

FORsooth

News briefs from April 1

(remember, that's April 1)

WASHINGTON, April 1 – U.S. Justice Department officials apologized to the National Education Association for a raid this morning on the teachers union headquarters. Attorney General John Ashcroft said the raid had nothing to do with Education Secretary Rod Paige recently branding the NEA a terrorist organization, but came after a tip that NEA members were using “weapons of math instruction.”

LOUISVILLE, April 1 – Metro Mayor Jerry Abramson denied today that year-old merged city-county government is unduly influenced by suburban interests to the exclusion of inner city residents. While acknowledging that the near ban on adult entertainment he signed was virtually written by suburban mega-churches and that the powerless civilian review board was created merely to rubber-stamp police internal findings, Abramson said: “We are as dedicated to inner city residents as ever.” The mayor’s remarks came during the unveiling of architect’s drawings of a new Metro Hall on Hurstbourne Parkway.

WASHINGTON, April 1 – President Bush, in an effort to do one better than Democratic opponent John Kerry, came out strongly today for a constitutional amendment banning any form of gayety in marriage. Called the “Defense of Monotony Act,” the amendment would define marriage as a union between “one miserable man and one miserable woman.”

GENEVA, April 1 – The World Trade Organization today ordered the atmosphere privatized as part its master plan to replace stagnant, old egalitarian mechanisms with marketplace freedoms. So that people can be transformed from dependents who feel entitled to breathe, all Earth residents will be required to wear breath-ometers around their faces beginning July 1 so their monthly air bills can be correctly figured.



Students pitch tents, messages of justice

by Matt Evans

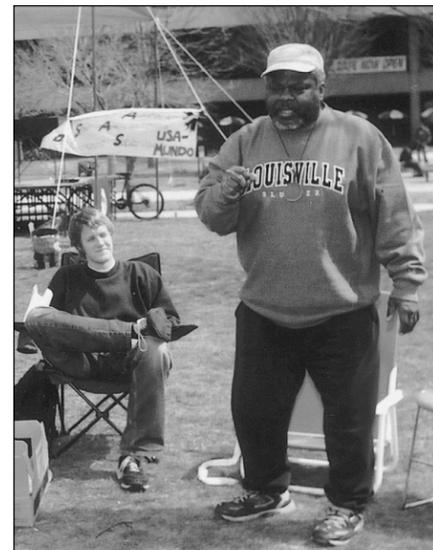
It rained. The weather fluctuated 50 degrees. The wind whipped and cracked the tents. Some loud arguments followed presentations. A slide show worked poorly outdoors in the sunlight. Many lessons were learned.

Through all the hardship and hard work, many organizers and participants say “Tent City ’04: Five Days of Alternative Education” was a resounding success. The University of Louisville outdoor event reached more Louisvillians and non-Louisvillians in more ways through more media than last year’s event. Whereas last year focused more narrowly in subject and medium, this year’s event brought together 30 teach outs and 14 films on local, national, international, social, and economic issues.

Fourteen local and national bands played on a large stage. While scheduled events only spanned a 12-hour period, Tent City participants camped out on U of L’s West Lawn over the whole week from March 21-26.

The events’ organizers aimed for inclusiveness in thought and participation. All events stayed open to the public without cost. People from around the community were invited. Stories ran in publications, and on television and radio stations. Posters hung from store windows.

Organizers of Tent City — U of L students and graduates from many organizations — sought to create a community of dialogue that avoided privileging position, power, or knowledge. The group sought to create a place where people could feel free to speak their minds. To this end, four basic principles were created for Tent City: respect for all, regardless of difference; no drug or alcohol use; no violence (physical



— photos by Eddie Davis

A musician (left) keeps spirits high at the “Tent City ’04: Five Days of Alternative Education” at the University of Louisville last month. Justice Resource Center founder Rev. Louis Coleman (right) speaks in one of 30 “teach-outs.”

or verbal, toward property or people); and no endorsements of hatred, racism, or discrimination of any kind.

This is not all Tent City accomplished. It also connected people in different causes and helped people see connections and commonalities between different causes. Tent City also created more than just an event, but something tangible people could grasp. Information on various teach out topics went up on the Web site of Digital Peasant (www.digitalpeasant.com), a newly formed U of L group. Books were collected and donated to the Louisville

Free Public Library and the BRYCC House, an Old Louisville youth cultural center.

With all this accomplished, many of the organizers hope to make this an annual event and improve on it every year. If you want more information or want to get involved in next year’s event, check out Digital Peasant’s web site.

The writer is a University of Louisville political science graduate student and a member of the Tent City organizing committee, the Young Democratic Socialists, Digital Peasant, and Citizens Standing Against War.

Workers say “yuk!” to Yum! lack of help

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

Hundreds of the nation’s lowest paid farm workers and their supporters said “Yuk!” Feb. 27 to Yum!’s inaction on the issue of decent wages and working conditions.

Members of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, named for the Florida town where thousands of mostly immigrant farm workers pick tomatoes used by Taco Bell (which Louisville-based Yum! Brands owns), marched from downtown to Yum! corporate headquarters on Gardiner Lane.

There, they erected a 20-foot tall pyramid of buckets like the ones they fill with tomatoes (the 125 buckets in the pyramid equaled the number a worker must fill each day to earn wages speakers said sometimes aren’t enough to pay rent) and spoke about their efforts to win an increase of one-cent per pound of tomatoes picked.

The coalition has long wanted Taco Bell to intervene in the cause. The coalition has promoted a boycott of the fast food company and has persuaded many colleges to oust Taco Bell from campus food courts.

Taco Bell and Yum! Brands have repeatedly refused to intervene, saying the matter is between the workers and their employers.

Speaker after speaker Feb. 27 disagreed. “We’re not asking you to change the world, just the part that you can change. So come out from under the table and sit at the table with the people who put the food on it,” Virginia NeSmith, an activist with the Na-

tional Farm Workers Ministry, an ecumenical group, shouted to the corporate offices, which were surrounded by a temporary fence.

The event included two-way translations of speakers so everything was heard in English and Spanish.

“We cannot maintain our families.... Sometimes we cannot support ourselves,” said one coalition member, who added that some workdays last as long as 14 hours. “At the end of the day our backs, it feels like they have gone through a mill.... That pyramid is a figure of the hope for change.”

(continued on page 3)

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

INSIDE

Justice, civil liberties groups plan strategy p. 2

A passionate believer in peace is recalled p. 3

Unemployment, a weapon of mass destruction p. 4

How clean are some environmental groups?

Fellowship of Reconciliation
Louisville Chapter
2236 Kaelin Avenue
Louisville, KY 40205-2658
ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Louisville, KY
Permit No. 962

Unified progressives tackle myriad of issues March 13

by Eustace Durrett
and Ike M. Thacker IV

In a display of almost unprecedented coordination and unity by the Louisville progressive community, the Coalition for the People's Agenda held its second metro-wide conference on March 13 at Quinn Chapel AME Church.

Some 75 to 80 persons attended, representing more than three dozen organizations, including labor unions, churches, the Community Farm Alliance, Jobs with Justice, the Justice Resource Center, RE-ACT, and many others. They were welcomed at 8:30 a.m. by George Moore, Jr., pastor of the church; Darnell Johnson of the Fairness campaign served as emcee.

It was decided at the conference to focus on issues such as abuse and killings by the police, toxic air pollution in Rubbertown, a more liberal living wage ordinance, opening up the political process, providing adequate housing for all citizens promptly, safeguarding civil and human rights, economic development that benefits the areas where it occurs, and education and youth empowerment.

The Coalition for the People's Agenda is network of diverse organizations and individuals committed to progressive, community-based change, as embodied in the People's Agenda itself, a list of eight umbrella issue groups, each of which has

several individual topics under it.

One of the first things addressed at the conference was the relationship between the Metro Council and the people's progressive movement. Representatives from several organizations spoke about their dealings with the council, and the need to monitor it to "keep it honest." One of the break-out sessions dealt at some length and depth with techniques to effect this monitoring.

The next issue addressed at the conference was the need to create a detailed "People's Budget," if not for fiscal year 2005 (probably for that year, which starts July 1 of 2004, the most the group will do is offer guidelines) then for Fiscal year 2006. A "People's Budget" is a real working document that can be presented to the Metro Mayor and Council each year. Its apportionment of funds reflects the goals and values of the People's Agenda, which puts people first and gives everyday people the opportunity to talk concretely about their needs and desires.

David Coyte then spoke about all the money that is being proposed to be spent on the two new Ohio River bridges, and the fact that it is drying up funds for needed public transportation that is needed much more. Raoul Cunningham of the NAACP spoke of the imperative of attracting more youth to "the movement," as they constitute its future.

Jesse Harris, representing organized

labor, discussed the need for a right to organize rather than a "right to work — for less," since labor creates all wealth. Similarly, Gail Helinger advocated passage of a resolution against the Free Trade Agreement of the Americas by the Metro Council, and Sheila Wade stayed closer to home in her remarks (read in absentia) against the treatment of the municipal workers union AFSCME.

Fred Otto of Louisville Metro SWEEP virtually brought down the house with his polished extemporaneous presentation on the difficulties faced by disabled persons in Louisville. He said that their goal was to "get in the door" and to "boldly go where everybody else goes."

Dennis Bricking of CLOUT discussed the needs and the betrayal of the residents of Clarksdale. Kirk Owens of Citizens Against Police Abuse discussed the NIMBY concept, and stressed the fact that

the indictment in the Michael Newby shooting was only a first step. And Tim Duncan spoke along with other members of RE-ACT (Rubbertown Emergency ACTION) of the need to drastically reduce very toxic air pollution in the Rubbertown neighborhood through mandatory regulation.

There were many more presenters and many more topics, but the common theme was the need for social justice. As the very spirit which led to the conference had aptly put it, "We need to move forward together in 2004, looking at what has been effective in promoting our agenda, where we have been less successful, and what we can do to build on our progress in creating a powerful, united movement for justice in Louisville."

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

ACLU looks at vote issues

by Ken Nevitt

The American Civil Liberties Union of Kentucky 2004 annual meeting and public forum focused on attempts to suppress voter turnout

At the meeting, held March 21 at Quinn Chapel AME Church in Louisville, J. Blaine Hudson, a professor at the University of Louisville, moderated a panel discussion and presented an historical overview of the issue. Hudson noted that originally in the U.S., only adult white males who owned real property could vote. Even though the 15th Amendment later allowed black males to vote, in reality, particularly in the south, barriers were imposed which disenfranchised voters. Hudson referred to the time period around the 1964 Civil Rights Act as the "2nd Reconstruction."

Panelist Laughlin McDonald, an attorney and director of the ACLU Voting Rights Project in Atlanta, explained that even though both political parties in the U.S. have traditionally violated voters rights, in modern times the Republicans in particular have suppressed minority voting. McDonald spoke of partisan gerrymandering, intimidation at the polling sites, and voter purges as methods used to prevent voting by Blacks, American Indians, and others.

Raoul Cunningham, an organizer with the Non-Partisan Coalition for Civil Rights, spoke of the action in 2003 against the placement by Republicans of "challengers" at predominantly Black polling locations. Cunningham noted that the attempt at intimidation may have backfired, causing higher voter turnout in these areas.

Alice Wade, a local activist and organizer with the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, stated that she believed following conversations with potential voters, that the Black turnout could have been even greater had there not been poll watchers. Beth Wilson, Executive Director of the ACLU of Kentucky, spoke of pending litigation brought by the ACLU regarding the use of "challengers" at targeted minority polling places, alleging violations of the federal Voting Rights Act and the state constitution.

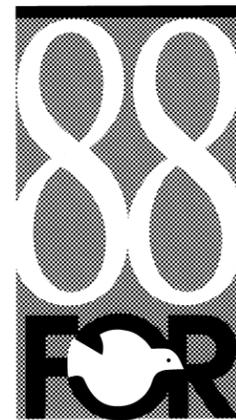
The writer is a chairperson of the Louisville Peace Action Community. The following were elected to the ACLU of Kentucky Board of Directors at the March 21 meeting: John Cumbler, David A. Friedman, Bani Hines-Hudson, Ricky L. Jones, John Martin, Nelda P. Moore, Constance J. Parrish, Deborah Privett, and Rebecca S. Trammell.

Like this paper? Then sign up here to receive each issue of *FORsooth* in the mail!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ (day) _____ (evening)

MAIL TO:
Fellowship of Reconciliation
2236 Kaelin Avenue • Louisville, KY 40205
502/458-8056

Note: If you are already receiving *FORsooth* but haven't sent a contribution lately, please send your check now to help with our increasing expenses.



Founded 1915

FORsooth

is published by the Louisville chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.
Send submissions for news stories or commentaries to
2236 Kaelin Ave., Louisville, KY 40205, e-mail: <edwardsfor@aol.com>.

Staff

Editor George Morrison
Calendar editor Jean Edwards
Production manager Barbara Powers
Bulk mailing Beverley Marmion

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

Paid advertisement

If Money is Speech, Speech is not Free

That's common sense
Support Common Cause/Kentucky

www.commoncause.org

Paid advertisement

"Once you're in Congress, people get in line to give you money, and it's a lot easier to do TV ads and cable shows than to knock on doors." Joe Scarborough, former member of Congress.

Just one reason why we need free TV time for candidates

Join THE ALLIANCE FOR BETTER CAMPAIGNS
www.ourairwaves.org

Art Kemper-O'Neil, believer in peace, dies in January

by Jean Edwards
FORsooth editor

The call came on January 28 from Mil Thompson, theology professor at Bellarmine University, with the sad news that Art Kemper-O'Neil was missing. This came as a tremendous shock to all of us in the peace and justice community because Art and Gloria have been integral to FOR undertakings since becoming members of the Fellowship of Reconciliation in 1979. They joined after attending a class at Assumption High School taught by Mil Thompson, cochair of the Louisville FOR chapter at that time. George Edwards was the guest presenter for the class that day.

Art's car was found by police on the George Rogers Clark Bridge during rush hour on Tuesday afternoon, January 27. The car was unlocked, the lights were flashing and his wallet and keys were on the seat. Art's brothers went down to the bridge and searched the area very carefully for any clues that might explain this disappearance, but to no avail.

After many anxious days, Gloria was notified that Art's body had been found in the Ohio River.

A memorial service took place at Highland Funeral Home on Saturday, March 27.

Art was only 57 years old. He grew up in Louisville, the oldest of nine children, and graduated from De Sales High School. After working for a couple of years in Nashville, he returned to Louisville and found a job with Ford Motor Company. Soon after however, Art was drafted for military duty in Germany during the Vietnam era. When that ended he

went back to Ford and continued working there for 28 years until his retirement. He and Gloria met at a Catholic singles dance and were married in 1976.

They soon became dedicated military tax resisters joining in the annual protest at the post office. They started giving the military portion of their income tax (approximately 50 percent) to tax deductible charitable organizations. This amount could be deducted on their tax return. The IRS, not believing that they really gave away 50 percent, sent someone out to their home to investigate. He went through every can-

celled check and then concluded, "You really did give away 50 percent!"

Art had many hobbies. He was serious about sky diving to the extent of even teaching a class at Bardstown, Kentucky. He and a friend drafted a plan to dive into Churchill Downs during the Kentucky Derby and they actually attempted to do so. Art landed on top of a roof on Southern Parkway and was immediately arrested.

As part of his regular schedule, Art engaged in painting every Tuesday. He studied with Tom Scott and was a member of the Kentucky Water Color Society. His

Art's day always began with yoga and meditation. Then at some time each day he engaged in a two-mile walk while reading at the same time. All of the neighbors along his path knew him well and can verify that he really did read while walking.

many hours to the Fairness Campaign. They loved to travel and enjoyed hiking too. Gloria can tell many stories about their travel experiences in the Rocky Mountains, the Canadian Rockies, Alaska, the Mediterranean, Haiti, and other places, making you feel that you were right there, too.

Mil Thompson, now a theology professor at Bellarmine University, paid a wonderful tribute to Art in his recent book, Justice and Peace (Orbis Press) which just went through its second printing:

"About 25 years ago, Art was a student in a continuing education class on

lovely water color "Autumn Mist" was on display in the Bon Air Library for an extended period of time.

Thoughts began to focus on the environment. In 1992 Art and Gloria became strict vegetarians and also is time started devoting

As we mourn the loss of this loving peacemaker, we give thanks for every moment that he shared with us, for the example that he set, for his gentle guidance and prodding and for his faithful witness.

'Christianity and Social Justice' that I taught at Assumption High School. We were the same age and became friends. Soon Art was teaching me.

"As a result of reflection stimulated by this course, Art, who had been in the Army, became committed to nonviolence. He decided that the first step on this inner journey should be to disarm himself. He owned three rifles worth several hundred dollars. Art decided that selling the rifles would have no impact on disarming the world, so he and Gloria took the rifles into the backyard and ceremoniously broke them into a pile of scrap metal and wood and threw it away. For Art and Gloria (and for me when I heard the story) this was a powerful symbol of personal transformation and of a commitment to disarm the world.

"Recently, as our country marched toward war in Iraq, many of us put homemade anti-war signs in our yards. The Kemper-O'Neil's sign, "WAR SUCKS" was so (dead on) challenging that it was repeatedly stolen and repeatedly replaced by Art."

As Gloria continues to face this difficult adjustment period, coping with the absence of her partner of 28 years, may she be surrounded with our love and companionship, knowing that the purpose of Art's life will be fulfilled in the lives of all of those who came under his influence during his days of struggling for peace and justice in this broken, anxious and fearful world.

Small groups called crucial in drive for fair economics

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

Sister Julie Driscoll told the Third Thursday Lunch March 18 that she and the 75,000 other delegates to the World Social Forum in Bombay, India in January made a giant statement against corporate greed, militarism and sexism.

She said that although their numbers were tiny in comparison, the 30 people assembled for the Louisville FOR lunch have just as a great a role to play in the struggle against globalization.

Sister Driscoll, the vice-president of the international community of Sisters of Charity of Nazareth, said one Indian activist and writer at the forum made her aware that efforts of much smaller groups back home are just as crucial as those attending the 1,200 workshops at Bombay.

"She made a point of saying that the world social forum is as good as the local groups - that the local has to have the global and the global has to have the local

and that the two have to continue together if we are going to achieve the other world," Sister Driscoll said.

The "other world," a phrase unwittingly coined by Margaret Thatcher when she said no other world but unrestrained capitalism is possible, is one of small-scale economics governed democratically and benefiting the poorest, she said.

The issue isn't abstract to the Indians Sister Driscoll met.

"People living in India every day, in going from house to house... they use 'globalization' in their conversation about every other word. Why? They're on the other end of it," she said.

She said one family used to use herbal medicine to cure illness.

"Because of globalization, there are now patents on lots of the medicines that they once freely could get," Sister Driscoll said.

Major hotels recently built in Bombay now get the best shellfish, leaving the poor with poorer quality fish, she added. "That's another example of globalization."

While a newspaper touted the neo-liberal economic reforms that have led to a business boom in Bombay, Sister Driscoll said that away from the gleaming skyscrapers and hotels, horrible poverty has grown.

"Those working with the poor say one estimate shows that in the first year of economic reforms in India, nearly six to seven

million people went below the poverty line," she said.

Some at the top of the socio-economic scale have come around, Sister Driscoll said added, telling the lunch a former world bank president spoke at the forum, saying economic policy should not be decided by technocrats, but should be at the center of democratic debate in every country.

Sister Driscoll, whose work in the Louisville area since the early 1980s has included protesting Central American wars and nuclear armaments and helping AIDS patients, said one of several uplifting scenes from Bombay was a large march by women demanding police action against crimes against women.

Another inspiring scene was that of a disabled child.

"One little girl with one leg did the

most vigorous dance I have ever seen and she kept on going," Sister Driscoll said. "I could not imagine how she kept her balance, but she did."

Streets in Bombay, she added, were lined with banners backing the causes that brought the social forum delegates together, including those with the words: "Uncle Sam out of Iraq," "Peace in Kashmir," and "Stop privatization."

Spalding University professor Phil Shervish, a Louisville FOR steering committee member, will talk at the April 15 Third Thursday Lunch about budget alternatives based on social justice principles. Reservations are required by April 13 and the lunch costs \$6. For more information, call Cathy Ford at (502) 458-1223 or Jean Edwards at (502) 458-8056.

"Yuk!" to Yum! (continued from page 1)

The Presbyterian Church USA denomination, which is also headquartered in Louisville, was well represented at the rally. The denomination, whose headquarters downtown was the starting point of the march, backs the Coalition's efforts to win the increase and to end a disturbing if scattered resurgence of slavery in farm fields.

Literature distributed at the rally said threats and actual violence have forced some farm workers in the U.S. to work involuntarily, resulting in prosecution of growers by the U.S. Justice Department.

Rev. Clifton Kirkpatrick, a Presbyterian Church USA official, said the United Church of Christ, Disciples of Christ and the National Council of Churches also back the coalition.

"The movement for justice and the commitment to the work of the Immokolee workers is building among the churches across this nation," Kirkpatrick said. "The Presbyterian Church has been with this boycott and will remain until justice is achieved."

"In this season of Lent, when we remember the suffering of our Lord for the well being of humanity, we as Christians remember and learn again of the suffering of our fellow human beings, the campesinos that work in the fields and pick the tomatoes

and suffer great oppression."

He said the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary and the city's James Lee Presbyterian and Crescent Hill Presbyterian churches and counterparts in many other cities gave shoes, food and shelter to marches in Louisville and other venues of similar actions.

Jeff Street Baptist Community at Liberty pastor Cindy Weber said her church put its money where its heart is on the issue.

She told the rally Yum! Brands, like many other area companies, reimburses churches and social service agencies for donations to the food bank Dare to Care, but that Jeff Street decided against taking Yum!'s money, putting it to better use instead.

"We don't want charity from Yum! Brands. We want justice!" she said to applause and cheers. "We want Yum! Brands to pay a socially responsible price for tomatoes so farm workers can earn a fair wage. Members of my church have been boycotting Taco Bell for a long time now and we feel it would be hypocritical to keep the money from Yum! Brands while we're boycotting their product. And so today... we're giving this amount of money, \$527 that Yum! Brands gave to us, to the Immokolee coalition."

FINANCIAL REPORT March 2004

BEGINNING BALANCE 2/23/04	\$ 9,475.69
General Contributions	930.00
TOTAL	\$10,405.69

EXPENDITURES:

FORsooth Editing	\$150.00
FORsooth Printing	\$246.00
FORsooth Mailing	212.00
FOR National Dues	60.00
Office Expense	104.96
	\$772.96
ENDING BALANCE 3/22/04	\$9,632.73

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



Jobless are victims of weapons

One of the most deadly weapons of mass destruction is made in the USA. It is called unemployment. Together with other weapons of mass destruction — underemployment, outsourcing, low-wage jobs — it affects the physical and mental health of all working families.

The fancy Louisville shopping malls — Oxmoor, the Summit, Mall St. Matthews — seem to have many customers and full parking lots. Also full are the soup kitchens at St. John's Day Center, the beds at Wayside Christian Mission. These are two different worlds. Homelessness and mortgage foreclosures are part of the Louisville tapestry.

No longer can one expect to work at a single job thirty years or longer, and retire comfortably, as if this were ever guaranteed. No longer does a college degree give a sense of future job security.

A few lines in a Depression Era (1930s) song still haunt: "Who will take care of you? How'll you get by when you're too old to work and you're too young to die?"

Globalization is the seemingly less stinging term for imperial conquest, but the reality of conquered and conqueror is still epidemic. Despite the addition of 400,000 new U.S. union members last year, reports the Bureau of Labor Statistics, only 13 percent of the workforce is unionized, down slightly from 2002.

A recent Associated Press dispatch notes: "The nation's factories have lost 2.8 million jobs since Bush took office in January 2001. Factoring in gains in other fields, the U.S. economy has 2.2 million fewer jobs."

Yet the spirit of resistance is alive, and poor and working class people are indeed fighting back. Ray Crider, with whom I had the pleasure of serving on the Greater Louisville Central Labor Council a number of years ago, reports said workers at the Reach Center, which educates children with disabilities in Chataqua, N.Y., voted to join an affiliate of the American Federation of Teachers (AFT). One hundred and one healthcare workers at Miami's Pan American Hospital joined Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

Ninety nurse's aides and others at Eagle Pond Nursing Home in Dennis, Mass. joined SEIU Local 2020. Forty six workers at Infinita Nursing Home in Owatonna, Minn., are new members of Local 119. The AFL-CIO Executive Council mapped out plans to pass the Employee Free Choice Act, which would make joining a union easier and increase penalties for employers who violate labor laws.

Another notable, if fleeting, victory came when pressure from below forced Anthony Raimundo, President Bush's choice for manufacturing czar, to withdraw his name after it was revealed the Nebraska businessman shipped jobs to China.

But, sad to say, we are for the most part getting our organizing and negotiating teeth kicked in. The 70,000 courageous California grocery workers represented by United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) voted to return to work knowing they will pay more for their health care benefits (this was their first strike since 1978).

They also reluctantly agreed to a two-tiered wage system wherein new hires will earn significantly less than current employees. Philip Morris, forced such a two-tier plan when I worked there, on the assembly line, a number of years ago. The reward for this concession? The company closed its Louisville operations and moved elsewhere.

An interesting article by Peter Dreier and Kelly Candaele on AlterNet March 3 analyzes this most important battle. "Was (the California grocery strike defeat) the inexorable logic of economic forces over which neither the grocery chains nor the union had control — or were there strategic missteps that could have been avoided?"

The huge grocery chains that fought their workers are owned by still larger grocery chains. Kroger, for example, owns the Ralphs chain. And Kroger ranks 18th in size of all U.S. corporations, with revenues in excess of \$51 billion.

The article continues: "These chains understand that while the UFCW is a national (union) with over a million members, the main battlefield would be with the seven independent and often quarrelsome union locals in Southern California. The union is highly decentralized. Dozens of district locals around the country bargain separate contracts, many with different contract expiration dates, salary and benefits levels and workplace rules."

There was tremendous solidarity among the strikers, and community and religious participation was strong. Although the picket lines resulted in a total loss of perhaps \$2 billion to the supermarket predators, the union did not, or was not able to, set up picket lines around the country. In Louisville, unless I am mistaken, there was no picketing of local Kroger stores.



As the big corporations merge and become bigger, so must labor unions. This is happening. The 250,000 members of HERE (Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees) and the 180,000 strong Unite (formerly Union of Needletrades, Industrial and Textile Employees) merged in February. "Unite HERE" is its new name. Both unions, each the result of previous union mergers, have track records of aggressively attempting to organize the unorganized. Bruce Raynor, of Unite, is trying to succeed John Sweeney as head of the entire AFL-CIO. (HERE had tried to merge with SEIU, but that attempt fell through).

While the U.S. government does little to intercede in behalf of those whose labor produces all wealth, it does like to intercede and destabilize, or aid and abet, to prevent governments that are, indeed, trying to serve

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation

February to April 2004

April 15

Philip Schervish

Phil Schervish, Ph.D., Professor and Chair of the School of Social Work at Spalding University and member of the Steering Committee of the local chapter of the FOR, will use **Tax Day** as an opportunity to explore Federal budget alternatives based on principles of social justice leading to a set of "Ordinary Human Rights". Of particular concern will be issues of poverty, education and social services

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

their constituencies. A Caracas, Venezuela dispatch from *Rebellion*, Feb. 14 is headlined, "Venezuelan Police Intercept 60,000 Cartridges For AK-47 Rifles."

The munitions were shipped from Miami. Could this be another example of the anti-Castro

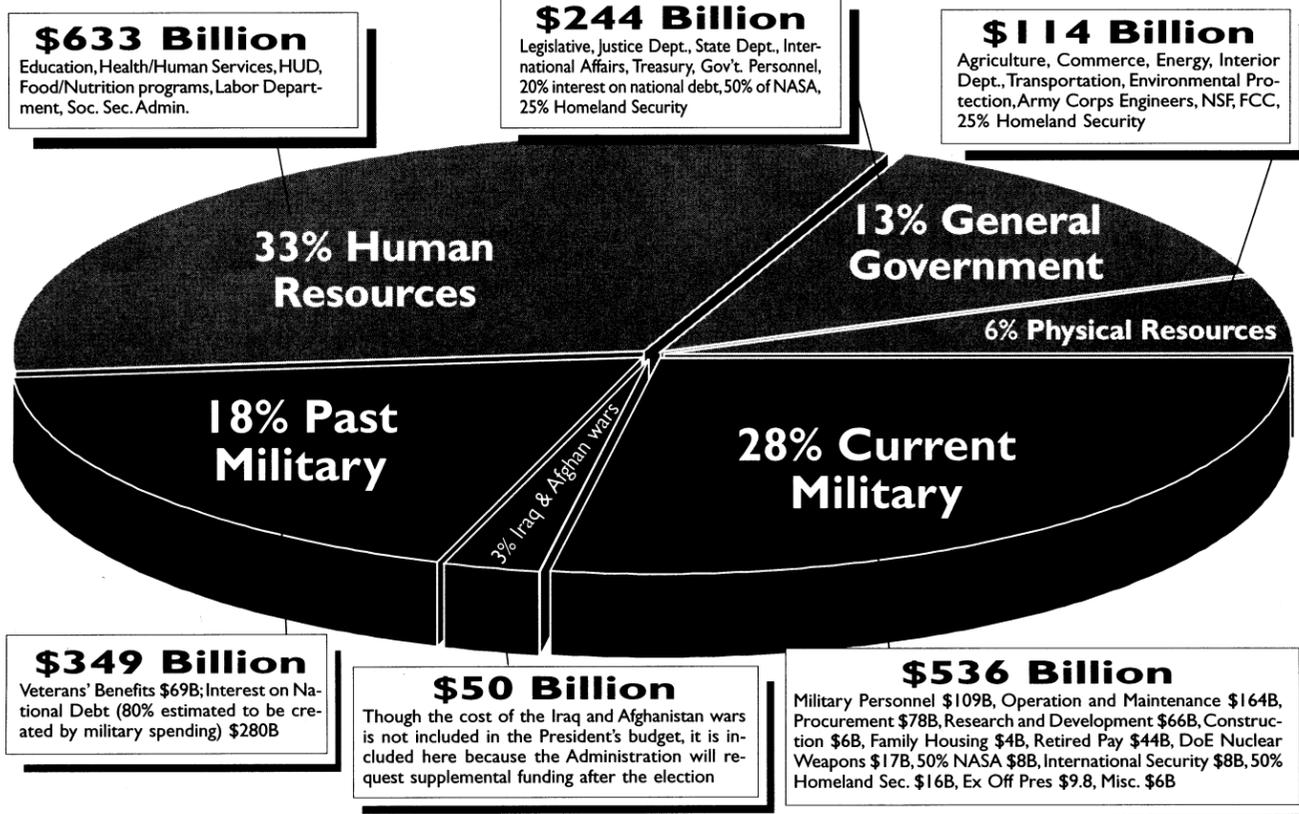
Cuban millionaires in Miami trying to overthrow a legitimately elected government, coming at a time when the Venezuelan right-wing has lost its referendum against President Chavez?

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES

The United States Federal Budget for Fiscal Year 2005

Total Federal Funds Outlays \$1,926 Billion



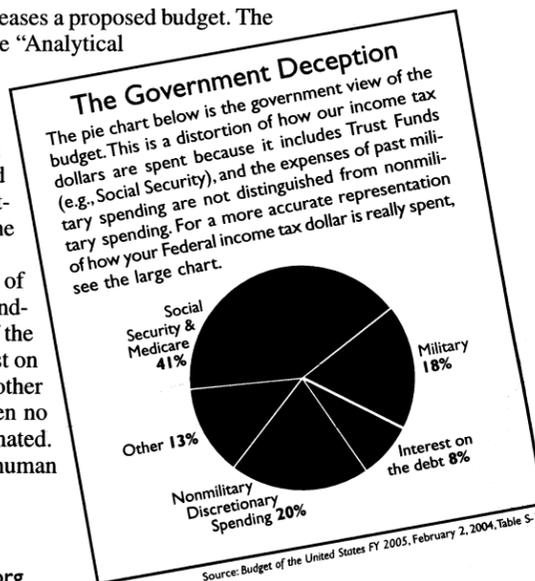
HOW THESE FIGURES WERE DETERMINED

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE creates this leaflet each year after the President releases a proposed budget. The figures here are from a line-by-line analysis of projected figures in the "Analytical Perspectives" book of the *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2005*. The percentages are federal funds, which do not include trust funds such as Social Security that are raised and spent separately from income taxes. What you pay (or don't pay) by April 15, 2004, goes only to the federal funds portion of the budget. The government practice of combining trust and federal funds (the so-called "Unified Budget") began in the 1960s during the Vietnam War. The government presentation makes the human needs portion of the budget seem larger and the military portion smaller.

"Current military" spending adds together money allocated for the Dept. of Defense (\$431 billion) plus the military portion from other parts of the budget. Spending on nuclear weapons (without their delivery systems) amounts to about 1% of the total budget. "Past military" represents veterans' benefits plus 80% of the interest on the debt. Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems from the military; other groups estimate 50% to 60%. We use 80% because we believe if there had been no military spending most (if not all) of the national debt would have been eliminated. The government willingly borrows for war, but finds nothing extra for crises in human needs. For further explanation, please go to www.warresisters.org/piechart.htm.

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE

339 Lafayette Street • NY, NY 10012 • 212-228-0450 • www.warresisters.org



Source: Budget of the United States FY 2005, February 2, 2004, Table S-12

Editor: some environmental groups fall short in tactics

Been Brown So Long It Looked Like Green to Me: The Politics of Nature

by Jeffrey St. Clair;
Common Courage Press, 2004, 408pp.

reviewed by Tracy McLellan

For all the environmental havoc uncovered in these 56 essays it is miraculous we still have a planet and any clean air and water at all. St. Clair, along with Alexander Cockburn, co-edits *Counterpunch*. To get a sense of the dimensions of what we've lost, he says, you have to "get the feel of your fingers skimming over 800 grow rings on the stump of a Douglas fir," which is all that's left of ninety-five percent of the old growth forests of the Pacific Northwest. This book is a dire warning, the work of a singular investigative journalist and master story-teller.

In confronting environmental devastation, St. Clair counsels optimism and humor as the only indefatigable defenses against nihilism. He also suggests allowing solutions to overwhelming problems — like global warming and ozone depletion — to follow of their own accord from environmental battles that can be fought and won, rather than confronting them head-on.

He gives a detailed and cogent history of the environmental movement, its genesis in the likes of Rachel Carson. We witness it come of age with the creation of the EPA, the Clean Water Act, the Endangered Species Act, and an impressive flurry of other acts and agencies in the early 1970s under the environmentally lib-

BOOK REVIEW

eral, if politically expedient, Richard Nixon. It soon became a feared and respected force with which to be reckoned.

Alas, the corporate and capitalist counter-attack commenced in earnest under Reagan. St. Clair wrote, adding that it abated only slightly under Bush I and Dan Quayle's White House Council on Competitiveness, a powerful office that weighed environmental regulations against costs to (short-term) business profits, often favoring the latter. Clinton, much like Reagan and Bush in this matter, got a pass from what St. Clair sneeringly refers to as the "big greens," just by virtue of his being a Democrat and thusly, an environmentalist. Today, of course, under King George, the environmental movement is all but dead, and so are we all if we don't change our ways.

St. Clair's examination of the sorry evolution of environmental organizations is trenchant. The Gang of Ten including, among others, the Natural Resources Defense Council, Friends of the Earth, and the League of Conservation Voters, once esteemed defenders of our air, water, and ecological diversity have become largely compromised and ineffective, he maintained. A recently perennial idea of the Environmental Defense Fund (EDF), for example, is a "market oriented" approach to the environment that includes selling and trading "pollution credits." Tacit resignation and sur-

reptitious deal making are the hallmarks of the big greens, says St. Clair. For example they often collude in deals protecting these resources, looking the other way at the depredations of those; often subsequently turning the tables and advocating a trade of the mined, drilled, or clear-cut land for other valuable wilderness, he said. Their modus operandi is such, for example, that they roar at the threatened drilling of the Alaska National Wildlife Refuge, because it is a fundraising cash cow, says St. Clair, but are silent about the equally threatened and ecologically sensitive nearby 23-million-acre National Petroleum Reserve — Alaska.

The leaders of these groups are real charm-ers. The salary of G. Jon Roush is \$125,000 annually, St. Clair said, adding that he is president of the Wilderness Society, whose Washington headquarters cost \$6 million a year to lease. Roush logged his 80-acre, \$2.5 million ranch in Montana "at precisely the moment," says St. Clair, "when environmentalists across the country had their backs to the wall, against a ferocious assault in Congress on federal laws protecting America's forests." Fred Krupp at EDF commands \$125,000 a year, the book said. Jay Hair, who St. Clair said "keeps his limo running at all times, the air-conditioner grinding ozone at full-tilt against the moment he emerges from his office on an eco-mission or deal-making sortie," makes a quarter-million at the National Wildlife Federation; while Peter Berle at the Audubon Society pulls in \$200,000 a year. St. Clair lauds Greenpeace, about which he contemptuously quotes Berle as saying: "Audubon doesn't have a reputation as a confrontational organization."

Those are the white hats.

In the spell of less than a generation, the recent advent of the factory trawler has brought fisheries around the globe perilously close to complete exhaustion, St. Clair wrote. In only hours in the Bering Sea, a single ship of American Seafoods corporation, a Seattle-based subsidiary of a Norwegian conglomerate, can make a haul of 400 tons of fish, crabs, and squid, he said, adding that 40 percent of the haul is by-catch waste, ground to bits and spewed back into the sea, some 550 million pounds a year. American's (sic) biggest competitor in the north Pacific, the book said, is Arctic-Alaska, owned along with three other Alaska seafood operations by Don Tyson, of chicken factory farm infamy. In one more case of corporate welfare writ large, St. Clair describes how the federal government has provided Arctic-Alaska subsidies and other largesse, courtesy of the Clinton administration, worth upwards of \$250 million. In return, he said, Arctic-Alaska increasingly off-loads and processes their catch, along with American jobs, not in the United States but in China. Democracy in action.

You may want to purchase some Louisiana-Pacific stock. It was the "proud sponsor" of the 25th Earth Day, St. Clair wrote. For the last 17 years or so, says St. Clair, L & P "has paid the Forest Service about \$1.50 per thousand board feet for the right to log cedar off the Tongass Forest in Alaska. It then sells the cedar logs to Japanese timber merchants for as much as \$1,500 per thousand board feet, all without running a single cedar log through an Alaskan mill."

Alaska just by coincidence is exempt from a nationwide ban on the export of raw logs from federal lands, St. Clair wrote. Separately, he asked, L & P's patented Inner Seal siding emits deadly fumes when exposed to humidity? No problem. Just ship it off to Vietnam, Bolivia and other Third World countries. Businesses are not charitable operations, you know.

Observes St. Clair: "Hostile intentions toward the people of another country. Deployment of chemical weapons and biological agents. Pursuit of a scorched-earth policy. Sounds like Saddam's Iraq? Think again. This neatly sums up the Bush administration's on-going depredations in Colombia, all under the shady banner of the war on drugs." Nice to know our media keeps us so well-informed.

Rand Beers is a Bush holdover from Clinton and recently resigned Assistant Secretary of State for narcotics. He is now top foreign policy advisor to John Kerry, St. Clair said. Evading the fact that spraying fumigants in Colombia violates the Biological Weapons Convention and other treaties, St. Clair notes: "Beers often says that the toxic weapons are needed to fight international criminal syndicates. This heady bit of sophistry is hardly an exemption from BWC prohibitions, which, it must be pointed out, the Bush administration doesn't believe in anyway, even though they are trigger-happy to invoke its provisions against enemy states, such as Iraq."

Beneath the radar of the corporate media afraid to tackle any issue related to the sacrosanct drug war, says St. Clair, Plan Colombia perpetrates vast human suffering and a toxic wasteland. Hard to understand why "they" hate us so much.

The three essays that comprise the seventh and final part of the book are romps to Butte, the Mojave Desert, and the West, and the last two particularly are dramatic and compelling. I was on the edge of my seat when St. Clair came face to face with a rattlesnake in the Mojave desert.

It's next to impossible to square the pristine image the U.S. has of itself and its ideals, with its environmental, corporate, and foreign policy. They are all a piece of a rapacious, imperial capitalism. St. Clair documents a bewildering cavalcade of short-sighted environmental ransacking, and corporate criminality, conscienceless, with one lust: the Almighty Dollar. Maintaining the humor and optimism he recommends is painstaking given the magnitude of the devastation that threatens all life, including humanity as a species.

These 400 pages of non-stop outrage told by a calm, intelligent observer in an enthralling way are, paradoxically, an aid. I highly recommend this book. It's a simple pleasure, a journey with a warm heart and an electric mind, and the introduction to a trusted companion.

Contact the reviewer at tracymclellan@netzero.net.

COSTS OF WAR

DOLLARS & CENTS

Cost of Invading Iraq \$26 billion

(paid by FY2003 supplemental funding [below])
Department of Defense Comptroller Dav Zakheim, April 16, 2003

Ongoing Military Operations in Iraq \$3.9 billion/month

Secretary of Defense Donald H. Rumsfeld, July 9, 2003

Ongoing Military Operations in Afghanistan \$1 billion/month

USA Today, September 8, 2003

Supplemental Funding for FY 2003 \$62.4 billion

Congress approved April 2003 (10/02-9/03)

Supplemental Funding for FY 2004 \$65.8 billion

Congress approved November 2003 (10/03-9/04)

Supplemental Funding for FY 2005 \$50 billion

(Fall 2004, according to the Bush Administration)

“This budget attempts to hide the true cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan by delaying funding on all known and necessary costs of the war until a supplemental appropriation can be approved next year.”

—Sen. Jack Reed (RI), Armed Services Committee, 2/20/04

SENSELESS

Lives Lost in Afghanistan & Iraq (as of Jan. 31, 2004)

- Over 600 U.S. troops and 100 "coalition" troops killed
- Over 3,000 U.S. troops and 300 "coalition" troops injured
- Over 15,000 Iraqi & Afghani troops killed
- Over 11,000 Iraqi & Afghani civilians killed
- Over 17,000 Iraqi & Afghani civilians injured

More Lost Lives

- 24,000 people worldwide die daily from chronic malnutrition
- 300,000 veterans go homeless each year in the U.S.
- 14,000 people worldwide die daily for lack of clean water

Lost Freedom

- U.S. holds over 10,000 prisoners in Iraq
- U.S. holds 660 prisoners at Guantanamo Bay, against the Geneva accords
- International Red Cross has visited over 1,200 detainees held by Afghan or U.S. forces in Afghanistan
- The Patriot Act gives the U.S. government new power to spy on its own citizens without judicial review, and to arrest and detain "suspects" without charges for indefinite periods

Friends: Lost and Found

- 53% of Europeans believe that the United States is a threat to world peace
- Mega-corporations like Halliburton, Bechtel, and DynCorp (all Bush/Cheney friends) are sharing no-bid contracts totalling more than \$5 billion—and counting—for Iraq Reconstruction
- Weapons contractors Lockheed Martin and Raytheon Company see profits jump thanks to increased military spending

Lost Security

- 48% of Americans believe the U.S. is less secure because of the Iraq war
- Former U.S. Marine and UN weapons inspector Scott Ritter warned that invading Iraq would be a long and horrific invitation to terrorism

Sources for this information and more: (www.costofwar.com); Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments (www.csbaonline.org); Council for a Livable World (www.clw.org); Pew Research (<http://people-press.org>); (www.unknownnews.net/casualties.html); Center for Defense Information (www.cdi.org); Center for Budget and Policy Priorities (www.cbpp.org); National Priorities Project (www.natprior.org); World Policy Institute (www.worldpolicy.org/projects/arms); (www.abc.net.au/news/newsitems/947282.htm)

WHAT YOU CAN DO

• Demonstrate and leaflet during tax season and on the last day of filing, Thursday, April 15, 2004, at the IRS or a post office.

• Bring the **Stop the Merchants of Death Speakers Tour** to your community to learn more about corporations profiting from the war and military occupation, paid for by your tax dollars. See www.warresisters.org or call (212) 228-0450.

• Write the President and Congress and demand that war money be used for services instead. Write letters to the editor of your local paper. **Send them all copies of this flyer.**

• Refuse to pay the 3% federal excise tax on your phone bills. This tax has been used symbolically as a war tax since World War I. Though illegal, nonpayment of the tax is almost risk-free. See www.hanguponwar.org for details.

• Refuse to pay all or part of your income tax.

Though illegal, thousands of Americans are openly participating in this form of protest. You can take control of your paycheck and avoid contributing to the military. Contact us for information or referral to a counselor near you.

• Contribute resisted tax money to an organization working to help people or to an alternative fund that pools tax money from resisters and gives grants to human needs and peace groups.

• Contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, PO Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215, (800) 269-7464; www.nwtrcc.org. Support the Peace Tax Fund bill to allow 100% of your taxes to fund nonmilitary programs: (888) 732-2382; www.peacetaxfund.org.

RESOURCES

• Additional copies of this leaflet are available for 10¢ each (1-199), 7¢ each (200 - 499), 6¢ each (500+) plus 20% postage or call for exact amount.

• For sample brochures and resources on war tax resistance, send a self-addressed stamped (60¢) envelope to War Resisters League at the New York address below.

• *War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military*, 144-page handbook with history, methods and resources. \$15 plus \$2 bookrate or \$4 priority mail.

LOCAL CONTACT:

WAR RESISTERS LEAGUE

339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012
Tel (212) 228-0450
Fax (212) 228-6193
wrl@warresisters.org
www.warresisters.org



Feb. 2004, 100,000

The People's Forum

Letters to
FORsooth

A peaceful fest

Since when are bombers and fighter aircraft family entertainment?

A group representing eight local organizations met with the Kentucky Derby Festival recently to urge them to drop the flyover of military aircraft during Thunder Over Louisville. The KDF listened, but declined to act. Among other reasons, they said fighters flying overhead are "family entertainment." For whose families?

Not for some in Louisville's growing immigrant communities – Southeast Asians, Bosnians, Sudanese and others – who have seen warplanes... bomb their towns.

Not for Kentucky's Japanese auto companies and their employees, who were deeply offended by the "Tora! Tora! Tora!" military re-enactment during Thunder five years ago. A *Courier-Journal* poll then showed the community was evenly divided about that show's appropriateness, and our local aldermen opposed it....

Substantial numbers of long-time residents – veterans and non-veterans alike – rightfully questioned the unnecessary presence and glorification of these symbols of war. Displays of the power of our military weapons are divisive and politicize the Derby....

The Derby is about Friendly competition. Bombers aren't. We hope our city's faith communities and others will join us to tell the Metro Council and the Derby Festival to end the display of weapons of war....

Signed: On behalf of Louisville Friends Meeting (Quakers), Fellowship of Reconciliation, Louisville Peace Action Community, Episcopal Peace Fellowship of Kentucky, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, Bellarmine Students for Social Justice, Interfaith Paths to Peace, and Kentucky Refugee Ministries.

Editor's note: Chris Harmer, one of the above letter's writers, said he hopes we can encourage our readers to write their own letters to the Courier-Journal and to the Derby Festival Committee opposing militarization of the celebration, especially military aircraft flyovers.

In praise of Ira and Jean

I always enjoy FORsooth... and learn from it!

Tell Ira Grupper "hello" for me. He writes a good (Labor Paeans) column. Very good! So does Jean Edwards (Jean's Journal).

All the best,
Henry Wallace
Henry's Ark
Prospect, Ky.



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)

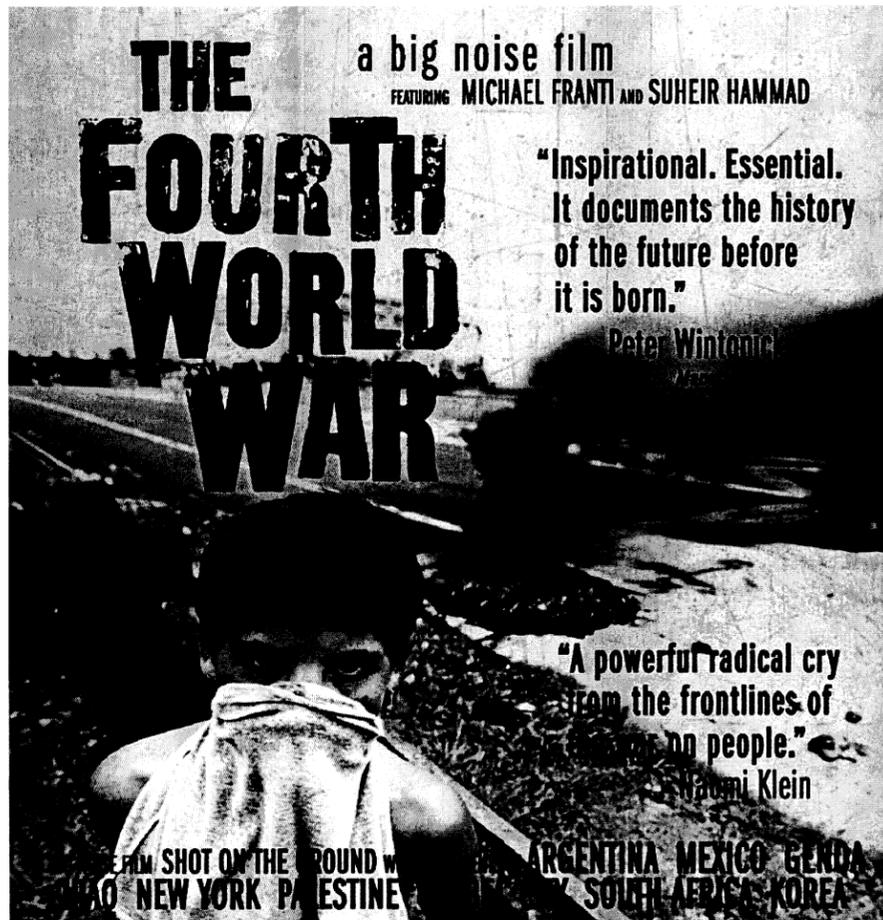
www.louisvillepeace.org/twostates.html

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



The Fourth World War is a passionate new film that was shot on the front lines of struggles spanning five continents by activists recording wars and protests on the ground. The film weaves together the stories of movements and communities on the ground and is the untold human story of men and women who resist being annihilated in the current global conflict. The product of over two years of filming, The Fourth World War is a new kind of film for a new world. Narrated by Tony Award winner Suheir Hammad and Singer Michael Franti of Spearhead, it is a radical story of hope and human connection in the face of a war that shatters and divides.

Friday April 30, 2004 at 7:30 p.m.

Reception and Silent Auction to Follow

Also showing on Sunday May 2, 2004 at 3:00 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.

Kentucky Theater
651 South 4th Street
502.589.6419

Appearance of film director TBA

Sponsored by Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East and Big Noise Films.

Proceeds to support the work of the sponsors

For additional information call (502) 541-0758

STEERING COMMITTEE NEWS

The monthly meeting of our local steering committee is always a "rush to the finish," trying to make sure all concerns are aired, all requests honored, and a thorough discussion of our current work provided. Our gracious moderator, Pat Geier, excels in keeping us focused and friendly for the whole two hours – a remarkable feat.

At our March meeting we were blessed to have Erik Reinhart-Vidal present. He drove up from Berea to give an update on the two communities in Colombia that maintain a neutral position in the ongoing civil war and have declared themselves Peace Communities – San Jose de Apartado and Cacarica. Erik was the primary instigator in helping to get the accompaniment started. He reported on his visit to San Francisco in January to attend a meeting of TFLAC (Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean) for an evaluation of the work.

Our local group has formed a "Faith Community Partnership" pledging financial support for San Jose. We were able to come up with \$500 again this time. For more details please refer to the front page article in the March issue of FORsooth.

We are still searching for persons to join the July delegation to visit one or both of these peace communities. The cost will be \$1,400. Contact Chicagoans for a Peaceful Colombia, PO Box 302, Wheaton, IL 60189 Email: colombia@chicagoans.net or call TFLAC, 415/495-6334. Organizers will provide fundraising tips if needed.

Continuing with the business of our meeting we were able to respond affirmatively to requests from the Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation and Kentucky Jobs with Justice to send our annual membership dues.

We congratulated Polly Johnson on her plans to join a delegation to Palestine in April, and voted a small stipend for her. Further assistance is still needed. Checks should be made out to FOR and mailed to Polly at 3111 Hendon Road, Louisville, KY 40220.

We read excerpts from Susan Ellison's letter describing her work in Bolivia with the "Joining Hands Network" under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church. She focuses on water issues (privatization, industrial contamination, access, etc.) and the FTAA. Susan is a member of our Louisville FOR steering committee and we had expected her to return this summer. However, she has decided to extend her original three-year commitment by another year thereby returning to us in the summer of 2005. Susan stresses the need for long-term commitments working on root causes towards transformation.

We praised Cathy Ford's work on the Third Thursday Lunch series which has been especially well attended this year. The last lunch for the season just happens to fall on Tax Day, April 15, thereby providing an opportunity to ask Phil Schervish to share his expertise in exploring Federal budget alternatives based on principles of social justice. We will be leafleting at Fifth & Market this year again during the noon hour. However we will do this on April 14 rather than the 15th, so as not to conflict with the Lunch.

Cathy reminded us that, after nine years of being the primary organizer for the Third Thursday Lunch she would like to be relieved of the overall responsibility, although she will continue to help. We expect to set up a committee to design plans for the next series which begins in September. We seek volunteers for this important work and urge you to respond by calling Cathy Ford (458-1223) or Jean Edwards (458-8056).



PLAN NOW FOR THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE CELEBRATION

The FOR National Conference in Los Angeles (August 5-9) will be the occasion to celebrate FOR's 90th birthday. In 1914, the organizational meeting was held in the Netherlands. One year later the American FOR was formed in New York City.

In Los Angeles in August, five powerful days of peacebuilding and justice-making are planned with an unbelievable array of speakers: Kathy Kelly, Rev. James Lawson, Episcopal Bishop Gene Robinson, Dorothy Cotton, Gene Hoffman and Donzaleigh Abernathy.

Plan now to attend. There are three ways to get more information: call 845/358-4601 or e-mail: lisalane@forusa.org; or Fax: 845/358-4924. Also you can visit the Website: www.forusa.org

OUR ANNUAL LETTER TO THE IRS

Replying to your letter of January 12, 2004, regarding our 2002 tax return, we thank you for correcting our mistake in entering our taxable income on the wrong line. Please be assured that the error was not intentional. Also we accept the penalty placed upon us for filing late and we will strive to file our 2003 return on time.

However we are not satisfied that in your messages about our tax liability you indicated no awareness that we, on grounds of conscience and religious conviction, are war tax resisters.

For this reason, we are certifying once again that the Presbyterian Church (USA), of which we are lifelong members, not only affirms that God alone is Lord of the conscience, but it has refused to sanction the war against Iraq.

About one half of the federal tax dollar goes for present or past wars. For that reason we pay only 50% of the officially calculated amount. We pray for peace and cannot simultaneously pay for war.

No doubt you are familiar with the book by Paul O'Neill, former employee of the Bush administration in the Department of the Treasury. It is called *The Price of Loyalty*. Ron Suskind of the Wall Street Journal assisted in the writing of the book. The disclosures therein are no less explosive than those of "The Pentagon Papers" published during the Vietnam era.

In his 23 months as part of the present administration, O'Neill saw no evidence to support the claim of weapons of mass destruction in the possession of the Iraqi government. This is also confirmed by Seymour Hersh in *The New Yorker* (10/27/03), called "The Stovepipe", pp. 77-87.

O'Neill also holds that it was clear from the beginning in 2001 that Mr. Bush was determined to overthrow the Saddam regime long before 9/11. Yet as the media built the story, the WMD became the centerpiece of the case for war, even though in reality it was a pretext.

Now there are new charges from Richard Clark that the investigation on 9/11 shows that the war on Iraq was substituted for a resolution of unanswered questions about the Iraq War and the gross lie that Al Qaeda was involved in or allied with Iraq, thus making Saddam the cause of 9/11. This is a lie comparable to the WMD deceit. This disgraceful war is costing us \$4 billion a month, at least.

We refuse to support this war and reward those whose lies created it and keep it going. Jean and George Edwards



The US and Israel/Palestine: What the Media Leave Out

"Ms. Weir presents a powerful, well documented view of the Middle East today. She is intelligent, careful, and critical. American policy makers would benefit greatly from hearing her first-hand observations and attempting to answer the questions she poses. This is an intellectual, thought-provoking, and worthwhile presentation."

- Tom Campbell, former US Congressman and Stanford law professor



Freelance journalist Alison Weir spent a month traveling through the hotspots of Gaza and the West Bank on her own, independent investigation. In her presentation she describes her experiences, shows her slides of the area, gives a brief history of the conflict, and discusses American press coverage, including her contacts with editors at San Francisco and Philadelphia newspapers. Weir is executive director of If Americans Knew.

Partial List of Previous Speaking Venues:

Capitol Hill, The Center for Policy Analysis, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Stanford University, UC Berkeley, Columbia, Northwestern, Purdue, the University of Wisconsin, the Naval Postgraduate School, University of Indiana, Vassar, Wheaton, NYU, Bard, Florida Atlantic...

Publications: Contributor, *The Washington Report on Middle Eastern Affairs*, *The New Intifada* (Verso publishing), *CounterPunch*

7:30 pm
Tuesday April 6, 2004
University of Louisville
Ekstrom Library
(easy parking in Speed Museum Ramp)

Sponsored by the Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East and the University of Louisville Committee for Peace and Justice
For additional information contact: 502-435-3265

The Way of the Cross A Walk for Justice



Good Friday
9 April 2004
9:30 - 11:30 am

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 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, The Church of the Epiphany, Covenant Community Church, CrossRoads Ministry, EarthSave Louisville, the Fellowship of Reconciliation, JustFaith Louisville, Kentucky Jobs with Justice, KITLAC, Louisville Habitat for Humanity, Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, Louisville Peace Action Committee, 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!

Calendar for peacemakers

APRIL IS FAIR HOUSING MONTH

Contact Metropolitan Housing Coalition
P.O. Box 4533, 40204. (584-6858)

Apr 4 (Sun) **CANDLELIGHT VIGIL FOR PEACE**, every first Sunday evening remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a sign or 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

Apr 5 (Mon) **PRAYER SERVICE FOR PEACE AND NONVIOLENCE, every Monday at 12:15**, followed by a simple lunch. All welcome. James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave Call 896-0172.

Apr 6 (Tue) **THE US AND ISRAEL/PALESTINE: WHAT THE MEDIA LEAVE OUT**. Slide presentation by journalist Alison Weir reflecting on her independent investigation while traveling through the hotspots of Gaza and the West Bank. Weir is executive director of **If Americans Knew**. UL Ekstrom Library, 7:30 pm. Sponsored by the Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East and the UL Committee for Peace & Justice. Call 435-3265.

Apr 8 (Thu) **DINING OUT WITH EARTHSAVE** at Zen Garden, completely vegetarian restaurant, 2240 Frankfort Ave, 6:30-8:00 pm. RSVP by 4/5. Send \$15 (members) or \$20 (nonmembers) to EarthSave Louisville, PO Box 4397, Louisville, KY 40204. Call 458-8515. E-mail: louisville@earthsave.org

Apr 9 (Fri) **GOOD FRIDAY WALK FOR JUSTICE**, "The Way of the Cross." Everyone invited to this prayerful, justice-oriented "Stations of the Cross" throughout downtown focusing on the suffering of Jesus in our midst today. Begin at 9:30 am at Martin Luther King Park in front of the Mazzoli Federal Building, 7th and Chestnut. Walk through downtown (about 1.5 miles), conclude at 11:30 am at Founders Square Park (Fifth and Muhammad Ali). Call Anne Walter, 583-6419.

Apr 9 (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 Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States, the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Apr 10 (Sat) **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED ANNUAL ASSEMBLY**, featuring **Chris Summerfield, Women's Health Community Education Coordinator from Baptist Hospital East: "Women's Health: Top Ten Keys to Better Living."** Masterson's Restaurant, 1830 S. 3rd St. 10:15 am. Tickets (\$16) available from Helen Mudd, 448-5014. **RSVP by April 5.**

Apr 11(Sun) **PROTEST AGAINST POLICE ABUSE**, 2:30 pm *Every Sunday* at Seventh & Jefferson. Call the Justice Resource Center, 774-7116.

Apr 12 (Mon) **BOOK DISCUSSION of *On Being Human: Where Ethics, Medicine and Spirituality Converge*** by Daisaku Ikeda, Rene Simard, Guy Bourgeault, led by **PAM YENAWINE**, Executive Director of Interfaith Paths to Peace. At Borders on Shelbyville Rd, 7:00 pm. Call Pam Yenawine, 214-7322. E-mail: director@interfaith_pathstopeace.org www.interfaithpathstopeace.org

Apr 14 (Wed) **TAXES FOR PEACE, NOT WAR!** Join us in handing out leaflets at Fifth and Market at 11:30 am. Let your voice be heard during your lunch hour! It is surprising how many leaflets can be handed out in just 15 minutes. Stay as long as you can. We will finish at 12:30. Call Jean Edwards, 458-8056, or Cathy Ford, 458-1223.

Apr 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.

Apr 15 (Thu) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH**, sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, featuring **Dr. Phil Schervish**, Professor and Chair of the School of Social Work at Spalding University and member of the Louisville FOR Steering Committee. He will use **TAX DAY** to explore "Federal Budget Alternatives based on Principles of Social Justice," leading to a set of "Ordinary Human Rights" and concern for issues of poverty, education and social services. 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.

Apr 15 (Thu) **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 could pay their full taxes into a fund that would be used for non-military purposes only. Contact the National Campaign for a Peace Tax Fund: 202/483-3751 or toll free: 888.PEACETAX. E-mail: info@peacetaxfund.org Order the excellent new video, "Compelled by Conscience" (\$20). Bumperstickers also available say "Taxes for Peace, Not War!"

Apr 15 (Thu) **LPAC** (Louisville Peace Action Community) monthly meeting. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:00 pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914, Ellen Schagene, 456-5288, or Ken Nevitt, 558-9124. pcunity@yahoo.com www.louisvillepeace.org

Apr 17 (Sat) **DEMOCRATIC CAUCUSES IN LOUISVILLE**, at polling places, 9:00 am. Call Board of Elections, 574-6100.

Apr 17 (Sat) **THUNDER OVER LOUISVILLE. Plans are underway to protest the military flyover during the Derby festival.** Since when are bombers and fighter aircraft "family entertainment"? For details, call Christopher Harmer, 893-2334.

Apr 18 (Sun) **COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES**. First Unitarian Church, 4th & York, 3:00 pm. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Apr 20 (Tue) **DEADLINE FOR THE MAY 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

Apr 21 (Wed) **COUNTDOWN BEGINS TO FREEDOM FOR MORDECHAI VANUNU**. Will Israeli authorities release this "Nuclear Whistleblower" on schedule. If they do, will they place various restrictions and conditions on him after release? Stay in touch during these tense days of waiting. Go to www.nonviolence.org/vanunu

Apr 24 (Sat) **EARTH DAY AT THE LOUISVILLE ZOO**, 1100 Trevilian Way, 10-5. Free for children 11 and under. Call 459-2181. www.louisvillezoo.org

Apr 25 (Sun) **EARTHSAVE'S ANNUAL TASTE OF HEALTH FESTIVAL**, at Bellarmine University, Frazier Hall, 11:00-5:00. Taste samplings of foods from 15 area restaurants. Educational activities, cooking demonstrations, children's activities, bookstore, yoga classes. Speakers: **Dr. Michael Gregor**, "Mad Cow Disease;" **Stephen Bartlett**, "Healthy Food, Peace and Economic Justice;" **Chef Ken Bergeron**, "Techniques for Making Delicious Plant-based Meals at Home." Call 458-8515. E-mail: louisville@earthsave.org

Apr 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, 479-9262.

Apr 29 (Thu) **FORsooth LABELING EXTRA-ORDINAIRE** at Beverley Marmion's House. We need every warm body to help with this task. 6:30 pm. Call 451-5658

Apr 30 (Fri) **FILM: "THE FOURTH WORLD WAR,"** the untold human story of men and women who resist being annihilated in the current global conflict. Kentucky Theater, 651 S 4th St. 7:30 pm. Reception and silent auction follow. Showings also on Sunday, May 2 at 3:00 pm and 5:30 pm. Call 589-6419.

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Apr 17/18 (SS) **NUCLEAR WEAPONS: Who Profits? Who Pays? Come to Oak Ridge, Tennessee for two days of strategizing, networking, nonviolence workshop, rally, march, and action for peace!** Contact the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance, 1/865/483-8202. Box 5743, Oak Ridge, TN 37831. www.stopthebombs.org e-mail: orep@earthlink.net

Apr 24-25 (SS) **SPRING MEETINGS OF THE IMF/ WORLD BANK**. Mark your calendar to be in DC for special Jubilee events on the 60th anniversary of the founding of the IMF/World Bank. Contact the Jubilee USA Network, 222 E. Capitol St, NE in DC, 20003. (1/202/783-3566) www.jubileeusa.org

June 20-July 3 **FIFTEENTH US/USA FRIENDSHIP-MENT CARAVAN TO CUBA. "THE BLOCKADE MUST END!"** Contact IFCO/Pastors for Peace, 402 W 145th St, NY, NY 10031 (212-926-5757) Email: cucaravan@igc.org In Louisville, contact Nancy Jakubiak, 812/280-9034. Email: nancyjak@hotmail.com

July 18-31 or July 18-Aug 7 **TRAVEL TO COLOMBIA TO VISIT THE F.O.R. PEACE COMMUNITY OF SAN JOSE de APARTADO** (short trip) or continue on to **CACARICA**, an Afro-Colombian community under siege. Our visits will increase the support and safety of these courageous communities. \$1400 covers food, lodging, travel inside Colombia. Does not cover round trip air fare to Colombia. Contact F.O.R., 2017 Mission St. #305, San Francisco, CA 94110. (415/495-6334) Forcolombia@igc.net or contact Chicagoans for a Peaceful Colombia, PO Box 302, Wheaton, IL 60189 colombia@chicagoans.net

July 19 (Mon) **DEMOCRATIC PARTY NATIONAL CONVENTION**, Boston. Headquarters in Louisville, 901 Barret Ave. (582-1999)

Aug 5-9 (TFSSM) **NATIONAL F.O.R. CONFERENCE, "Organizing the Real Superpower: People of the World Choose Peace!" Come to Los Angeles for five powerful days of peacebuilding and justice-making. F.O.R. CELEBRATES ITS 90TH YEAR OF EXPLORING THE POWER OF LOVE TO RESOLVE CONFLICT.** Occidental College. See the website, www.forusa.org or call 845/358-4601.

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

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

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

ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – 2nd Thursday (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 (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)

LPAC (LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY) – (558-9124)

LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – 2nd Sunday (456-5261)

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

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

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.