

"I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality. This is why right, temporarily defeated, is stronger than evil triumphant."

— Martin Luther King Jr., 1964

FORsooth

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March 2005

Farm workers eye March 12 Yum! rally

by Matt Evans

Over the past eight years, the Coalition of Immokalee Workers (CIW), a group of more than 3,000 workers who pick tomatoes on large Florida farms — including many workers from Mexico, Haiti and Central America — have been waging a battle with Yum! Brands, the parent company of Taco Bell and the largest fast food corporation in the world. Concerned students and community activists have joined the CIW's efforts for fair wages and benefits and an end to forced labor.

The CIW's work in this regard has been nationally and internationally recognized. In fact, in 2003, three members of the CIW won the prestigious Robert F. Kennedy Memorial Human Rights Award for their anti-slavery work and leadership in the Taco Bell boycott. It marked the first time the award had gone to a U.S.-based NGO.

This year, CIW brings its battle directly to Louisville for a week of education and action as part of its 2005 Taco Bell Truth Tour. CIW, along with its local allied organizations (Jobs with Justice, Louisville Peace Action Community, Students United for Peace and Justice and many others), is raising awareness through protests in front of Taco Bells.

Other actions include presentations led by farmworkers, a Feb. 21 panel on modern-day slavery, and a March 11 peace

and justice conference held on the University of Louisville's campus.

All of these events are leading up to a national rally in front of Yum's corporate headquarters March 12 featuring music, colorful theater and prominent speakers, including actor Martin Sheen. The rally on the 12th affords the people of Louisville an excellent opportunity to be key participants in what is truly history in the making. For a complete schedule of events, see LPAC's (www.louisvillepeace.org) or SUPJ's (www.studentsunitedforpeace.org) calendars.

The CIW has requested that Yum guarantee its suppliers pay higher wages and that basic standards of human rights be enforced. Specifically, CIW has sought a penny more per pound to increase the stagnate wages of the workers whose pay has not increased since 1978. The pay ranges from 40-to 45 cents per 32-pound bucket without health insurance, sick leave, or any form of benefits. The CIW has also asked that Yum! guarantee that its suppliers are not using forced labor.

The CIW has helped uncover and prosecute five cases since 1997 where workers have been held against their will to pick tomatoes and other fruits and vegetables.

Romeo Ramirez, a CIW member and Guatemalan farmworker who started working in the U.S. fields at 15, went undercover to reveal one such case. The ringleaders of this particular operation were found guilty of



— photo by Eddie Davis

Workers and their backers will rally March 12 for a better life for tomato pickers.

conspiracy to hold workers against their will and sentenced to prison. All in all, the CIW's anti-slavery campaign has liberated more than 1,000 captive workers.

For more information about the struggle of the Immokalee workers and the 2005 Taco Bell Truth Tour, see <http://www.ciw-online.org>. For more information about the boycott specifically, see <http://www.ciw-online.org/FAQs.html>.

The writer, a political science graduate student, is a member of SUPJ, a U of L activist group.

Coalition seeks unity for budget

by Eustace Durrett and Ike M. Thacker IV

The Coalition for the People's Agenda began the process of creating a true People's Budget to reflect that agenda by hosting a Conference for a People's Budget at the West Broadway United Methodist Church January 22.

As the Conference's flyer said, "We need to build a united front of neighborhood, social justice and service/advocacy organizations to fight for a Metro budget that puts human needs first," that uses "city dollars for affordable housing, a living wage, public transit and other things that improve the quality of life for all; no more corporate welfare."

Besides putting human needs first, the Coalition wants open public hearings in each Metro Council district, to "demystify and democratize" the budget process. Currently, the mayor presents the budget to the Metro Council in May, in toto, and the council has only about one month to debate it and make any changes (very few were made in 2004). The budget process

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Violence against tomato pickers spurs drive for justice

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

They were nearly the lowest paid workers in America and had no benefits and no raises since 1978, but for starters, the farm workers around Immokalee, Fla. had a more direct grievance when they organized in 1997.

They wanted their bosses to stop assaulting them.

Workers who picked tomatoes for fast food consumers around the nation for a median income of \$7,500 a year were tired of being brutally beaten, sometimes for pausing to get a drink of water, farm worker Romeo Ramirez told the FOR's Third Thursday Lunch Feb. 17.

So the Coalition of Immokalee Workers organized a march of 600 from their ranks to protest the beatings

"We sent a message that to hit one of us is to hit us all," he said through translator Brigitte Gynther, an activist with Interfaith Action. "Since that day we have not received any reports of workers being hit...."

We managed to put an end to that practice."

The CIW quickly expanded its goals, asking for a one penny per pound increase in pay for tomatoes picked. The group has used sometimes undercover efforts to find and prosecute contractors using slavery to squeeze profits out of workers not allowed to leave the camps to which many were drawn from Mexico and the Caribbean.

The CIW's efforts will reach a pinnacle March 12 at noon when hundreds of members and their backers will rally outside Yum! Brands offices at 1441 Gardiner Lane in Louisville to turn up the pressure on Yum!, which owns Taco Bell, to back the workers' demands (Activist and actor Martin Sheen is slated to be at the rally).

Yum! officials, who at first refused to intervene in the dispute or even to return CIW letters, have met with the group, Ramirez said. Yum! is one of the largest buyers of tomatoes grown around Immokalee, he added.

Workers, he told the lunch, make 40 to 45 cents per 32-pound bucket they fill with tomatoes, many of which are sold to

Taco Bell. The one-cent per pound hike would give them 72 to 77 cents per bucket, Ramirez said.

A worker, Ramirez added, must pick two tons of tomatoes a day to make \$50, the same he or she was making in 1978. Those days begin at 4 a.m., when workers wait in line for a breakfast, then, if picked out of a lineup, go to fields for backbreaking labor rewarded with no health insurance, sick leave, overtime pay or right to organize, Ramirez told the lunch.

After arriving home at about 6 to 7 p.m., workers wait in line to shower (one shower is provided per about 12 people, he said), then sleep 12 to 13 people in trailers meant for four, but overcrowded to save on rent, he added.

"This is where most of the tomatoes that you find in the supermarket come from. They

come from conditions like these," he said.

A nationwide boycott aimed at prompting Yum!, the world's largest fast-food corporation, to press growers to agree to CIW demands, has resulted in several colleges expelling Taco Bell from their food courts, Ramirez said.

Gynther told the lunch many students at Boise State University refused to attend graduation because the arena for the ceremonies had been named for Taco Bell.

Ramirez said the giant size of Yum! Brands, far from being intimidating, spurs the CIW on.

"Just as they have the power to demand tomatoes at an artificially low price, they have the power to demand that they are not produced in sweatshop conditions and to demand that they are not produced in forced labor."

Call F.O.R. at 502/458-8056

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Colombians' peace effort gets FOR member's backing

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

Louisville FOR steering committee member Erik Reinhart-Vidal said Jan. 20 that many of the victims of the worst violence in Colombia's civil war — members of communities of displaced people — had little bad to say about the armies brutally fighting for control of the South American nation.

"The community members weren't saying a lot to us because they were also threatened because there's a lot of paramilitary activity even in those displaced areas," Reinhart-Vidal, who visited the FOR-backed Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado, said at the FOR Third Thursday Lunch. "People had a very difficult time talking to us because they thought if they said things it would get back out."

However, evidence of atrocities against civilians, particularly by the government-backed paramilitaries, was overwhelming, he told the lunch.

A booklet produced by the FOR and the American Friends Service Committee which Reinhart-Vidal distributed at the lunch said estimates are that 80 percent of killings in Colombia are attributable to the paramilitaries, which have well-documented ties to the government.

The booklet said about three million

Colombians — 10 percent of the population — are displaced by the violence

The San Jose de Apartado Peace Community was formed out of 17 villages in an effort to stop the violence by the government, paramilitaries, leftist FARC guerrillas and drug lords, Reinhart-Vidal noted.

"It was established in 1997 because of all the different murders and disappearances," said Reinhart-Vidal, a former FOR National Council member "They organized 17 different communities to get together and say 'we're going to be a peace community. We're going to be neutral in the war. We don't want FARC in. We don't want the paramilitaries in. We don't want the Colombian army in. We don't want anybody in.'"

He told the lunch the FOR maintains a permanent accompaniment team to serve as a bulwark against atrocities, living with residents of La Union, one of the villages.

"The presence of internationals prevents things like massacres in the community. They know that there are gringos there and if there are gringos there they can't just go in and wipe everybody out."

Still, about 150 Peace Community members have been killed since 1997, Reinhart-Vidal said. One particularly heinous crime happened in La Union in July

2000, when six persons were massacred by paramilitaries while a Colombian army helicopter was overhead, a fact Reinhart-Vidal said illuminates the ties between the government and the paramilitaries.

He said the Peace Community, membership in which is voluntary for each of the 17 villages' residents, also includes cooperative farming methods and a "farmers university" which teaches area residents about farming and being a peace community.

Reinhart-Vidal said efforts to end the violence have included city dwellers, describing street theater, nonviolence workshops and backing of conscientious objection by the Medellin Youth Network. That organization, which is made up of youth opposed to the civil war, started in 1990, the booklet said.

Members of another performing troupe in the capital of Bogata, Reinhart-Vidal added, "show the horrors of war through mime and acting."

He said that despite the high level of violence plaguing rural Colombia, the joy of working with the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado was the primary memory he and other peace workers come away with.

"Most of the folks who go there to accompany... it's hard to get them out of there sometimes. They really do fall in love with the people."

For more information on the Peace Community of San Jose de Apartado, call up the FOR web site at www.forusa.org/programs/colombia/colombiaprogram.html.



Unity for budget *(continued from page 1)*

should be more open and not so dominated by the mayor, holds the coalition. And although it may not be "sexy," the budget reflects the goals, priorities, and values of those who crunch the numbers and has a very real impact on our daily lives.

The People's Budget is to be a real, working document that will be presented to the Metro Council and the mayor each year — an alternative budget to the mayor's that puts people first, that funds human needs before all else. Louisville is following the lead of several other cities (notably San Francisco) and states (notably New York) in the advent of a People's Budget that reflects the people's priorities rather than those of the chamber of commerce. The Budget will include funding sources for its programs, making the seemingly eternal argument about not having the money to do things irrelevant.

Too often in the past, says the coalition, progressive groups have each lobbied for "their" monies separately, making "divide and conquer" tactics effective against them and worsening the situation of all but the lucky. By coming together and uniting these groups can be a more effective force, forcing some real concessions from the powers that be.

And the January 22 conference began this process. After participant registration (some 100 people attended) and welcoming remarks by representatives of the church, the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, and AFSCME, came a panel discussion on building coalitions to create a human needs budget. Panel members were Dr. Joseph McMillan, Jack Norris, Sheila Wade, and Carla Wallace. The key point that emerged from the discussion was the simple point that coalitions are necessary for success.

Following this panel discussion was a presentation by Bill Allison, former 3rd ward Alderman in the old city government, on the nuts and bolts of the budget process and what it means for our everyday lives. This was where conference participants learned on whom they would have to put pressure to get what they want into the budget, once they collectively decide what that is. It turns out that mayoral department heads are at least as important as council members in this regard: in a very real sense, the budget process lasts all year.

To this point in the conference, all

participants had been in the same location; next, though, they broke out into nine small groups. These groups, which were based on the eight umbrella issue groups in the original (2002) People's Agenda plus one on Arts and Culture, were as follows: Civil/Human Rights; Community Governance; Criminal Justice and Citizen Protection; Economic Development through Community Empowerment; Environmental Protection, Public Health & Human Services; Housing; Workers' Rights; and the new area of Arts and Culture.

Among the priorities that emerged from these breakout sessions were the need to create a model civilian police review board — with a budget; the need to work with and monitor such agencies as the Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission and the Kentucky Commission on Human Rights; and the need to take meaningful, significant, mandatory steps to ensure air quality, especially in Rubbertown.

The conferees then reassembled to share their groups' top priorities, discuss strategies, and settle on a tentative timeline for future activities. Key points in that timeline are March 10, by when the coalition hopes to have speakers at the regular Metro Council meeting; April 8, by when they hope to have met with Mayor Jerry Abramson; and May 26, when the Mayor is likely to present his budget to the Metro Council. All along the way, metro departments, the mayor's office, and the Metro Council will be lobbied intensively, so that the 2006 budget (which starts on July 1, 2005) will be a far cry better than the Republican-style ones that have preceded it.

Eustace Durrett is an advocate for rail transit and economic equality. Ike M. Thacker IV has taught history and computer science at the university level. Both live in Louisville.

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90 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 479-9262
 Pat Geier 456-6586

The perils of life in uniform – a second sweeping look

by Matt Evans

Many soldiers, such as Army Spec. Marquise J. Roberts, face difficult situations.

The Georgia native, who served seven months in Iraq, faced redeployment, so he shot himself in the leg and called it a robbery.

When the police questioned him, he admitted that the wound was self-inflicted. Other troops evade the military; some 5,500 are unaccounted for by the military. Others kill themselves, like Jeffrey Lucet. The Massachusetts native drove a truck six months in Iraq.

Wanting to return home, he thought he might report the stress he received from seeing dead corpses. He was advised that reporting such trauma might only slow his arrival home, so he withheld it. Returning

home, he started to experience delusions about killing unarmed Iraqis. He hung himself in his parents' basement in June at the age of 23. Over the last seven months, 17 troops took their lives in Iraq, according to Pentagon reports. In the second half of 2004, over 500 soldiers were evacuated from Iraq for mental health reasons.

Just some of the difficulties the troops face include:

Poor equipment

Humvees have contributed to the death of more American soldiers than any other factor in the Iraq war, according to the Scripps Howard News Service. At least one in five troops who died do so in the vehicles, adding up to 275 of 1,320 dead troops.

Many of the troops died when improvised explosive devices exploded near their Humvees, snipers shot the occupants of the vehicle, or the Humvee driver wrecked. Many troops died because of insufficient armor on their Humvee. Only 2,000 of the 10,000 Humvees initially deployed to Iraq had bullet-proof glass or steel protection. The other 8000, constructed from fiberglass and aluminum, contained "soft sides" and fabric roofs. Some properly armored Humvees have been attacked with explosives and the occupants have died. Humvees were not designed to withstand bomb attacks or be used as combat vehicles. Pentagon officials say that the Humvee armor should deflect the blast and give the troops time to escape

the vehicle. The vehicles were meant as transportation behind the lines. In response to a public outcry, the government spent \$4 billion to armor Humvees. The Pentagon says that 75 percent of the 19,000 Humvees in Iraq have been armored, and expects it to reach 98 percent by March.

Poor dental care

Many people go into the National Guard because they lack dental insurance, but the military offers poor benefits for those who take the dental insurance. The plan covers \$1,200 a year, which fails to cover many procedures. Around a quarter of early deployment reservists had dental problems requiring emergency medical attention within the next year, according to the Government Accounting Office. Some reservists opt to have teeth pulled so they could be deployed. "Although promised restorative dental work [by the Army], their reward for their loyalty and patriotism will be dentures," said Robert McIntosh, a retired major general, in Congressional testimony. Dental implants, a vast improvement over dentures, are not covered because of the expense, McIntosh said.

Collapsing marriages

The army is spending \$2 million on marriage programs to stem the divorce rate of 21 percent for couples when one spouse is sent to war. The programs include marriage counseling, vouchers for romantic getaways to places like Opryland, and communication courses. These courses try to teach couples to forgive each other, to communicate better, to recognize the signs of post-traumatic stress disorder and to diminish alcohol and tobacco usage. Taking the course rewards couples with a weekend retreat, babysitting is provided, and commanders are encouraged to give their soldiers time off to attend.

"Soldiers will come apart in Afghanistan and Iraq. They'll absolutely collapse if they think their wife is going to leave them," said Lt. Col. Chester Egert, chaplain for the 101st Airborne. "I've seen soldiers hospitalized because they absolutely had a nervous breakdown because they were worried about their families."

An overstretching obligation

After six years away from the army, recently being married, and starting his own business, Leif Anderson got called back to military service. If he did not report to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, in January, he would be considered away without leave. He would be leaving over three fourths of his salary (he makes \$100,000 yearly). Many former soldiers are being called up — the most since World War II. Troop levels are problematic. The Army says it is 5,000 officers short because more are resigning than signing up. Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld authorized the call up of 6,500 individual ready reservists (IRR), a designation an Army member can serve out to finish their eight-year obligation. Unlike the Army Reserve or National Guard, they do not train or collect military pay. They total 111,000 people. More than 2,000 of the 4,200 IRRs who have been called up are fighting to return to active duty. Around 1,800 requested exemptions or delays; about 700 simply ignored the call up. Others filed lawsuits, claiming they were honorably discharged, fulfilled their obligations, or no longer possess the physical ability for military work. In response, the Army waived many exemptions for financial hardships and medical conditions, and they relaxed physical requirements.

Physical agony

Nearly 10,000 U.S. troops have been wounded. Matt Olson, a specialist with the Minnesota National Guard, was one of the injured. "All I wanted to do was scream," the 28-year old said of the bullet that went through the lower part of his leg, between his ankle and knee. "It felt like your skeleton was a big belt. I was struck in my

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Group Seeks C.O. Counselors

"AIM HIGHER," a military counter recruiting group in Louisville, announces a refresher Conscientious Objector training on Sunday, March 13 at 6:00 pm, at 2263 Frankfort Ave. We are seeking those who were COs, former draft counselors or military counselors, who want to participate in peer refresher training and consultation in order to speak to groups about conscientious objection. The training will be free and will last about two hours. For more details, call Mike Slaton, 636-5848. cheslaton@hotmail.com

The Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean and IFCO/Pastors for Peace invite you to welcome the

IFCO/Pastors for Peace 2005 Caravan to Chiapas

Connecting Communities in the Struggle for Social and Economic Justice

Wednesday, March 2, 2005

6:30 p.m. (pot luck dinner)

7:30 presentation

**James Lees Memorial
Presbyterian Church
1741 Frankfort Avenue**

This Spring the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO)/Pastors for Peace will organize another humanitarian aid caravan to Chiapas in support of communities and non-governmental organizations that are working for peace with justice and dignity.

In February 1995, IFCO/Pastors for Peace began this program of support for the indigenous struggle for land, liberty and democracy in the southern state of Chiapas. Caravans to Chiapas provide emergency relief aid for over 20,000 indigenous people who are enduring a protracted military presence in their communities. The caravans also increase the international presence in Chiapas, which helps to dissuade Mexican soldiers and privately funded paramilitary groups from committing human rights abuses against indigenous people in the region. Indigenous people throughout the zones of conflict are enduring a food shortage of near-famine proportion, which is already causing a sharp increase in health problems in the region.

Join Louisville Pastors for Peace and James Lees Memorial as we "send off" the caravan. At the event, members of the caravan will speak about their cross-country trip and what we can do to stand with the people of Chiapas.



Call: 479-9262 for more information or how to donate to this effort

An oligopolistic infection is once more spread around

If you liked the way outgoing Federal Communication Commission Chair Michael K. Powell and Company have creamed so-called managed competition in the past, you're gonna love it now.

Verizon Communications is marrying MCI, with a dowry of \$6.6 billion in cash and stock — and 7,000 workers are losing their jobs.

SBC Communications shackled up with AT&T not too long ago, Nextel ravished Sprint, and Alltel and Western Wireless tied the knot (all pending regulatory approval).

Years ago the courts forced the breakup of the Ma Bell Monopoly, but an oligopolistic clap has returned as a new strain of virus.

You may recall that MCI's previous partner, WorldCom, lost its potency after an eleven billion dollar accounting fraud came out from under the sheets.

Get ready for higher prices and service reductions. Bob and Carol and Ted and Alice aint got nothin' on these communications ravishers. Anti-trust be damned.

This column has reported over the last three years on the plight of the tomato pickers in Immokalee, Florida — no sick pay, no benefits, lousy wages and working conditions. The Coalition of Immokalee Workers has targeted Taco Bell, whose bulk purchasing of tomatoes gives it power to get some justice for these exploited laborers.

Taco Bell is owned by Yum Brands, whose holdings also include Pizza Hut, KFC, Long John Silver's Seafood Shoppes, and A&W Restaurants. The Coalition for Immokalee Workers on March 12 will be holding a National Convergence for Farmworker Justice! Right here in Louisville, Kentucky, home of Yum Brands (see separate article for details — I.G.).

Three battlers for a better world have recently passed away. Ossie Davis was an acclaimed actor, playwright and civil rights activist. He and his wife, the glorious Ruby Dee, tried to prevent the execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg in the hysteria of the Cold War 1950s. He was a pillar of support for the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s, staunch defender of Malcolm X — among so many other causes.

Mr. Davis graced Louisville with his presence a few years ago at the annual Unity Dinner of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. His deep resonant voice will be missed.

Arthur Miller was one of the greatest playwrights the U.S. has produced. He attacked the McCarthyite witch-hunt of the 1950s with his play, "The Crucible". Miller was charged with contempt of Congress for his refusal to cooperate with



the red-baiting House Un-American Activities Committee.

In "Death of a Salesman" he exposed the meaninglessness of selling commodities, and of discarding human beings who can no longer rake in profits for the boss. We are, indeed, our sister and brother's keeper, Mr. Miller reminded us.

Sister Dorothy Stang, an American Catholic nun and environmental activist, was shot to death in the Amazon jungle of Brazil. Over several decades she fought on behalf of Brazilian poor and landless

peasants, opposing the avarice of speculators. She also struggled to protect the Rain Forest.

You may recall the brutal murder of the Brazilian labor leader, Chico Mendes, in the late 1980s. These most recent murders (Sister Dorothy was killed along with several Brazilian colleagues) indicate some of the difficulties Brazil's enlightened president, Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva, faces.

We have covered recently several initiatives aimed at giving needed lifeblood to the U.S. labor movement. One of these, the New Unity Partnership (NUP) recently folded its tent. Reports Harold Meyerson in *The American Prospect Online*:

"It was one of those classic strange-bedfellow alliances. When (NUP), a consortium of five international unions, formed in summer 2003, it brought together three of labor's most progressive unions — the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), UNITE (the clothing and textile workers union), and HERE (the hotel employees union) — with two unions from the more conservative side of labor's spectrum: the Laborers and the Carpenters. Indeed, the

Carpenters, having hosted several Labor Day events with President George W. Bush, was the only significant American union that boasted of its ties to Bush's decidedly anti-union administration.

"What the five unions did have in common, though, was a commitment to organizing. In recent years, all five had substantially reallocated resources into organizing campaigns (the Carpenters created a sizable backlash among locals over the issue of their having lost their autonomy. They came together with a hope often expressed by merging corporations: that the synergies created by joining forces would foster greater growth, in this case by creating more leverage in organizing drives. And they came together as a distinct pressure group within labor's house, urging the AFL-CIO to do more to foster organizing in a movement whose membership, as a share of the American work force, continued to shrink.

"...the NUP fostered one significant organizing campaign (in the multi-service industry) and laid the groundwork for last summer's merger of UNITE and HERE. (continued on page 5)

INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY EVENT

The University of Louisville Women and Global Issues Committee, The Commission on the Status of Women and The Women's and Gender Studies Program are pleased to welcome



Sapana Pradhan-Malla

Having Our Cake and Eating it Too: An International Women's Day Discussion of Nepal, Women's Human Rights and the Beijing +10 Review and Appraisal

Thursday, March 10, 2005

7:00 p.m.

University of Louisville

Ekstrom Library Auditorium

(parking convenient in Speed Museum Ramp)

In honor of International Women's Day, please join guest speaker Sapana Pradhan-Malla for a discussion about the current political situation in Nepal, women's international human rights and the Beijing Document and the Platform for Action. Sapana Pradhan-Malla will be joining us at the University of Louisville immediately following her attendance at the ten-year review and appraisal of the Beijing Document and Platform for Action to be held in New York City.

As an attorney/activist, Sapana Pradhan-Malla has dedicated her life's work to achieving equality for and improving the lives of women in Nepal. Through her work on property and inheritance rights, abortion and domestic violence, among other significant issues of importance to achieving women's equality, Ms. Pradhan-Malla has challenged discriminatory laws and influenced substantive legal reform in Nepal. She has also extended her advocacy work beyond Nepal's borders and become an equally admired figure in the international human rights community.

For more information call David Horvath (502) 852-7589

Poems by Ike M. Thacker IV

Ode To A Dove (For Maureen)

Today I saw a hawk kill a dove,
And thought to myself:
"How foul on Christmas Eve,
How predatory,
Contradictory
To all that we strive to believe."
Then I thought of Maureen,
With her sense serene
Of order in all things we see,
And it made some sense,
This plunge of offense,
By a hawk just trying to be.

Yule Care

The crowd converged,
a maelstrom churning,
To see the broken form which bled;
The sidewalk, like the shop, was red.
And silver bells just kept on ringing.
Within the mass, a voice rang out:
"Get out of my way, I'm in a hurry!"
With that the group began to scurry.
Sera, sera was the silent shout.
The crowd dispersed beneath the holly;
A white-haired priest was left alone
For unknown strays to atone.
Is this the season to be jolly?

The People's Forum

Letters to
FORsooth

State has a quick fix

Dear Editor,

"There is no disputing that Kentucky needs cash." So reported the February 2003 issue of *Governing* magazine in its special report about the tax systems of the 50 states. Everyone who cares about tax fairness in our commonwealth needs to give the few minutes it takes to read this important report. See www.governing.com.

According to *Governing*, the state of Kentucky just gave back too much during the economic boom of the 1990s when the state treasury was flush. The Kentucky General Assembly repealed part of the inheritance tax, exempted pension income for more retirees and increased the standard deduction. Meanwhile, it rejected all proposals to raise revenues.

These actions might have seemed reasonable at the time but they exacerbated the structural problems in Kentucky's tax system. For example, our manufacturing-based sales tax is not keeping up with our changing economy and its growing service-based sector. And, Kentucky's revenues from corporate taxes are declining with the increasing popularity of tax structures such as limited liability companies and holding companies.

Kentucky is hardly alone, though. *Governing* reported that many states fell into this trap back in the 90s. So, most state tax systems today are unbalanced, inadequate and hampered by misinformation and misconception in the general public.

Basically, that is how we got where we are today. The good news is that Kentucky has a significant quick fix available. Raising our historically low taxes on cigarettes and alcohol would definitely help fill in the gaping hole in our state budget. But, the hole is huge in 2005

Today, many Kentucky politicians are promising "revenue neutral" solutions to our budget crisis, which means deep cuts in state government expenditures. That idea might be defensible if the related sacrifices are distributed fairly among us. Politicians being politicians, a fair solution seems unlikely however.

It seems much more likely that the cuts will fall largely on citizens who seldom vote and cannot afford to make political campaign contributions; in other words our most powerless and most vulnerable neighbors, friends and relatives. Many Kentucky politicians say they are devotedly religious but no one is expecting them to remember Biblical scriptures such as Matthew 25:40 when they decide which expenditures to cut.

Our very souls are at stake. If you want to help improve our chances for a fair solution to our state budget crisis, please read about the efforts of the Kentucky Economic Justice Alliance at www.keja.org. Consider joining them. You might also want to read the "The Principles for Fair and Just Taxation" written by the Kentucky Council of Churches. See www.kycouncilofchurches.org.

Tom Louderback
Louisville



Gladys Carter, 1951. Courtesy of the Courier Journal

Sisters In Struggle: Women in the Louisville Civil Rights Movement 1945-1975

An exhibit of photographs,
stories and memorabilia

University of Louisville
Ekstrom Library Lobby
January 17-March 31, 2005

Special event:

Voices of the Participants
Monday, March 7 – 3:00-4:30. Ekstrom Library Auditorium
Panel discussion with women featured in the exhibit. Featured speakers
include Anne Braden, Benetha Ellis, Georgia Powers and
Deanna Shobe Tinsley

For more information contact David Horvath 852-7589

An oligopolistic infection *(continued from page 4)*

The NUP also started a discussion about labor's capacity to grow again and whether the structure of the movement actually inhibited growth — a discussion that has recently swept the AFL-CIO."

Emerging from the cave slime of that insouciant, if not incontinent, befouling called the Kentucky State Legislature is a bit of hope. Reports the Catholic Conference of Kentucky: "Kentucky is at a crossroads, living without a budget and an apparent unwillingness on the part of our political leaders to propose tax legislation that is truly progressive and in accord with the principles set out by our bishops. A fair and just tax system is essential for Kentucky...."

"H.B. 276 and H.B. 277 reform the current tax structure in Kentucky. H.B. 276 relates to corporation taxes and removes exemptions and closes loopholes in the current law. H.B. 277 changes the law so that the poorest of Kentucky's citizens pay no taxes."

If the legislature passes these bills, and the governor signs 'em, I will no longer repeat the information that Kentucky has 4,117,827 million people and just fifteen last names. But if they don't...."

At the federal level, did you hear the one about the fearless leader of the free world trying to privatize social security? MoveOn.org gives us a reality check: "The gap between Bush's rhetoric and the truth is enormous. Social Security is a complicated issue, but the basics are really pretty simple:

"Social Security provides monthly benefits to some 44 million Americans who are retired, disabled or the survivor of

a deceased parent. It provides most of the income for older Americans — some 64 percent of their support. It has lifted generations of seniors out of poverty.

"Social Security is not in crisis. That is an outright lie perpetrated in order to create the urgency for radical changes. Under conservative forecasts, the long-term challenges in Social Security do not manifest themselves until 2042. Even then Social Security has 70 percent of needed funds. That shortfall is smaller than the amount needed in 1983, the last time we overhauled Social Security. George Bush's Social Security crisis-talk is an effort to create a specter of doom — just like the weapons of mass destruction claim in Iraq.

"Phasing out Social Security and replacing it with privatized accounts means one thing: massive cuts in monthly benefits for everybody. Social Security privatization requires diverting taxes used to pay current benefits into privatized accounts invested in risky stocks. Without that money Social Security benefits will inevitably be cut — some proposals even cut benefits of current retirees. These benefit cuts are inevitable, since diverting Social Security money into privatized accounts means less money to pay current and future benefits.

"Every serious privatization proposal raises the Social Security retirement age to 70. That might be fine if you're a Washington special interest lobbyist but it is incredibly unfair to blue-collar Americans with tough, physical jobs, or for African Americans and Latinos with

lower life expectancies."

Surely Wall Street would not want a percentage profit from each money transfer, and management. That would be Un-American.

Presidential update, number two. Writing in the Chicago Defender, Roland S. Martin reports: "President George W. Bush met with the Congressional Black Caucus... for the first time as a group in nearly four years, but what CBC members said stood out the most was the president's declaration that he was 'unfamiliar' with the Voting Rights Act of 1965, one of the most significant pieces of legislation passed in the history of the United States."

Rep. Bobby Rush, the article reports, said that Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State, said "absolutely nothing. She was just there. For what reason, I'm not sure."

But the president does know how to have a good time. His inauguration cost about forty million bucks, dear readers. It's an exception in the ethics laws.

As in the revolving lobby door that allowed former Sen. John Breaux (D-LA) to retire from public life after 32 years in Congress and become a lobbyist at one of Washington's best-connected firms, Patton Boggs. In addition, Breaux will join a New York investment fund that manages \$5 billion of capital.

I'll bet Mr. Breaux also knows how to have a good time. Laissez le Bon Temps Roule — Let the Good Times Roll.

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

“END OF YEAR” MESSAGE FROM DAN BERRIGAN AND THE KAIROS/ PLOWSHARES NEW YORK (edited version)

“A child is born to us. An Iraqi child, a Sudanese, an Afghan. Welcome, child of our bone and flesh. In cherishing you, we rise from the ashes of America.

On December 5-6, some seventy five friends and family gathered on Sunday afternoon in New York to celebrate the second anniversary of Philip’s leaving our world.

Elizabeth McAlister spoke movingly of a grief that endures. She also reminded us gently: ‘This is not Philip’s war; it is our own.’ We contemplated what Philip had said at the very end when asked what is our responsibility toward the makers of weapons and war: ‘We pray for them, and resist them.’

On Monday, resistance. We assembled at the Isaiah Wall at the UN and walked single file in silence, across 42nd Street, to the military induction center in Times Square — the horrendously busy bee hive, humming like no other. There as police grew restive and chaotic, we managed to block the doors for a brief time; the honey of death was in short supply. Then of course, the sting. We were trundled away, 29 of us, unrepentant and indeed (I dare say) unrehabilitatable. We face court in the new year.”

NOTE: For those who would like to contribute toward the legal expenses of the **Kairos/Plowshares New York**, tax deductible gifts may be sent to A.J. Muste Memorial Institute (AJMMI), C/O Kairos/Plowshares New York, 618 West 138th St, #5. New York, NY 10031 (1/212/234-2447)

TAX TIME AGAIN! HOW MUCH WILL YOU PAY FOR WAR?

Again this year we will pay only half of our tax due. We will refuse to pay the approximate 50% that goes to the Pentagon. In our letter to the IRS and to our senators and congressional representative we will explain why we so strongly object to paying for war while praying for peace.

We will point out the lies the Bush administration told about the Iraq war, citing a book by C. Scheer, R. Scheer, and Lakshmi Chandry entitled *The Five Biggest Lies Bush Told Us About Iraq*. We will also suggest another book *How Much Are You Making on the War, Daddy?: A Quick Guide to War Profiteering in the Bush Administration* by William D. Hartung.

For those who are paying their full tax, it is still possible to send a letter of protest stating your specific grounds for objecting to the military part of the budget and requesting that none of your tax dollars go to military uses. A one page letter is preferable, and it should not be stapled to your return.

In addition to sending copies to your senators and congressional representative, please also send a copy to the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, P.O. Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215. Tel:1/800/269-7464 or 1/718/768-3420. FAX:1/718/768-4388. email: nwtccc@nwtccc.org www.nwtccc.org

You can call me if you want to discuss your participation in this year’s effort to end war through tax refusal. George Edwards, (502) 458-8056.

SISTER LIL MATTINGLY TO ENTER FEDERAL PRISON ON MARCH 15

On January 25, 2005 Lil Mattingly, MM appeared before Judge Faircloth in Columbus, Georgia to give her statement from the witness stand. She had been arrested in November for crossing the line at Ft Benning during the protest against the School of the Americas. She spoke with such sincerity and such strength that everyone in the courtroom, including the judge, was visibly moved. We feel compelled to share this with our readers since from it we will all gain strength for the struggle we now endure. Moreover her “historical sketch” will cause all of us to reflect on those bitter years and gain insight as we meditate on her analysis.

“Your honor Judge Faircloth, court clerks, marshalls, friends, family ...

Good morning and blessings of peace.

I’m grateful for this opportunity to speak, to express what is very deep in my heart. I join a long line of others who have stood here before you, whose experiences and reasons for being accused of breaking a Federal law are similar to my own. I value their words which speak to my heart as they cry out for justice, and for an awakening of our U.S. sense of moral outrage in response to a degraded U.S. foreign policy.

I believe that I followed my conscience and my sense of moral outrage by prayerfully and peacefully protesting the school known as Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation at Ft. Benning. I crossed the line because of what the school teaches, what many of its stu-



dents have done, and what it represents in the madness of military rationale that ‘might makes right’.

How have I come to know U.S. foreign policy as degraded? Permit me to share with you and the Court some of my own personal experience. I grew up in Louisville, Ky, in a working-class family in the 40s-50s, in what I now know to have been a sheltered environment, unaware of the extremes of Militarism used for economic and political advantage.

Even when I joined the Maryknoll Sisters in 1960, what was important in the U.S. was that Russia be defeated and that we win all the wars out there for our good and noble people. What I recall as my first awakening that something wasn’t right with our own government was in Nursing School when in 1970 I joined most of my class on the streets to protest the war in Vietnam.

Soon after Nursing School, I went to my first mission in Bolivia and was delayed because of a bloody takeover that was happening in Bolivia in August of 1971. When we were allowed in, I learned that the leader of the military coup was General Hugo Banzer Suarez. He ruled the country; his military chased, grabbed, shot, killed, imprisoned and tortured thousands during his 7 years of dictatorship. Not only was he responsible for those horrible physical atrocities, but he also received so-called LOANS from U.S. banks in the millions which grew into the billions of dollars that have now enslaved the Bolivian people by an unpayable DEBT.

Judge Faircloth, if you have ever been to the SOA/WHINSEC that we are presently protesting, you may have seen General Hugo Banzer Suarez’ picture there in its HALL OF FAME! Can you imagine what an insult that is to the beautiful people of Bolivia who suffered terribly under his tyrannical regime?

I was privileged to live for 20 years in Bolivia and to learn from the people there who are oppressed politically, militarily, and economically; but still the people are committed to peaceful protests. Too often, and just recently, 84 Indigenous people were shot down by the military and killed for protesting. Bolivia has sent many officers/soldiers to the SOA/WHINSEC, and presently have U.S. military advisors-trainers there now.

In 1980 in El Salvador, protests were also being repressed, and two of my Maryknoll Sisters who were helping refugees, were raped and killed along with another Sister and Lay Missioner. Hundreds of thousands died with them in those years when our U.S. policies funded and trained militaries in Central America to fight what they called “Communism”. I ask the Court to note that of the military officials and soldiers cited for abuses of human rights in reports time after time, many, if not most, are graduates of the SOA/WHINSEC and they continue to operate with impunity in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Colombia ...

The level of deliberate brutality in massacres which we know about where the graduates have practiced the skills learned at this school defies imagination.

In 1987 I lived in Nicaragua. I had gone to accompany our Sisters and the people during the U.S.-trained, financed, and illegal “Contra War”. At that time, the Sandinista Government was trying to implement much-needed social reforms as the dictator Anastasio Somoza, put in power by the U.S., had stolen most everything in the country and left the people starving, landless, uneducated, and terrorized. I myself came to know many persons, Marisol Rodriguez is one, who had lost loved ones, ambushed, executed, beheaded by the Contras. One of my own Sisters was kidnapped.

Can you see, your Honor, how this process of awakening impacted my soul?

The story is long. After being in Nicaragua, I worked for my Community in Mission Education in the Midwest, USA, but grew increasingly frustrated by the Reagan doctrines and growing suppression of the truth about realities in Central America and beyond. Lies and media control were becoming commonplace as US foreign policy became more aggressive and imperialistic.

Part of my frustration when visiting and speaking in schools, parishes, and with groups, was in realizing how misled many of our people were about U.S. foreign policy. That frustration continues today, but even more so, as more persons are deprived of the truth.

Not only do most U.S. persons become frightened and very easily convinced through misinformation of our “need” to go to war, as in the case of Iraq, but the majority erroneously believe that the U.S. is #1 in helping other countries. Statistics tell us otherwise, that we are one of the last in the order of industrialized nations in giving foreign aid. These are only two indications of how our people are misinformed.

These are only a few of the reasons why I have come to know U.S. foreign policy as degraded.

I could talk about Iraq, my experience there in December, 2002, and how I have become convinced that every U.S. citizen needs to be aware of how greed for oil and power have taken us to terrible extremes leading to the widespread death and destruction we have caused there.

And for those who know how the SOA/WHINSEC was responsible for the training of militaries to assassinate persons struggling for human rights in Latin America, we are seeing recently how these same strategies are in the planning to be used against the people of IRAQ! This outrageous plan has just been written about in NEWSWEEK. The article describes the Pentagon as increasingly desperate watching Iraq unravel. Now some believe that DEATH

(continued on page 7)

FINANCIAL REPORT January 2005

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$10,679.74
Contributions	205.00
TOTAL	\$10,884.74

EXPENDITURES:

FORsooth Editing	\$150.00
FORsooth Printing	280.20
FORsooth Mailing	212.00
Mailing Permit	150.00
FOR National Dues	75.00
JusticeVision (videos)	15.00
Office Expenses	163.91
	\$1,046.11
	1,046.11

ENDING BALANCE	\$9,838.63
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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
Louisville, KY 40205

The Way of the Cross: A Walk for Justice

Good Friday 25 March 2005 9:30-11:30 a.m.

All are warmly invited to participate in this prayerful, justice-oriented outdoor “Stations of the Cross” focusing on the suffering of Jesus in our midst today.

We begin at M.L. King Park in front of the Mazzoli Federal Building (on the South side of Chestnut between 6th and 7th Streets) walk through the downtown area (about 1.5 miles) and conclude at Founders Square Park across the street from the Cathedral of the Assumption (on 5th Street between Muhammad Ali Blvd. and Liberty).

Street parking is difficult. The most convenient garage parking is available in the old Galleria lot located next to the Cathedral on 5th between Muhammad Ali and Liberty.

Sponsoring organizations include:

St. William Church, Ascension Catholic Church, Christ the King Church, Covenant Community Church, CrossRoads Ministry, EarthSave Louisville, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Interfaith Paths to Peace, James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church, JustFaith Louisville, KITLAC, Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Legal Aid Society, Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, Louisville Peace Action Committee, St. Martin de Porres and many others.

For more information contact Anne Walter at 583-6419, Fritz Gutwein at 638-0683, or David Horvath at 479-9262. Thanks for joining us!

Jean's Journal

(continued from page 6)

SQUADS, as used in El Salvador, will destroy the resistance. This is the so-called "Salvador Option", which means killing the civilians who won't turn in the insurgents!

What is our country becoming?

Can you see, Judge Faircloth, why we continue to peacefully protest and put our bodies on the line to bring attention to these injustices? I've tried to follow my convictions, to follow a HIGHER LAW. I am inspired by a long line of nonviolent resistors. Before taking the action in November, I spent years writing and calling members of Congress to vote to close the SOA/WHINSEC... marching, praying, and fasting so others would know what WHINSEC is and does, until I realized that very few were listening, and that I needed to do something more. I thank all who have supported me.

Your Honor, we can *only* bring about PEACE through LOVE and JUSTICE in our world. This is what befits our good and noble people.

Thank you."

CONTINUING THE SOCIAL SECURITY DISCUSSION

Norma Cohen (a senior corporate reporter at *The Financial Times*) states, "Britain's experiment with substituting private savings accounts for a portion of state benefits has been a failure. A shorthand explanation for what had gone wrong is that the costs and risks of running private investment accounts outweigh the value of the returns they are likely to earn." (C-J 1/16/05)

Life in uniform

(continued from page 3)

ankle, but it reverberated through all my bones." He was shot on Dec. 1 while on foot patrol in Baghdad. Shots rang out while Olson and his platoon patrolled a Baghdad residential neighborhood.

Olson fell to the ground, breaking his tibia and fibula in his left leg. Using his right leg, he lunged behind a taxi, which tried to drive away, but Olson made the driver stay by hanging onto the door handle. The shooting lasted only a minute and seriously harmed no one else in his platoon. No one knew Olson was shot until the shooting ceased. He prevented himself from screaming to conceal his position from the shooter. "Once I

was able to yell out I was hit, I put a lot of energy into that scream because all I wanted to do was scream," Olson said. A medic stuffed his wound with gauze. A soldier tried to walk him 30 feet, but the pain became too intense, so they dragged him into an alley and an armored vehicle took him back to the green zone, the most heavily protected U.S. area in Baghdad. Olson had multiple surgeries and still needs more for an entrance

wound four inches long and half an inch wide and an exit wound about the size of a dollar bill. Since he cannot work anymore, Olson lost hostile fire and combat pay, which amounts to \$1,000 per month. With all things considered, he is still glad he joined the guard. "I was glad I was able to take what I've experienced in Iraq," he said. "I've got first-hand knowledge of what's going on over there. I place even more emphasis on how

important peace is, how important peaceful resolution is to conflict."

Matt Evans belongs to Aim Higher, a group concerned about the militarization of schools. He compiled and edited these stories from the Associated Press, the Scripps-Howard News Services, The New York Times, The Fort Wayne News-Sentinel, The Palm Beach Post and The St. Cloud Times.

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation

February-April, 2005

March 17

An Eyewitness Account of Life in Occupied Palestine

Sharon Wallace, a Sociology Instructor at Jefferson Community College, has just returned from six months in the West Bank. She will tell us of her work with various human rights organizations, including the International Solidarity Movement.

April 21

Putting Your Money to Work for Justice and Social Change

The Rev. Andy R. Loving, CFP, a socially responsive investment advisor, will discuss ways to invest in fair trade coffee companies, overseas microcredit groups, community development banks and credit unions in the US and South Africa. Mutual funds that "lobby" corporations by using proxy rights to help change corporate policy, and tips for avoiding investing in the worst corporate offenders will also be discussed.

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



For reservations, call Polly Johnson (473-8435)
or Jean Edwards (458-8056) by Tuesday before the Lunch

"Concert for Contemplation & Nonviolence: A Lenten Path for Peace"

featuring *Harry Pickens*

Sunday, 13 March 2005

St. William Church, 1226 W. Oak Street Louisville
with a hearty dinner, home made desserts, art and jewelry for sale

3:30-7:30 p.m. Open for art and food sales
4:30-6:00 p.m. Concert for Contemplation

Concert proceeds (\$10 donation suggested, but all are welcome)
will benefit Interfaith Paths to Peace and St. William Church

Co-sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace,
St. William Church and St. Agnes Church

- Interfaith Paths to Peace in its mission to promote peace, justice and nonviolence in local, national and global affairs, drawing upon deeply held religious and ethical values. IPP accomplishes its goals through education and actions that speak to public issues, by offering alternative ways to resolve conflicts and by encouraging people to live lives of peace, justice and nonviolence.
- The St. William Church Community whose members commit themselves and their resources to serve poor and oppressed people both locally and internationally, striving to eliminate the causes of violence and injustice.

For further information please contact St. William at 635-6307.

Physicians for a National Health Program—Kentucky presents: "The Single Payer Solution to Our Health Care Crisis"

Johnathon Ross, M.D., M.P.H.
Past President, Physicians for a National Health Program

Thursday, March 10, 2005
7:30 PM

Community Health Building, 101 W. Chestnut St.
First and Chestnut, downtown Louisville

Free.

The public is invited and encouraged to attend.

Further info: Garrett Adams M.D., M.P.H., gadamsky@aol.com, (502) 895-8847
or Edgar Lopez, M.D., FACS, e.lopez@insightbb.com, (502) 425-7259

Information on PNHP at www.pnhp.org.

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

June 9-12 (TFSSM) **THE NINTH GENERAL MEETING OF THE INTERNATIONAL THOMAS MERTON SOCIETY: "Revelation of Justice, Revolution of Love: Merton's Message for a New Millennium."** The conference will focus on the continuing relevance of Merton's insights on peace, social justice and non-violence. University of San Diego, California. Contact Paul Pearson, 1/502-452-8177. Visit <http://merton.org/ITMS/fellows.htm>

Calendar for peacemakers

Mar 2 (Wed) **PASTORS FOR PEACE CARAVAN TO CHIAPAS, MEXICO.** Potluck dinner at 6:30 pm. Presentation at 7:30 pm. James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. Call 479-9262.

Mar 3 (Thu) **SEYMOUR HERSH: "Chain of Command: The Road from 9/11 to Abu Ghraib."** Free presentation at Bellarmine University, Frazier Hall, 7:30 pm. Author/journalist Hersh won the Pulitzer Prize for breaking the story on the massacre at My Lai, Vietnam. His new book with the same title as his presentation will be on sale before and after the event. It details how the United States went from hijackers crashing passenger planes into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon to going to war in Iraq as well as fault for the abuses at Abu Ghraib. For more information call 452-8000.

Mar 3 (Thu) **CARL WEDEKIND: "Intelligence, Surveillance, and Freedom."** Three-week class looking at issues of freedom and security raised by the Patriot Act and the War on Terrorism. Sponsored by the Center for Faith and Action. at James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. Call the Rev. John Sonnenday, Director, 896-0172. www.faith-action.org, \$30.

Mar 4 (Fri) **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER focusing on Christian women of Poland sharing their rich heritage of faith.** Bethlehem United Church of Christ, 1480 S. 6th St, at Hill St. **Speaker: Dr. Helena Rempala**, clinical psychologist practicing in Louisville, who immigrated 13 years ago. Registration at 11:30 am, worship at noon. Refreshments after the service. For childcare call 634-0990. For more information, call Gladys Boykin, 589-3983.

Mar 5 (Sat) **GLENDA HODGES-COOK and MADDIE RENO: "Moments of Grace and Gratitude."** One day retreat, 9:30 to 4:00. A day for stepping into the stillness and joy of the present moment. A day to deepen gratitude as a spiritual practice. Sponsored by the Center for Faith and Action at James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. \$30 includes lunch. Call the Rev. John Sonnenday, Director, 896-0172. www.faith-action.org

Mar 6 (Fri) **NOON VIGIL FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST**, including a news update. **EVERY FRIDAY AT 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 Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Mar 6 (Fri) **NEWBY NETWORK. EVERY FRIDAY.** West Broadway United Methodist Church, 3620 West Broadway, at Sutcliffe. 5:00 pm. In support of the Newby family in the death of their son, especially during the McKenzie Mattingly trial. Call 778-8130.

Mar 6 (Sun) **CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR PEACE** every first Sunday evening remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a candle. Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. 7:00-8:00 pm. Sponsored by LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. E-mail: pcunity@yahoo.com www.louisvillepeace.org

Mar 7 (Mon) **CELEBRATION OF WOMEN (on International Women's Day)** at Jefferson Square, 7th & Jefferson Sts, 5:00 pm., sponsored by The Center for Women and Families, UL Women's Ctr, JCC Women's Ctr, Presbyterian Seminary Women's Ctr, Jobs with Justice, J C NOW, Feminist Peace Network. Music, speakers, and a proclamation from the City. Men encouraged to attend also. Call 228-7654. For a list of March events visit: <http://www.louisville.edu/provost/womenctr>

Mar 7 (Mon) **SISTERS IN STRUGGLE: Voices of the Participants, Louisville Civil Rights Movement 1945-1975.** Panel discussion, including **Anne Braden, Georgia Powers, Benetha Ellis.** Ekstrom Library Auditorium, 3:00-4:30. **NOTE: Special exhibit of photographs, stories, memorabilia will continue through March 31.** Call David Horvath, 852-7589.

Mar 7 (Mon) **REALITIES OF WAR**, featuring **FERNANDO SUAREZ de SOLAR** representing "Military Families Speak Out" about 1) Devastating conditions in Iraq, 2) Military recruitment in our schools, the "poverty draft" and the impact of the war economy, (3) Impact of the war on immigrants, workers, civil liberties, and social programs. UL Humanities 100, 7:00 pm. Sponsors: UL Students United for P/J, Student/Farmworker Alliance, National Youth & Student Peace Coalition. Contact Sean Sellers, 239/821-5481. sean@sfalliance.org

Mar 8 (Tue) **COALITION OF IMMOKALEE WORKERS WILL HAVE A HEARING BEFORE THE KY WORKERS RIGHTS BOARD with a discussion of the response from Yum! Brands. 6:00 pm at JCTA, 1941 Bishop Lane.** Call JwJ, 625-3724. kjwj@kjwj.org

Mar 9 (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.

Mar 10 (Thu) **SAPANA PRADHAN-MALLA, Nepalese womens rights activist: "Having Our Cake and Eating It Too."** Discussion of Nepal, Women's Human Rights and the Beijing + 10, in honor of International Women's Day. UL Ekstrom Library Auditorium, 7:00 pm. Call David Horvath, 852-7589.

Mar 10 (Thu) **JOHNATHON ROSS, MD, MPH: "The Single Payer Solution to Our Health Care Crisis,"** sponsored by Physicians for a National Health Program—Kentucky. Dr. Ross is the past president of PNHP. Community Health Building, 101 W. Chestnut St, 7:30 pm. Call Dr. Garrett Adams, 895-8847 gadamsky@aol.com or Dr. Edgar Lopez, 425-7259. Learn more at www.pnhp.org

Mar 10-13 (TFSS) **BLACK PARENTING: TAKING BACK OUR CHILDREN.** The 32nd Annual National Conference on the Black Family in America. Holiday Inn Downtown, 120 W Broadway. On Saturday, **the famed Hares Drs. Julia and Nathan** will conduct a version of their Black Think Tank with conferees. For details call Dr. Joseph McMillan, 852-6656 or 245-2272.

Mar 12 (Sat) **HARRY PICKENS: "RECLAIMING YOUR POWER TO CHANGE THE WORLD."** Workshop designed to help persons live more powerfully, passionately, and peacefully as a positive force for change in the world. Sponsored by the Center for Faith and Action, James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. 10:00 to 4:30. \$30 includes lunch.

Mar 12 (Sat) **MASS RALLY AT YUM! BRANDS**, 1441 Gardiner Lane, noon. Join the farmworkers in a rally for human rights and corporate responsibility featuring **MARTIN SHEEN.** To learn more about the Taco Bell Boycott and the Truth Tour, call 502/454-3400,x1022, or 1/239-986-9101 workers@ciw-online.org

Mar 13 (Sun) **CONCERT FOR CONTEMPLATION AND NON-VIOLENCE: A Lenten Path for Peace, featuring HARRY PICKENS.** Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace, St. William Catholic Church and St. Agnes Catholic Church. 4:30-6:00 pm at St William Church, 1226 W. Oak St. (\$10 donation suggested) Proceeds go to IPP and St. William. Also the church will be open from 3:30-7:30 pm for a hearty dinner with home made desserts, art, jewelry and food sales. Call 635-6307.

Mar 13 (Sun) **CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTOR REFRESHER TRAINING**, for those who were COs, former draft counselors or military counselors, 2263 Frankfort Ave, 6:00 pm. Sponsored by "Aim Higher," a committee focusing on military counter recruitment, meeting every second Sunday at 6:00 pm at this location. Call Mike Slaton, 636-5848. E-mail: cheslaton@hotmail.com

Mar 14 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL 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@bellsouth.net

Mar 14-15 (MT) **JAMES M. LAWSON, JR.** will be the Festival Preacher during the Festival of Theology at the Presbyterian Seminary. His topic on Monday at 10:00 will be, "Following Jesus Today" (Isaiah 65:17-25) and on Tuesday at 10:30 "A Faith That Truly Heals" (Isaiah 58:1-9; Matthew 23:13-15, 23-26, 37). A United Methodist Church pastor emeritus, James Lawson is acclaimed for his association with Martin Luther King, Jr. and his tireless efforts for nonviolent action. During pastorates in Nashville, Memphis and Los Angeles, he became a preeminent voice for human compassion and social justice. A long-time member of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, Lawson chaired the FOR national council in Nyack, NY for a number of years. Free. Call David Sawyer, 895-3411, ext.372.

Mar 15 (Tue) **JIM WALLIS** will deliver the Greenhoe Lectures during the Festival of Theology at the Presbyterian Seminary. Wallis was the founder of Sojourners (Christians for Justice & Peace) and is editor of *Sojourners* magazine and columnist for the NY Times, Washington Post, Los Angeles Times, and others. In 1995 he was instrumental in forming **Call to Renewal**, a national federation of churches, denominations, and faith-based organizations working to overcome poverty. In 1979, *Time* magazine named Wallis one of the "50 Faces of America's Future." He will speak twice on March 15, at 9:00 am, "Isaiah's Platform for Domestic Justice" (Isaiah 65) and at 8:00 pm, "Micah's Vision for Global Security" (Micah 4). Free. Call David Sawyer, 895-3411, ext.372.

Mar 17 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH**, sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation: featuring **SHARON WALLACE** presenting **"An Eyewitness Account of Life in Occupied Palestine."** Sharon Wallace, a sociology instructor at Jefferson Community College, has just returned from six months in the West Bank. She will describe her work with various human rights organizations, including the International Solidarity Movement (ISM). Rudyard Kipling Restaurant, 422 W Oak St, 11:30 am buffet, \$6. Reservations required. **RSVP** to Polly Johnson, 473-9435, or Jean Edwards, 458-8056 by Tuesday beforehand.

Mar 20 (Sun) **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION on the second anniversary of the beginning of the war against Iraq.** Contact the International Action Center, 212-633-6646. www.iacenter.org Local actions are being planned by LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community). Call Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. www.louisvillepeace.org

Mar 24 (Thu) **ANNIVERSARY OF THE ASSASSINATION OF ARCHBISHOP OSCAR ROMERO**, 1980 in El Salvador at the altar during mass. "May it be that my blood serve as the seed of freedom."

Mar 24 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING** at Beverley Marmion's house, 6:30 pm. We need you for one hour. Great therapy! and scintillating conversation! Call 451-5658.

Mar 25 (Fri) **THE WAY OF THE CROSS: A Walk for Justice.** A prayerful, justice-oriented outdoor "Stations of the Cross" on Good Friday, focusing on the suffering of Jesus in our midst today. Begin at 9:30 am in front of the Mazzoli Federal Building in M.L.King Park at 7th & Chestnut. Conclude at 11:30 am at Founders Square, 5th & Muhammad Ali. Call Anne Walter, 583-6419.

Mar 28 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE** (every 4th Monday). Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, #10, 7:30 pm. Visitors are encouraged. Call cochairs, Pat Geier, 456-6586, or Mary Horvath, 479-9262.

Mar 29 (Tue) **KCADP (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)** monthly meeting every last Tuesday. Highland Presbyterian Church, 1011 Cherokee Rd. 6:30 pm. Call Tony Benningfield, 560-4710.

Apr 13 (Wed) **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF ACTION AGAINST CATERPILLAR.** Over 50,000 Palestinians have been made homeless by Caterpillar bulldozers. The Israeli military uses Caterpillar equipment to destroy Palestinian homes, infrastructure, orchards, greenhouses, crops and even lives (Rachel Corrie). As shareholders meet on April 13, worldwide demonstrations will be held to protest Caterpillar's selling of home-crushing bulldozers to Israel. Resources available from abuemma@gmail.com

Apr 14-16 (TFS) **INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE will host an important series of events related to spirituality and the environment and the spirituality of "Deep Ecumenism" featuring a major international spiritual leader.** Contact Terry Taylor at 214-7591. E-mail: director@interfaithpathstopeace.org

Apr 15 (Fri) **TAX DAY.** All U.S. citizens are required to pay for war through their taxes. However, the Peace Tax Fund legislation would allow people opposed to war — because of deeply-held moral or religious beliefs — to stop paying for it. Instead they would pay their taxes into a special fund that would be used for non-military purposes only. Contact the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund, 202/483-3751, (toll free: 888.PEACETAX). info@peacetaxfund.org

Apr 22 (Fri) **EARTH DAY**

Apr 23 (Sat) **THUNDER ALTERNATIVE EVENT.** Call Chris Harmer, 584-6052.

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

AD HOC COALITION FOR AFFIRMATIVE ACTION – (778-8130)

ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – 2nd Thursday (585-3375)

AIM HIGHER – 2nd Sunday evening (458-8056)

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 PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST – 2nd Monday (456-6586)

COMMON CAUSE – 1st Tuesday, every other month (228-1534)

COMMUNIST PARTY USA – Sunday evenings (473-2659)

CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (454-4820)

CONVERSATIONS WITH GOD – Books by Neale Donald Walsch. 1st Monday (468-2305)

COUNTER RECRUITMENT, "Aim Higher" – Second Sunday (636-5848)

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 479-9262)

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 Tuesday (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 IN 2008 – 1st Thursday (473-2659 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)

LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)

LPAC (LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY) – 3rd Thursday (558-9124)

LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – Meditation 1st & 3rd Sundays (473-8435)

LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (454-3300), www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org

LOUISVILLIANS IN FAVOR OF EQUALITY (L.I.F.E.) – Sunday evenings (473-2659)

METRO SWEEP FOR ACCESS – 3rd Tuesday (895-0866 or 899-9261)

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)

SHADHULIYAH SUFI SPIRITUALITY GROUP – Thursday nights (893-6122)

VISION FOR EDUCATION – 1st Friday (931-3124)

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.