

Delegation to Hebron, Palestine

By Dotti Lockhart

Last September, as a member of a Christian Peacemaker Teams delegation, I witnessed the everyday life of Palestinians under occupation by Israel. Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) define themselves as an organization of “committed peacemakers ready to risk injury... in attempts to transform lethal conflict through the nonviolent power of God’s love.”

CPT has had a presence in Hebron, Palestine, in the West Bank, since June 1995.

“CPT team members stand with Palestinians and Israeli peace groups engaged in non-violent opposition to Israeli military occupation, collective punishment, settler harassment, home demolitions and land confiscation.” In my role as a delegate, I was not asked to put myself in harm’s way, though it was understood that I may experience the effects of Israeli tear gas, sound bombs, and harassment.

My journey into uncharted territory began even before our plane landed. When a plane

enters Israeli airspace, for security reasons everyone must remain seated until the plane is at the gate. Once in the airport, I was prepared to be questioned by customs officials as to why I was visiting Israel. Had I said I was visiting Hebron, there was a chance I would be denied entry. Luckily I didn’t have to answer any questions. Since I am a senior citizen and was using a cane, I think the customs officials deferred to my age, checked my documents, and I was in Israel.

Over the course of the next two weeks, the delegation expressed solidarity with the Palestinian people, experiencing small tastes of the obstacles and indignities they suffer on a daily basis. For example, on a trip from Ramallah to Jerusalem, which is a very short distance, the Palestinian bus had to go through an Israeli checkpoint. Everyone had to exit the bus while the bus was searched and the passengers had their documents checked. As non-Palestinians, we could have stayed on the bus, but we got in line with the Palestinians and showed our passports.



Dotti Lockhart

By the time we were out of security, the bus had already left, leaving us and other passengers who were at the back of the bus stranded at the checkpoint. A mini-industry has sprung up outside the checkpoint—Palestinians with vans who provide (for a fee) transportation the short distance to Jerusalem for those left behind by buses that won’t wait.

The purpose of our visit to Ramallah was to meet with a lawyer from Military Court Watch <http://www.militarycourtwatch.org/>

Military Court Watch is a 12-person team consisting mostly of lawyers whose focus is on Palestinian children who have been arrested by the Israeli army. Most of these arrests are of children between the ages of 12 and 18 whose alleged offense is usually throwing stones at people, either Jewish

settlers or Israeli soldiers, or at Israeli structures like the separation wall or checkpoints. The responsibility of the Israeli army in the West Bank is to protect Jewish settlers and to keep order. Any form of resistance by Palestinians, most commonly stone throwing, is punished.

The Israeli army maintains control over the Palestinians through mass intimidation and collective punishment. Arrests of children accused of stone throwing usually take place late at night. The Israeli army will enter a village when people are in their homes. If the army does not know the identity of the suspects, it will look for informers in the village.

If the stone throwers can’t be identified, the whole village may be punished

by the imposition of curfews, the cutoff of the water supply, or the interruption of electrical service. If a stone thrower is identified, he is arrested, blindfolded and his hands are tied behind his back. Since this takes place at night, villagers will witness the consequences of the “crime” of throwing stones. The detainee is loaded into a military vehicle



Palestinian children in Hebron, Palestine | Photo by Dotti Lockhart

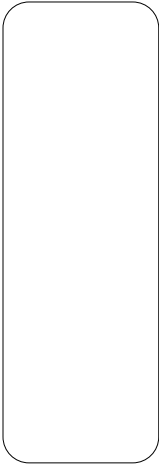
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“Fake News” Starts with Trump

By Gracie Lewis

On February 16, 2017, President Trump issued “fake news” when he stated he inherited a country in crisis. The real news is that President Barack Obama left this country in good shape.

When President Obama entered the White House eight years ago, he inherited an economy careening toward a second Depression, and he aggressively took steps to arrest the crisis, restart growth and job creation, and rebuild our economy on a stronger foundation.

President Trump within one month has issued executive orders that would put us right back in the mess that we were in when President Obama took office.

President Obama brought stability by recapitalizing the financial system so it could it could recover from the financial crisis and start lending again. He recovered the entire taxpayer investment into the banks, plus a nearly \$30 billion positive return. This is documented by US Treasury Department statistics and by Paul Kiel and Dan Nguyen in an article in ProPublica updated on January 30, 2017. President Obama launched programs to restart crucial lending markets for student and auto loans, other forms of consumer credit, housing, and small businesses. President



Gracie Lewis

Obama coordinated a global response to the financial crisis in April 2009 that marshalled more than \$1 trillion of support to restore credit, growth, and jobs in the global economy.

President Obama saved the American auto industry and required that Chrysler and General Motors adopt viable restructuring plans in exchange for temporary federal loan support, including building more fuel efficient cars. The Obama Administration facilitated the emergence of Chrysler and GM from bankruptcy and added more than 600,000 jobs, with domestic auto sales and production reaching their highest levels in more than a decade. The auto industry has fully exited the temporary federal programs that supported them, repaying the American taxpayer every dollar and more of what the Obama Administration committed.

The Obama Administration reformed Wall Street by adopting the Volcker Rule to prohibit banks from risky proprietary trading and from sponsoring investment funds that are unrelated to core banking. The Obama Administration established the Consumer Protection Bureau (CFPB) to hold financial institutions accountable and protect consumers from the type of abuses that preceded the crisis. The Obama Administration launched

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A fortified Israeli checkpoint in Hebron, Palestine. CPT monitors this checkpoint every morning to try to insure that Palestinian children are not detained. | Photo by Dotti Lockhart

Delegation...

(continued from page 1)

where he will remain until the Israeli army offices open at 8:00 am.

The child detainees are denied sleep, questioned relentlessly, and told everyone else has confessed and been sent home. Many “confess” whether they did anything or not. If they confess, they are given a document in Hebrew to sign and are then released. They must return to the military court in four days. Only then are they allowed to see a lawyer for the first time.

Military Court Watch lawyers respond

within the first 12 hours of a child’s arrest. They monitor the treatment of children in Israeli military detention, collect evidence, brief the media and politicians of the arrest, and attempt to get accountability in the courts. While they cannot act on the child’s behalf, they can present evidence of civil rights violations to international courts. The arrests and detention of children constitute war crimes. We learned that nowhere else in the world are these war crimes committed on a daily basis, and have been for the last 50 years.

During my stay in the West Bank, I was



Palestinian school children entering Israeli checkpoint in Hebron, Palestine. | Photo by Dotti Lockhart

unsettled by the sight of the separation wall, the checkpoints, and the bleakness of Palestinian lands, where water access is often denied, juxtaposed next to the lush Jewish settlements, where water supplies are unrestricted.

Hope in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict lies in the many grassroots organizations that are working on justice and civil rights issues and on nonviolent resistance to



Israeli soldiers in Hebron, Palestine. | Photo by Dotti Lockhart

the occupation. Many of these organizations are made up of both Palestinians and Israelis who desire to live peacefully side by side. May they prevail.

Dotti Lockhart is a retired Jefferson County Public Schools (JCPS) elementary teacher. For over 20 years, she and her husband have led service trips to Guatemala for Bellarmine University students. Dotti is a member of the Peace and Justice Committee and the Friends of Esquipulas Committee at St. William Catholic Church. She is also a member of Pax Christi and the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR). She can be reached at dottianbob@aol.com

Fake News...

(continued from page 1)

new infrastructure finance centers at the Department of Transportation, the Environmental Protection Agency, and the Department of the Interior to increase private investment in U.S. Infrastructure and encouraged more public-private collaboration on transportation, water and other projects.

The Obama Administration raised academic standards in our schools and made new investments from preschool through 12th grade. Almost every state was supported (49 states and including the District of Columbia) in adopting higher academic state-driven expectations for their K-12 students, so that what students learn is aligned with college and career expectations, and with the work of their peers in other countries. The Obama Administration expanded and improved job-training opportunities.

Obama’s administration reoriented \$1 billion in annual job training grants to align with job-driven training best practices.

The Obama Administration signed into law The Dodd-Frank Act (short for the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act), which is a financial reform act that that protects consumers and was implemented in response to the 2008 financial crisis. Now under the Trump Administration, there will be little or nothing to protect consumers, because Trump is taking out those

regulations that improved transparency and accountability.

Now what do you see after 30 days of the Trump Administration? Chaos and confusion. And there is still no replacement for the Affordable Care Act, just talk!

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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In the development of its program, FOR depends upon persons who seek to apply these principles to every area of life. We invite you to join us in this endeavor. Membership consists of signing the FOR Statement of Purpose indicating that you agree with FOR’s goals. Please sign up online at: forusa.org

Louisville FOR Co-chairpersons:
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Israel Arrests Children

By Russ Greenleaf

Israel usually arrests Palestinian children by breaking into their homes in the middle of the night when the world cannot see.

But the arrest at right was in broad daylight and was caught on video and reported by many news outlets, including the New York Times and CNN.

It happened on August 28, 2015, while residents of the Palestinian village of Nabi Saleh in the West Bank were participating in a non-violent demonstration to protest against Israel confiscating the village's land and freshwater spring.

An Israeli soldier accused a Palestinian



Israeli soldier arresting a Palestinian child in the village of Nabi Saleh on August 28, 2015 | Photo source: Mondoweiss – mondoweiss.net

child of throwing a stone and chased the child to arrest him. The child had a cast on his arm. The soldier, armed with an assault rifle, caught the child and put him in a choke hold.

The child began screaming, and women and children at the demonstration ran to



Palestinian women and children struggle with an Israeli soldier to stop him from arresting a child in the village of Nabi Saleh. They succeeded in rescuing the child. The Israeli soldier was not injured. | Photo source: Mondoweiss – mondoweiss.net

help him. The women and children struggled to pull the child from the soldier's grasp. The soldier yelled for help from other soldiers, but before they arrived, the Palestinian women and children succeeded in pulling the child away.

The Israeli soldier then tried to punch the women. Despite his aggressive behavior, and despite the fact that he was surrounded by Palestinians at the demonstration, the Israeli soldier was not harmed, and the demonstration remained peaceful.

As he was walking away, the Israeli soldier threw a teargas canister into the crowd of peaceful demonstrators.

This was all documented by video and eyewitnesses and was reported by mainstream media.

The full story can be seen at the Israel-Palestine news site Mondoweiss.net

<http://mondoweiss.net/2015/08/israeli-soldier-assaulting/>

For more info, google: "Mondoweiss child arrest"



Israeli soldier tries to punch Palestinian women because they prevented him from arresting a child. | Photo source: IssamR Photography and the blog The Pretty Lie or the Ugly Truth



Israeli soldiers and police arrest a Palestinian child.



Israeli soldiers arrest a 7-year-old child in Hebron, Palestine. | Photo source: International Solidarity Movement (ISM) <https://palsolidarity.org/>

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April 20

Joetta Venneman, People Against Trafficking Humans (PATH) Coalition of Kentucky

Human trafficking is modern-day slavery. With 21 million victims worldwide, it is a \$32 billion/year industry. Sr. Joetta Venneman works with the Sisters of Charity of Nazareth's Office of Social & Environmental Justice. She will discuss **PATH's efforts to raise community awareness, support survivors, and combat the trafficking that goes on every day in Kentucky, especially at Derby time and other sporting events.** Learn how you can take action to reduce the number of women, children and men who are trapped by traffickers into forced labor and sexual exploitation.

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Our Environment is Calling... Will You Answer?

By Cody Mann

The world as we know it has forever changed, and will continue to change until we decide to do something. Our connection to Mother Earth has been severed and climate change is one of the many side effects that we are experiencing as a result. But how did it get this way? How could we get so detached from the beautiful planet that provides so much abundant life?

The answer is that we have allowed big corporations to step in and make the decisions for us. Many of these corporations have ties with the fossil fuel industry and therefore, the infrastructure of our modern lifestyles on our planet continues to be built around fossil fuels. They are too heavily invested in fossil fuels to invest in the green energy that would be much more efficient and eco-friendly.

The problem is that we have lost much of the connection with ourselves, each other, and the world around us. We have been taught that there is us and then there is everything else outside of us. When we look at the world like this, it causes us to be emotionally detached from our natural environment. But the truth is we are all connected to nature, through the air we breathe and the ground we stand upon. Without it, there would be no us. Just like everything in life, there must be a balance.

Right now, due to the burning of these fossil fuels, there is an imbalance in the amount of carbon that permeates the air. When too much carbon dioxide gets into the air, it

begins to melt the ice caps and frozen regions of the earth, which serve as our planet's "air conditioner," thus, not allowing our planet to cool down enough. Notice the weather this winter. We are having consecutive 70-degree days in February! The "safe" level of carbon dioxide in the air is 350 ppm (parts per million), but currently we are at 406 ppm and climbing, due to increased population and consumption. When this number reaches 450 ppm, we are in deep trouble.

Another big factor that has lead to climate change is the increase in the amount of beef required to meet popular demand in the United States. When cows are fed, they burp and produce methane, which gets released into the air. Methane contributes about 12% of the greenhouse gases that are responsible for the climate change threats we are facing today. To give a comparison, one molecule of methane compares to 23 molecules of carbon dioxide. This means methane is 23 times more harmful than carbon. And not only is overproduction of cattle causing an increase in methane, but also, 47%

of the land in the United States is used for food production, and much of that is for growing grain to feed the cattle, which makes this one of the biggest causes of deforestation.

But the good news is that we have the ability to stop all of this if we just stand up and say "No More!" We can no longer rely on someone or something to make changes in our lives. We must start relying on ourselves and bring changes to the environment.

This can only happen when we empower ourselves to stand up for what we truly believe in. We are the change that we have been looking for in the world!

In an attempt to spread awareness of how to make an impact, we have started a grass-roots movement here in Louisville, Kentucky to make a push for the environment. It is a movement that focuses on environmental justice and bringing out the leader in others, by not only hosting events for people to come to, but showing people the formula for how to do this themselves. When we rally together we have so much more power from our



Cody Mann

collective voices. This movement is known as The Louisville Ripple.

Environmental changes affect all life on earth. As Bill McKibben, founder of the environmentalist group 350.org, said, "We have to build movements—creative, hopeful movements that can summon our love for the planet, but also angry, realistic movements willing to point out the ultimate rip-off under way, as a tiny number of people enrich themselves at the expense not only of the rest of us, but also at the expense of every generation yet to come, not to mention every other species."

The solution must come from us, as the people. We must decide that we have had enough and step into the leader that can be found in every single one of us.

Now more than ever we are calling on you to stand with us. No good act is too small. Together we will hold meetings, make calls, reduce our carbon footprint, rally our creative energy and give life to this movement, sending out transforming ripples throughout Louisville, and eventually it will spread out and inevitably change the world.

Get involved at:

<https://350.org/>

and at:

<https://www.facebook.com/TheLouisvilleRipple/>

Cody Mann is the organizer of the environmental justice activist movement known as The Louisville Ripple. He is a member of the Louisville Chapter of the nonprofit grass-roots movement 350.org and is passionate about uniting organizations, groups and individuals in Louisville and beyond to push for environmental justice and a clean and healthy planet for all life forms. You can reach him at: TheLouisvilleRipple@gmail.com



A rally focusing on climate change drew 90 people at 6th and Jefferson Streets in Louisville, Kentucky on February 11, 2017, sponsored by 350.org and the Louisville Ripple
Photo by Tim Morehead

Standing with Immigrants

By Maria Scharfenberger

Last night I had a dream. I was walking with my daughter (whose birth mother is an indigenous woman from southern Mexico) and an officer pulled me aside and asked me for identification. I didn't have any. Then he asked my daughter for hers. She is only 14 and doesn't have identification either. I was filled with dread and fear. Will they take her? Will they take me? How can we prove we belong here? If I, a middle-class, privileged, white person, am having these nightmares, just imagine for a minute what our immigrant mothers, fathers, sons and daughters are facing day in and day out.

A friend recently told me that she has advised her U.S. citizen-children to carry a copy of their passports at all times. "What?" That sounds absurd. Yet across our nation many people of color are being threatened with deportation regardless if they have legal residency or U.S. citizenship, regardless if they have lived here 15 years or more, regardless if they have homes, businesses, children

and grandchildren, regardless if they are outstanding community members. Terror. And I mean terror, is upon us.

This Saturday morning I spent an hour and a half on the phone with 2 clients who are having constant panic attacks because of the current climate of hate and anguish in our community. One is not sleeping and barely eating because she keeps imagining being torn and separated from her children. She can't function. I've worked with her for 10 years and this is the worst I have ever seen her. All, and I repeat all, of my therapy clients—adults and children alike—are impacted by these times, by executive orders and laws that have no regard for compassion, love, or even common sense.

Recently, a "Day without Immigrants" took place. Over 35 area businesses closed, parents didn't send their children to school, workers didn't go to work and shoppers didn't shop. In May, there will be an even larger national strike. Imagine the impact and contributions that our immigrants (14% of our population)

and undocumented people (12 million) have. According to a report by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, "removing [even] eight million undocumented workers from the economy would also remove eight million entrepreneurs, consumers, and taxpayers. This would cause the U.S. economy to lose jobs. Secondly, native-born workers and immigrant workers tend to possess different skills that often complement one another, and are therefore not interchangeable." Our economy and our social fabric benefit from the presence and hard work of this population. See "Immigration Myths and Facts"

https://www.uschamber.com/sites/default/files/documents/files/Immigration_MythsFacts.pdf

And so we take to the streets. The March in Washington DC the day after the inauguration was one of great hope, joy, and inspiration. I have never been in such a large crowd (estimated 500,000) and felt in solidarity with so many diverse communities. There was great creativity, artful expressions, sincerity, and love. Although from where we stood we couldn't make out the stage or hear the speakers, we were present with our minds, hearts, and bodies to say "yes" to compassion, dignity for all, and to send a message that we will stand up for human rights, for peace, and for justice.

It astounded me that I was criticized by a facebook friend for being a Catholic at a "pro-abortion" rally. No, this was undoubtedly not about abortion. It was about human dignity,

a very Catholic ideal. See US Bishops' statements on Catholic Social Teaching.

See Pope Francis's statements on the treatment of immigrants, refugees, and Muslims. See Jesus's words in Matthew Chapter 25.

Back home now we are hearing about the raids, about immigration agents posting themselves at the entrances to apartment complexes and trailers parks. They may say they are looking for criminals, but they are also detaining and deporting mothers and fathers, people of faith, community members and church goers. I have heard the cries and the seen the tears of a parishioner fighting for the return of her husband with her three young children standing by.

These are the folks we will stand with in the continuing struggle against bigotry, racism, and hatred. We will stand for life, for the vulnerable and for the immigrant among us as we are called to do by our faith and by our humanity.

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



Maria Scharfenberger

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We Stand Together

By Mayor Greg Fischer

On January 30, 2017, I spoke to thousands of people at a pro-immigration rally at Louisville's Muhammad Ali Center. This is what I said.

When we decided to hold this gathering, we knew we should do it at the Ali Center. Muhammad Ali provided us all with an inspiring example of courage, conviction and compassion. This native son of Louisville once said, "If you love God, you can't love only some of his children."

We stand here today and raise our voices in support of the millions of patriotic Americans who left their native countries and now make their homes in Louisville and cities around the country. These are people who start businesses, join PTAs, pay taxes and make valuable contributions to their communities.

The recent travel ban on anyone entering the United States from seven Muslim-majority countries ran counter to the America we know and love: a strong, courageous, outward-looking, multicultural nation.

This country was founded and formed by immigrants and their children. And for 240 years, America has drawn many of the best, brightest and bravest from around the world, and made a home for them and their families.

In our city, we're honored by the contributions of our immigrant community. People like ...

Marta Miranda. She's the president and CEO of the Center for Women and Families. And part of Kentucky's large and growing Cuban community, the Kentubanos.



Pro-immigration rally at Louisville's Muhammad Ali Center on January 30, 2017 draws thousands of people. | Photo source: Mayor Fischer's facebook page

Dr. Muhammad Babar, a physician originally from Pakistan. Dr. Babar is one of our city's and our nation's strongest advocates for compassion and understanding among people of different faiths.

And Dr. Alex Gerassimides - my wife. Her parents are Greek immigrants who fled civil war in their own country to come to America.

Immigrants of all faiths and nationalities are a valuable part of our community, and their work in an increasingly global world, their presence and connections to other countries, are even more valuable.

I spent most of my career building businesses. That's where I learned that to be the best at spurring innovation and growth, it's essential to have input from people with diverse and global backgrounds.

My team and I embrace that same global mindset at Metro Government. That's why Louisville is a welcoming city, where we owe much of our population growth to the foreign-born -- with Latinos leading the way.

Es importante que seamos unidos -- It's important that we are all united!

And we've taken action - establishing our Office for Globalization in 2011 to provide foreign-born Louisvillians with access to programs, services and opportunities for success.

Compassion is one of our city values. And in Louisville, we define compassion as having respect for each and every person so they can reach their full human potential.

Part of reaching that full potential is being safe and secure in your home and community. That's why LMPD is focused on public safety, and why we will not divert resources from that vital work to anything that will not make our city safer.

LMPD does not have the authority to enforce federal immigration laws. And LMPD does not arrest people on the basis of their immigration status.

In Louisville, our compassion extends to our immigrant brothers and sisters from all countries and all religions. We also

know that if the freedom of one group is compromised today, then we are all at risk tomorrow.

Yes, there are threats to our country -- like ISIS and Al-Qaeda and other groups -- and we should continue our offensive against them -- not their victims -- most of whom are Muslims themselves!



Mayor Greg Fischer

The fact that they may share a religion or nationality does not justify a shared indictment.

As a white Christian American man, I certainly hope that people don't look at me and assume there is no meaningful difference between me and people like Timothy McVeigh, Dylann Roof or David Duke.

We owe that same respect to our Muslim neighbors and colleagues. We owe that same respect to our Latino friends and families. We owe that same respect to everyone - not to stereotype or generalize based on ethnicity.

Because in a country founded on the principle that all are created equal, we should all be judged, in the words of Dr. King, by the content of our character.

And let's understand something else. The economic prosperity we're experiencing here in Louisville and in many parts of the country, simply isn't reaching everyone the way it should. Some people are struggling. And that leads to frustration and anxiety.

But we have to face that reality together. And understand that our city must support both foreign-born and native-born Louisvillians.

The future has room for all of us. And we need everyone on board. That means we have to talk to each other, listen to each other, and respect each other. Because this is a pivotal moment - a decision point, where we will determine the course of our country and our world.

Economic, social and technological changes present us with opportunities and challenges unlike anything we've ever seen.

That's why gatherings like this do matter: It's our duty to show our love for our country by reminding our country's leaders that we fiercely believe in the American dream -- for everyone. And we will not rest until it's open to all.

America must rise to this moment and lead global alliances that benefit people of all faiths and nations.

In this compassionate city, in the hometown of Muhammad Ali, we proclaim, with one voice, that we embrace our shared, global future.

In Louisville, we stand together. We work together. And we rise together.

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.

Why Bother with Climate Change?

By Keith Mountain

After all, according to some, the global climate has shifted many times over long periods before humans could possibly have acted in such a way as to be an agent of this change. So, there is nothing we can do about it. Not our fault. We continue with the business as usual model.

We live in a world where the practices of science and discovery have yielded the many benefits that have advantaged us as a civilized society. We have come to trust in the certainty of science and those responsible for evolving the benefits we all gain. After all, the scientific method itself is the standard by which we gauge success or failure of important concepts. However, it would seem that the denial of climate change is not consistent with this approach.

We can try to understand the global climate system in two ways: 1) we attempt to describe and integrate all the known complex interactions leading to prediction; 2) we can look at the many simple and basic facts that we know absolutely and move backwards into the complexities of the science required to explain

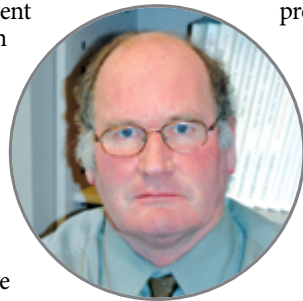
them. If we are to adopt option one, it is clear that complex facts can be easily twisted or redirected in such a way as to generate uncertainty and confusion. Should we adopt the second option, we are required to directly explain what we observe.

Let's consider some of these basic facts: the average global temperature has increased and continues to increase since the turn of the last century as has atmospheric carbon dioxide and methane (volatile greenhouse gasses); certain areas of the Earth are experiencing different rates of climate change (the Arctic is warming at double the global average). The Earth's ice caps and glaciers are shrinking and their waters add to changes in sea level. This list could be a lengthy one but the point is clear -- these are simple, reproducible facts related to climate and environmental change behind which lies the science of discovery. To disprove these facts you have to disprove the science. For example, you would be challenged to prove the well-known physics of radiative and heat transfer do not apply to atmospheric gases such as carbon dioxide and methane. You would be challenged to produce an explanation for the

observed increase in the atmosphere of these quantities (from a persistent 270 parts per million for carbon dioxide over the last 800,000 years to the rapid increase of 400 parts per million over the past 50 years; methane, measured in parts per billion, from 700 to over 1800 as measured in 2016). The simple realities are that these changes, so easily detected in the workings of the global environmental system, carry the imprint of human occupancy.

For those that feel climate change and its predicted impacts are not true or accurate, it seems reasonable that the onus is now on their part to produce proof to the contrary. That is, proof that is the result of serious first hand discovery, a synthesis of results within the context of the scientific framework, results reviewed by those knowledgeable and practiced within the area of research and, critically, results that are held to levels of certainly requested of the current climate science community. That seems reasonable, fair, and will produce a balanced articulation of the issues connected to climate change. We could all benefit from such an approach and, given the gravity of the widely recognized harmful and long-lasting outcomes of human-induced climate change, it should be an expectation if not forcefully demanded.

The simple fact (perhaps the most logical of facts) is that humankind is a major agent of global and environmental change. We build cities, we irrigate where it would be unwise under natural conditions, we deforest for agricultural land, we consume enormous amount



Keith Mountain

of fossil fuels to produce energy for the productivity of our everyday lives.

It has been well argued that by not acknowledging this (our) environmental impact we are expressing the willingness to take risk. To some, this is a risk prepared to be taken even in light of the known detrimental impacts. Consider that this risk is not just for us but for all natural and biological systems upon which we depend and desire to keep in place for future generations. Over time arguments as to the denial of either climate change and/or the levels of human attribution have changed. The latest is that, in the face of overwhelming evidence, there is an increasing willingness to acknowledge human impacts on climate but the associated costs to resolve many of the issues are too great. This argument places the economy ahead of the environment and is fundamentally flawed. The environment is not only our economy but sustains every element of our lives. Indeed, as the primary agent of all environmental changes, there are sound reasons for us to turn attention to global climate change and its consequences.

Keith Mountain is a professor in the Department of Geography and Geosciences at the University of Louisville. As a climate scientist with specialty in glaciology and climate change, his research relates to the details of how glaciers and ice sheets interact with the climate system and what the current global retreat of glaciers tells us about climate change and prospects for the Earth's future climate, and how humankind can expect to interact with this change.

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LGE-KU's Harmful Rate Increase Plan

By Wallace McMullen

The big electric utility Louisville Gas & Electric and Kentucky Utilities (LGE-KU) has proposed a distressing electric rate restructuring plan for residential customers.

LGE-KU's proposal to the Public Service Commission would more than double the basic monthly service charge for electricity and slightly decrease the per kilowatt-hour (kwh) charge, (or usage charge). Also, it would greatly increase the mandatory monthly fee for natural gas service.

The increased mandatory monthly rates are a deterrent to efficiency programs, as the bills become less influenced by actual usage. Why bother with efficiency when the bill hardly changes each month due to the high fixed fee? So this rate plan encourages more consumption, which means burning more fossil fuels.

The higher fixed rate is a deterrent to installing solar systems as well. If most of the charge is the mandatory monthly fee, then eliminating the portion of the bill for electric usage by installing a solar system becomes much less economically rewarding. The result is less reliability, less diversification, and less resilience of the electric grid, with potentially higher costs in Kentucky as the United States switches to a clean energy economy.

Further, higher fixed costs put a disproportionate burden on lower income residents, who cannot change their usage much. Reduced charges per kwh benefit large consumers who use a lot of electricity each month.

Here are the actual numbers:

Electricity, present fixed monthly charge is \$10.75

Proposed fixed monthly charge is \$22.00

Gas (LGE only) present fixed monthly charge is \$13.50



A proposed LGE-KU rate change would discourage installing solar panels on houses.

Proposed is \$24.00

For an LGE residential customer with gas and electricity utilities, the total mandatory monthly fee would rise to \$46.00. Ouch!

A similar proposal for increasing the mandatory monthly rate was proposed by the companies two years ago, but was withdrawn after public outrage was expressed at hearings on the issue.

Another point: LGE-KU said in press releases they need additional money to install "smart grid" devices which will allow them to fix outages more quickly.

But lawyers who have analyzed the full details of the company's filing documents tell me that those proposed infrastructure projects are not actually the basis for the companies' current requests to raise rates. Financial payment for those projects, if approved, would be a question for a future case in which the companies might again seek to increase revenues.

What really is there in the filings is simply a shifting of their revenue source from electricity sales to the higher mandatory monthly fees.

Part of this rate case is LG&E's request to allow LG&E and KU to convert all meters to "Smart Meters." These meters are expensive and thus increase rates, which is bad for low income residents. Although Smart Meters generate more timely information for curious customers, studies reveal that they do not actually change people's usage behavior.

Moreover, 1) low-income folks are less likely to have the internet access and computers necessary to view any info generated by Smart Meters. 2) There are risks of privacy invasion. (LG&E and hackers will know when you are home and in some cases what you are doing). 3) Smart Meters result in layoffs at LG&E, because they eliminate the need for people to actually go to a site to connect and disconnect power. 4)



Wallace McMullen

The remote disconnect capacity makes disconnection events far more likely for low-income, elderly, young, sick, and those on medical devices, which endangers their health.

This rate restructuring is highly undesirable! It will discourage efficiency, it will discourage solar, it will hurt low-income people, and it will make it harder to move Kentucky toward a clean energy economy. Bad on every count!

Readers can express opposition in a couple of ways. Please do so!

Best: Send a comment to the Public Service Commission. Put the Case number on first line, like this:

If sending post office mail, send your comments to:

Comment on Rate Case 2016-00371

Public Service Commission

P.O. Box 615

Frankfort, Kentucky 40602-0615

Or if you want to use email, send to psc.info@ky.gov and put Case 2016-00371 in the Subject Line.

Also, you will soon be able to sign a petition against this rate restructuring and increase at the web site of the Louisville Climate Action Network:

www.louisvillecan.org/psc

and the Kentucky Sierra Club website:

<http://kentucky.sierraclub.org/>

(The petition feature may not be up yet for a couple of weeks.)

We anticipate hearings on these undesirable proposals in March or April. Stay tuned, and participate in opposing these undesirable rate increases.

Wallace McMullen has been a renewable energy advocate for over 25 years. He worked in the Missouri State Energy Office for eight years and was the Energy Chair of the Kentucky Sierra Club for nine years. He is currently Chairperson of the Solar Over Louisville Planning Team and is a member of the Kentucky Sustainable Energy Alliance Coordinating Council. Contact him at: mcmulw@att.net

Rubble-Bouncing in a Changed World

by Isaac Marion Thacker IV

In 1914, England's rugged rugby boys went bouncing off to World War I thinking it would be over within six weeks, a sort of lark or walk in the park. Some 15 million senseless, often horrific deaths for profit later, their glee had changed to perhaps the most fundamental disillusionment with humanity, technology, and the world in general that the earth had ever seen. World War II, which would kill some 50-60 million more humans, followed so close on the heels of World War I that many call the period 1914-1945 the second Thirty Years War.

Thank goodness that there has not been a World War III, for with the advent of nuclear weapons it would likely destroy humanity. With a U.S. President Trump, who has said he's surprised that nuclear weapons haven't yet been used (at least not since 1945) and combines cozing up to Russia with saying of her bellicosity and nuclear and military buildup, "Let it be an arms race then," while Russian planes buzz U.S. ships in the Black Sea, and Russian spy ships anchor down off Connecticut (all of this has been reported on NPR), strategic deterrence is of tremendous, perhaps even paramount, importance these days.

Russia for years has been modernizing its nuclear force, so much so that it prompted even dovish President Obama to respond with a \$350 billion modernization plan of his own. The Russian saber-sharpening also probably played a large role in Obama's decision not to change the longstanding U.S. policy of being willing to be the first to use nuclear weapons in a conflict. (Obama had been considering adopting a no-first-strike policy.) Yes, deterrence is critical. And I haven't even mentioned Russia's westward, annexing push in Crimea and the Ukraine. This push, along with Putin's meddling in the Baltic and other states, has our European NATO allies extremely worried.

But the Cold War is still fundamentally over. Even Donald Trump had little bad to say about an openly socialist (!) presidential candidate, Sen. Bernie Sanders, in the 2016 U.S. election, for example. And while we differ with Russia on many things, it's not like the 1950s - 1980s. This fact has far-reaching implications for strategic nuclear deterrence.

No longer is there any need for "silo-buster," offensive, first-strike nuclear missiles such as the MX and the SS-18 and their descendants. The whole idea of deterrence is that any first strike can be survived and massively

Leftword(s)

retaliated against by the attacked country. Thus, the premium should always have been, and now can be, on weapons that are neither susceptible to, nor capable of, an effective first strike on hardened military targets. First-strike weapons are inherently destabilizing and totally unnecessary, now. So let's allow only defensive ones, and eliminate even those post haste.

For the U.S., a defensive nuclear weapon is the Midgetman (which carries a single warhead—no MIRV capability—and should not carry one big enough to threaten other countries' launchers). Another defensive one is the cruise missile (which flies low enough to avoid radar but lacks the punch to destroy a silo). Russia has similar weapons, notably the Midgetman-like SS-25. Those defensive weapons are the only ones that should now be permitted, and only temporarily.

We as a species can now bounce the rubble to which we are able to reduce much of our planet. But let's not! Let's not imitate Britain's



Isaac Marion Thacker IV

1914 rugged rugby boys and bounce blithely into what would now be Armageddon.

I believe that we, the 99 percent, are going to win, and we will entirely eliminate nuclear weapons if they're not already gone by then. In the meantime, let's allow only strictly defensive ones. Wars are fought

ultimately for Daddy Warbucks' profits. We will end them. Until then, let's revel in each new victory of and for the 99 percent. Yes we can! Si se puede! We will win! Love will win! Viva the 99 percent!

Isaac Marion Thacker IV (Ike Thacker) graduated summa cum laude with a B.A. and an M.A. in European and U.S. History from Murray State University. He earned a B.S. in Computer Science with a minor in Mathematics from Eastern Kentucky University. He is a longtime advocate for political, social, and especially economic democracy, with an equal concomitant striving for peace, often focusing on housing issues. Ike may be contacted at ike.thacker@gmail.com

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If you have excellent English skills
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HAVE AN IDEA FOR AN ARTICLE?

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

Deadline for the June issue: **Apr. 13, 2017**
Deadline for the July issue: **May. 11, 2017**

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(actual quotes from real FORsooth-labeling party goers)

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Spread the word.

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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)
APPAF (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)
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 – 2nd Tuesday at 7 pm, barbaraberman2@gmail.com
(502-553-6451)
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)
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) krcrc.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) – 1st Monday
(502-264-2437) russgreenleaf@yahoo.com
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 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@gmail.com,
sowersofjusticenetwork.org,
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 email us information about your peace and justice events to calendar.peace@gmail.com by the first Wednesday of each month.

Apr 1 (Sat) INTERFAITH SILENT MEDITATION. Every first Saturday. 9:30 AM. Brief meditation instruction and longer periods of silence, interspersed with opportunities for walking meditation. Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, the Barn at 1924 Newburg Road. Call 502-452-2749 for information. Visit <http://earthandspiritcenter.org>

Apr 1 (Sat) CANVASS NEIGHBORHOODS FOR FRESH FOOD. Saturdays and Sundays. Join us any time. Fresh Stop Project volunteers take orders door to door for locally grown fruits and vegetables. Visit <http://newrootsproduce.org>

Apr 1 (Sat) LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE. Every Saturday morning. Also, other days and times. 26 farmers' markets from California neighborhood to Norton Commons. www.louisvilleky.gov/HealthyHometown

Apr 2 (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

Apr 4, 11 & 18 DANCE FOR PATIENTS AND SURVIVORS OF PTSD. Dancing Well: The Soldier Project, 6PM. Join our dance for patients, survivors, and their families. Live music. Free childcare. Free admission. For more info, contact Deborah Denefield, 889-6584 or deborah@dancingwell.org

Apr 4 to 6 DIVERSITY TRAINING FOR AREA YOUTH. Peace Education Program. Deepen personal skills of affirmation, communication and cooperation. Visit www.PeaceEducationProgram.org

Apr 5 to 8, Apr 27 to 30, and Apr 30 to May 7 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

Apr 5 (Wed) DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE PEACE CALENDAR FOR THE MAY 1 ISSUE OF FORSOOTH. Email announcements to calendar.peace@gmail.com

Apr 5 (Wed), VOLUNTEER FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES Catholic Charities, 5:30pm. First Wednesday of even months. Learn more about our refugee & immigration settlement program and family assistance efforts. Visit <http://cclou.org>

Apr 5 (Wed) NOONTIME INTERFAITH MEDITATIONS. Every Wednesday from 12:10 to 12:30 at Christ Church Cathedral, Downtown. Weekly rotation includes Zen Buddhist silence, Lectio Divina, Vipassana Buddhist practices, and Creative Visualization. Visit <http://paths2peace.org>

Apr 5 (Wed) THE LOUISVILLE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM. Every first Wednesday. Sustainability and relationships that create a community for change. Bring your lunch. Noon to 1:45 PM, Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, the Barn at 1924 Newburg Road.

Apr 6 (Thurs) KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE. Every first & third Thursday, 5:30PM at Main Public Library. Call Kay Tillow 636-1551.

Apr 9 (Sun) THE NONVIOLENT CITIES PROJECT. Every 2nd Sunday at 2:30PM. Help us spread and apply the principles of non-violent action here and now. Call 812-280-0665 or email rodwsm@gmail.com for more information.

Apr 11 (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.

Apr 12 (Wed) Y-NOW CHILDREN OF PRISONERS MENTORING. Luncheon at YMCA Safe Place. 2nd Wednesday each month. Learn how you can help break the cycle through mentoring and encouragement. RSVP to 635-5233.

Apr 12 (Wed) LOUISVILLE FORUM. Noon at Vincenzo's Downtown. Every 2nd Wednesday. Speakers on current public issues. Non-partisan discussion. For details call, 329-0111.

Apr 12 (Wed) COMPASSIONATE LOUISVILLE. Noon. Meeting locations rotate. Help monitor the progress of Metro Louisville ten-year campaign for compassion. Visit <http://compassionatelouisville.org> for more information.

Apr 13 (Thu) DEADLINE FOR ARTICLES FOR THE MAY ISSUE OF FORSOOTH. Email articles to russgreenleaf@yahoo.com or call 502-264-2437

Apr 13 (Thurs) EVERYONE READS TRAINING. JCPS VanHoose Education Center, 4PM. Every 2nd Thursday. Join our communitywide effort to improve reading skills. Visit <https://apps.jefferson.kyschools.us/vounteer>

Apr 13 (Thurs) REAL PEOPLE, REAL CHALLENGES, REAL SOLUTIONS. Volunteers of America Family Emergency Shelter, morning and evening sessions. One hour interactive tour of VOA's work and programs for self-determination. For more information, call 636-4660

Apr 14 (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. Visit www.louisville-astro.org

Apr 15 (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.

Apr 15 (Sat) CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY. Main Public Library, Noon. Every 2nd Saturday. Help plan efforts to lobby for state legislation to combat climate change. For more information contact Jean at jmchri@gmail.com or call 502 634-3114.

Apr 15 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

Apr 17 (Mon) DINNER AND DEMOCRACY League of Women Voters hosts a speaker of interest to the community, at Lang House, 115 S. Ewing Avenue, Louisville, KY. Dinner at 5:30 p.m. (No reservation required, donations accepted) Program at 6:00 pm. For info about the speaker and topic: 895-5218 or email: info@lwvlouisville.org

Apr 18 (Tue) & 19 (Wed) PREJUDICE REDUCTION WORKSHOP, Peace Education Program. An interactive program on what people have in common and honoring cultural differences. See: www.PeaceEducationProgram.org

Apr 18 (Tues) JUSTICE MINISTRY ASSEMBLIES. CLOUT (Citizens of Louisville Organized and United Together). Volunteers in nineteen diverse congregations assemble to identify critical community problems for group advocacy. Visit www.cloutky.org

Apr 18 (Tue) SIERRA CLUB SPEAKER will talk about environmental issues, 7 pm at the Clifton Center, 2117 Payne St, Louisville, KY. For info on the speaker and topic: <http://www.louisvillesierraclub.org/>

Apr 20 (Thurs) LUNCH AND LEARN WITH FACE-IT. Peace Education Program. Find out more about how you can work for an end to child abuse. Visit www.PeaceEducationProgram.org

Apr 20 (Thurs) MENTAL ILLNESS SUPPORT & ADVOCACY. NAMI Louisville every third Thursday at 3PM. Also Saturdays and Sundays. Support group for families. Draw on years of experience. Visit www.namilouisville.org

Apr 20 (Thurs) COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (CASA). Orientation, Noon to 1PM. Learn how you can help defend the rights of abused and neglected children in our community. Call 595-4911 to RSVP

Apr 20 (Thurs) KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE. Every first & third Thursday, 5:30PM at Main Public Library. Call Kay Tillow 636-1551.

Apr 20 (Thu) THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH. Joetta Venneman, of People Against Trafficking Humans (PATH) Coalition of Kentucky, will discuss combatting the human trafficking that goes on every day in Kentucky, especially at Derby time and sporting events. Hotel Louisville, 120 W. Broadway (Second and Broadway) Lunch begins at 11:30 am. Speaker at noon. Co-sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) 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

Apr 20 (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

Apr 20 (Thu) DIALOGUE WITH POLICE. 6pm. Public open-dialogue discussions that allow youth 25 and under to talk with local law enforcement officials and establish better relationships. New location each month. <https://louisvilleky.gov/events>

Apr 20 (Thu) ANNUAL INTERGRATING WOMEN LEADERS CONFERENCE. 8AM to 4PM. Step outside your comfort zone, stretch your thinking, and strengthen advocacy skills. Visit <http://integratingwomanleaders.com>

April 22 (Sat) LOUISVILLE EARTHWALK. Iroquois Park. Celebrate the planet and raise awareness about how to create a more sustainable city. <http://www.louisvillesierraclub.org/>

Apr 25 (Tues) KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES LUNCH & LEARN. Noon to 1:30PM. Learn more about our refugee & immigration settlement program and citizenship tutoring classes. Visit <http://kyrm.org>

Apr 29 (Sat) PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH in Washington DC and other cities. Join the People's Climate Movement to stand up for our communities and climate. Get involved at: <http://www.peoplesclimate.org/>

OUT OF TOWN

Apr 3 (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.

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

Apr 20 (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. www.communityfarmalliance.org

EVENTS AT LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES. Visit www.lfpl.org

Apr 1 (Sat) ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB. Every Saturday at the Iroquois & Newburg Public Library Branches, 3PM. Also Main Library on Wednesdays at 7PM.

Apr 4 (Tues) HOUR OF POWER BOOK DISCUSSIONS. Newburg Public Library, every first Tuesday, 6:30 PM. Discuss books on personal efforts to overcome the challenges of abuse, oppression, deprivation, discrimination or disabilities.

Apr 5 (Wed) FUNDRAISING FOR WORTHY CAUSES. Main Public Library, 6:30PM. Learn the basics of research and writing.

Apr 9 (Sun) BOOKS ON GLOBAL SOLIDARITY. Main Public Library, Noon to 12PM. 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.

Apr 11 & 25 (Tues) BEGINNING SPANISH. Iroquois Public Library, 6:30PM. Learn conversational Spanish from native speakers.

Apr 14 (Sun) URBAN FORESTS Main Public Library, 2PM. Hear author Jill Johnes on the value of trees to public health and our infrastructure.

Apr 15 (Sat) FRENCH CIRCLE Iroquois Public Library, 12 PM. Hear a presentation by French language speakers and join our discussion.

Apr 15 (Sat) VIENTAMESE DANCE Iroquois Public Library, 1PM. Enjoy our demonstration and then join us.

Apr 15 (Sat) BILINGUAL STORYTIME. Iroquois Public Library, 12:30PM. Family story time in Vietnamese and English.