

Founded 1915



Forward to single-payer healthcare: Medicare for all

By Kay Tillow



Kay Tillow

This article by Kay Tillow was originally published in the online blog “The Daily Kos” on January 17, 2016.

A new day is breaking for single payer health care. This concept of publicly funded, universal health care, locked out of the national debate six years ago, has made it on stage in the presidential debates. Millions of people are hearing the concept of single

payer (an improved Medicare for all) for the first time, and they like what they hear.

The December Kaiser tracking poll has reported that 58% of people support Medicare for All. Among Democrats, the support is 81%, Independents 60%, and Republicans 30%.

Seven more Congresspersons signed on to HR 676 in December and January, bringing the cosponsors on Rep. John Conyers’ HR 676, Expanded and Improved Medicare for All, to a total of 60. This is the model single-payer legislation in Congress that would assure care to all with no premiums, no co-pays, no deductibles. All medically necessary care, including dental and drugs, would be covered. Everyone would choose their own physician and hospital—no more networks, preferred providers, or surprise bills from someone in the surgical suite who was not on your insurance company’s approved list.

The US is the only industrialized country that has not yet moved to a system of universal healthcare. That failure takes a toll on our health, our lives, our economy. The US pays over \$9,000 per capita annually yet the median is under \$4,000 in the countries that make up the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development.

We pay more but get less. We rank 19th out of 19 countries in preventing deaths due to causes that were amenable to medical care. The US does poorly in life expectancy—51st in rank among the countries of the world. We live up to 4 years

less than people in the countries that have universal health care systems. Our infant mortality rate is going up instead of down, leaving us at 28th in the world. The US rate for maternal mortality is 12.7 per 100,000 live births. Canada’s is 4.8.

In terms of equality, the US has a long way to go. A study by Dr. Adewale Troutman and Surgeon General David Satcher found that there are over 83,000 excess deaths annually among African

Americans. Employers whose workforce is predominately female can still charge higher prices for health coverage because of that fact. Insurers who sell on the exchanges can charge up to three times the regular premium because of age. The drugs and care crucial to those with AIDS, MS, epilepsy, leukemia, cancer, mental health and a host of other problems can be priced beyond the reach of patients. Discrimination has not ended.

(continued on page 6)



Kentuckians for Single-Payer Healthcare at the Saint Patrick’s Day Parade

In memory of Judge Benjamin F. Shobe and Senator Georgia Davis Powers

By Gracie Lewis



Gracie Lewis

On January 27, the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights held a 2016 Law Symposium in Commemoration of the 50th Anniversary of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966. The symposium was held at the University of Kentucky, College of Law in Lexington, Kentucky.

Thousands of Kentuckians from all walks of life had joined forces to support the passage of the Kentucky Civil Rights Act of 1966. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. sent a telegram to Governor Breathitt stating, “I commend your courageous and forthright leadership in paving the way for the passage of strong and enforceable public accommodations and fair employment legislation. This is a milestone for a Southern state. And, indeed, a great step forward for any state.”

Just two days after the symposium was held, we lost two trailblazers who had played a major role in breaking down the walls of

segregation in Kentucky. On January 29, 2016, Judge Benjamin F. Shobe passed away at the age of 95. On Saturday, January 30, Senator Georgia Davis Powers died. She was 92 years old. Both were “Soldiers in the Army of the Lord,” and they fought on for freedom and justice until they died.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights stated that, “Senator Georgia Davis Powers left a legacy of reaching for equality, of taking responsibility to stand strong for human dignity, of possessing a willingness to serve others, and of a determination to achieve just ideals for all.” She was a titan of the Civil Rights Movement.

Early in her career, Georgia Powers led the Allied Organization for Civil Rights which promoted statewide public accommodations and fair employment law. She helped organize the 1964 March on Frankfort demanding equity in public accommodations.

She was elected to the Kentucky State Senate, 33rd District, in 1967. Senator Powers was the first African American, and the first woman, elected to a full term. She was a state senator for 21 years until her retirement in December 1988.

She authored more than 150 bills, including statewide fair housing legislation. She sponsored bills prohibiting employment discrimination due to race, gender or age. She supported legislation to improve education for the physically and mentally disabled.

Senator Powers continued her career as an author and lecturer. She wrote an autobiography, “I Shared the Dream,” as well as several other books, including “Dr. King’s Last Day.” She received hundreds of awards and honors, including five honorary doctorate degrees from

(continued on page 7)

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Louisville, KY
Permit No. 962

Fellowship of Reconciliation
Louisville Chapter
2146 Lakeside Drive
Louisville, KY 40205

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Call F.O.R. at 502/456-6586

INSIDE

- Page 2 Fr. Jim Flynn on Roy Bourgeois in Louisville
- Page 2 Ike Thacker on Rev. Mary Sue Barnett’s talk at the Third Thursday Lunch
- Page 3 Mark Radka on the Paris Climate Change Conference
- Page 4 Third Thursday Luncheon schedule
- Page 4 Rev. Mary Sue Barnett on her ordination as a Catholic Woman Priest
- Page 5 Laurie Childers on FOR’s statement of support for BDS
- Page 5 Ira Grupper on race, class, and oppression
- Page 6 Michael Whiting on environmentalists acting for racial justice
- Page 7 Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations
- Page 8 Calendar for peacemakers

Roy Bourgeois speaks in Louisville

By Fr. Jim Flynn

On Thursday February 11, 2016, Roy Bourgeois spoke to over a hundred people at the First Unitarian Church at 4th & York St. in Louisville, Kentucky. The audience appreciated Roy’s vision of justice, expressed in his soft New Orleans accent.

Mention the Maryknoll priest Fr. Roy Bourgeois, and many people think of the School of the Americas (SOA) in Fort Benning, Georgia. That’s because Roy has led annual efforts to close the infamous SOA for the past 25 years. This “school” was renamed “Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation” (WHINSEC)—obviously to avoid such a tainted name as “School of the Americas.”

Roy spoke of the injustices inflicted on thousands of Latin Americans by graduates of the SOA. And he spoke of the injustices he believes are inflicted on women who are prohibited from being ordained as priests in the Roman Catholic Church.

Roy has alerted thousands of U.S. citizens to the presence of military personnel from Latin America who were trained at the SOA in Fort Benning. From his years of priestly work in Bolivia and other Latin



Roy Bourgeois speaking in Louisville

Photo by Luis de Leon

American countries, Roy witnessed that many graduates from the SOA were directly involved in the abuses, torture, and deaths of thousands of Latin Americans.

His protests began when he illegally entered the grounds of Fort Benning. He did that action on November 16, 1990—the one-year anniversary of the day when graduates of the SOA were heavily involved in the midnight brutal massacre of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper, and her 16-year-old daughter at the University of San Salvador, El Salvador.

Roy was arrested for placing a loud-speaker in a tree near the quarters of the Latin American officers and loudly denouncing their involvement in the massacre of the Jesuits and their two associates as well as other massacres in Latin America.

After his arrest in 1990, and for the next 25 years, Roy organized and led protests at the gates of Fort Benning. At times as many as 19,000 students, nuns, lay people, and clergy from many religious groups participated in nonviolent actions in front of Fort Benning. Many Louisvillians have driven there each year to join the actions. Each year, some participants entered the fort and were arrested. Many spent years in prison for their actions.

Several years ago, Roy went to Lexington, Kentucky, where he participated in the ordination of several women to the Catholic priesthood. For his solidarity with this ordination, he was called by his superiors in Maryknoll, New York and asked to defend himself. Initially his superiors supported him in his participation in the ordination, but pressure from the Vatican forced them to oust Fr. Roy from the Maryknoll Congregation. He was forced to

cease practicing as a priest. But he has kept his commitment to justice and continues his efforts to close the SOA/WHINSEC.

Before departing Louisville on Friday February 12, Roy spoke to a small group of people at La Casita, hosted by Karina Barillas and her staff.

Roy’s presence in Louisville no doubt energized many listeners to join him in the many aspects of the struggle for justice and dignity. You are invited to join him at his next SOA protest action, which will take place this year in Nogales, Arizona on October 7-10, 2016. For more info, see www.soa.org/border

Fr. Jim Flynn is a retired Catholic priest of Louisville where he has served in various parishes for over 60 years. During this time, he has consistently been a voice for the poor, disenfranchised, and marginalized in our culture. Currently he serves the Latino community in their Spanish Masses. He is currently giving powerpoint presentations explaining Pope Francis’ papal letter, “Encyclical on Climate Change & Inequality—Laudato Si.” To schedule a presentation, please contact him at jflynn502@aol.com

Catholic Woman Priest Rev. Mary Sue Barnett speaks about women’s rights at Third Thursday Lunch

By Isaac Marion Thacker IV

There is discrimination and then there is discrimination. Many of us spend much of our lives fighting discrimination against African Americans and LGBTQ folks. The huge elephant in the room is that much larger segments of people in this country are discriminated against as well.

Ordained Catholic priest Rev. Mary Sue Barnett very effectively reminded us

of that fact at the Third Thursday Lunch on January 21, 2016. She noted that in this country, and even more so in some other parts of the world, women—the majority of the population—are discriminated against in myriad subtle and overt ways absolutely unacceptable in the twenty-first (or any) century.

Barnett began her presentation with a poem from the Alice Walker

collection “Revolutionary Petunias,” the point of which, she said, was to begin to get into the soil of Louisville, so that more rebellious thinking is possible. Indeed! This was followed by a story about the pirate Bluebeard that conveyed the moral that we need help, and need to help each other, in fighting evil and danger.

Such general and profound beginnings should not surprise us coming from Barnett, an ordained Catholic priest with a church in Louisville, who has addressed the international gathering in Geneva supporting the United Nations’ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). Barnett, on top of all that, is the founder and president of the Louisville chapter in support of CEDAW, which has received international recognition and successfully helped induce Mayor Greg Fischer, along with the Metro Council, to make Louisville in 2014 only the second U.S. city to adopt CEDAW.

This of course is entirely appropriate, for as Barnett eloquently emphasized—something that is often forgotten—women’s rights are the human rights of more than half of humanity! This despite the fact that the famous and oft-cited 1948 U.N. Declaration on Human Rights itself was not really protective of women. Most of its language was masculine, and massive violations of women’s human rights were even more prevalent in 1948 than they are today.

At least though, noted Barnett, the CEDAW was adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in 1979 and took full force in international law shortly thereafter. The U.S. has signed CEDAW but not ratified it (thanks to our recalcitrant Senate), which makes the U.S. one of only six nations (one of which is the Holy See) that have not ratified it.



Isaac Marion Thacker IV

Most of the rest of Barnett’s presentation was focused on the impressive record of Louisville’s CEDAW chapter, which is known as such a national and even international leader that Barnett was chosen in March 2015 to be on an international panel at the U.N.

The most powerful part of what she had to say dealt with the words which should become a battle cry: women’s rights are human rights! There are so many subconscious assumptions and deeply internalized prejudices that operate against this that we need many, many effective champions like Barnett to overcome them.

Even more than with some of the other issues that TTL speakers have addressed in the past, this is one where we will win in the long run. Still, a few more Mary Sue Barnett’s wouldn’t hurt, please.

Isaac Marion Thacker IV (Ike Thacker) is an advocate for political, social, and especially economic democracy (socialism) who has been writing on housing issues, especially homelessness, for more than twenty years. He may be contacted at 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 (FOR).

Send submissions for news stories or commentaries to “FORsooth Editor” at: louisvillefor@gmail.com

Send submissions for the Peace Calendar to: calendar.peace@gmail.com

To receive FORsooth for free, send an email request to David Horvath at: dhorvath@fastmail.fm

and say whether you want to receive the newspaper in the mail, or online by email, or both.

(Receiving just the online edition by email saves us printing and mailing costs.)

FORsooth Staff

Editorial Team	Russ Greenleaf, Sharon Grant, Jeff Levy, Gary Liebert, John Morrison, Ike Thacker
Peace Calendar Editor	Tom Louderback
Production Manager	Barbara Powers
Webmaster	David Horvath
Web Advisor	Mark Monyhan
Bulk Mail Coordinator.....	Beverley Marmion
Mailing List Coordinators	Mary and David Horvath
Delivery Coordinator.....	Ike Thacker

95 Years on Peace Frontiers

Since 1915, the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) in the United States has led campaigns to obtain legal rights for conscientious objectors, win civil rights for all Americans, end the Viet Nam 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. We invite you to join us in this endeavor. Membership consists of signing the FOR Statement of Purpose indicating that you agree with FOR’s goals. Please sign up online at: forusa.org

Louisville FOR Co-chairpersons:
Pat Geier 502-609-7985 Chris Harmer 502-899-4119

Like this newspaper?

Help keep it alive by donating

Make a check out to “FOR” and write “FORsooth” on the comment line and mail it to
Tim Scheldorf, FOR Treasurer
2917 Beaumont Road Louisville KY 40205

Paris climate change conference—a reason for optimism

By Mark Radka

I work in the UN Environment Programme’s Energy, Climate, and Technology Branch (UNEP), based in Paris. Our role is to help countries to make a bridge between climate science and policy, to identify and analyse options, and to gain confidence they can meet their climate commitments.

2015 was the hottest year on record, according to the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. It may also be the year in which nations finally agreed on a comprehensive approach to address the growing threat posed by climate change. The 21st Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention on Climate Change (or – thankfully – COP21 for short) was held in Paris, France from November 30 to December 12, 2015. The agreement reached there is not perfect, but it is a much needed victory for multilateralism and creates a good foundation on which to build progressively stronger action to reduce emission of greenhouse gases and adapt to a changing climate. As some observers have noted, Paris is the “end of the beginning.” Attention must now turn to the actions required to turn the Paris promise into a reality.

What factors led to agreement in Paris? Despite the claims of bitter and increasingly cranky contrarians, the science is well established and is getting more robust. The growing evidence of greater climate variability has certainly influenced public opinion, and most negotiators went to Paris knowing their citizens wanted an agreement.

Equally important, many governments were inspired by the rapidly growing number of efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions underway. By the time the COP finished, cities, states and regional governments, the private sector, and other non-state actors had registered almost 11,000 climate change commitments with the UN’s Non-State Actor Zone for Climate Action (NAZCA) database. The importance of this citizen action is hard to overstate and is particularly important in the next four years—before the Paris Agreement comes into force. At that time, although the emissions reductions are not enforceable under international law, countries are legally obligated to report on them.

The record-breaking investments into renewable energy and low-carbon technologies worldwide—almost \$270 billion or roughly two thirds of total power sector investment in 2014—sent powerful signals to governments that technologies to reduce emissions in the energy sector do exist, and that they have moved beyond being merely affordable to a point where they are less expensive than fossil fuel alternatives in many locations. In recent years, over half of capacity additions globally have been from renewable sources, driven by falling prices that have made utility-scale solar photovoltaic (PV) and onshore wind-turbine systems cost



President Obama reaches out to African leaders at the Paris Climate Change Conference COP21

Photo by IISD/Kiara Worth www.iisd.ca/climate/cop21/enb/30nov.html

competitive with fossil fuel-based power generation. Over the last five years, the cost of solar PV modules has fallen by about 75 percent, and both wind and solar power increasingly beat fossil fuel options in head-to-head competitions. In remote areas that are not connected to the electricity grid, PV systems are being installed alongside conventional diesel generators or wind turbines, bringing the benefits of renewable energy with the predictability of a fossil fuel backup. Good renewable energy resources in many countries, declining technology and project costs, and the fast speed of renewables deployment make a “renewables rich” energy future both feasible and logical.

The bottom-up approach to commitments of Paris also worked in favor of an agreement. By the midpoint of the two-week negotiations, 185 countries had submitted so-called Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs)—their commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) and take steps to adapt to climate change that “represent a progression beyond the current undertaking of that Party.” As a whole, the INDCs are certainly not sufficient to keep the world below a 2°C rise in temperature—which scientists agree is necessary to avoid the most cataclysmic effects of climate change—but they will be ratcheted upward every five years through a review process that was also agreed in Paris.

It is significant that going into the Paris COP21, almost all countries made commitments to reduce their GHGs. Some INDCs are outcome-based: they specify actual target levels of emissions. Others are actions-based: they take the form of commitments to enact policies or undertake projects. Many INDCs include both mitigation and adaptation components, and more than 100 countries have included adaptation in their INDCs. Fifteen countries included so-called short-

lived climate pollutants or made reference to reducing air pollution or other benefits in their INDC submissions—evidence that they are now putting climate actions in a broader sustainable development context. That said, many INDCs are aspirational, and the poorest countries in particular will require help to make them a reality.

Finally, French diplomacy was a strong factor in the successful outcome. The French Government prepared well and worked hard to make all countries feel engaged, particularly those that often feel they don’t have much of a voice in climate change negotiations. French embassies and consulates were fully involved in the year-long preparations, and having heads of state kick off the two-week session allowed political leaders to send clear and strong messages to negotiators.

My work with the UN Environment Programme’s Energy, Climate, and Technology Branch (UNEP) is to help countries make bridge the gap between climate science and policy. The fruits of this work were seen at COP21 when world leaders launched the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), a transformative, Africa-owned-and-led effort to accelerate and scale-up the harnessing of the continent’s huge renewable energy potential. UNEP helped develop the Initiative, which aims to put in place at least 10GW of new and additional renewable energy generation capacity by 2020 and mobilize the African potential to install at least 300 GW of capacity by 2030. The AREI was not formally part of the deal, but with over \$10 billion in funding committed at Paris, it is indicative of the spirit of the negotiations. It will link developed countries’ commitment to help poorer countries reduce emissions with Africa’s priority for more—and in this case, cleaner—energy.

Half of the African population—nine out of ten people in rural areas—lacks access to modern energy sources. At the same time, though, the continent has immense renewable energy resources. Poor infrastructure, insufficient investment, fragmented approaches, weak institutions, and a low human skill base have so far kept much of Africa un-electrified. Africa needs more energy, and decisions made today in terms of the mix of fossil or renewable energy will determine its future emissions. African countries have a rare opportunity for technology leapfrogging and moving onto a modern energy path that brings energy independence and reduces their carbon footprint, decoupling growth in electricity supply from carbon emissions. The AREI’s goal is to develop efficient, reliable, cost effective, and environmentally friendly energy infrastructure that reduces poverty and drives vigorous sustainable development of the continent. It’s a good example of what the Paris Agreement can do.

As the countries of the world left Paris, there was cause for optimism that the Paris Agreement will forestall the worst impacts of climate change and preserve our earth for future generations. But it will require



Mark Radka

much commitment and hard work going forward, and each of us will have to do our part to bring about the better future that lies within our grasp.

Mark Radka heads UNEP’s Climate, and Technology Branch, and is responsible for managing the organization’s efforts to link the global energy and environment agendas. The work focuses on reducing emission of greenhouse gases through greater use of renewable energy and improved energy efficiency. While serving as a Peace Corps Volunteer in the early 1980s (with Louisville FOR co-chair Chris Harmer) Mark developed a special interest in the uptake of climate technologies by developing countries. The opinions expressed are his own and do not necessarily represent the official position of UNEP. He can be reached at mark.radka@unep.org

Editors needed

FORsooth needs experienced editors

If you have excellent English skills
or professional experience as an editor
Please request an interview by sending an email to
russgreenleaf@yahoo.com

Graphic Artists needed

**FORsooth needs experienced
Photoshop artists**

Please request an interview by sending an email to
russgreenleaf@yahoo.com

Have an idea for an article?

Please email it to russgreenleaf@yahoo.com

FORsooth covers local progressive news and activism including: peace and justice, nonviolent resistance, civil rights, African American community news, minorities, women, and environmental issues.

My call to ordination as a Catholic Woman Priest

By Rev. Mary Susan Barnett

The Catholic women’s ordination movement began with the ordination of seven women on the Danube River in 2002.

I was ordained a priest at the age of fifty-one in the sanctuary of Central Presbyterian Church in Louisville in December 2013. The courageous “Danube Seven” flung open doors to an exuberant freedom I had waited for and thought would never happen.

It’s quite difficult putting into words my decades-long experience of being called to ordination in a church that forbids this call—difficult because it runs very deep in my being as an individual and as a woman devoted to community. An orientation to introspection as a little girl evolved into a tug-to-center in my teen years, and then in early adulthood became a gravitational pull from the Christ presence at my deep center.

A light shined in my consciousness during my first semester of graduate school in 1985. A Christology class drew me into Latin American liberation theology and began to feed my mind and soul. The historical Jesus, writes Jesuit priest Jon Sobrino, “shows partiality toward the oppressed,” and “unmasks alienating religious mechanisms.” (“Christology at the Crossroads,” 1978)

My study of liberation theology deepened as one of my professors, a Catholic sister, stirred my religious imagination in a Contemporary Spirituality class with her purposeful introduction to Catholic New Testament scholar Sandra Schneiders. In an essay titled “Effects of Women’s Experience on Spirituality,” Schneiders writes, “Women’s exclusion from [religious] orders reinforced their subordination in all spheres, because it divinized maleness and conversely excluded femininity from the sphere of the divine.” (“Women’s Spirituality: Resources for Christian Development,” ed. Joann Wolski Conn, 1986) Though this conscientization unleashed pathos in my spirit, it simultaneously roused a fierceness of soul and quest for creativity.



Rev. Mary Susan Barnett

Epiphany Catholic Church of Louisville, a beloved community of my young adulthood, was fertile ground for living into my call. In the joyous flurry of many significant friendships, I participated in creating once-a-month alternative liturgies that explored what was excluded and suppressed most Sunday mornings: resistance to violence against women; biblical women; God as She; women preaching; and women leading ritual. The sacred space that we created over the years evoked expressions of my authentic self in the context of Catholic Christian community. It is a grace that deepened on communal retreats and solitude I sought at the Loretto Motherhouse in Nerinx, Kentucky.

My spiritual director, a Sister of Loretto, told me in the early 1990s that she thought I would love the recently published book by Elizabeth A. Johnson, “SHE WHO IS: The Mystery of God in Feminist Theological Discourse” (1992). She said, “I’ve been waiting for someone to write this book!” In chapter five, Johnson writes, “Sophia is

a giver of life, she is a tree of life, ‘she is your life’ (Proverbs 4:13). So intimately is the divine blessing of life associated with her that she can proclaim, ‘whoever finds me finds life’ (Proverbs 8:35).” This book became a companion of my soul.

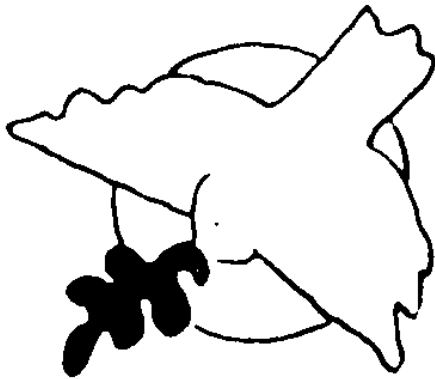
In the summer of 1991, I traveled with Epiphany friends to El Salvador. Months later, I was invited to speak about the trip at Central Presbyterian Church. In this ecumenical setting, I witnessed to the dehumanizing effects of poverty, war, and machismo on our sisters and brothers in Central America. The Christology and feminist theology of my formation was becoming, in those moments, embodied in my life through interpersonal connections beyond national borders and beyond religious traditions. The parched, dusty paths of El Salvador, though filled with suffering, evoked in me a passion to understand the necessity of speaking one’s voice. On my way out of Central Presbyterian Church that morning, I passed by the chapel just as the large wooden doors were closing. I caught a glimpse of the female pastor beginning the worship service, and so I stopped. I quietly opened one of the doors and peered inside. What I saw from the outside looking in was justice—a woman openly living out her call to ordination. I watched for several minutes and then left.

In the late 1990s I commuted once a week to Aquinas School of Theology for a preaching class. One day I arrived early on campus to work on a homily. I reflected on the prophet Jeremiah’s cry, «Why is my pain unceasing, my wound incurable?» This is the cry I perceived from the heart of Sister Dianna Ortiz when I met her during her silent vigil for truth in Washington, DC in 1996. In private, I spoke with her for a few minutes. I handed her a colorful scarf, one that was used in women’s alternative liturgies at Epiphany. From my hands to hers was a symbol of communal resistance to violence and the healing power of Holy Sophia. From my hands to hers; in Persona Christi. Yes, women, all women of the church, are in the likeness of Christ. In the chapel that day, I realized that authentic preaching requires

that I claim this wisdom as naturally as my body draws breath.

After studying three years at Louisville Presbyterian Seminary (1999-2002), and after attending the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (2013), I made the decision to be ordained. As a Catholic Woman Priest, I anoint for healing, I preside at an inclusive banquet of love, and I speak and preach for justice.

Rev. Mary Susan Barnett is a Catholic Woman Priest in Louisville, Kentucky. She celebrates mass on the first Sunday of each month at the First Unitarian Church at 4th and York St. She is a Pastor, Spiritual Director, and Wedding Officiant and makes hospital visits and retreats. She is affiliated with the Association of Roman Catholic Women Priests (ARCWP). She leads the Louisville Coalition for CEDAW (The United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women). She may be reached at marysueb@gmail.com



Like this newspaper?
Help keep it alive by donating

Make a check out to “FOR” and write “FORsooth” on the comment line and mail it to Tim Scheldorf, FOR Treasurer
2917 Beaumont Road
Louisville KY 40205

THIRD THURSDAY LUNCHES

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation &
Interfaith Paths to Peace

April 2016

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.

NEW LOCATION!!!

Vis a Vis Bar and Grill – 1164 South Third Street (Corner of 3rd & Oak)
Buffet Lunch at 11:30 • Presentation at Noon • \$7.00 at the Door

Reservations required by MONDAY before the lunch

RSVP to Cathy Ford at 502/458-1223 or fordhoff@bellsouth.net,
or to Cindy Humbert at interfaithpaths@gmail.com

Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) supports BDS

By Laurie Childers

From: Laurie Childers
Date: August 23, 2015

Dear FOR chapters,

At the National Council meeting in June in Nyack, NY, we agreed unanimously to support the BDS movement. We have been carefully crafting the wording of our statement. It will be published in the fall 2015 issue of Fellowship magazine. Today I share it with you.

Laurie Childers
Chair, National Council

FOR National Council statement supporting the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement:

In 2005, Palestinian civil society made the historic call upon international civil



Laurie Childers

Photo by Mina Carson

society organizations and people of conscience all over the world to impose

“non-violent” measures until the State of Israel “complies with the precepts of international law,” most critically, by exiting the West Bank. Ten years on, the land grab in the West Bank has only grown and its illegality become ever more clear.

We recognize that the State of Israel’s settlement expansion policy and program – together with pervasive detainment, severe compromise of freedom of movement, destruction of lives and homes – amount to the displacement of Palestinian people from their land and a general ethnic cleansing resulting in cultural erasure. We also recognize the complicity of our own United States government as the chief financial supporter of, and weapons supplier to, the State of Israel.

From this place of demoralizing violence and abiding injustice, there comes, since 2005, an inspiring, courageous call to nonviolence. We hear the call.

For more than 40 years, the Fellowship of Reconciliation USA (FOR-USA) has

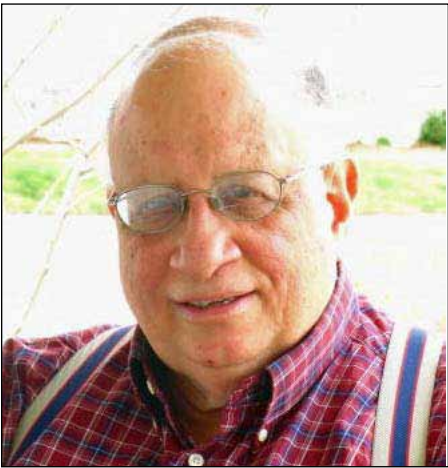
supported the nonviolent actions of sister and brother Palestinians and Israelis working for a just and lasting peace. Carrying this legacy forward, FOR-USA now responds to the call by expressing our solidarity with the BDS movement. We stand in unison with this multi-faith, multi-ethnic, and multi-national movement that includes Palestinian and Israeli people of conscience as well as a broad global family.
www.bdsmovement.net/bdsintro

Laurie Childers in the chairperson of the FOR National Council, the national governing body of the Fellowship of Reconciliation USA. She is an artist, ceramics instructor, and singer/songwriter in Corvallis, Oregon. In the 1980s, she worked around the world with artisans building fuel-efficient cook stoves and learned much about the effect of policies upon the lives of real people as well as the land.

Race, class, and oppression

By Ira Grupper

President Abraham Lincoln, on November 21, 1864, might well have been telepathically channeling thoughts to the current race for U.S. president. “I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country. Corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands and the Republic



Ira Grupper

is destroyed.” (Letter to Col. William F. Elkins, Nov. 21, 1864).

In a New York Review of Books article (The Koch Brothers’ New Brand), Bill McKibben does not mince words: Jane Mayer’s remarkable new book makes it abundantly clear that the [Koch brothers], and the closely connected group of billionaires they’ve helped assemble, have spent [billions] over the past few decades,

LABOR PAEANS

and that in the process they’ve distorted American politics in devastating ways, impairing the chances that we’ll effectively respond to climate change, reducing voting rights in many states, paralyzing Congress, and radically ratcheting up inequality.

But we need to explain the statement: “in the process they’ve distorted American politics in devastating ways.”

The fact is that American politics has always revolved around them-what’s-got versus them-what’s-not. Those who eat filet mignon and sip Dom Perignon versus those who eat lunch meat and drink Sneaky Pete (Sneaky Pete is a cheap wine).

Yet and still, resistance is growing. From Black Lives Matter to so many other groups, the oppressed (yes, that old word “oppressed” is making a comeback) there is good positive motion. Sam Knight (The District Sentinel, February 10, 2016) reports: “There were twelve ‘major work stoppages’ measured by BLS (U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics), up from eleven the year before. The disputes involved about 47,000 workers—a year-over-year increase of 13,000.”

The United Steelworkers Union has distinguished itself in this fightback. It struck Shell Oil for four months. As of this writing, it is dealing with a major lockout by Allegheny Technologies.

But if this inherent tension, in our system of production-for-profit instead of production-for-use, necessitates a concerted fightback, the issue of race and racism seems as ever the Achilles heel. Andrea Germanos (Common Dreams, January 29 2016) reports: “From being victims of police killings to facing barriers to educational and health equity, African Americans are

facing ‘systemic racial discrimination’ and deserve reparatory justice, a United Nations working group (reported).

“Having just completed an 11-day mission with visits to Washington D.C., Baltimore, Jackson, Miss., Chicago and New York City, the five-member Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent say they are ‘extremely concerned about the human rights situation of African Americans.’”

Here in Louisville, Kentucky there are so many examples of racial exclusion. Reports Phillip Bailey (Courier-Journal, February 10, 2016): “Mayor Greg Fischer has nominated four African Americans and one Hispanic to serve on three different city boards and commissions that have been scrutinized in Metro Council and the courts for lacking racial diversity.

“The appointments fill vacancies on Louisville’s zoning board and planning commission along with a new nine-member review committee for the east downtown NuLu district that the Fischer administration had previously made all-white.

“The council’s Contracts & Appointments Committee halted Fischer’s appointments (to two boards) last year because they lacked any minorities. Under the state law that created merged government, each board and commission separately must be made up of no less than the city’s minority population or the minority representation on Metro Council, whichever is greater.” Oh my heavens: are we talking about quotas?

Mr. Fischer has been mayor for a good number of years. So the question is: why did he wait so many years to attempt to rectify this racial disparity?

In the interest of full disclosure: Mayor Fischer appointed me to serve two terms on the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission. I know how the city functions.

For this commission to never have

publicly spoken out forcefully on lack of minority representation on city boards and commissions shows their history of timidity is not over and done with as yet. And for FORsooth, this principled newspaper I write for, to simply list the commission’s two operating boards in its “Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations,” implies the Commission is part of the family of progressive organizations, rather than an intrinsic part of city government. FOR needs a deeper political analysis.

We don’t need that deeper analysis when reviewing the tech company Lexmark, whose website proclaims: “Social Responsibility Is Our Business. We operate our business in a manner that results in a better world by focusing on our people, our planet and the communities in which we live and work. As we strive to maintain best practices for sustainability, Lexmark’s commitment to corporate social responsibility is global in reach, balancing economic, environmental and social concerns.”

Well, the Associated Press reports Lexmark will cut 550 jobs over the next year, with “some of the jobs moved to ‘low-cost countries.’”

Speaking of popular culture, Michael Moore’s new movie, “Where to Invade Next” is, according to critic Roger Ebert, “one of the most genuinely, and valuably, patriotic films any American has ever made”. I saw the movie. It shows that people can oftentimes be fed, housed, clothed and educated, even in class-stratified Europe. Yet there are still many poor folk. The sheep still cannot lie down with the lions. Unless they both drink the poisoned water in Flint, Michigan, Michael Moore’s home town. And then they don’t wake up. Would you like a glass of water, Mike?

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com

Editors needed

FORsooth needs experienced editors

If you have excellent English skills
or professional experience as an editor

Please request an interview by sending an email to
russgreenleaf@yahoo.com

Have an idea for an article?

Please email it to russgreenleaf@yahoo.com

FORsooth covers local progressive news and activism
including: peace and justice, nonviolent resistance,
civil rights, African American community news,
minorities, women, and environmental issues.

Environmentalists acting for racial justice

By Michael Whiting

“The immature do not look beyond physical appearances to see my true nature. The knowledge of such people is empty.”
— Bhagavad Gita

Everybody affects everybody. Each sentient being has its own interiority. I was impelled to attend the event on February 20, 2016 at Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church called “Environmentalists Acting for Racial Justice: A Training.” The morning was cool and fresh, with Sandhill Cranes flying overhead in the bold blue expanse, and I did notice the first appearance of wildflowers. How was my attitude? A little while before, I had reluctantly come to an obvious conclusion that bright and flowing feels better than dull and turbid, just in order to live, and even more so, if I want my life to matter.

Eco-social justice calls for constant training, and it definitely helps to be in the company of the like-minded. The opportunity to be with “350 Louisville” was to help me a lot. About 25 people, some young and some old, were gathered to be led by Carla Wallace, David Horvath, and Andrew Newton from Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice (LSURJ).

Before delving into the particulars of a vastly under-recognized, under-analyzed perspective of the environmental and social pollutants created by the hegemony of white supremacy, the whole group was first delightfully led by Mark Steiner in a guided meditation that seemed equal parts new cosmology and hip hop. I dearly wished at that moment every sentient being in the vicinity on paved interchanges and



Environmentalists at the training seminar conducted by Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice (LSURJ) on February 20, 2016

Photo by Drew Foley

shopping malls could have shared this moment together. It helped give courage to many of us.

The history of environmental racism is writ large in unfriendly letters across our planet. Blacks and other people of color have disproportionately been the ones to have chemical incinerators, water and waste treatment facilities, steel mills, scrapyards, and landfills built in or near their communities. This isn't an accidental phenomenon. Why this continues to be a secret to the majority of Americans is quite stupefying to me personally. This particular training allowed all participants to practice an ecology of deep listening in the discussion of a difficult subject that I fool myself in believing I understand in its full implication.

LSURJ did not disappoint! The

provided training was positive and imaginative and freeing! Perhaps, as white environmentalists, we can feel more energized, and better informed and sufficiently connected when we work to end the environmental racism perpetuated by systemic white supremacy. Maybe. The thought was not lost on any of us that present with LSURJ's instruction, we must transform ourselves first by rejecting the often egregious tendency of swooping in to «save» people without learning to practice the overdue etiquette of first meeting and listening (sans agenda) and hopefully developing relationships with people of color leading their own often non-publicized battle of resistance and reclamation in the epicenter of the struggle.

350 Louisville's Drew Foley said to me,

«Doing this workshop was a breakthrough for 350 Louisville. Like most of the U.S. environmental movement, we've always recognized our lack of racial diversity. The People's Climate Marches in 2014 and 2015 raised our awareness of the problem, as did the recent anaerobic digester issue in the West End. Our lack of diversity in a multiracial city like Louisville reflects a lack of sensitivity and love. To make the Earth Movement as strong as it needs to be, we want and need everyone. This workshop was a small first step in creating such a movement in Louisville.

Michael Whiting is a member of St. William Church and a board member of Sowers of Justice Network. He is also a frequent collaborator with “350 Louisville.” Please contact him at zygobeek@gmail.com



Michael Whiting

Single-payer (continued from page 1)

In December of this year, the Kaiser Tracking Poll reported that 46% of the population views the Affordable Care Act (ACA) health care reform law (passed in 2010) as unfavorable while 40% view it favorably. That is not all attributable to the crazed campaign of misinformation perpetrated by the far right. The very real problems that were not solved by the law plague us with differing impacts on various strata, but leave no one truly protected. When the ACA is fully implemented, over 30 million will still be uninsured. That alone will bring us 30,000 unnecessary deaths per year.

While the uninsured numbers have diminished, the underinsured, those who nominally have insurance but cannot af-

ford care, are increasing. Over 25% of the insured go without needed care because of the cost. That rises to 46% in low income families. Premiums rise by double digits. Deductibles are now in the thousands. Insurance is no longer a guarantee against bankruptcy. While the provisions of the ACA pour billions into subsidies to the insurance companies, care is priced beyond the means of far too many. Doctors and hospitals are off limits in the networks set up by the insurers who still control our system, and state insurance departments are unable to keep up with regulations.

We deserve better. Across the country and here in Kentucky, the single payer movement is gaining support. The city of Vicco in Eastern Kentucky's Floyd

County passed a resolution endorsing HR 676. The city commissioners sent their resolution to Congressman Hal Rogers asking him to sign on. Boyle County has also passed a resolution for HR 676. So has the city of Louisville, the city of Morehead, and the Kentucky House of Representatives. This past year, medical students at the University of Louisville organized a student chapter of Physicians for a National Health Program, and a group of their colleagues at the University of Kentucky is working to do the same. A campaign of outreach, education, and activism can win more hearts and minds to this real solution.

We have an immediate fight on our hands to block any backward steps in Medicaid expansion. The new governor has threatened to impose onerous conditions on this best part of the ACA, and all people of good will must demand that our Frankfort representatives stop the threat.

But the current health system will never cover us all, never end the denial of care, never stop the rationing based on the ability to pay. It's your money or your life in this market-based system.

The costs for those who must purchase insurance will continue to increase. The deductibles and co-pays will rise. Employer-based insurance will continue to depress wages as employers shift more of the costs onto the workers. Cadillac plans are rare. We have mostly broken down junkers.

The essential difference between the US and other countries is that the insurance companies are at the center of our health care system. Their drive for profit is at the core of why health care is so expensive. Over 30% of US healthcare costs are attributable to profits and administrative costs.

Insurance companies and their experts say the high costs are due to overuse of care. It just isn't true. In the US, we visit physicians half as much as those in other countries, and we spend fewer days in the hospital. All of the co-pays and deductibles and all of the cost control efforts written into the ACA are based on this wrong diagnosis.

Marcia Angell, MD, former editor of the New England Journal of Medicine, says that under our current market-based system, we cannot simultaneously improve care and lower costs. Improving care costs more. Cutting costs cuts care. To change those dynamics, we must cut out the cause of the problem—the profit-based insurance companies. That will allow us to remove the administrative wastes and profits and apply those funds to extending care to everyone and improving it for all. It's the right thing to do! Let's make it happen.

You can help by coming to a meeting of Kentuckians for Single-payer Healthcare on the first and third Thursday of each month in the board room on the mezzanine of the Louisville Free Public Library at 4th and York St. Or call me at 636-1551.

Kay Tillow is the Director of Organization of the Nurses Professional Organization and is a lifelong union organizer and activist. She graduated from the University of Pittsburgh in Labor Studies and is currently the Chair of Kentuckians for Single Payer Health Care. She is Coordinator of the All Unions Committee for Single Payer Health Care—HR 676. She was active in the civil rights and peace movements. Kay was born in Paducah, Kentucky, and grew up near there in Metropolis, Illinois. She can be reached at 502-636-1551 or by email at NurseNPO@aol.com



Kentuckians for Single-Payer Healthcare





Senator Georgiana Davis Powers
Photo source: The Courier-Journal
courier-journal.com

University of Kentucky, University of Louisville, Kentucky State University, Spalding University, and Simmons College of Kentucky.

The Kentucky Commission on Human Rights went on to remind us that Judge Benjamin F. Shobe, “used his experience, passion and great talents to eliminate racial discrimination from society.”

It was indeed ironic that we were having this law symposium at the University of Kentucky, College of Law. As a young man, Benjamin F. Shobe was prohibited from studying law in Kentucky because of the Day Law. He therefore earned his juris doctorate from the University of Michigan in 1946, and then returned to his home state to become a successful trial attorney, where he broke down racial barriers.

In 1961, in the midst of the campaign to end racial segregation in Louisville, where local high school students staged nonviolent demonstrations and were arrested, it was Ben Shobe who bailed them out of jail. Among those arrested were Raoul Cunningham, Charlene Hampton Holloway, Connie Bussey Cosby, William E. Summers, IV, Virgil Todd, and his own daughter Deana Shobe Tinsley, and others.

Under the leadership of the NAACP and CORE, the protestors were to sit at the counters of restaurants, try on clothes at department stores, attend theaters, and march in front of hotels that excluded African Americans or treated them differently than other customers. On May 14, 1963, because of negotiations with city officials, and demonstrations, and the “Nothing New for Easter” campaign, and voter registration drives, the city passed its first public accommodations law, Ordinance No. 66, which was signed into law by Mayor William O. Cowger.

In earlier years, when Judge Shobe was a young lawyer, he served on the legal team headed by Thurgood Marshall, James Nabritt, and James A. Crumlin that won the right for Lyman T. Johnson to attend graduate school at the University of Kentucky. That 1949 victory ended segregation at the University of Kentucky. Lyman T. Johnson became a teacher at Central High School for 33 years and continued to fight on for justice and equality.

On January 6, 1953, Judge Benjamin F. Shobe became the first African American to serve on the bench in Louisville. In 1976, he was appointed to the 15th Division of the Jefferson Circuit Court in and served faithfully in his assignment for 16 years.

He was inducted into the Kentucky Human Rights Commission Gallery of Great Black Kentuckians and supported its mission.

On Monday, February 8, 2016 at his Homegoing Celebration, which was held at Portland Memorial Missionary Baptist Church, approximately 26 judges processed into the sanctuary dressed in their robes. Kentucky Chief Justice, John Minton also attended. Most of the speakers talked about Judge Shobe’s dedication to the principles of “Equal Justice under the Law.”

When Rev. Dr. Kevin Wayne Cosby spoke, he stated that, “justice for African Americans has not always been unbiased.” Rev. Cosby noted that, “the blindfold which is to indicate impartiality has been peeked through when it comes to Black folks.” For example, in March of 1857, in the Dred Scott v. Sandford case, the United States Supreme Court, led by Chief Justice Roger B. Taney declared that all Blacks – slaves as well as free – were not and could never become citizens of the United States because they were property, and as such had no rights a white man had to respect. And the 1896 decision of Plessy v. Ferguson upheld the constitutionality of state laws requiring racial segregation in public facilities under the doctrine of “separate but equal.” And finally, there was the biased Scottsboro Boys case in which nine boys were accused of raping two white women on a train in 1932. News of the incident spread quickly, and it resulted in a miscarriage of justice, highlighting the effects of all white juries.

The remarks of the remaining speakers gave testimony to Judge Shobe’s desire to always be fair and impartial. Even when he had to sentence them, he always told defendants to use their time wisely and concentrate on being a better person upon their release.

Both of these pioneers in Civil Rights will be missed. Their contributions will serve as a testament to generations of courageous individuals, who in the face of uncomfortable truths, worked toward perfecting our state.

Gracie Lewi 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



Judge Benjamin F. Shobe
Photo source: The Courier-Journal
courier-journal.com

Like this newspaper?
Help keep it alive by donating

Make a check out to “FOR” and write “FORsooth” on the comment line and mail it to
Tim Scheldorf, FOR Treasurer
2917 Beaumont Road Louisville KY 40205

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

15 THOUSAND FARMERS – 15th day each month, www.15thousandfarmers.com
AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB –4th Tuesday. Contact John Mine at papajohn15@gmail.com. Also see www.America2000plus.net.
AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE – Every third Friday at noon at Sullivan University, www.au.org (Contact Paul Simmons at 502-608-7517) pdsimmons14@gmail.com
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – (Sharon 637-8951)
APPAP (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum) – www.appaf.org (664-2761)
AUDUBON SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY – www.audubonsocietyofky.org
BECKHAM BIRD CLUB – 2nd Saturday, 7PM , 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
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
ELECTRIC VEHICLE OWNERS OF LOUISVILLE (EVOLVE) – Monthly meetings. Join us on Facebook. Contact stuartungar@icloud.com
FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)
FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB – 1st Thursday, 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
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
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 (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 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
KRCRC (KY RELIGIOUS COALITION FOR REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE) – (866-606-0988) krerc.org
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
LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)
LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST (LCPME) – (473-8435)
LOUISVILLE FORUM – 2nd Wednesday, Noon (502-329-0111)
LOUISVILLE GREEN DRINKS – 4th Tuesday, 6:30PM 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
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 (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] – (588-2008, namilouisville.org)
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) – (233-1323; pflaglouisville.org)
PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAM — (589-6583) http://www.peaceeducationprogram.org
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
SOWERS OF JUSTICE NETWORK – sowersofjusticenetwork.org, sowersofjusticenetwork@gmail.com
STAND UP SUNDAY/STAND UP LOUISVILLE – Every Sunday 3:00 3208 W. Broadway 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
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@gmailorg

Calendar for peacemakers

Please e-mail us information about your peace and justice events to calendar.peace@gmail.com by the first Wednesday of the month.

Mar 22 (Tue) **ALL THINGS GUN VIOLENCE**. Faulkner Gallery. Hosted by: SUS, Sowers, & Hood 2 Hood. 2-4pm. Contact (502-510-9186) shamekapw@gmail.com

Mar 24 (Thu) **DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE MAY ISSUE OF FORSOOTH**. (Every fourth Thursday) Send articles to russgreenleaf@yahoo.com or call 502-264-2437.

Mar 25 (Fri) **20TH ANNUAL WAY OF THE CROSS WALK FOR JUSTICE**. Begins at Mazzoli Federal Building, 9:30am – 11:30am. Open to all. sowersofjusticenetwork.org

Mar 26 (Sat) **WE THE PEOPLE/ACLU & FAIRNESS DINNER**. Hosted by Fairness Campaign at Muhammad Ali Center, 144 N. 6th Street, 6:30pm. Contact Fairness Campaign jamie@fairness.org

Mar 30 (Wed) **MARCH 2016 STRATEGY BREAKFAST**. Hosted by The Leadership Conference on Civil & Human Rights. For Location & details, please RSVP to Cedric Lawson at clawson@civilrights.org.

Mar 31 (Thu) **WEST LOUISVILLE FOOD JUSTICE CLASS**. Hosted by New Roots, Inc. 6:00pm at Redeemer Lutheran Church, 3640 River Park Dr. 40211

April 1 to 30 **EARTH MONTH**. Join activities this month arranged by the Kentucky Waterways Alliance and AVEDA for protecting and improving access to clean water for more than 550,000 people. Visit <http://kwallance.org>

Apr 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. Photos borrowed from the collections of The Thomas Merton Center at Bellarmine and the photographic archives of The Courier-Journal. Visit www.mertoncenter.org

Apr 1 to Jun 30 **SHINING A LIGHT**. Muhammad Ali Center. This year’s international photo exhibition is inspired by the United Nation’s Girl’s Education Initiative. Behold images of people working the right to education all over the world. Visit www.alicenter.org

Apr 1 & 2 **TEATRO EN ESPANOL**. El Delirio Producciones at The Bards Town., 7PM. This amazing comedy tells the story of Isidre Gali the Minister of Energy and Industry who resigns in the middle of a political scandal. Visit <http://www.eldelirioproducciones.org>

Apr 1 (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

Apr 1 (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

Apr 1 to 16 2016 **WOMEN ARTISTS**. The Kentucky Center for African American Heritage, 7PM. Ceramics, painting and textiles by some of Louisville’s most respected artists. Visit www.kcaah.org

Apr 2 (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

Apr 2 (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.

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

Apr 2 (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>

Apr 2 (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

Apr 2 (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

Apr 3 (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

Apr 3 (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.

Apr 4 (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.

Apr 5 (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.

Apr 5 (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

Apr 5 (Tues) **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

Apr 6 (Wed) **DEADLINE FOR LISTINGS IN THIS PEACE CALENDAR**. For publication in the May issue of FORsooth. (Deadline is every first Wednesday) Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com

Apr 6 (Wed) **NATURE PRESERVE VOLUNTEERS**. Blackacre State Nature Preserve. Every Wednesday, 9AM to Noon. Help care for gardens, trails, and farmland. Visit www.blackacreconservancy.org

Apr 6 (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>

Apr 6 (Wed) **CITIZENSHIP TUTOR**s. 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.

Apr 6 (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.

Apr 7 (Thurs) **ISLAM AND DEMOCRACY IN INDONESIA**. UofL Center for Asian Democracy. Hear Jeremy Menchik of Boston University discusses “tolerance without liberalism” in the culture and politics of Indonesia. Visit www.cranehouse.org

Apr 7 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE**. Every first & third Thursday, 5:30PM at Main Public Library (in the mezzanine) at 4th and York St. Call Kay Tillow 502-636-1551 or email NurseNPO@aol.com

Apr 10 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE**. 4PM to 5PM, every second Sunday. A remembrance of all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. Sponsored by LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community) and Veterans for Peace Chapter 168. For more information, call Harold Trainer at 502-387-9490.

Apr 10 (Sun) **WATER IN THE WORLD’S RELIGIONS**. Interfaith Paths to Peace at Bellarmine, 3PM. Witness how water permeates and flows throughout our rituals and spiritual practices. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Apr 12 (Tues) **FREE HOME ENERGY EFFICIENCY SEMINAR**. Energy Pros Sustainable Home Education Group, 6:30PM to 8:30PM. Learn the basics. Visit www.theenergypros.net

Apr 12 (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.

Apr 12 (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

Apr 13 (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.

Apr 13 (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

Apr 15 (Fri) **REACHING BEHIND AND BEYOND THE BARS**. Catholic Charities of Louisville. Learn what you can do for offender re-entry in Kentucky. Visit <http://cclou.org>

Apr 16 (Sat) **WATER FEST**. Crane House, 11am. Explore the meaning of water in Asian cultures. Sumi painting, a Kamishibai story, Ganges River history, and the flora and fauna of Korea. Visit www.cranehouse.org

Apr 16 to 24 **METRO LOUISVILLE WEEK OF SERVICE**. Contribute an hour or a day. Donate blood, give food or clothing or help a neighbor or join a group project or help organize a project. Visit <http://www.mygiveaday.com>

Apr 17 (Sun) **ANNUAL COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARDS**. The Yearlings Club. Meet community leaders who help improve our quality of life. For more information, call 852-3042.

Apr 19 to 20 **PREJUDICE REDUCTION WORKSHOP**. Peace Education Program, 8:30AM to 4PM. Learn how to welcome similarities and differences, examine the misinformation, identifying the harmful effects, prevent bigoted remarks and behaviors, and become an ally to all group. Call 589-6583 to register. Learning how to be an ally to all groups

Apr 20 (Wed) **EARTH DAY WORKSHOP**. UofL Garden Commons, 2PM. Hands-on practice in organic gardening. Visit <http://louisville.edu/sustainability>

Apr 21 (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

Apr 21 (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

Apr 21 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH**. Lunch at 11:30 am, speaker at 12:00 noon. Co-sponsored the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Interfaith Paths to Peace, at “Vis a Vis” Bar and Grill, 1164 S. Third St., at the corner of 3rd and Oak St. Hear Rev. Rebecca Barnes speak about the 2015 Paris Climate Change Conference (COP21). **RSVP to Cathy Ford at 502/458-1223 or fordhoff@bellsouth.net, or to Cindy Humbert at interfaithpaths@gmail.com**

Apr 21 (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>

Apr 21 (Thurs) **FORsooth LABELING**. 6:30 PM. Every 3rd Thursday. Presbyterian Seminary, Winn Center, 1044 Alta Vista Rd. 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.

Apr 22 (Fri) **GUNS, GREED AND THE NRA**. Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church, 7:30PM. A documentary featuring the personal stories of people across the country affected by gun violence. Visit <http://tjuc.org>

Apr 26 (Tues) **FREE NONPROFIT STARTUP CLINC**. Center for Nonprofit Excellence, 3:30PM. Learn the fundamentals and how to avoid the pitfalls. Visit www.cnpe.org

Apr 27 (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>

Apr 28 (Thu) **DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE JUNE ISSUE OF FORSOOTH**. (Every fourth Thursday) Send articles to russgreenleaf@yahoo.com or call 502-264-2437.

Apr 28 to May 1 **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>

Apr 30 (Sat) **ZONES OF HOPE**. Roots and Wings at the Shawnee Arts and Culture Center, 11AM. Art, poetry, dance, music and theatrical performances on restoration of self and community. Visit <http://www.rootsandwingsart.org>

OUT OF TOWN

Apr 2 to 23 **NATURE CONSERVANCY OF KENTUCKY**. Lexington, KY. Join our Rain Barrel Workshop, geology hike at Wallace Nature Preserve, Earth Day Workshop or wildflower hike at Hickman Nature Preserve. Visit www.nature.org/Kentucky

Apr 4 (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 859-258-8324.

Apr 5 to 26 **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

Apr 7 (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.

Apr 12 to May 26 **A SEAT AT THE TABLE**. Kentuckians For The Commonwealth at Lexington, Bowling Green, Hindman, Covington, Louisville and Paducah. Community conversations over dinner about how we can work together to plan and build a clean energy economy in our commonwealth. Visit www.kftc.org

Apr 28 (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

PEACEMAKING EVENTS AT THE LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES. Visit www.lfpl.org for more information.

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

Apr 2 (Sat) **TEATRO LLAMDA**. Bon Air Public Library, 10PM. Celebrate El Dia De Los Ninos by enjoying a bilingual performance of the classic picture book Henny Penny

Apr 5 (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.

Apr 8 (Fri) **AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHIVES TOUR**. Western Public Library, 10:30AM. Peruse the great books in our collection. Watch a short documentary.

Apr 9 (Sat) **ANIME AND JAPANESE CULTURE CLUB**. Shively Public Library, 1:30pm. Re-discover Japanese culture through Anime animation. Also, Southwest Public Library and Main Public Library on Monday and Thursday.

Apr 16 (Sat) **CULTURAL SHOWCASE: BHUTAN**. Iroquois Public Library, 1PM. Meet your neighbors who originated from Bhutan. Hear more about their history, customs, and language.

Apr 19 (Tues) **FUNDRAISING FOR NON-PROFITS**. Main Public Library, 6PM to 8PM. Identify sources and practice writing better grant proposals.

Apr 30 (Sat) **LA CELEBRACION**. Iroquois Public Library, 2PM. Join our celebration of El Dia de Los Ninos with stories, music, and crafts.