

FORsooth

Speakers differ on Iran's nuclear aims, cite US coup in '53 as conflict's origin

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

Third Thursday Lunch speakers disagreed Oct. 16 about whether Iran is likely pursuing a nuclear bomb, but said U.S. past and present aggressiveness against the Islamic nation is the wrong approach to resolve the conflict between Washington and Tehran.

The speakers were David Owen and Richard Humke — who traveled to Iran in 2006 as part of a peace delegation — and Allan Atherton of Louisville, who hasn't

See page two for story on FOR Iran-USA project director Leila Zand's talk.

been to Iran, but maintains an internet news site about Iranian-U.S. relations.

Terry Taylor moderated the discussion at the lunch, organized by the Louisville FOR and Interfaith Paths to Peace, of which Taylor is the director.

"The 2007 National Intelligence Estimate said (Iran) had stopped working on a nuclear weapons program in 2003," Atherton said, adding that the 2008



— photo by Cathy Ford

From left, David Owen, Terry Taylor, Allan Atherton and Richard Humke, share their thoughts about Iran's nuclear intentions, human rights record and history of conflict with the U.S. at the Third Thursday Lunch Oct. 16.

intelligence update said the same thing.

Atherton said after the talk that the International Atomic Energy Agency found no evidence that Iran is developing nuclear weapons.

"So we need to be careful that we don't go into a situation like we did in Iraq, where we assume what is not so," Atherton told about 35 listeners at the Rudyard Kipling Restaurant.

Concerning their nuclear energy

program, Atherton added, Iran's leaders are "maybe, not as transparent as we would like them to be, but then how transparent can we expect them to be when we may just be targeting their facilities?"

Owen, however, has a different take on whether Iran is out to become a nuclear nation, although he said even a nuclear-armed Iran poses no direct threat to other nations.

"I believe the Iranians are going for a
(continued on page 2)

Unity fete, Elders are re-set for Nov. 22

The date for the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression's 11th Annual Unity Dinner has been changed to Saturday, Nov. 22, from the original date of Oct. 25.

The location and times are the same and former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders is still to deliver the keynote speech. The dinner will be at the Masterson's Conference Center, 1830 S. Third St. in Louisville, just north of the University of Louisville campus.

Tickets cost \$40 and are available at the Carl Braden Memorial Center, 3802 W. Broadway in Louisville or by calling the Braden Center at (502) 778-8130. Tax-deductible checks should be payable to Kentucky Alliance.

The dinner starts at 6 p.m. after a social hour.

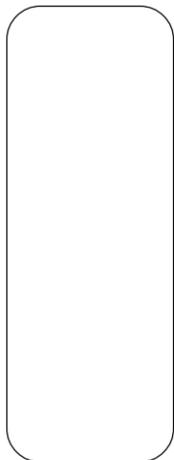
Elders, who served under President Clinton, is the author of *From Sharecropper's Daughter to Surgeon General of the United States of America*. She continues to speak out about health issues, including teenage pregnancy, HIV/AIDS, substance abuse and the need for universal healthcare.

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New meaning for old symbol

Participants in the Crossing Barriers Pilgrimage for Peace and Justice demonstrate unity between people by holding a rope (chosen to repudiate the rope's former purpose of holding slaves) in and outside the community center at St. George's Episcopal Church in West Louisville, site of many social services to the mostly African-American neighborhood. Below, two listen as St. George's Community Center director Arthur Cox speaks. The four-day event in October took pilgrims to sites involving the Underground Railroad in Louisville and New Albany, Ind.



— photos by Don Vish



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Zand: war would set back Iran progress

FORsooth staff report

Military action against Iran would only entrench its fundamentalist leaders and halt progress the nation is making toward greater freedoms, U.S. FOR organizer Leila Zand said in Louisville Oct. 1.

Zand, director of the U.S. FOR's Iran Project, which the FOR launched to address the conflict between the U.S. and Iran with nonviolence and peace building, said that while president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has unleashed persecution and homophobia, grass-roots human rights progress is evident in Iran.

She told a gathering at Central Presbyterian Church that Iranian women make up 65 percent of university entrants and that persecution of women and gays is less widespread than 20 years ago.

Zand also sees progress toward separation of church and state in Iran, adding that family planning there is more common

than in other Muslim nations.

"If we attack Iran, we will stop all these movements," Zand said. "These are really improvements. We are looking for more."

She grew up in Iran and has lived in the U.S. since 2000, when she moved to New York with her husband and twin daughters. Zand has taught at colleges and spoken at peace gatherings and before groups, with

She said too many Americans think hostile Iranian actions toward the U.S. were without any historical pretext, a view resulting from U.S. media ignoring the U.S.-organized coup in 1953 against the freely-elected Iranian government of Mohammad Mossadeq.

"The relations, actually in the point of view of many Americans, became shaky in

"It is very unfortunate that (Americans) don't remember 1953."

the aim of improving Americans' understanding of Iran and preventing war.

She said understanding the history of U.S. actions against Iran would allow more people to see the emptiness of Bush administration rhetoric about spreading freedom to the Middle East.

1979 when the Islamic revolution happened in Iran. But in our view, the Iranian view, it goes back much ahead of that, in the 1950s, when we had... a very democratic election. In 1953 Dr. Mohammad Mossadeq came to the office by a very high number of votes for him.

"That was the year General Eisenhower decided that that was not the right decision," Zand said. "That is a very bitter time for Iranians. It has a very sad scratch on the Iranian mind and soul... It is very unfortunate that (Americans) don't remember 1953."

She acknowledged Ahmadinejad's statements that the Hitler's holocaust may not have happened and the possibility that he is pursuing nuclear weapons, but asked her audience to consider how Iranians feel about similar extremist posturing by U.S. officials. Zand recalled Republican presidential candidate John McCain last year parodying a Beach Boys song, singing: "bomb, bomb, bomb, bomb Iran."

"But just think, America is the only country which ever used the nuclear bomb," she said, adding that Pakistan has exploded a nuclear bomb and Israel is widely believed to have done so.

"Iran should not have a nuclear bomb," Zand said. "But my point is, none of these other countries should have a nuclear bomb either."

Iran's nuclear aims

(continued from page 1)

bomb," said Owen, a retired international banker and graduate of the School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University. "Using it is not what they have in mind, just having it" to achieve world power status.

Taylor said a person he heard speak at a program a few days earlier on the U.S.-Iran conflict said an Iran with nuclear weapons would be a grave threat to peace even if Iran never used them, because mere possession could spark a nuclear arms race in Mideast.

Aside from Iran's nuclear intentions, Atherton said another troublesome misconception is about Iranian president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's statement that Israel should be wiped off the map, which Atherton's news site said is the result of a mistranslation. The site (use key words "Allan Atherton" on searches) said the Farsi words for "map" and "wipe out" were not actually used by Ahmadinejad and the president's statement was much more limited, essentially calling for a change in the control of occupied Palestine.

Owen said that on his 2006 trip, Iranians maintained that what motivated the U.S. to pressure Iran to discontinue its nuclear program was concern over a threat to technological, not military superiority.

"What I found in talking to the people there, they said 'America does not want us to have nuclear power.' They didn't say 'America doesn't want us to have nuclear bombs.' They believe that we just don't want them to have nuclear power."

The speakers acknowledged the Iranian government's persecution of gays and members of the Bahá'í Faith. When asked what activists could do to help those groups without inadvertently lending momentum to a U.S. war drive, Owen said that the struggle for the human rights of

gays and Bahá'ís is the Iranian people's, not ours.

He explained that if the regime were able to tie the struggle to the U.S., it would weaken it. "It's better for those (Bahá'í and gay) people in Iran that we don't do that," Owen told the lunch.

Humke, a retired rector of Saint Matthew's Episcopal Church in Louisville, said guides told him on the 2006 trip not to discuss gays, Bahá'ís or Israel with Iranians because the subjects "would be placing people on the spot."

Owen said he met Iranian Bahá'ís who said members of the faith could not enroll in universities or get government jobs, but that some took the initiative to create an on-line university, an achievement that contrasts with the mood of stories he heard of Bahá'ís being hanged or jailed in Iran.

Humke said understanding that the U.S. threw the first punch in the conflict with Iran — 26 years before the taking of American hostages by Iranian militants in 1979 — is a first step toward resolving the tensions, a step he said few Americans seem prepared to take.

"The CIA had overthrown a legitimately elected government," he said, recalling the coup against Prime Minister Mohammad Mossadeq in 1953 after Mossadeq nationalized Iran's foreign-controlled oil industry. "Most Americans didn't... seem to know anything about that at the time of the Islamic revolution."

Planned speaker Haleh Karimi, co-founder of Iranians for Peace, was unable to appear because of a scheduling conflict. The Nov. 20 Third Thursday Lunch will be about Witness for Peace delegations to Guatemala and Colombia. For details, see ad on page five.

Austrian courses in peace in 2009

People interested in studying conflict resolution and peace — and who have the time and money to relocate next year — can learn from some of the world's best teachers.

The European University Center for Peace Studies (EPU) in the medieval town of Stadtschlaining, Austria said it will offer courses taught in English by people experienced in conflict resolution, mediation and peace building.

Enrollment is limited and an Austrian visa, which could take months to receive, is required, so people interested should contact the EPU soon for information about the next two trimesters, which are from Feb. 1 to April 25 and May 31 to Aug. 22, the university said in an e-mail, adding that enrollment can be made any time before a trimester.

Completing three trimesters, which may be done in any order and over several years, qualifies a student for a master's degree (after writing a thesis), the EPU said.

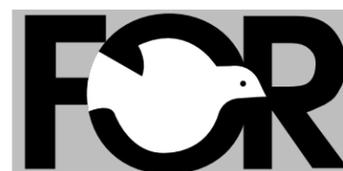
A trimester costs 2,500 Euros in tuition (which is about \$3,300). Room rent is 1,400 Euros, or about \$1,800, for a trimester, the university said. There may be other, smaller charges, but the EPU said partial scholarships are available.

"We seek to enable our students to help build a more peaceful, equitable and just global society, in harmony with nature," the EPU e-mail said. "The Program was founded in 1988 by Dr. Gerald Mader, our president. It has so far educated about 1,000 students from about 100 countries in peace studies and conflict transformation. It received the 1995 UNESCO Peace Education Prize."

For more information, contact the EPU at www.epu.ac.at or administrative assistant Anita Flasch at epu@epu.ac.at.

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>.

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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.

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Date Change



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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!

Homelessness, part 2: new method could be a solution

by Ike M. Thacker IV and Eustace Durrett

In the most recent *FORsooth* (October 2008), we discussed the catastrophe that is homelessness in the United States and in Louisville. We pointed out that HUD *admits* to a “problem” of almost staggering scope: on any given night in the U.S., more than 750,000 people are homeless, and over the course of a year almost five times that many (3.5 million persons) are homeless at one time or another [as also noted last month, the figures for Louisville reflect a similar 5:1 ratio, with 2,406 homeless on a chosen night in January 2008 and 11,257 served by shelters and the like over the course of 2007].

We also suggested in the October issue that homelessness is a very bad thing for those who experience it; that the number of homeless *families* is increasing at a breakneck pace in Louisville (more than 50 percent a year) and that there are only 51 shelter beds for these families, which total more than 2,600 people in Louisville; that many families are thus turned away; and that, both locally and nationally, homelessness is a very solvable problem.

The burden of this second and final installment in our series is simple: first, we will show in more detail just how horrific a problem homelessness is; and second, we will show that solving it is pretty simple—to

perhaps *oversimplify* a bit here, you just put homeless people in (apartment) homes, without onerous bureaucratic and personal preconditions. This (of course) is what they themselves want; and it works *far* better than the current system, in which a person must be clean and sober, and demonstrate the “ability” to live on their own, before being allowed to have a place of their own.

Our first argument is that, far from being the minor problem that both the Louisville and U.S. governments treat homelessness as, it is in fact one of the most calamitous things that can happen to a person or family, leading *very* often to miserable lives of sickness and misery, followed by early death.

One could cite literally thousands of studies and scholarly theses to prove this simple point (Google-ing even with very limiting parameters yields more than 39,000 “hits”); we will select a few.

First, the homeless often go hungry. This is the conclusion of a U.S. Department of Agriculture study which found that 37 percent of the homeless eat one meal a day or less, and that 36 percent go one or more days a week without eating at all.

Second, the homeless are often sick. As the National Academy of Sciences has reported: “The fundamental problem encountered by homeless people—lack of a stable residence—has a direct and deleterious impact on health. Not only does

homelessness cause health problems, it perpetuates and exacerbates poor health by seriously impeding efforts to treat disease and reduce disability.” Soup kitchens serve what they can afford; bed rest is impossible if you don’t have a bed. The simplest prescriptions for getting well cannot be effected by the homeless.

And there are myriad problems that need treating. In the conservative journal *Commentary*, Harvard’s Thomas J. Main reports that 70-80 percent of homeless persons suffer from one or more major disability; James D. Wright, after studying nearly 30,000 homeless persons seen in health clinics nationwide, found that homeless children suffer various physical disorders at rates “two to ten times those seen among children in general.”

Third, homelessness *kills* people. Wright notes that only about three percent of the homeless are over 65; this is the result of several factors, but a very significant one is that lives on the street end early. A study of deaths of the homeless in Atlanta, reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, found that the median age at death was 44; a Swedish study has found that observed mortality among the homeless in Sweden “exceeded the age-adjusted expected mortality by approximately four;” and a nationwide study conducted in the U.S. found that the average age at death for homeless persons was 51.

‘Nuff said (we hope). Homelessness is a horror. And perhaps the cruelest thing of all is that it could be, but has not been, solved virtually any time we really *want* to solve it, by simply putting homeless persons into homes, whether they are sober/straight and “deserving” (and “able to benefit”) or not. This may seem “too good to be true,” and some treatment and oversight of the previously homeless will still be necessary, but true it is; and this is our second main argument.

Sam Tsemberis, a Ph. D, is the founder and executive director of Pathways to Housing. His essential idea is that we should *reverse* the way we treat the problem of homelessness: the status quo, he says, essentially requires “treatment and sobriety before housing,” whereas we should be providing “housing first.” His argument makes all the sense in the world, since all people need a place to live, whether they are sober and mentally healthy or not. We contend also that everybody *deserves* a home.

As noted above, homeless persons *want* to have places to live, without personal and bureaucratic preconditions. Thus it really should not be surprising to us that they are successful when they do. This despite the fact that under Tsemberis’ plan treatment and support services are “offered not required,” and that relapses are expected and do not result in eviction. All a client must agree to is a weekly visit from his multidisciplinary “team:” other than this, housing and services are entirely separate and consumer (client) choice is almost absolute. To avoid the not-in-my-back-yard (NIMBY) phenomenon, less than 20 percent of any building is used in the program.

There is a good deal of evidence to strongly suggest that this approach works, and works much better than the present system with its onerous burdens on the prospective tenant. First, there is the evidence from Westchester County, NY, where the number of homeless persons has been reduced by two-thirds since January 1998 using a housing-first approach (with a lower cost than previously). Second, there are a Veterans Administration study conducted in 11 cities and a HUD study specifically dealing with housing first conducted in six, each of which found retention rates of about 85 percent after the first year.

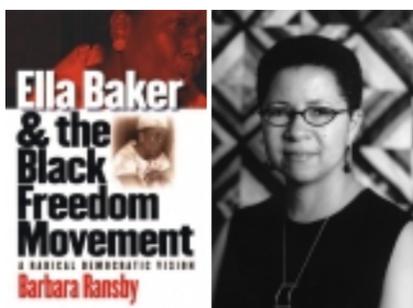
And finally there is “the” study, of 225 clients in New York City, 126 using the “old” system and 99 using housing first. This 36-month longitudinal study found that from the 12-month point on, homeless time was almost nonexistent (less than 3 percent) for those clients using housing first, as compared to the old system’s 126 consumers, for whom homeless time never fell below about 20 percent. The difference in the percentage of time a person was stably housed was quite great, too: 73 to 80 percent for housing first, versus about 40 percent for conventional methods.

All of this, too, was achieved at a substantial savings over the old system: the “alternatives” to housing first mostly cost more than \$100/day. Only putting people up in shelters, at \$51/day, was even close to housing first’s supportive housing approach, which cost only \$34/day.

In short, the catastrophe of homelessness cries out for answers to its insistent queries; and the answer to those questions, at least in its broad outlines, is already at hand. The only remaining query is, “What are we waiting for?” We find ourselves back where this brief two-article series started: “Homelessness” in the United States and in Louisville should become a meaningless term.

2nd Annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture

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A Dark Night Musing

Power Out
Darkness now
Candle lit
Tis so quiet
Alone
Ears strain
To glean God's humor
As neighbors come together
To share
Fallen trees
And communion of souls.
Sun down
Silence within
Candle
Flickers
Awaiting the morn

— Earl O'Bannon

SEPARATE IS NEVER EQUAL

STORIES FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND PALESTINE

7:30 PM, NOVEMBER 20, CHAO AUDITORIUM EKSTROM LIBRARY



Two Palestinian women approaching the Kalandia checkpoint on the road between Ramallah and Jerusalem

Doctor Diana Buttu

Law Degree from Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario and Ph.D. from Stanford University
Legal advisor to the Palestinian Liberation Organization on negotiations with Israel

Reverend Eddie Makue

General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches

World leaders including Nelson Mandela and Jimmy Carter have called for the world to recognize that the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza has created a society strikingly similar to South Africa under apartheid. Diana Buttu will describe conditions on the West Bank and Gaza where four million Palestinians live on nonviable pieces of land, cut off from the outside world and from each other by a concrete wall and more than five hundred checkpoints. In contrast to the dire poverty of the Palestinian population, Israeli citizens consume most of the country's resources and move about freely on modern by-pass roads. Eddie Makue, from the South African Council of Churches, will describe the many parallels between the current situation on the West Bank and the former system of apartheid in South Africa, where the majority of the population was concentrated in Bantu lands.

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AND POLITICAL REPRESSION



Calendar

(continued from back page)

Nov. 20 (Thurs) **SEPARATE IS NEVER EQUAL: STORIES FROM PALESTINE AND SOUTH AFRICA.** Featuring Dr. Diana Buttu, attorney and legal advisor to the Palestinian Liberation Organization, and the Reverend Eddie Makue, General Secretary of the South African Council of Churches. Sponsored by the U.S. Campaign to End the (Israeli) Occupation. They will address the situation of Palestinians living under occupation today and discuss the many parallels between the current situation on the West Bank and the former system of apartheid in South Africa. 7:30 PM, University of Louisville, Ekstrom Library, Chao Auditorium. For more information, call Pat Geier at 456-6586.

Nov 22 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by: "Catching Up: The Story of the Monfort Point Marines," with Thomas Cork and Charles Stallard (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Nov 22 (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, Masterson's Restaurant. For more information, call Katrina at (502) 778-8130.

Nov 24 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER/JANUARY 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.** (Please note that the December and January issues will be combined.)

Nov 24 (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.

Nov 25 (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.

Dec 3 (Wed) **DINING OUT FOR LIFE** at local restaurants. Have breakfast, lunch, or dinner at any of 59 participating restaurants and a portion of your bill will benefit Glade House HIV/AIDS services, managed by House of Ruth. Call 587-5080 to request a list of restaurants or visit: www.diningoutforlife.com/Louisville.

Dec 4 (Thurs) **PEACE EDUCATION GAMES DAY—PART ONE.** A fun and energizing workshop teaching about cooperative games. 10 AM-2 PM. 318 West Kentucky Street. \$55 fee includes written material, boxed lunch and loads of fun! Limited to 40 participants, so register early. Call the Peace Education Program at 589-6583 for more information.

Dec 4 (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.

Dec 5 (Fri) **HUMAN RIGHTS CELEBRATION** sponsored by Church Women United, recognizing those in our community who have been working for human rights, especially children's rights. Theme: "God's Wisdom Honors Children." Metropolitan Community Church, 1432 Highland Ave, 10:00 AM Registration, 10:30 AM program. Call Rev. Dee Dale, 895-8494.

Dec 9 (Tue) **JUST CREATIONS SPECIAL SHOPPING NIGHT FOR KCADP.** From 6-8 PM on this night only, Just Creations will donate 15% of all sales to the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. 2722 Frankfort Ave.

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

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.

College Press Convention, 1981

You came into this world
As your family were told
To ask what they could
Do for their country.
Tonight, as they have been advised instead
That government *is* the problem,
We gaze from a hillcrest
At the very bottom of your Midwest
At the lights of the South's
Northernmost city, an even brighter
Galaxy spangled overhead.
And I ask myself:
Where did you come from, Rose Marie?
Or should I ask, what have you
been through?
Did your people down tools
For an eight-hour day?
Did they never miss Mass?
When the priest turned around,
Were they shocked at first?
When the kitchen lost its monopoly
On your gender, and you lost your chains,
Were you scared at first?
You have a wide-eyed look
And a little deference in your
Mellifluous voice that hints that
You were called princess now and then
In a home where father was presumed
To know best.
But tonight, opportunities radiate
With the preponderance of the stars.
Will you reach for them wholeheartedly
Or be pulled down by the artificial gravity
We call normalcy?
Change and tradition co-exist in you.
You are their very intersection.
And decades after that night on
the hillcrest,
I crave an answer to the question:
Which way did you go, Rose Marie?

— George Morrison

Housing crisis is top black caucus issue

by Gracie Lewis

In this year of unprecedented political inroads, we came together in September for the Congressional Black Caucus 38th Annual Legislative Conference under the Theme: Embracing the Promise, Realizing the Vision.

About 18,000 people attended the four-day conference at the Walter E. Washington Convention Center in Washington, D.C. It featured dozens of policy forums, general sessions, exhibits, a job fair, book signings and networking opportunities. U.S. Reps. Corrine Brown of Florida and Gregory W. Meeks of New York were honorary co-chairpersons of the conference.

Each year, the ALC offers a chance to discuss important issues facing our community. Naturally, this year the top issue was the record number foreclosures in our country. A town hall meeting was held to deal with the foreclosure crisis.

"The major source of wealth in our community has always been our homes. Now we're eroding that with mortgage schemes and gimmicks," said Rep. Brown. She, along with other panelists, emphasized the importance of not only solving the financial crisis on Wall Street, but also regulating unethical lenders and educating potential homeowners about financial issues involved in home ownership.

The meeting, titled: "Foreclosure Crisis: Reasons, Repercussions and Real Solutions," began with Rep. Barney Frank of Massachusetts giving an overview of the pending congressional foreclosure bill. Rep. Frank, chairman of the House Financial Service Committee, said he wanted to create an oversight board to track how the proposed \$700 billion bailout would be spent. This was soon included in the bill that President Bush signed into law Oct. 3 called the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (H.R. 4221).

This landmark legislation empowers the Secretary of the Treasury to purchase

up to \$700 billion in troubled assets from financial institutions doing business in the United States in an effort to minimize foreclosures through a troubled assets relief program ("TARP").

Other panelists discussed how and why the mortgage crisis affected African Americans more profoundly. Lawrence H. Parks, senior vice-president for external and legislative affairs for the Federal Home Loan Bank of San Francisco, pointed out that a "good portion of people in subprime loans could have qualified for prime loans."

He was seconded by Rep. Maxine Waters of California, who said mortgage lenders used to "literally draw red lines around communities and say 'We don't want to deal with them.' When the lenders did decide to work with minority communities, they often offered 'exotic products' such as no-down payment loans," she said. "Many of our people were seduced into mortgages they couldn't afford."

To try to ensure these practices don't happen again, a discussion was held on how to educate people about finances, how mortgages work and how to buy a house they can afford. Stacy Tisdale, author and financial expert on NBC's "Today Show" said the results of her six-year study showed that people manage their money the same way their parents did; if their parents didn't save, they don't save. She believes that more time and money should be devoted to financial education, including non-profit programs and pre-purchase counselors.

Since the conference was held, President Bush signed H.R. 4221; a landmark piece of legislation which included a number of taxpayer and homeowner protections:

Home ownership Preservation. The bill maximizes and coordinates efforts to modify mortgages for homeowners at risk of foreclosure and require loan modification for mortgages owned or controlled by the federal government. Finally, it improves

the Hope for Homeowners Program by expanding eligibility and increasing the tools available to help more families keep their homes.

Taxpayer protection. The legislation requires companies that sell some of their bad assets to the government to provide warrants so that taxpayers will benefit from any future growth these companies may experience as a result of participation in this program.

No Windfalls for Executives. So that executives could not dump their bad assets on the government and then walk away with millions of dollars in bonuses, the law orders limits to CEO compensation and that all unearned bonuses be returned.

Strong Oversight. Rather than giving the Treasury all of the funds at once, the legislation gives it \$250 billion immediately, then \$100 billion; then \$350 billion subject to Congressional approval. It also establishes an Oversight Board and a special inspector general to protect against waste, fraud and abuse.

In other conference issues:

Rep. Danny Davis of Illinois released the results of a comprehensive report exploring key factors impacting academic outcomes for African American males.

The report, called "Breaking Barriers, Plotting the Path to Academic Success for School-Age African-American Males," analyzed success indicators from national surveys that together give voice to nearly 5,800 pupils from schools across the country. Breaking Barriers suggests policy solutions that will assist policymakers, educators, school advocates, families and others enabling African-American males to have greater success in the classroom and afterward.

Rep. John Conyers of Michigan held a forum on his bill, H.R. 676, The U.S. National Health Insurance Act (the single-payer bill currently in Congress). Kay Tillow, a leader of Kentuckians for Single Payer Healthcare, was one of the panelists.

A workshop on "Election Protection" was held to empower attendees with the information, knowledge and skills needed to conduct strong voter education and ensure fair elections in their communities. This was sponsored by the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law.

On Friday, September 26, more than 1,000 people watched the historic debate between the presidential candidates. Attendees said they were excited about this election and about being able to watch the debate with like-minded folks.

U.S. Sen. Barack Obama received the Phoenix Award at the ALC Annual Dinner. The Phoenix Award recognizes those who through their efforts and accomplishments have made significant contributions to society. Other Phoenix Award winners included Massachusetts Governor Deval Patrick, New York Governor David A. Paterson and actress and humanitarian Kerry Washington. Obama hailed the Black Caucus, founded nearly 40 years ago, as laying the groundwork for his nomination and he asked for their support.

I am looking forward to Election Day and attending the inauguration.

The writer is an activist with the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression and REACT, a group fighting toxic pollution in Louisville.

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation & Interfaith Paths to Peace

September 2008 to January 2009

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)



Life devoted to cleansing US of racism, foul language

The issues of race and racism seem never out of any discussion of U.S. politics. When the U.S. Supreme Court rules on affirmative action, the death penalty or a myriad of other issues, race is in the mix.

The U.S. Congress — from the days of slavery to the Reconstruction period, to the control by southern Democratic Party racists in the 1960s, like James Eastland of Mississippi, who held the legislative agenda hostage with his virulent racism, to the Republican Southern Strategy — race is a core issue.

And now comes Barack Obama, getting set to become the first black president of the U.S., and race once again is front and center, as opposed to the content of his character and his program for governance.

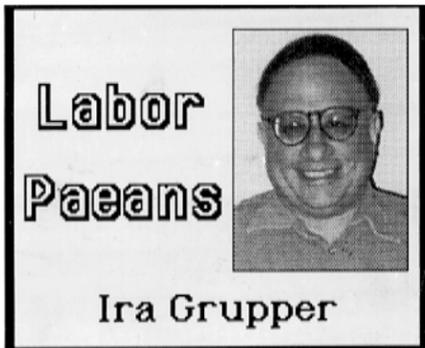
So, your columnist must think back to the 1960s, when I was a civil rights worker, in Georgia and Mississippi. The rest of this column contains the text of your humble scribe's eulogy for a most extraordinary woman who died recently at age 84. We were at Owens Chapel Missionary Baptist Church in a small Mississippi town in the southern part of the state, located between Jackson, Miss. and New Orleans.

I first met Ms. Mary Spencer during the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s here in Columbia, Miss.

Ms. Mary was one of the most dedicated freedom fighters I have ever known. She was smart, tenacious, determined — and kind and gentle as well.

Her life was not easy. She worked long hours in a white woman's house, cooking, cleaning and then some. Then, she came home to cook some more for her husband Lonzo; and her son, Robert; and a lovely little girl, Sheila, who the Spencers took into their home.

As if that were not enough, Ms. Mary fed Curtis Styles, a civil rights worker who had come to Columbia some time earlier to



open up Marion County to the Movement, as we called it back then.

She also fed me, and she sometimes fed W. J. McClinton, legendary civil rights worker, who was born right here in Columbia.

And, just so you'll know, having anything to do with the MFDP, the Mississippi Freedom Democrat Party, could cost you your job, your house, and sometimes your life.

It cost Ms. Mary her house. The bank foreclosed and the family had to move out.

Ms. Mary had little formal education. But she had a real education in true life, in the struggle for a world free from racial segregation, apartheid made right here in the USA.

After Ms. Mary fed us, she would stand — while we sat and ate — in her own house. Curt and I didn't know what to do. We did not want to disrespect Ms. Mary in her own house and yet we felt so ashamed sitting while she stood.

So we hit on a plan. Ms. Mary served us dinner one day and stood while we ate. Curtis and I stood up. Curtis said very gently but very determinedly: "Ms. Mary, if you have to stand while we eat, so do we."

So, Ms. Mary sat down in her own house and ate. She had tears in her eyes and so did Curtis. And so did I.

We would not let the racists control us ideologically and Ms. Mary knew this. After the meal, she hugged Curt and me very tightly.

Now, I was known to have a big, nasty, dirty mouth. I was alone with Ms. Mary in her house and uttered a bad four-letter word.

Says Ms. Mary: "Boy, get you into the bathroom." So I went into the bathroom. "Boy, fill that glass up with water and put the bar of soap in the glass."

Not many of you know this, but Ms. Mary tried to organize a maids' union in Columbia. Unfortunately, she found it impossible to do so — too many separate workplaces. But this indicates how determined Ms. Mary was to build a better world.

Some of you younger people need to write a history of the Movement here in Columbia. When you do, the name "Mary Spencer" will have a prominent place. Now, at 84, she joins the ancestors.

Ms. Mary tried to organize a maids' union in Columbia. Unfortunately, she found it impossible to do so — too many separate workplaces. But this indicates how determined Ms. Mary was to build a better world.

"Now drink the water." I replied: "I aint gonna do it."

"You what?" Ms. Mary said, with her hands on her hips and with her blocking the bathroom door.

So I drank some of the water and she moved out of the way. When I reached the front door and opened it, sick to my stomach, Ms. Mary asked me: "Now boy, what have you learned today?"

And I responded: "I learned not to curse in your damn house."

She came after me, but I ran out of the house. When I looked back, Ms. Mary was shaking her head but also smiling like a Cheshire cat.

Ms. Mary truly personified the words in one civil rights song: "And Before I'll be a slave, I'll be buried in my grave. And go home to my Lord. And be free."

Rest in Peace, Ms. Mary Spencer.

Contact Ira Grupper at: Irag@iglou.com.

FINANCIAL REPORT September 2008

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$10,708.95
FORsooth ads	110.00
Donations & Honorariums	<u>1,275.00</u>
TOTAL	\$12,093.95

EXPENDITURES:	
FORsooth Editing	\$150.00
FORsooth Layout	100.00
FORsooth Printing	306.00
FORsooth Mailing	200.00
FOR National Dues	75.00
Website, FORsooth labels	127.22
Office Expenses	<u>173.77</u>
	\$1,131.99 <u>\$1,131.99</u>
ENDING BALANCE	\$10,961.96

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IN OUR NAME
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*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*

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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

JULIE'S JOTTINGS FROM JERUSALEM

Imagine my surprise after I finally went to Julie's blogspot and quickly found myself immersed in her thoughts. It was so easy. Why did it take me so long? And there I was, visiting with Sister Julie Driscoll as in the days of yore, caught up in her spell, sharing the excitement of *The Blessing of Galilee*.

She then proceeds to develop the theme *Galilee Worth Waiting For*. She asked, "Have you had experiences in your life that matched all the expectations you had before hand? Galilee was such an experience for me." She continued.

"On our way there, we road up the west coast of Israel along the Mediterranean Sea which provided beautiful scenery for a couple of hours until we reached Caesarea Maritima (mentioned in Acts 10:24 on), an extensive palace built by Herod the Great right on the sea. It served as capital of Palestine for almost 600 years and later as a Crusader port.

We continued on to Mount Carmel, where Elijah is remembered for his contest with the prophets of Baal (1 Kings 18:20-46). We climbed to the top of this mountain and had a comprehensive view of the Jezreel Valley below. Our guide also pointed out the airstrip that was used by Israeli forces to attack Lebanon, just north of where we were standing during the war in 2006.

On our way east, we stopped at Magiddo, a main port and center for armies and trade in the ancient world. Then we proceeded east to our hotel in Tiberias, right on the Sea of Galilee. On our way, we passed Nazareth, nested in the hills."

Julie Driscoll, Sister of Charity of Nazareth is in Israel on an extended study leave. Limited space allows us to share only this bit of Julie's very long article. It is fascinating reading which will carry you right away to a sense of actually being there with her. Indeed, you will feel richly educated besides. We ask everyone to continue reading by going to Julie's blogspot: <http://juliesjottingsfromjerusalem.blogspot>

Another undreamed of expectation occurred while Sister Julie was spending time in Israel. Who would ever have thought that a breakthrough might occur in the Israeli-Palestinian controversy?

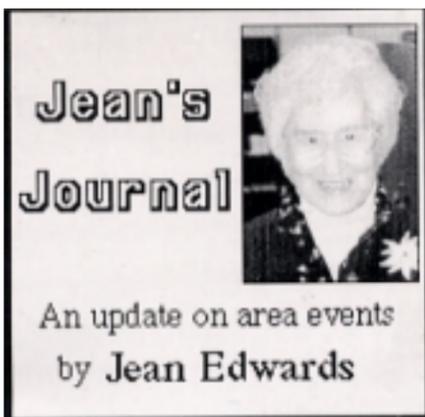
It was at the end of September, 2008, that the outgoing Prime Minister of Israel, **Ehud Olmert** declared publicly that the territory seized by Israel during the Six-Day War in 1967 will have to be given back. The whole world has reacted in disbelief.

After forty years of bitter struggle, how could this courageous announcement come about?

While Mr. Olmert has nothing to lose politically, since he had to resign in the face of a police inquiry into fraud and corruption allegations, still he is the first Israeli leader to speak out. He stresses the need to move quickly for an agreement while the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas remains in office. He recognizes also that the months of individual negotiations with Syria and the Palestinians have made little progress.

As for the alternative, Mr. Olmert warned of the very great danger of a bloody clash which will thwart any possibility of continuing negotiations. He promises to continue working for an agreement in the weeks he still has before he must stand down when his successor, **Tzipi Livni** takes over as leader of the ruling Kadima Party. Hopefully she will form a workable coalition.

(Information taken from an article by Donald Macintyre, 30 September 2008, in Israel's biggest-selling newspaper Yediot Ahronot.)



ANNOUNCING THE THIRD PAUL ROBESON FILM FESTIVAL

Plans are in the works for another film festival set to take place next January and February. Anyone interested in volunteering to help with this production should contact Eustace Durrett or Ike Thacker at 502-384-3875.

EARTH DAY CONTEST IN PROGRESS

The Kentucky Council of Churches has announced a "contest" with prizes that include a \$1,000 grand prize. Contestants are asked to "tell us what needs to be done between "Earth Day 2008 and Earth Day 2009 to make the world a more stable, healthier place."

The contest is structured for participation by people of all ages. Contest details can be viewed at <http://www.kycouncilofchurches.org/EarthDayToDay.html>. The contest began April 22, 2008 and ends January 1, 2009.

The winners will be announced by the Kentucky Council of Churches' Program Unit on Local Economies and the Environment on April 22, 2009.

COUNTER RECRUITMENT IN HIGH SCHOOLS

The Jefferson County Schools have agreed that the **FOR** and others have a right to "equal access" to the high schools. This is good news! Details will follow soon.

In order to proceed with this, we will very much need *volunteers* to set up lunchtime tables in the high schools, beginning in the near future. To help out, please call Jean Edwards at 458-8056, Chris Harmer at 893-2334, or Dennis Bricking at 895-8516.

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Photographer was for those unable to afford their own

by Eustace Durrett and Ike M. Thacker IV

It took Ezra Bookstein seven years to finish his bio-documentary, "The Rich Have their Own Photographers," a study of the work and life of the internationally renowned photographer Milton Rogovin. The movie, in its excellence, justifies those seven years.

The film's recent showing at the Elaine Chao Auditorium in the Ekstrom Library at the University of Louisville was sponsored by the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, the Ekstrom Library's Special Collections, and the Commonwealth Center for the Humanities. It was shown in late September in conjunction with a month-long exhibition of Rogovin's work in Ekstrom Library.

Rogovin and his brother trained as optometrists and opened an optical shop in their hometown of Buffalo, N.Y. Beginning his career as a photographer, Milton Rogovin has been quoted as saying, "The rich have their own photographers."

True to his word, his photographs are of the working class, the poor, the miners, factory workers, and the people of the street.

Rogovin's first folio consisted of pictures of the miners and the people of Appalachia (particularly Kentucky and West Virginia). Developing as a photographer, optometrist, and activist, Rogovin said of himself that he was a Jewish socialist and a socialist photographer.

His wife of 61 years, Anne (a special education teacher and union member who

was named a *Buffalo News* "Citizen of the Year" in 1993 and died ten years later of brain cancer), was his constant companion and his fellow activist, and took care of the clerical side of the photography work.

Anne was an author and activist in her own right; in scene after scene in the movie, though, she is beside Milton. It could be said that they were forever together, something not applicable to many marriages.

They had three children, a boy and two girls. In their family tradition, all three of the children are activists. Mark, the son,

Mark, imitating his father, would question the people about their work, and how they made a living. Once, a gentleman refused to answer Mark's father about this. Although Milton Rogovin seemed satisfied with the man's refusal, the young Mark Rogovin decided to get an answer from the man.

Mark was insistent, but failed to get an answer as well. Later, his father explained to Mark that it is impolite to insist that the neighborhood drug dealer tell one what he does for a living.

*Educational materials, photographs and a video about Milton Rogovin, as well as schedules of his exhibitions, can be downloaded at www.miltonrogovin.com. More on the great photographer and activist can be found on the *Syracuse Cultural Workers (SCW)* web site at www.syracuseculturalworkers.com. Enter his name on the search line.*

has inherited the visual acumen of his father: he is a muralist, and was instrumental in the design and issuance of the Paul Robeson postage stamp.

An anecdote that is told about Mark Rogovin follows. When Mark was six years old, he often accompanied his father when Milton Rogovin walked the streets of Buffalo photographing the people there. He was used to having his father ask those he photographed what kind of work they did.

In 1967, parlaying on his success with the Kentucky and West Virginia miners and other collections, Rogovin developed a folio featuring the work and lives of the miners of southern Chile. The Nobel Prize-winning poet Pablo Neruda of Chile invited Rogovin to his country and wrote the introduction to this folio. In that introduction, Neruda said of Milton Rogovin's photographs that they were "pictures of truth."

Among his extensive collections of

photographs, Rogovin's favorite is a folio he calls *Triptychs*, in which part of the history of a six-square-block community on the Lower West Side of Buffalo is visually chronicled. It consists of photographs taken in 1972, of people in this working-class neighborhood. Then, there are pictures of these same people, taken ten years after the original photographs, and then ten years after that (Rogovin actually went back a fourth time, in 2002, which resulted in some quartets).

In 1957, during the McCarthy era witch hunts, Milton Rogovin was called before a HUAC committee hearing. He was featured on the front page of the local newspaper, as the number one "red" in Buffalo. He was asked the usual questions, "Are you now, or have you ever been" and, "Name your Communist associates."

Rogovin stood on his constitutional rights and refused to answer their questions. As he explains, "Many people who took the same stance were branded, their careers ruined, and their livelihood taken from them." He says that he avoided a similar fate thanks to the optometry shop he ran with his brother.

Today, Milton Rogovin is 98 and his favorite weekly activity is joining his fellow Buffalo protesters against the Iraq War each Saturday — in his wheelchair.

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

Calendar for peacemakers

- Nov 1 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by UofL Showcase: Art & Culture Partnerships, "The Art of Frederick Hart." Featuring Karen Axmaker and Prof. Elaine Wise (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.
- Nov 2 (Sun) **SUSTAINABLE LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY.** Every 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. For details, contact: j@bikecourier.org.
- Nov 3 (Mon) **SUSTAINABLE LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY.** Every 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. For details, contact: j@bikecourier.org.
- Nov 5 (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.
- 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.
- Nov 7 (Fri) **4TH ANNUAL "OUT & ABOUT" GALA EVENT.** Benefitting the Kentucky Fairness Alliance and the Fairness Campaign. 7 PM - 11 PM. 21C Museum Hotel. Program to include a silent auction, buffet by Proof on Main, and dancing. Tickets \$125 per person. For more information, visit www.kentuckyfairness.org.

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

Sponsored by the Center for Interfaith Relations.
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 LaDuke 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. St. 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.

Nov 8 (Sat) **PEAK OIL.** Every 2nd Saturday, Main Library, 4th & York, Mezzanine, Boardroom. 9:00 AM. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

- Nov 8 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by the Race and Reality Series: "Prisoner's Rights," with Albert Caples and Atty. Michael Goodwin. (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.
- Nov 9 (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.

Nov. 10 (Mon): **2ND ANNUAL ANNE BRADEN MEMORIAL LECTURE.** "What Now, What Next? Revisiting the Radical Voices of the Civil Rights Movement" by Dr. Barbara Ransby, award-winning author of *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision*. Book-signing at 5 PM; lecture at 5:30 PM. UofL School of Music, Comstock Auditorium. Sponsored by the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research. For more info, call 852-6142 or visit www.louisville.edu/annebradeninstitute.

Nov 12 (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.

Nov 13 (Thurs) **APPAF (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum).** Every second Thursday. Documentary: "The Role of Religion in the Arab-Israeli Conflict" with Karen Armstrong. 7:30 PM, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, Room 10. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Nov 15 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by The Female Perspective: "Dealing with Intimate Partner Conflict," with Dr. Renee Campbell-Mapp, and "Young Gifted & Black: African in America," with special guests (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Nov 16 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** Every third Sunday. First Unitarian Church, 4th & York Streets, 3:00 PM. Call Beverly Marmion, 451-5658.

Nov 16 (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.

Nov 20 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH.** "Witness for Peace Delegations to Guatemala and Colombia." Participants in recent delegations will reflect on their experiences. Cory Lockhart will discuss efforts to end the violence in Colombia, trade policies between the U.S. and Colombia, and the effectiveness of the coca eradication program "Plan Colombia." Dennis Bricking will focus on the many reasons people emigrate to the U.S. from Guatemala and how they must deal with *coyotes* in attempting to cross the border. Rudyard 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.

Nov 20 (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.

Nov 20 (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. Email: pcunity@yahoo.com.

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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)
- APPAF (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.