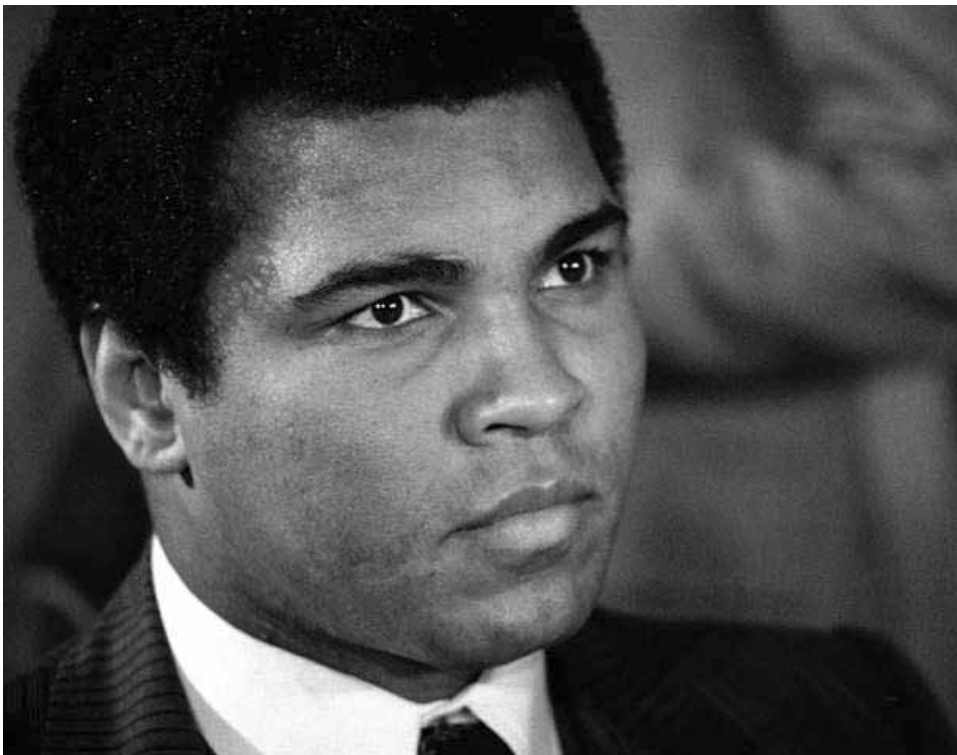


Founded 1915



Thank you, Muhammad Ali



Muhammad Ali

Photo source: guideposts.org

By Mayor Greg Fischer

The great Muhammad Ali passed from this earth on Friday June 3, 2016. On Saturday morning at 10:00 am I spoke at a ceremony

in which flags at City Hall and Metro Hall and all city government buildings were lowered to half-staff and remained at half-staff until he was laid to rest. Thank you, Muhammad, for all you've given your city,

your country, and the world. This is what I said at the ceremony:

Muhammad Ali's fellow Louisvillians join the billions whose lives he touched worldwide in mourning his passing, celebrating his legacy, and committing to continue his fight to spread love and hope.

Muhammad Ali lived a life so big and bold, it's hard to believe that any one man could do everything he did, could be all the things that he became in the course of just one lifetime.

On Friday June 3, 2016, his man, this champion, ended his 74 years as A United Nations Messenger of Peace, a humanitarian and champion athlete who earned Amnesty International's Lifetime Achievement Award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and Sports Illustrated Sportsman of the Century.

He was co-founder, with his beloved wife Lonnie, of the Muhammad Ali Center, which promotes respect, hope, and understanding here in his hometown of Louisville, and around the world.

A man of action and principle, he was a conscientious objector to the Vietnam War, and willingly paid the price, taking a stand that forced him out of the ring for over three years during the prime of his career.

A devout Muslim and interfaith pioneer,

he took the name Muhammad Ali in 1964 and advocated for understanding and peace among people of different faiths.

He was, of course, three-time heavyweight champion of the world—a young, handsome fighter with swagger like the world had never seen. He intimidated opponents outside the ring and dominated them inside it.

Like when he predicted he would beat Sonny Liston in 1964, made it happen, and shouted, "I shook up the world."

He was winner of the Olympic Gold Medal in Rome, 1960.

(continued on page 2)



Mayor Greg Fischer

I will always love Muhammad Ali

By Gracie Lewis



Gracie Lewis

On Friday June 3, 2016 the world lost a truly remarkable man. Muhammad Ali (known as Cassius Marcellus Clay in his youth) continually stunned the sports world with his prowess and entertained the world with his tongue-in-cheek poetry.

Muhammad Ali became the first fighter to win the heavyweight champion title three times and was recognized the "Greatest of all times."

In 1960, Cassius Clay, born in Louisville, won his first professional fight at the Summer Olympics in Rome with a 5-0 decision over Poland's Zbigniew Pietrzykowski. Upon returning to his native home, he was refused service by a white waitress at a "whites-only" restaurant, and

following a fight with a white gang, he threw his gold medal into the Ohio River.

Clay lived during the era of "Jim Crow" racial segregation. In Louisville, most restaurants, department stores, and other white-owned establishments (outside African American communities) either excluded African Americans altogether or treated them differently than other customers—for example, denying them the opportunity to try on clothes, to sit at lunch counters, or to enter movie theatres. As late as 1950, White Castle restaurant served black people only through an outside takeout window. It wasn't until May 14, 1963 that an enforceable public accommodations ordinance passed, as a direct result of Louisville's sit-in demonstrations, voter registration drives, and a "Nothing New for Easter" boycott campaign directed at retail stores.

Muhammad Ali had lived under these conditions and witnessed in other areas of the country Negroes being kicked by white people, crosses burned, ministers beaten, churches bombed, children threatened. He knew our history.

On April 28, 1967, Ali refused induction into the United States Army due to his religious convictions. In early 1964, he joined the Nation of Islam and had, as he called it, "his slave name changed" to Muhammad Ali.

He angered many Americans when he stated that, "I will not put on a uniform

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Thank you, Muhammad Ali *(continued from page 1)*

A graduate of Louisville’s Central High School, class of 1960.

He was a 12-year-old boy whose red bicycle was stolen in front of a gym on Fourth Street, who told police officer Joe Martin that he wanted to “whup” whoever took it. And Martin said that he’d better learn to box first.

Muhammad Ali was a boy who grew up at 3302 Grand Avenue. He liked to eat hot dogs and play Clue with his brother in a house that’s now a museum.

And before that, he was a newborn baby, Cassius Marcellus Clay Jr., born January 17, 1942 to Cassius Sr. and Odessa Grady Clay.

Imagine that day, that little boy, eyes wide open looking around the room at the old Louisville General Hospital. Not knowing the life that awaited him. The life he would make. The world he would shake up. The people he would inspire.

And like you, I am absolutely one of those people.

Muhammad Ali belongs to the world, but he only has one hometown. The Louisville Lip spoke to everyone, but we heard him in a way no one else could—as our brother, our uncle, and our inspiration.

And I am so grateful I had the chance to know him and see how he leveraged his fame to share his message of love, peace and compassion.

What The Champ would want us to do right now is to spread that same message, follow his example, and live by the same six core principles that he lived by: Confidence, Conviction, Dedication, Giving, Respect, and Spirituality.

I’d like to close with Muhammad’s words, which carried just as much grace and power as his fists ever did. This comes from his book *The Soul of a Butterfly: Reflections on Life’s Journey*.

“It doesn’t matter whether you’re a Muslim, a Christian, or a Jew. When you believe in God, you should believe that all people are part of one family. If you love God,

you can’t love only some of God’s children.”

He believed passionately in the need for us all to keep our eyes, our minds and our hearts open so we can keep learning from each other. As he says, “My soul has grown over the years, and some of my views have changed. As long as I’m alive, I will continue to try to understand more because the work of the heart is never done.”

We all remember the incredible moment in 1996 when Muhammad held that burning torch in his trembling hand and lit the Olympic flame in Atlanta.

And now, he has passed his torch to us.

While there can only be one Muhammad Ali, his journey from Grand Avenue to global icon serves as a reminder that there are young people with the potential for greatness in houses and neighborhoods all over our city, our nation and our world.

There is no limit to what our kids can do if we help them realize their full human potential - and there is no excuse for us to do anything less than our best to help them

find that greatness in themselves.

That’s how we can be champions. Muhammad Ali has shown us the way.

Today, we, his fellow Louisvillians, join the billions whose lives he touched worldwide in mourning his passing, celebrating his legacy, and saying, “Thank you Muhammad, for everything you’ve given to your hometown, your country, and the world.”

Thank you.

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 Economics 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. You can contact him at louisvilleky.gov/government/mayor-greg-fischer

I will always love Muhammad Ali *(continued from page 1)*

and go 10,000 miles from home and drop bombs and bullets on brown people in Vietnam while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs and denied simple human rights.”

He went on to say, “No, I’m not going 10,000 miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation simply to continue the domination of white slave masters of the darker people.” He continued, “I have been warned that to take such a stand would cost me millions of dollars.”

On June 30, 1967, Ali was convicted of draft evasion and sentenced to five years in prison and a \$10,000 fine for taking this moral stand. He did lose millions of dollars

of income. But he remained free while this decision was appealed. He lost his title and livelihood, but this didn’t stop him. He was able to give lectures at colleges and universities, and others pitched in to help him.

In the meantime, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. spoke out against the Vietnam War in a speech entitled, “A Time to Break the Silence.” It was delivered to a meeting of clergy at the Riverside Church in New York City on April 4, 1967. He had expressed his opposition to the war, and exactly one year later on April 4, 1968, Dr. King was assassinated.

On June 28, 1971, the United States Supreme Court in an 8-0 decision struck down Muhammad Ali’s conviction of draft

evasion, citing a prosecution error. He was finally free to resume his boxing career.

But it took him three years and a 12-round decision over Joe Frazier before he got another shot at the title.

Ali got another shot at the title, then held by George Foreman. The match would be held in Kinshasa, Zaire. It was promoted as “The Rumble in the Jungle.”

I remember this fight like yesterday. I was living in Washington, D.C. in 1974 when Ali made history in the Rumble in the Jungle.

The fight was held at 4 o’clock in the morning to accommodate closed-circuit television in the United States. You could hear the 60,000 or so people

cheering Muhammad on with the chant “Ali bomaye!”

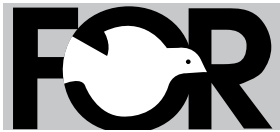
Despite the naysayers, and despite the odds against him, Muhammad Ali won the fight!

Ali’s love for people around the world and his immense courage and conviction are why I will always love him. His spirit will never die. It will live on in eternity.

Gracie Lewis is a longtime activist for social and racial justice. She works with the Kentucky Alliance against Racist and Political Repression. Contact Gracie at louisvillepeace.org/kentucky-alliance

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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

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Muhammad Ali in his own words

Boxing is a lot of white men watching two black men beat each other up.
— Muhammad Ali

By Russ Greenleaf

Professional boxing is a barbaric sport. Cruel. Brutal. Boxing is the opposite of everything the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) stands for, which is peace, nonviolence, and reconciliation. So why is the FOR

newspaper celebrating a professional boxer? Because Muhammad Ali was so much more than a boxer. He was a young Black man who (as often happened) saw participation in a brutal sport as a rare pathway to escape the limitations that a racially segregated society placed on him. A rare

pathway to achieve success and fame. And when he achieved that success and fame, he immediately became something more. He used that success and fame to launch his career as saint, a messiah, a prophet of truth and justice. Like the prophets in the Bible. He spoke truth to power. He inspired an oppressed people to rise up and feel the spirit of God in them. Inspired them to believe that God cherishes them and wants them to be free. And he helped

lead them to freedom. He inspired them to believe that they are beautiful and great, and that God intends them to live with pride and dignity. Muhammad Ali showed people how to be proud and beautiful and great. And good. He showed everyone. I believe this man was a saint. Of the highest level. (Many of us may not have realized it.) That is why we celebrate Muhammad Ali in this newspaper.
— Russ Greenleaf

Civil Rights Hero



At Muhammad Ali’s memorial service, Reverend Kevin Cosby said that for 400 years everything in American culture had told African Americans that they were nobody. Of no value. Worthless. He said Muhammad Ali was the first Black public figure in the 1960’s to so totally embody the spirit that African Americans can be somebody. Ali was a self-assured incarnation of the spirit of the civil rights movement, in the flesh. Before James Brown said “I’m Black and I’m proud,” Muhammad Ali said, “I’m Black and I’m pretty,” and, “I am the greatest!” He embodied that pride for all to see, inspiring and empowering his people to be proud and to believe in their God-given, inherent, undeniable greatness. After defeating Sonny Liston, when the eyes of the world were on him, Muhammad Ali articulated that pride for all the world to hear, when he said:

Almighty God was with me. I want everyone to bear witness, I am the greatest! I'm the greatest thing that ever lived. I don't have a mark on my face, and I upset Sonny Liston, and I just turned twenty-two years old. I must be the greatest. I showed the world. I talk to God everyday. I know the real God. I shook up the world! I shook up the world! — Muhammad Ali

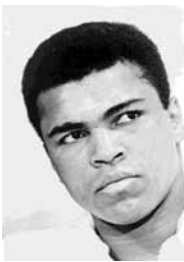
When a white reporter asked him why he had disappointed people by converting to Islam and refusing to be drafted into the US Army, he proudly said:

I believe in Allah and in peace... I know where I'm going and I know the truth, and I don't have to be what you want me to be.... I'm free to be what I want. — Muhammad Ali

I am America. I am the part you won't recognize. But get used to me. Black, confident, cocky. My name, not yours. My religion, not yours. My goals, my own. Get used to me.
— Muhammad Ali

I'm gonna fight for the prestige, not for me, but to uplift my little brothers who are sleeping on concrete floors today in America. Black people who are living on welfare, Black people who can't eat, Black people who don't know no knowledge of themselves, Black people who don't have no future. I know I got it made while the masses of Black people are catchin' hell, but as long as they ain't free, I ain't free.
— Muhammad Ali

Eloquent anti-war activist



Muhammad Ali was one of the first to speak out against the Vietnam War. He sacrificed his boxing career to take a moral stand against that immoral war. He was prosecuted for draft evasion, was barred from the boxing ring, and risked prison. His refusal to be drafted into the army gave countless young men the courage to refuse and helped fuel the Vietnam war protests that ultimately brought the war to an end.

When a white reporter condemned him for not fighting in the Vietnam War, he said:

I'm not gonna help nobody get something my negroes don't have. If I'm gonna die, I'll die now right here fighting you. If I'm gonna die. You my enemy. My enemies are white people, not Viet Cong, or Chinese, or Japanese. You my opposer when I want freedom. You my opposer when I want justice. You my opposer when I want equality. You won't even stand up for me in America for my religious beliefs, and you want me to go somewhere and fight, but you won't even stand up for me here at home. — Muhammad Ali

My conscience won't let me go shoot my brother, or some darker people, or some poor hungry people in the mud for big powerful America. And shoot them for what? They never called me nigger, they never lynched me, they didn't put no dogs on me, they didn't rob me of my nationality, rape and kill my mother and father.... Shoot them for what? How can I shoot them poor people? Just take me to jail. — Muhammad Ali

Why should they ask me to put on a uniform and go 10,000 miles from home and drop bombs and bullets on Brown people in Vietnam while so-called Negro people in Louisville are treated like dogs and denied simple human rights? No I’m not going 10,000 miles from home to help murder and burn another poor nation simply to continue the domination of white slave-masters of the darker people the world over. This is the day when such evils must come to an end. I have been warned that to take such a stand would cost me millions of dollars. But I have said it once and I will say it again. The real enemy of my people is here. I will not disgrace my religion, my people or myself by becoming a tool to enslave those who are fighting for their own justice, freedom and equality.... If I thought the war was going to bring freedom and equality to 22 million of my people they wouldn’t have to draft me, I’d join tomorrow. I have nothing to lose by standing up for my beliefs. So I’ll go to jail, so what? We’ve been in jail for 400 years.
— Muhammad Ali

Saint

His response to the question: What would you like people to think about you when you’ve gone:

I'd like for them to say: He took a few cups of love, he took a tablespoon of patience, one teaspoon of generosity, one pint of kindness. He took one quart of laughter, one pinch of concern, and then, he mixed willingness with happiness, he added lots of faith, and he stirred it up well, then he spread it over his span of a lifetime, and he served it to each and every deserving person he met. — Muhammad Ali

Said of him at his funeral by those who knew him:

"The rich and powerful were drawn to him, but he was drawn to the poor and forgotten."

Rivers, lakes, ponds, streams, oceans all have different names, but they all contain water. So do religions have different names, and they all contain truth, expressed in different ways, forms and times. It doesn't matter whether you're a Muslim, a Christian, or a Jew. When you believe in God, you should believe that all people are part of one family. If you love God, you can't love only some of God's children. — Muhammad Ali

Some things cannot be taught, but they can be awakened in the heart. Spirituality is recognizing the divine light that is within us all. It doesn't belong to any particular religion; it belongs to everyone. — Muhammad Ali

The Irrefutable Case for Reparations for Slavery (part 2)

By Michael Tee

This is Part Two of a three-part article. The author was a member of the original Black Panther Party, Philadelphia Chapter. He recently moved to Louisville.

One of the biggest fears of the colonial slave owners was collaboration between the indentured servants and slaves to rebel against their oppression. It should be noted here that many Africans were initially categorized as indentured servants.

In 1676, in Jamestown, Virginia, 300 Englishmen and Africans, led by Francis Bacon, joined forces and burned the city, forcing the governor to flee.

Many of the whites, who had formerly been indentured, were disgruntled about being overlooked when huge land grants were given out around Jamestown to already-big landowners. Having no choice but to venture out into the frontier, i.e. more Aboriginal-occupied territory, they rightly felt that they were being used by the colonial elites as a buffer between them and hostile natives.

In the early years of enslavement, European and African slaves and servants regularly ran away or rebelled together. Beginning with Bacon's Rebellion, there were over 18 documented uprisings against colonial governments. Laws were passed, with ruthless enforcement, to prevent this expression of multicultural unity, disproving the often cited notion that there was a natural antipathy between oppressed Africans and Europeans.

According to Howard Zinn, there was also the ever-powerful, cross-color sexual attraction. "In 1743, a grand jury in Charleston, South Carolina complained about the 'too common practice of criminal conversation with Negro and other slave wenches in this province.'" (Zinn, "Peoples History," Pg. 57)

Moreover, enslaved Europeans and



The original Black Panther Party distributing free breakfast to children (circa 1970).

Photo source: The African American Intellectual History Society (AAIHS) aaihs.org

Africans were producing many "mixed" offspring, despite laws prohibiting miscegenation in Virginia, Massachusetts, Maryland, Delaware, Pennsylvania, the Carolinas, and Georgia.

Betty Wood explains, "From the planter standpoint, there had always been one serious problem associated with indentured servitude. This system of labor did not provide them with a permanent workforce. Those who survived their term of indenture, and who had the prospect of land ownership, had absolutely no incentive to reenter the labor market as hired hands. They might even go on to compete with their former masters in the labor market. Even if they didn't, the time their masters spent training them would have to be spent all over again on their replacements." ((Betty Wood, "The Origins of American Slavery; Freedom and Bondage in the English Colonies," Pg. 84))

Thus, the slave-owning class initiated

a carefully calculated system to maintain slavery while maximizing their profits by gradually abolishing European indentured servitude and enlisting their support in enforcing "lifetime, hereditary enslavement" for Africans. In conjunction with this, they formulated the specious concept of a separate, superior, "white race" as a way to forge cross-class unity of Europeans in the colonies.

Theodore Allen writes that the slave-owning ruling class made a special effort to make sure white supremacy was systematically propagandized. In the 1705 Act Concerning Servants and Slaves, and in the 1723 Act Directing the Trial of Slaves, it was mandated that parish clerks and churchwardens should regularly read these laws to their congregants. They were also to be posted on the doors of the courthouses. All people of European descent, (who were formerly designated,

primarily, by their nation of origin), whether they were property owners, property-less, self-employed, tenants, or laborers were now "white" and, supposedly, part of the dominant class.

Allen continues, "The denial of the right of self-defense would become a factor in the creation of a novel form of white male supremacy, informed by the principle that any European American male could assume 'familiarity' with any African American woman. That principle came to be sanctioned by law."

Allen cites a 1767 Maryland Provincial Court decision that stipulated that, "no slave had recourse against the violator of his bed," and he quotes a prominent person of the time who said that, "the law simply does not criminalize the rape of slave." The heinous laws and heinous acts committed under the rules of slavery caused Frederick Douglas in 1852 to publicly state, "What to the American slave is your Fourth of July? To him your celebration is a sham; your boasted liberty, an unholy license; your national greatness, swelling vanity; your sounds of rejoicing are empty and heartless; your denunciation of tyrants, brass-fronted impudence; your shouts of liberty and equality, hollow mockery.... There is not a nation on Earth guilty of practices more shocking and bloody than are the people of these United States, at this very hour."

Part Three of this article will appear in the September issue of FORsooth.

Michael Tee is a writer and community activist who recently moved to Louisville, Kentucky. He is a former member of the original Black Panther Party, Philadelphia Chapter, and he is former Co-chair of the Delaware Chapter of the Rainbow Coalition. He is starting to get involved in the Louisville progressive community and wants to connect with fellow activists here. Contact him at soldieroflove.kennard@gmail.com

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Break free from fossil fuels

By Drew Foley

At 7:15 am on a clear, crisp Sunday morning, May 15, 2016, ten climate change activists from Louisville set off north on I-65. The destination: Whiting, Indiana, a suburb of Chicago. The event: "Break Free – Midwest," a rally to demonstrate commitment to breaking free from civilization's addiction to fossil fuels.

To burn as little fossil fuel as possible, we were all traveling in one 12-passenger rental van. Critics have often noted the hypocrisy of burning fossil fuels in order to break free from them, and that is a valid argument. So we spent more money than necessary to assuage our guilt.

In northern Indiana, we passed through vast fields of giant windmills, but our "hurrahs" for this "breaking free" technology were tempered by another hypocrisy: as Earth-lovers, would we want to live in the shadow of these man-made behemoths?

Upon entering Whiting, we were simultaneously awed and depressed by the even vaster scale of the industrial scene. Every square inch of land seemed to be altered and dirtied for the sake of human desires. We drove past the seemingly endless maze of pipelines, smokestacks and flares that is the BP Whiting Refinery—BP's largest refinery, the 6th largest in the U.S., and the largest tar sands refinery in the U.S.



Environmentalists protest at the BP Whiting Refinery in Whiting, Indiana (near Chicago) on May 15, 2016

Photo source: "Break Free from Fossil Fuels Midwest" facebook page

The sense of foreboding brought on by the refinery was erased a moment later when we arrived at the scene of the rally, Whiting Lakefront Park, on the southwest shore of Lake Michigan. Deep blue sky, azure lake, bright sun, a view to the horizon for 180 degrees, and all of it chilled by blustery, winds off the lake. It was cold!

Being sheltered from the wind by the immaculate park facilities, we sat in lush green grass for the rally, listening to a truly

diverse group of local grassroots speakers (see the list below). Almost all the speakers were from the upper Midwest. Especially moving were the stories of those living in the shadow of the BP refinery. The indefatigable Bill McKibben of 350.org depressed us with climate statistics but then inspired us with an accounting of recent victories by the climate movement. (350.org was the primary organizer of the world-wide series of Break Free actions between May 5 and May 15.)

At 2:30 pm, some 1,000 folks set off on a 2-mile march to the main gate of the refinery. The police had closed the route to traffic for us. The crowd was in high spirits with wonderfully creative signage in almost every hand, strong chants, and mesmerizing drumbeats. Upon arrival at a designated location at about 4:00 pm, 43 brave people sat down in a circle in front of the refinery entrance and went through a series of dignified rituals demonstrating their purpose and commitment.

After about an hour, police arrested them one by one and loaded them into paddy wagons. Our "Louisville 10" were honored to bear witness to most of this action before making the long, lonely walk back to the park.

During the 5-hour ride back home we enjoyed one another's joking and singing. Despite all the damage that cars do to Earth, and that car culture does to human culture, riding together in a single vehicle elicits fascinating stories and builds strong community—yet one more paradox.

We arrived back at our intimate little Schnitzelberg destination at 1:00 am, shared hugs all around, and dispersed into the night looking forward to the next opportunity to act together on behalf of Mother Earth.

(continued on page 5)

Break free *(continued from page 4)*

See action videos and photos of the event at midwest.breakfree2016.org

The Louisville 10 were: Sam Avery, Connie Back, Virginia Bush, Jean Christensen, Drew Foley, Claudia Hanes (from Bowling Green), Mark Steiner, Rhody Streeter, Lissa Van Houten, and Amy Waters.

Rally speakers were: (1) Naomi Davis, “Blacks in Green” President & Founder; (2) Bryant Williams, “Rebuilding Exchange” Senior Director and Southeast Environmental Task Force President; (3) Malik Yusef, five-time Grammy Award winner, Hip Hop Caucus, and People’s Climate Music Director of Arts and Culture; (4) Bill McKibben, 350.org Co-founder; (5)

Tara Houska, “Honor the Earth” National Campaigns Director and Native American Adviser to Bernie Sanders; (6) Jean Ross, National Nurses United Co-president; (7) Mark Burrows, Railroad Workers United; (8) Valerie Jean, Michigan Coalition Against Tar Sands; (9) Lorrell Kilpatrick, Black Lives Matter, Gary Indiana; (10) Olga Bautista, Southeast Side Coalition to Ban Petcoke; (11) Claire McClinton, Flint Democracy Defense League.

Drew Foley is a leader of 350 Louisville, Co-chair of the Greater Louisville Sierra Club and is passionate about the sacredness of earth. You can reach him at bdrewf@yahoo.com



Drew Foley

Editors needed
FORsooth needs talented editors
If you have excellent English skills
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Please contact: russgreenleaf@yahoo.com

We extend our deepest sympathy to the LGBTQIA community of Orlando and to the entire Orlando community.

Please take action against gun violence today by going to the website

“Moms Demand Action”
momsdemandaction.org

Poem from a FORsooth reader:

Michelle
By Corrine McCann

Her name is Michelle—alias Michael
Velvet black luxurious hair

Red manicured nails
Chipped now on graceful hands

Soft spoken shy gentle smile

Fair countenance
Bruised black and blue
Assaulted upon arrival

Undocumented immigrant
Solitary confined
In protective prison cell

Michelle betrayed in so many ways
Trapped in a man’s body
Longing for acceptance

Disowned by family former friends

She looks at me
Long lashed brown eyes pleading

Will you accept me as I am?

Gun-violence activists protest NRA convention in Louisville

By Pat Geier and Greg Tichenor

Zealous NRA (National Rifle Association) members held their 2016 annual convention in Louisville on May 21. This spurred into action hundreds of engaged Louisville citizens seeking an alternative to the gun-crazed culture that has plagued American cities in recent years.

In spite of Donald Trump, who was the NRA’s keynote speaker, and in spite of the NRA’s billboard advertisement of “11 acres of guns and gear” at the Kentucky Fairgrounds, Louisvillians showed up on the streets, in churches, and at civic events to protest and to give witness to the dream that a new way is possible. Participants included both gun owners and people opposed to gun ownership. As Sowers of Justice intern Shameka Parrish-Wright kept reminding us, “We all meet at gun safety.”

Mike Martin, a blacksmith with RAWtools Inc., set up shop on the Waterfront throughout the week and hammered donated guns into garden tools—a symbol for generating imagination as we seek solutions to the spiral of violence facing our communities. RAWtools, Inc. gets its scriptural motivation from Isaiah 2:4 and Micah 4:3. Martin said, “It’s not enough to just make a lot of tools from guns. We need to help teach each other new ways to solve our problems through relationship, restorative justice practices, and victim-offender dialogue.”

Early on Saturday May 21, the Sowers of Justice Network led a prayerful march from Christ Church Cathedral to Spalding University to watch the newly released film, “Under the Gun,” produced by Katie Couric. “Moms Demand Action,” a four-year-old, now-national organization of dedicated women (and men) hosted the film, followed by a panel discussion with gun-violence victims who were featured in the film. Moms Demand Action has initiated a chapter in every state and is among the most active and effective of the gun-control



Gun-violence activists protest the NRA convention being held in Louisville on Saturday May 21, 2016.

organizations. They were instrumental in defeating 64 bad gun laws in 2015.

“Hands across Louisville” brought people together in the West End, calling for solutions to the root causes of gun violence, namely economic inequality, lack of decent jobs, underfunded schools, and environmental degradation in our most vulnerable neighborhoods.

Members and Co-members of the Catholic Sisters of Loretto, including Mary Swain, Pauline Albin, Pat Geier, and Julie Popham, gathered near the former Loretto Academy in the West End to show solidarity with gun victims and enjoy the African-American Heritage Festival that was also taking place.

The Presbyterian Church USA had an outdoor revival at their headquarters in downtown Louisville with 60 or 70 folks who joined in heartfelt praying, singing, and witnessing. The Presbyterian Church USA has been a powerful ally in the fight for gun control.

The day ended with a gathering of about 200 people who joined with Buddhist monks from the Drepung Gomang Monastery and with participants from the Festival

of Faiths in a powerful, silent walk to the waterfront where the monks released into the Ohio River a sand painting painstakingly created earlier in the week. The rest of us formed an “enso” (a Zen Buddhist circle symbolizing enlightenment and strength) around the children of the River City Drum Corps, who beat their drums, danced, and sounded the hopes and prayers of all of us who yearn for a nation where swords really will be turned into ploughshares and guns into useful implements, not for death, but for the necessities of life.

On Sunday May 22, Louisville Showing Up for Racial Justice (LSURJ) rallied about 50 people to symbolically sweep the streets of the lingering hate-filled rhetoric left behind after the NRA annual convention. The street-sweeping event was called “March toward the Other America.” Teen leaders played key roles in the event.

Participants made signs to attach to their brooms with messages to counteract the creation of ‘other’ in our society and to challenge the narrative of privilege being presented as the immovable status quo in America. Activists were given an opportunity to add their thoughts to a banner,

titled “The Other America.” on which they shared their ideas about what a better future might entail.

The crowd then walked from the YUM center through downtown Louisville chanting “Black Lives Matter” and engaging pedestrians in conversations about racial justice and how it has been a topic neglected by the NRA and many of its guests during its convention in Louisville.

Pat Geier is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and has been in private practice in Louisville since 1986. She is Co-chair of the Louisville Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and serves on the board of the Sowers of Justice Network. Pat is an anti-war activist and a longtime advocate for human rights and justice in Latin America and Palestine. You can reach her at pgeier@fastmail.fm

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



Pat Geier



Greg Tichenor

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Third Thursday Lunch: Climate Change and Environmental Justice

By Rebecca Barnes

This is a summary of a talk I gave at the Third Thursday Lunch on April 21, 2016 sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Interfaith Paths to Peace.



Reverend Rebecca Barnes

International peacemaking, reconciliation, and social and racial justice are inextricably linked to the struggle for environmental justice.

Last December, I was privileged to attend the United Nations’ Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 21 (Conference of the Parties) in Paris, France. It was an amazing, fascinating gathering

of all the world’s governments along with thousands of observers, activists, and indigenous leaders. From serious, solemn negotiations to music, performance, and artwork by a variety of grassroots voices, the overlapping circles of accredited parties, observers, and activists made the negotiations a potent, exciting time.

While the Paris Climate Change Agreement was not as ambitious as many of us hoped, it was a final agreement signed by all parties, which in itself was no small feat.

The Paris Agreement affirmed that we should collectively strive to keep the global temperature rise to “well under” 2 degrees above what it was in the pre-industrial period. (Capping temperature rise to only 1.5 degrees is actually what the world needs to keep island nations from being flooded and to prevent the worst disasters occurring.)

The Paris Agreement is a good start, but it won’t go as far as the world needs, even if all countries make good on their pledges. For this historic agreement to have any legs, we must continue to push our own government and the UN toward stronger standards.

We should push for transition from fossil fuel extraction to a reduced-carbon economy, to finally a carbon-free economy.

As we seek to bring to life the elements of climate justice present in the Paris Agreement, and as we seek sustainability here in Louisville, we must constantly ask ourselves: when we do work that is good for the earth, is it also good for all people? Who

are the leaders of the work at hand? Who is making decisions? Who benefits most from the proposed plan? Who suffers the most? Who has the financial responsibility to contribute toward solutions? How are local, impacted communities listened to and sought out for input?

Those who live in privilege must remain vigilant to hearing and uncovering the justice questions. Otherwise we might reinforce current positions of power and privilege, even while trying to do good.

We know that the impacts of climate change around the world predominantly fall on economically disadvantaged countries, on communities living on the edges within their own countries, and on countries that are not given as much voice or power at global negotiating tables. Impacts from climate change—flooding and fires, drought and hurricanes, typhoons and mud slides—are becoming more severe, and they always hit poorer communities most heavily.

Similarly, environmental injustice impacts across the United States and within Louisville predominantly fall on already-disenfranchised or already-vulnerable communities. Populations impacted by forces of racism, classism, or other social injustices face the compounding effects of air and water pollution while having less access to healthy food and green spaces. Money made by industry located in a community does not equate to that community being lifted up by the company profits. Often the reverse is true.

As we seek to find new alternatives and figure a path forward to transition to a healthier, more environmentally friendly economy, we will need to be sure that proposed plans for climate change funding aren’t “green washed” projects that will make local economies more dependent on corporations, replace local seed sources, or otherwise infringe on truly sustainable initiatives for people and planet.

Locally we will need to be sure that we know where chemical companies, processing plants, and industries are zoned and where problems have occurred in both distant and recent past. Consider Rubbertown air quality, the coal ash pile and its impact on residents near the GE plant, the methane biodigester controversy, and MSD’s proposed projects in West Louisville.

In Louisville and around the world, by asking questions, hearing from local residents and concerned citizens, and understanding broader, historical frameworks of environmental and climate injustice, we can begin to understand how to move forward so that all our environmental projects are also projects for peace, justice, and reconciliation among human communities.

Reverend Rebecca Barnes is the Associate for Environmental Ministries for the Presbyterian Church, USA (PCUSA). She also coordinates the activities of the Eco-Justice Worship Collective, which is part of the Ecclesia Project of the Mid-Kentucky Presbyterian.

May Day

By Isaac Marion Thacker IV

Note from the Editorial Team: This article about May Day was submitted in May 2016, but it is just now being published.

“Mayday! Mayday!” Our system is sinking, and May Day may be—no, is—a symbol for the solution-system that will be our salvation. The statements “All people are equal” and “We should have socialism” are all but equivalent. (This is true despite Stalin and his probably millions of unforgiveable, certainly absolutely horrific and anti-socialist crimes.)

For obvious reasons, it is a well-kept secret in our country that May Day, the real worldwide Labor Day, had its genesis in the Gilded-Age U.S., in Chicago, in 1886. It has been an even better kept secret, but one that is now being discovered by millions of U.S. citizens, that our bourgeoisie-based system is teetering. I believe it totters ever closer to total collapse with each new near-Depression. The latest one started in the housing sector in late 2007 and is still reverberating.

But we do not have to put up with this stuff! The way to not only equitable prosperity, but peace, is socialism! May Day may have been, and in a few places may still be, the occasion for partly-military parades whose military nature was dutifully overemphasized by the Western press. But I believe the system those parades celebrated is the only way to lasting peace.

Capitalism inevitably leads to competition (or really, finance-dominated monopoly) and war. The 99 percent have always in reality wanted peace, especially once they know what war is really like: The one percent cynically dupes them into false and temporary fevered bellicosity, in their tiny-minority search for ever more profits on ever more commodities, in ever more far-flung markets.

War has always, especially since the French Revolution and its new emphasis on mass armies, been a, “Let’s you and him fight,” proposition. But “you and him”



Isaac Marion Thacker IV

have never really wanted to, and I believe that with the coming of socialism they will not have to.

Lenin got the USSR out of the mass-massacring (15 million deaths for profit) that was World War I, lickety-split, almost as soon as his Bolsheviks took power. The Spanish Republic, in a relatively small country, built (such was “radicalism!”) some 8,000 schools in far less than a decade. Stalin’s industrialization, especially east of the Urals and despite its horrible problems, was decisive in defeating Hitler—and it bears remembering that only the USSR and Mexico had supported the Spanish Republic against Hitler, Mussolini, and Franco. Mao’s soldiers, when they won an area militarily, cultivated crops and peasant minds and built schools and hospitals. Chiang’s soldiers (the anti-Socialist opposition to Mao) raped and plundered like soldiers from time immemorial.

Under the Bolsheviks, the original goal was for all of their hundreds of races and nationalities to be totally free and equal. (Unfortunately, Stalin was put in charge of that.) There was amazing cultural freedom and a resultant full, fantastic artistic flowering in the USSR in the years immediately after 1917. Stalin signed the infamous Hitler-Stalin pact only after begging the West to join him in standing up to Hitler and reluctantly despairing that it ever would.

Cuba, since January 1, 1959, has been totally transformed from a basket-case, impoverished dictatorship into a veritable model for the Third World (and all of us), with, among many other things, free health care and education and virtual total literacy.

China has a thriving space program only 67 years, this October 1, after she was an aimlessly warlord-torn, flailing anachronism for whom even a modicum of modernization meant bewildered cognitive dissonance. Now, China leads the world in manufacturing and has the second-largest overall economy on the planet! And she spends three times our total Energy-Department budget, or \$75 billion/year, on alternatives to fossil fuels. Her development aid to other, mostly “developing,” countries, exceeds even that of the World Bank.

European countries, with their social-welfare states led by the Scandinavian example, hardly knew homelessness or mass destitution—until Thatcher and Reagan and their political descendants.

Meanwhile, in our part of the “free” world where our “liberty” is “safe,” the National Security Agency (NSA) tracked

virtually every post-9/11 phone call made, for years!

I believe Socialism is the way to peace and plenty for the 99 percent of us. Capitalism inevitably breeds poverty and war. The commodity-driven battles for markets and minds malleable enough to become soldiers inexorably becomes military. And millions die from ever-more-deadly weapons, even in “small” wars like the invasion of Iraq, in which by most estimates more than a million humans, not to mention the infrastructure of a country, have been killed.

But the one percent will not keep winning! There are too few of them and too many of us. We will win! Si se puede! We will win! The first verse of the Internationale ends hopefully: Arise, ye prisoners of starvation / Arise, ye wretched of the Earth / For justice thunders condemnation / A better world’s in birth.

Ike Thacker is an advocate for political, social, and especially economic democracy who often focuses on housing issues. He may be contacted at ike.thacker@gmail.com

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Don’t blame Islam for terrorism

By Ira Grupper

Note from the Editorial Team:
Ira asked us to let readers know that Ira’s original headline for this article was, “Terrorism, why it is happening, and steps to stop it by negating the lure that it is Islam.” Ira felt he should use that headline, because that was the wording of the topic that the conference organizers had given him to address in his speech, published below.

The FORsooth Editorial Team felt that the headline was too long and was somewhat confusing. So we changed it to more clearly reflect what Ira is saying in his article, and to reflect the true and ethically sound message that he and we want to convey to our readers: “Don’t blame Islam for terrorism.”



Ira Grupper

On May 1, 2016, a most interesting conference was held here in Louisville: “The Path Forward for the Muslims of Today.” It was organized by three Louisville organizations: Islamic Research Foundation International (IRFI), Islamic Cultural Association of Louisville (ICAL), Iqbal International Leadership Institute (IILI).

I, a secular Jew, was honored to have been one of a number of speakers asked to address the topic, “Terrorism, why it is happening, and steps to stop it by negating the lure that it is Islam.”

Below is the text of part of the speech. The remainder will be published in the September issue of FORsooth.

Terrorism, why it is happening, and steps to stop it by negating the lure that it is Islam. We cannot address today’s topic by simply speaking about its religious aspects. We must also address imperial conquest. All religions can join to resist militarism. Religious folk need to start fighting for the soul of their faith rather than allowing it to be hijacked.

In the absence of economic and social justice, people sometimes turn to extremism and terrorism. Both the American government and the giant trans-national corporations have consistently supported and maintained in power corrupt authoritarian kleptocracies in the Islamic world (Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, etc.), resulting in the despair that breeds religious fanaticism and terrorism. The superpower nations are framing the new military necessities as “fighting terrorism,” by which they mean Muslim terrorism. Meanwhile, those same western powers are using terror!

It is usually politics that members of Al-Qaeda are drawn to, before they are ever drawn to the religious arguments. Many of these terrorists are children of affluence in the U.S., France, Belgium, and so on.

What is it in our society that leads university students to set aside their textbooks and pick up suicide vests? It’s very often alienation, not poverty. Yet religion cannot be ignored.

I have been to the King Hussein bin Halal Mosque in Amman, Jordan, and the Dome of the Rock (Qubbat Al-Sakhra) in Jerusalem. I have visited Jewish and Christian and Buddhist holy sites in various countries. I was in Bethlehem during Christmas in 1999. Jesus was an outcast in his birthplace,

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Manger Square, which had recently become a war zone. Despite all these holy shrines, we find ourselves killing each other—over religion, economics, and more.

Hebron is the largest city in the West Bank and seems to be at the heart of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. Hebron has about 200,000 Palestinians and 500 Israeli settlers. The Ibrahimi Mosque/Cave of Machpela in Hebron is a holy place for Jews, Muslims, and Christians. Abraham and Sarah are believed to be buried where the Ibrahimi Mosque/Cave of Machpela is built.

In 1994, an IDF (Israeli Army) medical doctor went into the Ibrahimi Mosque/Cave of Machpela, opened fire, and killed 29 praying Muslims. After the massacre, the site was divided into Muslim and Jewish sections, with two separate entrances. Ten days every year the whole site is open exclusively for Jews, and ten days exclusively for Muslims.

On the other hand, Palestinian militants have targeted Israeli civilians.

I wrote a friend in NYC for help in putting my remarks together. Here’s what she wrote back:

“Every month a group of us meet outside the federal prison in lower Manhattan to discuss the war on ‘terror.’

“Hundreds of people are entrapped, given extremely long sentences in supermax prisons, and families are destroyed.

“The ‘Holy Land Five’ are Palestinian Americans sentenced to 65-year prison terms for raising humanitarian funds for a charitable foundation to help people in their homeland. The U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) allocated funds for this same foundation, and now they say it is a Hamas front.

Yet the Obama administration decided not to oppose the release of Jonathan Pollard, a Jewish American arrested in 1985 and sentenced to life in prison for spying for Israel. Presidents Bill Clinton and George W. Bush both had rejected repeated Israeli appeals for clemency.

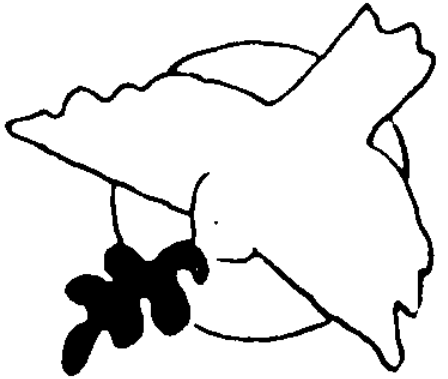
“So why did President Obama set Pollard free? Was it to appease Israel’s anger over the Iran nuclear deal? Why was Pollard treated so much more leniently than are the Holy Land Five?

“This was started by the terrorism inflicted on Muslim people all over the Middle East, and now it is being used to keep Americans frightened enough to (continue) supporting wars against Muslim people. They have been the primary victims.”

The Western notion that Islam is a lure for terror is a cover for the fact that groups like ISIS, the Taliban, and Al Qaeda were initially armed and trained by the United States. Former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton gave arms and military support to Al Qaeda to pursue U.S. interests in Yemen. The real lure is arms, money, and power from the U.S. government.

(To be continued in the September issue of FORsooth.)

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com



Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

- 15 THOUSAND FARMERS – 15th day each month, www.15thousandfarmers.com
- 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
- BLACK LIVES MATTER – Every Sunday, 3PM, 3208 W. Broadway, chelm416@gmail.com
- 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 KENTUCKY – (859-351-4508) cfaky.org
- COUNTER RECRUITMENT, “Aim Higher” – 1st Sunday, 7pm (899-4119)
- EARTHSAVE POTLUCK – 2nd Saturday, 6PM (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 (FOR) – 2nd Thursday (609-7985 or 899-4119)
- 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 – (502-636-1330) kcadp.org
- KITLAC [KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN] – (502-435-3265) 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), lwvlouisville.org
- 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) louisvilleforum.org
- 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@gmail.org

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.

July 14 (Thu) **DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF FORSOOTH.** (Early deadline this month) Send articles to russgreenleaf@yahoo.com or call 502-264-2437.

Jul 1 to Sep 23 **MUSINGS ON THE JAPANESE RURAL LANDSCAPE.** The Crane House. See the etchings of Tanaka Ryohei. A unique body of work that combined Japanese and Western influences. Visit <http://www.cranehouse.org>

Jul 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>

Jul 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

Jul 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

Jul 3 to 10 **HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES.** Immerse yourself in another community and experience first-hand the hardships associated with extreme poverty. Perform essential volunteer work. Make friends and connections. Also, four more trips. Visit <http://myhandinhand.org>

Jul 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>

Jul 6 & Aug 3 (Wed) **THE LOUISVILLE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM.** Every first Wednesday. Sustainability and relationships that create a community for change. Bring your lunch. Noon to 1:45 PM, Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, the Barn at 1924 Newburg Road.

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

Jul 8 & Aug 12 (Fri) **A GLIMPSE OF ETERNITY.** The Louisville Astronomical Society at dusk in Tom Sawyer Park IF THE SKY IS CLEAR. Look through telescopes at planets, our moon, stars, double stars, the Orion nebula and other wonders. Visit www.louisville-astro.org

Jul 10 & Aug 14 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE.** Every second Sunday. A remembrance of all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign. 4 PM to 5 PM, 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.

Jul 11 to 22. **HOST STUDENTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD.** The World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana. Visit www.worldkentucky.org

Jul 12 (Mon) **CATHOLIC CHARITIES LUNCH & LEARN.** St. Anthony Campus, 11:30 AM to 1 PM. Learn more about our emergency assistance program and refugee & immigration settlement program. Visit <http://cclou.org>.

Jul 12 & Aug 9 (Tues) **MOVIMENIENTO DE MUJERES LATINA – LATINA WOMEN’S MOVEMENT,** La Casita Center, Every second Tuesday, 5:30 PM. Network, mentor, find friends and share. Call 322-4036 for more information.

July 12 to 14 **PEACE TRAINING FOR EDUCATION.** The Peace Education Program. Learn the process and practices of Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation for schools and youth programs. Visit www.peaceeducationprogram.org

Jul 13 & Aug 10 (Wed) **Y-NOW CHILDREN OF PRISONERS MENTORING.** Luncheon at YMCA Safe Place. Learn how you can help break the cycle through mentoring and encouragement. RSVP to 635-5233.

Jul 16 (Sat) **CHILDREN AND NATURE.** Iroquois Park Amphitheater, 9:30 am. Author Richard Louv’s program for parents, educators, and others on how to help children make healthy connections with nature. Part Two is 7 PM at Bernheim Forest. Visit www.cultivatingconnections.org

Jul 19 (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

Jul 19 & Aug 16 (Tues) **SELF-ADVOCACY CONNECTION OF METRO LOUISVILLE.** The Council on Developmental Disabilities. Join committed volunteers working together to promote equal rights, inclusion, self-advocacy, support and education in all realms of life. Call 584-1239

July 21 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Every first & third Thursday, 5:30 PM at Main Public Library (in the mezzanine) at 4th and York St. Call Kay Tillow 502-636-1551 or email NurseNPO@aol.com

Jul 21 & Aug 18 (Thurs) **OPEN-DIALOGUE WITH POLICE.** Louisville Metro Police Department at local community centers, 6 PM. Learn about things police officers do. Talk with law enforcement officials and help build relationships and mutual understanding. Visit <http://louisvilleky.gov/government/police>

Jul 21 & Aug 18 (Thurs) **MENTAL ILLNESS SUPPORT & ADVOCACY.** NAMI Louisville every third Thursday at 3 PM. Also Saturdays and Sundays. Support group for families. Draw on years of experience. Visit www.namilouisville.org

Jul 21 & Aug 18 (Thurs) **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (CASA).** Orientation, Noon to 1 PM. Learn how you can help defend the rights of abused and neglected children in our community. Call 595-4911 to RSVP

Jul 21 nor Aug 18 (Thurs) **THERE IS NOT a Third Thursday Lunch in July or August.**

July 26 (Tues) **ISSUES THE NEXT PRESIDENT MUST FACE.** The World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana, 5:30 PM. Hear Dina Smeltz of the Chicago Council on Global Affairs and Rob Givens of RPG Consulting) discuss the national security issues facing our next president regardless of political party. Visit www.worldkentucky.org

Aug 3 Wed **DEADLINE FOR LISTINGS IN THIS PEACE CALENDAR.** For publication in the September issue of FORsooth. (Deadline is every first Wednesday) Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com

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

Aug 4 (Thu) **DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF FORSOOTH.** (Early deadline this month) Send articles to russgreenleaf@yahoo.com or call 502-264-2437.

Aug 18 (Thurs) **FORsooth LABELING PARTY.** 6:30 PM at the Winn Center at the Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Rd. COME TO THE PARTY ! We need extra volunteers this month! Many hands make light work, and the opposite is also true. So please join us if you can. It’s fun. Meet progressive people. Enjoy great conversations. Free refreshments. For more information or directions, call 451-5658 or email: fordhoff@bellsouth.net

Aug 18 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Every first & third Thursday, 5:30 PM at Main Public Library (in the mezzanine) at 4th and York St. Call Kay Tillow 502-636-1551 or email NurseNPO@aol.com

Aug 21 (Sun) **SISTERS IN CONVERSATION.** Interfaith Paths to Peace at Christ Church Cathedral, 2 PM. Help us create an opportunity for women to come together and begin a dialogue about the most sacred area of our lives, our faith. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Aug 25 (Thurs) **LUNCHEON WITH FAISAL NIAZ TIRMIZI CONSUL GENERAL SECRETARY OF PAKISTAN.** The World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana, 11:30 AM. Hear Consul General Secretary Tirmizi discuss the impacts of religious extreme on his region and other parts of the world. Visit www.worldkentucky.org

Sept 2 to 5 **WORLD FEST.** The Belvedere. Explore and celebrate Louisville’s many faces and cultures. Hear the 50-some languages we speak in our metro community. Dancing, exhibits, and authentic food. Visit <https://louisvilleky.gov/government/city-events/worldfest>

OUT OF TOWN

Jul 4 & Aug 1 (Mon) **KENTUCKY MIGRANT NETWORK COALITION.** Lexington KY at the Cardinal Valley Center, 12 PM. Every first Monday. Get better acquainted with Kentucky’s immigrant and refugee families. For more information, call 859-258-3824.

Jun 5 to Aug 23 **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

Jul 7 (Thurs) **INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE.** Lexington, KY at West Main and Broadway, 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM. Every Thursday for eleven years. For more information, Call 859-327-6277.

Jul 7, 8 or 14 **KENTUCKY WATERSHED WATCH SAMPLING.** Kentucky Division of Water at various locations. Learn how to collect and monitor data, screen for quality problems, and measure baseline conditions. Call 800-928-0045 for more information.

Jul 21 & Aug 18 (Thurs) **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP.** KSU Research Farm, Frankfort, KY. Every third Thursday. Participate in efforts to develop local food economies with the Community Farm Alliance and others. Visit www.communityfarmalliance.org

Jul 23 (Sat) **KFTC’S DOWN HOME BARN BASH.** Kentuckians For The Commonwealth at Woodwind Farm in Junction City, 4 PM. Meet and make friends with folks who work together to get good things done. Visit www.kftc.org.

Aug 26 to 28 **KFTC ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.** Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, All day. Learn how you can make good things happen. Hone your advocacy skill. Reflect on victories and lessons learned. Visit www.kftc.org

Sep 10 & 11 **TRAIL OF TEARS NATIVE AMERICAN POW WOW.** Hopkinsville, KY, 9 AM. Join us as we celebrate our heritage. Learn more about our customs and traditions. Visit www.trailoftears.org

Sep 19 (Mon) **HOWARD BOST HEALTH POLICY FORUM.** Lexington, KY. Hear local, regional, and national speakers discuss how the good health of our people works as an economic driver for our communities and our state. Visit <http://healthy-ky.org>

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

Jul 1 to 31 **THE ARTWORK OF REFUGEE WOMEN,** Iroquois Public Library. See fiber artworks reflecting the memories, gratitude, and aspirations of refugee women living in Louisville today

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

Jul 5 & Aug 2 (Tues) **HOOR OF POWER BOOK DISCUSSIONS.** Newburg Public Library, every first Tuesday, 6:30 PM. Discuss books on personal efforts to overcome the challenges of abuse, oppression, deprivation, discrimination or disabilities.

Jul 9 (Sat) **ARMENIA.** Iroquois Public Library, 1 PM. Hear Harut Vardanyan on the culture, traditions and history of this captivating country. .

Jul 23 (Sat) **ARABIC SALON.** Iroquois Public Library, 1 PM. Hear Yassir Mohamed Shiet on one of our world’s transformative cultures.

Jul 25 (Sat) **BLACK LIVES: ATLANTA.** Bon Air Public Library, 1:30 PM. A discussion of Atlanta Child Murders thirty years ago and cases still not closed.

July 26 (Tues) **GRANTSEEKING BASICS FOR WORTHY CAUSES.** Main Library, 6:30 PM. Learn the process of writing grant proposals. Master the essentials.

Aug 1 to 31 **THE ARTWORK OF REFUGEE ELDERS,** Iroquois Public Library. See artwork in various media on the past and present experiences of refugee elders living in our metro community today.

Aug 4 (Thurs) **AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHIVES TOUR.** Western Public Library, 1 PM. Peruse the great books in our collection. Watch a short documentary. Every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday this month.

Aug 20 (Sat) **BILINGUAL STORYTIME** Iroquois Public Library, 1 PM. Hear engaging stories told in Spanish and English.