

FORsooth

Letters to a powerful Kentuckian called crucial for ratification of test-ban treaty

by Ike M. Thacker IV and Eustace Durrett

Letters to U.S. Senator Mitch McConnell are needed, a speaker said Oct. 15, to prevent him from using his power as Senate Minority Leader to “really gum up the works” of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, of which President Obama pledged during the 2008 campaign to seek ratification.

Friends Committee on National Legislation nuclear issues representative David Culp, one of two Third Thursday Lunch speakers, said the president is within about four Senate votes of the 67 needed for ratification.

The U.S signed the treaty in 1996, but the agreement fell well short of the needed 67 in a 48-51 ratification vote in 1999, Culp and FCNL national executive secretary Joe Volk said during the monthly lunch sponsored by the Louisville FOR and Interfaith Paths to Peace.

The treaty, known as the CTBT, would ban all nuclear explosions for military or civilian purposes.

Culp and Volk also said activists should contact other people, including those outside the peace movement, impressing upon them the urgency of letters soliciting McConnell’s support for the treaty. They said McConnell has expressed no very strong opinion on the accord at this point,

so he may well be persuaded to at least maintain a certain tactical neutrality.

They said a key point in letters could be that former secretaries of state George Shultz and Henry Kissinger, who opposed the CTBT 10 years ago, now support it.

Culp and Volk said even some Republican Senators, including Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, both from Maine, favor ratification, and that well-placed letters could really swing the balance to the pro-treaty side.

During the low-key but quietly passionate joint presentation to a lunch crowd of about 60 listeners, Volk spent the bulk of his time explaining what the FCNL is and what it does. He talked about its origins in the years surrounding 1943, horror at the fascist/Nazi aerial bombing of the Spanish town of Guernica in 1937 and reaction to Pablo Picasso’s famous painting depicting it. However, he also said that a few years later the same people who had decried Guernica often rejoiced at the firebombings of Dresden and Tokyo, and at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Even when the Cold War ended in the early 1990s, said Volk, people just couldn’t see that nuclear weapons were no longer needed; in introducing Culp, Volk lauded the former’s large role in helping bring about a moratorium by the U.S. on nuclear testing in 1992. But Volk noted that this moratorium has no force of law or a treaty.

Culp said that about 150 nations have signed and ratified the CTBT, including all major U.S. allies and Russia. He added that another 30-plus (including the U.S., Israel, and China) have signed but not ratified; and that only a few, such as India, Pakistan, and North Korea, have neither signed nor ratified.

The question-and-answer period that followed Volk and Culp’s very specific exhortations ranged over a wide variety of topics, from the infamous Bush-administration “bunker-buster” nuclear weapons proposal (we beat those twice, noted Culp, after a protracted three-year battle in each case) to Louisville FOR co-founder George Edwards’ plea that conscientious objection be included in the United Nation’s Universal Declaration of Human Rights, now 60 years old.

On this latter point, Volk noted that the European Parliament has passed such an inclusion, that conscientious objection has been allowed in past U.S. wars and that the FCNL is currently advocating for a sort of “tax conscientious objection,” whereby one could designate that her or his tax money not be used by the military.

The experience of the FCNL, whose members, Volk said, have often been ostracized (especially by jingoistic conservatives) and sometimes even killed,

(continued on page 4)

McKinney, Powers to highlight unity fete

The six-term former Georgia congresswoman and Green Party presidential candidate who introduced articles of impeachment against President George W. Bush will keynote the yearly Unity Dinner in Louisville Nov. 20

Cynthia McKinney, who left the Democratic Party to become a Green in 2007 after she was defeated for re-nomination the previous year in Georgia’s Fourth District will talk during the dinner, put on by the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression.

The fete is at Masterson’s restaurant, 1830 S. 3rd St. in Louisville. Social hour will start at 6 p.m. and the dinner at 7 p.m., the alliance said.

The yearly event and fundraiser will honor legendary Kentucky State Senator Georgia Davis Powers, who during her five four-year terms in Frankfort, fought for civil rights laws (also effectively working for them before being elected in 1967), the Equal Rights Amendment and a law to increase the minimum wage in Kentucky.

She is also the author of *Celia’s Land*, a historical novel.

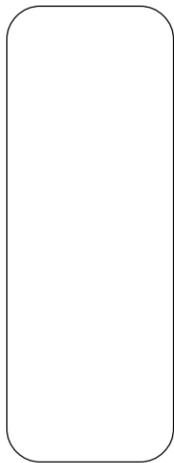
Tickets to the dinner are \$45. For more information, contact the Kentucky Alliance at (502-778-8130).

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



Fair trade: a new start for victims of poverty, wars

by Sandra Crismon

If I hadn’t already been an ardent supporter of Fair Trade, I would have become one after hearing Yody Moran speak. Yody is an artisan from Peru who visited Just Creations in October 2007.

She described her life as a person of indigenous heritage, caught — with her family and her community — in the crossfire between Shining Path rebels and the state military in Peru. She described the killings, and the fear, and how her family was forced to leave their home in the countryside.

Her family and many others sought refuge in the town of Huancavelica. Here,



Photo courtesy Sandra Crismon
Yody Moran

First in a series.

the challenge of rebuilding their lives was made more difficult by the fact that economic opportunities were scarce, as the refugees were a marginalized group in one of the poorest areas of Peru.

Enter Bridge of Hope, a Fair Trade project started to assist women living in extreme poverty in shantytowns outside of Lima and other cities. With help from Bridge of Hope, Yody and other displaced women formed the artisan group El Mercurio, which produces knitted products such as finger puppets and stuffed llamas. With the success of their products in the Fair Trade market, the group has grown from the original three members to more than 30 women.

Fair Trade means many things to artisans around the world. It may mean a new start for refugees of political violence. It may mean hope for women who have been part of the sex trade. It may mean

support for those suffering from HIV/AIDS. But to all of them it means a living wage, work with dignity, and hope for the future. It provides some measure of social justice for those who have experienced so little, and who are often doubly marginalized - first, by the life circumstances in which they find themselves, and second, by a global economic system where profit comes before people.

Yody described the unfair business practices used by U.S. companies that come to Peru, saying they enlist local agents to find particular products for the lowest price possible. They also hold competitions to make a particular product, and then take

(continued on page 6)

INSIDE

Entertainment, justice a good mix in DC p. 2

Business, civil rights and the bomb p. 3

Draconian sentences for pro-Earth crimes p. 4

So young – a 5-year-old on JFK’s death p. 6

Jazzed-up 39th conference focuses on justice, culture

by Gracie Lewis

The theme “Reinvest... Rebuild... Renew” described the 39th Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference (ALC) held September 23 to 26 in Washington, D.C., during which the 42 members of the CBC engaged in discussions about an array of critical issues our communities face today - from the housing crisis to jazz music.

About 20,000 people attended. President Barack Obama and the First Lady attended the CBCF Awards Dinner.

On that Thursday morning, September 24, the National Town Hall meeting gathered a diverse crowd which focused on: “The Way Ahead: Economic Recovery and Opportunity.” The moderators were broadcast journalists Ed Gordon, the host of “Our World with Black Enterprise,” and Renee Chenault Fattah, anchorperson for NBC 10 News in Philadelphia.

This year’s conference reflected the depth and determination of pioneering leaders to respond to the serious deficits facing our communities across the country with deliberate and expedient actions.

Panelist Carole Brown, senior managing director of Siebert Brandford & Co., said: “We need to educate at all levels of the community. There are many people who don’t have a clue what’s in TARP (the Troubled Asset Relief Program) and don’t understand the stimulus package and what it is offering to the general public.”

Another panelist, George Burrell, general counsel and executive vice-president of PRWT Services, Inc, said: “We need to take advantage of government money, as well as compete in the private sector.”

Ed Gordon moderated the second panel. Melody Barnes, President Obama’s domestic policy advisor and director of the Domestic Policy Council, said we really need to talk more about what the government can do. How can they help us? Reaching out to minority businesses is a critical priority of the administration, she said.

United States Trade Representative Ron Kirk said: “Ninety-five percent of the consumers in the world live outside of the United States” and it’s his job to “give entrepreneurs access to them.”

So it’s important that we “Keep Our Eyes on the Prize” and seek out opportunities as the stimulus monies are handed out in the states. The CBC noted that there are benefits under the Recovery Act through lowered taxes. Also, the group noted, if you lost your job, you can receive help through The Consolidated Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act (COBRA), which gives workers and their families who lose their health coverage limited ability to continue group health benefits.

In Louisville, Metro Councilwoman Judy Green of District 1 has stated that

which was introduced May 15 by Rep. Chaka Fattah of Pennsylvania.

This economic crisis is particularly acute among African Americans. More than 24 percent of African Americans live below the poverty line and African Americans are 55 percent more likely to be unemployed than other Americans. So, in our communities across the nation, we need to hold more forums and jobs fairs to address the problem.

That evening, Kathleen Parks and I attended the John Conyers Jr. Jazz Issue Forum & Concert. The participants were entertained by “The DooWhopBoiz.” The issue forum was titled: “The First Lady’s Jazz Initiative — Taking It to the Grass Roots.”

Panelists included Wayne Brown, director of music and opera for the National

We must take charge of our health and pass a bill that improves quality and reduces disparities. We can save billions just by cutting administrative costs.

there are monies currently being used by dislocated workers for new job training opportunities. More is expected to come in as agencies apply for grants under TARP.

Judy will be holding a Fourth Monday Dialogue via the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. The focus will be on: “Economic Development.”

You can get in on the ground floor of the CBC’s efforts. The caucus has introduced more than 40 bills to watch during the 111th Congress. They include H.R. 676, the United States National Health Care Act, introduced by Rep. John Conyers Jr.; H.R. 1479, the Community Reinvestment Act (CRA) Modernization Act of 2009, introduced March 12 by Rep. Eddie Bernice Johnson of Texas; and H.R. 2451, the Student Bill of Rights Act of 2009,

Endowment for the Arts; Jackie Harris, director of the Louis Armstrong Summer Jazz Camp; and Billy Taylor (who just turned 88), the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts’ artistic director for jazz. The panelists explored how to extend jazz education opportunities to culturally underserved communities.

Supporters and lovers of jazz will simply have to become advocates and encourage parents to request jazz educational opportunities, they said. Following the discussion, we were entertained by the Jimmy Cobb’s So What Band and The Louis “Satchmo” Armstrong Summer Jazz Alumni All-Stars featuring Herlin Riley.

It was a wonderful evening. On Friday, we attended several issue forums, including “Addressing the

Forgotten Faces and Voices of Health Reform.” As you know, the debate on health care has been one of the hottest issues this summer. Several bills are before Congress, including America’s Health Choice Act (H.R. 3200), President Obama’s bill. As health care costs rise faster and faster, there is a need to look at the issue of health care reform.

Health Care is a human right — no doubt about it. Yet, there has not been enough discussion about it, because of the reform critics and tea parties. From an economic perspective, we have to bring these costs under control because they affect our gross national product and have caused an ever increasing number of foreclosures.

The nation’s budget is spiraling out of control and something has to be done to fix it. There are some 47 million people out there in need of health care. The president states that the more competition we have, and the more options that are out there for affordable care, the better for all of us. Under the administration’s original reform plan, the public option would be offered as a part of an insurance exchange that is intended to provide affordable choices to persons who have nowhere else to turn for health insurance.

Uninsured persons, small businesses and self-employed people would have the choice of buying into the public option provided in the health insurance exchange. As people of faith, we envision a society where each person is afforded health, wholeness and human dignity. That is what we want. Provisions in H.R. 3200 contribute to that vision: data would be collected to improve quality and reduce racial and ethnic disparities. Payment mechanisms and policies will be designed to improve health outcomes.

The proposed lower-cost public health option would provide an alternative to private for-profit insurance with lower premiums. It is hoped that a meaningful public option bill will be passed this year. (continued on page 6)

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.

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

94 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

A life saved, then changed, by the bomb

Seeing war's human toll made Louisvillian a pacifist

by Lloyd Berg
Reprinted from the
FOR Witness, August 1995

Quite possibly, there was not a person in the world happier about it than Lee Thomas, when an atom bomb destroyed Hiroshima.

A few years before, Thomas had registered for the World War II draft without second thoughts. Coming out of a general Protestant setting in mid-century America, he did not question the near universal assumption that responding to the call to fight 'brutal Nazis' and 'sub-human Japs' was the finest thing a man could do.

Drafted after his first term in college, this recruit found his way to an Army desk job that was fairly easy. He might well have remained there through the war, in danger of little more than an occasional cut finger from shuffling papers.

But then he told off a sergeant, in no uncertain terms. A sergeant who was clearly in the wrong. But a sergeant, nevertheless.

The Army reverted to its caste nature swiftly. Lee Thomas was immediately transferred to another company.

First he noticed that the new company included quite a number who had just been released from what was then Joliet Reform School.

Next observation was the first of many that led towards a greater sensitivity and sense of justice. The best food and supplies were being siphoned off in various steps, and his group was truly last. "We got the leavings, being at the clear bottom of the pole," he recalls. But this could be endured. He formed friendships with some of his new colleagues, began to identify with the less fortunate a bit more, and concentrated on his future. It still looked bright.

A Chilling Discovery

A more chilling discovery soon emerged, however. Not only were these men the Beans and Spam Company to a greater degree than any others around. They were also being trained to be the first wave

of any invasion. Essentially, to die on the beaches after distracting the enemy enough so that subsequent waves could run over their bodies and have a chance.

As all this registered, it became clear in Thomas' mind that he would never see home again. He was there to die, he was going to die, and that was all there was to it.

Such thoughts permeated the hold of a landing craft, with Thomas aboard, as it sailed North through the Pacific. The men felt certain they were headed for their last moments of life, leading an invasion of Japan. (This was probably not the case right then, but it was their clear assumption.)

A loudspeaker announcement suddenly shattered the gloom. It seemed the best news that could have been dreamed of, prayed for, or imagined. A great new weapon! One bomb to wipe out a city! This would end the war! He would live, after all! Return home! Have a good life!

If this news was not quite akin to Resurrection, it would have seemed to do until the real thing comes along. Life and hope were almost miraculously being given back to Thomas, it seemed.

In Japan

Not so soon, though. First came occupation duty in Japan. And there Lee Thomas saw Hiroshima.

Total destruction had flattened much of the city. And he saw suffering such as had not been imagined, even by wartime standards. Not only in Hiroshima, but throughout Japan. When occupation troops put out their garbage cans, civilians would dive into them, desperately seeking scraps to stay alive. Thomas' rejoicing at the bomb began to waver.

He began to feel certain that neither atom bomb nor invasion had been necessary. "All we'd have had to do was wait," he concluded.

This, too, though was a source of growing concern to his conscience. Would waiting for mass starvation have been more humane than the bomb or invasion? "I'm afraid I don't know," he said when

interviewed for this article. But one very clear conclusion was growing in his mind: War is wrong.

Next step in sensitization was questioning the then traditional view of the Japanese as some kind of substandard creatures. With more education than most in his company, Thomas was again assigned to a desk job, this time as Paymaster for Japanese civilians employed on base. Again, he made some friends among his associates.

Ordinary People

Gradually the monolithic and demonized 'enemy' became human beings. "They were ordinary people, like we were," he recalls. "They carried pictures of loved ones, some of whom had been killed in the war. They were grieving, as we were." The friendships, and the understanding, deepened over time. Thomas' voice nearly cracked as he described the farewell from a Japanese friend when occupation duty finally ended.

Lee Thomas returned to Yale, studied hard, and won a degree in industrial engineering. While there, he came to encounter the New Haven (Connecticut) meeting of the Society of Friends. He found them congenial, he found their beliefs very meaningful, and he became a 'convinced Quaker.' He also found his way into a Friends internship program. "I wasn't very good for the project," he recalls, "but I did meet a young lady from Swarthmore there." He proposed within a week, and they married a year later. That same year, he declared himself a pacifist and joined the Fellowship of Reconciliation. The 45 years in both relationships have been fulfilling ones.

As these new values emerged, Thomas also came to be influenced by Martin Luther King, first from his writings on nonviolence, and later from marching with him in a demonstration.

In Business

Lee Thomas has been a business person. He views business much more positively than do some others in the peace

movement. And he is still as ready as ever to speak up to anyone he believes is wrong. "Too many in the peace movement are just plain anti-business," he insists. "They just look upon us as war mongers and part of the military-industrial complex. That means they're falling for a kind of propaganda. It's really the same kind of propaganda that I once fell for about the Japanese."

His wrath is also incurred, though, by what seems to be needlessly wrong in the business world. In a recent article, he wrote "Without the enemy of Communism to oppose, America seems to be left with a pernicious enemy within: greed. It is a potentially fatal disease. Its symptoms are many: disregard for the environment, monopolistic practices, and insider trading, among others. And the practice of expending enormous sums of capital to make businesses larger and less efficient, while lining the pockets of a few seems to be the most egregious symptom."

Ethical Questions

Thomas' approach is to take business ethics seriously, while seeing the parameters and limitations within which one must operate. His first job required him to travel six weeks at a time. His wife, Joan, often accompanied him, but children put an end to that option. Under the circumstances, it was very welcome when his father offered him a chance to lead the family industrial business in Louisville.

One problem remained. Among the varied products of this factory were clutch plates for Army tanks. He refused to take the job unless this line was discontinued. After some discussion, it was.

Later, though, Thomas saw another firm start to make the clutch plates, using one of his component parts that also had civilian uses. "You have these darn tradeoffs from time to time," he noted. A comment to Thomas by long-time peace leader Francis Nicholson seemed helpful. "Just as there are no perfect human beings, there are no perfect companies."

(continued on page 7)

Mideast conflict seen rooted in taking Palestinian land

by Russ Greenleaf

Nadia Hijab said that while many people think the Arab-Israeli conflict is complicated, it is really very simple — it is caused by the ongoing colonization of Palestinian land by Israeli settlers, resulting in the eviction of Palestinians from their homes.

Hijab, a child of two of the more than 700,000 Palestinian refugees forced from their land after the creation of Israel in 1948, spoke Oct. 8 at the Galt House hotel in Louisville.

Her talk was sponsored by the World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana as part of its Global Issues Forum special series on human rights.

Hijab recounted that this colonization began in the late 1800s, when European Jews formed the Zionist movement by combining two ideas that were popular in Europe at the time: nationalism and imperialism.

Nationalism involved the desire of each European ethnic group to have a nation of its own. Imperialism, Hijab explained, was the belief that white people from Europe had the right to go to other parts of the world, conquer the native people, exploit their land, and settle Europeans there to rule over them.

Based on these ideas, and wanting to escape anti-Semitism, Zionists decided to go to Palestine and create a nation for European Jews, she said, adding that when they arrived, they found that Palestine was already inhabited by the Palestinians, and the land was cultivated and productive. Hijab explained, "Some Zionists thought, 'There are already people here. Let's find a way to live with them.' Other Zionists thought, 'There are already people here. Let's find a way to get the land without the

Russ Greenleaf recommended visiting Nadia Hijab's website at www.palestine-studies.org. See also: Jewish Voice for Peace at www.jewishvoiceforpeace.org, Churches for Middle East Peace at www.cmep.org and J Street at www.jstreet.org.

He also called for readers to ask Congress to end military aid to Israel, noting that supplying arms to nations that commit war crimes is a violation of U.S. law.

people.' The second group prevailed."

Their goal was partially realized in 1948 when Zionist forces drove out 700,000 Palestinians and created the nation of Israel. Today, Hijab noted, Israeli settlers are continuing to evict Palestinians and seize their land acre-by-acre, thwarting President Obama's efforts to bring peace.

War crimes in Gaza

Hijab emphasized that Israel controls Gaza's borders and has been preventing adequate food and medicine from entering for years. Palestinians in Gaza are dying from lack of medical care. She said children are growing up stunted from malnutrition, adding that this collective punishment of an entire population meets the definition of a crime against humanity, as noted by United Nations official Richard Falk (who happens to be Jewish.)

In December 2008, Hijab noted, Israel launched a full-scale war against Gaza, which is the size of Metro Louisville. It is the most densely populated area on earth, with 1.3 million people. Hijab described how civilians had nowhere to escape, telling of how the Israeli army firebombed the area using white phosphorus, an illegal weapon. Most of the dead and injured were civilians, she noted.

Israel killed 1,000 Palestinian civilians, including more than 300 children, and wounded many more, Hijab said.

A handout she distributed described how the assault on Gaza was a war against the entire population. It said Israeli bombs destroyed or damaged: 56,400 homes; 214 schools; 52 mosques and churches; numerous medical clinics, electric power stations, and water wells; chicken farms (more than 100,000 birds destroyed); farm animals (more than 35,000 cattle, sheep and goats killed); farm land (80 percent destroyed); rooftop water tanks (more than 4,700 destroyed). One hundred thousand Palestinians were made homeless.

Hijab said the fact that Israel sealed the borders and targeted the civilian population and the infrastructure it needs to survive constitutes a war crime. That was the conclusion of Richard Goldstone, she added, a highly respected United Nations war-crimes investigator (who also happens to be Jewish and a longtime supporter of Israel).

She described how Goldstone's report to the U.N. Human Rights Commission calls on Israel to bring to justice those responsible. If Israel fails to do so, the Goldstone report calls on all nations to arrest the perpetrators on sight and send them to the International Court of Justice for war crimes trials, Hijab said.

The report urges the same for the Hamas members who fired rockets at Israeli cities, causing the death of three Israelis, she added.

Obama's response

The Obama administration joined with Israel in an effort to suppress the Goldstone report, Hijab said, to keep it from being referred to the U.N. Security Council and General Assembly. They pressured Palestinian Authority President Mahmoud Abbas to ask for the report to be withdrawn, saying it could harm future peace negotiations, Hijab said.

These actions by the Obama administration, and its failure to put pressure on Israel for refusing to freeze settlement expansion, cause Hijab to conclude that Obama has chosen pragmatism over human rights.

Despite everything, Hijab is optimistic, because she sees American public opinion changing. Centrist Jewish groups such as J Street are gaining influence. More than 100 members of Congress have endorsed J Street's October 25 conference in Washington, with its message that Israeli settlement expansion must stop for the sake of peace.

Some Methodist and Presbyterian denominations are moving toward divestment from companies that support Israel. The progressive group Jewish Voice for Peace saw its email list grow by 50,000 during the war against Gaza.

The writer, of New Albany, Ind., is a member of several Jewish peace groups and the Louisville Committee for Israeli and Palestinian States. Contact him at russgreenleaf@yahoo.com.

Ten years for two SUVs – welcome to the green scare

by Alex Bradshaw

What's being called the "Green Scare" is the new version of McCarthyism where, instead of Marxists, anarchists, and other leftists being blacklisted and marginalized, eco-saboteurs are being labeled terrorists and given lofty, draconian prison sentences for property damage.

McCarthyism was a period throughout the 1940s and 50s named after one of the most reactionary and anti-communist politicians in U.S. history named Joseph McCarthy. To illustrate how ridiculous and draconian McCarthyism became, take the blacklisted and banned American 1953 film *Salt of the Earth*. The film involves a Hispanic coal-mining community that is being exploited by the owner of the company, and whose residents decide to organize and strike. Wives and girlfriends join miners in picketing. Sounds extreme, no?

While certainly way ahead of its time (and a great film, I might add) for exploring the issue of exploited workers, with a feminist slant, the film would seem tame by today's standards. Also, many actors, authors, producers, and directors were blacklisted if it was even insinuated that they were communist-sympathizers.

The post 9/11 world has given us a new brand of this knee-jerk reaction: enter the "Green Scare."

Many activists have decided to become proactive in protecting the environment. With a keen awareness for human life and not harming others, many of these activists have chosen to act illegally in a system that justifies the unjust; many have chosen sabotage, "tree-sitting" to protect forestry, and other property damage like destroying automobiles (one Jeff Luers, for example, is currently serving a ten-year sentence for destroying two SUVs). We're only left to ponder if canonized activists like Gandhi, or Martin Luther King, Jr. would have done about the ruling class destroying the environment.

Because this is the case, environmental destruction is most certainly an issue of social justice. Just ask communities in the third world that have been devastated by the spread of disease via climate change and encroaching shore lines, or people of color in the U.S. A report published in the U.S. by the groups Redefining Progress and Environmental Justice and Climate Change Initiative shows that "71 percent of African Americans live in counties in violation of federal air pollution standards, as compared to fifty-eight percent of the white population. Seventy-eight percent of African Americans live within thirty miles of a coal-fired power plant, as compared to

fifty-six percent of non-Hispanic whites."

Further, the report says, "global warming is expected to increase the frequency and intensity of heat waves or extreme heat events. African Americans suffer heat death at 150 to 200 percent of the rate for non-Hispanic whites." This is just one troublesome example of how the ecological is inherently social.

For many the question is not whether acting against those who perpetuate climate change via non-violent sabotage and occupying forests is ethical; the question is whether to have the courage to act.

Another ecologically and socially devastating practice carried out by the ruling class is the issue of genetically modified organisms (GMOs). Certainly there should be joint concern raised about GMOs: how they affect consumers, and the devastating

If the preceding assertions are true, tampering with our food could lead to absolutely devastating results. This doesn't take into question what health consequences humans will have from digesting such foodstuffs.

If coal plants, automobiles, and GMOs are destroying the planet, making people sick, and in turn killing people, is there a justification in the direct action taken by individuals to sabotage such endeavors, like that of "illegal" actions taken by individuals in the U.S. in the 1960s against apartheid in the South? If so, the case of Marie Mason is worth pondering.

According to a recent interview with Mason in the Summer/Fall 2009 issue of U.S. periodical *Fifth Estate*, she is "serving the longest sentence of any Green Scare arrestee."

Now when most people hear the crime

coach, was recently sentenced 20 years for 6 counts of child molestation. The U.S. judicial system is clear: destroying property is on par with violating women and children.

Mason's case is unique because of the fact that her sentence is exceptionally long. There are many others like her who have been convicted of property destruction in defiance of those who perpetuate policies that destroy the environment.

There is no dispute over what Mason and others did; they admit to their actions. However, the question remains: is the "Green Scare" representing a new wave of political prisoners in the U.S.? There are about 100 people in the U.S. who are considered political prisoners by many citizens, including the prison abolition movement and the Anarchist Black Cross association, as well as the Midwest Pages for Prisoners Project based out of Bloomington, Ind.; this of course, does not count the fact that "[a]t midyear 2008, there were 4,777 black male inmates per 100,000 U.S. residents being held in state or federal prison," the Bureau of Justice Statistics said on its website at www.ojp.usdoj.gov. That means more than eight percent of black men between the ages of 25-29 are in prison, as opposed to slightly over one percent of white men. It begs the question: are many of these African American men political prisoners; are they being targeted by an inherently racist judicial system?

If Marie Mason weren't someone who had a point of view, who had a history of speaking truth to power and took, admittedly, dramatic action, would she be spending 22 years behind bars? Does Mason account for one of the many supposed political prisoners within the U.S., and are her actions justifiable when a maniacal minority of the human population shows no signs of slowing down the process of global warming? Certainly difficult and important questions remain unanswered in these interesting times.

The writer, of Louisville, is an anarchist and a member of the Industrial Workers of the World. He is studying at Spalding University for a master's degree in occupational therapy. He maintains a blog at comradshaw.wordpress.com.

There is no dispute over what Marie Mason and others did; they admit to their actions. However, the question remains: is the "Green Scare" representing a new wave of political prisoners in the U.S.?

effect they can have on finite ecosystems.

California State University professor Roberta L. Millstein wrote in an essay titled "Natural Selection, Genetically Modified Food, and The Environment," that "some authors argue that genetically modified food could lead to a loss of genetic diversity within a particular food crop, leaving that food crop vulnerable to extinction (see, e.g., Lappé and Baily 2002).

"Another type of argument focuses on potential side effects of genetically modified food. Perhaps there will be gene flow from genetically engineered herbicide resistant crops to a weedy relative, producing a 'superweed' that could lead to a 'bioinvasion' that takes over an entire ecosystem (see, e.g., Shiva 2002). And Monarch butterflies made headlines when it appeared that corn that was modified to kill corn borers also killed the butterflies, leading to concerns that other species could suffer harm at the hands of genetically modified food as well."

she committed, one hopes they'll do some critical thinking over the justification of the 22 year sentence she was given. The property damage and arson for which she was convicted caused over one million dollars worth of damage to Michigan State University, where research was being conducted on GMOs.

For those who do not consider the perpetuation of GMOs or other environmental degradation a crime against humanity, they may consider the 22 year sentence just. Others, perhaps, will view Marie Mason as an activist who took action against a ruling class that is criminal by its very nature.

Doing minimal research on similar prison sentences produces astounding results. For example, in Kansas City, a man was recently sentenced to 25 years for a 1992 robbery and gang rape of a woman, www.kansascity.com reports. Another comparable sentence is that of Lewisville, Texas' Daniel Cassidy. Cassidy, a soccer

Ratification

(continued from page 1)

gave real weight to Culp and Volk's arguments as they emphasized the importance of U.S. ratification of the CTBT in getting other laggards to sign on.

They also outlined in response to a question some of the Quakers' most important historical achievements, such as the ordination of women ministers, early opposition to slavery and the fight against a State church in England.

Culp and Volk also spoke of other issues of current importance to the FCNL, including the International Treaty of the Sea (which would ban militarization of the sea bed and regulate fishing, among other things), the International Criminal Court, separate treaties on the rights of women and children and the fight against land mines and cluster bombs.

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

"Bread Before Bombs" is the theme of the Nov. 19 Third Thursday Lunch. See ad on page four.

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation & Interfaith Paths to Peace

September 2009 to January 2010

November 19

Bread Before Bombs: A Discussion on Building Human Security

Frida Berrigan, a Senior Program Associate at the New America Foundation's Arms and Security Initiative, will discuss how to cut the military budget and fund human needs. An estimated \$1.3 trillion dollars goes into military coffers each year. Today, even as once powerful economies teeter on the brink of collapse, and the impacts of financial meltdown ripple into every community, precious resources continue to be diverted from human need to fund war and preparations for war. The United States alone accounts for half of global military spending. But, the gulf between the resources controlled by the military and those allocated to the people is large and growing in poor and rich countries alike.

January 21

The Israeli Military Attack on Gaza: The Occupation Continues

Dr. Sharon Wallace will share her experiences and photos from her trip to occupied Palestine during the Israeli assault in January of 2009. Sharon Wallace, activist, teacher and mother has been traveling to, and working in, the occupied West Bank and Gaza strip since 1990. She has worked with direct action groups, Palestinian media and non government organizations.

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)



Does the commander-in-chief deserve prize for peace?

When the Nobel Peace Prize was recently awarded to Barack Obama, the U.S. left had mixed emotions.

Howard Zinn, historian and respected long-time peace and civil rights advocate, wrote Oct. 10 in Truthout: "I was dismayed when I heard Obama was given the Nobel Peace Prize. A shock, really, to think that a president carrying on wars in two countries and launching military action in a third country (Pakistan), would be given a peace prize. But then I recalled that Woodrow Wilson, Theodore Roosevelt and Henry Kissinger had all received Nobel Peace Prizes. The Nobel Committee is famous for its superficial estimates and for its susceptibility to rhetoric and empty gestures, while ignoring blatant violations of world peace..."

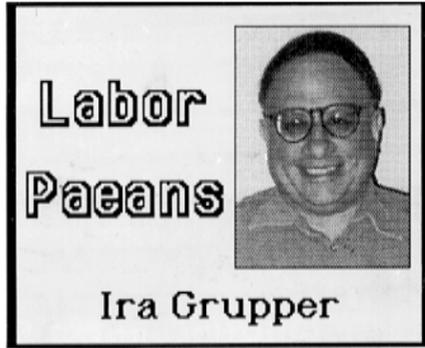
"Sure, Theodore Roosevelt brokered a peace between Japan and Russia. But he was a lover of war, who participated in the U.S. conquest of Cuba, pretending to liberate it from Spain while fastening U.S. chains around that tiny island. And as president he presided over the bloody war to subjugate the Filipinos, even congratulating a U.S. general who had just massacred 600 helpless villagers in the Philippines. The committee did not give the Nobel Prize to Mark Twain, who denounced Roosevelt and criticized the war, nor to William James, leader of the anti-imperialist league.

"...Kissinger, who matches the definition of a war criminal very accurately, was given a peace prize!

"People should not be given a peace prize on the basis of promises they have made (as with Obama, an eloquent maker of promises) but on the basis of actual accomplishments towards ending war. Obama has continued deadly, inhuman military action in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan."

Robert Naiman, writing on the website CommonDreams.org, informs us: "The Nobel Committee gave South African Bishop Desmond Tutu the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his leadership (in abolishing) apartheid in South Africa. Apartheid wasn't fully abolished in South Africa until 1994. The committee could have waited until after apartheid was abolished to say, 'Well done!' But the point of the award was to help bring down apartheid by strengthening Bishop Tutu's efforts. In particular, everyone knew that it was going to be much harder for the apartheid regime to crack down on Tutu after the Nobel Committee (supported him)." For what it's worth, your scribe sides with Zinn on this.

Your columnist has done a lot of thinking, and conferring with folk, about how the



progressive movement can constructively criticize President Obama's warmongering, lack of aggressive action in creating a massive jobs program, and conciliating the private healthcare vultures — and how we can do this while defending his presidency against the racist and right-wing assaults that are coming fast and furious.

"Health care industry has pumped millions into area congressional campaigns," headlined a Louisville Courier-Journal article (September 20). Your columnist lived his teenage years in a city housing project and remembers street-talk vernacular: if you sleep with a prostitute you are liable to get the clap (venereal disease). Well, Senator Max Baucus, the Democratic Party point person for healthcare legislation, wound up voting against the Democratic Party proposal. Nor is he the lone Benedict Arnold in the Democratic Party, Pres. Obama's party, in equivocating on this issue.

As to the issue of jobs, that wonderful group Jobs With Justice (JWJ) issued the following: "One year ago Congress & the Federal Reserve bailed-out Wall Street and the insurers, claiming they were 'too big to fail. ONE YEAR LATER...Workers are losing their jobs, homes, healthcare, and retirement security; The Bailed-Out Banks continue to award executive bonuses while refusing to finance jobs and evicting renters and homeowners through foreclosures; Corporations still 'own' Congress and are continuing with 'business as usual' by blocking measures like health care reform and the Employee Free Choice Act; The G-20, an international group of powerful bankers and governments, is meeting in Pittsburgh (9/24) to push for more of the same failed policies that created the economic crisis." JWJ, and other groups, conducted a week of demonstrations "to demand jobs, homes, healthcare, and a new economy that works for everyone.

(In the interest of full disclosure, your columnist served on the Steering

Committee of Kentucky Jobs With Justice, a good number of years ago.)

JWJ also pointed out: "One year after taxpayers poured billions of dollars into banks that were 'too big to fail,' ... (t)he banks are on a corporate crime spree, giving outrageous bonuses, foreclosing on people's homes, gouging consumers and spending millions to lobby against any new laws to hold them accountable."

Then JWJ profiled Bank of America (BOA): "CEO: Kenneth D. Lewis, compensation: \$23.5 million (2007); \$9.8 million (2008); Corporate Bonuses: \$5.2 billion (2008); Amount Received in Taxpayer bailouts: \$45.0 billion. ... BOA has spent millions of dollars opposing the Employee Free Choice Act; CEO Ken Lewis has been a major fundraiser against labor law reform; In some states, BOA employees and their dependents are among the top users of state-subsidized healthcare programs, despite paying millions to their CEOs.

"Subsidiary Countrywide was investigated by the FBI, the U.S. Justice Department, and multiple state attorney general offices in 2008 for predatory lending. ... Contrywide has been convicted of systematically charging homeowners millions of dollars in fees with 'no factual basis.' But that aint all, dear readers, according to JWJ: "Between 2002 and 2006, BOA increased its reliance on abusive fees by 29 percent, almost double that of any other bank; Between 1993 and 2003, Bank of America collected an estimated \$284 million of Social Security funds from the accounts of elderly and disabled customers in order to get bank fees. In 2004, a California jury awarded damages to the affected customers that could exceed \$1 billion.

Mr. Obama inherited this mess. He did not precipitate it. But what is he doing, in a big way, to deal with the 263,000 jobs lost (per Bureau of Labor Statistics) in September — 9.8 percent unemployment?

Again, we must defend Obama against the Rush Limbaugh reich marshalls. But we cannot allow his inaction in many areas, and his saber-rattling, to go unnoticed.

On an upbeat note, the Christian Science Monitor reported Oct. 8: "In a groundbreaking reform — believed to be the first in the nation — Mississippi will require civil rights as part of its U.S. history curriculum. McComb (Miss.) schools made that move in 2006; but starting next fall, the stories of the civil rights era will be taught — and tested — in all public schools."

Would that Kraft Foods could follow the Mississippi example of pursuing justice. Reports americaspolicy.org: "Mass firings

at Kraft Food's plant in Argentina sparked protests throughout the nation, and ignited a new wave of worker organizing. In August, Kraft fired 160 workers after they went on strike to demand proper health measures at the company's factory in suburban Buenos Aires during the swine flu epidemic in Argentina. Most of the fired workers were active union members; almost all of the factory's union delegates were fired.

"Kraft may have met its match in Argentina. The country has a long tradition of labor organizing and strong and active social movements. The current crisis has heightened demands for a new economic model less dependent on foreign investors and companies that use mobility as a way to control workers in developing countries."

Space permits but brief mention of the following: Two U.S. senators have introduced Amendment 2644 to H.R. 2847, which, if passed, will hold up census forms unless they include questions about citizenship status, which, of course, will not only intimidate undocumented people but also scare off anyone worried about the privacy of their information; the Mexican government seized power plants, fired workers, and effectively liquidated SME (Mexican Electrical Workers Union); Mercedes Sosa, the Argentinean staunch anti-imperialist and folk singer ("Si se calla el cantor" ["If the Singer Is Silenced"], "Gracias a la Vida" ["Thanks to Life"]) has died.

We close by noting the death of Marek Edelman, the last surviving leader of the 1943 Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. This courageous resistance was in response to Nazi plans to wipe out the 60,000 remaining inhabitants. They resisted the Nazis, knowing they would not survive. As the writer Howard Fast put it in the 1940's: "We pledge never to forget the heroism and courage written by the Jews of Poland in the Battle of the Warsaw Ghetto. With their blood and anguish they inscribed the hope for a bright new world.

"Hear YE, for this is a twice told tale, a song of my people that becomes a song of all people; Will there come a time when the word freedom is less potent? For everlasting glory and not for forgetting — then let it be asked, who has a better right to use the word and use it proudly? It was on our lips that the words formed, let my people go! And where was freedom's cause that we were not found?"

May the struggle for freedom of all oppressed people overcome apartheid walls of separation, and walls of ensconced corporate greed, so that the lesson of the Warsaw Ghetto is learned, inscribed, and loved, by all.

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

Calendar for peacemakers (continued from back page)

Nov 30 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE DECEMBER-JANUARY ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Contact **George Morrison, editor, at 454-2752, or klm86@att.net.**

Note: Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com, or call Nikki at 451-3402.

Dec 2 (Wed) **DINING OUT FOR LIFE.** Save the date! Participating restaurants will donate this evening's proceeds to organizations fighting AIDS. For more information, contact Jay White at 587-5080, ext. 23 or jwhite@houseofruth.net.

Dec 10 (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. Bouquets to those who do this important work every month! Call 451-5658.

Jan 14-17 (Thurs-Sun) **NCADP (National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty) NATIONAL CONFERENCE.** Save the dates! Next year's conference will be held at the Seelbach Hotel in downtown Louisville. The theme for the conference will be "Building Bridges to Wider Audiences." For more information visit www.ncadp.org or email info@ncadp.org.

OUT OF TOWN

Nov 20-22 (Fri-Sun) **VIGIL TO CLOSE THE U.S. ARMY'S SCHOOL OF ASSASSINS.** Thousands will gather at the gates of Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia for the vigil and the nonviolent direct action to close the School of the Americas. Massive rally on Saturday with musicians and speakers from across the Americas, followed by a Puppetista Pageant. Dramatic procession on Sunday remembering the victims of SOA violence. **Extended deadline** to apply for a seat on the Louisville bus is November 4, 2009. For more information, call Dotti Lockhart, 897-9680, or David Horvath, 435-3265.

Dec 2 (Wed) **NATIONAL WORLD MARCH DAY.** The World March for Peace and Nonviolence is an unprecedented social mobilization to create consciousness of the dangerous global situation we are living in due to a renewed arms race, nuclear weapons,

and violent military occupations. The March itself crosses six continents in 95 countries in 93 days. For information about events in your area or region, visit www.worldmarchusa.net.

Jan 12-22. **WITNESS FOR PEACE DELEGATION TO COLOMBIA.** Study the impact of the Free Trade Agreement and military repression. The delegation will visit communities in Cauca that are being displaced to make room for palm oil plantations. Learn about local communities' struggles for territory, culture, and the environment. Meet a wide range of Colombians including community leaders, displaced persons, and human rights defenders. Deadline for application is December 1st. For more information, visit www.citca.org or www.witnessforpeace.org.

FINANCIAL REPORT September 2009

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$ 7,888.69
FORsooth ads	150.00
Donations & Honorariums	<u>3,954.50</u>
TOTAL	\$11,858.09

EXPENDITURES:	
FORsooth Editing	\$150.00
FORsooth Layout	100.00
FORsooth Printing	306.00
FORsooth Mailing	200.00
FOR National Dues	100.00
Solutions to Violence	584.00
EJ Printing Inc.	807.71
Office Expenses	<u>59.23</u>
	\$2,306.94
ENDING BALANCE	<u>2,306.94</u>
	\$9,551.15

Please make your check payable to the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Your gift is tax deductible.



PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

Tim Scheldorf, Treasurer
Fellowship of Reconciliation
2917 Beaumont Road
Louisville, KY 40205

The Pink Suit

Boy with no father is dutifully attentive
To the great glass screen's
Daily commands to buy this,
When the unrelenting persuasion
Stopped for a message not from any sponsor,
One which laid bare the industry
As undignified hucksterism.
Reporters on the scene couldn't confirm
What they knew was true, so they
Passed on the words "Oh No!"
From the alluring woman in the pink suit.
Oh No. What a futile attempt to
Deny the obvious.
Not much of a farewell address,
But it would have to do.
And in no time the boy runs
From the doily-dotted living room
With the Last Supper painting on the wall
Into the hallway, crossing two generations
And defying all propriety
To callously interrupt a sacred ritual
Of telecommunications
To recount to his PTA-organizing
And Nixon-voting grandma
As best as his untrained five-year-old mind can
What just happened
In some place called Dallas, Texas.
Any misgivings over such an impolite gesture
Vanished as she ended the call
With immediacy never again to be seen.
Seconds later, back in the living room,
She consoles the boy with a light embrace
And repeated assurances,
Perhaps to herself as well as the boy,
That, "It's all right. We'll have Johnson."
The boy was stunned,
But more numb than fearful.
The marvels of the American system
Of succession aside,
He asks himself,
Do charismatic fathers with winning looks
Ever stick around?

— George Morrison



Conference (continued from page 2)

Already, a fairly similar bill (but without public option) has cleared the Senate Finance Committee.

Our health care system must be accountable, offering a quality, equitable and sustainable means of keeping us healthy as people and as a community. We must take charge of our health and pass a bill that improves quality and reduces disparities. We can save billions just by cutting administrative costs.

Kathleen Parks attended the session on "From Lincoln to Obama." President Obama, like many before him, has been inspired by presidents' ability to lead and weather unprecedented political storms.

However, many aspects of our national "house" remain divided along old fault lines such as race, religion, gender and socio-economic status. For too many Americans, no matter what issue is being considered, equality of opportunity is still a dream.

Panelists convened were: columnist Sophia Nelson, political and social commentator; Eileen R. Mackevich, executive director of the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission; O. Vernon Burton, renowned historian and author of *The Age of Lincoln*; and Terri Sewell, Alabama congressional candidate.

Representative Jesse L. Jackson, Jr. (D-Ill.) was the moderator. Rep. Jackson currently sits on the House Appropriations Committee and is the vice-chairperson of the Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies.

To create a more Perfect Union, Rep. Jackson said: "We should agree that the basic

human rights for all Americans ought to be added to the Constitution of the United States."

So he has introduced eight constitutional amendments every congressional session since 2001. Among them are: House Joint Resolution 28, which would provide the explicit fundamental right of citizens to vote; House Joint Resolution 29, which regards the right to public education of equal and high quality; House Joint Resolution 30, regarding the right to health of equal and high quality; and House Joint Resolution 32, regarding the right to decent, safe, sanitary and affordable housing.

I attended Congresswoman Maxine Waters' highly informative issue forum on "Young, Gifted and Black, featuring Que (From the vocal group Day 26); Terrence J. (from BET's music video show "106 & Park"); actress and fashion designer LisaRaye McCoy and football standout Fred Smooth.

Each person focused on how he or she got started in the entertainment and sports business. About 500 people attended.

On Saturday, a panel discussed "Michael Jackson: A Legend in Life and In Death." Panelists included Global Recording Star WYCLEF; Dr. Cornell West of Princeton University; BET President Debra Lee; Jackson family attorney and renowned media and entertainment expert L. Londell McMillan; and Rolland Martin, CNN Commentator. It was an exciting discussion on the entertainment industry and the Jackson legacy. Michael Jackson was quite a businessman and knew the "business of music."

The writer, of Louisville, is an activist for racial justice and a clean environment.

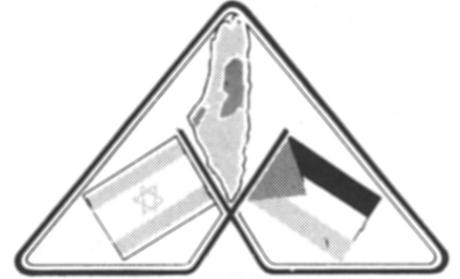
The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict is an AMERICAN Issue

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

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



*Help make
the dream
of justice
and peace
a reality.*

Join the Fellowship of Reconciliation

LOCAL CONTACT:

Fellowship of Reconciliation / Louisville Chapter
2236 Kaelin Avenue / Louisville, Kentucky 40205
E-mail: EdwardsFOR@bellsouth.net
502-458-8056

Fair trade (continued from page 1)

the winning design and have it made in China or India.

Yody was clearly touched to see her stuffed llamas on our store shelves. She said that with Fair Trade, she knew she would be treated fairly and that her designs would not be stolen.

It is often hard to convey to the public the realities of our artisans' lives and the challenges they face. However, I have found that stories like Yody's are the most powerful tool we have to help people understand the injustices - social, political, and economic - that so many people face. They are also a powerful tool to show people how their economic decisions affect the lives of people around the world. We hope those stories will move people to examine their behavior, and make choices that consider social justice. Ultimately, we hope they will make those choices a permanent part of their lives.

Toward this end, as part of our 20th anniversary celebration, Just Creations will be asking its customers to take a Fair Trade Pledge in 2010. We are asking customers to commit to at least one of the following actions in 2010:

- Purchase only Fair Trade coffee and tea.
- Purchase only Fair Trade chocolate.
- Purchase only Fair Trade greeting cards.
- Purchase half of their gifts from Fair Trade businesses.
- Introduce five people to Fair Trade.

For some, this will be a reaffirmation of an existing commitment, for others, a first step.

Also, as part of our 20th anniversary, we will be presenting a series of articles in these pages exploring different aspects of Fair Trade. First we would like to explore Fair Trade in contrast to, and as a critique of, the Free Trade system.

Following articles will explore Fair Trade's interconnection with issues of environmental sustainability, women's rights, and spirituality. And finally, we would like to end the series with a call to action.

We hope you will join us in marking 20 years of Fair Trade in Louisville, as we continue to provide opportunities and hope for artisans like Yody Moran.

The writer is the Education Coordinator at Just Creations, a not-for-profit Fair Trade store in Louisville.

NUKES ON THE WANE? PERHAPS!

After so many years of protest, can we see a bit of a breakthrough? We are encouraged by news from around the world which comes to us quarterly from NUKEWATCH, a publication of the Progressive Foundation (www.nukewatch.com).

In the January 2009 issue, we read that Germany has launched the International Renewable Energy Agency (IRENA), with 77 participating nations to promote and speed the growth of safe alternatives and help facilitate the international phase-out of nuclear power, thereby eliminating the major source of nuclear weapons proliferation. In 2002, Germany had already amended its 1959 Atomic Energy Act; so instead of promoting nuclear power the act's purpose is now to phase-out its 17 reactors altogether by 2025.

The newly established IRENA reported that 66 percent of the German public wants to continue with the mandated nuclear phase-out and even accelerate it. They were encouraged by recent developments surrounding the nuclear waste dump near Gorleben in north central Germany. After the 31-year-long citizens campaign to stop the dump, it was learned in May that the on-going investigation of the site's suitability had revealed that the underground salt dome had been chosen and construction begun illegally by government officials long before its suitability had been scientifically investigated. Moreover, the head of the Federal Physics Technology Agency revealed that he had altered the findings of the 1980 investigation of the Gorleben project. The falsified document might have assured final approval, but years of massive protests moved the government to suspend the work on the salt caverns in 2000.

News of the official fraud raced through Germany's well-established ecology movement, and on May 29 demonstrators swarmed the waste storage compound with shovels, hammers and wheelbarrows "to occupy the grounds." Police were overwhelmed and had to look on inactively as fences were cut, gates were opened, banners were hung, and the compound was occupied for about two hours by activists and dozens of farm tractors.

And just last September, German farm residents took their Gorleben protest to Berlin. The week-long tractor trek was joined by thousands of people from around the country. The small photo included in the article pictured the highway into Berlin completely clogged with all kinds of farm vehicles and farm equipment, many with messages on large signs. They made their point! The Environment Minister Sigmar Gabriel is quoted as saying that consideration of the Gorleben site was "dead."

THE VIEW FROM FRANCE: Nuclear Construction Going Bust?

After a 79 percent loss in profits in the first half of 2009, France's state-owned nuclear engineering giant AREVA is planning to sell a 15 percent chunk of its holdings. The government has also requested a \$4.3 billion U.S. bail-out of the company to fend off its bankruptcy. AREVA is the world's largest builder of nuclear reactors. Its reactor project in Finland faces a 5.4 billion bill that includes a 2.4 billion penalty for delays. South Africa has cancelled a 12-reactor program with AREVA. Potential reactor contracts elsewhere in Africa, the Middle-East and Eastern Europe have also dried up, undone by the astronomical costs of reactor construction, operation, upkeep and waste management.

France's Radioactive Waste to Double

France's National Radioactive Waste Management Agency, Andra, reports that the volume of its highly radioactive waste reactor is expected to double the volume amassed up to 2007 by the year 2030. France, like Germany, the USA, Britain and Russia, has no permanent dump site for its waste which is currently stored at the contaminated reprocessing site at La Hague. Under current law, it must be buried permanently by 2025.

France is in the process of seeking a site for all of its waste. Currently the Aube District in north-central France is being targeted for the dump.

NUCLEAR-FREE FUTURE MONTH

The group Nuclear-Free Future.org declared August 2009 "Nuclear-Free Future Month," and urged like-minded organizations to plan an event that will help compel the new administration to follow through on its promise to eliminate nuclear weapons. The coalition points to a joint statement last April by Presidents Obama and Medvedev calling for a "nuclear free world" and pledging to move rapidly to make deep cuts in their nuclear arsenals which now amount to about 25,000 warheads. The presidential announcement offers new openings for activists to demand the complete elimination of nuclear weapons.

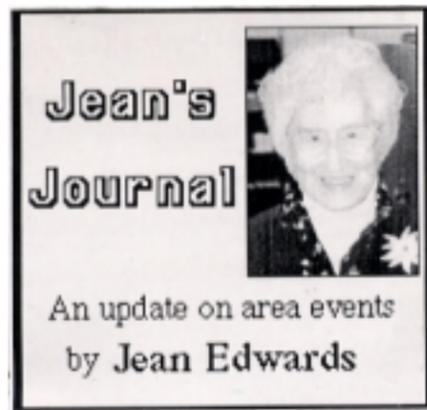
Resource for the above information is Nukewatch, founded in 1979 by Samuel H. Day, Jr., a project of The Progressive Foundation. 740A Round Lake Road, Luck, WI 54853 (715-472-4185) E-mail: nukewatch1@lakeland.ws www.nukewatch.com

Cap-and-trade good step

A number of recent letters to newspapers have criticized our congressional representatives for voting "yes" on the Waxman-Markey (cap-and-trade) energy bill. The gist of their criticism is that the bill doesn't serve the interests of Kentuckians because its carbon emission caps will raise energy prices and undermine the coal industry.

But these criticisms misunderstand Kentuckians' real interests. Our interests as Kentuckians do not lie in blasting off the tops of our sacred mountains. They aren't served by poisoning our splendid waterways with mercury or choking them with valley fills and slurry. Neither our economic nor our moral interests are advanced by contributing to global warming.

Yes, businesses and those with lower incomes should be shielded from higher energy costs, but the rising price of petroleum has done far more harm to both than the provisions of this legislation. If anything, the subsidies included in the Waxman-Markey bill go too far in support of the coal industry. Kentuckians' real



The bomb *(continued from page 3)*

Segregation

As Thomas started to lead the firm, he found another offense to conscience—de facto racial segregation. The material handlers were all African-American. Other workers were all white. He insisted on changing this with the first vacancy. Strong opposition came from the union, shared by many others.

One executive came to him and said, "I just cannot live with this," meaning integration. Thomas' response was affirming, decisive, and immediate: "Well, Bill, we're going to miss you. I hate to see you leave." The man stayed.

Integration at the plant was quite successful — early in time for Louisville, though late in time for the nation as a whole. And never again did the plant make war materials as finished products. Thomas' satisfaction at these gains is mixed, however. He realizes that these were individual, perhaps elitist, decisions, which he imposed upon others. A majority vote would have defeated him in either case. And he has also found rich meaning in the Quaker concept of the inner light, and sees people developing their souls as they make their own decisions and grow in this light. How, then, can he justify imposing an ethical decision upon others?

Lee Thomas' way of resolving this, however imperfectly, is to stand aside from others' decisions if a reasonable person might possibly conclude them to be ethical. But he also says, "I can't bring myself to stand aside if it involves equal opportunity, or war work, or basic integrity."

He pioneered in 'horizontal business structuring,' instead of traditional authority-centered vertical structure with layers of supervision. From 1962 through the late 1980s, Thomas saw this dream prosper, while he was CEO of Vermont American Company — actually a large Louisville-headquartered corporation that had two plants in Vermont. A great deal of growth was achieved, he believes, because people were building their own unit within the total operation. "I didn't build the company, these people did," he declares.

While this was happening, his wife, now Dr. Joan Thomas, practiced medicine in one of the most poverty-stricken sections of Louisville for 21 years.

A Takeover

There was not to be a 'happy ending' to all this, however. The growth of the company had made it the nation's largest

maker of power tool accessories. A strong balance sheet attracted a hostile takeover attempt. The second largest shareholder was willing to sell out for an immediate gain. Outbid in this fiscal maneuver, the best the management could do was to involve another and somewhat more desirable firm — a 'white knight' in business parlance — to take over instead.

This led to Thomas being pushed out, together with over 400 employees — the very people whose work and creativity had brought the growth that attracted the takeover.

Lee Thomas is strongly opposed to the merger/takeover process that has now found a large role in American business. A recently published article articulated his convictions that takeovers waste funds and waste people. The basic process, as he sees it, is that one must pay a premium to take over a firm, and must then sell off assets and push out people with seniority to pay for it. Thomas also sees a negative correlation between takeovers and the calibre of management.

Looking for new answers after the takeover struck, Thomas now owns a smaller company that makes high quality furniture components from waste wood products. He sees this partly as an opportunity to be environmentally responsible, recycling a waste product and minimizing environmental damage.

Disagreements

Thomas' view of American business — more critical than most of his business colleagues, but more tolerant than many in the peace movement — is not everyone's 'cup of tea.' Sharp disagreements have emerged, on occasion, with some other FOR members.

But interviewing Lee Thomas left this writer reminded anew of the power of growth within people, and of the need to reverence diversity in many directions.

One wonders how many people today — the equivalent of young Lee Thomas concerned with his own needs and just thrilled at the nuking of Hiroshima — may yet be helped to believe and to be much more.

Perhaps the somewhat less polarized age today may make it easier to look in many more directions to see where this can happen.

Lloyd Berg is the former development director for the Fellowship of Reconciliation. This story was reprinted with permission.

The Derby Festival is all about friendly competition. Bombers never will be. The Silence over Thunder coalition wants to end the military portion of next year's air show and replace it with family entertainment. We want to say NO to warplanes. Tell Derby Festival Committee:



Fighters, attack helicopters and nuclear-capable bombers flying overhead are not "family entertainment" as the Festival committee has advertised;

Don't just consider visitor revenues, but also Louisville's growing immigrant communities and the thousands of area veterans suffering from PTSD. Don't force them to relive for three days the past terrors of warplanes bombing towns;

Reveling in glamorized military might is militarism, not patriotism, and certainly not what is greatest about America;

Take the symbols of a divisive war, and the recruiters that are a part of the military's air show deal, out of our celebration.

Think your group should join those on the list below? Contact Terry Taylor (502-299-8591). FOR will work with you, listening to and educating your members. And in turn, you can help us with leafleting, witness, writing letters to papers and corporate sponsors, and a peaceful skies alternative everyone can enjoy.

Silence over Thunder coalition: Louisville Friends Meeting (Quakers), Central Presbyterian Church, The Peace and Compassion Buddha Circle, Jeff Street Baptist Community at Liberty, Mission Outreach committee of First Unitarian Church, Interfaith Paths to Peace, Pax Christi, Fellowship of Reconciliation, Louisville Peace Action Community, The Board of Kentucky Refugee Ministries, Kentucky Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression, American Veterans Against War, Peace and Social Justice committee of St. Williams Catholic Church, Fairness Campaign, Kentucky Interfaith Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean, Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville, US Department of Peace/Louisville, Social Justice committee of Fourth Avenue United Methodist Church, Students United for Peace and Justice, Dreprung Gomang Institute, Louisville Peace Chavurah, The Center for Faith and Action, Clifton Unitarian Church, Louisville Committee on Peace in the Middle East.



Letters to FORsooth

interests lie in helping our commonwealth, our nation and our world reduce the demand for fossil fuels.

Peter S. Fosl
Louisville

Calendar for peacemakers

Nov 1 (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 1 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE** every first Sunday evening, remembering all those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. Bring a candle. 7-8 PM, Bardstown Road at Douglass Blvd. Sponsored by LPAC (Louisville Peace Action Community). For more information, call Judy Munro-Leighton at 456-6914.

Nov 2 (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 3-5 (Tues-Thurs) **JOURNEY OF HOPE TOUR: ALTERNATIVES TO THE DEATH PENALTY.** A series of events across Kentucky offering the opportunity to hear stories and learn from personal accounts about the devastating impact of the capital punishment system on victims and the accused alike. For a complete calendar of events, visit www.aclu-ky.org or contact kate@aclu-ky.org.

Nov 4 (Wed) **EXTENDED DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR THE TRIP TO FORT BENNING, GEORGIA.** See "Out of Town," Nov 20-22.

Nov 4 (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 4-13. **14TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF FAITHS, SACRED WATER: SUSTAINING LIFE.** Sponsored by the Center for Interfaith Relations, this year's festival includes over 30 events and numerous special guests, including Sobonfu Somé, Coleman Barks, Dr. Timothy Keller, Tori Murden McClure, and many more! For a complete schedule, visit www.festivaloffaiths.org or call 583-3100.

Nov 6 (Fri) **KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES GLOBAL GOURMET.** Help support the lives of refugees and enjoy a night of international celebration. Tour the Glassworks museum, enjoy food and live music, and join us for a silent auction of artwork by local and refugee artists. Dinner 6:30 to 9:30 PM, dance from 9:30 to midnight. Glassworks, 815 W. Market. Tickets are \$60 for the dinner/dance or \$20 for the dance only. Tickets may be purchased at the door or at either Carmichael's Bookstore location. For more information, visit www.kyrm.org or call 479-9180.

Nov 7 (Sat) **WORLD COMMUNITY DAY** sponsored by Church Women United of Louisville. Theme "Piecing Earth Together," focusing on the environment and how we are called to work together to be good stewards of the gifts of the earth. Hill Street Baptist Church, 2203 Dixie Highway. Registration at 10:00 AM, worship at 10:30. Light lunch will be served. You are invited to bring personal care items for the women at KCIW in Pewee Valley, such as bars of soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, solid deodorant. Call 778-6841.

Nov 8 (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 Jim Johnson, 262-0148.

Nov 10 (Tues) **ANNE BRADEN MEMORIAL LECTURE.** Michael Honey, distinguished historian and professor at the University of Washington-Tacoma, will present "From Civil Rights to Economic Justice: The Freedom Movement's Unfinished Business." 5:30 PM, Chao Auditorium, Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville. Free and open to the public. The lecture will also feature a musical performance and slide show. Reception and book signing will follow. For more information, contact Jardana Peacock at jopeac02@louisville.edu or call 852-6142.

Nov 11 (Wed) **(RE)PRESENTING SEX AND GENDER.** Silvia Martinez, Coordinator of the Nicaraguan chapter of the Latin American and Caribbean Trans Network (Red LAC Trans), and Vivian Stromberg, MADRE's Executive Director, will talk about the intersections between local activism and international advocacy for sexual rights and the rights of the LBTTTGI (lesbian, bisexual, transgender, transvestite, transsexual, gay and intersexed) community. They will also discuss the ways in which MADRE and Red LAC Trans have partnered to support transgender activists and to provide tens of thousands of condoms to transgender sex workers in

Nicaragua. 3-4:15 PM, Chao Auditorium, Ekstrom Library, University of Louisville. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Jardana Peacock at jopeac02@louisville.edu or call 852-6142.

Nov 11 (Wed) **REMEMBERING LOUISVILLE IN THE 1960s:** Freedom Fighters, Police Repression and the Right to Free Speech. Mark your calendar and plan to join us for a community forum with Mike Honey, Bill Allison, Martha Allen, and others. Details to be announced. Jointly sponsored by the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research, the Bellarmine Democrats, the Interdisciplinary Core, and the Merton Center. For more information, contact Jardana Peacock at jopeac02@louisville.edu or call 852-6142.

Nov 11 (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 12 (Thurs) **7TH ANNUAL ELIZABETH CADY STANTON LUNCHEON.** Sponsored by the UofL Women's Center. This year's keynote speaker will be Dr. Johanna Miller Lewis, Associate Dean of the Graduate School at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Dr. Lewis has been integrally involved in the Little Rock High School Historic Site and will discuss her work. 11:30 AM to 1 PM. University Club, UofL Belknap Campus. Tickets \$25. For more information or to reserve a ticket, call 852-8976.

Nov 12 (Thurs) **THE FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB.** Meets the second Thursday of the month, for those interested in learning about fair trade and the American system of economics of Hamilton and Clay. 6:30 PM, 1838 Frankfort Ave. For more information, contact John Miller at papajohn15@bellsouth.net.

Nov 12 (Thurs) **APPAA (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum).** Every second Thursday. A documentary film exploring the situation in Middle East will be presented. 7:30 PM, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, Room 119. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Nov 14 (Sat) **PEAK OIL.** Every 2nd Saturday, Main Library, 4th & York, Mezzanine, Boardroom. 9:00 AM. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

Nov 14 (Sat) **"OUT & ABOUT" 5TH ANNUAL STATE-WIDE FAIRNESS GALA.** Join the Kentucky Fairness Alliance for its signature gala at 7 PM, State Historic Center, Elizabethtown, Ky. This is the first time the event is being held outside of Louisville or Lexington. Tickets \$50 or group packages available. For more information, visit www.kentuckyfairness.org or call 270-703-1582.

Nov 15 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** Every third Sunday. First Unitarian Church, 4th & York Streets, 3:00 PM. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Nov 19 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH: "BREAD BEFORE BOMBS: A Discussion on Building Human Security."** Frida Berrigan, a Senior Program Associate at the New America Foundation's Arms and Security Initiative, will discuss how to cut the military budget and fund human needs. An estimated \$1.3 trillion goes into military coffers each year. Today, even as once-powerful economies teeter on the brink of collapse, and the impact of financial meltdown ripples into every community, precious resources continue to be diverted from human needs to fund war and preparations for war. The United States alone accounts for half of global military spending, and the gulf between the resources controlled by the military and those allocated to the people is large and growing in poor and rich countries alike. The Lunch is sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation in cooperation with Interfaith Paths to Peace. Rudyard Kipling, 422 West Oak. Buffet lunch at 11:30; presentation begins at noon. \$6. For reservations, call Jean Edwards at 458-8056 or email edwardsfor@bellsouth.net.

Nov 19 (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 21 (Sat) **12TH ANNUAL UNITY DINNER.** Featuring keynote speaker Cynthia McKinney, six-term US Congresswoman and 2008 Green Party presidential candidate. Sponsored by the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. Masterson's Conference Center, 1830 South Third Street. Social hour 6-7 PM; dinner and program at 7. Tickets are \$45. For more information, contact the Alliance at 778-8130.

Nov 23 (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.

(continued on page 5)

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

ADDICTION RECOVERY ADVOCATES OF KENTUCKIANA – 2nd Thursday (485-1248)
 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 – Last Monday (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 2:00 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 (299-9520) www.LouisvilleEarthSave.org
 FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)
 FDR/Lincoln Legacy Club – 1st Thursday, papajohn15@bellsouth.net
 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)
 IRFI (Islamic Research Foundation International, Inc.) – Sundays at 6:00 PM (502-423-1988)
 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) – (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)
 911 TRUTH LOUISVILLE (502-609-6020)
 US DEPARTMENT OF PEACE CAMPAIGN OF KY – 3rd Sunday (472-1772)

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.