

FORsooth

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What a year – peace efforts flourish around the world

by David Horvath

One year ago, the drums of war, rarely silent in this world, became loud enough to make them impossible to ignore. The Bush administration warned that Iraq was a prime target for the “New American Century” and last October he announced his intentions to stubbornly stay on the track that eventually led to war against Iraq in March. The questions we asked and deceptions we identified are now coming home to roost.

Disheartening as this war has been, all around the globe there has also been an unprecedented level of peacemaking effort. In the months following Bush’s speech to the U.N. which laid out his war plan, the Louisville Committee to Stop the War Against Iraq experienced a dramatic increase in the number of people who attended meetings and organized actions.

We were able to sustain a strong, persistent, and coordinated protest against the war. We marched, lobbied, displayed banners, leafleted, called government officials, wrote the press, taught, appeared on radio and television news and talk shows, and enacted street theatre — all in an effort to

prevent the horror of war and the aftermath of occupation. Now, as the sacrifice of Iraqi and American lives escalates, we are still working to bring the troops home so the people of Iraq can govern their own affairs and rebuild their country.

Our work has involved thousands of hours of volunteer time and energy. LPAC has been entirely self-funded and we receive no organizational funding or grants. Some of our accomplishments to date are that we:

- Raised funds to bring weapons expert and anti-war activist Scott Ritter to Louisville to speak on weapons inspections.
- Printed thousands of leaflets and flyers for our various events, rallies, marches and programs.
- Started monthly candlelight peace vigils in five different locations
- Created hundreds of hand-made yard signs that became the symbol of grassroots opposition to the war.
- Coordinated several local productions of the anti war Greek play, *Lysistrata* as part of an international effort which resulted in 1,029 events in 59 countries.

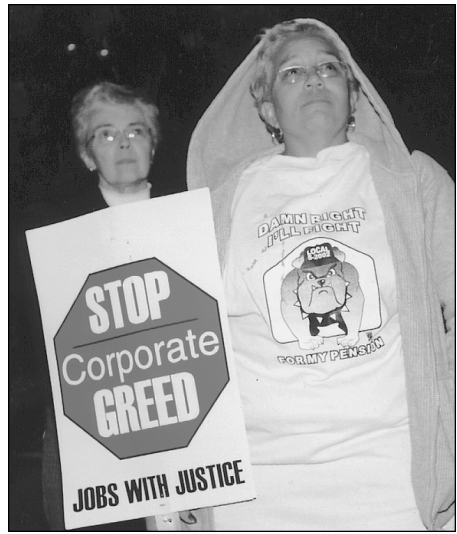
(continued on page 4)



Against the wall

Backers of a Palestinian state use a six-foot cardboard wall in downtown Louisville to call attention to the wall Israel is building to cordon off Palestinian territory. “The wall that militant Israeli leaders are building on Palestinian land is but another defiant act” against the U.S.-backed movement toward a Palestinian homeland, said Yacoub Yacoub of Louisville, secretary to the American Palestinian Public Affairs Forum (www.appaf.org).

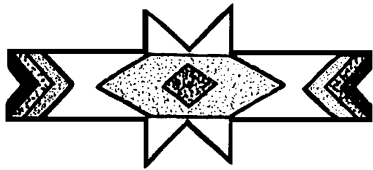
— photos courtesy Yacoub Yacoub



Saying no to greed

— photo by Eddie Davis

Protestors at a rally against the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas Nov 20 make the point that the embattled treaty would further unleash corporate avarice and harm workers and the environment.



Youth must be part of justice movement

by Gracie Lewis

Having our say — this was the theme of the 89th Annual Freedom Fund Gala/Conference of the Louisville Branch of the NAACP Nov. 7. About 250 people attended this fundraiser, but as I surveyed the room, I was deeply disturbed that few young people were in attendance.

Yet our most recent election indicates the importance of being prepared in the fight for freedom and justice. It’s time that our youth “have their say” and take up the torch to “Keep the Dream Alive!” It’s time for them to take on issues of racism, sexism, and other dividing issues that affect all of us.

In November, we went to the polls to have our say. In spite of the fact that the GOP had threatened to put challengers in black voting precincts, they found a force saying “Never again!”

For we know that a citizen’s right to vote is essential if the nation is to be a representative democracy. Mindful of the urgency of our times, we intensified our efforts to get out the vote through a coalition of progressive forces. We are the voice of Fannie Lou Hammer, who said, as Regena L. Thomas, New Jersey’s 31st Secretary of State and the NAACP conference keynote speaker so elegantly put it, “I didn’t come all the way here for just two votes,” referring

to segregationists’ efforts to stop the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party from being seated at the 1964 convention.

Black people didn’t come all of this way to have anyone take us back in time.

Thomas, a strategist and organizer, spoke to this growing phenomenon of the lack of youthful participation at such a critical period in our history when, she said, the “flock still needs attending to.”

She told the crowd that if we are to get to the mountaintop, we need to empower our youth concerning the democratic process through which we have received most of our political and economic gains.

The problems are indeed here. Thomas talked about the human cost of the war on Iraq and other problems: three millions jobs are being lost, some five million people are behind bars; we are experiencing serious cutbacks in educational opportunities.

Thomas, in her official capacity, is responsible for overseeing the Department of State’s operating agencies consisting of Archives and Records Management, the Center for Youth Policy and Programs, the New

Jersey Martin Luther King Jr. Commission, the New Jersey Commission on American Indian Affairs, the Office of Faith Based Initiatives and the Trenton War Memorial.

Thomas worked for 12 years for the National Rainbow Coalition and its founder, Rev. Jesse L. Jackson, during his historic bids for the presidency in 1984 and 1988.

Regarding the problems Thomas spoke of, unemployment threatens us all, and minorities bear the brunt of it. The same is true with our health problems. Workers are losing basic protections as employers challenge unions and undercut labor organizing.

This Administration has deserted our problems for the sake of 9/11. We have to change the course of this Administration, and the “flock needs attending to.” None of us can rest until ethnic and cultural hatred, discrimination and poverty are erased.

...

Before a packed audience Nov. 8 at St. Stephen Baptist Church in Louisville, area youth received scholarships through the

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Activist to lunch: you can’t say enough about housing

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

Writing representatives and attending meetings are effective ways to help make housing more affordable, but so is simple one-on-one conversation, Jane Walsh told the Third Thursday Lunch Nov. 20.

Walsh, executive director of the Metropolitan Housing Coalition, a group of

Stories from the struggles mark Arun Gandhi speech

by Eustace Durrett
and Ike M. Thacker IV

Every year as part of the Festival of Faiths, the Cathedral Heritage Foundation (an organization which promotes dialogue among the different faith groups) sponsors a prayer breakfast. The speaker is always a significant individual from the world of faiths. This year it was Arun Gandhi, the grandson of Mahatma Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi was the foremost proponent of nonviolence in the twentieth century, a major influence on Martin Luther King, Jr., and other practitioners and promoters of nonviolence.

Arun Gandhi, who spoke Nov. 13, is the Director of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence in Memphis, Tenn. Its mission is to promote and apply nonviolence locally, nationally, and globally through education and programming. We wondered why Arun Gandhi, a longtime resident of India and South Africa, had located his peace center in America, and why Memphis. Then we thought, what better place for a nonviolence center than the heartland of the cradle of global violence, and the city in which King was shot dead.

In his speech, Arun Gandhi made some of his points, effectively, through the use of anecdotes. First, there was the story of “the five-dollar autograph.” Then came the tale of the three-inch pencil. Next, there was a “sweet” anecdote. And finally, the story of the long walk.

The “five-dollar autograph” anecdote came from a period when Arun lived with his grandfather, when Arun was aged approximately ten to fourteen years, from 1943 to 1947. Arun thought that, being of the family, he could get his grandfather’s autograph for free, while others paid five dollars for it. It became Arun’s job to collect the books and money, and return the books after his grandfather had autographed them. So, he sneaked his autograph book in with the others.

His grandfather asked him where was the money for that book. The elder Gandhi explained to his grandson that what he had done was cheating, and that cheating was a form of violence, because one took from the person what they needed for their livelihood. His grandfather never granted him an autograph.

In his second story, Arun gave a graphic, perhaps graphite, example. He had “tossed” a pencil that had been ground down to about three inches into his back yard. Then, he asked his grandfather for a new pencil; his grandfather asked him what had happened to the old one.

Arun related that he had thrown it away. His grandfather said that this was an act of violence, that Arun had not just thrown away some wood and graphite, but that he had thrown away some of the time and energy of the worker who had made the pencil, and had thrown away what could be used by another person — and that this was therefore violence twice told. He made Arun search for the pencil. It had gotten dark, and Arun had to use a flashlight. Two hours later, he found the pencil.

Arun’s third tale was a “sweet” one. His grandfather’s compound was composed of about 200 families. There was a young boy in the compound who could be called a sugar addict. The boy would eat nothing but sweets, and finally he became sick. So, his parents took him to a doctor, who said the boy had to quit eating sweets. The parents took him home and tried to keep him on a strict diet. At mealtime they would say to him: “No sweets for you!” Of course, there were sweets with the meal, which the parents ate. The boy began to sneak sweets whenever he could.

The parents took the boy to Mahatma Gandhi and told him what the problem was, asking for Gandhi’s help. Gandhi told the parents to come back in 15 days with the boy; and so they did. Mahatma Gandhi told them that he wanted to talk to the boy privately for a moment. Afterward, the boy said he would never eat sweets again. When some time had passed, and the boy did not eat sweets any more, the parents told Gandhi that he had performed a miracle in one minute with the boy, after the parents had cajoled and pleaded

135 organizations backing new policies to allow the poor better access to good housing, said the issue is closely tied to the peace and justice matters many at the lunch work on.

“One thing you can do that’s very powerful to advance housing justice is to talk about housing when you talk about these other issues,” Walsh said. “When you talk about peace, you’re talking about housing. You know, as we all do, that our legislators just passed an \$87 billion

with and threatened him, all to no avail.

Gandhi told them that there was no miracle involved. He had merely informed the boy that because of the boy’s problem, he himself no longer ate sweets. He had asked for the 15 days to wean himself from sweets. Gandhi stressed to the parents that physical and verbal violence are ineffective, that we must “live what we want our children to learn.”

The “long walk,” the fourth story of the series, was an episode that involved Arun and his father when Arun was sixteen. The family had moved back to South Africa in 1947. They were living about eighteen miles from Durban. Between Durban and their abode were a multitude of sugar plantations, and no facilities for supplies. So, they had to drive in to Durban on Saturdays to restock.

One particular Saturday, Arun’s father had several business appointments that would take up his day until around 5 p.m. He asked Arun to do the shopping, have some necessary servicing done to the car, do some other chores, and to pick him up at 5 p.m.. Arun finished all these chores in a short period, and decided to take in a movie. The theater was showing a double feature of John Wayne movies; by the time the second movie was over, Arun was an hour late in picking up his father.

He told his father that it had taken longer than expected for the garage to finish with the car. His father told Arun that he had been worried when Arun didn’t show up and had called the garage to see whether Arun was there. His father said to Arun that since Arun had felt the need to lie to him, he had failed in some way as a parent. His father chose to walk the eighteen miles back home so that he could meditate on this failure.

The eighteen miles consisted for the most part of dirt roads rather than paved ones. Arun followed his father in the car and never felt the need to lie to him again.

The title of Arun Gandhi’s remarks was, “Nonviolence As An Active (Not Passive) Discipline.” He traced the development of his grandfather’s thought from its inception, influenced by Tolstoy, as “passive resistance,” through a period brought on by his reading of Thoreau and Sorel which he called “civil disobedience,” and finally to a belief in a “truth [love] force.”

Belief in such a force is obviously inconsistent with the harboring of unresolved anger. Arun Gandhi told how he had been beaten up during his youth in South Africa, by whites for being too black — and by blacks for being too white. When it turned out that Arun wanted eye-for-an-eye “justice,” his parents took him to India to learn from Mahatma. The elder Gandhi instructed Arun that anger should be put to positive uses, should lead to some positive action, and suggested that Arun keep an anger journal, with the goal of solving the problem that had engendered the anger in the first place.

Belief in religion has always been one way to help anger be resolved. If the other fellow is your brother in God’s eyes, then perhaps what he did to make you mad isn’t so bad after all. The problem, though, is that there are many religions and many scriptures.

To which should we turn? Arun Gandhi would probably say, “To all of them.” As he put it, all religions climb to the same peak, so a “friendly study” of all various scriptures is the “sacred duty” of each individual. It is, he said, like the six blind men, each feeling part of an elephant and being asked to describe it. To get the full picture, they must all get together and relate what they have felt. Conflict comes when we believe we possess the truth, whereas in fact we only pursue the truth; belief that we pursue the truth leads to that spirit of sacred cooperation that alone makes the journey worthwhile.

Gandhi’s presentation ended with an exhortation to all present to not let their own peace lie fallow in their hearts, but to let it seed as many fields as possible.

Eustace Durrett is an activist for rail transit. Ike M. Thacker IV teaches history at Spalding University. Both live in Louisville.

spending appropriation for our occupation of Iraq — \$87 billion. The HUD budget, the budget that oversees every bit of subsidized housing we provide... in terms of direct subsidies to human beings in this country is \$32 billion. That’s a peace and justice issue.”

Walsh urged the crowd at the Rudyard Kipling restaurant to talk to more than just friends, however. Letters, e-mails and phone calls are needed to state and congressional representatives backing two proposals.

One is the National Affordable Housing Trust Fund, which Walsh said would create 1.5 million units of affordable housing nationwide.

“This is a piece of legislation that has gone nowhere for about the last four years,” she said. While it has broad bi-partisan support, no Kentucky senator or representative has signed on, Walsh said.

A state version, the Kentucky Affordable Housing Trust Fund, exists, but has had much of its funding pulled because of the state’s deficit, she added. It provides money for “repair affair,” which fixes up homes of older people who can’t afford fix ups, and for transitional housing for abuse victims, Walsh said.

While these initiatives languish, a crisis worsens, as indicated by statistics Walsh described to the lunch crowd:

- Thirty-three percent of renters in Louisville pay more than 30 percent of their incomes for housing, meaning they often have not enough left over for food, medicine and good child care.
- The waiting period for federal Section 8 vouchers to pay for part of a low-income

family’s rent is about two years, during which many unable to pay rent end up in shelters or living with relatives.

- About 12,000 people in the Louisville area used homeless shelters last year.

Walsh said a key to reducing poverty is building mixed-income developments, instead of concentrating the poor in neighborhoods.

“But the force against that is ‘Not in my back yard. I can’t have that housing here,’ “ she said. “Because all of a sudden in the last 30 years our houses have not become our homes. They’ve become our investments.”

She said attending neighborhood association meetings of people concerned about mixed-income housing developments, asking developers to come and explain their plans and asking Metropolitan Housing Coalition representatives to speak are ways to help. The organization can be reached at (502) 584-6858 or www.metropolitanhousing.org.

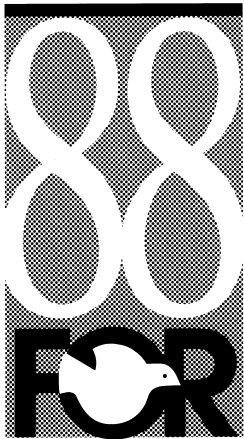
“We need to go to neighborhood association meetings and challenge that assumption that property value is more important than the community that I live in.”

Louisville Hispanic/Latino Coalition president Felix Garza and Kentucky Commission on Human Rights field supervisor Juan Pena will speak at the Jan. 15 Third Thursday Lunch about the contributions made by and obstacles faced by Hispanic/Latino immigrants in Kentucky. Reservations are required by Jan. 13. The lunch costs \$6. Call Cathy Ford at 458-1223 or Jean Edwards at 458-8056.

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88 Years on Peace Frontiers

Since 1915, the Fellowship of Reconciliation in the United States has led campaigns to obtain legal rights for conscientious objectors, win civil rights for all Americans, end the Vietnam 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. If you are not already a member, we invite you to join us in this endeavor. Membership consists of signing the Statement of Purpose, indicating that you agree with FOR goals. To receive more information, please call 458-8056.

Co-chairs: Mary Horvath 583-4670
Pat Geier 456-6586

Christmas’ real meaning — poking a little fun at greed

all lyrics by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

Jingo Bells – the Fox News anthem

Sung to: *Jingle Bells*

Dashing through the facts
Of our complicity
With death squads’ awful deeds
So viewers will not see

That the U.S. backed Saddam
Not the Kurds that he did fight
Oh what fun it is to slant
Our stories to the right

Oh, jingoists, jingoists
Jingo all the way
Oh what fun it is to flack
The state department’s way

Oh, Jingoists, jingoists
Jingo all the way
Oh what fun it is to flack
The state department’s way!

Downsized Christmas

Sung to: *Have yourself a Merry Little Christmas*

Have yourself a Merry downsized
Christmas
That is if you can
While taking presents back and living off
canned ham
‘Cause the company that laid you off is
on the lam.

Don’t come down with flu this
Christmas season
‘Cause your health care plan
Kicked you out when your employer
uped and ran
Off to the free trade zone to make bigger
bucks.

Sky-high profits and seven percent growth
Should mean happy times
But don’t start putting gifts on credit
cards just yet
‘Cause all you get for Christmas is the ax
this year!

Deficits

Sung to: *Silver Bells*

City sidewalks,
Filled with people
Asking for your spare change
‘Cause they can’t find good pay in the city.

Millionaires’ tax
Loopholes won’t end
‘Cause their PACs are too strong
So its deficit time this year.

More war bucks. More tax cuts
It’s deficit time in the nation.

More war bucks. More tax cuts.
It’s deficit time this year.

Children’s health care,
Those off welfare
Have needs that won’t be met
‘Cause we’re bogged down in
unending combat.

Missile shields and
Space weaponry
Have no trouble with cash
While we’re told to make do with less

More war bucks. More tax cuts
It’s deficit time in the nation.

But that will change, that will change
When its election time next year!

The Ballad of Mona Cheren

Sung to: *Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer*

Mona the red-baiting writer
Attacked the left to win her bread
And if you ever saw her
She would even call you red.

For you called hunger and racism
The top security problems
But Russia-obsessed poor Mona
Never noticed we had slums

Then one foggy New Year’s eve
Yeltsin came to say
The USSR is no more
Giving Mona quite a chore

Now she must be anti-Soviet
Without a Soviet Union
But for Mona the red-baiting writer
Seeing straight just isn’t done!

Labor leader back on road to safer driving conditions

We start off with a paeon to a courageous working class woman: Bobbie Martin will soon be behind the wheel of a city bus in Lexington, Ky.

This column reported last month about the firing of Bobbie, vice-president of Local 639 ATU (Amalgamated Transit Union). Another driver had told her his bus was unsafe to drive, and she, in her capacity as a union official, quoted OSHA regulations to him which, in essence, forbid an unsafe vehicle from being driven.

A grassroots campaign, led by her union and community activists, of postcard and letter-writing, phone calling, rallying and hell-raising won the day. But what was really the strength behind it all was Bobbie Martin.

For nearly one and one-half years she had been without work. Bobbie came close to losing her home. She and I spoke by phone soon after Lextran agreed to take her back, and I asked her about the final agreement.

“I got my job back, some back-pay, and I will return to work once my leg heals [Bobbie recently broke her leg in an accident]. Officially, I’m now an employee of Lextran. It’s a done deal. I can’t say more than that (because of a stipulation in the agreement). It’s hard-earned, and well-learned.”

I asked her how she feels about this bitter struggle. “I have mixed emotions, Ira. I am relieved to be back on the job. I need a healing process (for emotional wounds). Some heal quicker than others.” Bless you, Bobbie, for your selflessness, courage and tenacity.

It is hard to judge how many letters and phone calls were generated by this column, but in case we did help, we need to do it again for another worthy project: Carmichael’s Bookstore right here in Louisville.

Carmichael’s is the only independent seller of new books in Louisville, and competes against the vulturine predators Borders, Barnes and Noble, and Books-A-Million. Its owners, I am told, are enlightened, if not progressive. Except in one area: disability rights.

“(T)he wheelchair accessible entrance,” says disability activist Cass Irvin, “is not the main entrance and wheelchair users have to ring a doorbell at a side entrance to enter.

“Separate is seldom equal and people with disabilities are tired of being treated like second-class citizens.”

Mary Johnson is also outraged: “the building was empty when they started (renovation); it was they who decided which door to make the ‘main’ entrance, where to place their office checkout, etc.

“Yes, it is true that the city did not allow the corner (main) entrance to have a ramp, and that is a battle MetroSweep intends to continue fighting with local officials.”

Both women are part of MetroSweep for Access, a disability rights group trying to make accessible to unassisted wheelchair users, and others, the thousands of Louisville public accommodations not in compliance with the ADA (Americans With Disabilities Act).

In the interest of full disclosure, your scribe is a proud member of this coalition.

Mary continues: “People do not see segregated entrances as wrong when it comes to disability. If there were only one entrance gays could use, though straight people could use either entrance, that would be seen as wrong, and I daresay Carmichael’s wouldn’t consider such a thing.



“Disabled people view this in the same way. But because laws have allowed — indeed, sanctioned — segregated access for disabled people, most people, even progressives, see nothing wrong with it and get defensive when disabled people balk at the segregation. This is what the issue is about.”

Carmichael’s, if I had to guess, simply did not consider the needs of the disabled when it laid out its floor plan; the owners are not mean-spirited people, I would guess. Once having done this, however, they simply dug in their heels and refused to budge.

Please help them budge by letting them know that all decent people, able-bodied and disabled, abhor the concept of separate-but-equal. Carmichael’s Books is located at 2720 Frankfort Ave., Louisville, 40206. Phone: (502) 896-6950. Please email me copies of letters you write, and notify me of calls you make.

The devastation of healthcare delivery to poor and working class people is now trickling up to the so-called middle class. Forty seven million people in the U.S. are without health insurance. Now, even those with decent, or relatively good, health coverage are under siege.

More than 70,000 grocery workers in California, and now elsewhere, are on strike, but the issue is not wages. It is increased health insurance premiums. On Oct. 11 workers at Albertson’s, Ralph’s and Vons were locked out of their jobs, after having been forced to train their scab replacements!

It seems that Wal-Mart is entering the food arena in a big way (Kroger, the nation’s largest supermarket chain, had a quarterly profit dip, it was reported, because of ears of Wal-Mart’s predicted invasion). The union, United Food and Commercial workers (UFCW), feels these supermarkets are using a feared Wal-Mart-ization as pretext for socking it to their employees.

In fact the three chains being struck had increased profitability last year, fear of Wal-Mart notwithstanding.

Healthcare is in crisis here in Kentucky as well. Last January then-Gov. Paul Patton announced Medicaid cuts totaling \$250 million in state and federal dollars. Just one example of the devastation should suffice: from April through September, 345 elderly and disabled Kentuckians were told they would be denied nursing-home services.

Two Louisville companies are shutting down local operations and moving out of town: Brown and Williamson (450 jobs lost), and Frito-Lay (350 jobs gone).

Space prevents inclusion of more comments on why Alabama voters turned down Gov. Riley’s tax referendum and an update on the situation in Guatemala, among other items.

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

LIFE laments homelessness, recalls march

LIFE’s horizons were wide in its third quarterly report. The organization, called Louisvillians in Favor of Equality, devoted much of its Metro Louisville Report to national issues, including homelessness and the Aug. 23 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom.

LIFE, a group backing more economic and social equality, issues a report four times each year.

“I feel the best speech was given by Martin Luther King III,” LIFE member Gail Helinger wrote of the Washington march. “He beseeched us to not lose hope, to not lose sight of, to not lose faith in the dream; but keep working on it.” Member Ike M. Thacker IV wrote of the big

increase in homelessness in the supposedly booming 1990s, citing a *National Law Journal* report that 760,000 people were homeless nationally on any night, up 52 percent from 1987.

Concerning metro Louisville, Eustace Durrett noted the unresolved legal battle over whether the metro government or the Jefferson County sheriff is to collect taxes and Richard Graef said few ordinances or actions of great importance came out of the Metro Council.

The quarterly report gave the council a “B” for its efforts during the quarter. For subscriptions, to contribute writing or more information about the LIFE quarterly report, contact Thacker at (502) 473-2659 or Durrett at (502) 459-6361.

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Correction/clarification

Due to a reporting error, a story last month on Stephen Bartlett’s Third Thursday Lunch talk Oct. 16 incorrectly described how a Korean farmer killed himself to protest World Trade Organization policies. The farmer stabbed himself in the heart, but did not set himself on fire.

Also, Bartlett said a clarification is needed on statistics he cited at the end of the story. He said a clearer explanation of the numbers he cited at the lunch is: while

about 10,000 powerful and wealthy people control the largest corporations, the mainstream media and most government posts doing their bidding, more than two billion people who earn less than \$2 per day have interests in direct contradiction to the policies and actions of the elite 10,000. That gives a ratio of 200,000 people to every one decision maker, which bodes well for the anti-exploitation, pro-economic democratization movement, Bartlett said.

Statement on Taylor killing

The Louisville Peace Action Community delivered the following statement, read by David Horvath, Dec. 6 at the one-year commemoration of the death of James Taylor, who died after being shot 12 times by Louisville Police while he was handcuffed. Officers said he was trying to attack them with a letter opener.

“Our (LPAC) organization is relatively young and we got quickly motivated last fall as Bush’s war drums in Iraq began to get louder and louder. And of course it was this time last year, when the shooting of James Taylor happened. Because the actions related to our issues often overlapped, many of our participants became aware, some for the first time, that our struggles are one. And we started to march together — against police brutality, the pummeling and shooting of so many African Americans —and we marched together against the pummeling and shooting of innocents in far off countries in the name of imperialism and pride.

“We marched together with brothers Pete Seeger and Dick Gregory and brothers and sisters from the police violence struggle in Cincinnati. We sang and prayed at a vigil the day after the bombing began in Iraq. This past year we’ve tried to be there for each other because our issues are the same: justice for the people of the world in the face of war; justice for those suffering and dying in the face of racial profiling and abuse by police.

“But we haven’t done enough together. I for one have been to some of the marches at this place on Sunday this past year, but I have not been to enough. Many of you have been to a few peace vigils and marches, but maybe not enough. Yes, we need to remind ourselves that we have to do more. But the key to moving our agendas forward is not only to inspire each other to higher levels of action, but to reach those who don’t come out at all — ever, due to apathy or just being worn down by the system.

“We have so much work to do and bridges to build. We have to work harder together and to focus clearly on the goals of peace with justice. We have work to do. We must get to the point where we can connect the dots between the police shooting death of James Taylor and other black men of this community; connect the dots with last months beating and shooting by police of young protesters in Miami who called for fair trade and connect the dots with the preemptive killing of innocent civilians in Iraq. Yes, we have work to do. Let’s get on with it together.”

Join us in honoring and celebrating
Lifelong activist, comrade, father and friend

Henry Wallace

and bring in a New Year of working for
social and economic justice together



Brunch • Music • Community Celebration!

January 1st, 2004

3:00 p.m. — 6:00 p.m.

Central Presbyterian Church
318 W. Kentucky St.



Call 228-7123 for more information

Wheel chair accessible
Children welcome

Hasta la Victoria Siempre!

Peace efforts flourish

(continued from page 1)

- Raised hundreds of dollars for scholarships to send students and other low income people to Washington for national rallies and marches.
- Provided funds for our student organizers in CSAW (Citizens Standing Against War) to help continue their work (<http://louisvillepeace.org/C-SAW/index.html>).
- Paid for newspaper ads in the Courier Journal and LEO.
- Organized weekly peace marches as the start of the war approached.
- Supported the work of Doug Johnson, a local activist who went to Iraq as part of Voices in the Wilderness and who stayed during the first stages of the war.
- Paid for several Kentucky Derby Weekend actions to get our message out, including a stunning Churchill Downs airplane banner with the words “Wage Peace.”
- Funded and staffed a booth for the entire duration of the 2003 Kentucky State Fair.
- Financed the creation and maintenance of the LouisvillePeace.Org web site, which includes the merged progressive organization calendar and many other

organizations’ web-pages, and the very effective email list PCUnity@yahoo.com which served our mobilizing efforts.

After the declared end of the war our spirit and energy did not subside. We renamed the organization Louisville Peace Action Community (LPAC) and we continue our work with an emphasis on “action.” We continue our monthly vigils, organized a lively protest when U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft visited Louisville, worked with the ACLU and presented a forum on the Patriot Act to an overflow crowd.

Just recently we mobilized a large contingent to protest President Bush’s presence at a Republican fundraiser and had a bus full going to a national march in Washington October 25. Our own local march and rally against the U.S.-led Occupation of Iraq was on October 24. To get an idea of what we’re up to, please visit the website: <http://louisvillepeace.org>.

The writer is a member of the Louisville Peace Action Community and many other groups.

Youth

(continued from page 1)

United Negro College Fund. It was just amazing to know that someone cared enough to provide each of them with a great gift to strive for academic excellence.

The UNCF top six scholarship finalists were: Aaron Bivens, Central High School received a \$20,000 scholarship from the 828 Foundation/The Grand Gala; Dominique Churchill, Male High School, received \$10,000 from the June and George Merrifield Scholarship Fund. Elizabeth Craycroft, Manual High School received \$25,000 from Bettie and Charlie Johnson; Flora E. Daniel of Male high School and top essay writer, received \$25,000 from the Huston/Johnson Scholarship Fund and \$5,000 from Jefferson County Public Schools. Brandi Miles, Central High School received \$25,000 from Allison Wade

Huston’s Anthony Garner Kean Huston scholarship fund. Shannon Silver, Manual High School, received \$10,000 from Jefferson County Public Schools.

Other winners included Jimmy Henderson Jr. of Manual High School, an aspiring pharmacist, and Kaelin Hill, both of whom won \$41,000 scholarships.

The writer is a member of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and REACT, a group fighting toxic pollution.



Back from Mideast, activist says keep discussing issue

by Ken Nevitt

How can we accurately learn of the sufferings of our brothers and sisters throughout the world? Fortunately, in Louisville, we have activists like Pat Geier, people who are willing to travel to troubled destinations to bring back to us eyewitness accounts of the human condition.

In October, Pat traveled to Palestine as a member of the International Solidarity Movement (ISM) to witness first hand the occupation by Israel. She traveled with friends Mark Chmiel (a Louisville native now living in St. Louis) and Angie O’Gorman.

Pat is a member of the Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East. The recent history of that region contributed to the current conflict. In 1947, the United Nations partitioned Palestine, which was then under British mandate, into two states — one Arab and one Jewish. The Jewish state Israel came into being, the Arab state did not. During the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 and again in 1967, over a million Palestinians were forced from their homes. Israel, with the support of the United States, refuses to abide by United Nations resolutions, building illegal settlements in the West Bank and the Gaza strip.

At a send-off party at Central Presbyterian Church in Louisville, Pat explained that she was very fearful of her

trip, but she felt a duty to put a human face on the conflict.

Pat’s friends and family nervously awaited her return. We were able to follow her daily events, thanks to the website “theimamfactor.com,” operated by Louisville activist Ibrahim Imam. Pat traveled to the West Bank and visited towns near the city of Nablus, staying with local families. In Awarta, Pat worked with groups to harvest the olive groves. Due to the occupation, Awarta has been reduced in size by 50 percent. Pat said that like many Palestinian towns in the occupied areas, Awarta is in a valley surrounded by hills containing illegal Jewish settlements, which are enclosed by fences and armed sentries.

Harvesting olives in the past was a major source of sustenance and employment for many Palestinians, she said. But now, the Palestinians cannot travel on the major roads, nor even be within 50 meters of the roads. Instead, they must use mostly dirt paths, blocked by earthen barriers, preventing most forms of transportation, Pat said, adding that she and others walked to the fields for three hours. The workers were forced to walk through a ravine, filled with raw sewage, Pat said. They passed a bombed out water treatment plant, no longer the source of employment or clean water, she added.



— photo courtesy Ken Nevitt

Pat Geier protests a visit by U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft to Louisville in September.

Once arriving at the fields, Pat recalled, they took turns working and keeping a lookout for Israeli soldiers. These farmers had not been to their fields for three years. The trees lacked proper care, having not been regularly pruned, she said. The harvesting is now mostly symbolic only, there being no way to transport the olives, due to road conditions, she added. But the villagers were relieved to make the escorted trip, since an unattended field reverts to the state after five years, Pat said, further describing the fear and frustration they all felt, a fear that is oppressive and stifling. One ISM delegate was arrested for allegedly touching an Israeli settlement fence, Pat said. Other delegates were beaten or shot. As most readers of FORsooth are aware, ISM delegates, including Rachel Corrie, have been killed in the recent past for witnessing the occupation.

Pat said one of the settlements above Awarta is Itamar, the “gem of the Hills.” Israeli settlers are paid to move to the settlements, and given loans at low rates, she explained. The website for Itamar (www.shechem.org) reveals that settlers

are urged to contribute to projects for the purchase of guard dogs, bulletproof patrol cars, and night vision equipment.

On November 9, Pat joined her friends and family for a potluck dinner and delegation report-back. (More than 100 people were in attendance, generously contributing to the ISM delegation!). Pat showed slides of her travels, and told of her concerns for the region. She spoke of the massive wall that Israel began building in the West Bank in June, 2002, a barrier which separates children from schools and medical care.

The United States has made the illegal occupation possible, contributing billions of dollars for weapons and earth-moving equipment, creating in Israel the 4th largest army in the world, Pat said. She urged the gathering to learn about the wall, and to talk to friends and family about the occupation. She explained that the discussion of the conflict must address issues of collective punishment policies of Israel, as well as suicide bombers. Pat has written that “security for both peoples can only be achieved through mutual respect, not domination and intimidation.”

Pat Geier is a native of St. Matthews. She graduated from Sacred Heart Academy and later received a Masters of Social Work from the University of Denver. She is a therapist and social worker. She was previously the facilitator for the Louisville Committee to Stop the War in Iraq, a non-violent creative organization (now the Louisville Peace Action Community — LPAC). Pat has also been very active in the Kentucky Interfaith Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean, traveling to Central America as a witness for peace.

Ken Nevitt is an attorney and a facilitator for LPAC.

A chance to help newcomers to our community

The Iroquois Library will be offering an English Conversation Club beginning in February 2004. We are currently seeking volunteers who would be willing to commit to an hour every other week to speak one-on-one with an immigrant or refugee. Snacks and merriment will be provided along with the opportunity to learn about people from other cultures that have decided to make Louisville their home.

The commitment will be for two months with an open invitation for those who can just join us for one or two sessions. It is imperative, though, that we have people commit for the entire two month period in order for us to be able to offer the program.

Most of the participants will be Latino and Vietnamese. We also hope to attract our Somali, Arabic, and French patrons along with many other nationalities that are now found in our beautifully diverse community.

Please call Sophie Hurle Maier at 574-1720 to sign up, or email sophie@LFPL.org.

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the
Fellowship of Reconciliation

September 2003 to January 2004

January 15

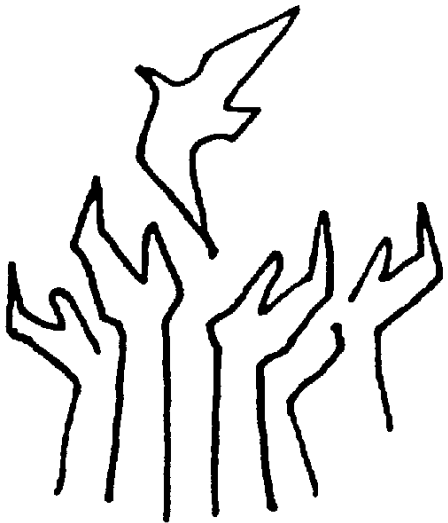
Felix Garza & Juan Pena

Felix Garza is President of the Hispanic/Latino Coalition and Juan Pena is Human Rights Field Supervisor for the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. They will speak about **Hispanic/Latino Immigrants in Kentucky**, the importance of immigrant workers to the state’s economy, the contributions they make, the obstacles they face, and how the social justice community can respond.

The Rudyard Kipling • 422 West Oak Street • Louisville
Buffet Lunch at 11:30 • Presentations at Noon
\$6.00 • **Reservations required**



For reservations, call Cathy Ford (458-1223)
or Jean Edwards (458-8056) by Tuesday before the Lunch



After his death, Said keeps hope alive in conversations

Culture and Resistance: Conversations with Edward W. Said

by David Barsamian; South End Press; 2003: 225pp.

reviewed by Tracy McLellan

Edward Said died September 25, after a long battle with leukemia, and along with him the foremost voice for justice for Palestinians in the United States is gone. The six conversations herein took place between 1999 and 2003.

Despite the gravity of the subject material, this is an interesting and enjoyable read thanks to Said’s towering intellect and Barsamian’s perceptive and incisive questioning. The result is a perspective of events in Israel and Palestine filled with truth and passion, almost directly opposite that which is too often reported, or not reported, in the mainstream press.

Said expresses an enthusiastic interest in Middle Eastern poets and their poetry. He also was himself a pianist, and he talks about being involved in several important projects bringing together Arab and Israeli musicians for concerts transcending the political divide. He and Barsamian cover other cultural ground, but obviously, the focus of the book is politics, specifically the plight of the Palestinians.

A fundamental argument Said makes repeatedly is that the situation in Israel and the Occupied Territories cannot be understood without an understanding of the events of 1948, when Israel was declared a state. In the ensuing war with Arab countries, 800,000 Palestinians were expelled from their homes and homeland, which they had occupied for millennia. More than 400 Arab villages were destroyed. Since then, Israel has denied any responsibility for these atrocities, using all kinds of propaganda. Today the conventional wisdom is that Palestinians were told to leave their homes by their leaders. Said avers the conquest was completed in the 1967 war.

Said states that since 1948, 78 percent of historic Palestine has become Israeli and that control of the remaining 22 percent is what the current fighting, the Second Intifada, is all about. Further, of this remaining 22 percent, Israel controls 60 percent of the West Bank, and 40 percent of Gaza.

Illegal settlements continue apace, as does the pressure on the indigenous Palestinians. It is pretty clear that the goal of Sharon’s Likud government is the complete ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, increasingly referred to euphemistically as “transfer.” Much of what remains of historic Palestine is divided up into small, non-contiguous pockets of autonomy,

Bantustans, often locked down under curfews and checkpoints.

Said maintains that these circumstances are the result of the peace process, and not war. Since publication of this book, a “security fence” is being erected, ostensibly to protect Israel from suicide bombers, but which in practice further isolates and dispossesses Palestinians.

“Said’s voice is consistent and constant in finding actions such as suicide bombings inexcusable and in seeking a peaceful, just resolution to the Palestinian question.... He affirms Israel’s right to self-determination, but grieves that Palestinians also do not enjoy this right....”

Said’s voice is consistent and adamant that a solution must be peaceful coexistence between the two peoples. He bemoans suicide bombings, bad enough for their violence and carnage, but also as being counterproductive to finding a solution. He says, however, that to understand these bombings it is important to see them in the context of the desperate circumstances of the Palestinian people. Israel, for example, portrays itself as a victim, when in fact it is an oppressor, Said maintains. Almost all the fighting between the two sides has occurred in Palestinian territory, Said notes, so it is ridiculous to assert, as Israel does, that it is only defending itself. Moreover, Palestinians have little more than stones for weapons, along with some small arms, while the Israelis have tanks, helicopters, jets, and all kinds of modern weaponry, supplied to them by the U.S. military, Said writes

Although practically an aside, Said makes some poignant observations of George Orwell; observations you, like me I’ll bet, perhaps have never considered in our adorations of Orwell. He agrees that Orwell was a prescient witness to injustice, but managed himself to remain disentangled from it. He was probably correct, declares Said, in his bleak assessment of where we’re headed, but limited: “I don’t think he’s in touch with hope, with liberation, with critical engagement, with association or affiliation between people. The idea of human progress is quite outside his vision.”

Among many other political considerations examined outside the specifically Palestinian, is a look at the psychology of “terrorism” for example, that is compelling and of a delightful perspicacity.

“Terrorism has become a sort of screen created since the end of the Cold War by

policymakers in Washington, as well as a whole group of people... who have their meal ticket in that pursuit. It is fabricated to keep the population afraid, insecure, and to justify what the United States wishes to do globally. Any threat to its interests, whether it’s oil in the Middle East or its geostrategic interests elsewhere, is all labeled terrorism... which is exactly what the

Israelis have been doing since the mid-1970s so far as Palestinian resistance to their policies are concerned. It’s very interesting that the whole history of terrorism has a pedigree in the policies of imperialists.... Terrorism is anything that stands in the face of what ‘we’ want to do. Since the United States is the global superpower, has or pretends to have

interests everywhere... terrorism becomes a handy instrument to perpetuate this hegemony.... People’s movements of resistance against deprivation, against unemployment, against the loss of natural resources, all of that is termed terrorism.”

Said’s voice is consistent and constant in finding actions such as suicide bombings inexcusable and in seeking a peaceful, just resolution to the Palestinian question. Indeed, his writings are often banned in the Arab world because of this position. His voice is also that of an admirable and unique intelligence. He affirms Israel’s right to self-determination, but grieves that Palestinians also do not enjoy this right, especially in light of the historical realities. He thinks the two peoples are too inextricably linked in too small an area for their separation to be realistically viable, and therefore favors a bi-national state. He spells out the circumstances where, however, a two-state solution might be a means to this end. This hope of a bi-national state, necessarily long-term, must be a peace between two equals, Said says, with equal rights, protections, and responsibilities, and not a peace imposed on the weaker party by the stronger.

Contact the reviewer at tracymacl@yahoo.com.

Palestinian priest pleas for end to weapon shipments

by Ike M. Thacker IV and Eustace Durrett

As Palestinian Christian Father Elias Chacour sees it, there are real people who were “born baby” (not Jew or Muslim or Christian) behind the various uniforms that dirty the Middle East.

Chacour, author of the 1984 book *Blood Brothers* and a three-time Nobel Peace Prize nominee, laments the diaspora that has been visited upon his people by the Arab-Israeli conflict, and has made it his life’s work to “promote understanding and reconciliation among the diverse people of his homeland through education and dialogue.”

He spoke to that end at Southeast Christian Church October 30, pleading with his host’s country to stop sending weapons and bombs to the Holy Land.

No doubt Chacour believes that that is what “my ancestors,” Jesus Christ and his disciples, would do if they were physically present today. As the celebrated peace-maker, who spoke for some 45 minutes

without notes, put it, the “wind of God” that was the crucifixion and became a “storm” with the resurrection and is a breeze or even a gale for peace, not war. Noting that the Gaza Strip today is badly overcrowded, with over a million refugees and few local jobs or services and a per capita income of less than \$2,000 annually, Chacour pledged his life to the 75 percent of this population who are under 25 years of age, “so that peace can prevail.”

In this struggle, Chacour believes that Christians like himself must play a leading role, because they are caught (which paradoxically creates an opportunity for peaceful action) between the two main contending groups — the Jews and the Arabs. Both, he said, are “prisoners in their villages.”

Chacour concluded hopefully, juxtaposing this untenable situation with the fact that the majority of the people want peace. Only the politicians, he said, are failing, and, he added, they can not, must not, fail forever.

Ending the Israeli Occupation of Palestine IS an American Issue

Call upon the U.S. to be a friend to both Israelis and Palestinians

at the VIGIL

**12 Noon – 1:00 PM each Friday
Corner of 6th Street & Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky**

Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States (502.451.5658)

www.louisvillepeace.org/twostates.html

Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)/Louisville Chapter (502.458.8056)

www.louisville-for.org

American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)/Kentucky Chapter (502.893.9828)

www.adckentucky.com



May holidays be joyous as we build on hope for peace

by Anita Martin
contributing writer

A friend says she always thanks God for blessings prior to asking for anything. Those of us who have food and shelter plus a few extras are indeed blessed by comparison with numerous people throughout the world — and even many Americans.

Perhaps that is why we should attempt to change policies that allow the government to devote enormous amounts of our tax money to acts of violence instead of using it to feed and shelter those who need such assistance.

In a recent talk at Washington’s National Cathedral, the Dalai Lama recommended “cultivating peace as an antidote to violence.” Indeed, peace seems desperately needed at a time when, according to the United Nations Refugee

Agency, nearly 20 million people throughout the world have been forced to flee their homes due to war and violence.

The War Resisters League indicates our government is devoting nearly half its enormous budget to war-related expenses. How can this be justified in a supposedly Christian nation where we are taught that all people are children of God? Even the Center for Defense Information, staffed largely by military personnel, has long deplored “excessive expenditures for weapons and policies that increase the danger of war.”

Women’s publications such as the international Pax et Libertas have continuously urged support for the World Court, including its ban on nuclear bombs. So why does our essentially educated population allow the continued production of weapons of mass destruction?

Diverse religious groups advocate peaceful resolution of disputes between countries. Writing in the Baptist Peacemaker fall 2003 issue, Dennis Sansom of Birmingham, Ala. said “the Kingdom of God is reached not through violence but through the nonviolent resistance of a community of people more committed to love than to war.”

Kathy Kelly, co-founder of Voices in the Wilderness, views the Catholic Worker movement as an example of communities dedicated to living simply and peacefully. Such simple living could provide an “opportunity to build the beloved community,” she said in The Catholic Peace Voice, Nov./Dec. issue.

Membership in this beloved community is my wish for you and me — as well as all inhabitants of planet earth. But we must seek this solution by starting

with ourselves and our own nation. According to Howard Zinn, “If the Bush administration was serious about stopping terrorism it would begin by dismantling the School of the Americas,” where terrorists and assassins from around the world are said to have been trained.

Although thousands of people protest yearly at this school in Ft. Benning Georgia, our government’s only response has been an attempt to change its name!

Transforming our government into one that is truly devoted to peace and to the teachings of Jesus and other great religious leaders would probably garner respect from around the world. It might also provide hope for future generations in this country and the rest of our planet.

The writer is an FOR member in Memphis, Tenn.

JUSTICE DENIED AGAIN. Gracie Lewis responds

Just five days after a large rally was held on December 6, 2003, on the anniversary of the police shooting of James Taylor (whose hands were cuffed behind his back), there appeared an article in the Louisville Courier-Journal entitled, “Officer won’t be charged in crash.”

The article tells of the death of Edward Litsey, Jr. who died May 6, 2003, “when a speeding police car, answering a call without emergency lights and siren, slammed into the side of his Ford Explorer – flipping it onto its side and spinning it into a utility pole at Fourth Street and Winkler Avenue.” A man standing at a nearby bus shelter, Pedro Garcia Perez, 50, was also hit. He suffered a closed head injury and several broken bones.

In July, a grand jury declined to indict the officer, Eugene Fey, Jr. on felony criminal charges, and Commonwealth’s Attorney David Stengel announced that he would not send the case to another grand jury for review, despite the untiring efforts of Edward Litsey, III to present further evidence to Stengel in an effort to bring criminal charges against Fey.

The officer, Eugene Fey, Jr, was suspended from duty for 25 days after Metro Police Chief Robert White determined that Fey had violated department policy by speeding and running a red light resulting in the accident. He also paid \$131.50 in fines and agreed to attend traffic school after making an Alford plea to misdemeanor speeding 15 mph over the limit.

For the African American Community in Louisville and especially for the Justice Resource Center that had tried to further Litsey’s plea for justice in the case of his father, the judgment in this case came through as “more of the same.” Gracie Lewis was quick to respond with a letter to FORsooth entitled “This Case Is Not Over” –

“On Wednesday night, December 10th, I turned on the news. I heard the reporter state the decision of Commonwealth Attorney Dave Stengel regarding the Edward Litsey, Jr. case, declaring “this case is over.”

For all believers in God, this case is not over. There will be a judgement day, one day.

We in the social justice movement know that the decision of the Commonwealth Attorney, Grand Juries, and the Chief of Police to push under the rug such cases as excessive abuse cases that result in death or police officers engaged in crime is not final. These cases are not over.

As we enter the season of ‘PEACE’ we remember Adrian Reynold’s beating and subsequent death, Desmond Rudolph, Rodney Abernathy, Antwan Bryant, Clifford Lewis, Marshall Mobley and James Taylor. No officer received any penalty whatsoever in these cases.

Families, do not feel discouraged. God is a God who loves justice, who delights in justice. One day, each and every case that has been rendered a decision “This Case Is Over” and “This Case Will Not Be Reopened” will receive justice when the perpetrators of these crimes will have to pay for whatever crimes they committed in this life.

There will be no ‘excessive abuse’ policies that cannot be corrected. So, families, friends and comrades in the social justice movement, march on! This case is not over!

As we move into the New Year, make way for the God of Justice! Celebrate the real reason for the ‘reason for the season!’”



TWENTY METERS OF FENCE REMOVED (Edited version)

In a joint action on November 9, 2003, some 200 Palestinians, 35 Israelis, and a similar number of internationals gathered in the village of Zububa to mark the international day of solidarity against the wall, by tearing a portion of it down. ...

“In the days before the wall...it was only a short walk to Zububa from our village. But now we were forced to go through a military checkpoint in the wall, 10 kilometers away, where we were to switch to a Palestinian bus. ... This short ride took us over an hour and a half on dirt roads.

The Army is regularly patrolling these roads. ... We were very lucky that day. When we finally made it to Zububa, we were led to the municipality building where a short meeting took place. Roles were set and our Hebrew signs were uncovered. A march formed and we were heading to the site of the fence, bolt cutters and pooling hooks in our hands, unwilling to stop.

We found a white military jeep waiting for us, but proceeded nevertheless. Shouting slogans in Hebrew for the soldiers to hear, we started cutting at the barbed wire. The soldiers were shocked.

Five minutes later we were already past the barbed wire and at the electronic fence. By the time more army forces arrived, the fence was already noticeably cut. We continued.

It took half an hour of teargas, concussion grenade, and some twenty meters of fence removed before we were pushed back. No arrests were made. As we retreated slowly towards the village, the soldiers fired warning shots over our heads.

The village Qadi (religious leader) addressed the soldiers in Hebrew asking them to leave and come back without their weapons. ‘How can there be any peace when we are imprisoned in ghettos?’ He talked about partnership with us, the Israelis present. He spoke about freedom.” – Jonathan (info@gush-shalom.org) Reply to: cat@squat.net (Information forwarded by Virginia Edwards-Menz, Freiburg, Germany)

START NOW TO PROTEST WAR TAXES

Almost immediately after New Year’s Day we will receive our new forms from IRS and our thoughts must turn toward tax day. How boring! This time around, however, many people are thinking more seriously than ever before about how our tax dollars are spent.

When the Bush administration requested \$87 billion dollars more to continue the Iraq war, it was agonizing to follow the Congressional debate and final approval. This came on the heels of the largest global protest in history, with over 11 million people marching against a preemptive war.

The time is now to decide how we will respond to tax day. It’s not necessary to wait until your official return has been completed. Speak up. Talk about it. Let others know how you feel. Why should we let our government drive us farther and farther into debt with reckless military spending? Think of the burden they are putting on the next generation, especially considering that just three years ago our country was free of debt.

Go ahead and write that letter to your representative and senators. It’s not necessary to wait until you have completed your official tax return. The movement is building. Be a part of it. Please ask your representative to sign on to the **Religious Freedom Peace Tax Fund Bill (HR 2037)**, which would allow the 50% of our tax liability that goes to the military to be directed instead to a special fund that will not be used for military expenditures.

Order the new bumpersticker, “**Taxes for Peace, Not War!**” from the **National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund**, 1/888/732-2382. e-mail: info@peacetaxfund.org www.peacetaxfund.org Let the person behind you during rush hour know that you want your taxes to pay for peace.

Hang Up On War! Refuse to pay the federal military tax on your telephone as a means of protesting the war in Iraq. Federal phone taxes go into the same general fund as federal income taxes, thus making them available for use by the military. The tax is 3%, only a few dollars per month. However, this amount adds up. In 2001, federal phone taxes raised six billion dollars. Check it out on the web: www.peacetaxfund.org

In 1972 the FCC ruled that a phone company could not disconnect phone service for telephone tax resisters, as this would eliminate a taxpayer’s rights to appeal and protest provided by IRS procedures.

FINANCIAL REPORT November 2003		
BEGINNING BALANCE 10/27/03		
General Contributions	670.00	
TOTAL	7,406.49	
EXPENDITURES:		
FORsooth Editing	\$150.00	
FORsooth Printing	246.00	
FORsooth Mailing	212.00	
FOR National Dues	60.00	
Office Expense	74.48	
	\$742.48	742.48
ENDING BALANCE 11/24/03		\$6,664.01
Please make your check payable to the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Your gift is tax deductible.		
PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:		
Tim Scheldorf, Treasurer Fellowship of Reconciliation 2917 Beaumont Road		



Calendar for peacemakers

Dec 21 (Sun) **PROTEST AGAINST POLICE ABUSE**, 2:30 pm *Every Sunday* at Seventh & Jefferson. Call the Justice Resource Center, 774-71116.

Dec 27 (Sat) **SIXTY SECONDS FOR PEACE, 4:00 pm.** Worldwide Pause for Peace. Sixty seconds to think, reflect, pray or meditate on peace. Sponsored by **BillionforPeace.org**, a global network dedicated to creating consciousness of Peace on Earth and creating a worldwide network of a billion people committed to peace in their own lives and across the globe. Download the flyer and register.

Dec 29 **PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE, every weekday at 12:15.** A 15-20 minute prayer service followed by a simple lunch and conversation. James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave & Wm St. Call 896-0172.

Dec 31 (Wed) **NEW YEAR’S EVE POTLUCK WITH THE KENTUCKY ALLIANCE.** Braden Ctr, 3208 W. Broadway. 7:00-9:00 pm. Bring a dish. Honor activists who have helped change Louisville this year. Call 778-8130.

Jan 1(Thu) **NEW YEAR’S DAY CELEBRATION OF HENRY WALLACE, lifelong activist, comrade, father and friend.** We will honor his life and witness. Brunch! Music! Community Celebration! Children welcome. Usher in a New Year of working for social and economic justice together. Central Presbyterian Church, 4th and Kentucky Streets, 3:00-6:00 pm. Call 228-7123.

Jan 4 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE**, every first Sunday evening, remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a candle or a sign to express yourself. Bardstown Rd at Douglass Blvd. 7:00-8:00 pm. Sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124.

Jan 7 (Wed) **INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE**, monthly meeting. Call Pam Yenawine for details, 214-7322.

Jan 9 (Fri) **NOON VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**, including a news update. **EVERYFRIDAYAT SIXTH AND BROADWAY**, in front of the Federal Court House (where Senator McConnell’s office is located). We vigil in solidarity with the **“Women in Black”** who vigil every Friday at noon in Israel. Sponsored by the Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Jan 11 (Sun) **EARTHSAVE VEGETARIAN POTLUCK**, featuring organic gardener **BILL PARRAVONO** discussing the logistics and methods of square foot gardening. Douglass Blvd. Christian Church, 2005 Douglass Blvd, 6:00 pm. Bring a dish and your table service. Free for EarthSave members, \$3 for non-members, \$3 if w/out a dish to share. Call Jennifer Beaird, 458-8515.

Jan 12 (Mon) **MARTIN LUTHER KING LEGACY CELEBRATION**, featuring **Naomi C. Earp, Vice-chair of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.** Sponsored by the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. Central High School Magnet Center Academy, 1130 Chestnut St. Free. Call Adrienne Henderson at 595-4024, ext. 25 for the exact time and other details.

Jan 14 (Wed) **KITLAC (Ky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean).** Presbyterian Seminary. 7:30 pm. Call David Horvath, 479-9262, or Pat Geier, 456-6586

Jan 14 (Wed) **DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Contact George Morrison, editor, 944-6460. E-mail: klm86@netzero.com For calendar listings, contact Jean Edwards, 458-8056. E-mail: edwardsfor@aol.com (Please note that the December/January issues are combined)

Jan 15 (Thu) **DEATH PENALTY FORUM**, exploring all points of view, sponsored by the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. Louisville Free Public Library, **Shelby Park Branch**,1250 Bardstown Road, 6:30 pm. Call Mary McCarthy, Campaign Coordinator, KCADP, 636-1330.

Jan 15 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH.** sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, featuring **Felix Garza and Juan Pena** discussing **“Hispanic/Latino Immigrants in Kentucky.”** Felix is the president of the Hispanic/Latino Coalition and Juan is the Human Rights Field Supervisor for the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. Their remarks will center on the importance of immigrant workers to the state’s economy, the contributions they make, the obstacles they face, and how the social justice community can respond. Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 422 W. Oak St, 11:30 am buffet, \$6. Reservations required. **RSVP** to Cathy Ford, 458-1223 or Jean Edwards, 458-8056.

Jan 15 (Thu) **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community) General Meeting. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:30 pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914, Ellen Schagene, 456-5288, or Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. www.louisvillepeace.org

Jan 16/17 ((FS) **“WEATHER UNDERGROUND,”** 35 mm film, UL Floyd Theater, Student Activities Ctr, 2100 Floyd St at Cardinal Blvd, 6:00 pm and 8:30 pm. Free. Sponsored by the Mitch McConnell Ctr, Film Liberation Unit and SAB. Former members of the Underground paint a compelling portrait of troubled times, revolutionary times some thirty years ago and the forces that drove them to “bring the war home”(fueled by outrage over racism and the Vietnam War) and landed them on the FBI’s most wanted list.

Jan 18 (Sun) **COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** First Unitarian Church, 4th & York. Time uncertain. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Jan 22 (Thu) **LOUISVILLE PREMIERE OF JOHN SAYLES’ NEW FILM “Casa de los Babys.”** (35 mm) UL Floyd Theatre, Student Activities Ctr, 2100 Floyd St at Cardinal Blvd, 6:00 pm and 8:30 pm. Six American women are trapped together in an exotic South American motel waiting anxiously for the local bureaucracy to process their adoption of newborns from the nearby orphanage.

Jan 22 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING at Beverley Marmion’s house.** Mark your calendar. Lend your hands for one hour; enjoy the conversation. 6:30 pm. Call 451-5658.

Jan 26 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, #10, 7:30 pm. Visitors are welcome. Call cochairs, Pat Geier, 456-6586, or Mary Horvath, 583-4670.

Jan 27 (Tue) **KCADP (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)**, monthly meeting every last Tuesday. Highland Presbyterian Church, 1011 Cherokee Rd, 6:30 pm. Call Chris Coyle, 412-5288 or Kaye Gallagher, 721-8885. Planning under way to pass legislation in the January session of the legislature.

Jan 29 (Thu) **EIGHTH ANNUAL RACE RELATIONS CONFERENCE: “Reflection on Human Rights,”** sponsored by the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Human Relations Commission. Hyatt Regency, 320 W. Jefferson, 9:00-4:00. Luncheon Keynote: **Deborah Mathis**, national correspondent for Gannett News Service, veteran political reporter covering all news stories dealing with the White House and the Bush administration, and a regular commentator on the weekly talk show, “America’s Black Forum.” Registration before 12/31 , \$60 (includes lunch). Luncheon only \$35. Registration after 12/31, \$75 (includes lunch). Luncheon only \$45. Call 502/574-3631.

Feb 1 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE**, every first Sunday, remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign to express yourself. Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. Sponsored by **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. www.louisvillepeace.org

Feb 8 (Sun) **INTERFAITH DIALOGUE, “Democracy and Faith.”** Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace, Central Presbyterian Church, 4th & Ky Sts, 9:30-10:30 am. (Call Pam Yenawine, 214-7322)

Feb 9 (Mon) **INTERFAITH DIALOGUE, “Democracy and Faith.”** Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace, Baha’I and Keneseth Israel. Keneseth Israel Temple, 2531 Taylorsville Rd, 7:00 pm. Call Pam Yenawine, 214-7322.

Feb 15 (Sun) **EDWARDS PEACEMAKING LECTURE**, sponsored by Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road. Hundley Hall, 7:00 pm. Free. **Dr. Nancy J. Ramsay** will lead the program entitled, **“Created as Neighbors: A Vision for Honoring Racial and Cultural Differences.”** This annual lectureship honors Dr. George Edwards and his wife, Jean., who have long been active in efforts for peace and social justice. Dr. Edwards served the seminary for 27 years as Professor of New Testament. He retired in 1985.

Feb 22 (Sun) **POTLUCK DINNER**, sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace, featuring **Gerry Stribling, new board member of IPP**, describing how he has found humanity and spirituality everywhere in his summer travels teaching English. Christ Church Cathedral, 425 S. Second St , 5:00 pm. Please RSVP by Feb 18. Call 214-7322.

April 2 (Fri) **HALL OF FAME, Induction Ceremony & Awards Dinner**, sponsored by the Presbyterian Community Center, at the Brown & Williamson Club, 6:00 pm. Featuring the 2nd Annual William H. Sheppard Art Auction. Tickets \$50. Call 584-0201, ext. 112.

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Jan 22-Feb 1 and Feb 14-22 **WITNESS FOR PEACE DELEGATIONS TO CUBA.** Contact WFP, 1/202/588-1471. E-mail: witness@witnessforpeace.org

Feb 9, 2004 (Mon) **STOP SPACE NUKES, PROTEST VIGIL**, Albuquerque, NM, 10:00 am at the **21st Annual Symposium on Space Nuclear Power & Propulsion**, Hyatt Regency. Contact Bruce Gagnon , PO Box 652, Brunswick, Maine 04011 207/729-0517) Globalnet@mindspring.com www.space4peace.org

Mar 20, 2004 (Sat) **PROTESTS AROUND THE WORLD ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE U.S. BOMBING AND INVASION OF IRAQ.** END THE OCCUPATION OF IRAQ AND BRING OUR TROOPS HOME. Contact the International Action Center (Ramsey Clark), 212/633-6646. E-mail: iacenter@iacenter.org

Aug 29, 2004 (Sun) **REPUBLICAN PARTY CONVENTION, NYC. Mass Worldwide Protest planned. E-mail: info@unitedforpeace.org**

WARNING: DATES IN THIS CALENDAR ARE CLOSER THAN THEY APPEAR.

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

AD HOC COALITION FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION – (778-8130)
ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – 2nd Wednesday (585-3375)
AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB – 3rd Tuesday (451-2155)
AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (637-8951)
BIONEERS / SUSTAINABLE LOUISVILLE – Tuesdays (336-9440)
BREAD FOR THE WORLD – 2nd Tuesday (239-4317)
CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse) – 2nd Thursday (778-8130)
C.E.A.S.E. [Citizens for Equitable Assignment to School Environments] – (778-9427)
C-SAW (Citizens Standing Against War) – (548-6845 or 636-5848)
CLARK & FLOYD COUNTIES AIDS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (288-2706)
CLOUT [Citizens of Louisville Organized and Working Together] -(583-1267)
COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)
COMMON CAUSE – 1st Tuesday, every other month (228-1534)
COMMUNIST PARTY USA – Sunday evenings (648-8197 or 473-2659)
CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (454-4820)
CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD – Books by Neale Donald Walsch. 1st Monday (468-2305)
EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Sunday (569-1876)
FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)
FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (456-6586 or 583-4670)
GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday (897-3335)
GREEN PARTY – 1st Tuesday (456-9540)
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays (583-6599)
HATE FREE SCHOOLS COALITION – 3rd Thursday (454-3300)
INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 1st Wednesday (214-7322)
JEFFERSON COUNTY WELFARE REFORM COALITION – 2nd Friday (585-3556)
JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (625-3724)
JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – 3rd Saturday (774-1116)
KENTUCKIANA FOR KUCINICH – 1st Thursday (454-4820 or 459-6361)
KENTUCKIANA NATIVE AMERICAN SUPPORT GROUP (635-2817)
KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday, jointly with POWER (589-3188)
KY AIDS LIFE ALLIANCE (KALA) – Every Thursday (479-7884)
KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 3rd Monday (778-8130)
KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – Last Tuesday (721-8885)
KITLAC (KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN) – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)
KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (774-4000)
LESBIAN SUPPORT GROUP – 2nd and 4th Thursdays (587-6225)
L.I.F.E. – Sunday evenings (473-2659)
LPAC (LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY) – (558-9124)
LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – 2nd Sunday (456-5261)
LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (454-3300), www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org
METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)
NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) – 3rd Monday (634-1804)
NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) – 2nd Monday (245-5287)
PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)
PAX CHRISTI – Last Wednesday (456-9342)
PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, brozier@bellsouth.net)
PEOPLE’S AGENDA – 2nd Tuesday (778-8130)
POWER [PEOPLE ORGANIZED AND WORKING FOR ENERGY REFORM] – 2nd Monday, jointly with KFTC (778-2687)
PROGRESSIVE STUDENTS LEAGUE AT UL – Every Tuesday (635-1292)
RCRC [Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice] – (585-3050)
RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)
SHADHULIYYAH SUFI SPIRITUALITY GROUP – Thursday nights (893-6122)

Note: If your group would like to be added to this list or if information needs to be updated, please let us know by calling 458-8056.