more we read about state moratoriums on lethal injection, and most recently, a key legislative committee in New Jersey voted to abolish the death penalty. When this legislation moves forward as we expect, New Jersey will be the first state in modern history to repeal capital punishment.

Locally the **Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty** (KCADP) has intensified grass roots efforts to build statewide opposition. Doug Stern is a new staff person hired to travel and make contacts leading up to the next legislative session in January

Questions about the use of legal injection, about the number of innocent persons facing execution, and doubts about the effectiveness of the death penalty have helped to bring about a nationwide shift in opinion. For example, the Chicago Tribune and the Dallas Morning Star are now calling for abolition after decades and decades of supporting it.

In addition, medical doctors are beginning to balk. A conflict between medical ethics and court orders that a doctor participate in lethal injections has halted executions in California, Missouri and North Carolina, and chemical execution is now facing constitutional challenges over whether it unduky inlicts pain on prisoners.



Keep up with what’s happening. Call Kaye Gallagher (721-8885) to receive the KCADP newsletter.

Also order Carl Wedekind’s new book: ***Politics, Religion and Death Today: Memoir of a Lobbyist***. It is available for purchase online. Go to www.kcadp.org and click the Carl’s Memo button. The cost, \$1994 includes shipping and tax. Send check to KCADP, PO Box 3092, Louisville, KY 40201

BRYCC HOUSE LIVES AGAIN AS BRICK HOUSE

by Kristin Shelor (Excerpts from a longer article)

Some years ago, The City of Louisville assisted BRYCC (Bardstown Road Youth Community) to establish a community resource for youth on Bardstown Road. Now BRYCC House members have established The Brick House at 1101 So. Second Street at St. Catherine to be a community facility providing open access of resources and skillsharing to local underserved residents as a part of proactive community enrichment.

Members assemble on Tuesday nights at 7:00 pm to cooperatively define initiatives on a weekly and monthly basis while coordinating the everyday management of the site. Meetings are open to the public. Volunteers are encouraged to join us or simply visit and learn more about our skillsharing and community dialogue. Folks may participate in DIY (do it yourself) learning sessions for art, bikes, gardening, computers, literacy/creative writing, low power FM radio broadcast and more. We have had fundraisers for Darfur, Venezuela, Katrina victims, mountain top removal, solar energy conservation and renovation, as well as for local folk who have met with misfortune.

Our work groups are called collectives allowing many opportunities for folks to get involved. The **Garden Collective** will be securing compost facilities at our newest site at Engelhart Elementary, starting up our fall garden program, revisiting our raised bed designs and planting a variety of day lilies. **Noize Collective** is revisiting dates for venue availability, training staff to host and facilitate events, and welcomes everyone to come for planning on Thursdays at 8:00 pm. **Freewheel Biks Project** welcomes volunteers to mentor DIY learners on Mondays at 7:00 pm. **Bike Posse** hosts free rides throughout the city on Thursdays at 9:00 pm. **Radio Collective** meets at 6:00 on Sundays and hosts training on software and studio technique quarterly.

We are now in the process of redesigning the DIY building collective to facilitate a successful green renovation of the building. We encourage partnership with other non-profits who would like to use our site or conjoin efforts inclusive of mutual staffing and project development. All are welcome.

For more information, call 502/589-4979. Also see the web: www.myspace.com/oldbrickhouse and www.brickhouse.cc

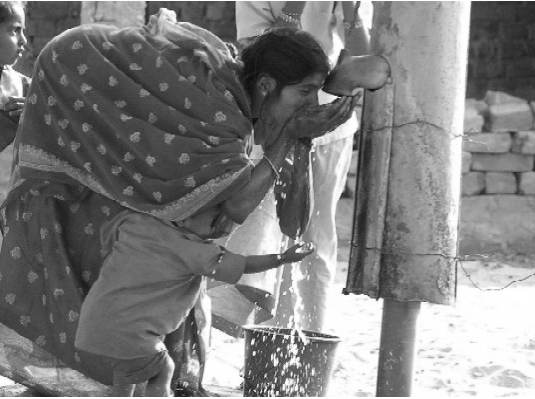
WATER: THREATENED GIFT OF LIFE

July 29, 2007
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.
Nazareth Home
2000 Newburg Road
Louisville, Kentucky

Facilitator of dialogue: Suzanne Golas, CSJP

Sister Suzanne is the Director of WATERSPIRIT, an ecology and spirituality ministry. She attended the UN World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002 and has given workshops on issues of water in many parts of the U.S.

The Sisters of Charity of Nazareth have chosen to take a corporate stance on water and to study the water crisis in our world that some have said is the most serious crisis of the 21st Century.



We invite you to join us on July 29th and bring your concerns and questions about water and water privatization.

This event is free and open to the public.

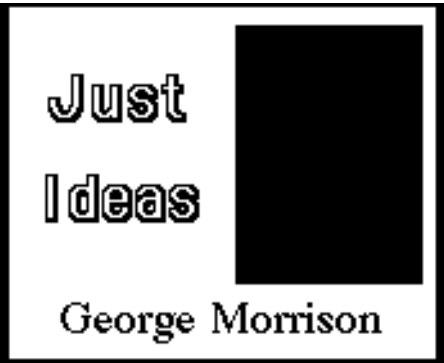
Disagreement over school ruling rooted in old schism

If you are surprised to see some of Louisville's most dedicated civil rights activists praising the June 28 U.S. Supreme Court decision greatly reducing the use of busing to achieve racial balance in schools, then you should check recent history.

When Thurgood Marshall and other lawyers in the NAACP filed the suits in the early 1950s that eventually brought about the unanimous Brown versus Board ruling that separate schools denied black students equal protection of the law, some African-American leaders and commentators refused to back them.

As detailed in the excellent 1991 docu-drama movie *Separate but Equal*, one journalist with the *Detroit Advocate*, a black community newspaper, accused Marshall and the NAACP of reaching for glory. She said a more appropriate strategy would be to use the "separate but equal" clause of the Plessey versus Ferguson ruling to force vast improvements in segregated black schools, rather than press for integration.

When Marshall spoke in 1952 about his cause before a gathering of black educators honoring the 20th anniversary of the acclaimed *Journal of Negro Education*, the movie showed, he found the consensus among the audience was that challenging



segregation risked doing more harm than good to black youth. Some said the focus should be on making black schools excellent, not winning their students access to white schools.

Many black leaders supported integration, to be sure, but the debate over whether to pursue it or an Afro-centrist approach has never died down.

In 1992, forty years after Marshall spoke to the educators, FORsooth covered a program put on by the Society of Professional Journalists and the Louisville Association of Black Communicators.

Rev. Kevin Cosby, pastor of St. Stephen Baptist Church in Louisville's

black California neighborhood, praised the Jefferson County Public Schools' scaling back of busing, a plan which partly replaced it with magnet schools and allowed higher percentages of African-American students in schools.

Cosby said blacks were lured to the suburbs thorough busing specifically, and integration in general, harming the communities they left.

"Integration," Cosby told the gathering, "simply was the co-option of the black professional class. Blacks moved out in the name of integration, leaving the masses of African-Americans leaderless."

State Senator Georgia Powers, while not specifically refuting that assessment, was vehemently opposed to the school system's reducing busing, saying in that same FORsooth story: "To say we will accept some segregation is like saying we will accept a little bit of slavery. We will fight for de-segregated schools."

And so the debate goes in, in largely the same framework and tones as in 1952 - and well before that; W.E.B. Dubois, the great black educator and social theorist,

said in his 1915 book *The Negro* that integrating schools would merely result in black students being mistreated by whites

He proposed instead that the "talented 10th — meaning the top 10 percent of African-Americans in terms of education and savvy - lift the whole of black America to justice and stability.

Those of us in white America sometimes feel less qualified to comment on this matter of black self-help versus integration because we haven't experienced racism from the receiving end.

It's the sending end of racism, we're so familiar with. Unquestionably, white racist attitudes have declined since the government started enforcing civil rights and ordering busing and affirmative action.

A poll in the late 1940s showed 40 percent of whites believed blacks were inferior to whites. Today, polls show six percent of whites believe that.

As we absorb the gravity of the historic June 28 decision, we must ask how de-segregation contributed to this new climate.

Contact George Morrison at cyw_us@yahoo.com.

A Festival of Peace BY THE HUDSON



The Fellowship of Reconciliation
Working for peace since 1914 **FOR**

A Weekend of Festivities * September 13-16, 2007

"When I Came Home" film screening: followed by a panel discussion with veterans and filmmakers. **Thur., 9/13, 7 p.m. at Riverspace, 119 Main Street, Nyack, NY.** \$10. Sponsored by Veterans for Peace. Contact Jim Murphy, mandm11@optonline.net, 845-358-5709.

Boat Ride for Freedom & Justice: scenic cruise down the Hudson aboard a luxury yacht. Departing from Tarrytown, the round-trip tour to the George Washington Bridge includes music, food, and drinks. **Fri., 9/14, 7:30-9:30 p.m. Boarding at 7 p.m.** Sponsored by the Martin Luther King Multi-Purpose Center. Contact Anita Fee, anita@forusa.org, 845-358-4601 ext. 32.

"Reaching for Resolutions" bias awareness workshop: facilitated by Creative Response to Conflict. Experiential activities will explore the meaning and roots of bias and ways to interrupt it. **Sat., 9/15, 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. at FOR, 521 N. Broadway, Nyack, NY.** \$100 (scholarships available). Contact: Anissa New-Walker, anewwalker@crc-global.org, 845-353-1796.

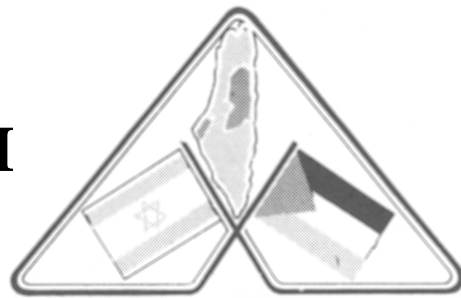
Third Annual Festival of Peace: visit the Fellowship of Reconciliation mansion and enjoy music, entertainment, and children's activities on the great lawn overlooking the Hudson. Refreshments, books, and gifts available for purchase, plus a silent auction. Free. **Sun., 9/16, 1-5 p.m. at FOR, 521 N. Broadway, Nyack, NY.** For more info, contact Anita Fee, anita@forusa.org, www.forusa.org, 845-358-4601 ext. 32.

40th Anniversary of the Israeli Military Occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem 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*

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the
Fellowship of Reconciliation

September 20 Palestine: Citizen Diplomat Fact Finding.
Phil Schervish, Cochair of the Louisville FOR Chapter and Professor of Social Work at Spalding University, will present the results and findings of the eight member Citizen Diplomat fact finding delegation to Israel and Palestine last February, sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. He will help us explore and understand the Matrix of Control and the future of the Two-State solution.

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.

Marx's doctrine *(continued from page 4)*

nefarious ends. The consequent authoritarianism was another spike in the coffin of the socialist movement, and also became the cause of others.

"An elegant theory," writes Kolko, "is useful only insofar as its complexity provides meaning and insight; ideas should be neither more nor less complicated than required for clarity. Neither simplicity nor intricacy, in itself, is an asset. Both can be liabilities if they perform no analytic function." This well-describes the intellectually stimulating common ground upon which treads Kolko's prose. Kolko's myriad conceptualizations are enervating in the way only genuine intellectual stimulation can be.

Capitalists think if they refute socialism they thereby prove the superiority of capitalism. One should not think that Kolko's rejection of socialism is ipso facto his affirmation of capitalism.

On the contrary, here as in the rest of his opus, Kolko is stern and exhaustive in the seriousness with which he inventories the problems that capitalism visits on the world. Socialist and capitalist theory are not two poles, elucidates Kolko, but only

two peculiar economic models, both of which have, for reasons some common, some different, produced cataclysm.

Kolko's book is flawed with several blemishes such as careless pronouns and suspect assertions, particularly questionable economic and mathematical ratios and equivalences and their relative extrapolation over varying time lags.

Kolko indulges a slight repetitiveness that is, however, more strength than weakness in that it captures nuance and comprehensiveness, more than it indicates a lack of imagination. Kolko's thought veers on eurocentrism.

Mao is underrepresented. These flaws aren't worth dwelling on in the context of the magnitude of Kolko's vision and exegesis. Marx and Lenin get welcome, in depth, treatment. What Kolko lacks on the occasional scientific lapse in proof - which standard especially in economics is often anyway more subjective - he makes up for in profundity and the deep-felt humanity of a trenchant scholar.

At this historical juncture, writes Kolko, our false and failed starts are less dangerous

to our survival than apathy and the status quo. It is on us to effect change; else momentum will carry toward its inexorable end. Kolko's prescriptions are foremost, universal demilitarization and disarmament. He recommends taxing the rich to fund prodigal public spending. He recommends income redistribution to turn off the faucet that fuels the fire of unrest and instability.

After Socialism is about thinking about the human condition, its problems and their potential solutions. With only a few miscues, every sentence is chock full of insight, deep yet subtle, and nuanced analysis.

Kolko's repeated explicit and implicit allusions to the problems we face and their threat to survival of the species and the planet, along with his stern reasonableness, border on the artistic only because they're more precisely scientific.

After Socialism is thusly a contribution to the process of thinking and clarity that Kolko also designates as remedies to our social ills. It thereby is a contribution to humanity.

The reviewer, formerly of Louisville, is an FOR member living in the Chicago area.

Race plan

(continued from page 1)

all students achieve at the highest possible level regardless of race, class and gender."

It is exactly the issue of achievement that prompted Justice Resource Center director and FOR member Rev. Louis Coleman to praise the June 28 decision.

Coleman said the school system, instead of focusing on racial balance through student assignment, should work to stop which he called the "exodus" of black students through the high African-American drop out rates and disproportionately high rates of black suspensions.

Coleman said de-segregation benefited black students from stable, two-parent families, but contended that African-American youth from the most disadvantages backgrounds didn't gain from busing.

He said many teachers have told him over the years they simply don't know how to teach effectively youth from poor or troubled backgrounds.

The June 28 decision bitterly disappointed another anti-racism activist who was one of the plaintiffs in the 1972 lawsuit that brought busing to Jefferson County.

"I wanted to cry all day for about three days," said Suzy Post, an FOR member and director emeritus of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition. "People, black and white, accepted (de-segregation)... We've come too far as a country. People have become so used to cultural diversity and racial diversity. People aren't going to want to go back to a segregated school system."

Post recalled violence by anti-busing demonstrators after busing started in the fall of 1975, but said the resistance died down by early 1976.

She acknowledged the racial disparities within de-segregation Coleman spoke of, including higher rates of black students receiving corporal punishment and being placed in educable mentally handicapped classes.

"With all the community friction and tension and the klan and Save Our Community Schools and the divisiveness in the community, I thought it was really ironic that black parents put their kids on those buses and it was the black kids we had problems delivering services to after we de-segregated," Post said.

Coleman hopes West End elementary and middle schools which have been closed during the busing years will re-open to encourage more community involvement in education. He also wants to see the Jefferson County Board of Education become more racially and socioeconomically representative of Metro Louisville.

"Poor people's interests are not represented, and by poor people, I'm speaking of African-Americans, Hispanics and whites, too," he said.

Despite Post's unhappiness with the high court ruling, she believes public opinion having come around to favor de-segregation (a poll in 2000 showed 82 percent of Jefferson County parents thought busing was beneficial) will save the ideal of racial equality in Jefferson County schools.

"This school system will not go back to the way it used to be - this I think."



Calendar for peacemakers

July 16 (Mon) **THE TIBETAN BOOK OF THE DEAD**, study group every Monday, using Robert Thurman’s translation. 6:00 pm. Call Bryan Onan, 452-1931.

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

July 20 (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 for a two state solution 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.

July 21 (Sat) **NEW! GARDENERS MARKET! Every Saturday, 8-11 am.** Sponsored by Crescent Hill/Clifton neighborhoods. Frankfort Ave at Peterson, in the parking lot of Crescent Hill United Methodist Church. Featuring fresh produce, bedding plants, perennials, herbs, bamboo, house plants and **BREAD!** A community event. All gardeners welcome to bring fresh produce. Spaces available. Call 376-6829.

July 21-31 **FOUR VISITORS FROM RWANDA**, sponsored by the Peace Education Program, to attend the **Training of Educators Workshop**. Upon returning to Rwanda, they will develop a mediation program using the skills learned at the Workshop. Funds are needed to cover their travel costs. If you can contribute, call Eileen Blanton, 502/589-6583.

July 23 (Mon) **HOLD THIS DATE! SPECIAL F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING** featuring **Mark Johnson** (new FOR Executive Director, Nyack NY). Potluck supper 6:30 pm. Presentation/discussion 7:30 pm. **Visitors encouraged!** Please join us for this historic opportunity. Central Presbyterian Church on the corner of 4th and Kentucky streets, side door. Call Phil Schervish, 451-6638, or Dennis Bricking, 895-8516.

July 24-26 (TWT) **TRAINING OF EDUCATORS WORKSHOP**, for school personnel and youth workers interested in creating a youth mediation program in school or community center settings. \$350 or \$650 for two-person team. Call Peace Education Program, 502/589-6583. e-mail: peaceeducation@iglou.com

July 27 (Fri) **PIZZA and A MOVIE: “March of the Penguins”** part of the Family Classics series sponsored by the Center for Faith & Action and Interfaith Paths to Peace. 6:00 pm. Film at 6:30 pm. James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. at William St. Free. Donations welcome for pizza. Call 896-0172.

July 28 (Sat) **OPEN HOUSE & BACKYARD BARBEQUE AT THE CARL BRADEN MEMORIAL CENTER**, 3208 W. Broadway, 1-5 pm. Free. The building was donated to continue the justice work of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression, Celebrate the Center’s renovation and the 83rd birthday of civil rights activist, Anne Braden. Call 778-8130.

Aug 5 (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.

Aug 8 (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.

Aug 9 (Thu) **CITIZENS AGAINST POLICE ABUSE (CAPA)**, every second Thursday at the office of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, 3208 W Broadway. 7:00 pm. Call K. A. Owens, 778-8130.

Aug 9 (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: **“SUCH A NORMAL THING,” A Simple Journey into the Israeli-Occupied West Bank**, by Rebecca Glotfelty Call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Aug 10-12 (FSS) **“WHAT SAVES WOMEN?”** Weekend retreat on the scenic and quiet grounds of Loretto Motherhouse. Wrestle with the heart of your life in the company of strong, comforting and fun women guided by a team of female pastors, thinkers, writers and activists. Sponsored by The Women’s Center of the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. For details, email Mary Sue Barnett, marysue@gmail.com

Aug 11 (Sat) **PEAK OIL** Every 2nd Saturday, main library 4th & York, Mezzanine, board room. 9:00am. Call George Perkins, 589-5511.

Aug 12 (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

Aug 19 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES**. (Every third Sunday) First Unitarian Church, 4th & York Streets, 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Mamion, 451-5658.

Aug 16 (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

Aug 20 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER 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

Aug 24 (Fri) **PIZZA and A MOVIE: “A Christmas Story”** part of the Family Classics series sponsored by the Center for Faith & Action and Interfaith Paths to Peace. 6:00pm. Film at 6:30pm. James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave at William St. Free. Donations welcome for pizza. Call 896-0172.

Aug 28 (Tue) **DR. BRENT BARRY: “Disparities in Leisure Time Inactivity in the US: Political, Economic, and Structural Explanations.”** Dr. Barry of the University of Toronto’s Dept of Sociology will kick off the First Annual Social Justice and Public Health Speaker Series. Sponsored by Louisville Metro Public Health & Wellness, The Center for Health Equity, and UL School of Public Health and Information Sciences. The lecture will begin at 5:30 pm at the UL Elaine Chao Auditorium with reception following. Seating limited. Please RSVP. Call 574-6616.

Aug 28 (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

Aug 30 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING**, at Beverley Marmion’s, 6:30 pm. HELP NEEDED! Call 451-5658.

Sept 7-9 (FSS) Events celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the birth of **ABRAHAM JOSHUA HESCHEL**, Bellarmine University. Contact Dr. Paul Pearson, 502/452-8177. pmpearson@bellarmine.edu

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Sept 16 (Sun) **YOU ARE INVITED! THIRD ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF PEACE** at FOR’s national headquarters in Nyack, NY. A celebration on the great lawn behind beautiful Shadowcliff overlooking the Hudson River. Open House, 1-5 pm, free. Enjoy live international music, entertainment, children’s activities and performances. Refreshments, books, gifts available for purchase, plus a silent auction and presentation of the Martin Luther King Award and the Pfeffer Peace Prize. It’s worth the trip! Contact Anita Fee, anita@forusa.org, www.forusa.org, 845/358-4601, ext.32.

July 9 (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 or Mary Ann Lambert, 425-3844.



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 (384-3875)
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 – (774-4305)
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.