

Water Protectors at Standing Rock

By Judi Jennings, Jardana Peacock, and Sonja Farah-de Vries

Just a year ago, most white Americans knew little or nothing about the place or the people of Standing Rock. This is not an accident. It is the result of hundreds of years of making Native American people—their history, culture, and sovereign rights—invisible to most Americans to maintain the human and environmental injustices done to them.

As explained on their website—standingrock.org—the Great Sioux Reservation bordered by the east bank of the Missouri River in what is now North Dakota was established by the 1868 Treaty of Fort Laramie. Twenty-one years later, the US Congress reduced Sioux lands and divided the great reservation into six separate ones. Standing Rock Reservation, bordered by the Cannon Ball River, was one of those.

In 2016, as the Dakota Access Pipeline neared the Cannon Ball River and prepared to tunnel under a lake feeding into the Missouri River, the people of Standing Rock said “Stop.” They established an encampment named Oceti Sakowin near the Cannon Ball and began protecting their waters. “Oceti Sakowin” means “the Sioux people,”

in their own language. For more info, see: ocetisakowincamp.org



Native American chief arrives on horseback at Standing Rock camp Oceti Sakowin, November 2016

In late October, the pipeline pushed ahead, and brave water protectors put their bodies on the line to stop it. The leaders increased their calls to others to come.

Judi Jennings and Sonja Farah-de Vries joined a self-organized 18-person multi-racial, intergenerational delegation. Our learning started even before we left. We had preparation calls, studied the Oceti Sakowin website to learn about Sioux values, and pondered what it means to protect rather than protest.

We arrived at Camp Oceti Sakowin in early November and witnessed the natural beauty of the plains and the tipis, tents, and yurts clustered near the Cannon Ball River. Winter had not yet arrived and hundreds of people came to stand with the water protectors. Chiefs rode in on horses. Young people ran from Arizona. Veterans of varied racial identities, ages, and backgrounds marched in to protect the people.

Sonja, a photographer, poet, and justice activist, had previously participated in delegations and actions in Palestine and Cuba. At Standing Rock, she heard consistent messages that we all have to join together against the brutal, profit-driven system. That we have to be patient with ourselves and each other and be guided by love. We saw this in practice at Standing Rock—not perfect, but with full intentionality.

Judi, at age 69, came to activism through

(continued on page 2)



Judi Jennings

School of the Americas Convergence on the Border

By Maria Scharfenberger

Always a very spiritual experience, the SOA Watch Vigil is deeply moving and prayerful. Each time I go, I feel I am standing on holy ground. I am made aware once again of the enormous human suffering that is caused by U.S. institutions, our domestic and foreign policies, and by individual graduates of the SOA (School of the Americas). This suffering is intentionally hidden from us. There is no end, it seems, to the impunity that the authors of human rights violations are granted, especially the perpetrators along our border.

It was after returning from work with Witness for Peace in Guatemala in 1993 that I first learned about the School of the Americas (SOA), a training institute for Latin American soldiers in the United States at Fort Benning, Georgia. I was educated by the witness of a Maryknoll priest, Fr. Roy Bourgeois, who after serving the poor in Latin America for years, discovered the connection between SOA graduates and human rights violations in Latin America.

Among those violations were the killing of the six Jesuit Priests, their

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SOA Watch Vigil convergence at the border; Nogales, Arizona, October 2016 | Photo by Pat Geier

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Water Protectors
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the peace and women’s movements of the 1960s and 1970s. Like Sonja, she saw that Standing Rock is not just about stopping a pipeline, but about deeply-held values of human connections with each other and the earth. She observed that, unlike her previous experiences, being at Standing Rock asks more of activists, not only to be for or against something, but to live in the world differently.

Sonja and Judi returned to Louisville the night before the US elections. The next day Sonja wrote, “Such love and vision for a different and just world. Such an honor to be able to support. I am at a loss for words today.”

Jardana Peacock is a writer, healer and liberatory leadership trainer. She believes that when we match practice with action, we interrupt systems of oppression inside our bodies, our organizations, and our world. She traveled to Standing Rock in late November with a caravan of healers. There, she felt a strong spirit of interconnectivity and learned how everything can be a prayer: silence, a dance, song, or poem. There, prayer was central to every action, intention and thought.

With harsh winter weather approaching, the US Army Corps of Engineers, which controls the camp land, said they would evacuate people on December 5th. But on December 4th, the Corps instead revoked the easement for the proposed pipeline and called for an

environmental impact statement to look at possible alternative routes.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribal Chairman Dave Archambault II thanked all those who stood with the camp, saying that, “in a system that has continuously been stacked against us from every angle, it took tremendous courage to take a new approach to our nation-to-nation relationship.” Chairman Archambault called on

President Elect Trump to respect this decision.

We know that the lands and waters at Standing Rock and across the globe will still need protection in the months and years ahead. Blessed to witness Camp Oceti Sakowin, we also know that being intentional about how we live, connect with each other, and protect the earth must be at the core of our actions now more than ever.



Standing Rock camp Oceti Sakowin at Cannonball River, November 2016

Sonja writes, “This morning I remember that Black Lives Matter, Standing Rock, and all the other brave, visionary grassroots movements are leading the way, and all of us can do our part.”

Judi quotes the fictive but inspiring US Department of Arts & Culture: “The old ways of organizing won’t cut it anymore. Tradition, creativity, culture, and spirit must be braided into the ties that bind us in love and respect.”

Jardana points out, “We have allowed indigenous people to be invisible. We must recognize that genocide and slavery are the basis of the systems we have now.”

And so, we:

Practice, to be able to show up for liberation. Love, to connect deeper to a web of healing. Rest, to revitalize. Connect with the natural world, so that we can listen to the sound of spirit. Pray, for blessings to come.

Judi Jennings is a native of Kentucky with deep roots in the coalfields of Appalachia. The first in her family to attend college, she earned a Ph.D. in British History, and is the author of books and articles on the abolition of the British slave trade. She worked at Appalshop, Inc., a media, arts, and education center in eastern Kentucky, served as founding director of the U of L Women’s Center, and directed the Kentucky Foundation for Women from 1998 through 2014. She currently directs the Special Project, focusing on creating weekly artmaking activities to strengthen protective factors for children and families in the visitors lobby of the Metro Louisville Jail.



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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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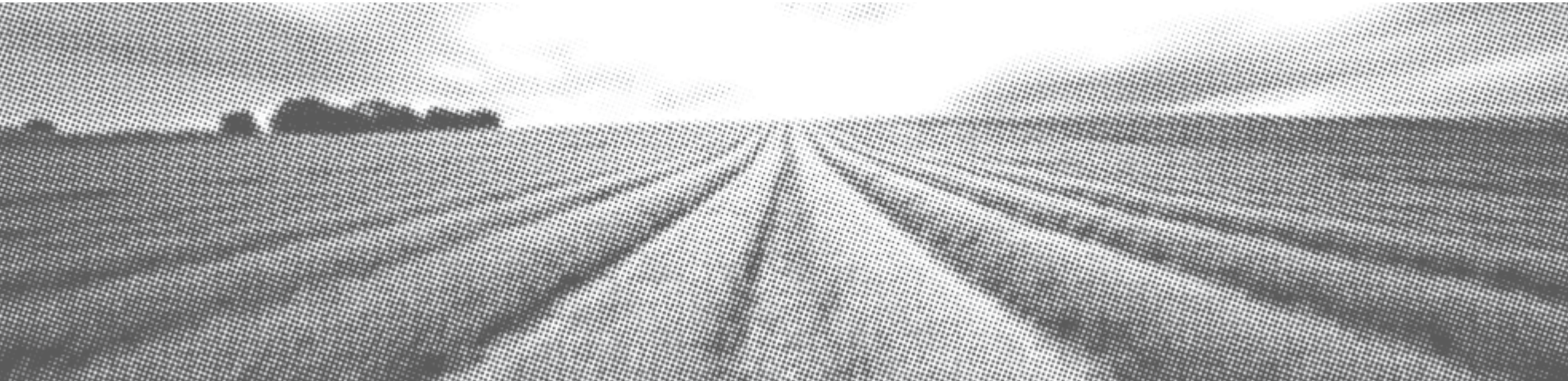
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Correction:

Due to an editor’s error, in the December 2016 issue of FORsooth, on page 5, the title of Ike Thacker’s poem was incorrectly listed as:

“To Mister Moxie”
The correct title is:
To Mister Moxie
(A Love Poem)



School of the Americas
continued from page 1

housekeeper, and her daughter in El Salvador in 1989; the murders of four churchwomen in El Salvador in 1980; the abduction, torture, and murder of a professor and nine university students at La Cantuta in Peru in 1992; and the murder of Archbishop Oscar Romero in El Salvador in 1980.

Many violations of human rights all over Latin America have been perpetrated by graduates of the SOA. Since 1946, over 64,000 Latin American soldiers have been trained there in counterinsurgency, sniper training, commando and psychological warfare, military intelligence, and interrogation tactics. Hundreds of thousands of Latin Americans have been tortured, raped, assassinated, “disappeared,” massacred, and forced to become refugees by soldiers trained at the SOA.

For a list of specific human rights abuses linked directly to SOA graduates see:



Maria Scharfenberger (left) and Pat Geier at the SOA Watch Vigil at the Eloy Detention Center, Tucson, Arizona, October 2016
Photo by Dave Cooper

<http://www.soaw.org/about-the-soawhinsec/soawhinsec-grads/notorious-grads>

Human rights abuses continue, and the SOA (now named the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (WHINSEC)) continues to train soldiers including our own U.S. Border Patrol.

This year, the SOA Watch Vigil gathered on October 7 – 10, 2016 at the U.S.-Mexico border in Nogales, Arizona (and also across the border in Nogales, Mexico) to bring attention to the effects of militarization at the border and the continued violations suffered by indigenous people, migrants, and citizens of Latin American countries, especially Honduras and Colombia.

The first evening of the convergence, I stood with hundreds of activists across the street from the Eloy Detention Center just outside of Tucson, Arizona, where 1,800 immigrants are held, the majority of whom have committed no criminal activity. They are victims of Operation Streamline, a fast-track criminal prosecution of immigrants along the border that started in 2005. Migrants spend between 30 and 180 days in the prisons as a deterrent to trying to re-enter the U.S.

Studies show this “deterrent” doesn’t work. In addition, abuses and substandard conditions in these facilities are well documented. We heard testimonies

of abuse, lack of medical care, sentencing without proper defense, and money and identification that was confiscated and never returned.

One woman spoke of being pregnant and of losing her baby while detained, because she was not given medical attention. Children and youth told stories of being detained, mistreated, and then removed from their family members. Regardless, our U.S. tax dollars continue to fund these prisons, many owned by private companies who report hefty profits and give large campaign contributions to elected officials.

As the sun set, we moved toward the fence with illuminating candles and song. “We sing for you. We fight for you. Your struggle is our struggle. You are not alone. No estas solo.”



SOA Watch Vigil at the fence at the U.S.-Mexico border, Nogales, Arizona, October 2016 | Photo by Pat Geier

We saw the lights flashing in the windows of the detention center, and we realized that the detainees knew we were there. It was as if we had breached the distance with our solidarity. For a moment, we were united with them despite the fence, despite the distance, despite the threats from the police driving back and forth in front of us.

It was a similar dynamic at the U.S.-Mexico border. Testimonies were heard, songs of hope sung, and at the end, giant puppets enacted a dramatic end where solidarity managed to cross even the steel fence and grant us a beautiful vision of unity and justice. There is much work yet to be done to make that scene a true reality.

For more information, videos, and action steps, please visit: soaw.org

Maria Scharfenberger has a BS in Psychology and Sociology from the University of Dayton and a MSSW from the University of Louisville Kent School of Social Work. She is a licensed marriage and family therapist and works mostly with Louisville’s Hispanic community. Over the last 20 years she has been involved with immigrant rights activism, hospitality, and accompaniment through the Catholic Worker Casa Latina, La Casita Center, and the Hispanic/Latino Coalition. She also works in Hispanic Ministry at St. Bartholomew Catholic Church. You may reach her at: mscharfe24@gmail.com

Third Thursday Lunches

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February 16 Ron Russell, Immigration Attorney & Immigrant Community Activist

Immigration will be on the front burner for the new Congress in 2017. We will either reform our 1996 immigration law, the most reactionary of any major Western democracy, or we will move to an even more unwelcoming and mean-spirited immigration regime. Either way, the actions we take will likely define our nation for generations to come. Ron Russell, an immigration attorney and activist for the past 27 years, will discuss **the essential elements of progressive immigration reform and how we in Louisville can participate in a mass movement to make it a reality** or, depending on the outcome in Washington, how we can assist immigrants fighting for the survival of their families and communities.

March 16 Libby Mills, Executive Director, Restorative Justice Louisville

Restorative Justice Louisville (RJL) works with the criminal justice system to implement community-based restorative practices, responding to crime while building neighborhood connections. Where the traditional criminal justice system asks what laws have been broken and what punishment is deserved, **restorative justice asks what harm has been done, who is responsible for repairing that harm, and how can that harm be repaired.** RJL Director Libby Mills will provide **an overview of restorative justice and what is being done here**, including local examples of young offenders participating in face-to-face meetings with victims, community members and the offender’s family/support group.

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No Backward Steps in Health Care: forward to Single Payer

By Kay Tillow

Life expectancy in the United States just went down. We were already several years behind other advanced countries. People in Italy live four years longer. Life expectancy is one of the fundamental ways to measure the health of a nation.

We are not doing well at taking care of our people. This decline is occurring after the implementation of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) and prior to the planned assault on the ACA, Medicaid, and Medicare expected to begin as the new Congress convenes in 2017.

Maintenance of a failing status quo in health care is not acceptable. We must say “no backward steps” as we battle to place the real solution on the nation’s agenda. That solution is national single payer health care set forth in real legislation, HR 676, an Expanded and Improved Medicare for All. HR 676 will remove the insurance industry from control of our care and will publicly fund all medically necessary care—for all of us—no exceptions—everybody in, nobody out.

In Kentucky, 440,000 people gained coverage under the ACA Medicaid expansion. Governor Bevin has asked the federal government for a Medicaid waiver like that of Indiana that would force monthly premiums on those who have the least and kick them off if they fail to pay. The architect of Indiana’s Medicaid waiver, Seema Verma, has now been named by President-Elect Trump to head the Commission on Medicare and Medicaid

Services.

Verma, and Tom Price, Trump’s appointee to Health and Human Services, are likely to give Bevin the waiver he seeks. Bevin says if he doesn’t get the waiver he will abolish the expansion program totally, ending health care for the 440,000 who just gained it.

Medicare, too, is on the chopping block, with Speaker Paul Ryan seeking to turn our best program—our example that single payer works—into vouchers.



U of L medical students Mallika Sabharwal (center) and Lyn Summay (right) of Students for a National Health Program speak with a TV reporter to promote HR 676, national single payer health care.

But fighting for the status quo won’t save it. We have to project a bolder, braver plan to expand it to all. Already Medicare is 30% privatized, with changes supported by both Democrats and Republicans. Medicare’s new means testing and changes in payment to physicians are undermining our nation’s most beloved program. We are losing it little by little, as Grover Norquist gleefully reported.

The drug part of Medicare is a nightmare for seniors and a gold mine for pharmaceutical companies. The Part D drug plan is not a New

Deal Social Security type plan. It is a market-based plan with outrageous profits placing the new life-saving drugs beyond the reach of many. We can now cure Hepatitis C with a drug called Solvadi. It costs \$84,000 for the cure. Many insurers have said it will not be available or not covered until the patient goes into liver failure. The drug costs \$300 for the cure in India.

HR 676 would bring drug companies to heel with monopsony buying power. (“Monopsony” refers to a market condition in which there is only one buyer.)

The ACA was designed to leave in place our employer-based health care system. Now even that coverage is rapidly deteriorating. The average plan has a deductible over \$1,000 accompanied by drastic limitations on what doctors patients can see and what hospitals they can use. For millions of people, the deductibles and co-pays place care beyond their means.

In the industrial heartland, the coal and rust belt, employers have dropped retiree coverage and shirked their responsibilities by mergers, lockouts, forced concession bargaining, and bankruptcies. The once secure industrial workers whose strong unions lifted the entire nation’s standards for health care are now battling to hang onto any care at all.

“We are sick of a criminal system based on profit that leaves people hanging without the health care they deserve,” said Mark Dimondstein, president of the 200,000 member American Postal Workers Union at a recent protest at Big Pharma.

The Affordable Care Act essentials were crafted by the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, implemented by Mitt Romney in Massachusetts and promoted as



Kay Tillow

the alternative to the single payer and national health service systems that have brought universal care to the rest of the industrialized world. The ACA was designed to serve the insurance industry rather than patients. It has brought coverage to 20 million who did not have insurance before, but the remaining 28 million with no coverage will not have it even if the ACA were to be fully implemented.

We can best avoid a backward slide by fighting for improvement of Medicare and expanding it to all.

People will not fight for a shriveled up dream. Only an inspiring, bold, and beautiful plan to cover all can galvanize a movement to power the rusted wheels of democracy and bring the humane care worthy of this great nation.

Some say that’s not feasible. On the contrary, it’s the only plan that is feasible. It’s the only plan that can expand care while reining in the costs.

Power concedes nothing without a demand. Frederick Douglass did not counsel us to reduce our demands when we face opposition. He remained steadfast in his demand, working to spark the fight to do what’s right.

Our wealthy country is capable of providing great care for all of us. A free people does not allow insurance corporations to dictate, deny care, and control elected officials. They stand up to change it.

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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 and Coordinator of the All Unions Committee for Single Payer Health Care—HR 676. She was active in the civil rights and peace movements. She was born in Paducah, Kentucky, and grew up near there in Metropolis, Illinois. She can be reached at NurseNPO@aol.com or 502-636-1551

Christopher 2X Speaks at Third Thursday Lunch

By Russ Greenleaf

Louisville activist Christopher 2X spoke at the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) Third Thursday Lunch at Hotel Louisville at Second and Broadway on Thursday October 20, 2016. His topic was, “We all we got: Hood to Hood, a centralized movement to prevent violence rather than reacting to it.” The Third Thursday Lunch is co-sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace.

Mr. 2X began by noting that the Courier-Journal reported that there have been 100 homicides in Metro Louisville so far this year, and over 300 citizens have been wounded by gunfire.

He said that, in response to the ongoing gun violence, he joined a new effort with the University of Louisville hospital trauma department last year.

He said, “In dealing with trauma patients, surgeons asked me to come over and bring

their patients out into the community. The American Medical Association, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), and U of L trauma surgeons have declared that gun violence is a public health crisis. Medical professionals are saying it is a deeply entrenched problem similar to an influenza outbreak.”

Seventy-eight percent of shootings occur in the minority populations of the city.

2X said, “Medical professionals describe it as a disease, and they want to educate the minority community to raise awareness about this disease and to take preventive action to address this disease as a medical issue.”

He said that early in life, at the age of 10 to 12 years old, some children develop an attitude toward guns that predisposes them to get involved in gun violence. 2X tries to change that attitude. “We try to connect parents in at-risk neighborhoods to resources that can change those problematic attitudes. People who have been wounded or lost loved ones to gun violence are resources in this process.

“People in poverty often feel their lives have no purpose. Some youth feel that having and using a handgun is exciting and empowering.”

2X said, “The solution is with the people in the neighborhoods—the will of the people to turn this problem around. Money and resources and policing cannot solve the problem of gun violence unless the people in the neighborhoods buy into the idea of turning this problem around. The problem of shootings in minority communities must be solved by the people in those communities.”

He noted that often people don’t trust the police. There is a problem with police shooting black people.

He said, “Minorities have a different experience of the police than white people do. It’s true that there are more black-on-black shootings than police shootings of black people, but those police-involved shootings activate memories of historic racism and generate a lot more emotion.”

2X added, “Many people in minority neighborhoods support the police. When there is a police-involved shooting, you can question it. But the best way to deal with it is to support ongoing peace efforts with civil conversations rather than being belligerent or using a distractive process that will drown out voices—including yours.

“The ‘powers that be’ in Louisville respond better to truths being told in a civil manner. If you persuade them in a professional way with civil conversation, most of the time they will listen.”

He added the caveat, “Jury verdicts in police-involved shootings are another matter.”

A questioner from the audience pointed out that our society embraces violence, gun rights, war, killing the enemy, and getting vengeance. So could it be that Christopher 2X and mentors like him may be the only voices some youth hear promoting non-violence?

2X replied, “Yes. We can only be a persuasive voice, saying ‘I care about you. I don’t want you to be affected by this disease that is prevalent in our community.’ It’s about being hood doctors, spirit building, exercises of the mind, peace, healing. Touch someone to change their mindset.”

“And we need to remember,” said 2X, “the majority of impoverished youth don’t shoot or



Christopher 2X (right) | From Christopher 2X facebook page

kill people.”

This talk by Christopher 2X was an unforgettable, inspiring presentation by a truly good man who is doing amazing work to benefit our community. If you would like to support his work, contact the FORsooth newspaper at:

russgreenleaf@yahoo.com for more information.

Don’t miss the next Third Thursday Lunch at Hotel Louisville, Second and Broadway, sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Interfaith Paths to Peace. On the third Thursday of the month, lunch is served at 11:30 am, and the talk begins at 12:00 noon. To attend, email: fordhoff@bellsouth.net



From Christopher 2X facebook page

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What We Can Expect from the Incoming Administration

By Gracie Lewis

Donald Trump alleged that the Democratic Party had not done anything for African-Americans or the working class. Well one would only have to look back at the Obama Administration to fully understand that Trump was pushing false and misleading information to voters.

When President Barack Obama entered the Office of the President, a global-scale recession adversely affected the economy of the United States. The "Big Three" U.S. automakers—General Motors, Chrysler and Ford Motor Company—were in a crisis because of higher labor costs than their non-unionized counterparts, including salaries, benefits, healthcare, and pensions. The Obama Administration bailed them out because the auto industry is a key component of the U.S. economy. The Obama Administration saved the auto industry from collapse, preventing the loss of more than 1.4 million jobs.

Despite the failure of President Obama to

pass The American Jobs Act, which would have put \$450 billion in the economy to create jobs and repair our infrastructure, the Administration created more than 15 million jobs.

The Obama Administration signed the Claims Resolution Act in 2010, which provided \$4.6 billion to Black farmers and Native Americans who were discriminated against by the Department of Agriculture.

On March 23, 2010, President Obama passed the landmark Affordable Care Act, to date there are over 20 million people enrolled in the plan. Yet, under the Trump Administration, if U.S. Representative Tom Price gets to be Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, he has stated he would repeal and replace the 2010 health care law. Price is also contemplating "privatizing Social Security." This is a risky move on both accounts because he will be the one writing the rules to implement whatever



Gracie Lewis

legislation is passed. The ACLU notes that President-Elect Trump stated that he would amass a deportation force to remove 11 million undocumented immigrants and ban the entry of Muslims and institute aggressive surveillance programs targeting them. These proposals would violate the First, Fourth, Fifth, Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution. The ACLU encourages those of us who believe in freedom and justice to help defend our Constitutional rights.

The Obama Administration pushed for Wall Street accountability. After 2008, we saw the biggest financial crisis since the Great Depression—more than 8 million people were losing their jobs, stock markets crashed, and many homes were foreclosed. President Obama signed into law the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act in 2010 which is designed to shield Americans from bearing the brunt of the burden when big companies and banks abuse the financial

system. In the past, we had to struggle against the 1 percent, and now Donald Trump is nominating billionaires to head up the Commerce and Treasury Departments.

Another billionaire, Steven Mnuchin, a former Goldman Sachs executive, who served as Trump's finance chairman is being nominated to become Treasury Secretary with no government experience. Obama passed legislation to close the tax loopholes to ensure millionaires and billionaires don't pay less in taxes than the middle class. Now we have billionaires who will more than likely repeal or change the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

With Stephen K. Bannon, representing the alt-right movement, being appointed as Trump's Chief Strategist, it is likely that there will be more racism and hate-crimes than ever before. The Obama Administration expanded hate-crimes protection legislation which passed that included a wider class of victims.

With all of these issues before us, it's clearly time to rebuild and expand the resistance movement. Our future is at stake!

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

Aim Higher: Resisting Military Recruitment in Schools

By Jim Johnson

Aim Higher is a pacifist organization that was founded twelve years ago. It is a subcommittee of The Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) Louisville Chapter. Aim Higher is focused on peace-making and on informing high-school-aged people about their rights when approached by military recruiters.

Aim Higher has been the major catalyst initiating change in military recruiting practices within the Jefferson County Public School System (JCPS). Truth in military recruiting is a big part of what we do. We believe it is our responsibility to inform young people about what they can realistically expect from a career in the military.

We provide information to students based on careful research documented by the American Friends Service Committee, the

War Resisters League, and other organizations. We believe it is only fair to provide a realistic picture of what military service will entail, so that young citizens can make an informed decision.

A Student Code of Conduct booklet is handed out to every JCPS high school student. It now contains an "opt-out" form that allows the student to choose not to be contacted by military recruiters. Since parents are required to sign the Student Code of Conduct booklet, they are made aware of this "opt-out" option. We believe parents appreciate this information and this option. Eighteen is an extremely young age for making a decision that involves military service and participating in war.

As a result of persistent persuasion by Aim Higher, JCPS now prohibits high schools

from releasing student test scores to military recruiters.

That is important, because JCPS routinely gives students a test called the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). It is a student aptitude test administered in high school and provided free-of-charge by the military to schools.

It sounds like schools are getting free vocational testing, but in reality, this test is a tool for military recruitment. The test is the same one used by the military for every new recruit, and is primarily designed to measure aptitude for military jobs, not civilian careers. And JCPS had been releasing students' scores on the ASVAB test to military recruiters.

As a result of persistent requests by Aim Higher, JCPS has begun requiring high schools to select "Release Option 8 (no release of information to military recruiters)" when using the ASVAB test and in all other testing contracts with the military.

Aim Higher also has been supporting JCPS in its efforts to reduce the gap on standardized test scores between middle class, minority, and low income students. Students with low standardized test scores are less likely to attend college and more likely to consider military careers. Aim Higher successfully challenged JCPS to develop a measurable target for reducing the gap on standardized test scores in the district's new "Vision 2020" strategy plan.

In addition to our military counter-recruitment work, Aim Higher created and, with the help of Interfaith Paths to Peace, sponsored a Peace Essay Contest for Jefferson County high school students.

During the eight years of its implementation, the Peace Essay Contest awarded



Jim Johnson

cash prizes to twenty-four students for their essays. Our first, second, and third place winning essays were published each of those eight years in the FORsooth newspaper and in the Courier-Journal. Some 320 professionals have participated in the judging of over a thousand essays submitted by area high school students. All of the students, as well as the judges, who participated have had the opportunity to think about ways of solving conflict without mass murder, violence, or war.

In addition, Aim Higher has been helping the University of Louisville's Department of Peace, Justice and Conflict Transformation organize its service fair for the past five years. The service fair brings together 20 Louisville community organizations concerned about peacemaking and conflict resolution.

The name "Aim Higher" expresses our belief that we can help young people achieve career goals that provide a higher calling. A peaceful calling. We also believe that solving both local and international conflict without violence and war demonstrates a higher calling. We are proud of what we have been able to achieve so far. We invite you to come join us in our pursuit of peace.

Learn more about Aim Higher at: louisvillefor.org or contact Jim Johnson at: jimpeace8@att.net

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

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Join us Thursday March 16, 2017 at 6:30 pm

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"Better than watching the Big Bang Theory"
(actual quotes from real FORsooth-labeling party goers)

Come to the FORsooth labeling party. We need your help.
For directions, call 451-5658 or email: fordhoff@bellsouth.net

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Editors Needed: FORsooth needs talented editors

If you have excellent English skills
or professional experience as an editor
Please contact: russgreenleaf@yahoo.com

Hurricane Matthew, Haiti, and Cuba

By Ira Grupper

I salute the courageous Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, and allies, opposing the construction of the Dakota Access pipeline in North Dakota.

I salute the strike authorization (as of end of October) against Haier Group, new owners of General Electric—and the voting down of a horrible contract by 4,000 Louisville unionists (Local 83761 IUE-CWA).

And I salute the strike, since settled, by UFCW Local 111 against the Jim Beam bourbon giant at two Kentucky plants over forced overtime.

The remainder of this column is a tribute to a true humanitarian, internationalist and advocate of economic justice: Fidel Castro (recently deceased). He, and his revolution, wiped out illiteracy in Cuba, and established free, high-quality medical care.

Fidel was a hero to anti-colonialists, opposing Portugal in Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Angola, and opposing other imperialists all over the world. How many of us in the U.S. know about the battle of Cuito Cuanavale, Angola?

To those who say Fidel stifled civil liberties, I say maybe if the U.S. had not tried so many times to assassinate him, had not invaded Cuba (Bay of Pigs, and elsewhere), then maybe I could see those accusations as worthy.

Fidel, himself a lawyer, once said: “Revolutionary justice is not based on legal precepts, but on moral conviction.”

Jesus agreed, in The Sermon on the Mount: “And why beholdest thou the mote that is in thy brother’s eye, but considerest not the beam that is in thine own eye?” Case in point: refusal of our U.S. government to release 80 year old former Black Panther Sundiata Acoli.

Let’s look at Hurricane Matthew, this past October, and see how Cuba and Haiti responded.

First, here’s the good news. Carnival, Norwegian, Disney and other cruise lines were able to adjust their ships’ itineraries to avoid the storm’s path. Royal Caribbean reported its private island, Coco Cay, sustained only minor damage. We would not want the idle rich and the upper middle-class to be adversely affected.

But how did Cuba and Haiti respond?

The hurricane caused widespread devastation in Haiti, Cuba, the U.S. and elsewhere. Cuba’s population is about 11,000,000. Haiti’s is perhaps a quarter million less.

“This rainfall will likely produce life-threatening flash floods and mudslides,” the US National Hurricane Center predicted of Hurricane Matthew. “Preparations to protect life and property should be rushed to completion.”

World Vision, a humanitarian aid agency, stated: “We’re expecting a lot of houses to go down [in Haiti] because of the poor housing infrastructure in a lot of the rural areas where we work. With wind this strong, it will be extremely damaging.... Homes for the average person are made of mud and sticks

LABOR PAEANS

or poorly constructed cinder blocks.”

After the storm passed, standing water was a problem. “That means a potential spike in cholera cases.... Other mosquito-borne diseases that have been more or less controlled are going to rear their heads.”

Hurricane Matthew took the lives of more than 1,000 Haitians.

Aljazeera reported on October 8: “Poverty, weak government, and precarious living conditions for many of its citizens make Haiti particularly vulnerable to natural disasters.” Haiti is the poorest nation in the Americas.

Kevin Edmunds points out in “NGOs and the Business of Poverty in Haiti” in the journal NACLA: “No other country in the world has more non-governmental organizations (NGOs) per capita as Haiti. After the January 12 earthquake these NGOs received the bulk of the global relief funds, while the Haitian government, regularly accused of corruption by the U.S. State Department, has remained marginalized in the recovery and rebuilding efforts. This leaves a country where unelected organizations, unaccountable to the Haitian people, are calling the shots and accused of profiting from the poverty they are entrusted to fight.” The earthquake referenced was in 2010. Now it is 2017. Has anything changed?

Let’s focus on Cuba. Reuters reported (October 18): “Hurricane Matthew reduced much of the Cuban town of Baracoa to rubble, whipping up giant waves that demolished cement buildings and winds that tore off roofs. But there’s one thing it didn’t do: take lives.

“Largely thanks to a rigorous evacuation scheme, Cuba managed to avoid the fate of neighboring Haiti, where (so many) deaths have been reported so far in the wake of the strongest storm to hit the Caribbean in

nearly a decade.”

Cuba News, October 19: “No one has a lot to eat, but at least there’s something.... Lots of construction materials are now arriving and lots of people are starting to receive roofs at only half the normal price, with the state paying the other 50%.”

Cuba’s economy is suffering from the impact of the crisis in Venezuela, its chief ally, as well as low global commodity prices. This notwithstanding, Venezuela sent two ships to Cuba, one carrying 375 tons of machinery and construction materials.

Before the hurricane, Cuban state TV ran storm advisories and officials blared warnings from vehicles with loudspeakers. “The civil defense didn’t rest.... Thanks to that, no one died,” one Cuban official said.

The Ministry of Construction, Etesca (national telephone service provider), Basic Electricity Enterprise, Sanitation Services, and other agencies worked tirelessly to reestablish basic services. Brigades of earth-moving and construction teams, and others, sprang into action.

Notwithstanding the massive devastation Cuba faced, Telesur reported on October 8: “Cuba sent [to Haiti] a group of 38 health professionals ... trained in disaster medicine and infectious disease containment.”

Haiti was at the mercy of the elements, one of them being an avaricious ruling class. Fidel and the Cubans just did not—do not—know how to play that game. But Cuba does “play” a humanitarian game: one criterion for admission to its medical school is poverty. Fidel—presente! Viva Cuba!

Contact Ira Grupper: irag@iglou.com



Ira Grupper

Fidel Castro’s Legacy

By Sonja Farah-de Vries

As Cubans gathered to bury their “Comandante,” a group of Cuban-trained doctors prepared to go to Standing Rock, to join the Lakota Sioux in protecting their water and to provide medical support. These doctors were trained in the Latin American Medical School in Havana, a school established for students who could not afford medical school in their home countries, or did not have access to a medical school. In Cuba they train for free with the commitment to serve in their own communities. This is emblematic of Fidel Castro’s legacy.

I first travelled to Cuba in 1990. I returned many times, and lived there as a journalist in the mid 90s.

It was in that context that I had the honor of meeting a woman who became a life-long friend and source of inspiration—Josephina Boucourt-Diaz, affectionately known as Fifi.

Fifi was living in La Guinera, on the outskirts of Havana. It was a community without many services, with high unemployment, and higher than average rates of crime and alcoholism. All this shifted when Fifi and her friend Ileana organized a group of women to take things into their own hands. Their project began with building a daycare center for the neighborhood, as that was what was most needed.



Fidel Castro

They invited Fidel Castro to the grand opening. Much to their surprise, Fidel accepted the invitation, and when he asked them how they managed to build such a solid and beautiful structure with so little resources,

they laughed and said they didn’t even know for sure themselves, but that if the government would send them the materials and offer them professional training, they were sure they could transform their entire community.

Fifi described her joy when not long after, the equipment, building materials and offers to train the women in construction arrived. La Guinera became, within a matter of years, an example for poor people all over the world, winning an award from the United Nations as a model in community development. Success rested on community involvement. I witnessed construction brigades made up of women, drag queens, youth, recovering alcoholics and ex-convicts.

It was during this time I met Ileana, a powerful organizer, She told me that that while at the beach with her family, during a break from construction, her youngest daughter was swept out to sea and drowned. For many months, grief made it hard for her

to leave her house.

One day a car pulled up, and Fidel Castro knocked on her door. He had heard about her daughter and wanted to offer his condolences. They sat together and talked. Ileana told me that at one moment she could not help herself and she broke down crying. Fidel embraced her. There was no media—this was just a visit from one human being to another. Ileana said that he visited a couple more times, encouraging her and telling her that the Revolution needed strong women leaders such as herself.

The first time I met Fidel, was at the Latin American Film Festival. I was a young filmmaker and had received an invitation to go to a reception at the Revolution Palace. I was also an active member and co-founder of Queers for Cuba, bringing LGBT groups to Cuba to learn and to work. Fidel Castro stood in the crowd, in his traditional army-green fatigues. I approached him to thank him for the inspiration of the Cuban Revolution and to offer solidarity. He took both my hands in his and thanked me for my friendship. Then I gave him a flyer from Queers for Cuba and explained our work. He listened and said “Yes, that is very important,” and he put the flyer in his uniform pocket,



Josephina Boucourt-Diaz, affectionately known as Fifi | Photo by Sonja De Vries

assuring me he would read it.

Cuba’s National Center for Sex Education was already in the process of developing what would become one of the most sex-positive, LGBT-positive sex-education programs in the world. Fidel Castro would soon tell a reporter that the Revolution had made serious mistakes in the treatment of homosexuals early on due to a lack of education.

On my last visit to Cuba, Fidel Castro had already stepped away from the public eye and his position as Commander in Chief. I was there with the Henry Wallace Brigade, so-named after my father, Henry Wallace, who was a supporter of the Revolution.

We were visiting the Ministry of Foreign affairs, and were met by some of its top leaders, all relatively young women. We had an engaging conversation about the many changes made throughout the decades, especially as relating to race and gender, and at the end of the conversation someone asked, “And what will you do when Fidel Castro dies?” At first the women looked a little confused, then slightly indignant. One of them spoke up, “When our comandante dies, we will be very sad and we will miss him, but this is our Revolution, we are the ones leading it, and we will continue.”

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make your check out to “FOR” - write “FORsooth” on the comment line - and mail it to:

Tim Scheldorf, FOR Treasurer, 2917 Beaumont Road, Louisville KY 40205

Free film showing:

The Occupation of the American Mind

Israel’s public relations war in the United States

Narrated by Roger Waters 2016 (85 minutes)

Wednesday February 22, 2017 at 6:45 pm

Highlands Public Library in the Mid City Mall 1250 Bardstown Road

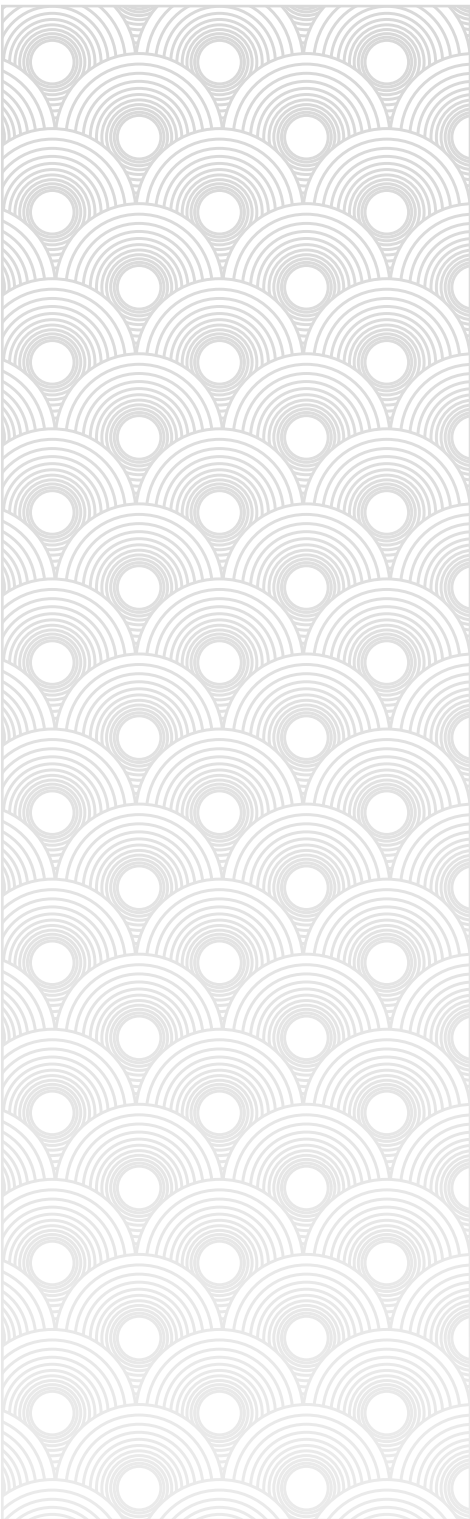
Israel's ongoing military occupation of Palestinian land and its repeated slaughters of civilians in Gaza have triggered a widespread backlash against Israeli policies virtually everywhere in the world. **The Occupation of the American Mind** examines how pro-Israel organizations suppress that backlash in the U.S.

A new film featuring **Noam Chomsky, Steven M. Walt, Norman Finkelstein, Amira Hass, Max Blumenthal, Rashid Khalidi, Phyllis Bennis** and others describing how the Israeli government, the U.S. government, and the Israel Lobby have joined forces to shape American media coverage of the conflict in Israel's favor.

The Occupation of the American Mind examines Israel's decades-long battle for the hearts, minds, and tax dollars of the American people — a battle that has only intensified over the past few years in the face of widening international condemnation of Israel's increasingly right-wing policies.

For more info and trailer, google: “Occupation of the American Mind”
Sponsored by Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East (LCPME),
Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR), Jewish Voice for Peace,
and Students for Justice in Palestine

Free and open to the public. Contact: russgreenleaf@yahoo.com or 502-264-2437



Frederick Douglass and Rosa Parks Dramatization

Nommo Productions, based in Louisville, KY, has created an historical dramatization entitled, “American Heroes: Frederick Douglass and Rosa Parks” for Black History Month 2017.

The presentation consists of a 15-minute dramatic performance of Douglass’ speech, “What Does the 4th of July Mean to the American Slave?” first delivered at Cooper Hall, NYC in 1852. The second part of the presentation is a 20 minute episodic short play about the activist history of Rosa Parks, igniter of the 1953 Montgomery Bus Boycott.

Both parts of the presentation are in costume with musical accompaniment. This performance can be staged at no cost at a facility of your choosing. All that is required is a stage or space large enough for two performers, a small table and two chairs, and seating for at least a small audience.

If you are interested, contact the performers:
Linda Baker Berry (615) 967-0810
ldrberry67@yahoo.com

Michael Tee (502) 322-3914 soldieroflove.kennard@gmail.com

Michael Tee is a poet, essayist, playwright, actor and grassroots political activist. He grew up Pennsylvania. He has spoken and performed around the country on the topics of African American literature, history, and politics.

Linda Baker Berry originally moved to Louisville more than 50 years ago, when her late husband came here to serve as pastor of Plymouth Congregational Church (UCC). Her family (the Baker family) has been here for at least three generations. Berry is a writer and editor and has 35 years experience conducting diversity and management training for organizations including elementary schools and college, government, and corporate groups. Berry has performed in several college productions, including Auntie Mame, Camino Real, and Days of Our Lives and has presented poetry readings.

HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN ARTICLE?

Email your article to russgreenleaf@yahoo.com
or suggest your idea at: 502-264-2437

Deadline for the May issue: **Mar. 9, 2017**

Deadline for the June issue: **Apr. 13, 2017**

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

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

- 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)
- APPAPF (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
- CEDAW [Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination against Women] – 2nd Tuesday, 6:30 pm, Bon Air Library, rosieblue1941@gmail.com
- 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) – join us on facebook, 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)
- 15 THOUSAND FARMERS – 15th day each month, www.15thousandfarmers.com
- FOOD IN NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY COALITION – 2nd Tuesday, 6:30PM (502-819-2957)
- FORWARD RADIO PROJECT – (502-296-1793)
- 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 – Second Tuesday of the month at 7 pm, (502-553-6451) barbaraberman2@gmail.com
- JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – (774-8624)
- KENTUCKIANS FOR SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE – 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month, 5:30 pm, Board Room in the Mezzanine of the Louisville Free Public Library, www.kyhealthcare.org (636-1551)
- KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday (589-3188)
- KTAG [KENTUCKIANA TASKFORCE AGAINST GENOCIDE] – (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) – First Monday of the month at 7 pm (502-264-2437)
- 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)
- MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE – (571-278-2255) momsdemandaction.org
- MUHAMMAD ALI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, at U of L (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 this list, or if information needs to be updated, please let us know by emailing: calendar.peace@gmail.com

Calendar for peacemakers

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

Feb 1 to 17 ANNUAL AFRICAN AMERICAN ART EXHIBITION. Actors’ Theater of Louisville. Enjoy art in several media by contemporary artists. Visit <https://actorstheatre.org>

Feb 1 to 24 VISUALIZING ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS. Schneider Hall at U of L. See sculptures and drawings that explore the intersections between art and ecology. Contemplate the interactions between the various systems that surround us. Visit <http://louisville.edu/sustainability>

Feb 1 to Mar 10 MEMORIES OF BURMA. The Crane House. See landscape and still life paintings by Louisville artist EH Ka Paw drawing inspiration from his childhood memories of Burma. Visit <http://www.cranehouse.org>

Feb 1 (Wed) DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE PEACE CALENDAR FOR THE MARCH 1 ISSUE OF FORSOOTH. Email announcements to: calendar.peace@gmail.com

Feb 1 (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>

Feb 1 (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.

Feb 1 (Wed) CATHOLIC CHARITIES ORIENTATION. 5PM TO 6PM. Learn more about our refugee & immigration settlement program and our community engagement programs. Visit <http://kyrm.org>

Feb 2 (Thurs) KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE. Every first & third Thursday, 5:30PM at Main Public Library. Call Kay Tillow 636-1551.

Feb 4 to 8 and Feb 8 to 14 INTERNATIONAL VISITOR LEADERSHIP PROGRAMS. The World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana. Learn ways to cultivate leadership in non-governmental organizations, community groups, and schools in critical areas. The first week examines investigative journalism and the second week examines leadership training for young women. Visit <http://www.worldkentucky.org>

Feb 4 (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>

Feb 4 (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

Feb 4 (Sat) WORLDQUEST. Bellarmine University. See student teams test their knowledge of current affairs, world leaders, geography, recent history, flags, international organizations, countries, regions, the world economy, culture, and religion. Visit <http://www.worldkentucky.org>

Feb 5 (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 email: FORnonviolence@gmail.com

Feb 7 (Tues) MOVIMENIENTO DE MUJERES LATINA -- LATINA WOMEN’S MOVEMENT, La Casita Center, Every second Tuesday, 5:30PM. Network, mentor, find friends and share. Call 322-4036 for more information.

Feb 8 (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.

Feb 8 (Wed) LOUISVILLE FORUM. Noon at Vincenzo’s Downtown. Every 2nd Wednesday. Speakers on current public issues. Non-partisan discussion. For details call, 329-0111.

Feb 8 (Wed) COMPASSIONATE LOUISVILLE. Noon. Meeting locations rotate. Help monitor the progress of Metro Louisville ten-year campaign for compassion. Visit: compassionatelouisville.org for more information.

Feb 9 (Thu) DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF FORSOOTH. Email articles to: russgreenleaf@yahoo.com or call 502-264-2437

Feb 14 (Tue) JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE meeting at 7 pm. Meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For details, call 502-553-6451 or email: barbaraberman2@gmail.com

Feb 10 (Fri) A GLIMPSE OF ETERNITY. The Louisville Astronomical Society at dusk in Tom Sawyer Park. Every 2nd Friday, weather permitting. Look through telescopes at planets, our moon, stars, double stars, the Orion nebula and other wonders. louisville-astro.org

Feb 10 (Fri) KENTUCKY ACLU: ART, ADVOCACY AND ACTIVISM. 21c Museum Hotel. Engage in art and advocacy with fellow libertarians. Share reactions to international social justice issues. Visit: aclu-ky.org

Feb 11 (Sat) EARTHSAVE OF LOUISVILLE. Crescent Hill Ministries, 6PM to 8PM. Every 2nd Saturday. Discuss healthy food and behavior change. Bring a plant-based dish and share your recipe. Mix, mingle, music. Call 299-9520 for more information.

Feb 12 to 19 HAND IN HAND MINISTRIES. Work side by side with people in other communities and other countries by participating in our immersion trips. Visit www.myhandinhand.org

Feb 15 (Wed) GROWING FOOD AND COMMUNITY. 15 Thousand Farmers at Dismas St. Ann’s on Algonquin Pkwy, the 15th of every month. Share ideas and experiences about growing your own food. Taste samples. Visit www.15thousandfarmers.com

Feb 16 & 28 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

Feb 16 (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

Feb 16 (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

Feb 16 (Thu) KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE. Every first & third Thursday, 5:30PM at Main Public Library. Call Kay Tillow 636-1551.

Feb 16 (Thu) THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH. Ron Russell, immigration attorney and immigration activist, speaks about changes in immigration policy. Hotel Louisville, 120 W. Broadway (Second and Broadway) Lunch begins at 11:30 am. Speaker at noon. Co-sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Interfaith Paths to Peace.

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

Feb 16 (Thu) FORSOOTH LABELING PARTY. 6:30 PM at the Winn Center at the Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Rd. **COME TO THE PARTY !** Many hands make light work, and the opposite is also true. Join us if you can. It’s fun. Meet progressive people. Enjoy great conversations. Free refreshments. For directions, call 451-5658 or email: fordhoff@bellsouth.net

Feb 17 (Fri) ENGERY CONSERVATION STRATEGIES. Ekstrom Library at U of L, Noon. Basic training & resources and service opportunities on advocacy for sustainability. <http://louisville.edu/sustainability>

Feb 19 (Sun) MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE. First Unitarian Church, 4th and York St., 4PM. Help plan Advocacy Day in Frankfort on Feb 22. Call: 571-278-2255 or visit: momsdemandaction.org

Feb 28 (Tues) KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES LUNCH & LEARN. Noon to 1:30PM. Learn more about our refugee & immigration settlement program and citizenship tutoring classes. Visit kyrm.org

Feb 22 (Wed) THE OCCUPATION OF THE AMERICAN MIND. Free film showing, 6:45 pm at Highlands Public Library, in the Mid City Mall, 1250 Bardstown Rd. New film with Noam Chomsky, Phyllis Bennis, Rashid Khalidi and others explaining how the Israel Lobby influences US media coverage to support Israel. More info: 502-264-2437 or email: russgreenleaf@yahoo.com

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Feb 2 (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.

Feb 6 (Mon) KENTUCKY MIGRANT NETWORK COALITION. Lexington KY at the Cardinal Valley Center, 12PM. Every first Monday. Get better acquainted with Kentucky’s immigrant and refugee families. For more information, call 859-258-3824.

Feb 15 (Wed) KY FAIRNESS RALLY. State Capitol in Frankfort, KY. Meet state legislators and discuss prospects for a Statewide Fairness Law. Visit www.fairnesscoalition.org

Feb 16 (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

EVENTS AT LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC

LIBRARIES. Visit www.lfpl.org

Feb 1 (Wed) DISCOVER AFRICAN AMERICAN GREATNESS Bon Air Public Library, 2:30 PM. Join our online scavenger hunt. Share the facts you discover.

Feb 1 (Wed) MEETING OF THE MINDS. Crescent Hill Public Library, 7PM. Discuss current events and topics with your friends and neighbors

Feb 4 (Sat) ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB. Every Saturday at the Iroquois & Newburg Public Library Branches, 3PM. Also Main Library on Wednesdays at 7PM.

Feb 4 (Sat) INTRODUCTION TO AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY HISTORY Main Public Library, 2:30 PM. Learn the basics on how to trace your ancestors from many sources.

Feb 4 (Sat) AFRICAN AMERICAN READ-IN Newburg Public Library, 2:30 PM. Read inspiring great books and enjoy the favorite dishes of inspiring people

Feb 7 (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.

Feb 8 (Wed) GRANTSEEKING BASICS FOR WORTHY CAUSES. Main Public Library, 1:30PM. Learn the basics of research and writing.

Feb 9 (Wed) BOOKS ON GLOBAL SOLIDARITY. Main Public Library, Noon to 1PM. Second Wednesday each month. (aka The Mayor’s Book Club) Read and explore contemporary books rooted in different countries and cultures. Celebrate the diversity of Louisville.

Feb 10 (Fri) AFRICAN AMERICAN ARCHIVES TOUR. Western Public Library, 1PM. Peruse the great books in our collection. Watch a short documentary.

Feb 11 (Sat) BLACK LOUISVILLE JEOPARDY GAME. Newburg Public Library, 3PM.Master the essentials of our local history.

Feb 13 (Mon) FOLLOW THE DRINKING GOURD. Newburg Public Library, 6PM. Hear stories about the Underground Railroad and watch a video.

Feb 14 (Tues) BEGINNING SPANISH. Iroquois Public Library, 6:30PM. Learn conversational Spanish from native speakers.

Feb 18 (Sat) CULTURAL SHOWCASE: CELEBRATE AFRICA. Iroquois Public Library, 6:30PM. Meet our neighbors who originated from many African countries. Food and music.

Feb 23 (Thurs) DOCUMENTING LOUISVILLE’S BLACK HISTORY. Western Public Library, 6:30PM. Historian and Archivist Tom Owen discusses the efforts of UofL’s Regional History Archives.

Feb 23 (Thurs) ON THE TURKISH BORDER WITH SYRIA. Main Public Library, 7PM. Hear Elliot Ackerman discuss his new novel, “Dark at the Crossing,” set in Turkey and Syria.

Feb 25 (Sat) AFRO-CUBAN CULTURE. Iroquois Public Library, 6:30PM. Meet our neighbors who originated from Cuba. Learn more about their history, traditions, and music.

Feb 23 (Thurs) ON THE TURKISH BORDER WITH SYRIA. Main Public Library, 7PM. Hear Elliot Ackerman discuss his new novel, “Dark at the Crossing,” set in Turkey and Syria.

Feb 25 (Sat) FRENCH CIRCLE. Iroquois Public Library, 12:30PM. A new book in French every month.

Feb 26 (Sat) 2016 OBAMA’S AMERICA. Newburg Public Library, 1PM. Watch and discuss a new documentary.