



# Louisville welcomes refugees



Rally at 6th and Jefferson  
Photo source: Mayor Greg Fischer's office

By Mayor Greg Fischer

*This is part of what I said at a rally of over 200 people at Sixth and Jefferson St. on November 24, 2015. The rally was organized in response to a vote by the U.S. Congress prohibiting Syrian refugees from entering the United States.*

The year was 1855, and Irish and German immigrants, most of them Catholic, made up nearly a quarter of Louisville’s population of 43,000— a situation that didn’t sit well with the majority of native-born residents, who were Protestant.

On August 6 of that year, anti-immigrant emotions spilled into the streets and forever changed our city.

A newspaper account, retold on the 150th anniversary of that event, reported:

“Moving through the main streets of town, the Protestant mobs attacked and slaughtered immigrant Catholics with ropes, guns, clubs and pitchforks. At the end of what the Catholic bishop described as a daylong reign of terror— and what history would call Bloody Monday— at least 22 people were dead.... Most victims were Catholics targeted by mobs who feared the immigrants’ growing numbers.”

As a descendent of German and Irish families, I think about that story today as our nation debates the issue of immigration and refugee resettlement. I try to imagine what it was like on that day in 1855. To be burned out of my adopted home. To be

feared and hated in the community where I lived, worked, prayed. To be told, “You are not welcome here.”

Thankfully, Louisville’s religious and civic leaders came together after Bloody Monday and vowed it would never happen again. They decided then that we would not be a city of hatred and intolerance.

Today in Louisville, we are repeating that pledge. In the face of so much misinformation and hate-filled rhetoric about refugees, we say simply: It is possible to hold true to our American value of welcoming refugees and other immigrants, and still be safe.

As a community, we absolutely sympathize with the victims of terror in Paris, Beirut, Mali and other places around

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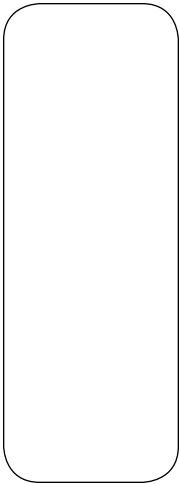
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# I witnessed love

By SaMika Wheat



SaMika Wheat

On November 24th at Jefferson Square Park, I witnessed love.

In a time when refugees are encountering hate, brutality and rejection, Louisville Mayor Greg Fischer called on the local community to come together and combat this with a rally for peace. Over 200 concerned residents, authorities, and officials gathered at Sixth and Jefferson Street to stand in solidarity and show support for the victims of recent terrorist attacks and to welcome immigrant refugees fleeing assaults from the same extremists.

In the midst of signs and candle light, I felt a sense of conflict.

Recent attacks on Paris have garnered a worldwide heightened awareness of terrorism. The outpouring of sympathy toward Paris was countered by many concerned individuals informing us of the less acknowledged tragic attacks on countries such as Kenya, Iraq and Nigeria. The lack of acknowledgement of these attacks shows the difference in attention given, especially in the mainstream media, to the loss of lives of people of color.

What is terrorism? Fundamentally,

terrorism consists of violent or dangerous acts toward human life—acts intended to intimidate or coerce civilians, influence the policy of a government, or affect the conduct of a government.

Violent or dangerous acts toward human life intended to intimidate or coerce civilians.

I ponder, are there limitations on what is violent or dangerous enough to be acknowledged? A forty-three year old man selling a loose cigarette, dead by a banned chokehold, after pleading for his life— is this violent enough? A twenty-six year old woman, opening the door to her home, shot to death while holding her fourteen-month-old son who catches a bullet as well— is this violent enough? A twenty-two year old man shot dead in a store while shopping and talking on the phone— is this violent enough? A seven-year-old girl shot in the head while asleep in her home— is this violent enough? And the fact that these headlines continue to occur, time and time again, followed by no consequences— is this not dangerous enough?

Marginalized groups within the borders of our own country experience daily attacks on their psyche as well as their bodies. Daily assaults leading to scraped legs, blackened eyes, and bloodied noses do not tend to make headlines at all, while daily assaults that lead to loss of life by broken necks, excessive tazing, and riddling with bullets are dismissed as justified, with no regard for one’s humanity. There is not only a silence, but often harsh backlash, to marginalized groups that speak up regarding the attacks they experience. While individuals around the country show overwhelming support and concern for victims across the water, many of those victimized on shared soil stand alone.

While in Jefferson Square Park, I gazed around at the sea of signs: “Welcome,” “Praying for Paris,” “Praying for Syria,” and “United We Stand.” I joined in singing,

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# Young Poets Seek to Move Community

By Mackenzie Berry

*“Poetry is not only dream and vision;  
it is the skeleton architecture of our lives.”*  
– Audre Lorde

The general connotation of poetry lives in the distance of a textbook, in the formality of rigid language. We as students typically view poetry as a mysterious abstractness that has little relation to the neighborhoods we walk or the buses we ride.

It is performance poetry, also known as spoken word, which has refreshed the name of poetry in the vocabulary of young people especially across the nation and world. This form of poetry is more familiar and present with its rhythm and vocal energy than that attached to the spines of books. For those who do connect to page poetry, books become vessels. Through both page poetry and performance poetry, we can compose ourselves and our experiences and expressions through words.

These words, especially when shared with others, become physical beings that can be used to reshape reality, even if it is only our own. This is why Young Poets of Louisville exists. Inspired by the Philly Youth Poetry Movement, Young Poets seeks to develop socially engaged and artistic



Mackenzie Berry

leaders with literary, public speaking, and performance skills.

Twice a month, Young Poets holds writing workshops at the Tim Faulkner Art Gallery (1512 Portland Ave.) from 3:00 – 4:30 pm. Led by local teaching artists, the free workshops are open to young people ages 13 – 19.

For those who want to share their work, Young Poets hosts the Floetic Friday Youth Poetry Slam on the third Friday of the month from October to March at the Local Speed Museum (822 E. Market St.) from 7:00 pm – 9:30 pm. In the spirit of experiencing the arts as a collective, a young guest artist or group is featured at every slam, which costs \$5 to attend. Through this we seek to not only unearth pieces of ourselves in syllables but to engage the community in unearthing as a collective.

In reading and in attending a writing event, there exists a conversation between the writer and the receiver. Young Poets seeks to use this relationship to create dialogue about a variety of conditions and concepts, from social justice to racism to education to joy. In this poetry there is rhythm, and in rhythm there is movement, and in movement there is rearrangement, rethinking, realignment. From the snaps and calls of receivers of poetry to the sharing of first-draft writings, the poetry slams and workshops offered by Young Poets have created some interchange. As we seek to have the greatest impact on as many individuals as possible, we reach out to this community which has housed us and invite its presence.

As we write, as we perform, as we look forward to attending the Brave New Voices International Poetry Festival this summer to compete against poetry slam teams from across the nation and world, we become more present. In our lacking, in our fumbles, in our missteps, we learn ourselves better through these words we assemble. Won't you join us as we make disturbances?

*Mackenzie Berry is a senior at DuPont Manual High School. She is the founder and Executive Director of Young Poets of Louisville, a nonprofit organization which offers free writing workshops and poetry slam opportunities for young people ages 13-19. An alumna of the Governor's School for the Arts and the Scholastic Art & Writing Awards, she organized and won the Louisville Youth Philanthropy Council's first-ever Poetic Philanthropy Youth Slam held at the 21c Museum in May 2015. She seeks to advocate for poetry and writing as a means of activism and plans to write various bodies of work in time to come. She can be contacted at: mackenzie@youngpoets502.org*

*The website for Young Poets of Louisville is: www.youngpoets502.org  
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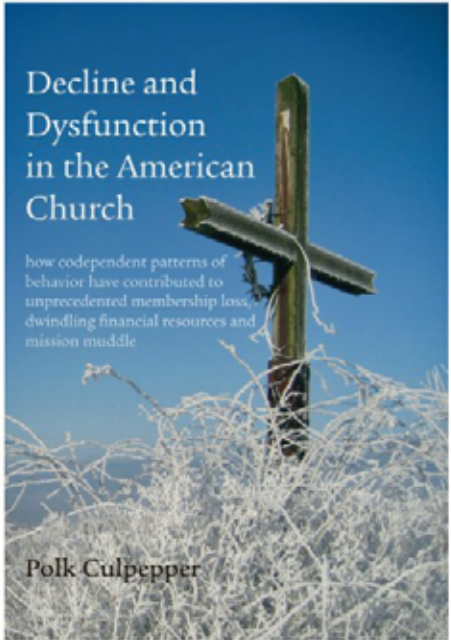
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# Black Lives Matter: An open letter to Denise Bentley and other misguided Black Folks on the “All Lives Matter” bandwagon

By Jaison Gardner, Chanelle Helm, and David Lott of Stand Up Sunday – Stand Up Louisville on behalf of Louisville’s #BlackLivesMatter activists



Clockwise from top left: Jaison Gardner, Chanelle Helm, David Lott

(For a longer version of this letter that includes photos and Denise Bentley’s facebook posts criticizing BLM, search on google: “open letter to denise bentley and other misguided”)

Do you desire a sincere dialogue among different-minded black people who genuinely care about this community? We’d love to explain to you and other black folks who’ve jumped on the #AllLivesMatter bandwagon all about what the Black Live Matter movement (BLM) represents. We are sure that once you all know us better you’ll find that we share many fundamental beliefs and common goals despite any generational or tactical differences.

Our group meets every Sunday at 3 pm, usually at the Carl Braden Memorial Center. Our meetings are pretty casual and open to everyone. We usually have free food, and our space is kid-friendly. We’ve been happy to host political candidates, elected officials, law enforcement officers, Human Rights Commissioners and other local decision makers over the last year, and we’d love to host you and your friends for a dialogue. We hope you all can stop by some Sunday soon.

The majority of pushback that BLM activists and supporters have received has been from white people who are ill-informed – or who are flat out racist. Do you know that the racist #AllLivesMatter hashtag was created by white people as a direct response and counterpoint to the notion that black and brown people deserve a quality of life equal to that of white people? It isn’t uttered as a more diverse or expansive concern for human lives. It’s uttered as a rebuttal of the notion that black lives matter.

As author David Bedrick surmises in his Huffington Post essay, “What’s the Matter

with ‘All Lives Matter,’” “Asserting that all lives matter, in response to black folks declaring that black lives matter, turns our eyes away from acknowledging America’s racist past, functioning as a form of dismissal or denial.”

As to your specific assertion that BLM doesn’t care about so-called “black on black crime,” the majority of crime in this nation is, in fact, intraracial, meaning that both the perpetrator and the victim of a crime are within the same racial group.

Dr. Brittney Cooper reports that 93 percent of black murder victims are killed by other black people, and 84 percent of white murder victims are killed by other white people. She notes, “The continued focus on black-on-black crime is a diversionary tactic whose goal is to suggest that black people don’t have the right to be outraged about police violence in vulnerable black communities, because those communities have a crime problem. The Black Lives Matter movement acknowledges the crime problem, but it refuses to locate that crime problem as a problem of black pathology. Black people are not inherently more violent or more prone to crime than other groups. But black people are disproportionately poorer, more likely to be targeted by police and arrested, and more likely to attend poor or failing schools. All of these social indicators place one at greater risk for being either a victim or a perpetrator of violent crime. To reduce violent crime, we must fight to change systems, rather than demonizing people.” Simply put, we refuse to shift the blame of inner city problems squarely and exclusively onto the backs of black folks.

What we seek to do is disrupt business as usual. From our actions in shopping malls (where we chant things like “No Justice, No Profit”) and public festivals, to shutting down streets and occupying offices, we are inserting ourselves and our message of #blacklivesmatter into places where our message is not usually wanted, welcomed, or well-received.

It may not make sense to you, but disruptive civil disobedience and direct action have long been a tactic of the movement toward black liberation.

According to KET, members of Louisville’s Quinn Chapel A.M.E. Church organized Kentucky’s first protests of racial discrimination in 1870 – challenging segregation on streetcars. This protest sparked other actions demanding the right to testify in court against whites, the right to serve on juries (which is exactly what we are fighting for 145 years later), and the right to vote.

In 1941, Louisvillians staged sit-ins to protest a segregated library. In 1959, the Louisville NAACP Youth Council picketed the Brown Theater because its management refused to admit black patrons to see “Porgy and Bess.” It was 1960 when young folks in Louisville formed a chapter of CORE and held protests at downtown



businesses. And many Louisvillians know of the “Nothing New for Easter” boycott in 1961 that targeted segregated businesses in downtown Louisville and sparked other acts of nonviolent resistance around the state.

In other words, whether you call it a sit-in, an occupation, or a #shutdown, the notion of disrupting business as usual has a long history in this nation and in this state and has always been a crucial and necessary tool in the fight for black equality.

We affirm that all black lives matter. Black Lives Matter is an ideological and political intervention in a world where Black lives are systematically and intentionally targeted for demise. It is an affirmation of Black folks’ contributions to this society, our humanity, and our resilience in the face of deadly oppression. The BLM movement has some guiding principles that we can all get behind, including: Diversity, Black Villages, Restorative Justice, Collective Value and Intergenerational. You can find more principles at [www.blacklivesmatter.com](http://www.blacklivesmatter.com)

Here’s a little more about us and what we do. When we don’t agree with a public official on an issue, we bring them to our table. We’ll also go to their office if they are unwilling to come to ours – and we don’t make appointments. We are consistent in what we do. Stand Up Sunday is held every Sunday and is open to the public. We are present at community events. We attend Metro Council meetings and committee hearings. We have been active in campaigns ranging from No Methane to Raising the Minimum Wage. We are Affordable Housing advocates and we have lobbied JCPS to close the achievement gap.

In 2015, we produced the Louisville Juneteenth Festival, returning such a festival to our city for the first time in many years. We host a monthly “Feed Your Mind” event at the Catholic Enrichment Center in West Louisville to promote literacy, family and community, where we serve free brunch and provide free books for all ages and host a discussion about the current movement for black liberation. We recently sponsored a workshop for Project Warm to give folks free weatherization supplies and teach them how to make their homes warmer and more comfortable this winter.

We nurture strong leaders who work in a variety of fields including healthcare, social services, therapy, media and education. We have a broad network of individuals, businesses and organizations that believe in us and support our work.

Please consider that we are literally

putting our lives and our livelihoods on the line, only to be told by other black folks that we aren’t doing enough. And many of the folks signifying such remarks are folks who’ve literally done nothing themselves. Nonetheless, we will carry on toward our collective liberation.

Signers:  
Stand Up Sunday and Stand Up Louisville on behalf of Louisville’s #BLM activists

Co-signers:  
LoUnity, The 502Crew, Women In Transition (WIT), Fairness Campaign, Kentucky Health Justice Network, Edjokated Rebel Productions, Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice (LSURJ), Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Black Queer Louisville, Diversity At The Table (DATT), Flacozbrain Solution, Khalilah Veneable Collins, Shameka Parrish-Wright, Attica Scott.

Jaison Gardner, Chanelle Helm, and David Lott are longtime community organizers and social justice activists involved collectively in groups like Stand Up Sundays and the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist & Political Repression, and individually in organizations including Fairness Campaign, Kentuckiana AIDS Alliance, Women In Transition (WIT), Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice (LSURJ), and the Poor People’s Economic Human Rights Campaign.

You can reach Stand Up Sunday – Stand Up Louisville on Facebook and Twitter or by email at [standuplouisville@gmail.com](mailto:standuplouisville@gmail.com)



Photos provided by Stand Up Sunday–Stand Up Louisville and Black Lives Matter





# Sowers of Justice Network conference on gun violence

By Greg Tichenor

Gun violence continues to be a modern-day plague within the city of Louisville and throughout our nation. Sowers of Justice Network's Fall 2015 Conference, "Sowing a Nonviolent City," brought together religious, civic, youth and community leaders with the intention of exploring the problem and collectively determining prevention actions moving forward.

The event included a youth night in collaboration with One Love Louisville and a daylong conference with a variety of speakers and breakout sessions that featured diverse perspectives. Attica Scott delivered opening remarks on the use of data to drive decision-making. Rev. Kevin Cosby of St. Stephen Church and Rev. Joe Phelps of Highland Baptist Church made an end-of-day call for economic opportunity in West Louisville.

The morning session heard Rev. James Atwood, author of "America and its Guns: a Theological Expose," talk about how people of faith can change the narrative that violence brings peace. He likened the collective silence of our Christian faith communities to the inaction of many of those same communities with regard to the issue of slavery before the Emancipation Proclamation. He set the tone for the day by suggesting that failure to act in some way around this issue amounted to nothing less than idolatry. We cannot be frozen by the thought that gun violence is too 'political' a topic for churches to address.

Gun violence survivors shared their stories. Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America exposed some of the challenges to legislation that are being directed in large part by gun lobby money. "Artist" Elizabeth Vega shared creative ideas for emotional healing and non-violent action for change. Alonzo Johnson of the Presbyterian Peacemaking Program and Reverend Ron Robinson of Shawnee Presbyterian emphasized a need to address the root causes that lead to domestic violence and suicide as a path to remedy the problem long-term.

We had state legislators suggest common sense laws that could make a difference, and they challenged us to make our legislators know it is a priority for us. Police Chief Conrad and One Love Louisville Director Anthony Smith both spoke of a need to do a better job of bringing community together to address the issue adequately. A youth night representative, a senior at Shawnee High School, summarized the recommendations from youth night that included a call to improve the quality of education, cross-generational discourse, building stronger communities, and improved mental health resources.

After lunch, authors Jan Arnow ("In the Line of Fire: Raising Kids and in a Violent World") and Sharon Pearson ("Reclaiming the Gospel of Peace: Challenging the Epidemic of Gun Violence") started the session by offering practical tools that we can use to reduce violence in our homes, churches, schools, and communities. A representative of Million Mom March talked about some simple steps that gun-owners can take to remain safe and protect the children in their community.

Representatives of Stand Up Sunday and Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice collaborated to address how groups across cultural lines can be allies for one another moving forward. Questions around dominant culture, white silence, and institutional racism were explored in this breakout session. Mitra Jarfadeh, a Unitarian minister, helped to finish the day by discussing her experience when mass violence entered a church in her Tennessee community.

So how does the problem of gun violence continue to be a major issue, and what can we do to address it? The answer to this question is multi-dimensional based on the response from attendees of the conference. The first step has to be to believe we can make a difference. The issue is so big and complex that many develop a rationalized inaction. In other words, there is a feeling of hopelessness that drives us to believe the problem is helpless.

This is compounded by a disconnect many of our community have with regard to the direct impact of the violence. This makes it easy for many in our society to deny the fact that gun violence is a real problem or to dismiss it as someone else's issue. Events like the Sowing a Nonviolent City Conference seek to dispel these myths. This is a community-wide epidemic which must involve a community-wide solution.

One goal of the Sowers of Justice Network is to connect groups within Louisville toward common goals within the social justice arena. This is critical in order for us to move forward collectively. There are a number of groups doing great work around this problem. The conference involved more than 40 religious and community organizations. However, there are still many more that we need to reach out to in collaboration. This is a barrier we must break though in order to effect collective community change.

Another barrier to be surmounted is the recognition that this is not an issue that



Sowers of Justice Network Fall 2015 Conference: Michael Brown of Shawnee Academy shares solutions from Youth Night on Friday.

can be addressed by scratching the surface. Legislation is something that needs to be looked at and acted upon beyond the reach of gun lobby money. However, if we are to make a difference in the long-term, we must realize that violence in our world is a systemic problem. If we do not address the underlying systemic root-causes, we will not be moving forward long-term. We heard calls from attendees to become involved in educational advocacy, mental health resources, economic development in poverty-stressed areas, and cross-cultural conversation as just a few of the opportunities to remedy the engrained inequities that lead to gun violence in our community. We must consider the possibility that our current society has been built with the intention of maintaining privilege for some of us while denying the dignity of life for others.

To become involved with or to find out more about Sowers of Justice Network, please look for us on Facebook, visit our

website [www.sowersofjusticenetwork.org](http://www.sowersofjusticenetwork.org) or email us at [sowersofjusticenetwork@gmail.com](mailto:sowersofjusticenetwork@gmail.com)

We plan to have a number of actions including prayer vigils, marches, art activism, and legislative action around this issue up to and beyond the NRA's national conference in Louisville during May.

*Greg Tichenor has a BS in Economics from the University of Louisville and a MAT in Elementary Education from Bellarmine University. He is involved with a number of groups around Louisville that focus on systematic change including LSURJ, CLOUT, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression's Education Committee, and the Church of the Epiphany's Social Responsibility Steering Committee. He is also member of the Board of Directors of Sowers of Justice. You can reach him at [gregtich@hotmail.com](mailto:gregtich@hotmail.com)*



Greg Tichenor

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March-April 2016

March 17

**Islamophobia in the 21st Century,**

*Muhammad Babar, M.D., Chair, Pakistan-American Alliance for Compassion & Education*

Muhammad Babar is a physician by profession, a compassionate peacemaker in Louisville's interfaith community and Chair of the Pakistan-American Alliance for Compassion and Education (PACE). He will speak about Islamophobia in the 21st century and **what we need to learn about the meaning of true Islam and true Muslims.**

April 21

**From Paris to Louisville: Ethical Principles and Practical Actions for Environmental Justice,**

*Rev. Rebecca Barnes, Associate for Environmental Ministries, Presbyterian Church (USA)*

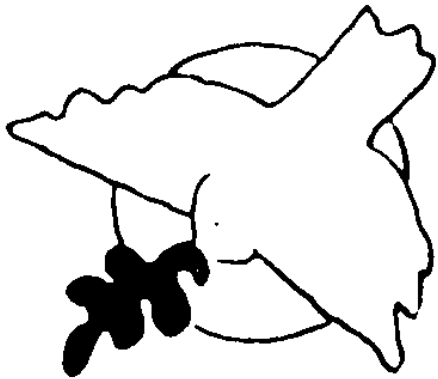
On the day before Earth Day, Rebecca Barnes, organizer of the Eco-Justice Worship Collective, will discuss the recent U.N. climate negotiations in Paris (COP 21) and climate change's impacts around the world. She will address **the moral imperative and ethical principles behind the push for climate justice.** Connecting global negotiations to environmental justice in Louisville and our actions at home, she will explore inspiring stories of change and ongoing struggles in local communities.

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# The folly of preemptive war from the Six-Day War to the invasion of Iraq

By Russ Greenleaf

A “preemptive war” occurs when a nation starts a war but claims it was acting in self-defense. It’s like a school bully hitting another kid and then saying, “He was about to hit me, so I had to hit him first.” Few teachers would accept that excuse. But that is the excuse governments use to justify preemptive war. The Six-Day War and the U.S. invasion of Iraq are two classic examples. It’s informative to look at how these preemptive wars really get started.

The Six-Day War between Israel and its Arab neighbors started on June 5, 1967 and was over by June 12.

Many people still believe shelling from Syria’s Golan Heights against Israeli civilians sparked the Six-Day War. That is a factual error. It’s an excuse the Israeli government crafted 48 years ago to promote one simple message: “The Arabs started it, and Israel was the innocent victim, merely defending itself.” It turns out that none of that is true.

The idea that shelling from Syria’s Golan Heights against Israeli civilians sparked the Six-Day War has been disproven by modern historians—most of whom are Israeli academics working from declassified Israeli Army documents. (Google: “Israeli New Historians,” “Avi Shlaim,” etc.)

Israel’s famous General Moshe Dayan admitted that Israel deliberately provoked the Syrian shelling from the Golan Heights in 1967—a fact documented by Israeli historian Avi Shlaim in his authoritative book, “The Iron Wall—Israel and the Arab World.”

Dayan admitted that Israel repeatedly drove tractors into the demilitarized zone between Israel and Syria, in violation of the armistice. Israel drove the tractors toward the Syrian border, knowing that the Syrians would see this as a threat and would eventually fire on them.

Historian Shlaim reports that when the Syrians did fire on the tractors, the Israelis returned fire and escalated the conflict. The Syrians responded by firing artillery at several Israeli kibbutzes (settlements) which probably contained both Israeli soldiers and civilians.

Israel then escalated the conflict further by launching fighter aircraft to destroy the Syrian artillery positions on



Israeli General Moshe Dayan.

Photo source: Palestine Poster Project Archive (PPPA). Original publisher: Government of Israel

the Golan Heights. Israel shot down six Syrian planes. And then, in a final act of provocation, Israel flew its fighter jets deep inside Syrian territory and directly over the capital Damascus. This was very frightening and humiliating for the Syrians.

Shlaim documents that all of this provocation and escalation by Israel was part of a deliberate effort by Israeli General Dayan to seize some land in the demilitarized zone. Dayan didn’t care if it started a war. He knew that Israel’s military was stronger than the combined armies of all its Arab neighbors, and he felt the time was ripe for Israel to expand its borders.

However, Israel’s provocative military actions on the Syrian border failed to start a war. The fighting subsided. It did not spark the Six-Day War.

What it sparked was a lot of angry rhetoric in Arab countries. There was talk of retaliating against Israel and throwing the Jews into the sea. But it was all talk and no action. There was no war. The Arab states knew that if they attacked Israel they would lose.

However, historian Shlaim notes that Egypt had previously signed a mutual-aid treaty with Syria. Egyptian President Gamal Nasser now felt obligated to do something to show support for Syria against Israel’s recent aggression. His response was to declare the Straights of Tiran closed to Israeli shipping.

Despite this declaration, it seems that Nasser did not actually prevent Israeli-flagged ships from passing through. And, although 90 percent of Israel’s oil imports went through the Straights of Tiran, it was not on Israeli-flagged ships. So Nasser’s declaration of closure didn’t matter much anyway. It was largely a symbolic action.

But Israel’s military generals saw this “closure” as an opportunity for war—the chance to expand Israel’s borders that General Dayan was hoping for. Israel declared Egypt’s “closure of the Straights of Tiran” to be a blockade and said that a blockade was a “casus belli” (a cause for war).

Israel’s ambassador went to Washington and asked the U.S. president for permission to launch a war against Egypt. The ambassador claimed that Egypt was about to attack Israel.

Israeli historian Shlaim reveals that President Lyndon Johnson checked his U.S. military intelligence reports and told the Israeli ambassador that the Egyptians were not preparing to attack Israel, and that if they did, Israel would defeat them easily. Johnson asked Israel not to attack Egypt, and he offered to send U.S. Navy ships to force Nasser to open the Straights of Tiran to Israeli ships.

When the Israeli ambassador reported this to the Israeli generals, they were disappointed and angry. They sent Meir Emit

(director of Israel’s spy agency Mossad) to Washington to plead again with Johnson to let Israel attack Egypt.

This time Johnson agreed. He decided it might be a good idea to let Israel take down Egyptian President Nasser, who was receiving aid from the Soviet Union. U.S. Defense Secretary Robert McNamara gave Meir Emit the green light for Israel to attack Egypt. That is what sparked the Six-Day War.

Several days later, Israel fired the first shots that started the Six-Day War. “First shots” is an understatement. Israel launched the most effective surprise attack since Pearl Harbor—destroying the entire Egyptian Air Force while it was parked on the ground. With Egypt’s air force gone, the war was essentially over on the first day. Israel controlled the skies.

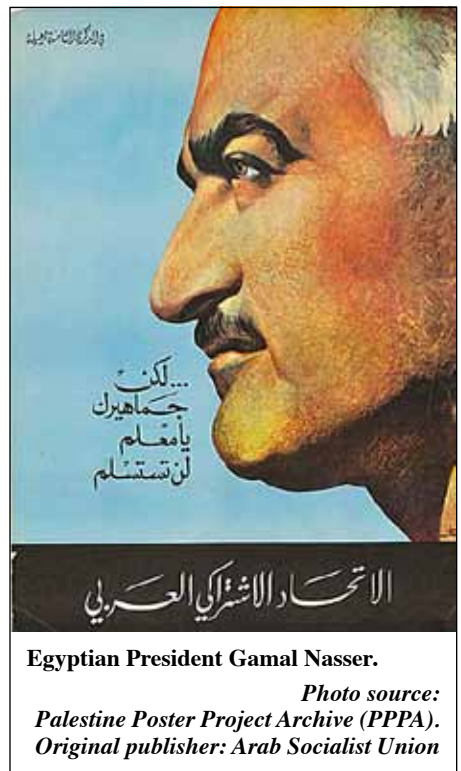
Israel spent the next five days mopping up and conquering territory. Israel seized Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula and the Palestinian Gaza Strip. It seized the Palestinian West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan. It seized Syria’s Golan Heights. Several months later, Israel published a new map showing all of those territories belonging to the state of Israel.

That was the beginning of Israel’s military occupation of Palestinian land in the West Bank and Gaza. That Israeli occupation of Palestinian land continues today, and it continues to cause injustice, instability, and wars in the Middle East to this day. Israel’s refusal to end that occupation has kept the Middle East in turmoil for 48 years and has prevented peace between Israel and its neighbors.

That same pattern—deliberate provocation, escalation, and “preemptive war”—is still being used by governments today, from the U.S. invasion of Iraq in 2003 to Israel’s wars against Gaza in 2008, 2012, and 2014. When more people understand that pattern, they may stop falling for the childish excuse, “He was about to hit me, so I had to hit him first.”

Let’s hope so, because the neoconservatives have teamed up with the Israel Lobby to try to push us into a preemptive war against Iran.

Russ Greenleaf is a Jewish peace activist and writer in Louisville, Kentucky. He is a member of the Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East and the Louisville Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). Contact him at russgreenleaf@yahoo.com



Egyptian President Gamal Nasser.

Photo source: Palestine Poster Project Archive (PPPA). Original publisher: Arab Socialist Union

## Help save Kynect

By Jim Johnson and James McMillin

Governor Matt Bevin intends to slowly dismantle Kynect and Medicaid expansion.

Please contact your state legislator and Governor Bevin and tell them you want Kynect and Medicaid protected.

Call your legislator at 800-372-7181, and also email them at [www.lrc.ky.gov](http://www.lrc.ky.gov)

And please call Governor Bevin at 502-564-2611.

Repealing these two health insurance programs would be irresponsible for both health care and the Kentucky economy. The Kentucky Center for Economic Policy (KCEP) predicts that Kentucky would forfeit \$23 million in technology information investments if Kynect is repealed.

But if Kynect is kept in place, a positive economic impact over eight years is expected, according to Deloitte Consulting (Kentucky Health News, 08.15.2015). Kynect and Medicaid federal dollars would

continue coming into the state.

The Deloitte Consulting study confirms that, “Kentucky created 12,000 jobs the first year of health care reform, predicting over 40,000 new jobs by 2021.”

Kynect has had a positive impact on Kentucky health care. The Louisville Metro Board of Health states that Kentucky has led the nation in reducing rates of uninsured adults (Courier-Journal, 10.30.2015). Over 500,000 uninsured Kentuckians have health care insurance as a result of Medicaid expansion. Dismantling Kynect would jeopardize the healthcare insurance of the newly insured.

Neither Kynect nor the Affordable Care Act is a welfare program. They offer only health care insurance. KCEP found that providing health care for the working poor encourages fewer sick days and provides individual financial security.

Kynect and Medicare Expansion means economic growth and prosperity for the state and improved health for over a half

million Kentuckians.

Please contact your state legislator and Governor Bevin and tell them you want Kynect and Medicaid protected.

Call your legislator at 800-372-7181 and also email them at [www.lrc.ky.gov](http://www.lrc.ky.gov)

And please call Governor Bevin at 502-564-2611.

Jim Johnson is a retired Jefferson County Public School teacher. He has been involved in the Louisville Peace and Justice community since 1985. He is currently the facilitator for the Fellowship of Reconciliation affiliate “Aim Higher” and is a member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). He can be reached at [jimpeace8@att.net](mailto:jimpeace8@att.net)

James (Jamie) McMillin (M. Div. Southern Baptist Theological Seminary, M.E. University of Louisville) is a retired Jefferson County Public School teacher (J.

Graham Brown School). He is a facilitator for “Solutions to Violence” student and adult discussion groups and a trainer for teachers integrating “Solutions to Violence” into curricula. He volunteers with Louisville Peace Action Community (LPAC) and the Louisville Peace Education Student Peace Casters program, as well as with Habitat for Humanity, Just Creations, and the Brown School. He can be reached at [jjmcmillin45@gmail.com](mailto:jjmcmillin45@gmail.com)



Jim Johnson



James McMillin





# The morning after Robert Dear was allowed to surrender alive

By Meg

*(A version of this article appeared as a post at [everysaturdaymorning.net](http://everysaturdaymorning.net) on November 30 2015. [Everysaturdaymorning.net](http://everysaturdaymorning.net) is the blog of Louisville's Clinic Escorts (LCE), who provide support for people seeking care at Kentucky's only abortion provider.)*

Saturday, November 28th 2015 was the first time in over 16 years that I had to send "safe" texts to loved ones after leaving the clinic.

Clinic escorts are accustomed to scary people. Some of the most frightening people I have encountered as an escort have been white men. Some seem more stable (or more sober) than others.

It surprises me how entitled these men feel to force their beliefs onto complete strangers. I often think some are not there because they care about pregnant people or their potential offspring. I think some are there because this is a space where it's socially acceptable to bully people. The tactics used to shame and intimidate people are praised by their peers in this space. It is bullying at best and domestic terrorism at worst.

On this Black Friday, when many clinics were closed for the holiday, Robert Lewis Dear reminded us what can happen when entitled and potentially unstable people decide to take action, even when the issue they're against has nothing to do with them. Dear's violent hostage attack on the Planned Parenthood in Colorado Springs has sparked a wide range of reactions from abortion opponents. Some are openly praising the attacks while others try to wash their hands of any responsibility.



Louisville's Clinic Escorts remain anonymous for safety reasons.

In her recent article in Dame Magazine, Robin Marty detailed why anti-abortion people should be held accountable for attacks by extremists.

"Anti-abortion leaders cannot declare abortion a holocaust and then disavow themselves from anyone who commits a violent act against a target their movement created. They cannot define a doctor, staff member, or volunteer a "murderer" then walk away when a person takes a bomb or a gun into his own hands. They cannot mark a clinic an "abortuary" or an "abortion mill" and say that infants are dissected and "sold for parts" and then pretend to be aghast that someone would show up with a propane tank in his car or puts an ax through a door or rock through a window. And they cannot claim to be condemning murder at a clinic when their statements still equate those killed by a gunman's bullets to be of equal standing as those "children scheduled to die" at the clinic that day."

Dear's intended message was clear.

Witnesses say Dear stated "no more baby parts," so we can conclude he was inspired by widely disproven videos produced earlier this year. One thing we can be sure of is that Dear wasn't acting out of compassion for life, since he clearly aimed to cause great harm with his actions. Dear killed three people and injured nine others that day. His victims included a police officer, plus a mother of two, and a young man accompanying his wife seeking prenatal care for a wanted pregnancy.

Here in Louisville, just weeks before Dear's attack, our clinic suffered over \$1,500 in property damage in two separate acts. Timothy Lee Haste pled guilty to the charges the Monday before Thanksgiving, and was released on probation under the condition that he stays away from the clinic for a year. The clinic was not informed of his release or probationary status, despite contacting LMPD to offer surveillance video of Haste breaking the windows.

Escorts spotted and photographed Haste at the clinic protests not just the next morning, but for the following four days. LMPD arrested Haste again the day after Robert Dear's attack, but not for violating his probation. This time he was drunkenly threatening an officer about a block away from the clinic. As far as we know, he is not facing charges for violating probation, or for previous threats to burn down the clinic.

LCE finds it deeply disturbing that the local attacks have been taken so lightly. We demand accountability for these acts of terrorism, locally and across the US. We are asking our supporters to join us in demanding accountability. It is our duty to change the narrative that it's socially acceptable for these bullies to tell people how to lead their lives—lest they end them for us.

To support abortion access in Kentucky, contact the ACLU of Kentucky's Reproductive Freedom Project to fight anti-choice legislation. Speak out in favor of access. Donate to Kentucky Support Network or "A Fund," both of which provide resources to people in need. Contact your Metro Councilperson and ask them to support a bubble law that would limit protesters' access to people going to the doctor.

*The author wishes to only give her first name for safety reasons. Meg is a Louisville native who has her hands in a lot of projects. A passion for both racial justice and equality regardless of gender or sexuality fuels her fire. Meg volunteers with Louisville's Clinic Escorts (LCE), the Fairness Campaign, and Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). LCE can be reached at [everysaturdaymorning@gmail.com](mailto:everysaturdaymorning@gmail.com)*

# Peace comes from sharing, not subjugating one's neighbors

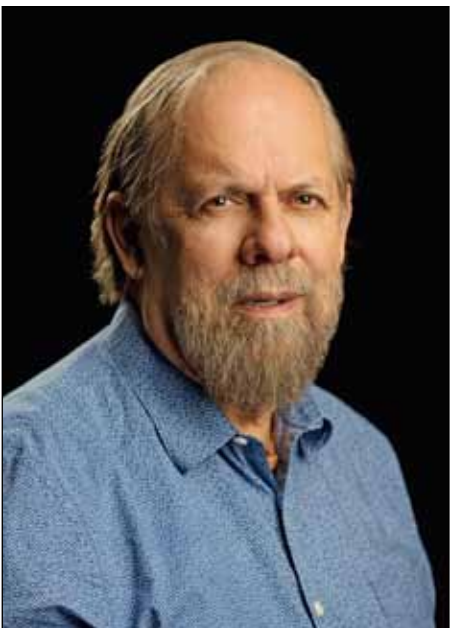
By John Morrison

I am a professor of physics and astronomy at University of Louisville who spent two months in Israel and Palestine last summer.

I visited Jerusalem, Palestine and Amman, Jordan in June 2015. I spent the month of July in Palestine where I visited families of students who have attended the University of Louisville—students from Bethlehem and Hebron in the south, and from Safet, Qibya, and Nilin in the north.

The families of our Palestinian students greeted me warmly and invited me to eat dinner and stay in their homes. I appreciate the warmth and hospitality of the Palestinian families I visited, and I have an ongoing concern about the circumstances under which they live.

Israel controls Palestine's borders and has set up more than 600 check points to limit the movement of the Palestinian people inside Palestine. As the World Bank has carefully documented in its reports, the immediate result of limiting movement to and from Palestine and within the country is to impoverish the Palestinian population. Visitors to the Palestinian city of



John Morrison

Bethlehem immediately see an enormous wall. On the Israeli side of the wall, one can see open fields and olive trees and people moving freely from one location to another. On the Palestinian side, the wall

pushes tightly up against the building in the center of Bethlehem near the Church of the Nativity, limiting the flow of tourists into the city and turning Bethlehem into a slum.

Being a person who has himself a Jewish heritage, I completely understand why citizens of Israel might place physical security above all else. However, the harsh, insensitive way Israel treats the Palestinian population and its neighbors does not serve the long-term interests of Israel or the United States. Peace and security are qualities of life one shares with ones neighbors—not qualities obtained by subjugating ones neighbors.

I have learned from a source who works at a weapons laboratory in the United States that our security agencies do not allow citizens of Israel to work on classified projects. Because Israeli citizens have been convicted of spying on the United States, Israel is on the list of 17 sensitive counties whose citizens cannot obtain a high-level security clearance. One might ask why we are willing to give massive amounts of military aid to a country our security agencies do not trust and which

has such a poor standing in the region in which it is located.

Although there would be a certain amount of anti-Semitism in the world in any case, Israel has acquired most of its enemies in the Middle East by violating the human rights of the Palestinians and its neighbors and by periodically carrying out massive bombing attacks against them. Such actions create animosity.

I hope the United States eventually acquires a more compassionate policy in the Middle East. More than half of the people living within the territories Israel controls do not have the right to vote. To be credible, the United States must be a genuine force for democracy in the region and hold its allies accountable for their misdeeds.

*Dr. John Morrison, Ph.D. is Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Louisville. He has helped many talented students from Palestine come to the University of Louisville for graduate study. He has traveled extensively in Palestine and Israel. He can be reached at [johnmc@erdos.math.louisville.edu](mailto:johnmc@erdos.math.louisville.edu)*

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# Refugees (continued from page 1)

the globe. We stand in unity with them in rejecting evil and extremism, and in saying that terror will not define us.

What defines us, instead, is our understanding of the fundamental interconnectedness of all humans. As theologian Thomas Merton wrote about his famous 1958 revelation on a street corner in Louisville’s shopping district: We are all connected, “shining like the sun.”

“If only we could see each other that way all the time,” Merton wrote, “there would be no more war, no more hatred, no more cruelty, no more greed....”

To be sure, the events in Paris and elsewhere are frightening. They spark worries that are deeply personal: Am I safe? Are my children safe? Could this happen here? As a father, husband, son, I share those concerns. And as mayor, I am mindful that ensuring public safety is my first duty.

But I also know that misinformation often sparks fear, and there has been far too much of that in recent weeks. Education, on the other hand, is power – and it is well past time that we let the discussion about refugees be based on facts:

First, we are a nation of immigrants. That is a fundamental truth about our country. As one resettlement agency in my city reminds us: “Bringing your family here to build a better, safer life, is a quintessentially American thing to do.”

Second, half of all refugees are children under the age of 18. And the U.S. resettlement program prioritizes the most vulnerable— women, children, survivors of torture, the elderly and those with special medical needs. These are children and their families driven from their homes by fear of persecution, torture or death. They make the heart-wrenching decision to give up everything they know for an uncertain future in a foreign land, because it is the only choice they have.

Third, the majority of Syrian refugees are under age 17, including nearly 40 percent who are younger than 12 years old, according to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

Fourth, fewer than one percent of all the world’s refugees are ever resettled. And those who are go through an exhaustive 11-step approval process that takes two years, including stringent security checks both before and after arrival. They don’t get a free ride: once settled, they pay back the travel loan that allowed them to come here.

Fifth— and this circles back to my first point— immigrants built this nation. And they are building it still.

I need to look no further than the restaurants, bakeries and other businesses

popping up in Louisville to see the power that immigrants bring. Refugees and other immigrants pay taxes, join PTAs, own businesses, and have an outstanding track record of community involvement.

Just two months ago, members of a local mosque here donated lunches for our first responders at our 9/11 memorial ceremony. Months before that, they spent weeks volunteering to help with cleanup after a tornado struck a nearby community. Those are the kinds of acts of compassion that prompted the Charter for Compassion International to name Louisville as its Model Compassionate City for four years in a row.

When I took office in 2011, I set three goals for our city: to be a place of lifelong learning, of health, and of even greater compassion. Louisville was the seventh city to sign on to the Compassion Charter, and we created Compassionate Louisville to help develop and implement a city-wide campaign to nurture and champion the growth of compassion. The result is that we are building “social muscle,” which we can rely on in times of struggle.

Here’s an example. Just a few months ago, vandals spray-painted hate on the walls of a local mosque. Within a day, a crowd of nearly 1,000 people— men, women and children; people of all color, nationality, religion and political leanings— came together to repaint the mosque walls. We used our social muscle. We painted away the hate.

In Louisville, we are mindful of the lessons learned in August 1855, when hate drove scores of immigrants away. They left their homes, they closed up stores, they walked away from jobs. Some say it set Louisville’s economy back decades.

Today, we treat our refugees—including those yet to arrive— with love and compassion. We recognize that they bring education, skills and the entrepreneurial spirit necessary for our continued success. They are an integral part of our future. And right now, they need our support.

It is easy to help people who look like us, who share our beliefs. But in Louisville, we believe we show our real strength when we stand up for those who are the most vulnerable.

*Mayor Greg Fischer is now in his second term as Louisville’s 50th Mayor. He is a trustee for the U.S. Conference of Mayors and is past chair of the Conference’s Metro Economies Committee. He created the annual “Give A Day” community service week that helped Louisville be named “America’s Most Livable City” and an International Model City for Compassion.*

# 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)  
ELECTRIC VEHICLE OWNERS OF LOUISVILLE (EVOLVE) – Monthly meetings. Join us on Facebook. Contact [stuartungar@icloud.com](mailto:stuartungar@icloud.com)  
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 – [levyjeffrey@rocketmail.com](mailto:levyjeffrey@rocketmail.com) (502-912-4319)  
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] – (479-9262) [kitlac@mailforce.net](mailto:kitlac@mailforce.net)  
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-orglvw](http://www.louisville-orglvw)  
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))  
PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAM – (589-6583) <http://www.peaceeducationprogram.org>  
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)  
STAND UP SUNDAY/STAND UP LOUISVILLE – Every Sunday 3:00 3208 W. Broadway [chelm416@gmail.com](mailto:chelm416@gmail.com)  
URBAN LEAGUE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS – 2nd Monday, 6PM (502-561-6830)  
VETERANS FOR PEACE, Louisville Chapter 168 – (502) 500-6915, [CRawertTrainer@twc.com](mailto:CRawertTrainer@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)*

# Love (continued from page 1)

“Reach out and touch somebody’s hand,” by candlelight with a diverse crowd, in cold November weather, in a space which exuded peace and camaraderie. I witnessed community. I witnessed love. And simultaneously, I was reminded that the experiences of me and others—our trauma, our fight and our lives—remain overlooked by many.

*SaMika Wheat has a BA in Psychology and a MSSW from the University of Louisville. She works in mental health with individuals and families of all ages. SaMika is a social justice advocate and organizer involved in Stand Up Sunday- Stand Up Louisville and the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. She can be reached at [akimasw@gmail.com](mailto:akimasw@gmail.com)*

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# Calendar for peacemakers

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

Mar 1 to May 29 **THOMAS MERTON: A FAMILIAR STRANGER.** The Frazier Museum. An exhibit of photos that examines race, nonviolence and compassion as expressed in Merton’s own words. Photo borrowed from the collections of The Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine University and the photographic archives of the Courier-Journal. Visit [www.mertoncenter.org](http://www.mertoncenter.org).

Mar 1 (Tues) **OLMSTEAD PARK VOLUNTEERS.** Olmstead Park Conservancy, at Bingham, Cherokee and Seneca Parks, 10AM. Every Saturday and Tuesday this month. Help maintain and restore our urban forests. Visit [www.olmsteadparks.org](http://www.olmsteadparks.org).

Mar 2 (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).

Mar 2 (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>.

Mar 2 (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.

Mar 2 (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.

Mar 3 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Every first & third Thursday, 5:30PM at Main Public Library. Call Kay Tillow 636-1551.

Mar 3 (Wed) **DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF FOR-sooth.** Every first Wednesday. Contact Russ Greenleaf, editor, at 502-264-2437 or [russgreenleaf@yahoo.com](mailto:russgreenleaf@yahoo.com). Please email new or updated calendar listings to [calendar.peace@gmail.com](mailto:calendar.peace@gmail.com).

Mar 4 (Fri) **ANNUAL WILD & SCENIC FILM FESTIVAL.** Kentucky Waterways Alliance at The Clifton Center. Films that show you the most remote and beautiful places on the planet, magnificent animals, and courageous advocates. Visit <http://kwallance.org>.

Mar 4 (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).

Mar 4 (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).

Mar 4 (Fri) **BLACK MEDIA COLLABORATIVE.** The Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, 7PM. Join our efforts to establish a network of media specialists for sharing skills, knowledge, and opportunities. Visit [www.kcaah.org](http://www.kcaah.org).

Mar 5 (Sat) **YOUTH RIGHTS CONFERENCE.** Muhammad Ali Center, 9AM to 3PM. Hone advocacy skill and learn more about the pressing issues of our time. Visit [www.alicenter.org](http://www.alicenter.org).

Mar 5 (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).

Mar 5 (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.

Mar 5 (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.

Mar 5 (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>.

Mar 5 (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).

Mar 5 (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).

Mar 6 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter-recruitment. Every first Sunday at 7 PM. 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 or e-mail [FORnonviolence@gmail.com](mailto:FORnonviolence@gmail.com).

Mar 6 (Sun) **OUREARTH 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.

Mar 7 (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).

Mar 8 (Tues) **MOVIMENIENTO 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.

Mar 8 (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).

Mar 9 (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.

Mar 10 (Thurs) **CELEBRATING OUR COMMON HERITAGE.** Kentuckians For The Commonwealth at the Clifton Center, 7PM. Important but unheard stories about our culture and heritage. Celebrations in art, music, poetry, and storytelling. Visit [www.kftc.org](http://www.kftc.org).

Mar 10 & 22 **REAL PEOPLE, REAL CHALLENGES, REAL SOLUTIONS.** Volunteers of America Family Emergency Shelter, morning and evening sessions. One hour interactive tour of VOA’s work and programs for self-determination. For more information, call 636-4660.

Mar 12 (Sat) **PEACE ED OPEN HOUSE.** The Peace Education Program at Central Presbyterian Church, 3PM. Peace Ed’s training programs reduce violence, enhance personal integrity and foster mutual respect in communities and schools. See how we teach Conflict Resolution, Peer Mediation, and Prejudice Reduction. Call to 589-6583 for more information.

Mar 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.

Mar 13 to 20 **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. Visit <http://myhandinhand.org>.

Mar 14 (Mon) **CATHOLIC CHARITES LUNCH & LEARN.** St. Anthony Campus, 11:30AM to 1PM. Learn more about our emergency assistance program and refugee & immigration settlement program. Visit <http://cclou.org>.

Mar 15 (Tues) **AMERICAN 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.

Mar 15 (Tues) **SELF-ADVOCACY CONNECTION OF METRO LOUISVILLE.** The Council on Developmental Disabilities. Every third Tuesday, 6:30PM. Join committed volunteers working together to promote equal rights, inclusion, self-advocacy, support and education in all realms of life. Call 584-1239.

Mar 15 (Tues) **THE ONE AND ONLY INDIA.** Crane House at Treyton Oaks Tower, 2PM. Hear Ruchi Malhotra’s survey of India from the Himalayas to its tip adjacent to Sri Lanka. Visit [www.cranehouse.org](http://www.cranehouse.org).

Mar 16 (Wed) **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.

Mar 17 (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>.

Mar 17 (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).

Mar 17 (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.

Mar 18 (Fri) **DAUGHTERS OF GREATNESS.** Muhammad Ali Center, 8:30AM. Hear legendary civil rights activist Suzy Post discuss the life influences that motivated her tireless commitment. Visit [www.alicenter.org](http://www.alicenter.org).

Mar 18 (Fri) **LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB SOCIAL.** Sierra Club at Napa River Grill, 7PM. Meet Kenny Karem, writer, environmental educator, and Sierra Club National Outings leader. Call Judy Lyons at 502-585-3806 or Gloria Kemper-O’Neil at 502-458-5253 for more information.

Mar 20 (Sun) **KENTUCKY AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN JUDGES.** The Yearlings Club. Meet Judges Denise Clayton, Denise DeBerry Brown, Pamela Goodwine, Angela J. Johnson and find out what motivates them to public service. For more information, call 852-3042.

Mar 22 (Tues) **FREE NONPROFIT STARTUP CLINC.** Center for Nonprofit Excellence, 3:30PM. Learn the fundamentals and how to avoid the pitfalls. Visit [www.cnpe.org](http://www.cnpe.org).

Mar 23 (Wed) **GREATER LOUISVILLE REENTRY COALITION.** St. Stephen Church, 1:30PM. Every 4th Wednesday. Join our network of people and organizations working together to improve the reentry process. New topic each month. <http://www.louisvillereentry.org>.

Mar 23 (Wed) **CHINA’S URBAN FUTURE.** UofL Center for Asian Democracy. Hear Richard Dilworth of Drexell University on the social and environmental challenges of urban development in China. Visit [www.cranehouse.org](http://www.cranehouse.org).

Mar 24 (Thurs) **DISRUPTIVE INNOVATIONS IN GLOBAL HEALTHCARE.** The World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana, 5:30PM. Hear technologist and entrepreneur John Sculley discuss his recent work on healthcare technologies that are expected to make long-term global impacts. Visit [www.worldkentucky.org](http://www.worldkentucky.org).

Mar 24 (Thurs) **LONG-TERM SOLITARY CONFINEMENT.** UofL Shumaker Research Building, 4PM. Hear Dr. Lisa Guenther of Vanderbilt discuss her books on solitary confinement, mass incarceration, and alternatives. Visit <http://louisville.edu/sustainably>.

Mar 24 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH.** Co- sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace and the Fellowship of Reconciliation at Barasti Bar and Grill, Noon. Hear compelling speakers on current concerns and issues of justice, compassion, faith, and public policy. RSVP to Cathy Ford at 502/458-1223 or [fordhoff@bellsouth.net](mailto:fordhoff@bellsouth.net), or to Cindy Humbert at [interfaithpaths@gmail.com](mailto:interfaithpaths@gmail.com).

Mar 24 (Thurs) **FORsooth LABELING.** Presbyterian Seminary, Winn Center. 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.

Mar 25 (Fri) **ECO REPS LUNCH & LEARN.** UofL Ekstrom Library, Noon. Basic training in sustainability and a vegetarian lunch. Visit <http://louisville.edu/sustainably>.

Mar 25 (Fri) **GOOD FRIDAY WALK.** Interfaith Paths to Peace at the Mazzoli Federal Building, 9:30AM. Join our ecumenical walk shaped by the traditional of remembering Jesus’s final day and reflect on current concerns such as economic inequality, care for the earth, and poverty. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>.

Mar 28 (Mon) **ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK.** University of Louisville Belknap Campus, Humanities Building Room 205, 6:30 PM. Members of Jewish community discuss: “Is criticizing Israel anti-Semitic?” Panelists: Barbara Berman, Russ Greenleaf, Jeff Levy. Free. More info at Students for Justice in Palestine, [louisvillesjp@gmail.com](mailto:louisvillesjp@gmail.com) (502-526-3472).

Mar 29 (Tue) **ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK.** University of Louisville Belknap Campus, Duthie Center Room 121 (behind Speed Engineering Building), 6:30 PM. “Witness in Palestine” Cory Lockhart of Christian Peacemaker Teams gives first-hand report of Israeli violence against Palestinian school children in Hebron. Free. More info at Students for Justice in Palestine, [louisvillesjp@gmail.com](mailto:louisvillesjp@gmail.com) (502-526-3472).

Mar 30 (Wed) **ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK.** University of Louisville Belknap Campus, Ekstrom Library Chao Auditorium, 6:30 PM. Black Lives Matter activists discuss: “Parallels of Oppression, African Americans and Palestinians.” Free. More info at Students for Justice in Palestine, [louisvillesjp@gmail.com](mailto:louisvillesjp@gmail.com) (502-526-3472).

Mar 31 (Thu) **ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK.** University of Louisville Belknap Campus, Student Activities Center Floyd Theater, 6:30 PM. Free film screening: “Martin Luther King in Palestine” by Al Helm. Free. More info at Students for Justice in Palestine, [louisvillesjp@gmail.com](mailto:louisvillesjp@gmail.com) (502-526-3472).

Apr 1 (Fri) **ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK.** University of Louisville Belknap Campus, Schumaker Building, 7:00 PM. “Poetry, Pies, and Palestine” fundraiser for Students for Justice in Palestine. Cost: \$5.00. More info at Students for Justice in Palestine, [louisvillesjp@gmail.com](mailto:louisvillesjp@gmail.com) (502-526-3472).

## OUT OF TOWN

Mar 1 to 22 **KENTUCKY ACLU / FAIRNESS ORGANIZING MEETINGS.** Help us build Fairness committees in Bowling Green, Elizabethtown, Frankfort, Northern KY, Owensboro, and Shelbyville. Visit [www.aclu-ky.org](http://www.aclu-ky.org).

Mar 3 (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.

Mar 5 & 12 **NATURE CONSERVANCY OF KENTUCKY.** Lexington, KY. Join our trail maintenance volunteers in Bissell Bluff Wildlife Management Area or our shrub & tree planting volunteers in the Dupree Nature Preserve. Visit [www.nature.org/Kentucky](http://www.nature.org/Kentucky).

Mar 7 (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.

Mar 17 (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).

## PEACEMAKING EVENTS AT THE LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES.

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

Mar 1 (Tues) **HOUR 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.

Mar 2 (Wed) **ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB.** Every Saturday at the Iroquois & Newburg Public Library Branches, 3PM. Also Main Library & Bon Air Library on Wednesdays at 7PM.

Mar 5 (Sat) **WOMEN WRITERS SERIES.** Iroquois Public Library, every Saturday this month, 1PM. Meet Tytinna N.M. Wells, Merle L. Bachman, Nora Rose Moosnick, Glenda Bailey-Mershon and others.

Mar 10 (Thurs) **ANIME AND JAPANESE CULTURE CLUB.** Main Library, 5:30pm. Re-discover Japanese culture through Anime animation.

Mar 11 (Fri) **AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHIVES TOUR.** Western Public Library, 10:30AM. Peruse the great books in our collection. Watch a short documentary.

Mar 19 (Sat) **NEPALI CULTURE.** Bon Air Public Library, 11PM. Where can you find Bhutanese literature? What are these authors writing nowadays? Discussions in Nepali language.

Mar 22 (Tues) **FUNDRAISING FOR NON-PROFITS.** Main Public Library, 6PM to 8PM. Identify sources and practice writing better grant proposals.

*Please recycle FORsooth to a friend, and please ask her or him to do the same.*