

FORsooth

Needed: caring about and for homeless

by Ike M. Thacker IV and Eustace Durrett

“Homelessness” in the United States (and in Louisville) should become a meaningless term, because there is no reason for anybody in the nation or this city to have no place except “the streets” to live.

Housing is a human right, and should be treated as such. Yet, the lack of a home, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban

First of two parts.

Development has found, is exactly the situation faced by more than three-quarters of a million people in the nation on any night.

In the U.S., over the course of a year, about 3.5 million Americans experience homelessness; the corresponding figures for Louisville are 2,406 homeless on any night (for which there are only 981 shelter beds) and more than 11,000 homeless over the course of a year.

And it is sobering indeed to reflect briefly on just what it means to be homeless. It means having no place to come home to at night except perhaps a shelter (and shelters are often full anyway).

That, in turn, often means no real bed to sleep in; it almost always means no personal stove on which to prepare whatever food one might have and no television of one’s own; and, worst of all,



— photo by Eddie Davis

A young protestor in Louisville in 2005 supports a principle that could end homelessness. More caring from people and government could make such a right a reality.

it all too often means literally not even having a “roof over your head” to provide the most rudimentary protection from the

elements. Obviously, then, to be homeless is a very bad thing.

All of this makes the results of the 2007 homeless census conducted by the Louisville Coalition for the Homeless and released at a June 16 news conference quite disturbing. That census showed that after a brief, minor dip in 2006, homelessness in Louisville returned to (and even slightly surpassed) the record levels of 2005, with some 11,257 people having been served by shelters and the like last year.

Marlene Gordon, executive director of the coalition, was quick to point out that that figure only reflects the number of persons served by shelters, missing entirely those who live with relatives or friends (they are the lucky ones), in their cars, or literally on the streets after being turned away when shelters are full.

Perhaps most disturbing of all, there was a sharp spike in 2007 in the number of children served at homeless shelters in Louisville, from 964 in 2006 to 1,651 last year (a 71.3 percent increase in one year!). Similarly, there was a 46.8 percent increase in the number of adults in families served in just that one year (from 669 to 982) and a very statistically significant 13.5 percent increase in the number of chronically homeless adults, from 1,702 to 1,931.

There was a slight (about 4.75 percent) decrease in the number of unaccompanied youths, from 652 to 621, which is at least somewhat hope giving.

(continued on page 4)

In the dark, FORsooth writers still shine

Who would have ever thought hurricane force wind gusts would strike Louisville – and in the same year as a moderate Earthquake?

The remnants of hurricane Ike, the system which devastated parts of the Caribbean and Texas, reached Louisville Sept 14, downing electric power lines and leaving hundreds of thousands without electricity for as long as two weeks.

Many survived on food relief supplies and electric generators (one of which, tragically, killed one person in a home) The damage to this issue of FORsooth is quite noticeable in that Ira Grupper’s lively and poignant Labor Paeans column won’t run. Ira, as of press time Sept. 20, still had no electricity.

Thankfully, other FORsooth contributors, including calendar editor Nikki Gaines, had their service restored sooner, which means we owe this issue’s existence to diligent utility workers on the Kentucky and Indiana sides of the river.

And progressives will be able once again to get their fix from Ira’s column next month.

‘We have 911 every day,’ visitors to Mideast told

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

The day Americans think of first when the conversation turns to Mideast tensions came up during a 12-day interfaith trip Terry Taylor took in June to Egypt and Syria.

Taylor, of Louisville, director of Interfaith Paths to Peace, told the FOR’s Third Thursday Lunch Sept. 18 that many in those nations sympathized with the losses

Starting with the Sept. 18 lunch, Third Thursday Lunches are now being co-sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace.

Americans suffered from the Sept 11, 2001 attacks. He recalled a Christian bishop in Damascus, however, adding:

“We certainly understand your pain about that. It was horrible.... But here, with the war in Iraq, the war in Afghanistan, the constant conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, we have 911 every day.”

“Whether we agree or disagree,” Taylor told the lunch, “we cannot have a conversation with people in the Middle East without understanding that.”

Taylor, a former Louisville FOR steering committee member, said the delegation — which included Jews, Christians and Moslems, all of whom were active with progressive groups in their faiths — was given free access to all areas and people in Egypt and Syria.

However, there were signs that not all the interaction was completely open. Taylor said a Grand Mufti, a high Muslim official in Egypt, spoke glowingly about relations between Christians, Jews and Moslems in his nation. Although he described the man as “an extraordinary interfaith leader,” Taylor said his message about relations was tempered when Taylor was told by a caretaker of an Egyptian

synagogue that because of outmigration, only 120 Jews still live in the nation.

Taylor said relations with Coptic Christians, a sect that includes 95 percent of Egyptian Christians, was a subject that also seemed shrouded during the trip, explaining that he “could never get a straight answer” to inquire into why the delegation did not meet with Coptic Christians. But Taylor learned something about the issue on the return trip when he met a Coptic priest in the Amsterdam airport.

He told the lunch the priest said many Coptic Christians have departed Egypt, partly because of a negative portrayal of Christianity in state school texts.

But far from making Taylor, an ecumenical person who attends Quaker meeting, cynical about interfaith relations, the trip sparked his enthusiasm for negotiations to overcome differences.

“We have got to find ways to bring people together in the Middle East and meet face-to-face, because if you don’t know people face-to-face, it’s very easy to demonize people on the other side,” he said. Taylor quoted the Israeli philosopher and advocate of dialogue Martin Buber’s statement that when we pray we talk to God, “but when we have a dialogue, God speaks through us.”

Taylor said that despite the situation with Jews and Coptic Christians, interfaith relations in the Moslem World are better than portrayed in western media, which often fail to report about much positive interaction there between Moslems and people of other faiths

Taylor said he told Egyptians and Syrians that many in the U.S. support a two-state solution that respects Israel’s right to exist and creates a viable Palestinian nation.

Regarding public opinion in the nations he visited, Taylor said settling the Israeli-Palestinian dispute “is absolutely the number one question and issue for people there.”

See an ad on page six for information about upcoming Third Thursday Lunches.

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

Fellowship of Reconciliation
Louisville Chapter
2236 Kaelin Avenue
Louisville, KY 40205-2608

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

INSIDE

The thinks are on the house p. 2

Out of government, but still outspoken p. 2

Trio of poets on life, the elements p. 4

How well will left handle some success? p. 6

A lighter (and thoughtful) look at living

Humor, FORsooth editor George Morrison believes, is a comforting hand in scary times, a finely tuned vehicle of social commentary and, of supreme importance in Louisville last month, a great substitute for columns that are missing because of electrical outages.

So George hereby publishes his own piece, which he says is from the National Clearinghouse on Thinking. The organization recently issued the following FAQs:

I sometimes think at parties. Is this okay?

Social thinking, within limits, is perfectly healthy. You should, however, be considerate of your guests who wish to abstain from thinking.

I sometimes need to think early in the morning to get going. What does this mean?

This could indicate that you are a problem thinker.

How many times to I have to think before I am legally think?

In most states, just two.

Is it safe to think and then thrive?

No, studies have shown that reaction time is much slower, even after just a couple of thoughts.

Are there penalties for this?

Yes. Mothers Against Think Thriving has succeeded in getting laws toughened in all 50 states. The organization recommends bringing a "designated thriver" along who avoids thinking while out on the town.

Both my parents were heavy thinkers. Does this mean I have the thinking gene?

Scientists haven't even proven the existence of such a gene. It could be that the home environment you had while growing up causes you to feel you need to think to deaden the memories of all that postulating you saw.

Does popular culture bear some responsibility for creating a casual attitude about thinking?

No. Most entertainment today involves no thinking whatsoever, but there are exceptions. NBC had to end the run of "Frasier" because many viewers reported it made them want to think.

Is it true that people who think heavily will never amount to anything?

Not at all. Some of history's most accomplished people were heavy thinkers, including Voltaire, Gandhi, Paul Robeson and Plato.

Does thinking hurt the economy?

Yes, millions of work hours are lost to industry because of thinking on the job or workers stopping to think on the way to work. Employers today, particularly in the rapidly growing sectors of data entry and fast food, are looking for non-thinkers. In fact they are pressing schools to help curb teenage thinking so youth will become more productive employees.

So if I think frequently, will I end up unemployed and in the gutter?

Worse yet, you could end up at the absolute bottom of society – in a think tank.

Don't even think of criticizing this piece, but if you must, send comments to George Morrison at klm86@att.net.

Tickets on sale for unity event with Elders

Tickets for the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression's yearly Unity Dinner Oct. 25 are available from the alliance.

Former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Jocelyn Elders, an outspoken advocate of comprehensive sex education and universal health care, will be the keynote speaker at the dinner, which will be held at Masterson's Conference Center, 1830 S. Third St. in Louisville. Social hour will start at 5 p.m. and the dinner at 6 p.m., the alliance said.

Tickets are \$40 and can be purchased by visiting or writing the Carl Braden Memorial Center, 3208 W. Broadway in Louisville (the zip code is 40211). Or call (502) 778-8130 for tickets or more information.

The alliance said ticket costs are tax deductible and checks should be payable to Kentucky Alliance.

Elders was named to the surgeon general post by President Clinton in 1993 after running Arkansas' state health agency during Clinton's tenure as governor.

The president fired Elders 18 months later after right-wingers blasted her for several of her straightforward statements.

Since leaving government, Elders has served as a professor at the University of Arkansas medical school. She regularly speaks around the nation about issues related to AIDS and teen pregnancy.

Imagine seeing this in color:



Now imagine reading instantly updated news from the FOR.

You can do both at

www.louisville-for.org

The Louisville FOR's web site includes Action Alerts about issues of great concern to peace and justice people. It also lets you link to peace groups in many nations and look over every FORsooth going back to April 2002. And the pictures – starting with the July-August 2008 issue – are in color.

If you love blogging, contribute your thoughts and hopes to the US FOR's blog www.forpeace.net. Keep up with the national organization's unequalled activism for a world of nonviolence and justice at www.forusa.org.

As much as we know you love reading FORsooth, there's no reason to wait till next month to be inspired and challenged by the FOR.

WHAT ABOUT IRAN? PLANS AND PERSPECTIVES FROM FOR-USA

7:30 PM., WEDNESDAY., OCTOBER 1., 2008
205 HUMANITIES BUILDING
ON THE UOFL CAMPUS

FEATURED SPEAKER:
LEILA ZAND, DIRECTOR, FOR-USA IRAN PROJECT

Born and raised in Iran, Leila brings special knowledge of the history and current situation in Iran. Also, she will discuss the special project FOR-USA has launched to address this situation consistent with the principles of non-violence and peace building.

FOR's Mission Statement

The Fellowship of Reconciliation seeks to replace violence, war, racism and economic injustice with nonviolence, peace and justice. We are an interfaith organization committed to active nonviolence as a transforming way of life and as a means of radical change. We educate, train, build coalitions, and engage in nonviolent and compassionate actions locally, nationally, and globally.



Founded 1915

FORsooth is published by the Louisville chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Send submissions for news stories or commentaries to George Morrison, editor, c/o 2236 Kaelin Ave., Louisville, KY 40205, e-mail: klm86@att.net.

FORsooth Staff

Editor George Morrison
Calendar editor Nikki Gaines
Production manager Barbara Powers
Bulk mailing Beverley Marmion

93 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.

Cochairs: Phil Schervish 558-7175
Dennis Bricking 895-8516



Contemplative Living
Recovering the Inner Life of Humanity

October 24–26, 2008

The Kentucky International Convention Center
Louisville, Kentucky

Presented by



Contemplative living focuses on seeing life in the context of our core relationships – with oneself, God, others and nature.

This conference will explore:

- # What contemplative living offers to individuals
- # How the contemplative movement has influenced culture and society
- # The emerging role and importance of contemplative living in the world today
- # Contemplative living's potential for lasting personal and societal transformation

The conference honors Thomas Merton's personal vision that concerned individuals would gather to dialogue in a contemplative way on the major issues confronting humanity.

The Presenters:

Dr. Douglas Burton-Christie is associate professor at Loyola Marymount University where he teaches Christian Spirituality. He is the author of *The Word in the Desert: Scripture and the Quest for Holiness in Early Christian Monasticism*, and the founding editor of *Spiritus: A Journal of Christian Spirituality*.

Dr. Ibrahim Kalin is assistant professor of Islamic Studies at Georgetown University. He is the founding director of the SETA Foundation for Political, Economic, and Social Research and author of the book *Islam and the West*.

Dr. Stephanie Kaza is professor of Environmental Studies at the University of Vermont. Her latest book is an edited collection on Buddhism and consumerism entitled *Hooked! Buddhist Writings on Greed, Desire, and the Urge to Consume*.

Dr. David Tacey is associate professor at La Trobe University, Melbourne, Australia, where he teaches courses on spirituality, rites of passage, analytical psychology, and literary studies. His most recent books include *The Spirituality Revolution* and *The Idea of the Numinous*.

The Panelists:

Imam Plemon El Amin: Imam of the Atlanta Masjid of Al Islam

Rabbi Phyllis Berman: Director, Elat Chavvim Center for Jewish Spirituality

Rev. Joan Campbell: Director of Religion, Chautauqua Institution; Chair, Global Peace Initiative of Women

Rev. J. Cletus Kiley: Executive Director, Faith and Politics Institute

Sen. Elaine McCoy: Senator, Province of Alberta Canada

Martin Hakubai Mosko: Ordained Zen Buddhist monk and author of *Landscape as Spirit: Creating a Contemplative Garden*

Dr. Avidesh Shashaani: President, Fund for the Future of Our Children, Washington, D.C.

Rabbi Arthur Waskow: Founder and Director, The Shalom Center, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Dr. Phyllis Woolley: Director, Government Interchange Program, University of Alberta

Registration begins at 5 p.m. The program begins at 6:30 p.m. on Friday, October 24, and concludes at 1 p.m. on Sunday, October 26.
(For full conference details: www.mertoninstitute.org)

Cost to attend the conference is \$135.

For more information or to register, contact

The Merton Institute
2117 Payne Street, Suite 206 • Louisville, Kentucky 40206
502.899.1991 • 800.886.7275
www.mertoninstitute.org • contactus@mertoninstitute.org

“Contemplation is the highest expression of man’s intellectual and spiritual life.”
Thomas Merton
- *New Seeds of Contemplation*

This conference is presented with the cooperation and support of the Fetzer Institute.

airraid

Uncontained hurricane
Sends its bomber winds
Out beyond
Its moisture face

Combing overhead
Power lines
To throbbing pulses
That fail and fall
In serpentine tangles

Pushing swaying loose bricks
From the tallest walls
And away
From their once tight windows
To shatter down hard concrete
Shards across neat yards and streets

To play with huge trees
Like horizontal yo-yos
Cracking branches
To finally topple them
On tops of lots

Then mixing
Silence with darkness.

Eustace Durrett 9/17/08

Squirrel at My Father's Graveyard

Scampering...

Behind the front wheels,
Before the back wheels.

Hallelujah!

Ike M. Thacker IV

Untitled

I tried to walk in a parade one day.
Even decided I should be grand marshal,
So I walked in front.
I thought the crowd was with me
Till I finally realized I had no legs.
Made the unclothed emperor look good
By comparison, don't you think?

I looked down today and saw
That slowly, inconsistently,
Two legs are growing.
Unfortunately, they won't be grown
In time for the next parade.
But I'm learning to walk,
Which is okay, don't you think?

*George Morrison
September 2008*

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
E-mail: EdwardsFOR@bellsouth.net

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.



Homeless

(continued from page 1)

And Gordon believes that these are vast underestimates of the true scope of the problem. She notes that the coalition serves only 20 percent of the families who seek help (Volunteers of America figures corroborate this: 36 out of 185 applicants were served), and that there are 7,000 children in the Jefferson County Public Schools who meet the schools' criteria for being homeless.

Indeed, there is truly a crying need for aid for homeless *families* in our city: for the more than 2,600 members of homeless families (see above: 1,651 children, plus 982 adults in families, equals 2,633) there are 51 spaces large enough for a family to stay, only 12 of which can accommodate men with children, because of the practice of separating genders.

The breakdown is: 39 spaces for women and children at Wayside Christian Mission and 12 such spaces at Volunteers of America. This total of 51 is about two percent of what is needed. Of these, only the 12 at Volunteers of America can accommodate fathers.

In short, there seems to be a shortage of caring about the homeless here in Louisville; be that as it may, there is certainly a shortage of care *for* them. Metro Louisville government spends far less than one percent of its budget on homelessness, despite having recently created, at long last, an Office on Homelessness.

Homelessness is not a problem that the "magic" of the marketplace is equipped to deal with; thus government must step in. We recall some youngster-activists in Atlanta in the early 1990s who, as the city prepared to host the Olympics, pointedly asked the question: There are some 20,000 vacant apartments in Atlanta and 10-to-15,000 homeless persons; isn't there something wrong with this picture?

Sam Tsemberis, an advocate for the homeless, is a proponent of providing housing directly to those who need it, without the current bureaucratic and personal preconditions. He says this simple approach could all but eliminate homelessness. More on that next time.

Ike M. Thacker IV and Eustace Durrett are advocates for political, social and economic democracy. Durrett focuses on transportation issues and Thacker on housing.

ECUMENICAL LECTURE SERIES

God and Empire

The Normalcy of Violence and the Ambiguity of Bible

Sponsored by:

*St. Paul's Episcopal Church,
New Albany*

Archdiocese of Louisville

Bellarmino University

Episcopal Diocese of Kentucky

Louisville Presbyterian

Theological Seminary

Mid-Kentucky Presbytery

For Registration
Information Contact:

**Mid-Kentucky
Presbytery**

425 S. 2nd St, Ste 301
Louisville, KY 40202
502-561-8300

Online registration:
www.midkentuckypresbytery.org

John Dominic Crossan

Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies, DePaul University, and author of many books including God and Empire: Jesus Against Rome, Then and Now and The Historical Jesus: The Life of a Mediterranean Jewish Peasant.



November 7-8, 2008

Bellarmino University

Louisville, Kentucky

\$20.00 (includes lunch)

Lecture Schedule

Friday, Nov. 7

7:30-9:00 PM

Civilization & Empire

Saturday, Nov. 8

9:00-10:30 AM

Bible & Power

11:00-12:30 PM

Jesus & God

12:30-1:15 PM

Lunch provided by Bellarmino

1:30-3:00 PM

Apocalypse & Violence

Calendar for peacemakers (continued from back page)

- Oct 26 (Sun) **INTERFAITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICE.** This is the first-ever interfaith service in Louisville to honor the women, children and men killed this year as a result of domestic violence. Remember those who are surviving domestic violence and celebrate the she-ros and heroes who work to end domestic violence. 6:30 PM to 8:00 PM. First Unitarian Church, 809 South Fourth Street. Sponsored by LIFTED (Louisville Interfaith Task Force to Eliminate Domestic Violence). For more information, contact MensWork c/o rus@rusfunk.com or 494-9044 or visit: www.mensworkinc.com.
- Oct 27 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE.** Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road. Meets every fourth Monday. Visitors encouraged. Call Dennis Bricking, 298-0590, or Phil Schervish, 558-7175.
- Oct 28 (Tue) **KCADP (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)** every last Tuesday. Highland Presbyterian Church, 1011 Cherokee Rd, 6:30 pm. Call Kaye Gallagher, 721-8885 or Mark Meade, 541-9998 or email: kcadp@earthlink.net.
- Oct 28-30 (Tue-Thurs) **PEACE EDUCATION COMMUNITY INSTITUTE.** This 3-day workshop will provide hands-on training in: interpersonal conflict resolution; the mediation process and prejudice reduction skills; conflict resolution skills for working with youth; and opportunities to share triumphs and concerns. Fee is \$250 or \$450 for a team of two. Some scholarships available on a first-come basis. Registration deadline is October 20th. For more information or to register, contact the Peace Education Program at 589-6583 or visit www.PeaceEducation.org.
- Oct 30 (Thurs) **FORsooth LABELING** at Beverley Marmion's, 6:30 pm. We need you for one hour! Please stop by and socialize while your fingers do the work. Call 451-5658.
- Oct 30 (Thurs) **CONCERT FOR GENDER PEACE.** 7 PM to 10 PM at Skull Alley, 1017 East Market Street. \$15. Proceeds to benefit MensWork and Women of Vision and Purpose. Sponsored by Mom's Music and Stockyards Bank. For more information, visit: www.mensworkinc.com.
- Nov 6 (Thurs) **"NO HUNGER, COOL PLANET TOUR"** to promote the rebuilding of local food economies. Featuring Rodrigo Lopes of the Landless Rural Workers Movement of Brazil. Program will include a participatory socio-drama, "Mamma Nature Say." Learn how to end hunger and cool the planet. 7 PM. YMCA, 930 W. Chestnut, 5th Floor Ballroom. For more information, contact Stephen Bartlett at 896-9171 or sbartlett@ag-missions.org.
- Nov 6 (Thurs) **"TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION: THE WITNESS OF THOMAS MERTON."** A lecture by Joyce Hollyday, United Church of Christ minister and author of several books, including *Then Shall Your Light Rise: Spiritual Formation and Social Witness*. Bellarmine University, Cralle Theater. 7 PM. Free and open to the public. For more info, contact the Thomas Merton Center: 452-8187 or www.merton.org.

FESTIVAL OF FAITHS 2008: Coming of Age Through the Eyes of Faith KEY EVENTS!

Sponsored by the Center for Interfaith Relations. For more information, please view the complete schedule at: www.interfaithrelations.org.

- Nov 7-8 (Fri-Sat) **"GOD AND EMPIRE: The Normalcy of Violence and the Ambiguity of Bible."** John Dominic Crossan will present a two-part lecture series exploring the role of violent force in America's evolution as a global power, and examining such questions as: "Is it possible to be a faithful Christian in an American Empire facilitated by a violent Christian Bible?" Part One: 7:30 PM Friday. Part Two: 9 AM to 3 PM Saturday. Bellarmine University. Cost: \$20 for both days. Register at: www.midkentuckypresbytery.org.

- Nov 9 (Sun) **"THE POWER OF FORGIVENESS."** This film examines the role that forgiveness can play in alleviating anger and grief, as well as the physical, mental and spiritual benefits that come with forgiveness. Includes stories and interviews with people from a variety of faith traditions. 2 PM, Speed Art Museum, 2035 South Third Street. Free and open to the public.
- Nov 9 (Sun) **COMMUNITY CELEBRATION OF GRATITUDE.** This celebration is an annual service during the Festival of Faiths in which persons of all faith traditions come together to give thanks for our unity, acknowledge our varied blessings, and celebrate our diverse community. 7 PM, First Unitarian Church, 809 South Fourth Street. Free and open to the public.
- Nov 10 (Mon) **"THE COMING OF AGE OF THE AMERICAN POLITIC."** Winona Duke will explore the notion of empire, the naming of America, and sacred lands while also providing examples of grassroots, indigenous, and rural reclamation of relationship to place and to the future. 7:30 PM, Kentucky International Convention Center, 221 South Fourth Street. Free and open to the public.
- Nov 11 (Tues) **"RELIGIOUS LITERACY AND THE COMING OF AGE OF EDUCATION."** Stephen Prothero will explore religious literacy—the problem, the past, and the proposals for a hopeful future. What will young people need to know about Christianity and other world religions as the 21st century unfolds? What are the ways we can deliver the information and develop the skills our youth will need to be both U.S. and world citizens? 7:30 PM, Kentucky International Convention Center, 221 South Fourth Street. Free and open to the public.
- Nov 12 (Wed) **"COMING OF AGE RITES AND RITUALS WORKSHOP"** with Malidoma Somé. Once we were all "indigenous people," but in recent history migration has broken many of ties we had with one another and with the land and water that supported us. Facets of the connectedness that indigenous peoples still experience can assist us in creating a sustainable way of life. Malidoma Somé will explore initiation, ritual, and healing as tools for support and transformation. 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM, Kentucky International Convention Center, 221 South Fourth Street. Cost: \$25. Tickets available at brownpaperticket.com or by calling 800-838-3006.
- Nov 12 (Wed) **"CHILDREN OF ABRAHAM DINNER AND WORSHIP SERVICE."** In a time of great challenges to peace, mutual understanding and reconciliation, this meal and service are an expression of friendship and recognition of the shared ancestry of the Jewish, Christian and Islamic faiths. Islamic Cultural Center, 4007 River Road. 6 PM. Reservations required. Space is strictly limited. Cost: \$14. Tickets available at brownpaperticket.com or by calling 800-838-3006.
- Nov 13 (Thurs) **"DEVELOPING THE GLOBAL MIND AND HEART: Coming of Age as a Species."** Mathematical Cosmologist Brian Swimme will explore the development of a new human perspective, based on the idea that the universe evolves in spurts, and we are now in the midst of another major transition. Our species is called to awaken with a planet-sized heart and mind whose purpose is the evocation of a vibrant Earth Community. 7:30 PM, Kentucky International Convention Center, 221 South Fourth Street. Cost: \$15. Tickets available at brownpaperticket.com or by calling 800-838-3006.
- Nov 14 (Fri) **"THE EARTH CHARTER: ITS PROMISE AND CHALLENGE."** Emerging from the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, the Earth Charter was drafted over a decade of intense consultation with people and organizations around the world. It has now been endorsed by thousands of groups. Mary Evelyn Tucker will explore in this workshop the ideas of the Charter, its integrating vision for eco-justice engagement, and ways the Louisville community can find benefit by participating in this international initiative. 1:30 PM to 4:30 PM. Matthews Episcopal Church, 330 North Hubbards Lane. Free and open to the public. Reservations required due to limited seating. Call the Center for Interfaith Relations at (502) 583-3100.
- Nov 15 (Fri) **"RENEWAL."** The first feature-length documentary to capture the breadth and vitality of America's religious environmental movement. Offering a profound message of hope, this film shows individuals and communities driven by the deepest source of inspiration—their spiritual and religious convictions—being called to re-examine what it means to be human and how we live on planet earth. 1:30 PM. University of Louisville, Rausch Planetarium. Free and open to the public.



Photo/Washington Post

"Universal access to healthcare for all people is a morally and ethically right thing to do. We say we can't afford it. I'm concerned we can't afford not to have it."

Researcher, educator, and the first African American Surgeon General of the United States, Dr. Joycelyn Elders has often been a lightning rod for controversy. The author of *From Sharecropper's Daughter to Surgeon General of the United States of America*, she continues to speak out about myriad health issues affecting the United States and the world, from teenage pregnancy and HIV/AIDS to substance abuse to the need for healthy housing and universal healthcare. Join the Kentucky Alliance for what is sure to be a motivating and inspirational evening.

Get your tickets soon... Space is limited!

Presents the 11th Annual
UNITY DINNER
Keynote Address by
DR. JOYCELYN ELDERS

Saturday, October 25, 2008
Social Hour 5 to 6 PM • Dinner at 6 PM

Masterson's Conference Center
1830 South Third Street, Louisville, KY

Tickets \$40 each
Available at the Carl Braden Center,
3208 W. Broadway, Louisville, KY 40211

Call 502-778-8130 for tickets & information

Make your tax-deductible checks payable to: KENTUCKY ALLIANCE

From Bob to Ethel?

It's early yet to celebrate, but progressive momentum clear

Since its resurgence in the still conservative early 1960s, the movement for civil rights, social equality and peace has rallied around the song that is regarded as the anthem of the left, Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind."

The song's finding that the answer to the vexing problems of war and bigotry is "blowin' in the wind," seems to be preparing the newly idealistic crusaders for a long struggle; be patient, Dylan says, for the answer is not nearly at hand and contemplating its nature in a wind metaphor, rather than defining it concretely, will have to do for now.

Today, there exists a very different mood, a sense that we are poised to move forward, after stalling in the face of reactionary Reaganism, then spinning our wheels in the mud of stubbornly centrist Clintonism.

We still face daunting challenges, primarily the unpredictability of world trends, from marketplace volatilities to uncontrollable hurricanes, two of which recently, as of this writing, have wiped out much progress Cuba has made resisting the embargo (although the international aid flowing to Cuba from other progressive states illustrates the new power of the left).

At home, we are still saddled with a political system absolutely owned by big money which can crush any hint of progress with negative ads and spin artistry that easily co-opts gullible and corporate-owned media. So, it is far too soon to declare that it's time to change anthems to, say, "Everything's Coming up Roses."

And I don't mean at all to be getting ahead of myself or dismissing the difficulty of the struggles we still face. But I honestly see the days of contemplation just beginning to yield to a time of the genuine concrete change for which Dylan's wistful lyrics yearned. And there are — despite Hugo, Ike and subprime lending — reasons for a more upbeat tone like that of "Roses," Stephen Sondheim and Jule Styne's Broadway tune of ship-has-arrived optimism, best remembered as Ethel Merman's belting out: "Gonna have the whole world on the plate!"

So many long-deferred dreams of the left at home and internationally are beginning to bloom or return to prominence, that among the obstacles we face now are overconfidence and an inability to coordinate all the sudden, widespread momentum.

Our task in 2008 is finding how to handle all this success, which contrasts immeasurably with the woes of the 1990s, when columnist E.J. Dionne correctly defined that decade and foretold the future in the title of his book "They Only Look Dead: Why Progressives Will Dominate the Next Political Era."

Dominant? Maybe that term is too strong — and too steeped in patriarchy. But we on the left — as sectarian and conflicted a group as we are — just may be in the process of gaining the upper hand. Consider these politically and geographically disparate developments:

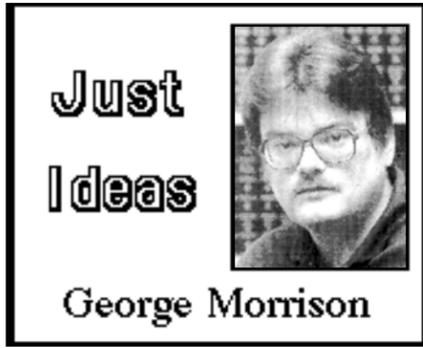
- In this hemisphere, the phenomenal success of elected leftists — led by the egalitarian, sometimes fiery Venezuelan president Hugo Chavez — is chasing the "Washington consensus" of unrestrained capitalism right back to the University of Chicago where it originated (candidates tutored in Milton Friedman's "Chicago School" of economics hatched there seem unable to win election against a resurgent wave of moderately socialist to outright revolutionary left parties).

- Cuba, whose economic order Chavez emulates, is a country where right-wing Miamians have been predicting every six months since the Berlin Wall opened that an anti-Castro uprising is just six months away.

But early this year, reports out of Cuba indicated that the only thing rising up was food from the ground. Raul and Fidel Castro's spectacularly successful urban farms and (mostly Raul's) restructuring of agriculture — combined with more aid and investment from other nations — resulted in daily calorie intake levels for Cubans not only returning to Soviet-era levels, but actually exceeding them!

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization reported recently that Cubans on average consumed 3,547 calories a day — more than what the U.S. government recommends for Americans. That's up from the 3,004 calories a day Cubans took in in 1989, before the collapse of the Soviet Union.

As of this writing, it is unknown how much the hurricanes of mid-2008 have set Cuba back. To be sure, it is a lot, but a



recovery is in the works, spurred by much international aid (including from the American Red Cross) and the Castro government's proven skill at civil defense and mass mobilization.

Barack Obama realizes the policy of squeezing Cubans into a sudden pro-U.S. uprising like Berlin in 1989 is laughably bankrupt; he has called for negotiations with Cuba. John McCain seems to realize this, too. While he has delivered disappointingly orthodox anti-Castro speeches in Miami, he earlier called during the primary season for conditional negotiations that eventually could lead to greatly loosening the embargo.

- Regarding the race between Obama and McCain, I wouldn't even venture a guess. It seems to be completely redefined every 45 seconds by gaffs, counter-gaffs, soccer mom imagery and, most recently, the big Wall Street meltdown that has washed Palin mania away.

Still, the Democratic Party is definitely in ascendance, with the chance to

take back the White House and add to its small House and Senate majorities, all of which would allow the party to return the judiciary to a more progressive posture (this is crucial because all four of the Supreme Court's liberals may retire in the next few years).

- It's the left side of the Democrats that is propelling this resurgence, preventing the Bill Clinton, Courier-Journal Democratic Leadership Conference wing from claiming that its pro-business and pro-death penalty stances are what have won back the good will of voters, a spurious refrain from the 1990s.

- The domination of media by the right has been eclipsed by the emergence of progressive blogs and the very effective on-line PAC MoveOn.org. Rush Limbaugh is becoming a broken record whose once-heralded ability to rally conservatives falls well short of MoveOn's impact.

- The housing and gasoline crises have even staunch believers in laissez-faire economics stumped, as they simply can't produce a line of logic that places blame for soaring foreclosures and oil prices on government interference, their usual culprit. Less regulation, in fact, could be seen as a cause of the former, when one weighs the impact of Bush's 2005 bankruptcy reform, which made it harder for people to get out of debt, and Clinton's 1999 reversal of a New Deal law keeping investment banks separate from commercial banks, a change which gave the fast-and-loose side of capitalism access to ordinary people's loans.

Whatever the root causes, the crises

have returned the public to the "people versus corporate greed" alignment away from the "people versus government" tenet that had dominated since the 1970s.

- The popular 1980s bumper sticker "The religious right is neither" is only half true today: Evangelicals may be religious, but they are no longer on the right — at least not exclusively. At grassroots and leadership levels, evangelicals are abandoning a Republican monopoly on their loyalty, exploring Biblical motivations to vote Democrat, too. Concern about global warming and hunger are key reasons, as are the many self-proclaimed family values adherents who have fathered out of wedlock children, admitted affairs or been snared in fundraising scandals.
- I'm losing weight. Oh, alright, that one is not relevant, but my waistline become slimmer since January hasn't done anything to deter my feeling that 2008 is one promising year.

To reiterate, let's not be giddy or self-indulgent. The real measure of how progressive we are is whether we feed the hungry, put everyone to work, stop discrimination and end or curb militarism. The leftward movement we are living through isn't an end, just a tool to start what remains a very long journey.

Still, when I think how far the world and nation could progress with the political shifts now in progress, I again hear Merman booming those lyrics:

"Now's your inning. Stand the world on its ear! Set it spinning! That'll be just the beginning!"

Contact George Morrison at klm86@att.net.

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation & Interfaith Paths to Peace

September 2008 to January 2009

October 16

Peaceful Co-existence with Iran

Haleh Karimi, a member of Independent Muslims of Louisville, co-founder of the recently formed international group "Iranians for Peace" (IFP), a collection of organizations made up primarily of Iranian expatriates who wish to combine their voices in support of peace. IFP welcomes participation by people of all nationalities, religions, ideologies and political orientations.

November 20

Witness for Peace Delegations to Guatemala and Colombia

Participants in recent WFP delegations will reflect on their experiences. Cory Lockhart will discuss efforts to end the violence in Colombia including trade policies between the US and Colombia and the effectiveness of Plan Colombia which is a coca eradication program. Dennis Bricking will focus on the many reasons people emigrate to the United States from Guatemala and how they must deal with the coyotes in attempting to cross the border.

January 15

Prospects for a Cease Fire and Peace in Palestine

A panel will present objections to the US funding of the Israeli military occupation and up-to-date information on the Wall including its effects on Palestinian farmers as well as continuing delays at the many Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank.

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

For reservations, call Jean Edwards (458-8056)



IS THE WORD “PEACE” MEANINGFUL?

This question was raised by Corrine McCann, a Kentucky Dominican Associate, in a recent article sent to FORsooth. She tells how she received some clarification to this question when she heard a Dominican sister from Iraq speak at a peace vigil in Adrian, Michigan.

On August 19, 2008, Sister Aman spoke of how anger had its grip on her because of the invasion by the United States military in Iraq. She spoke about how the grief of her people permeates everything and everyone.

At first, rage and anger were her response at such devastation. Standing at the podium in her white Dominican habit, speaking softly, and mindfully pronouncing each word, Sister Aman spoke of her struggle to come to a heart of peace. It is not a permanent heart of peace but a matter of determination, prayer and persistent focus on peace. With this word peace held in prayer, she hopes to dwell in love. She believes the only way to peace in the world is for it to begin in the heart of each person.

There were 35-40 people, religious and lay, listening that Tuesday to Sister Aman. Our tears were very much a part of the prayer and hope for peace. Tears as an expression of sadness because of so much pain in the world, and tears of hope that the process of peace will begin in all of us. The most memorable words of Sister Aman are that “our brothers and sisters are not the enemy. War is the enemy.”

She shared an excerpt from Thomas Merton’s *Essential Writings* which has helped to relieve her pain:

“Violence rests on the assumption that the enemy and I are entirely different; the enemy is evil and I am good. The enemy must be destroyed but I must be saved. But love sees things differently. It sees that even the enemy suffers the same sorrows and limitations that I do. That we both have the same hopes, the same needs, the same aspirations for a peaceful and harmless life. And that death is the same for both of us. Then love may perhaps show me that my brother (or sister) is not really my enemy and that war is the enemy of both. War is our enemy. Then peace becomes possible.”

She also shared the following thoughts from the poetry of Maya Angelou:

“In our joy, we think we hear a whisper. At first it is too soft. Then only half heard. We listen carefully as it gathers strength. We hear a sweetness. The word is PEACE. It is loud now. Louder than the explosion of bombs. We tremble at the sound. We are thrilled by its presence. It is what we have hungered for. Not just the absence of war. But true peace. A harmony of spirit, a comfort of courtesies. Security for our beloveds. We, Angels and Mortals, believers and non-believers, look heavenward and speak the word aloud. Peace. We look at each other, then into ourselves, and we say without shyness or apology or hesitation: ‘Peace, my brother. Peace my sister. Peace my soul. Let us offer each other a sign of peace.’”

After many reflective readings, I believe that, yes, the word and the words about peace are still meaningful and undiminished in their power to influence.

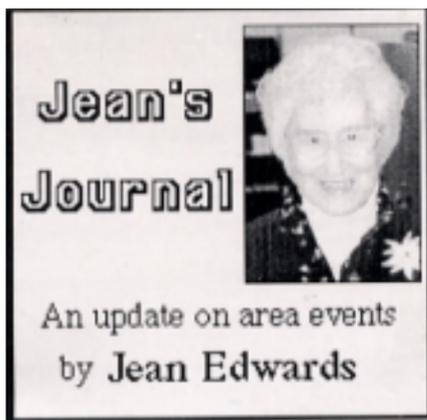
Corrine McCann, a Kentucky Dominican Associate, is a long-time contributor to FORsooth. She promotes interfaith dialogue and lives in Crawfordsville, Indiana.

DROP BEATS NOT BOMBS! CAMPUS TOUR: November 5-25, Midwest to East Coast

Your help is needed in recruiting young adults and finding host cities for this campus tour being sponsored by the national FOR and coming to a venue near you! The Youth and Militarism Program and the Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean are collaborating on a tour to support young adults in resisting militarism through creative action.

Can you host them on your campus or in your community this November? Stops are planned for MN, WI, IA, IL, IN, OH, KY, PA, and NY. A typical tour stop involves:

- A club or campus hip hop show featuring Detroit based emcee **Invincible**, and involving local artists;



- A keynote speaking event featuring **Paula Galeano**, a Colombian Conscientious Objector, on the situation youth are facing today in Colombia’s armed conflict and how they are organizing nonviolently to resist it.
- Two workshops on Conscientious Objection in Colombia and the US, and on Art in Action (each 1.5 - 2 hours long).
- Classroom visits to Philosophy, Sociology, Political Science, Women’s Studies, Latin American Studies; Conflict or Peace Studies, Language & Fine Arts classes, etc.
- Meet-ups with student organizers to help get people connected and involved!

For more information, please contact **Maryrose Dolezal** at 651-210-4465, or maryrose@forusa.org or visit www.forcolombia.org/fallo8tour.

In Louisville, call Chris Harmer if you can help organize bringing the tour here. (502-893-2334)

WILL KENTUCKY ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY IN 2009?

Resistance to the death penalty is increasing nationwide and in Kentucky, according to Rev. Patrick Delahanty, Associate Director of the Catholic Conference of Kentucky. He spoke recently on behalf of the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (KCADP) at a church-backed forum which included Methodists, Episcopalians, Unitarian Universalists as well as Catholics. The small gathering was held in a Sunday school classroom at Holy Spirit Catholic Church in Louisville and was covered by Jim Gaines, reporting for *The Daily News*, Bowling Green, Ky. He has provided us with an excellent summary of Delahanty’s remarks.

A 2006 study by the University of Kentucky Research Center found that nearly two-thirds of Kentuckians think that murder shouldn’t be punished by death, with the largest number opting for life without parole. That is a sentencing option that KCADP pushed hard to establish in Kentucky, Delahanty said, and then asked “What does death achieve that you cannot achieve with life without parole?”

These steps forward were gained by relying on volunteers and part-time staff to bring the abolition message throughout our state. In the last 15 years, Kentucky public opinion has shifted from 69% favoring the death penalty to 64% favoring a prison sentence instead of the death penalty. This major accomplishment was reported in University of Louisville and University of Kentucky public opinion polls. (See the KCADP newsletter of April 2008)

A major turning point in changing public opinion came in 2003, when Illinois Governor George Ryan commuted the sentences of 167 death row inmates in Illinois to life in prison. Governor Ryan explained that several exonerations had made him unsure that some of them were really guilty, and thus the state had no business putting any to death. Then the governor of New Jersey also acted very courageously by signing an abolition bill in December 2007.

Because of the fervent push by KCADP under Delahanty’s guidance for many years, Kentucky has outlawed the execution of juveniles and the mentally retarded. “The next step is seeking passage of a law barring the execution of killers who are too severely mentally ill to have known what they were doing,” he said at the recent forum. That will be the immediate goal when the legislature begins its work in January.

At the January 2008 KCADP Board meeting, the decision was made to begin a major fundraising effort to secure \$80,000 in donations each year for three years, totaling \$240,000 to be used to fund the salary of a full-time staff person and necessary office expenditures. Board members have already pledged \$24,000 as a sign of their commitment. The new staff person will oversee a volunteer speakers bureau and educational campaign, and will work with volunteer leaders to enhance the legislative lobbying initiative.

This **Next Big Step Campaign** is underway seeking generous pledges to move forward with what has already been accomplished by so many dedicated activists dating way back to its energetic beginning with Suzy Post. In recent years, the Louisville office has been maintained untiringly by Kaye Gallagher, a gracious hostess and administrator even while juggling life with two small children. (721-8885)

You can help this campaign by making your pledge but also by providing names and contact information for persons or organizations that might contribute to this effort. Send check or money order to KCADP, PO Box 3092, Louisville, KY 40201. Visit www.kcadp.org



40th Anniversary of the Israeli Military Occupation of the West Bank, the Gaza Strip and East Jerusalem June 1967-June 2007

*Call upon the U.S. to act with courage and determination
to end the occupation and secure a state of Palestine
beside the state of Israel*

at the VIGIL

Every Friday: 12 Noon – 1:00 PM
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

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Oct 10-12 (Fri-Sun) **BECOME A VOLUNTEER NONVIOLENT PEACEFORCE TRAINER.** Nonviolent Peaceforce is offering a weekend workshop for those interested in becoming a volunteer trainer for their one-day Nonviolent Conflict Intervention workshop. Training to be held near Philadelphia, PA. If you are interested, please email Carol Miller at camil888@comcast.net or call her at 443-964-4160 to request an application form.

Oct 17-18 (Fri-Sat) **GANDHI-KING CONFERENCE ON PEACEMAKING 2008:** “Constructing the World House.” Featuring plenary speakers Amy Goodman, Father Roy Bourgeois, Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Ruby Nell Sales, and Michael Nagler. Hosted at Christian Brothers University, Memphis, TN. For more information or to register, contact the Mid-South Peace and Justice Center at (901) 725-4990 or visit www.gandhikingconference.org.

Nov 11-21 **URGENT WITNESS FOR PEACE DELEGATION TO BOLIVIA.**

Nov 20-24 (Thurs-Mon) **VIGIL TO CLOSE THE U.S. ARMY’S SCHOOL OF THE ASSASSINS.** Thousands will gather at the gates of Fort Benning in Georgia for the vigil and the nonviolent direct action to close the School of the Americas. For more information, call Dotti Lockhart at 897-9680.

Calendar for peacemakers

- Oct 1 (Wed) **“WHAT ABOUT IRAN? PLANS AND PERSPECTIVES FROM FOR-USA.”** Featuring Leila Zand, the Director of the FOR-USA Iran Project. Born and raised in Iran, Leila brings special knowledge of the history and current situation in Iran. She will also discuss the special project FOR-USA has launched to address this situation in a way that is consistent with the principles of non-violence and peace building. 7:30 PM. University of Louisville, 205 Humanities Building. Free and open to the public.
- Oct 1 (Wed) **THE LOUISVILLE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM.** Meets the first Wednesday of each month. The forum’s purpose is to hold and promote the intention of sustainability for Louisville; establish and nourish relationships that strengthen community and create change; and create a space for discussion that inspires, motivates and deepens our ability to catalyze social change. Bring your lunch and enjoy the company of like-minded community members. Noon to 1:45 PM, Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, The Barn at 1924 Newburg Road.
- Oct 2 (Thurs) **INTERNATIONAL DAY OF NONVIOLENCE.** (U.N. Resolution A/61/271, adopted 6/15/2007 and introduced by India on the occasion of the birthday of **MAHATMA GANDHI**.) **“Strength comes from righteousness, not force. Power comes from truth, not might. Victory comes from moral courage, not imposed submission.”**
- Oct 2-5 (Thurs-Sun) **CROSSING BARRIERS:** The 2008 Interfaith Paths to Peace Pilgrimage for Peace and Justice. The pilgrimage will follow the path of the Underground Railroad from Louisville to Southern Indiana, with additional special events held each day. For more information, look for details at www.interfaithpathstopeace.org or call (502) 214-7322.
- Oct 4 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Dr. Blaine Hudson begins with Black and African World History (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by a featured speaker or other presentation (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue, at 35th St just north of Algonquin Parkway. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.
- Oct 5 (Sun) **SUSTAINABLE LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY.** Meets each Sunday at 2 PM at the Legal Aid Society, 416 W. Muhammad Ali. Become a part of this grassroots movement bringing principles of sustainability into local public policy. Meetings also held Monday evenings. For more information, please contact: j@bikecourier.org.
- Oct 6 (Mon) **SUSTAINABLE LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY.** Meets each Monday at 6 PM at the Center for Neighborhoods, 610 South Fourth Street, #701. Become a part of this grassroots movement bringing principles of sustainability into local public policy. Meetings also held Sunday afternoons. For more information, please contact: j@bikecourier.org.
- Oct 8 (Wed) **“DESTINY.”** A lecture by Morris Berman, author of *Wandering God, The Twilight of American Culture*, and most recently, *Dark Ages America: The Final Phase of Empire*. He is currently visiting professor at the Tecnológico de Monterrey, Mexico City. Bellarmine University, Cralle Theater. 7 PM. Free and open to the public. For more info, contact the Thomas Merton Center: 452-8187 or www.merton.org.
- Oct 8 (Wed) **KITLAC (Ky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean).** Every second Wednesday at the Presbyterian Seminary. 7:30 pm. Call David Horvath, 479-9262, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.
- Oct 9 (Thurs) **APPAP (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum).** Meets every second Thursday. Will present a documentary film related to the situation in the Middle East. 7:30 PM, League of Women Voters, 115 S Ewing. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.
- Oct 10-12 (Fri-Sun) **KFTC ANNUAL MEETING.** Held at the Kentucky Leadership Center in Jabez, Ky. Family-friendly atmosphere! Relax, meet new people, visit old friends, learn about KFTC, share stories, dance, listen to music, attend workshops, and have fun! For more information, visit: www.kftc.org.
- Oct 11 (Sat) **“PROMOTING GENDER RESPECT WITH ADOLESCENT MALES.”** This in-depth training offers effective ways to educate and engage adolescent males about gender respect and healthy relationships. In particular, the workshop will examine faith perspectives as they relate to educating and engaging male youth. Sponsored by MensWork and facilitated by Rus Ervin Funk, MSW. 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM. Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Women’s Center. \$30 (free for students). To register, contact Heather Thiessen at hthiessen@lpts.edu. For more information, contact MensWork c/o rus@rusfunk.com or 494-9044, or visit: www.mensworkinc.com.
- Oct 11 (Sat) **PEAK OIL.** Every 2nd Saturday, Main Library, 4th & York, Mezzanine, Boardroom. 9:00 AM. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.
- Oct 11 (Sat) **“THE WORK THAT RECONNECTS.”** Based on the work of Joanna Macy, this workshop is designed to help participants respond to our environmental and social crises by exploring the shift to a more life sustaining civilization. Led by Mark Steiner and Marilyn Stoner. 9 AM to 4PM, St. Matthews Episcopal Church, 330 North Hubbards Lane. \$30. Some scholarships available. For more information or to register, contact Marilyn at marilynstoner@fastmail.fm or 456-1502, or Mark at mark@interfaithrelations.org or 583-3100.
- Oct 11 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Dr. Blaine Hudson begins with Black and African World History (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by a featured speaker or other presentation (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue, at 35th St just north of Algonquin Parkway. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.
- Oct 12 (Sun) **INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON IRAN.** Featuring panelists Dr. Trita Parsi of the Iranian-American Council, and Professor David Menashri of Tel Aviv University. Moderated by Jim Wehrle. Book signing 5:15 PM to 5:30 PM, followed by dinner and program, 5:30 PM to 8 PM. Bellarmine University, Frazier Hall, 2001 Newburg Road. \$35 includes Persian buffet. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling 561-5422 or online at www.worldkentucky.org. Sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Kentucky/Southern Indiana.
- Oct 12 (Sun) **“AIM HIGHER”** focusing on military counter-recruitment. Every 2nd Sunday at 7:00 PM, 2236 Kaelin Avenue at the FOR office. This group welcomes invitations to speak about conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for high school students to “opt out” of having their names given to recruiters. Call Chris Harmer, 893-2334. colonel221@yahoo.com.
- Oct 13 (Mon) **“NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION.”** This introductory workshop on non-violent communication will

explore the method of nonviolent communication and develop participants’ skills in practicing and promoting this method. Sponsored by MensWork and facilitated by Ingrid Skoog. 6 PM to 8 PM. First Unitarian Church, 809 South Fourth Street. \$10. For More information, contact MensWork c/o rus@rusfunk.com or 494-9044, or visit: www.mensworkinc.com.

Oct 15 (Wed) **“SICK AROUND THE WORLD.”** This prize-winning Frontline/PBS documentary examines the healthcare crisis and how Japan, Taiwan, and countries in Western Europe provide full coverage for all their citizens at less cost than we spend in the U.S. 6:30 PM, New Albany-Floyd County Public Library, 180 West Spring Street. Sponsored by Hoosiers for a Commonsense Health Plan. Free and open to the public.

Oct 15 (Wed) **“AWAKENING WISDOM AND COMPASSION: Dzogchen—The Great Perfection.”** Public talk and introduction featuring the Venerable Tsoknyi Rinpoche. Gardencourt, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 7 PM. For more information, visit: <http://pyus.com/client/fv/2008b.html> or contact the Fons Vitae coordinator at gracious007@aol.com.

Oct 16 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCHEON.** “Peaceful Coexistence with Iran.” A representative from the recently formed group Iranians for Peace (IFP) will join us. The IFP is a collection of organizations made up primarily of Iranian expatriates who wish to combine their voices in support of peace. IFP welcomes participation by people of all nationalities, religions, ideologies and political orientations. Ruyard Kipling, 422 West Oak. Buffet lunch at 11:30; presentation begins at noon. \$6. Sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation and Interfaith Paths to Peace. For reservations, call Jean Edwards at 458-8056.

Oct 16 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE,** every third Thursday, 5:30 PM. Main Library, 4th & York Streets, Mezzanine Board Room. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

Oct 16 (Thurs) **ACLU OF KY BILL OF RIGHTS DINNER.** 5:30 PM-9:00 PM. The Henry Clay, Louisville. Join us for an evening of dynamic presentations focusing on our past, present and future vision for protecting civil liberties in Kentucky. For more information, details will be posted at: www.aclu-ky.org or call 502-581-9746.

Oct 16 (Thurs) **LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community)** every third Thursday evening. Douglass Blvd Christian Church, 7:00 pm. Call Judy Munro-Leighton, 456-6914. Website: www.louisvillepeace.org E-mail: pcunity@yahoo.com.

Oct 16-19 (Thurs-Sun) **“DZOGCHEN—THE GREAT PERFECTION:** A Retreat with the Venerable Tsoknyi Rinpoche on the Nature of Mind.” Law’s Lodge, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. For more information or to register, visit: <http://pyus.com/client/fv/2008b.html> or contact the Fons Vitae coordinator at gracious007@aol.com.

Oct 18 (Sat) **“RACE, POVERTY, AND HEALTHCARE.”** Featuring Dr. Adewale Troutman, Director of Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness. 9 AM–3 PM. Church of the Epiphany, 914 Old Harrods Creek Road. For more information or to register, call Mary Ann Stenger, 425-5473.

Oct 18 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Dr. Blaine Hudson begins with Black and African World History (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by a featured speaker or other presentation (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue, at 35th St just north of Algonquin Parkway. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Oct 19 (Sun) **30TH ANNIVERSARY HUNGER WALK.** Sponsored by Kindred Healthcare, the Dare to Care Food Bank and Kentuckiana Interfaith Community. 2:15 PM, Waterfront Park’s Festival Plaza. For more information or to register, contact Lauren Hensley, 966-3821, or visit: www.thehungerswalk.org.

Oct 19 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** Meets every third Sunday. First Unitarian Church, 4th & York Streets, 3:00 PM. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Oct 19 (Sun) **CONCERT FOR CONTEMPLATION** with **HARRY PICKENS**, internationally known pianist. Experience the power of music to help you slow down, relax and deepen your conscious connection with the Source of peace within. 8 PM at James Lees Memorial Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. Donations welcome. For more info, call 896-0172.

Oct 20 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE OCTOBER ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Contact **George Morrison, editor,** 944-6460, E-mail: klm86@att.net **Note: Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com, or call Nikki at 451-3402.**

Oct 24 (Fri) **ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.** Celebrate by urging your member of Congress to support US funding for the UN. It provides a much-needed forum to resolve global disputes and address transnational problems such as extreme poverty, weapons proliferation, climate change and disease.

Oct 24-26 (Fri-Sun) **CONTEMPLATIVE LIVING CONFERENCE:** Recovering the Inner Life of Humanity. This conference will explore how contemplative living in our personal, cultural and institutional lives is essential for dealing with the complexities and challenges of contemporary life. The Kentucky International Convention Center. For more information or to register, call 800-886-7275 or visit www.mertoninstitute.org.

Oct 25 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Dr. Blaine Hudson begins with Black and African World History (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by a featured speaker or other presentation (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue, at 35th St just north of Algonquin Parkway. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Oct 25 (Sat) **UNITY DINNER FEATURING DR. JOCELYN ELDERS.** Sponsored by the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. Dr. Elders was the first African-American and second woman ever to serve as Surgeon General of the U.S. She continues to work in the field of health, and is a powerful advocate for youth, people with HIV/AIDS, and for universal healthcare. \$40. For more information, call Katrina at (502) 778-8130.

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

- ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – 2nd Thursday (585-3375)
- AIDS INTERFAITH MINISTRIES (AIM) OF KENTUCKIANA, INC. – 1st Tuesday (574-6085 or 574-6086)
- AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB – 4th Tuesday (459-0616)
- AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE – 3rd Thursday, every other month at noon (608-7517)
- AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (637-8951)
- APPAP (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum) – 2nd Thursday (895-8155)
- BREAD FOR THE WORLD – 1st Tuesday (239-4317)
- CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse) – 2nd Thursday (778-8130)
- CART (Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation) – 3rd Wednesday, 1578 Bardstown Road (895-5172)
- 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 (454-7797)
- COMMUNIST PARTY USA – First Sunday at 5:00 PM (384-3875)
- COMMUNITY FARM ALLIANCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY – 2nd Tuesday (775-4041)
- CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (560-0085)
- COUNTER RECRUITMENT, “Aim Higher” – Second Sunday (893-2334)
- EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Saturday (569-1876)
- FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)
- FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (558-7175 or 895-8516)
- FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LOUISVILLE – 2nd Tuesday (893-8436)
- GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday (897-3335)
- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays (637-6265)
- INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 1st Tuesday (214-7322)
- JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)
- JURISDICTIONARY CLUB OF LOUISVILLE – Know the law and how to use it (500-8161)
- JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – 3rd Saturday (562-6737)
- KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday (589-3188)
- KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 3rd Monday (778-8130)
- KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – Last Tuesday (541-9998)
- KITLAC (KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN) – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)
- KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (245-2272)
- LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES – 3rd Sunday (451-5658)
- LOUISVILLE PEAK OIL GROUP – 2nd Saturday (425-6645)
- LPAC (LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY) – 3rd Thursday (558-9124)
- LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH – Meditation 1st & 3rd Sundays (473-8435)
- LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (893-0788), www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org
- METRO SWEEP FOR ACCESS – 3rd Tuesday (895-0866 or 899-9261)
- METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)
- MIGHTY KINDNESS – mightykindness@gmail.com (235-0711)
- MUHAMMAD ALI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, at UL (852-6372)
- NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) – 3rd Monday (776-7608)
- NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) – 2nd Monday (245-5287)
- PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)
- PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, brozier@bellsouth.net)
- RCRC [Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice] – (866-606-0988)
- RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)
- SINGLE WOMEN’S GROUP – 3rd Sunday (812-866-1667)
- 911 TRUTH LOUISVILLE (502-609-6020)
- US DEPARTMENT OF PEACE CAMPAIGN OF KY – 3rd Sunday (472-1772)
- YOUNG DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS – every Friday at 2:30 PM (712-2338)

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.