



Founded 1915

# FORsooth



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June 2015

## Without your help, the FORsooth newspaper may end in 2015

The print edition of the FORsooth newspaper may end in 2015 unless funds can be raised to continue printing it.

FORsooth has been published and distributed free of charge by the Louisville Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (LFOR) for 25 years. It has been a visible, accessible, progressive voice in Louisville. Our donors—many of you reading this—have funded the paper, along with our other educational and advocacy work. Over the past few years, LFOR’s income from donations has decreased to the point that the cost of printing this newspaper has become unsustainable without greater financial support from readers.

We need you to tell us, through your donations, whether you see the print edition as a valuable source of information and outreach in Louisville. Do you want the newspaper to continue?

In the age of websites, e-mail and twitter, are hard-copy monthly newspapers just pulp dinosaurs? We don’t think so. FORsooth has been a unique avenue to introduce and alert people—especially people and communities on the underprivileged side of the digital divide—about progressive issues and actions in our local our peace-and-justice community. For many—both long-time residents and those moving here from out of town—the Calendar for Peacemakers on the back page of FORsooth has served as their entry point to get involved.

### Print newspaper or E-paper? It’s up to you to decide

It costs about \$1000 to print each month’s issue of FORsooth. Ten editions are printed every year. We mail 1500 copies to readers. Another 1500 copies are distributed in the community at libraries, coffee shops, and other public places.

It would cost about \$200 per month to produce an online edition of the newspaper, which could be sent to people by email. If FORsooth ceases to exist as a print newspaper, we will continue it as an email publication.

If you want the print edition of FORsooth to continue, please make a generous donation

Make your check to “FOR” and write “FORsooth” on the memo line. Send it in the enclosed envelope. (If you don’t find an envelope in this paper, send your donation to FOR, 2917 Beaumont Road, Louisville, KY 40205.)

Or you can make a donation or become a regular sustaining member through PayPal at [louisvillefor.org/donate/](http://louisvillefor.org/donate/).

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If you want to continue receiving FORsooth as a print newspaper, please make a donation.

If you would rather receive FORsooth as an email newspaper, then send your email address to: [dhorvath@fastmail.fm](mailto:dhorvath@fastmail.fm) with the message: “subscribe me to the email edition of FORsooth.”

If you want to receive both the print edition and the email edition, please make a donation, and also enclose your email address in the envelope.

Thank You!

For many years LFOR has been committed to publishing a community newspaper. We want to continue. We hope your financial support can make this happen. We will continue printing FORsooth for as many months as donations allow. We will give a report in the next issue to let you know how we are doing on donations, and how long we can keep printing FORsooth.

Thanks in advance for your donation and continuing commitment.

– The LFOR Steering Committee

## Is there a rift between young and seasoned civil rights activists?

By Kathleen Parks

From print, broadcast to social media, some have outwardly stated that there is a rift between the emerging and seasoned activists in the movement. When I attended the National Action Network Convention in New York City in April; which is the largest attended social justice and civil rights conference in America, I heard comments made from several seasoned activists that they were being accused of being at odds with the newly formed Black Lives Matter Movement. The Black Lives Matter movement emerged in 2012 out of the frustration resulting from the 2013 acquittal of Trayvon Martin’s wrongful death at the hands of George Zimmerman. It gained even more momentum when Michael Brown was wrongfully shot and killed by police officer, Darren Wilson. Make no mistake about it. The raging voices of the Black Lives Matter Movement is being forcibly heard and rightfully so across the country due to so many black men being wrongfully killed at the hands of mostly white police officers but not exclusively. With that being stated, it is still the contention from African American civil rights organizations both new and seasoned that the actions of police officers across the country are brutal and racist. Some of the more seasoned activists are questioning the tone and actions of the methodology behind what’s being portrayed in the media from the emerging movement such as Black Lives Matter. As a matter of fact, both sides of the aisle of the young and more seasoned are questioning the methodologies of each other’s actions. I find this interesting on several contemporary and historical fronts.

On the one hand, while the National Action Network is considered the most powerful civil rights organization of its

present time, it also has a Youth Move program that is led by National Director, Mary Pat Hector. They are currently rallying in Baltimore in solidarity for the late Freddie Gray. Some are suggesting that the Black Lives Matter Movement seems to be at odds with Rev. Al Sharpton. When I have asked for clarification on this “matter”, I have had some ridicule Rev. Al or just make fun of his hair. Others have stated that they just don’t like him. However, I have to this day not heard anything concrete on reasons for their disdain of him. Rev. Al Sharpton has opened doors in the movement virtually by being the first African American Social Justice Activist

to ever have a political commentary Talk show on a major cable network station. His show airs on MSNBC every day at 6 p.m. immediately following the Ed Shultz Show. No other activist in the history of the movement including Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Rev. Jesse Jackson’s Rainbow Coalition has ever been able, nor permitted to have a political show that deals with social justice and civil rights issues on a major television network. When I attended the National Action Network Conference several years ago, Rev. C.T. Vivian was there and stated that he was proud of the fact that Rev. Sharpton had made that accomplishment. Rev. Sharpton also has a syndicated radio show, “Keepin’ It Real” with Rev. Al Sharpton which airs in many major cities throughout the north, mid-west and the south. So far, it has not made it to Louisville, Kentucky. As President of the

(continued on page 7)



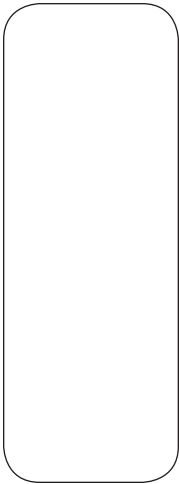
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# Making Louisville home for us all – Everett Hoffman at Third Thursday Lunch

By Isaac Marion Thacker IV

There is no local issue more important than what the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission (LMHRC) has called in its 2013 20-year action plan for fair housing, “Making Louisville Home for Us All.”

Everett Hoffman, former Executive Director of the Kentucky ACLU and current Metropolitan Housing Coalition (MHC) Board member, discussed the LMHRC action plan at the Third Thursday Lunch (TTL) on April 16 at the Rudyard Kipling restaurant (422 W. Oak). His PowerPoint presentation was, **Ike Thacker** one of the most fact-filled, best-researched, and effective TTL presentations in recent memory.

Hoffman’s presentation was given on short notice because Cathy Hinko, Executive Director of the MHC, unexpectedly had to be in Frankfort on MHC business as an intervener in an LG&E rate-restructuring hearing.

The LMHRC plan, titled “Making Louisville Home for Us All: A 20-Year Action Plan for Fair Housing” is nothing less than a comprehensive plan to end Louisville’s rampant housing segregation within a generation. It calls for specific, achievable actions. Hoffman’s three-part talk (history, elements of the 20-year action plan, and specific actions for his listeners to take) made it seem not easy of course, but doable.

Much of his presentation focused on the history of housing segregation, and attempts at integration, in Louisville—with the theme that protests are crucial to make politicians take action. We only get action after pushing for it—as he noted we did

throughout the 1960s from the Brown Hotel in 1961 (African Americans weren’t allowed in even to see Porgy and Bess, and we protested!) to many later actions even to near the end of the decade.

Still, Hoffman reported that 45 percent of Louisvillians still live in extreme segregation; and he showed maps of African-American residential patterns from 1960 and 2010 that were unacceptably almost totally similar. Is this by choice, he asked? No!

The history that has hindered change was well-expounded-upon by Hoffman: from the 1914 local ordinance (later stricken down by the Supreme Court) that actually mandated housing segregation to the advent, upholding, and implementation of zoning laws and regulations that reinforced housing segregation. A 1932 report, he noted, even blamed “The Negro Housing Problem in Louisville” on African Americans themselves! Hoffman also noted the still-frequent-even-in-2015 practice of “redlining,” in which “red” on the map denotes a “hazardous area” from which whites are steered away by realtors.

After that, Hoffman briefly outlined the development of public housing in Louisville, from its New-Deal 1930s beginnings to Clarksdale (whites only) and Beecher Terrace (African Americans only) in the 1940s, and beyond. There was, he said, another Comprehensive Plan in 1954—like the 1930s one authored by Harland Bartholomew—the year of Brown v. Board and Andrew and Charlotte Wade’s attempt to integrate Shively in their persons.

The Wades, of course, were famously aided by Carl and Anne Braden, who bought the house when the Wades couldn’t, and transferred it to them. What followed was a clinically insane prosecution of the Bradens on (of all things) sedition-against-Kentucky charges. And the dynamiting of the Wades’ home.



Everett Hoffman at April 16 Third Thursday Luncheon

Photo by John Hartmann

We finally got some relief in 1967-1968, with local Fair Housing ordinances and similar state and national laws. But, Hoffman asked, why do we in Louisville (and the U.S.) still have pervasive housing segregation almost 50 years later?

One very important if little understood key, he noted, is zoning laws and practices. This has been one of MHC’s main themes lately. The LMHRC plan notes that 75 percent of all the land in Jefferson County today is zoned single-family residential, and 69 percent of it is actually zoned R-4, which limits building to 9,000-plus-square-foot lots (less than five per acre). And Hoffman also reported that only eight percent of county land is actually zoned for multi-family residences, versus 67 percent specifically for single-family.

A second important reason adduced by Hoffman for persistent housing segregation was “urban renewal,” which all too often (cf. Clarksdale and Shepherd Square) still means “African American removal.”

The final reason for housing segregation’s 2015 persistence given by Hoffman was perhaps even more important than the first two: economics. The median wage of Louisville single mothers, he pointed out, is less than \$28,000/yr., whereas a living wage for an adult with two children—and some 25 percent of Louisville

households are headed by single women—is about \$21.50/hr. (or about \$44,750/year). One can only live where one can afford to live, and that requires a living wage.

The elements of the LMHRC’s 20-year plan to end this situation within a generation are ambitious but achievable, and lobbying of the Metro Government has already started for the first: establish a clear, explicit, government-wide commitment to fair housing, with a person charged with effectively implementing and enforcing it—perhaps a sort of “Fair Housing Czar.”

Second, initiate a broad, extensive community education campaign.

Third, create a favorable climate for the construction of affordable housing available to all: implement incentives for builders to build such housing.

And fourth, implement funding and economic development that benefits all of us instead of the well-heeled minority. For example, fully fund the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF), which was set up in 2008 by a 25-1 Metro Council vote but has never been funded the envisioned \$10 million/year (a one-percent increase in the insurance-premium tax to provide these funds was, even as Hoffman spoke, before the Metro Council). This would help all of us, not just the needy, said Hoffman: every \$1 million spent on affordable housing creates 84 housing units and 112 jobs, and infuses \$6.4 million into the local economy.

Thus did Hoffman conclude his tour-de-fact-filled-force. Having a good place to live wherever one chooses, even in mostly upscale areas, where one listener pointed out (in the Q & A session) the good schools now are, is absolutely central to the good life—not only for oneself but for one’s children.

Isaac Marion Thacker IV (Ike Thacker) is an advocate for political, social, and especially economic democracy. He believes simply that we are all absolutely equally human, regardless of absolutely everything, and that everyone deserves a place to call home. Ike may be contacted at [ike.thacker@gmail.com](mailto:ike.thacker@gmail.com)

## FOR’s Mission Statement

The Fellowship of Reconciliation seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, peace and justice. We are an interfaith organization committed to active nonviolence as a transforming way of life and as a means of radical change. We educate, train, build coalitions, and engage in nonviolent and compassionate actions locally, nationally, and globally.



**FORsooth** is published by the Louisville chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.

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

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### 95 Years on Peace Frontiers

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

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

Chair: Pat Geier.....609-7985

WFMP - FORward Radio - invites you to an evening of **great music ...**

And an appearance by the wonderfully talented **Louisville Improvisors**

Plus an appearance by

**The Two Angry Buds!!**



**Friday, June 26, 2015 7-10 p.m.**  
**The Cure Lounge**  
**1481 South Shelby Street**

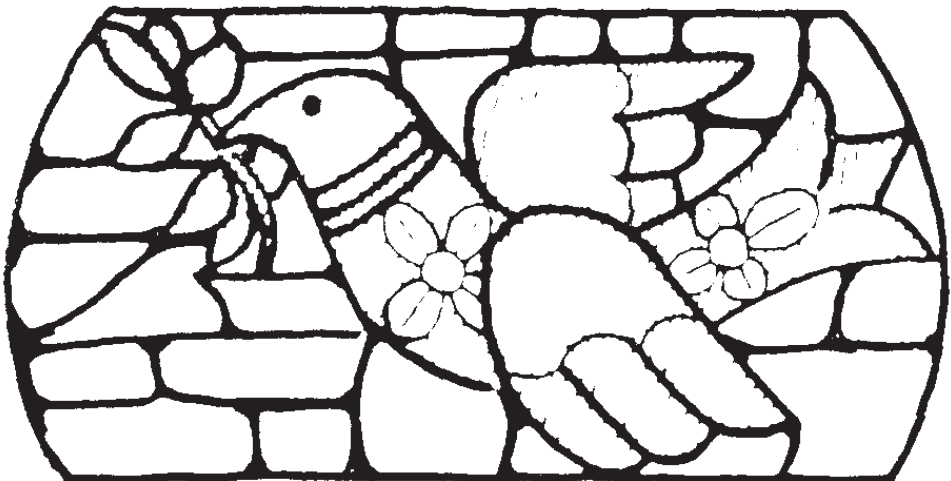


This event is a benefit for WFMP – FORward Radio. We’re raising funds to equip our studio, raise our antenna, and get on the air in early 2016 with a grassroots community radio station focused on peace and social justice issues and a wide variety of music and theatrical programming.

Suggested donation \$10 Students \$5 no one turned away

#### FORward Radio Mission Statement

FORward Radio will: (1) broadcast the voices of those groups and individuals in our community who are routinely ignored by the mainstream media; (2) promote understanding and collaboration among diverse groups; and (3) support local efforts to network, organize and strengthen our community and democracy. FORward Radio is a media arm of the Fellowship of Reconciliation Louisville Chapter





# Labor is rising up again; how far isn't yet known

By Ira Grupper

Your scribe has covered much more than just the Labor Movement over many years. But U.S. labor seems now to be an awakening giant, so this will be our sole focus for this column.

(Note: I was on a national tour, with other Jewish veterans of the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960's, relating that African American freedom struggle to the struggle for peace between Jews and Palestinians today. We visited 13 university campuses in seven states. I will report on this in my next Labor Paeans).

The U.S. labor movement has hemorrhaged to a much smaller size than in years past. But it is fighting back, and expanding beyond the fight for better wages, hours and working conditions. It is embracing broader issues as well. The issue of racism needs to be at the top of the agenda.

Richard Rothstein of the Economic Policy Institute, a Washington D.C. think tank with a focus on labor issues, comments that the recent "riot" in Baltimore, Maryland, did not simply occur in a vacuum. "In Baltimore in 1910, a black Yale law school graduate purchased a home in a previously all-white neighborhood.

"The Baltimore city government reacted by adopting a residential segregation ordinance, restricting African Americans to designated blocks... Baltimore's mayor proclaimed, 'Blacks should be quarantined in isolated slums in order to reduce the incidence of civil disturbance, to prevent the spread of communicable disease into the nearby White neighborhoods, and to protect property values.'"

Was this history reported by corporate

## LABOR PAEANS

America's major news stations when all hell broke loose recently?

Inequality is not just about race. Writes Robert Reich, former U.S. Secretary of Labor (The American Prospect, May 4, 2015): "The key to understanding the rise in inequality isn't technology or globalization. It's the power of the moneyed interests to shape the underlying rules of the market."

And there is a glimmer of hope that organized labor will not merely genuflect to Hillary Clinton. Richard Trumka, president of the AFL-CIO, said in April: "We call on all of America's working men and women — Democrat and Republican, white collar, blue collar and no collar — to join us in supporting the candidate who can and will deliver on the American Promise. That is the standard. We will not settle for less..."

Trumka met with Hillary Clinton in the summer of 2014, and her campaign has met many times since with AFL-CIO bigwigs. Returning to Trumka's speech: "The growing political power of the wealthiest among us has rewritten our labor laws, our trade laws, our tax laws, our monetary policies, our fiscal policies, our financial regulations..." Yet we still must ask: will Trumka genuflect to Hillary? Stay tuned.

Organized labor is doing some important work in other areas as well. Eric Richardson of the Communication Workers of America (CWA) appeared on Atlanta radio station WRFG to discuss the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) now, alas, being supported by President Obama.

TPP, states Ralph Nader, "would

further privatize and expand the world's capitalist economic system and empower international corporate entities to a degree we've not yet seen."

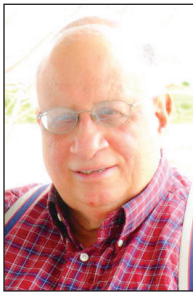
These corporate forces, personified by the Koch brothers and others objectively buying elections, are on the rise. Here in Kentucky it used to be that when a Democrat got elected governor organized labor benefited: no right-to-work law, thanks mainly to the United Mine Workers (now a Kentucky carcass), retention of prevailing-wage; a state secretary of labor who is pro-labor.

But if we don't watch out right-to-work may prevail. Look at right-wing strength in Wisconsin and Indiana.

Few in organized labor support the Republican Party. But the Democratic Party is supported by labor more so, alas, as the lesser evil. Still, there is increasing unrest in the latter.

Yet there are positive reforms. "Progressive Democrats of America was founded in 2004 to transform the Democratic Party and our country... We seek to build a party and government controlled by citizens, not corporate elites-with policies that serve the broad public interest, not just private interests.

"As a grassroots PAC (political action committee) operating inside the Democratic Party, and outside in movements for peace and justice, PDA played a key role in the stunning electoral victories of November



Ira Grupper

2006 and 2008. Our inside/outside strategy is guided by the belief that a lasting majority will require a revitalized Democratic Party built on firm progressive principles.

"For over two decades, the party declined as its leadership listened more to the voices of corporations than those of Americans..." Good, so long as this does not obviate the need for a true party of labor.

In addition to racism and sexism, what is it labor must counter? Dean Baker, co-director of the Center for Economic and Policy Research, weighs in:

"The list of policies that have led to inequality is long. It includes a trade policy designed to whack the middle class; Federal Reserve Board policy that fights inflation at the expense of jobs; a bloated financial sector that relies on government support; and a system of labor-management relations that is skewed against workers.

"If we really want to address the causes of inequality we have to get over the robots are taking our jobs story, move beyond handwringing or Luddism, and accept the harsh reality that people, or their policies, anyway, are to blame — not technology."

There are a number of militant and radical labor formations that your columnist more closely identifies with, like Black Workers for Justice, in South Carolina, and International Longshore and Warehouse Union, on the West Coast. A future column will touch on these.

The labor movement, for so long written off by ruling class apologists and progressive dilettantes, and unreported by the bourgeois press, is on the move. Where to—to be or not to be—that is the question.

Contact Ira Grupper: [irag@iglou.com](mailto:irag@iglou.com)

## An audience finds where conversations on race must be held

By David Horvath

On April 20, Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice (LSURJ) participated in powerful collaboration with Actors Theater of Louisville for its monthly gathering. That evening, Jeff Rogers, an active LSURJ member and General Manager at Actors Theatre, helped to arrange a free performance of the one-act play, Brothers in A Riot followed by a post-show discussion. The play was written and acted by Josh Bonzie and Max Monnig of the ATL company. It was directed by Rachel Dart with dramaturgy by Ariel Sibert, sound Design by Nick Abeel, and stage management by Sean Ravitz.

The storyline was simple: Joe is black and was adopted into Mike's white family. For as long as Mike can remember, they have considered each other brothers, but for Joe, belonging has never been that simple. In the spring of 1968, following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in a city divided, with a street uprising right outside their windows, they must decide whether the changing world will bring them closer together or leave them standing on opposite sides.



David Horvath

In keeping with the LSURJ meeting format we began the evening with a brief introduction of what LSURJ is about in terms of our values and organizing principles. Then, the audience was invited to engage a "pair share" where the question is traditionally, "when in the last few weeks did you 'show up for racial justice' or maybe you didn't show up for some reason?" We find in LSURJ that it can be a powerful way to "break the ice" and allow for any sort of personal stories or connections people might make in a one-on-one conversation.

The performance was searing, beautiful, wrenching and full of images, words and gestures that will stay with people for a long time. It was the kind of connection between history, theatre and social justice that can lead to transformative change, on the individual and societal level. It was a rich and powerful exploration of brotherly love, family loyalty and racial identity; After the play, Jane Jones, ATL Education Director led the audience and actors in a series of dynamic and engaging exercises and discussions to unpack the experience.

Some saw the conversation as a series of micro decisions, and realized at various points that it could have gone differently. The brothers could have listened more carefully to each other, empathized with pain and anger, and reduced defensiveness. But emotions were raw, right after the death of MLK and violence in the streets.



David Horvath addresses the LSURJ meeting

The audience saw how difficult conversations about race often don't happen where they most need to: in families and in our groups. Also the timing of such conversations, in this case, literally when there was an uprising in the streets outside their windows, is seldom "good."

LSURJ always ends its meetings with a Call to Action. Following the discussion the group at ATL heard from Taylor Little, the high school student who is leading an effort to integrate Black History into the Kentucky public school curriculum. LSURJ supports this local campaign and Taylor's effort to get Black History included in JCPS curriculum. We urged the audience to sign the petition available here: <https://www.change.org/p/black-history-matters> and to learn more about the project at this website: <https://blkhistorymatters.wordpress.com/2015/03/26/video-campaign-and-more/> Taylor felt heard, supported, and ready to continue the Black History Matters campaign. She wrote the following day after her LSURJ presentation:

"...I truly realized how many allies and supporters I have and for the first time in a long time, I saw our community in such a bright and positive light. With all the racial turmoil lately, I have been personally

wondering whether these situations will ever get better and after sitting in that room and listening to everyone share their thoughtful and open comments, I was reassured that we can overcome this, and it reassured me that this petition and this new Curriculum Standard will be a stepping stone to overcoming this."

LSURJ has already heard from a number of folks who are taking action for racial justice with inspiration from the ATL event. Also, in a follow-up email to folks who attended and to our LSURJ base, we sent the set of background readings you recommended by ATL staffer, Brendan Pelsue.

For those interested in learning more about Louisville Showing Up For Racial Justice, you are invited to join our monthly meetings, each of which has a different focus or point of view. All are welcome!

David Horvath is on the LSURJ leadership team with Carla Wallace, Carol Kraemer, and Noelle Tennis Gulden. Send us questions or sign up for our emails with notices of meetings, actions, etc. at [LouisvilleSURJ@gmail.com](mailto:LouisvilleSURJ@gmail.com). Our Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SURJLouisville/>

### Showing Up for Racial Justice

Louisville SURJ is a local effort to organize white people for racial justice. It is an independent entity, but Louisville SURJ draws inspiration from the national SURJ effort formed in response to the rising tide of racism in the so-called colorblind era after the 2008 presidential elections.

Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability. We work to connect people across the country while supporting and collaborating with local and national racial justice organizing efforts. SURJ provides a space to build relationships, skills, and political analysis to act for change.

Send us questions or sign up for our emails with notices of meetings, actions, etc. at [LouisvilleSURJ@gmail.com](mailto:LouisvilleSURJ@gmail.com). Our Facebook profile: <https://www.facebook.com/SURJLouisville/>



# CUAS Ninety-Six Hour Occupation Leads to Campaign Victory

By Rebecca Peek

At noon on Friday April 25, 2015, students at the University of Louisville were joined in Grawemeyer Hall by community supporters and local union members to chant, stomp their feet, read poetry, give speeches, and decry the University of Louisville’s complicity in the use of sweatshop labor.

After the hour-long rally, the students gathered their blankets, sleeping bags, pillows, and backpacks and marched out of Grawemeyer Hall, ending a 96-hour occupation of the University of Louisville’s administration building. In front of Rodin’s statue “The Thinker,” which had been draped in a banner demanding “PEOPLE OVER PROFITS,” over thirty members of Cards United Against Sweatshops (CUAS), who had spent days occupying the administration building, gathered together and chanted one more chant for the day: “I believe that we will win!”

The occupation of Grawemeyer Hall had begun five days earlier, on Monday April 20, 2015, when ten students walked into University of Louisville President James Ramsey’s office. Their plan was to sit in the office until the building closed, at which point they would face being arrested by the university police for trespassing. What ten students had thought would be a three-hour sit-in became a 96-hour occupation of the administration building, an occupation that not only furthered the cause of the CUAS group, but also solidified the dedication of its members, who gladly slept on marble floors during their last week of the semester.

I was one of those ten students from CUAS, and I’m writing this article two weeks later, still overwhelmed by the

community and student support that our group received during the occupation of Grawemeyer Hall, and happy to report that this occupation helped provide the final push to convince the University of Louisville to cut its contract with JanSport, a company exploiting sweatshop labor.

We at Cards United Against Sweatshops (CUAS), Local 502 of United Students Against Sweatshops (USAS), had been running a campaign since September of last year to try to get the University of Louisville to end its contract with the JanSport company, because JanSport’s parent company, the VF Corporation, refuses to sign onto the Accord on Fire and Safety in Bangladesh. The Accord is a legally binding agreement which requires companies to perform mandatory safety inspections, force repairs of any safety violation, and allow for unionization of workers without retaliation.

Since 2005, 1,800 workers have lost their lives in preventable factory disasters in Bangladesh, the most infamous tragedy being the 2013 Rana Plaza collapse, which claimed the lives of over 1,100 workers while injuring thousands of others. To date, over 199 brands have signed onto the Accord, yet VF is one of the most notable hold-outs along with Wal-Mart and the Gap Corporation. In refusing to sign onto the Accord, VF is putting the lives of their more than 190,000 workers at risk.

As the school year was ending, and the University administration was stalling



Rebecca Peek

discussions with us regarding the JanSport contract, we felt that a sit-in was necessary to push the issue forward. What we couldn’t have imagined going into the sit-in on Monday was the immense support that we would receive. The ten students who entered President Ramsey’s office planned on leaving his office in handcuffs a mere three hours later. However, the administration decided not to have us arrested, and blatantly stated that we could stay there as long as we liked. We decided to take them up on that challenge and stayed in Ramsey’s office for as long as possible. Police blocked the entrance to his office, and we were told that if we chose to stay, we could not use the restroom or have access to food or the medication that one of the students needed.

Seven hours into the sit-in, we made a unanimous decision to leave the president’s personal office to have access to bathrooms and food, but as we left, we were met by a huge rally of student supporters who had gathered in the rotunda. We felt overwhelmed by their support, and because of their willingness to stay with us, we decided to occupy the rotunda overnight. This was the first night of what would eventually be a four-day occupation of the administration building.

One night turned into two, and then three, and we decided we would end the occupation the next day, on the two-year anniversary of the Rana Plaza collapse, surrounded by all of our student and community supporters.

Throughout the occupation, we held teach-ins, smaller rallies, and a candlelight vigil for Rana Plaza victims. During the vigil, students and community members planted a tree on campus to symbolize hope

that can exist out of this tragedy, and we held a moment of silence in candlelight at the exact time that the Rana Plaza collapse had occurred (8:45 am, April 24 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, which was 10:45 pm April 23 Eastern Time). This vigil allowed the students to focus on the reason this campaign and international solidarity are necessary, and we used this for motivation going into our largest rally, which we held the next day to mark the end of the occupation.

Now I am happy to report that the University has agreed to end its contract with JanSport. The University of Louisville will become the 19th university to end its contract. This will be the 24th contract ended as part of the widespread effort to pressure VF to sign onto the Accord.

Personally, I am elated that the University has made this decision. As a member of CUAS, I am so proud to see that the effort of so many students and community members resulted in this victory. My hope is that students and community members will continue to raise their voices against injustice and will pressure administrators to take action against such injustice. Now CUAS can turn its effort toward a new campaign to continue to ensure that U of L treats workers locally and internationally in an ethical manner, keeping in mind that student protests can make a difference in our community.

*Rebecca Peek is the current president of Cards United Against Sweatshops and a recent graduate from the University of Louisville where she majored in political science and philosophy. Rebecca intends on working in labor organizing post-graduation. Contact Rebecca at rnpeek01@gmail.com*

## ‘Money as speech’ narrows our once public free expression

By Tom Louderback

You heard plenty about the so-called war on coal during last year’s election. Some say it’s a war with the EPA. Most others see it as a war in the marketplace. Kentucky’s coal is facing fierce competition from cheaper coal mined in Western states, natural gas, and green technologies. The truth is it’s a price war caused by recent advances in technology that benefit our competitors. That election is over and done. Let’s talk about a different war now -- the unrelenting war on our First Amendment.

This war has been going on since the Watergate era and its main objective has been clear ever since. Big Money political action committees and the politicians they support contend that money is the legal equivalent of political speech. Their position must be advanced at every opportunity and defended at all costs by litigation in sympathetic courts, repeal of campaign finance laws and cleverly worded political spin. Their war strategy has followed at least three discernible lines of attack.

The first tactic is to sell the public an over-simplified notion of freedom which ignores our responsibilities as citizens. Freedom is free, in other words. The Big Money political action committees want us to think there is no particular reason for us to empathize with others particularly those less fortunate. Each of us is responsible only for himself or herself. That means those who have fallen behind have only themselves to blame. The basic purpose of this political spin is to desensitize us to equality of opportunity for all citizens. In the real world, we need to defend the freedoms and rights of others in order to secure equality for everyone. Big Money never wants to talk about that. They talk endlessly of freedom and never mention equality or justice.

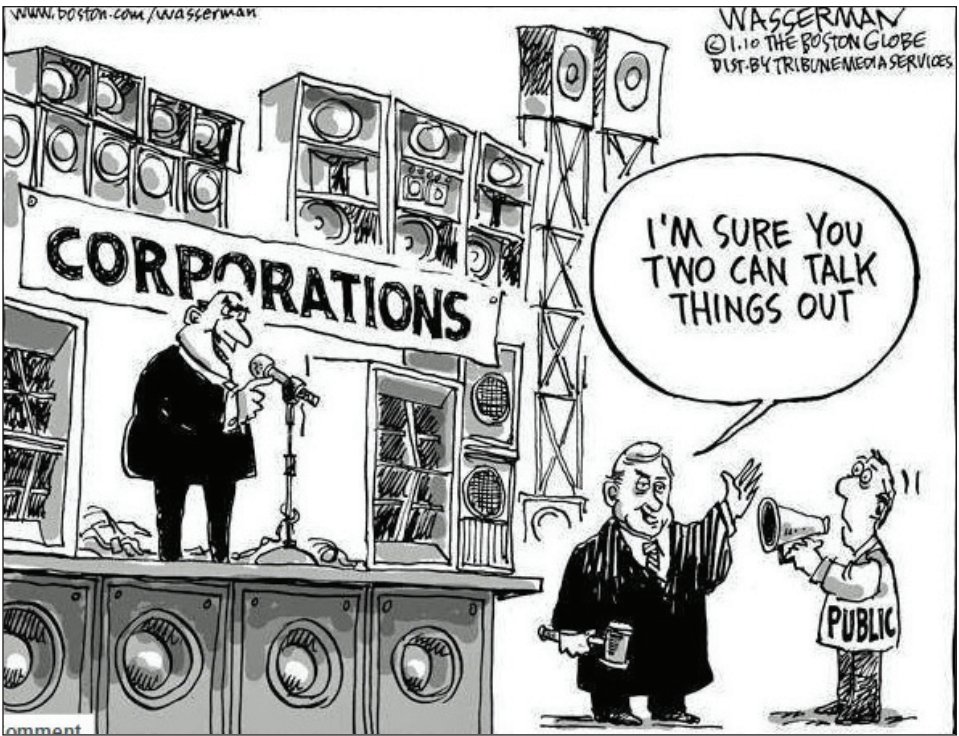
So, the Big Money political action committees reduce freedom of speech to an individual right to say what we want without being arrested. They hope it would never occur to anyone that our freedom of speech

might also convey a right to participate in “the public discourse” of the issues as equal citizens and a right to be heard by others and our public officials. Consider the following question. Is it still free speech when most of us are not heard? Technically yes, according to recent U.S. Supreme Court decisions. Strange as it sounds, the right-wing majority of the current justices have concluded that the First Amendment does not provide a right to participate in the public discourse; only a right to speak. These justices apparently do not care whether or not we are heard.

Next, Big Money compartmentalizes the First Amendment. Their reduced concept of freedom of speech effectively disconnects it from the other freedoms named in the amendment. These are our freedom of religion, freedom of the press, freedom of assembly, and freedom to petition government. Taken together, these five freedoms would provide us rights to receive religious and secular information and ideas, to speak our personal opinions, and to be heard by others and the government.

This package of freedoms is known historically as “freedom of expression.” Historians trace the intellectual origins of that concept to John Milton’s famous treatise “Areopagitica” published in 1644. It’s likely the framers of our U.S. Constitution were familiar with it. Big Money prefers not to see any connections between these freedoms and they never mention it. Otherwise, they might need to re-consider whether there is a right to participate in the public discourse after all.

Their third tactic is to privatize our public properties. Exercise of free speech has long been associated with public property. We can speak in the town square but not necessarily in the stores and offices on the square since those properties are privately owned. We would need the property owner’s permission first. In recent times, however, public properties have greatly declined. We see examples of that decline in the rapid growth of privately



Credit for cartoon to Wasserman of The Boston Globe

owned facilities such as shopping malls, common areas within gated communities, and business improvement districts. This trend appears to be largely unintentional, but there is evidently a clear purpose in the privatization of another kind of public property – the TV and radio airwaves.

At their beginning, the airwaves were considered a new kind of public property something like the town square. Access to these properties was readily recognized as an exercise of free speech. So, Congress required broadcasters to give some airtime to the discussion of public issues with contrasting points of view included. Many court decisions regarding the exercise of free speech on public properties have tolerated limitations on time and location for public safety reasons. By contrast, Congress was doing something different with the airwaves. They were providing more space and time to the public.

This provision lasted about forty years until it was repealed in 1987. Since then the airwaves have been treated like private properties. Public access has been practically eliminated. Massive money is the price of admission nowadays. Republican appointed US Supreme Court justices have equated money with speech, but countless opinion polls indicate the public does not agree. Most of us see money as the power to dominate and corrupt the government. There’s more. Members of Congress aligned with Big Money are attempting to privatize the Internet as well by repealing Internet Neutrality.

If we could describe the Big Money war on the First Amendment in just three words, it would be these: over-simplify, compartmentalize, and privatize.

*Tom Louderback is the Calendar editor for FORsooth Newspaper. Please contact Tom at TcLouderback@aol.com*



# In the 48th year of the 6-Day War: a call to re-examine, not re-arm

By Brian Arbenz

As my 3rd grade school year ended, and our family was heading out for ice cream, I suddenly found out there was more to celebrate than the arrival of summer.

When I asked my mother what was the latest from the Mideast war that had broken out a few days before, she astounded her children by telling us, “They’ve ended it. They’re calling it the 6-day war.”

Wow! Six days and the shooting is over. If only Vietnam could take the hint!

A quick end to a war in the Mideast and interminable killing in Vietnam are, of course, very different proportions from the ones history will assign to these conflicts. On that June 1967 day, I -- an eight-year-old -- could not envision an end to the Southeast Asian war which had been dragging on for more than half my conscious life, and for which, one decade later, I could be drafted.

Even harder to fathom would have been the notion that 48 years later, I’d be writing about a “Six Day War” that essentially would still be going on.

I have sometimes prefaced remarks on this issue by saying that the closest I have been to the Mideast region is the 1987 Mideast Regional of the NCAA basketball tournament in Louisville. Yes, I yield to actual experience of those who live in or who have extensively toured that part of the world. Yet, I also maintain that I am from the most important nation in the Mideast -- the one that is paying for the conflict.

And I do not limit that to the oft cited U.S. aid to Israel, which was calculated in 2010 to have been \$185 billion since Israel’s founding in 1948.

That number comes from the U.S. Agency for International Development, which broke the numbers down to \$123 billion in military aid and \$62 billion for Israel’s economy.

Some would say those numbers prove the case that the U.S. is unilaterally pushing one side in the Mideast conflict and that cutting back on aid to Israel clearly would reduce tensions there. Whereas I do believe



Brian Arbenz

the client state relationship between the U.S. and Israel is problem plagued, it is not by any means to whole story of the U.S. checkbook in the Mideast.

Look at the region-wide numbers: AID reported that during those same 62 years between 1948 and 2010, the U.S. gave:

- \$114 billion in aid to Egypt (about half military, half economic).
- \$59 billion to Iraq (\$21 billion of which was military aid).
- \$52 billion in aid to Pakistan, (\$11 billion of which was military aid).

Yet how often are these figures cited in debates and at public rallies about the Mideast?

I agree with the general consensus among peace activists that the U.S. needs to start tying its flow of aid to Israel to Israel’s ceasing of the of building settlements in occupied Palestine, settlements which violate a United Nations resolution forbidding the establishment of permanent settlements in an occupied territory.

These settlements began being established in 1977 when the Likud Party of Prime Minister Menachem Begin was elected to power. That began a whole new Israeli foreign policy, one which led to security vulnerabilities even greater than were endured by Israelis living in the pre-1967 borders, when shelling from Syria’s

Golan Heights against Israeli civilians sparked the Six-Day War.

Today, a security fence, or wall; onerous checkpoints that harm daily life and commerce of Palestinians; and forced removal of some of them from their homes, sometimes on short notice after generations of family residency -- all these have ensued since the new settlement policy started in the late ‘70s.

So is there an Israeli Apartheid? Much as the taking of homes and the absence of equal voting and water rights in the occupied West Bank resemble how South Africa was built, I reject that analogy. In the case of South African system of brutal racial oppression, the whole structure of the nation needed to end, not just be reformed.

In the case of the Mideast, where Arab residents of Israel proper have equal rights to vote and practice their religion, it is only certain Israeli policies which must end. Moreover, the successful boycott, divestment and sanctions combination that ended South Africa’s apartheid was

## Armadollars and Petrodollars

It comes naturally to think of military and economic aid to Israel and the Arab states as opposite phenomenon -- the result of competing lobbies.

Well, looking beyond the immediate crisis point-defined present shows a very different Mideast conflict, one where the enmity isn’t principally between Israelis and Arabs, but where lobbies not working for any nation and whose objective is the proliferation of conflict are the enemies of all who live in the Mideast.

In a 2005 report to Congress by Jeremy M. Sharp, Mideast specialist for the Congressional Research Service, a very revealing timeline becomes clear. As reported in the Center for Innovative Media, Sharp found: “Beginning in the early 1970s, the United States dramatically increased its foreign assistance to the Middle East.... After the withdrawal from Vietnam in 1975, the Middle East began to receive more U.S. aid than any other region.”

While U.S. military spending was, on paper, declining in the mid and late 1970s, U.S. weapons manufacturers’ business soared during this period, because arms exports saw huge increases. This was documented in a 1989 working paper by researchers at McGill University in Montreal, Canada. The McGill study attributed this shift toward arms exports to “cooperation between the major armament and energy corporations,” declaring them, as the paper was titled, “The Armadollar-Petrodollar Coalition.”

Activism on behalf of Israel and a Palestinian state needs a much wider frame of reference which includes a thorough discussion of this powerful coalition.

Instead of a perpetual focus on the pinpoint crisis of the moment, the futile back-and-forth of who struck whom first, and the one-track security strategy of seeking more and more military and economic aid for my side, all sides need to ask: how can de-escalating the conflict help my people?

Relatively little, and ineffective opposition by the Israeli lobby was seen when AWACS planes were sold to Saudi Arabia in the 1980s, when the U.S. Senate decided during that decade not to investigate reports Saddam Hussein was stealing agricultural credits to buy deadly weapons, and when the United States vetoed a U.N. Security Council resolution condemning him for gassing the Kurds.

possible only because the movement, both within South Africa and internationally, was nonviolent. And even though there were armed groups which favored war to drive out whites, their tactics did not include indiscriminate terrorist attacks which would have complicated or outright scuttled the unity anti-apartheid forces enjoyed.

This unprecedentedly broad coalition ranged from leftists picketing on the streets, to mainstream labor union leadership, to a mammoth coalition in Congress which overrode President Reagan’s veto of sanctions.

The matter of the occupied West Bank aside for the moment, within Israel itself, the political pluralism and rights for religious minorities have been far greater than have existed in such nations as Egypt, Syria and Iraq during these 60-plus years of the mega-billions of dollars of aid to the Mideast.

Oppression, sometimes violent, against Shiites, Coptic Christians and Jews in those countries, and general human rights abuses

in the Persian Gulf oil states need to be part of the discussion when people gather to examine what too many automatically assume is an exclusively Israeli policy of ethnic cleansing in the Mideast supported by our money.

Moreover, “our money” sent overseas isn’t measured solely by federal budget outlays in weapons and economic aid. There’s your and my plastic cards being swiped at the gas pump.

In the 1980s, we learned the term “Petrodollars,” the money invested back into the U.S. economy through the massive profits of corporations such as Bechtel and Parsons earned by building the infrastructure of the Persian Gulf states, whose surge in oil wealth was one of history’s fastest and largest international shifts of money and, consequently, clout.

Petrodollars gained widespread

(continued on page 7)

# After impeding jobs, education and Loretta Lynch, Rand Paul runs for president?

By Gracie Lewis

Senator Rand Paul is running for president under the banner of, “We have come to take our country back.” This is a statement of “white privilege.” The main reason President Barack Obama ran into so much opposition in Congress was because he was a black man in the White House.

Although President Obama was eminently qualified for the position of President of the United States, some white people assume that only a white man can be president.

When Republican Senator Rand Paul arrived in Congress from Kentucky in 2010, his first mission was to eliminate the Department of Education. For America, and every other place in the world, education is the key that unlocks many doors. But, not to Senator Rand Paul. When he was elected, the country was on the verge of bankruptcy and had to be bailed out at the tune of \$700 billion dollars because of the thieves on Wall Street. Yet, he fought the president, who with the help of Congress, brought this country out of a deep recession that not only affected America but the global economy. So anybody who is “standing with Paul” is not standing on solid ground. He is double minded in all his ways. Paul voted along with the GOP 50 times against Obamacare, but for the more than 650,000 Kentuckians who were not previously covered by health insurance, The Affordable Care Act was a blessing.

On October 1, 2013 there was an illegal government shutdown because the GOP didn’t want Obamacare -- the ACA -- to be implemented, although it was law. The role of the U.S. Congress is to uphold the law. Senator Paul voted along with the GOP for the shutdown. This resulted in the furlough of over 800,000 federal workers. The Department of Veterans Affairs was shut down, curtailing needed services for veterans and their families. The White House staff and the Department of Defense were also furloughed. This illegal shutdown affected businesses, parks and museums, and resulted in a \$24 billion economic shortfall.



Gracie Lewis

Senator Rand Paul voted against the \$450 billion American Jobs bill, which the GOP defeated in 2011.

This bill would have put Americans back to work rebuilding our crumbling infrastructures. The American Jobs bill would have enabled to workers to earn high wages building bridges, and modernizing our schools to give their students more access to the new technology. It also would create a pathway to jobs for the millions of unemployed workers.

The bill would have created youth

employment and increased the numbers of teachers in the classrooms.

Paul voted against the jobs bill despite of the fact he had voted against extending unemployment benefits.

On the 50th Anniversary of the March on Frankfort, Senator Paul stated he would help win passage of Senate Bill 70, which would have restored voting rights to ex-felons. On March 5, as thousands marched on Frankfort, the bill died because there was a major change in the legislation -- a five-year waiting period for the restoration of voting rights after time is served -- and other stipulations were added to S.B. 70 restricting which felons could have voting rights restored.

Senators Paul and McConnell both voted to block the Bank on Students Emergency Loan Refinancing Act, a bill that would help to offer, to 360,000 Kentuckians saddled with student loan debt, a way out. This legislation would have given students an opportunity to renegotiate their loans. Today, nearly two out of three Kentucky college students graduate with a minimum of \$22,384 in debt. He also voted on April 30, 2014 against the Minimum Wage Fairness Act.

Although Loretta Lynch is impeccably qualified to become the next Attorney General -- the second African American (after Eric Holder), and the second woman (after Janet Reno) -- Paul issued a statement opposing her nomination.

On February 5, he stated that “Mrs.

Lynch has a track-record of violating the individual freedoms granted to us by our Constitution.”

What about our rights to education, jobs and health care? He has never acted independently of the Republican Party who has opposed President Obama at every opportunity.

Loretta Lynch has been previously confirmed unanimously by the Senate twice, with public support of four Republican Senators. On January 28, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on the Lynch nomination. Her performance was stellar and she received praise from both sides of the aisle.

She has acted independently and prosecuted terrorists, mobsters, drug lords, gang members and sex offenders. In February, the same Judiciary Committee favorably reported the nomination out of Committee, in a vote of 12 to 8. Despite her qualifications, the Republican leadership led by Senator Mitch McConnell at first refused to bring her nomination up for a vote, the backed down, allowing her to be confirmed.

Paul was also one of the 47 Senators who signed on to the controversial letter to the leaders of Iran that any deal the President negotiated could be revoked by Congress.

*Gracie Lewis is a longtime activist for social and racial justice. She works with the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. [www.louisvillepeace.org/kyalliance.html](http://www.louisvillepeace.org/kyalliance.html)*



# The body is back, but the spirit is still with Guatemalans

By Craig Satterley

We are once again stateside in physical form, having returned from this unique journey to Guatemala, in which twenty-eight individuals of varying ages and walks of life gracefully wielded the torch of solidarity together for nine days. Each day was a journey in itself, full of countless experiences from playing with children to helping dentists pull teeth and apply varnish, and visiting a nun who dedicates her life to rehabilitating malnourished children regardless of personal cost. We taught local physical therapy students and treated patients, painted a beautiful mural for a landmark music school, walked through a dump of burning trash which locals wade through to find recyclables, sang during bus rides, gave water filtration systems and educated families on how to use them, and the list goes on.



Craig Satterley

Although we are here physically, we are elsewhere in every other way. It's intriguing, this feeling of your body traveling much faster than your mind, heart, spirit, and whatever other classifications of being one might name. But that is precisely the sensation of stepping back on North American soil. For nine days your world has been lifted up, turned over, and set back down. You saw a side of it you never truly knew existed. No matter how much you heard or read before, you never really knew what it looked like. What it felt like. What it meant. And what has been seen cannot be unseen. It is no less difficult to understand why one can feel so at ease, at home, at peace when surrounded by poverty, inequality, suffering, and injustice in a plethora of forms yet so out of place when surrounded by a life of luxury in comparison.

The dichotomies of these journeys are so complex, being deeply rooted in a geographically broad and historically deep narrative that is difficult to digest because reading it implicates us all. One need look

no further than the CIA-led coup d'état in 1954 to understand Guatemala's reality is intricately tied to our own. This coup led to the Guatemalan civil war which plunged the country further into the darkness of crimes against humanity that took the lives of over 200,000 people.

And to have such knowledge calls one to act. We see the suffering each day in Guatemala and realize this present reality is due in part to our own past. However, the complexity is overwhelming. Where to begin? It's hard to even process what is witnessed over the span of a mere few days. People living in tin shacks in an equatorial climate, villagers paying for water because one man's greed prevents access to an already established water source, one child per family going to school while the others work so he can be educated, the list is never-ending.

Yet the grace and love of the Guatemalan people we meet. Yet the beautiful mountains that frame their horizon. Yet the smiles and laughter made of pure joy which they share. Yet the strength and resiliency the mothers bestow upon their children. Yet their compassion to give even when they have next to nothing. That list, too, remains extensive.

However, such dichotomies are not limited to the Guatemalans we meet, or impoverished people in general. The dichotomies are everywhere, but perhaps more visible in such circumstances. When one can see lush, verdant green melon fields opposite a fence separating the fruit from the devastation of the dump of burning trash and buzzards flying overhead, the differences are overwhelming. Or when a walled-in community with green grass, schools, and houses stands literally flush against a village of tin shacks and occasional adobe huts in which refugees, the result of a natural disaster, call home, one cannot but be appalled at the contrasting realities.

At first glance, this is what we see in Guatemala. But then we meet the people and see so much more. Not only do we begin to see them, we begin to see ourselves. Because although they may be poor in some earthly regards, from basic resources such as water, food, sanitation, and clothing to the plethora of things we use without a second



Craig Satterley and crew examine children in Guatemala

thought each day, they may be rich in other ways we have become poor. They greet all whom they pass each day, acknowledging the presence of others. They form close-knit communities that work together to improve their conditions. They welcome others into their home warmly even if that home is dirt and tin. They never complain even as they wait hours to have their teeth pulled so that they may rid themselves of the daily pain. They live in defiance of their oppression. They effortlessly attempt to dig a well so that they may have a right to the natural resource denied them by the man who sells them the only local water. They plant shade trees circled by painted rocks to bring dignity to their destitute community. Learning these realities does not give reason to feel grateful for what we have. It gives reason to change our own lives.

It takes time to come down from the mountain and this downward slope is much less exhilarating as one reflects upon having just scaled that summit. But in the end it gives new purpose. If a mountain has been scaled, then just imagine what one might be able to do with their life as they move forward.

The truth is...our journey has just begun. We may not have changed all of Guatemala, but Guatemala changed all of us. Now we have a better understanding of what it means to be human. We wear a hand-made Guatemalan bracelet as a reflection of the Guatemalan scar on our hearts. And we call ourselves a family as a representation of the love and community we have begun to build. Imagine a world in which we had all gone to Guatemala together; where we all worked side-by-side, laughing, crying, learning, and changing...together. That is solidarity. That is world peace. That is family.

*Craig Satterley graduated from Bellarmine University with his doctorate of physical therapy (DPT) in 2012 and is a physical therapist at Kentucky Orthopedic Rehab Team (KORT). Craig has participated in this service trip to Guatemala 6 separate years since 2009 and has served as the instructor for Bellarmine DPT students on the Guatemala trip the past 2 years. Craig's passion for social justice and physical therapy are matched by his love for music, traveling, exercising, reading, and being outdoors. He can be contacted at csatterley@kort.com*

## The people defend renewable energy, point way to more wins

By Sarah Lynn Cunningham

It's not every day that public interests prevail over powerful, well-funded special interests. Happily, I have the pleasure of reporting on one such recent victory.

You may recall that, earlier this year, FORsooth published my essay urging you to speak against a critically important rate case before the Kentucky Public Service Commission (PSC), filed by Louisville Gas & Electric, Inc. (LG&E). Its downstate sister utility, Kentucky Utilities, filed a parallel case.

Many of you did—thank you very much. Both utilities withdrew their cases!

### The Settlement Agreement

The settlement agreement calls for LG&E to:

- Leave its gas and electric meter fees alone
- Receive smaller increases in its net usage rates than it requested
- Write off more low-income households' bad debt
- Invest more funds into school energy-efficiency projects

Everyone who attended the public hearing or submitted commits to the PSC and Office of the Attorney General (charged by state statute to represent residential consumers) deserves to own a piece of this notable victory.

Special thanks go to the Kentucky Resources Council, Metropolitan Housing Coalition and Sierra Club, whose attorneys earned formal "intervener" status so they participate in the negotiations that resulted in the settlement agreement. (It's expected to be approved by the PSC later this year.) The list of activist supporters who contributed to this effort also includes Associated Community Ministries, Kentucky Interfaith Power and Light, KFTC, KY Conservation Committee, KY Environmental Foundation, KY Solar Energy Society, the KY Student Environmental Coalition, KY Sustainable Business Council, Lexington Community Action Council, Louisville 2nd Street Neighborhood Association, Louisville 350.org, Louisville Climate Action Network, Louisville Green Action Teams, Louisville Sustainability Council, and the MACED

staff. And that probably leaves out some!

The interveners, Louisville Climate Action Network and Kentucky Conservation Committee thank all FORsooth readers who responded to ours calls to action.

### What Next?

Spread hope by telling others about this victory.

Presume that LG&E will try again to shift more of its fixed costs to its meters, perhaps in 2016. Keep your antennae up for future calls to action.

Help build economic momentum for environmental, economic and social sustainability. Invest in energy efficiency and solar energy to lower your utility bills indefinitely and create new green-collar jobs. Visit a few of the projects on the 2015 Louisville Solar Tour (its early-fall date will be announced this summer).

Learn more about local organizations fighting the good fights. Become members. Invite them to your organizations' meetings. For example, Louisville CAN offers free presentations on climate change and the many steps we can take to reduce our carbon footprints and costs.

### The Back Story

Straight from the Koch brothers, Edison Electric Institute and American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) playbook, LG&E sought PSC permission to restructure its rates in a way that would have harmed low-income consumers and the economics of renewable energy and energy efficiency.

Utilities in all 50 states are trying to raise their meter fees—the monthly sums all customers must pay, regardless of whether

we use a little or a lot of power or natural gas, or meet our power needs via net-metered solar panels.

LG&E proposed to raise its gas and electric meter fees to \$37/month—an unreasonable sum for low-income households to face before ever turning on a light or heating water for a shower. To temper those hikes, it proposed lowering its rates slightly for each kilowatt-hour of power used and for delivering gas—presumably temporarily.

Both changes would have diminished the economic returns customers would receive from investing in solar energy and the energy efficiency measures to lower their bills and carbon footprints.

Utilities have long charged meter fees to cover their stranded costs. Now, feeling threatened by growing demand for energy efficiency, renewable energy and climate-protection regulations, they're looking for ways to maintain their revenues and profits. See: [http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/27/opinion/sunday/the-koch-attack-on-solar-energy.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/04/27/opinion/sunday/the-koch-attack-on-solar-energy.html?_r=0)

*Sarah Lynn Cunningham is an environmental engineer, educator and activist. Besides practicing engineering, she staffs and teaches for the Louisville Climate Action Network, and serves on the board of the Kentucky Conservation Committee. Contact her at slc@greensmarts.us or info@louisvillecan.org*



Sarah Lynn Cunningham





# Activists *(continued from page 1)*

local NAN Louisville, Kentucky State chapter, one of my personal goals is to one day see that happen.

So back to the perplexing question being addressed here. Is there a rift or tug of war? And if so, why? Most of us who study the movement are keenly aware of the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee better known as SNCC. SNCC became at odds with the King movement on how they should deal with the racist atrocities being thrust upon them in the south and more specifically in Selma, Alabama. However, although there were some disagreements between the two groups; in the end they galvanized their efforts in solidarity and were victorious with blacks finally gaining the right to vote; which previously would not have occurred

due to the systemic racist Jim Crow voting laws of the south. So from my perspective, I reject the notion that there is a rift between the young and the seasoned activists. Why? Both sides are taking up issues either with the need for police accountability and economic equality. Although each side may have a unique approach on how they speak to the issues, at the end of the day, we are all on the same page in history. To me, that’s what counts. Ending with a quote from the late Dr. Maya Angelou, “We are more alike my friends, than unlike.” Let’s listen to and learn from each other.

*Kathleen Parks is President, NAN Louisville Metro, Kentucky State Chapter. Reach Kathleen at pa8176@live.com*

# 6-Day War *(continued from page 5)*

influence in our government, not just our private sector, as Persian Gulf governments were among the biggest buyers of U.S. currency, a deal which kept the U.S. economy artificially afloat during the Reagan Administration’s tripling of the federal deficit.

These Persian Gulf states almost entirely were run autocratically by royal families which also owned majorities of their state oil companies.

Persian Gulf petrodollars, which come into our federal budget, are seldom talked about, in comparison to the widely discussed federal money going out to Israel.

Yes, a powerful Israel lobby has finessed Congress and presidents to keep the money going. However, the power of the Persian Gulf lobby is vast -- in many ways bigger -- and we hear relatively little about it. Consider that we fought the 1991 Gulf War to keep the Petrodollar fiscal pipeline open. And the Gulf States, the government of China and other big buyers of U.S. currency are un-elected by the American people while their financial dealing has made what is supposed to be our government beholden to them.

The huge transfer of oil money to the Persian Gulf states and other Mideast nations in the 1970s and ‘80s has been shown to be a key, if non-direct force for the rise of Al-Quaida. Israel’s advocates could have placed conservation of oil by the U.S. high on their agenda, but the wide failure to call out the standard commute of one driver per car as a threat to Israel’s and America’s security illustrates the great fallacy of “peace through strength.”

I will never forget the baffled social media responses by people in the community where I grew up when I suggested that one of their threads piously supporting local people’s children fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq and another lightheartedly sharing their tips for evading speed limits on a busy area freeway were contradictory.

It’s not just your high school chums who tend not to get this link. The doctorate-holding lobbyists, commentators and policy makers also conform to the orthodoxy of more military and economic aid to allies as the sole way, never facing questions from the so-called journalists (a typical one of whom may have been their own staff member yesterday and will be a PR person for an arms manufacturer tomorrow) about why a war against ISIS will safeguard us when the Iraq War that was supposed to safeguard us is what led to the creation of such an armed and brutal ISIS.

And that regime in Iran serving as another example of how a dangerous world mandates U.S. intervention? Media are content to uncritically assume that the roots of the Iran nuclear crisis are the just the normal chaotic ways of the Third World, never looking at how the Eisenhower administration’s overthrow 62 years ago of Iran’s democracy was essential to the eventual rise of a government in Tehran that today saber rattles a nuclear threat.

Resolving all the tensions of the Mideast will never be accomplished via military intervention by outside superpowers -- that’s what worsened them.

Just as with domestic justice issues of recent, the left in its discourse on the Mideast has often become bogged down in the minutiae of violent acts. The process of separating wheat from chaff in discussing split-second confrontations takes patience no longer availed to us by the 24-hour, always going viral news cycle, which is usually driven by anecdotal incidents interpreted first by spin artists, then later by actual witnesses.

Michael Brown, Rachel Corrie and Rodney King aren’t flawless; they need not be. All people are entitled to due process.

Yet, rather than center on this principle, we often become trapped in the argumentation spiral of: “But he stole a cigar box.... But the bulldozer driver couldn’t see her....”

The voracity of our arguments and the integrity of our activism on contemporary domestic and international issues become hinged on an exact sequence of frenetic events, instead of resting on the wider, thoroughly documented realities of the American policy of mass imprisonment of nonviolent offenders and the infusing of underemployment and no-benefit jobs into black communities.

On international issues, if we similarly allow the argument to begin and end with the most recent event, we limit our activism to ineffective anecdotalism and we find ourselves being expected to vouch for paramilitary groups large and small we do not know.

We must accept that our task as Americans regarding the Middle East is not to be obsessed with the complicated qualities of all the nations and localities which have been there for centuries, but to reduce the quantities of our only recently established weapons trade which serves secretive special interests while making no one in that region safer.

*Brian Arbenz, formerly named George Morrison, is an assistant editor and editor emeritus of FORsooth. Reach Brian at george.morrison14@twc.com*



# Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

- 15 THOUSAND FARMERS – 15th day each month, [www.15thousandfarmers.com](http://www.15thousandfarmers.com)
- ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – (485-1248)
- AIDS INTERFAITH MINISTRIES (AIM) OF KENTUCKIANA, INC. – (635-4510)
- AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB –4th Tuesday. Contact Enid Redman at 459-0616 or John Mine at [pappajohn15@gmail.com](mailto:pappajohn15@gmail.com). Also see [www.America2000plus.net](http://www.America2000plus.net).
- AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE – Every month at noon (contact Paul Simmons: 608-7517)
- AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (Sharon: 637-8951) at Heine Bros. on Douglass Loop
- APPAP [American Palestine Public Affairs Forum] – 2nd Thursday (773-1836)
- AUDUBON SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY – Walks every other Saturday morning. Visit <http://audubonsocietyofky.org>
- BECKHAM BIRD CLUB – 2nd Saturday, 7PM , [www.beckhambirds.org](http://www.beckhambirds.org)
- BREAD FOR THE WORLD – Last Monday every other month (239-4317 for details)
- CAPA [Citizens Against Police Abuse] –2nd Thursday (778-8130) Meet at Braden Center, 3208 W. Broadway
- CART [Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation] – 3rd Wednesday, Union Station, TARC Board Room
- CLOUT [CITIZENS OF LOUISVILLE ORGANIZED AND WORKING TOGETHER] – (583-1267)
- COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST – 2nd Monday (456-6586)
- COMMON CAUSE – Ad hoc discussions. Continuous engagement. [www.commoncause.org/ky](http://www.commoncause.org/ky)
- COMMUNITY COALITION ON THE HEALTHY HOMETOWN – Every Monday, 5:30PM (502-574-6209)
- COMMUNITY FARM ALLIANCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY – 2nd Tuesday (223-3655)
- COUNTER RECRUITMENT, “Aim Higher” – 1st Sunday, 7pm (899-4119)
- EARTHSAVE POTLUCK – 2nd Saturday, 10AM (502-299-2520) [www.LouisvilleEarthSave.org](http://www.LouisvilleEarthSave.org)
- FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)
- FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB – 1st Thursday, [papajohn15@bellsouth.net](mailto:papajohn15@bellsouth.net)
- FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 2nd Thursday (609-7985 or 291-2506)
- FOOD IN NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY COALITION – 2nd Tuesday, 6:30PM (502-819-2957)
- FORWARD RADIO PROJECT – 1st Thursday, 6:30 p.m. (502-296-1793) [FORward-Radio.net](http://FORward-Radio.net)
- FRIENDS FOR HOPE (Support Group for Adult Cancer Survivors) – 4th Wednesday at 6:30 PM (451-9600).
- FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LOUISVILLE – 2nd Tuesday (893-8436)
- GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday, 7pm. (502-644-0659)
- GREEN CONVENE – 2nd Tuesday, 6:30PM, [www.greenconvene.org](http://www.greenconvene.org)
- HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ADVOCACY BOARD – 1st Monday, 9AM (502-574-3631)
- HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ENFORCEMENT BOARD – 1st Monday, 9:30AM (502-574-3631)
- HUMANISTS OF METRO LOUISVILLE – 2nd Monday, 7:00pm (896-4853)
- INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 3rd Wednesday, every other month. (214-7322)
- IRFI [ISLAMIC RESEARCH FOUNDATION INTERNATIONAL, INC.] – Sundays at 6:00 PM (502-423-1988)
- JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE ([jvp.org](http://jvp.org)) – 1st Friday and 4th Thursday. Contact 256-525-5290 or [sonrevolution@aol.com](mailto:sonrevolution@aol.com)
- JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)
- JURISDICTIONARY CLUB OF LOUISVILLE – Know the law and how to use it (500-8161)
- JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – (345-5386)
- KENTUCKIANS FOR SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE – 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 5:30 PM. Board Room on the Mezzanine of the Louisville Free Public Library. [www.kyhealthcare.org](http://www.kyhealthcare.org) 636-1551
- KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday (589-3188)
- KITOD [KENTUCKIANA INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON DARFUR] – (553-6172)
- KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 1st Tuesday, 6:30 p.m. (778-8130)
- KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – (541-9998)
- KITLAC [KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN] – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)
- KY WATERSHED WATCH. Volunteer water quality monitoring and training around the state every month. Call 800-928-0045
- LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS (502-895-5218), [www.louisville-orglwv](http://www.louisville-orglwv)
- LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)
- LOUISVILLE FORUM – 2nd Wednesday, Noon (502-329-0111)
- LOUISVILLE GREEN DRINKS – 4th Tuesday, 6:30PM [www.greendrinks.org](http://www.greendrinks.org)
- LOUISVILLE PEAK OIL GROUP – 2nd Saturday (425-6645)
- LPAC [LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY] – (456-6914)
- LOUISVILLE SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE (LSURJ) – Monthly meetings for learning and action (502-558-7556)
- LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – Meditation every Sunday (473-8435)
- LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (502-587-7755), [louisvilleyouthgroup.com](http://louisvilleyouthgroup.com)
- LOUISVILLIANS IN FAVOR OF EQUALITY (LIFE) – 4th Sunday (384-3875)
- METRO SWEEP FOR ACCESS – 3rd Tuesday (895-0866 or 899-9261)
- METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)
- MIGHTY KINDNESS – [mightykindness@gmail.com](mailto:mightykindness@gmail.com) (235-0711)
- MUHAMMAD ALI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, at UL (852-6372)
- NAACP [NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE] – 3rd Monday (776-7608)
- NAMI [NATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR THE MENTALLY ILL] – 2nd Monday (245-5287)
- NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK, LOUISVILLE METRO CHAPTER – 4th Sunday of each month, 5 p.m. ( 778-8624 or 470-362-0317)
- PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)
- PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, [brozier@bellsouth.net](mailto:brozier@bellsouth.net))
- RCRC [RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE] – (866-606-0988)
- RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)
- SICKLE CELL ASSOCIATION – 3rd Saturday (502-569-2070)
- SIERRA CLUB INNER CITY OUTINGS – 2nd Thursday, 7:30 PM (558-0073)
- LOUISVILLE SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE. Learning, support and action (558-7556).
- SOCIAL CHANGE BOOK CLUB – 3rd Monday, [www.greenlistlouisville.com](http://www.greenlistlouisville.com)
- SOWERS OF JUSTICE NETWORK – [sowersofjusticenetwork.org](http://sowersofjusticenetwork.org), [sowersofjusticenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:sowersofjusticenetwork@gmail.com)
- URBAN LEAGUE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS – 2nd Monday, 6PM (502-561-6830)
- VETERANS FOR PEACE, Louisville Chapter 168 – (502) 500-6915, [CRawerTrainer@twc.com](mailto:CRawerTrainer@twc.com)
- WOMEN IN TRANSITION (WIT) – every Wednesday, 6-8 PM (636-0160)

*Note: If your group would like to be added to this list or if information needs to be updated, please let us know by emailing [calendar.peace@gmail.org](mailto:calendar.peace@gmail.org)*



# Calendar for peacemakers

*Please e-mail us information about your peace and justice events to [calendar.peace@gmail.com](mailto:calendar.peace@gmail.com)*

Jun 1 to 11 **CONTEMPLATING MERTON’S PHOTOGRAPHS THROUGH PAINTING.** The McGrath Gallery at Bellarmine. Paintings by Charles MacCarthy attempt to depict the quality of stillness in Merton’s photographs. Visit <http://merton.org>.

Jun 1 to 21 **SHINING A LIGHT PHOTO EXHIBITION.** The Muhammad Ali Center. See photos submitted by international contestants that depict gender equality in action around the world. Visit [www.alicenter.org](http://www.alicenter.org).

Jun 1 to Sep 6 **THE COURAGE OF MALAYSIAN CARTOONIST ZUNAR.** The Crane House. 45 cartoons that illustrate Zunar’s themes, methods, and perspective on politics in his native country. Once banned and jailed. See why the pen is mightier than the sword. Visit [www.cranehouse.org](http://www.cranehouse.org).

Jun 1 (Mon) **BICYCLES FOR HEALTH AND CLEANER AIR.** Louisville Bicycle Club, Every Monday, weather permitting. Fat Forty at 8:45AM. Recovery Ride at 6:45PM. Visit [www.louisvilleky.gov/bikelouisville](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/bikelouisville).

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

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

Jun 3 (Wed) **CITIZENSHIP TUTORs.** Kentucky Refugee Ministries, 6:30 to 8:30PM. Every Wednesday & Thursday, 11AM to 1PM. Help students study for the citizenship exam. Ask about our other volunteer opportunities. Call 479-9180 Ext 57 for more information.

Jun 3 (Wed) **THE LOUISVILLE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM.** Every first Wednesday. Sustainability and relationships that create a community for change. Bring your lunch. Noon to 1:45 PM, Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, the Barn at 1924 Newburg Road.

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Jun 3 (Wed) **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Every first Wednesday. Contact John Hartmann, editor, at 296-1793 [orjohart.john@gmail.com](mailto:orjohart.john@gmail.com). Please email new or updated calendar listings to [calendar.peace@gmail.com](mailto:calendar.peace@gmail.com).

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Jun 3 (Wed) **REAL PEOPLE, REAL CHALLENGES, REAL SOLUTIONS.** Volunteers of America Family Emergency Shelter, 5:30PM. One hour interactive tour of VOA’s work and programs for self-determination. For more information, call 636-4660.

Jun 3 to 6 **HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES.** Immerse yourself in another community and experience first-hand the hardships associated with extreme poverty. Perform essential volunteer work. Make friends and connections. Also, Jun 14 to 21. Trips to Appalachia and Nicaragua this month. Visit <http://myhandinhand.org>.

Jun 4 to 7 **GENERAL MEETING OF INTERNATIONAL THOMAS MERTON SOCIETY** at Bellarmine. Hear renown speakers from around the world on Merton’s prophetic witness and his vision of the future. Visit <http://merton.org>.

Jun 4 (Thurs) **OLMSTEAD PARK VOLUNTEERS.** Olmstead Park Conservancy, 10AM. Cherokee, Tyler & Bingham Parks this month. Also, June 6th, 11th, 18th and 25th. Help maintain and restore our urban forests. Visit [www.olmsteadparks.org](http://www.olmsteadparks.org).

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

Jun 5 (Fri) **FRIDAY NIGHT ON THE STREET.** Wayside Christian Mission. Every Friday. Learn first-hand about homeless. Hear testimonies. Ask questions. Serve a meal. Bring a sleeping bag. Visit [www.waysidechristianmission.org](http://www.waysidechristianmission.org).

Jun 6 (Sat) **JEFFERSON MEMORIAL FOREST VOLUNTEERS.** Land Stewart Project. Every first Saturday, 9AM to Noon. Also, Wednesdays. Help improve landscape and protect native flora. Visit [www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/jeffersonmemorialforest](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/metroparks/jeffersonmemorialforest).

Jun 6 (Sat) **HOME REPAIR VOLUNTEERS.** Fuller Center for Housing of Louisville. Every Saturday. All skill levels. Ask about our other volunteer opportunities. For more information, call 272-1377.

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

Jun 6 (Sat) **CANVASS NEIGHBORHOODS FOR FRESH FOOD.** Saturdays and Sundays. Join us any time. Fresh Stop Project volunteers take orders door to door for locally grown fruits and vegetables. Visit <http://newrootsproduce.org>.

Jun 6 (Sat) **SUPPLIES OVER SEAS RECYCLING.** SOS office in Clifton. Saturdays, 9AM. Help sort through surplus medical supplies for distribution to overseas agencies. Other volunteer opportunities too. Visit [www.suppliesoverseas.org](http://www.suppliesoverseas.org).

Jun 6 (Sat) **LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE.** Every Saturday morning. Also, other days and times. 26 farmers’ markets from California neighborhood to Norton Commons. Visit [www.louisvilleky.gov/HealthyHometown](http://www.louisvilleky.gov/HealthyHometown).

June 6 (Sat) **SAFE DRINKING WATER TRAINING.** Water Step. Learning to treat drinking water, disinfect water wells, measure well depth, and trouble shoot broken wells. Water Step works globally to improve access to safe drinking water. Also, June 18th to 20th. Visit <http://waterstep.org>.

Jun 7 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter-recruitment. Every first Sunday at 7 PM, 2236 Kaelin Avenue at the FOR office. Discuss conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for high school students to “opt out” of having their names given to recruiters. Call Jim Johnson, 262-0148.

Jun 7 (Sun) **OUR EARTH NOW YOUTH ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP.** Kentucky Power & Light at Bardstown Road Presbyterian Church, 6PM to 8pm. Every Sunday. Learn more about the issues and what you can do. Call 509-9636 for more information.

Jun 9 (Tues) **ISIS IN THE MIDDLE EAST.** The Kentucky & Southern Indiana World Affairs Council, 5:30PM. Hear Robert Ford, former ambassador to Syria, on the origins and development of ISIS and the challenges they pose to the outside world. Visit [www.worldkentucky.org](http://www.worldkentucky.org).

Jun 9 (Tues) **AMERICANA COMMUNITY CENTER.** Orientation at 7PM every second Tuesday. Learn how you can help immigrant families learn practical skills, join social networks, and improve language skills. Call 366-7813 to RSVP.

Jun 9 (Tues) **MOVIMIENTO DE MUJERES LATINA – LATINA WOMEN’S MOVEMENT.** La Casita Center, Every second Tuesday, 5:30PM. Network, mentor, find friends and share. Call 322-4036 for more information.

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

Jun 10 (Wed) **KENTUCKY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN (KITLAC).** Every second Wednesday at the 1741 Building on Frankfort Avenue. 7:30 PM. For more information, call David Horvath at 479-9262 or Pat Geier at 456-6586.

Jun 10 (Wed) **Y-NOW CHILDREN OF PRISONERS MENTORING.** Luncheon at YMCA Safe Place. 2nd Wednesday each month. Learn how you can help break the cycle through mentoring and encouragement. RSVP to 635-5233.

June 10 (Wed) **THE HEALTH CARE MOVIE.** Kentuckians for Single Payer Health Care at The Jeffersontown Public Library, 7PM. This prize-winning documentary, narrated by Keifer Sutherland features interviews with Canadians and Americans comparing their health care systems. Free. Also, June 9th at the Main Library and June 10th at the Jeffersontown Library. Call Kay Tillow 636-1551.

Jun 11 (Thurs) **AMERICAN PALESTINE PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM (APPAP).** Every second Thursday. A documentary film exploring the situation in Middle East will be presented. 7 PM, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, Nelson Hall, Room 119. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Jun 12 (Fri) **A GLIMPSE OF ETERNITY.** The Louisville Astronomical Society at dusk in Tom Sawyer Park. Every 2nd Friday. Look through telescopes at planets, our moon, stars, double stars, the Orion nebula and other wonders. Visit [www.louisville-astro.org](http://www.louisville-astro.org).

Jun 12 (Sat) **PEAK OIL.** Every 2nd Saturday, St. Matthews Public Library, 10 AM to Noon. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

Jun 13 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE.** Every second Sunday. A remembrance of all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. 4PM to 5PM, Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. Sponsored by LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community) and Veterans for Peace Chapter 168. For more information, call Carol Rawert Trainer at 500-6915.

Jun 16 (Tues) **DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES WORK-SHOP.** Every third Tuesday, 11AM to 1PM. Expressions Café at The Council on Developmental Disabilities. Learn how an Individualized Education Program (IEP) is prepared for a child with a disability. Address barriers to inclusion. Call 584-1239.

June 17 (Wed) **THE COURAGE TO BE QUEER.** 7PM. Hear Rev. Jeff Hood discuss his latest book and consider the essential elements of a queer theology. Recognized by PFLAG. For more information, e-mail to [futurelessvivid@letterboxes.org](mailto:futurelessvivid@letterboxes.org).

Jun 18 (Thurs) **OPEN-DIALOGUE WITH POLICE.** Louisville Metro Police Department at local community centers, 6PM. Learn about things police officers do. Talk with law enforcement officials and help build relationships and mutual understanding. Visit <http://louisvilleky.gov/government/police>.

Jun 18 (Thurs) **MENTAL ILLNESS SUPPORT & ADVOCACY.** NAMI Louisville every third Thursday at 3PM. Also Saturdays and Sundays. Support group for families. Draw on years of experience. Visit [www.namilouisville.org](http://www.namilouisville.org).

Jun 18 (Thurs) **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (CASA).** Orientation, Noon to 1PM. Learn how you can help defend the rights of abused and neglected children in our community. Call 595-4911 to RSVP.

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Jun 18 (Thurs) **FORsooth LABELING.** Presbyterian Seminary, Nelson Hall, Room 10. 6:30 PM. Every 3rd Thursday. We need volunteers! Many hands make light work, and the opposite is also true! So please join us if you can. Call 451-5658 for more information.

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Jun 19 & 20 **KENTUCKIANA PRIDE FESTIVAL.** Show your support for your LGBT relatives, friends, and neighbors. Parade on Friday night. Also, live entertainment, retail, business, and non-profit organization booths, and good food. Visit [www.kypride.com](http://www.kypride.com).

Jun 20 (Sat) **BRAILLE FOR THE SIGHTED.** APH Museum, 10:30AM to 12:30PM. Learn the basics of Louis Braille’s alphabet and practice writing on a braille slate and braillewriter. Visit [www.aph.org](http://www.aph.org).

Jun 23 (Tues) **COMPASSIONATE LOUISVILLE.** Noon, meeting locations rotate. Help monitor the progress of Louisville’s ten-year campaign for compassion. Call 214-7322 or visit <http://compassionatelouisville.org> for more information.

Jun 23 (Tues) **FREE NONPROFIT STARTUP CLINIC.** Center for Nonprofit Excellence, 3:30PM. Learn the fundamentals and how to avoid the pitfalls. Visit [www.cnpe.org](http://www.cnpe.org).

Jun 24 (Wed) **PLANNING LAW REVIEW.** Louisville Metro Planning and Design Services, 5:30PM. A review of this year’s developments from First Amendment issues to environmental actions, housing, and equal access. For more information, call 574-6230.

Jun 26 (Fri) **KENTUCKY GREEN ROOF AND WALL SYMPOSIUM.** JCTCS, 9AM TO 5PM. See how green roofs and walls increase our capacity to manage storm water, and improve water quality. Also, emerging technology and local examples. Visit [www.greenroofs.org](http://www.greenroofs.org).

## OUT OF TOWN

Jun 1 (Mon) **KENTUCKY MIGRANT NETWORK COALITION.** Lexington KY at the Cardinal Valley Center, 12PM. Every first Monday. Get better acquainted with Kentucky’s immigrant and refugee families. For more information, call 859-258-3824.

Jun 4 (Thurs) **INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE.** Lexington, KY at West Main and Broadway, 5:30PM to 6:30PM. Every Thursday for eleven years. For more information, Call 859-327-6277.

Jun 4 to 23 **KENTUCKY ACLU / FAIRNESS ORGANIZING MEETINGS.** Help us build Fairness committees in Elizabethtown, Frankfort, Northern KY, Owensboro, and Shelbyville. Visit [www.aclu-ky.org](http://www.aclu-ky.org).

Jun 13 & 14 **ANNUAL GATHERING OF GREAT LAKES NATIONS.** The National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture, Portland, Indiana. Join our celebration of our Native American heritage. Visit [www.thepeopleofthehuntingground.com](http://www.thepeopleofthehuntingground.com).

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

Jun 20 (Sat) **GREEN RIVER FEST.** Munfordville, KY, 9AM. Join our volunteer clean-up of one the most biologically diverse rivers in the country. Free canoe rental, lunch, water bottle, and T-shirt. Visit <http://kwalliance.org>.

## PEACEMAKING EVENTS AT THE LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

**Visit [www.lfpl.org](http://www.lfpl.org) for more information.**

Jun 2 (Tues) **HOOR OF POWER BOOK DISCUSSIONS.** Newburg Public Library, every first Tuesday, 6:30 PM. Discuss books on personal efforts to overcome the challenges of abuse, oppression, deprivation, discrimination or disabilities.

Jun 6 (Sat) **ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB.** Every Saturday at the Iroquois & Newburg Public Library Branches, 3PM. Also Main Library & Bon Air Library on Thursdays at 7PM.

Jun 6 (Sat) **COMPUTACION BASICA: EL TECLADO Y EL RATON.** Main Public Library, 10:30AM. Práctique los conceptos básicos de la utilización de un ordenador: el ratón y el teclado.

Jun 11 (Thurs) **ANIME AND JAPANESE CULTURE CLUB.** Main Library, 5:30pm. Re-discover Japanese culture through Anime animation.

Jun 11 (Thurs) **WOMEN IN TRANSITION BOOK DISCUSSION.** Shawnee Public Library, 3 PM. Read and discuss readings suggested by Chanelle Helm of Women In Transition.

Jun 12 (Fri) **AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHIVES TOUR.** Western Public Library, 10:30AM. Peruse the great books in our collection. Watch a short documentary.

Jun 15 (Mon) **GROWING CITIES.** Southwest Public Library, 6PM. View this film about urban farming in America with 15 Thousand Farmers and the Sowers of Justice Network. Discover opportunities for farming in Louisville.

Jun 16 (Mon) **PRISON STATE DOCUMENTARY.** Western Public Library, 5:30PM. Follow the lives of four residents of Beecher Terrace as the move in and out of custody. Consider ways Kentucky can break the cycle.

Jun 16 (Tues) **GRANTSEEKING BASICS.** Main Public Library, 6PM to 8PM. Identify sources and practice writing better grant proposals.

Jun 17 (Wed) **INTERNATIONAL BOOK CLUB.** Main Public Library, Noon. See our webpage for the current book list.

Jun 20 (Sat) **TRIGGER: THE RIPLE EFFECT OF GUN VIOLENCE.** Main Public Library, 1 PM. A documentary that follows the lives of a survivor, family, community and society.

Jun 25 (Thurs) **ONE NAME: TWO FATES.** Iroquois Public Library, 2:30PM. Read and discuss “The Other Wes Moore: One Name, Two Fates.” The story of two boys with the same name in the same city. One became a scholar, combat veteran, and business leader. The other is serving a life sentence in prison.

Jun 27 (Sat) **BLACK CARTOONISTS, ANIMATION AND COMICS.** Bon Air Public Library, 2PM. Re-examine African American heritage and culture through the work of cartoonists.

Jun 29 (Mon) **WORLD MUSIC CELEBRATION.** St. Matthews Public Library, 10:30AM. Learn about music worldwide and make your own instrument.

