

FORsooth

Ransby: King pushed for radical change, but his legacy often sanitized by society

by Ike M. Thacker IV and Eustace Durrett

The story of Martin Luther King Jr. has been sanitized and thus mis-told, acclaimed author and historian Barbara Ransby said Nov. 10 during the second annual Anne Braden Memorial Lecture at the University of Louisville.

Ransby, one of the leading scholars on African-American women's history, said that King, particularly toward the end of his life, came to embrace very radical ideas — notably toward war (the Vietnam War in particular) and economics — contrary to the common portrayal of him as a moderate.

Radicalism, Ransby said, is understanding the *fundamental* causes of our problems and calling for the fundamental change necessary to solve them.

Her three main points about the revered if misunderstood civil rights leader were that he strongly advocated nonviolence; that he focused on "war" and "empire," especially as they related to the persistence of poverty; and that — supporting the second point — King, when he was murdered, was in Memphis backing sanitation workers, who she said were considered "the lowest of the low."

Ransby's lecture, which focused on, "What Now? What Next? Revisiting the Radical Voices in the Civil Rights

Movement," was co-sponsored by the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research. The institute, said U of L College of Arts and Sciences dean J. Blaine Hudson during his introduction of Ransby, is not designed to be a monument to Anne Braden but rather an instrument to effect social justice.

Ransby, whose book *Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision*, has won at least six national awards, talked of the present and future, not merely history.

In the 40 years that have passed since King's death, much has been gained, said Ransby, who asked: who could have imagined on that horrible April night, or after the violent Chicago Democratic Convention of that year, or at the time of the Montgomery bus boycott less than 60 years ago, that an African-American with a name like Barack Hussein Obama would be elected president of the United States in a landslide before the end of the first decade of the next century?!

Much, though, remains to be done, Ransby maintained, and this, she said, the *radical* voices in the civil rights movement — such as Ella Baker, Anne Braden, and Martin Luther King — would tell us. Ransby said the many remaining injustices make it understandable that Rev. Jeremiah Wright, whose ideas she said have been perhaps hopelessly misrepresented, could

support the black liberation theology movement and that William Ayers, who has for 30 years been working for school reform in Chicago, could advocate violence in his early years.

As regards the subject of her best-known research, Ransby noted that Ella Baker was born in 1903 and died on her 83 birthday. The years in-between were full indeed, said the author. In the 1930s and 1940s, Baker worked in the anti-fascist and anti-lynching movements; and she is perhaps best-known for her 1960 co-founding of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC).

But Baker also worked with King in Atlanta in 1957 and 1958 and with many varied groups in the coalitions that were one of her trademarks, Ransby said, adding that it is significant that Baker was not uncritical of King, especially of his leadership style, believing that the people have to save themselves: from the bottom up rather than from the top down.

Ransby said that the woman in whose name she was giving her words of wisdom, Anne Braden, was, like Ella Baker (whom Braden was a generation behind), extremely focused, and by her very life was a transformative figure: Braden did not conform to what white, middle-class women like herself were "supposed" to do. Anne Braden (continued on page 4)

Elders says reform of health care needed



— photo courtesy Kentucky Alliance Dr. Joycelyn Elders

Noting that Congress in days came up with \$700 billion for a sick financial sector, former U.S. Surgeon General Dr. Joycelyn Elders called Nov. 22 for equally prompt action to help the people attain better health.

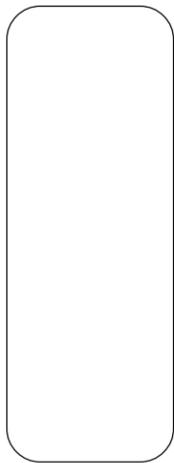
Elders delivered the keynote speech at the 11th annual Unity Dinner put on by the Kentucky Alliance Against Racism and (continued on page 6)

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Videos added to essays in contest; Jan. 9 is deadline

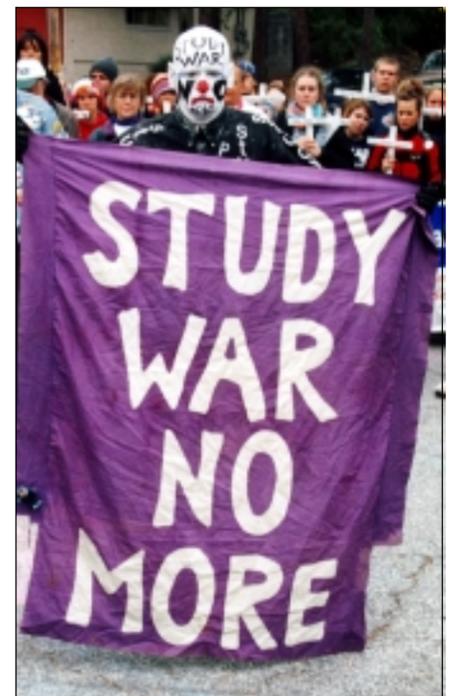
The Louisville Fellowship of Reconciliation's Third Annual Peace Essay/Video Contest is underway. As the ad in this issue of FORsooth shows, we have expanded the contest again this year — we're also inviting responses in the form of short videos as an alternative to the essay format. The submission deadline for entries is January 9. All other details are available by going to our website at www.louisville-for.org.

FOR and its co-sponsors Louisville Peace Action and Interfaith Paths to Peace are in the midst of getting the word out to public, private, and Catholic high school students in Jefferson County.

We need your help right now. Last year, we received entries from a handful of JCPS schools, largely through the initiative of a "friendly few" great teachers who incorporated the contest into their ongoing study units. If you are a high school student, parent, or teacher, you can help us by talking — directly and passionately — to friends, students, and teachers at any high school in the county. Help them get excited about engaging students in the challenges and benefits of participating in the contest.

All three of the question choices this year are difficult problems, but the responses to the previous contests proved that there are students more than up to the task. Many students — and unfortunately, adults — have not grappled with this year's issues. The first step will be researching the history and setting of whichever situation the student decides to address. Just as important, the students will benefit from researching any of the literally scores of examples from just the last century where nonviolent approaches have changed governments and societies for the better. Next comes the creativity and critical thinking work that will produce not only the winning entries, but insights for all of us.

FOR members will lead the judging of all entries. All entrants will receive certificates of recognition. The selected winners will receive cash prizes and other public recognition and presentation of their work. Last year, for example, all prizes were awarded at the winners'



Promoting the studying of peaceful conflict resolution is the purpose of the FOR's contest, now featuring videos, as well as written essays.

school assemblies, and all three were printed in FORsooth. The top essay was published in the Courier-Journal, and the second- and third-place entries were published on the C-J Online.

Not only were we able to recognize these exceptional students, but we also helped bring to the community examples of how nonviolence could provide a better way forward in seemingly intractable issues. What's not to like?! Give us a hand if you can. Contact Chris Harmer at (502) 893-2334 or any Aim Higher subcommittee member for more information.

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Drug, trade policies worsening Latin crises, lunch told

FORsooth staff report

Trade and drug policies imposed by the U.S. on Latin America are greatly increasing the flow of people and narcotics into the U.S., two activists with Witness for Peace told the Third Thursday Lunch Nov. 20.

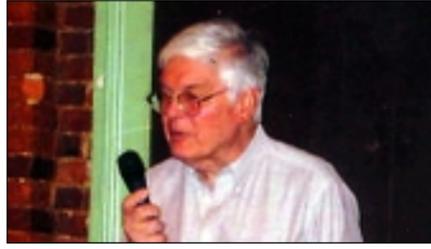
Dennis Bricking, the retired director of legal aid service in Louisville, and Cory Lockhart, a teacher at Trinity High School in the city, talked during the 25th anniversary year of the founding of Witness for Peace. Bricking said the organization was started as a way to reduce violence caused by the Reagan administration's wars by placing Americans in the line of fire, a move that grew out of a Nicaraguan's statement to an



Cory Lockhart

American peace activist that his village would be safe "as long as you're here."

Today, the aggression is more via free trade and a drug eradication effort that is



— photos by Cathy Ford
Dennis Bricking

part of the U.S. State Department's "Plan Colombia," the two told the lunch, which was co-sponsored by the Louisville FOR and Interfaith Paths to Peace.

They cited information gathered during recent trips to Guatemala (by Bricking) and Colombia (by Lockhart).

Bricking said out-migration that has resulted in one-tenth of Guatemala's people leaving the nation has accelerated because free trade has unleashed even more greed by the Central American nation's notorious oligarchy.

"Seven huge families own most of the land in that country," he said. "What they do is move people off their property without notice at all.... They become homeless."

"Up here, we worry about foreclosures. Down there, foreclosure doesn't have court process."

Bricking said media treat illegal immigration as an invasion costing the U.S. jobs and tax dollars. Often unreported, he added, are the reasons Guatemalans and others from the region come.

"They're not here because some government or anybody else tells them they've got to come up here and take people's jobs," Bricking said. "Here, we learn U.S. jobs are being taken away.... What we learn from the other end of the spectrum is quite different."

A Guatemalan is likely to earn several dollars a week in her or his homeland, but several dollars an hour here, Bricking explained.

"Down there... the name of the game is survival," he said.

Lockhart said Colombians are suffering loss of legal crops because of widespread U.S.-initiated spraying of coca plants since 1999 in an attempt to reduce drug imports to the U.S., but that this facet of Plan Colombia is failing.

"The amount of coca produced had actually gone up (between 1999 and 2006)... and that's according to U.S. government statistics," Lockhart said. "So our own government is showing how this is not working. And billions of dollars are going into this."

She said coca was grown in 12 departments of Colombia when spraying began, but the crop is produced in 23 departments now, despite the number of hectares being sprayed almost tripling between 1999 and 2006.

Lockhart was upbeat about one recent development, telling the lunch that President-elect Obama has said he is against ratification of the Colombia Free Trade Agreement. So the outgoing Bush administration has called for it to be hastily ratified before Jan. 20, but Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has not brought the treaty up for a vote, Lockhart added.

Calls to congressional representatives against the treaty would help prevent its approval, she told the lunch, saying the agreement "would only add to the misery and the instability of the small farmers."

Prospects for peace in Palestine will be the topic of the next Third Thursday Lunch, which will be Jan. 15. See ad on page four for details.

The woes awaiting Obama, the shoulders he stands on

In the 1960s, be assured, activists in the Civil Rights Movement across the South did not have the prospect of an African American becoming president of the United States on the radar screen. What was on the radar screen? Removing the humiliating "colored" sign from the water fountain, and the waiting room, and the bathroom, and the back entrance to the restaurant, and the upstairs section of the movie theater.

An African-American friend told me recently about her painful toothache. We are talking about small-town Mississippi in the 1960s. Her mother took her to the dentist very early in the morning. Why? Because not only did she and her mother have to sit in the sparsely-furnished "colored" waiting room, but the white dentist would only see her if a white patient did not show up, or a white patient was finished early. Such was the humiliation of separate-but-equal.

Then there is the terror. "This may be the last time" was a song sung in the Civil Rights Movement at that time. It literally, not just figuratively, meant: this may be the last time you see us alive. That's the legacy of the Ku Klux Klan and other murderous hate groups.

And now, in the year 2008, we prepare for the swearing-in of Barack Obama as the first African American president of the United States. The oft-repeated statement about standing on other peoples' shoulders could never be more true.

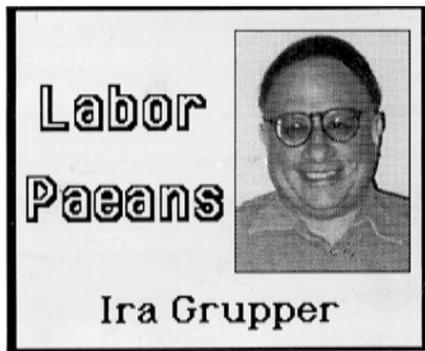
The problems our president-elect has inherited are profound. After all, the world is not, if you'll excuse the play on words, just black and white. We are also dealing with class, the differentiation of people according to who owns and who is owned. So, while we are elated at the rupture in the color line, allowing an African American in, we must also look at how people will survive the current economic catastrophe.

There is production, and there is speculation. There is the production of needed and unneeded commodities, using brain, and using muscle. And then there is this endless paper shifting and shuffling, incessant gambling on futures, on stocks, on bundling usurious mortgages and selling them to still-other speculators, on banks cannibalizing other banks.

"Financial crimes have been committed," said Representative Marcy Kaptur, Democrat of Ohio. "Now Congress is being asked to bail out the culprits." (New York Times, Sept. 29).

There is also the individual corporate guesswork about how many cars, or rolls of toilet paper, each individual company can sell at a profit, as opposed to what is the total need for cars or toilet paper for society to function most efficiently and productively. If the owners guess right, profit. If they guess wrong, bankruptcy, and economic dislocation for the workers.

In addition, production for profit is cyclical. There is the boom, when many, but far from all, invest and earn. Then there is the bust, when valueless speculation meets up with economic exigencies — and, boom, the economy is in the toilet.



Says the New York Times Nov. 24: "Federal regulators approved a radical plan to stabilize Citigroup in an arrangement in which the government could soak up billions of dollars in losses at the struggling bank..."

"The complex plan calls for the government to back about \$306 billion in loans and securities and directly invest about \$20 billion in the company. The plan, emerging after a harrowing week in the financial markets, is the government's third effort in three months to contain the deepening economic crisis and may set the precedent for other multibillion-dollar financial rescues."

Now, let me see if I got this right. One of the largest banks in the world loses big bucks in the casino, and U.S. taxpayer money is going to pay off their gambling debts. But, of course, the government will then own Citibank, right? Wrong. Government will have some say, but ultimately the same whores who peddled their diseased financial corpses for economic gain will be able to continue to solicit and profit therefrom.

Oh, by the way, this is only part of the 700 billion dollar bailout. Are the markets really calm?

And then we come to the auto industry. The CEO's of General Motors, Ford and Chrysler fly to Washington DC in their private jets and ask Congress to let them drink 25 billion-dollar's worth from the public trough, making the total federal funneling of public monies for private profit \$725 billion.

Look back a few years, when the auto industry, then mostly GM, Chrysler and Ford, used every trick in the book and prevented mass production of the electric car. This opposition was based on perception, or rather mis-perception: they couldn't extract as many hard-earned dollars from this car, the public good be damned.

Yet, if regretfully, this corporate bailout must be critically supported. Ron Gettelfinger, president of the UAW, described the enormous pain and suffering awaiting current and retired auto workers, workers in the parts supply sector, and the literally millions of workers who will lose jobs and retirement benefits in the face of the US auto industry going belly-up. "Who will have money in their pockets to buy what other workers still produce?"

The Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism lays out some conditions the auto industry should fulfill

(continued on page 6)



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.

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

Announcing the Third Annual

Paul Robeson Film Festival !!!!

One full-length documentary and
Four feature films during

THE FOUR WEEKS OF **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**,
February 2009.

Week 1:

“Paul Robeson: Here I Stand”

(117-minute documentary featuring Ossie Davis):

**Wed., 4 February 2009, 7:30 p.m.,
site TBA;**

**Thurs., 5 February 2009, 4:00 p.m.,
Chao Auditorium, Ekstrom Library Lower
Level, University of Louisville;**

**Sat., 7 February 2009, 1:30 p.m.,
Highlands-Shelby Park Louisville Free Public
Library Branch, Mid-City Mall,
1250 Bardstown Road.**

Week 2:

DOUBLE FEATURE!!

“Body and Soul” AND “Borderline:”

**Wed., 11 February 2009, 7:30 p.m.,
site TBA;**

**Thurs., 12 February 2009, 4:00 p.m.,
Chao Auditorium (see above);**

**Sat., 14 February 2009, 1:30 p.m.,
Highlands-Shelby Park LFPL Branch
(see above).**

Week 3:

“The Proud Valley:”

**Wed., Feb. 18; Thurs., Feb. 19; and Sat.,
Feb. 21, with times and sites as in Week 1
and Week 2 EXCEPT Thursday showing
(Feb. 19) will be at 1:00 p.m.**

Week 4:

“The Emperor Jones” (by Eugene O’Neill):

**Wed., Feb. 25; Thurs., Feb. 26; and
Sat., Feb. 28, with TIMES AND SITES
AS IN WEEKS 1 AND 2.**



Pearl Street

Leaping gloriously over the cracks
To spare my smiling mother
Severe spinal impairment,
I walked with her and my sister,
Frolicking past the rustle of
Shopping bags and
The crackle of transistor radios,
From smaller clothing stores
To a large one with
The coolest pneumatic tubes —
New Albany's rapid transit system
Whisking our charge slips to the office.
And charge we did on Pearl Street.
Shoes, toys, paintings, lamps, records
And a meal upstairs at Woolworth's
Served by black waiters.
Classy rolls with butter
Predated my conversion
To fundamentalist fast-food worship.
And, ah yes, the commodity of
Friendship — we'd see them all,
And thousands of strangers,
Including a grizzled, salty-looking
Man with a peg leg.
A wounded sailor, I figured
Him to be, though in which
World war, I couldn't say.
Today, the waiters can by law
Work as much more than
Servants of white diners
And the peg leg man would
Find his path easier at the
Handicapped-access corners,
All thanks to Lee Hamilton and
Others who voted in the affirmative.
But the malls to the east
And the casino to the west —
Also unleashed by the votes
Of legislators — have rendered
Woolworth's, the sidewalks
And the pneumatic tubes empty.
What if they had a revolution
And nobody came?

— George Morrison

Ransby

(continued from page 1)

also believed, as does Ransby, that the true measure of a person is where they stand on the *difficult* issues such as the death penalty and the Israeli/Palestinian conflict.

This brief history of the civil rights movement, said Ransby, suggests that there is *much* that we can do *now*—but “YA GOTTA DREAM!” (while at the same time being intensely practical like Braden and Baker). Coming back, like a good historian, to the current political moment, Ransby noted that Barack Obama had followed Baker's democratic, bottom-up, grass-roots organizing model rather than Dr. King's top-down approach; and that he had run an audacious campaign that did not shy away from calling itself “historic.”

What now? What next? Ransby's presentation and life's work suggest that it is up to us.

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



The 2009 Third Annual Fellowship of Reconciliation* Peace Essay/Video Contest

Are you a high school student in Jefferson County? How would you apply nonviolent conflict resolution to...

- The Palestine/Israel conflict?
- Ethnic Killing in Democratic Republic of Congo?
- Reduction of violent crime in Louisville?

Tell us in either a 500-1,000 word essay or a short video. You could get your response published, and win:

- 1st place-- \$250 each, essay and video divisions
- 2nd place-- \$125 each, essay and video divisions
- 3rd place-- \$ 50, essay division only

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: January 9th, 2009

For contest details, go to www.louisville-for.org . E-mail questions to foressaycontest@gmail.com .

*Interfaith Paths to Peace and Louisville Peace Action Community are co-sponsors of the contest

Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation & Interfaith Paths to Peace

September 2008 to January 2009

January 15

Prospects for a Cease Fire and Peace in Palestine

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

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

For reservations, call Jean Edwards (458-8056)



Is peace passing? A report card on Aim Higher's work

by Chris Harmer

Aim Higher is an FOR subcommittee that coalesced several years ago from people in FOR, Citizens Standing Against the War and Louisville Peace Action. It is focused on peacemaking work with high school-age people in our area. This "report card" is intended to let FOR know what the subcommittee is doing, to highlight our successes and opportunities for improvement (sounds like a report card), and to give you opportunities to work with us. The grades given below are, by the way, arbitrary (ask any student).

We believe war will end when no one steps up to fight them. Our mission — with our community allies — is to move our youth away from participation in and reliance on the military for solutions to international conflict, by:

- Countering the massive military recruitment apparatus by pushing to keep the military out of our schools and community events (e.g., Opt Out, ASVAB, JROTC)
- Challenging the military's picture of enlistment presented by recruiters and other advertising (e.g., community Truth-in-Recruiting presentations, equal access in the JCPS)
- Providing core curriculum-related educational activities encouraging study of proven nonviolent means of change and conflict resolution (e.g., the Peace Essay contest, and — through allies like Solutions to Violence project)
- Engaging community and faith groups to reflect and act on ways to practice nonviolence and clear our lives and our community of a reliance on, and glorification of, militarism and violence (e.g., presentations on conscientious objection, leadership in the Silence over Thunder coalition)

The issue of militarism is at the core of our work. Militarism is putting military ideals and methods ahead of civil principles and approaches. It is aggressively preparing and using military capabilities. Late in his too-short life, Martin Luther King, Jr came to understand how militarism affected other aspects of his life's work:

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death...."

Our only hope today lies in our ability to recapture the revolutionary spirit and go out into a sometimes hostile world declaring eternal hostility to poverty, racism, and militarism. —from a speech at Riverside Church, NYC, April 4, 1967, exactly one year before he was assassinated

Many adults in our community — and it is important to note, not the high school students we actually deal with — confuse this "hostility" to militarism with hatred of military people. This impression is simply another version of the damage that "Support the Troops" language does to civil discourse in America today, but it is problem we have to continually expect and address to build support and make progress in a community with deep military ties.

Along that line, our name itself — Aim Higher — has caused controversy and discussion. Aim Higher was an Air Force recruiting slogan several years ago. We took it to reclaim the higher ground, to challenge high school students to struggle to get the best high school and post-secondary civic and career education they can to contribute throughout their life to a better country. We do not accept that the military is the highest



calling to serve; we hold up the life-long sacrifices of teachers, community workers, healthcare professionals, good parents, counselors and others who serve as great examples of building a more inclusive, caring society. First and foremost, though, we advocate for students to understand the realities about military service and understand there are other ways to get an education and serve their country. When they are armed with all the information, they can make the right personal choices.

GRADE: Overall, we probably earn high marks for persistence in all of this. While we have failed to break down the military/educational complex, we have made important recent gains and have new openings. With your help, we can do more to use these new openings to shift the balance of what high school students hear and study.

Pushing to keep the military out of our schools—

Fundamentally, our view is that there is no good reason for the military to be admitted to the schools. One member of the JCPS administration even drew the parallel to cigarette advertising: what is being sold is potentially harmful, and the image-building and "sales" directed at high school-age people acknowledges that if you wait till the students reach 18 years old, they won't buy it — literally or figuratively (the Army recruiting manual says the same thing). The schools should push the students to "Aim Higher" in their studies and career aspirations, and if the students do not find a path to what they are looking for, the military recruiters will still be there waiting for them at age 18.

Opt Out. One little-known after-thought included in the infamous No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) is a requirement that, upon request, all high schools release their student directory (contact) information to military recruiters. Fortunately, there is also a requirement that schools set up an "Opt Out" procedure so parents — and all high school students — who object to helping recruiters contact students before they graduate can deny permission for release of information.

When Aim Higher first contacted Jefferson County Public School (JCPS) system in 2003, they did not have a program. We have worked with them on developing and implementing that program. The JCPS-wide percentage of students Opting Out has grown steadily as we prodded JCPS to provide more and more effective notification: 0 percent in 2003-2004 (no program); 20 percent in 2004-2005; and 35 percent this year (2008-2009). That's 10,000 students Opting Out.

Grade: B+ Nationally, the average opt out rate is 15-20 percent. JCPS has accepted many of our recommendations, as long as they required little effort. We believe we still have far to go, though, because several schools have been consistently above 70 percent, and they are not the schools you might expect, based on, for example, income demographics. Some schools just get the word out more effectively.

We need you to write your Congressional representatives and tell them to rewrite or revoke NCLB and get rid of Section 9528 — the part that requires the directory disclosure. Until that happens, we need more people on our committee to help us contact principals, parents, parent/teacher groups, and student/youth groups to make them aware of the Opt Out form's existence (in the inside cover of the Student Code of Conduct booklet) and its impact on unwanted recruiter contacts.

We also want to start a parallel effort to contact schools to see how many are using the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB). This thinly-veiled recruit evaluation tool is offered to the school counselors free of charge as a general aptitude test, but unless students and parents are informed about specific actions to take ahead of time, the test results and student contact information is automatically forwarded to military recruiting commands in their area.

In addition, a couple of years ago, we started an effort with the local ACLU affiliate to contact every public school district in Kentucky about their compliance with Opt Out. The districts were very forthcoming with information about their programs — or the lack thereof — probably based on the specter of ACLU's legal prowess. The intern we were working with went off to law school before we could send out sample Opt Out forms. We want to rekindle this effort, because most of Kentucky's enlistees come from more rural counties around the state.

Grade: On ASVAB and the statewide check of Opt Out, "Incomplete".

JROTC. FOR has tried and failed to remove the Junior Reserve Officers Training Corps



(JROTC) program on two occasions (in the early 1980s and again in the 1990s) with no lasting success. There are 9-12 grade JROTC programs in at least nine JCPS high schools. They take up JCPS money, classrooms, and student class time, and neither the teachers nor texts are certified. *If stopping this could be your passion, Aim Higher needs you.* Things may be changing. A May 2008 ACLU report to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child identified JROTC and other military forays into high schools targeting students younger than 17 as possible violations of an Optional Protocol the US Senate approved against recruiting child soldiers.

Challenging the military's picture of enlistment —

When direct advertising, sponsorship, recruiting command budgets, and enlistment bonuses are all considered, the Pentagon spent \$4 billion on recruiting in FY 2007. Against this kind of machine, it is tough to compete. Aim Higher members Ellen Schagene and Chris Harmer have provided presentations this year to two community center high school groups on Truth in Recruiting. The information includes data FOIA'd from the Pentagon, from recruiting manuals, and from investigations by the New York Times and other papers on the misrepresentations and outright fraud by recruiters trying desperately to fill quotas during an unpopular war. Student response was favorable, but community centers and other groups are fearful of letting us in and seeming anti-military. *We need your help and connections, to identify opportunities to meet with high school-age kids and to assure their leaders that FOR information has documented, reliable sources.*

The best place to meet large numbers of high school students is, obviously, in high schools. It certainly seems to work for military recruiters. For years, counter-recruitment groups — Center on Conscience and War, American Friends Service Committee, Project YANO, and a host of similar national and local groups — have tried to do the same thing — win equal access to high schools to distribute "Truth in Recruiting" materials. In the past, though, negotiations and even law suits have failed to win much other than the right to provide access to disseminate career and scholarship information in parallel to the military's on-campus efforts.

Nationally, there are at least two hopeful signs this year and, locally, a potentially significant step forward. In Chicago, peace groups have documented large numbers of misleading recruiter claims. As a result, the city school board has gone back and forth on motions restricting recruiter activities and/or equal access for peace groups. If the people prevail over the military recruiters, there may soon be true equal access in Chicago. Similarly, in North Carolina, a Quaker peace activist had been working since 2005 with the local ACLU affiliate and the school district to allow the activist to distribute career alternative information. She prevailed, and after she had been doing that for a semester, she started including Truth-in Recruiting pamphlets on her table displays. The school superintendent then withdrew permission for her access, and now the ACLU is framing a suit.

That suit would parallel what may happen in Louisville. This summer, after years of pressure by Aim Higher member and attorney Dennis Bricking — and a change in JCPS superintendent — FOR received written authorization from JCPS to obtain equal access on a school-by-school basis. Unfortunately, as in North Carolina, that authorization was restricted to distributing information on scholarships and alternative careers. We will

continue negotiations to broaden this access to include Truth in Recruiting. If that is unsuccessful, we may follow ACLU of North Carolina's lead. *If you would be interested and available to be trained to present career information and Truth-in-Recruiting materials at schools about once a month, please contact Dennis Bricking, dbricking@gmail.com. And please contact him if you are an attorney who could help Dennis work through the case law in this emerging area.*

Grade: "Pass" to date, but with real reason to expect improvement next semester.

Encouraging study of proven nonviolent means of change —

One of the best ways to turn students away from choosing the military is to educate them about successful nonviolent change. We are in the midst of rolling out the Third Annual FOR Peace Essay/Video Contest. The details are at www.louisville-for.org and we have, separately, asked FORsooth readers to talk personally to teachers, students and friends now to increase contest participation. While only a few dozen students — representing only a handful of JCPS schools — participated in the contest last year, it proved that high school students were up to "nonviolently tackling" the two issues — either reversing nuclear proliferation or finding a sustainable path to peaceful coexistence with present-day Iran. We presented the prizes at school assemblies, which also gave us a presence at these events to in some way counter the presence of the military and their awards.

The contest gave the winning writers recognition for creative, critical thinking and a forum for their ideas. That last point may have been the most important result — publishing the winning essays in FORsooth and in the Courier-Journal probably was the first exposure for many people in Louisville to the important historical background of the less-than-admirable relationship of the US and its corporations with Iran. Responses to one of this year's question choices — on nonviolently addressing the ongoing fighting in Democratic Republic of Congo — will probably break similar ground.

A longer-range, and potentially more effective, approach to peace studies education has also made a major first step. Solutions to Violence is an *ad hoc* committee comprised of some Aim Higher members — Jim Johnson and Peggy Kidwell — and people from other peace groups. Started after the FOR 90th anniversary lecture by Colman McCarthy several years ago, this group has taken McCarthy's texts of readings from historical leaders in nonviolent change and created a not-for-credit discussion class for high school students. It was piloted last year with a small group. The discussions were lively, but the participants were few, largely because the course was not for credit, and was after school. This year, the committee worked with JCPS social studies resource contacts, and was given the opportunity to present an in-service on the peace studies materials and methods for JCPS teachers. Again, the in-service attendance was small, but the response was positive. Solutions to Violence is spending this year, working on honing the in-service presentation for next summer. *They need help from teachers who could help them develop and present the material, and who could recommend it to other teachers who could incorporate different peace studies units in their regular curriculum units.*

Grade: C on the Peace Essay Contest. It is doing right things, but needs your help to reach more students. "Pass" to date on Solutions to Violence, but with real reason to expect improvement in impact next summer.

Chris Harmer clerks the Aim Higher subcommittee.

The U.N. on homelessness

Regarding the wonderful two-part series on homelessness by Ike Thacker and Eustace Durrett in the October and November "Forsooth," it might be pointed out that not only is everyone deserving of housing, but it is a right, not a privilege as spelled out in Article 25 of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights, to which the United States is a signatory, which states:

(1) Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in cir-

cumstances beyond his control.

(2) Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

Peace,

Tracy Phillip McLellan,
Chicago
mclellan.tracy@gmail.com



Letters to FORsooth

Headline trivialized a life

This letter is not easy for me to write. George Morrison has not only been the editor to whom I have submitted my newspaper column, *Labor Paeans*, for these many years — he is also my friend and colleague.

George writes the headline for each of my columns; he feels that is an editor's job. So, I write to express my extreme displeasure with the headline George created for my November column, "Life devoted to cleansing US of racism, foul language." Read this column and you will see Mary Spencer's life was NOT devoted to cleansing the US of foul language. Several people contacted me about this, and so I called George. Unfortunately, George immediately defended his position, and that is the reason for this letter.

By George giving equal sway to "Life devoted to cleansing US of racism," on the one hand, and "Life devoted to cleansing US of... foul language," George objectively trivializes Mrs. Spencer.

My story about the bar of soap was a form of comic relief, i.e. "a release of emotional or other tension resulting from a comic episode interposed in the midst of serious or tragic elements in a drama." William Shakespeare used comic relief in Hamlet, Macbeth, Othello and Romeo and Juliet.

I respect George's right, as editor, to correct spelling and grammar, and edit for space and clarity.... A solution would be for George to email me changes he wants made in text of future columns, and the headline I compose, and I will suggest changes, if necessary. George kindly agreed re: the column, but feels the headline is his prerogative.

George is editor, so I feel helpless. But, out of respect for Mary Spencer, I write this letter.

Ira Grupper
Louisville

Obama *(continued from page 2)*

to get this public money: produce energy-efficient, environmentally-friendly, low-cost automobiles; promote single-payer healthcare (John Conyers' HR 676); end out-sourcing to non-union plants; end the drive to cut UAW wages and support unionization of the whole auto industry; guarantee current and retiree benefits; radically reconfigure CEO salaries; end threat of bankruptcy proceedings particularly as they might relate to breaking union contracts.

On election night President-elect Obama told the world: "Our destiny is shared, and a new dawn of American leadership is at hand." Mr. Obama will have to show this both domestically and internationally, by freezing home foreclosures and restructuring mortgages; creating jobs through massive investment in infrastructure; requiring bailout recipients to pay back, in full, to taxpayers; restoring government oversight and strict regulation of banks; and supporting enactment of the Employee Free Choice Act.

Internationally, Mr. Obama must close Guantanamo Bay prison; protect Iraqi refugees; stop the flow of arms to Darfur; end the torture of prisoners in U.S. custody; recognize, negotiate and trade with Cuba; and free the Cuban 5.

The Democrats now control the executive and legislative branches of our national government. Unfortunately, here in Kentucky, not only did a majority of voters support McCain, they returned to

the U.S. Senate Mitch McConnell, the powerful and reactionary point person in the U.S. Congress for the Republican Party.

Sen. McConnell has opposed pension protection, prevailing wage, Davis-Bacon, and fair trade laws. His Democratic Party opponent, Bruce Lunsford, supported the above protections. Unfortunately, his personal fortune came from healthcare bloodsucking, and so he was attractive only as an anyone-but-Mitch alternative.

If Sen. McConnell is a revanchist, and Mr. Lunsford makes bland seem less so, Studs Terkel was anything but bland or revanchist. He was a media giant, the great chronicler of ordinary working class people. Studs died recently, and Chicago lost a champion.

We close with a posting from Ted Pearson, a friend from Chicago: If you had purchased \$1,000 of AIG stock one year ago, you would have \$42 left. With Lehman Brothers, you would have \$6.60 left. With Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, you would have less than \$5 left.

But if you had purchased \$1,000 worth of beer one year ago, drank all of the beer and then turned in the cans for the aluminum recycling REFUND, you would have had \$214.

Based on the above, the best current investment advice is to drink heavily and recycle. It's called the 401-Keg....

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

Elders *(continued from page 1)*

Political Repression, repeating her decades-long call for universal access to health care in the U.S.

Elders, who served for 18 months as surgeon general under President Clinton, noted that Americans spend the equivalent of nearly 16 percent of the nation's gross domestic product on health care, but that 47 million people in the U.S. have no health insurance.

Echoing calls during her time in the Clinton administration for providing youth vastly better sex education and contraception, Elders told the dinner such policies won't increase youth sexual activity — explaining that teen sex is already widespread — but will curb risky behavior that leads to unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.

The dinner, the first held since the death of justice icon Rev. Louis Coleman, founder of the Justice Resource Center and unrelenting activist for jobs, clean air and civilian review of police, included a 10-point Call to Action in his honor.

The first point was passage of HR 676, which would create the single-payer national health insurance Elders called for. Others included fairer distribution of Metro Louisville dollars to neighborhoods with high concentrations of poverty, schools that serve equally students of all national and socio-economic backgrounds and lending practices that make housing more accessible.

As has happened since its beginning, the Unity Dinner included the honoring of area residents and groups for their work for justice. Honorees were:

- University of Louisville communications student Jaison A. Gardner, who has worked for youth empowerment, LGBT rights, feminism and racial equality.
- Gerry Gordon-Brown, and activist for civil rights and

disability rights and director of the state Client Assistance Program, which helps the disabled receive services.

- Whit Forrester, a member of the Brick House Bike and Garden Collectives, which makes resources and information about bicycles available. He has also worked on community garden and other environmental efforts.
- The U of L chapter of SNCC, the 48-year-old civil rights organization. The chapter, formed in 2004, works against racism and other injustices.
- Brent McKim, president of the Jefferson County Teachers Association, who has a record of supporting diversity and equal treatment in education.

The Carl and Anne Braden Memorial Award for Lifetime Achievement in Social Activism went to retired U of L professor Joseph H. McMillan, who worked for equality through the Black Political Action Committee, Kentucky Rainbow/PUSH Coalition, the Justice Resource Center and many other organizations.

He also worked with initiatives to promote literacy and strengthen the family in African-American communities.

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.

FINANCIAL REPORT November 2008

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$13,250.43
Donations & Honorariums	376.00
TOTAL	\$13,626.43

EXPENDITURES:

FORsooth Editing	\$150.00
FORsooth Layout	100.00
FORsooth Mailing	200.00
FOR National Dues	100.00
FOR National (Iran trip)	300.00
Kentucky Alliance	50.00
Office Expenses	63.08
	\$963.08
ENDING BALANCE	\$12,663.35

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



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PUSH NOW! END NUCLEAR WASTE!

While there is a new wind blowing in the nation, a feeling of hope and accomplishment, can this be the time to work for change in our nuclear policy?

Think back to the 1980s when a million of us marched in New York City as a follow-up to the Three Mile Island accident.

Although the Reagan administration attempted to squelch the movement (even to the point of insulting Helen Caldicott when she finally gained an audience with President Reagan), the effort was successful in halting the building of more nuclear reactors.

However, during the Bush administration, there has been a strong push to help solve the energy crisis by advocating a return to nuclear power and ignoring the fact that we still have nowhere to store the nuclear waste that is generated by nuclear reactors.

On August 6, 2008, Hiroshima Day, Senator John McCain visited the Fermi site in Monroe, Michigan and called for **45 new nuclear power reactors by 2030**. Senator Obama, on the other hand, has urged that we "safely harness" nuclear power and address the waste problem.

Suppose for a moment that our government did finally reach a decision on where to put our nuclear waste. What would follow after that? We can learn something from Germany's experience where for some thirty years their nuclear waste has been stored at **GORLEBEN**, southeast of Hamburg. Massive protests from the very beginning have attempted to block the trucks bringing it in. Last month on November 10, **fifteen thousand activists converged at the site to disrupt a convoy of heavy trucks moving high-level radioactive waste to Gorleben.**

The protesters were met by 16,000 police who made over 1,000 arrests while clearing the way for the trucks. The actions successfully delayed shipment of the transports when they cemented themselves to rail lines, blocked roads with sit-ins and set barricades ablaze. As in years past, local farmers by the dozens used their tractors to clog roadways. Most of the actions were peaceful, but one violent clash took place when police used their batons and water canons as protesters threw fire crackers.

Under federal law, Germany is to close all its nuclear power reactors within the next 15 years, and the decommissioning will add another 115,000 cubic meters to the pile. Meanwhile, used uranium fuel is sent to France for reprocessing, and then the remaining wastes are returned to Gorleben where hundreds of tons are currently stored in a guarded warehouse.

(Information taken from "NUKEWATCH" Winter 2008-09)

PAUL ROBESON – TRULY AMAZING RENAISSANCE MAN

by Eustace Durrett and Ike Thacker

Black History Month in February will honor Paul Robeson with a Film Festival including one full-length documentary and four feature films which will be instructive in showing that he was a very major figure of the twentieth century. Paul Robeson (1898-1976) first achieved fame as an athlete at Rutgers University (he also graduated as valedictorian), earning football All-American honors both in 1918 and 1919. He then graduated with honors from Columbia Law School, and worked briefly as an attorney. But by the mid-1920s his singing and acting career was in the ascendant, as he starred in Eugene O'Neill's *The Emperor Jones* and in a silent film called *Body and Soul* directed by the famed black director



Oscar Micheaux. In the 1920s and 1930s, Robeson starred in a total of 11 films, many made in Britain. During the Civil War in Spain, he sang for the Republican troops — even on the front lines — and promoted war bonds with his amazing untrained bass-baritone voice.

But Robeson was a leftist, supporting the Soviet Union even under Stalin, and by 1950 he had so incensed the powers that be, that he was forbidden to travel abroad and blacklisted even in the U.S. His troubles with the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) and the eight-year (1950-1958) refusal to grant him a passport have left him little-known, even among the African-American community. Only in 1958 did the U.S. Supreme Court rule in Robeson's favor, and the great man got a passport. But the battle had weakened Robeson. On a trip to the USSR in the early 1960s he even attempted suicide.

Robeson's most famous films were *Showboat* and *The Emperor Jones*.

(Please see the ad in this issue of FORsooth for times and locations where the films will be shown)

JFK and the Unspeakable – A NEW BOOK BY JIM DOUGLASS

This is a story of hope rather than of despair. It describes the period that Jim Douglass refers to as God working through President John Kennedy, Nikita Khrushchev, and others when they had the courage to resist the tremendous pressures on them to launch a nuclear strike against their enemies. When they chose instead to reach out to each other, it was really God working through them, according to Douglass. It was a time when the world gasped (as John Dear, SJ has said) at the possibility of redemption, even of resurrection. We refer to the 1962 nuclear missile crisis in Cuba.

Volumes have been written about this defeat for the United States and for John Kennedy. But Jim's new book has caused many experts to agree that this is by far an "exceptional achievement," the best yet — a new approach bringing us closer to the truth.

In a speech made by John Kennedy a year later at American University he is quoted as saying "I speak of peace because of the new face of war." The entire speech is included at the end of the book. It is available for \$30 from Orbis Books, Maryknoll, NY 10545

Note: The above excerpts were taken from Don Mosley's article in *Jubilee Partners Report*, October 2008. Don will be glad to send a copy of his review to anyone who requests it. Write Don Mosley, Jubilee Partners, PO Box 68, Comer GA 30629 or e-mail: dmos@igc.org

CHAPMAN'S EXECUTION IS DEPLORED

by Ken Nevitt

I was saddened, but not entirely surprised that columnist Byron Crawford defended the death penalty for Marco Allen Chapman, who committed despicable acts of murder and rape.

On the night of the execution, my liberal (though non-activist) friends mostly agreed with Crawford. I left our gathering and attended the vigil at Jefferson Square.

I do not care that Chapman requested his death. His desire is immaterial to me. Yes, had he performed these despicable acts on my family, I would also want him dead. But I would prefer a society which, like the European Union, or a religion like the Quakers, forbids or opposes the death penalty. The death penalty sends a message which devalues life. "If you kill, we will kill you."

The death penalty also falls unfairly upon the marginalized, such as the poor and minorities. We are now in the top five of countries which utilize the death penalty, trailing only China, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan. Great company. As Mahatma Gandhi remarked: "An eye for an eye will make the whole world blind."

(*Courier-Journal*, 11-29-08. Reprinted by permission)



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

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

at the VIGIL

Every Friday: 12 Noon – 1:00 PM
Corner of 6th Street & Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky



Louisville Committee for Israeli/Palestinian States (502.451.5658) www.louisvillepeace.org/twostates.html
Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)/Louisville Chapter (502.458.8056) www.louisville-for.org
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)/Kentucky Chapter (502.893.9828) www.adckentucky.com



Calendar for peacemakers

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 6 (Sat) **THE UNIVERSE STORY AND YOU.** A workshop exploring the big questions: Who are we? Where are we going? Where did we come from? Facilitators Marilyn Stoner and Mark Steiner bring their many years of experience to this workshop to create a day of depth, meaning, transformation and fun. 9 AM-4 PM, James Lees Presbyterian Church, 1741 Frankfort Ave. Requested donation: \$30, but no one will be turned away for lack of funds. For more information or to register, contact Marilyn at 456-1502 or marilynstoner@fastmail.fm.

Dec 6 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by: "African Philosophy" featuring Dr. Dismas Masolo, UofL and Prof. Paulin Hountondji, Republic of Benin. (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Dec 7 (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.

Dec 8 (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.

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.

Dec 10 (Wed) **60th ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS.** Over a dozen outstanding Louisville citizens will share brief personal statements regarding their work to secure basic human rights for all people. 7 PM-9 PM, Undercroft of the Cathedral of the Assumption, 433 South Fifth Street. A fundraiser for Interfaith Paths to Peace. For more information, call 214-7322 or email Terry@InterfaithPathstoPeace.org.

Dec 10 (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.

Dec 11 (Thurs) **DECEMBER FORUM.** "What is the Role of an Anti-Racist Organization in the Age of Obama?" Sponsored by the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. 7 PM, Braden Center, 3208 West Broadway. For more information, call the Alliance at 778-8130.

Dec 11 (Thurs) **APPAF (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum).** Every second Thursday. Documentary: "The Tipping Point: Changing Perceptions of the U.S.-Israel Relationship." 7:30 PM, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, Room 10. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Dec 13 (Sat) **PEAK OIL.** Every 2nd Saturday, Main Library, 4th & York, Mezzanine, Boardroom. 9:00 AM. Call George Perkins, 425-6645.

Dec 13 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by: "Being White in Jamaica: Working Across Racial Boundaries" featuring Gina Stiens and Drs. Sonya Burton and Adam Renner of Bellarmine University. (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Dec 14 (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.

Dec 18 (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.

Dec 18 (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.

Dec 20 (Sat) **CULTURAL SHOWCASE: IRAQ.** Documentaries followed by discussion and a chance to meet and greet our new Iraqi neighbors. "A Song for Daniel" follows a routine day of two nine year-old boys, one living in Baghdad and the other born and raised in New York City. "My Country, My Country" is an unforgettable journey into the heart of war-ravaged Iraq in the months leading up to the January 2005 elections. 12 noon. Iroquois Branch, Louisville Free Public Library, 601 W. Woodlawn Ave. For more information, call 574-1720.

Dec 20 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by: "Domestic Violence" a presentation by LMPD Officer Jackie Hollingsworth and Corissa Phillips, Center for Women and Families (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Dec 21 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** Every third Sunday. First Unitarian Church, 4th & York Streets, 3:00 PM. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Dec 21 (Sun) **PEACECASTERS SHOWCASE.** Meet the PeaceCasters and hear about their experiences as young

journalists and video artists, and see a special screening of this session's video productions. 6 PM, The Undercroft of the Cathedral of the Assumption, 433 South Fifth Street. For more information, contact the Center for Interfaith Relations at 583-3100.

Dec 21 (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.

Jan 2 (Fri) **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED.** General meeting, featuring "Slides of Papua New Guinea" in preparation for the World Day of Prayer to be held March 6, 2009, with a service written by the Christian women of Papua. First Lutheran Church, 417 E. Broadway. 9:20 AM. For more information, call Genny Scheldorf, 239-5931.

Jan 5 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE.** Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road. Visitors encouraged. (Please note the special date for this meeting.) Call Dennis Bricking, 298-0590, or Phil Schervish, 558-7175.

Jan 7 (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.

Jan 8 (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.

Jan 12 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE FEBRUARY 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.**

Jan 15 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH.** Rudyard Kipling, 422 West Oak. "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, and the continuing delays at the many Israeli checkpoints in the West Bank. 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.

Jan 15 (Thurs) **"THE READY SET" WORKSHOP.** A new initiative of the Jewish Family & Vocational Service designed to prepare Baby Boomers entering the next phase of their lives to make the most of the years ahead. 5:30-7:30 PM, 3587 Dutchmans Lane in the Roth Family Center. For more information, contact Beverly Bromley at 452-6341, ext. 223, or beverlybromley@jfv.com

Jan 17 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by: "Saturday Academy MLK Celebration" (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Jan 22 (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 24 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by: "M.E.N.S.W.O.R.K." featuring Rus Funk, Executive Director. (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Jan 26 (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.

Jan 27 (Tue) **ANNUAL RACE AND RELATIONS CONFERENCE.** "Continuing the Dialogue." With keynote speaker Farai Chideya, host of NPR's News and Notes radio program. 9 AM-4 PM, The Galt House, 140 North Fourth Street. Full registration, \$75 (includes lunch); workshops only, \$35. For more information or to register, contact the Louisville/Jefferson County Metro Human Relations Commission at 574-3631.

Jan 31 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by: "The Real Indiana Jones: Links between Africa and Classical Greece and Rome" featuring Dr. John Hale, UofL (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Jan 22-25 (Thurs-Sun) **2009 CONFERENCE: NATIONAL COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY.** With keynote speakers Benjamin T. Jealous, President and CEO of the NAACP, and Sister Helen Prejean, CSJ. Held at the Holiday Inn Harrisburg East, Harrisburg, PA. Full registration, \$200. Day rates and dinner tickets available separately. For more information or to register, visit www.ncadp.org or email questions to abe@ncadp.org.

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

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

AIDS INTERFAITH MINISTRIES (AIM) OF KENTUCKIANA, INC. – 1st Tuesday (574-6085 or 574-6086)

AMERICA 2000 DEMOCRATIC CLUB – 4th Tuesday (459-0616)

AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE – 3rd Thursday, every other month at noon (608-7517)

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (637-8951)

APPAP (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum) – 2nd Thursday (895-8155)

BREAD FOR THE WORLD – 1st Tuesday (239-4317)

CAPA (Citizens Against Police Abuse) – 2nd Thursday (778-8130)

CART (Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation) – 3rd Wednesday, 1578 Bardstown Road (895-5172)

CLOUT [Citizens of Louisville Organized and Working Together] – (583-1267)

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

COMMON CAUSE – 1st Tuesday, every other month (454-7797)

COMMUNIST PARTY USA – First Sunday at 5:00 PM (384-3875)

COMMUNITY FARM ALLIANCE OF JEFFERSON COUNTY – 2nd Tuesday (775-4041)

CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (560-0085)

COUNTER RECRUITMENT, "Aim Higher" – Second Sunday (893-2334)

EARTH SAVE LOUISVILLE – 2nd Saturday (569-1876)

FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN – Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities (893-0788)

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (558-7175 or 895-8516)

FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LOUISVILLE – 2nd Tuesday (893-8436)

GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB – 3rd Tuesday (897-3335)

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY – Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays (637-6265)

INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE – 1st Tuesday (214-7322)

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)

JURISDICTIONARY CLUB OF LOUISVILLE – Know the law and how to use it (500-8161)

JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER – 3rd Saturday (562-6737)

KFTC [KENTUCKIANS FOR THE COMMONWEALTH] – 2nd Monday (589-3188)

KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION – 3rd Monday (778-8130)

KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY – Last Tuesday (541-9998)

KITLAC (KY INTERFAITH TASKFORCE ON LATIN AMERICA & THE CARIBBEAN) – 2nd Wednesday (479-9262)

KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (245-2272)

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

LOUISVILLE PEAK OIL GROUP – 2nd Saturday (425-6645)

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

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

LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (893-0788), www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org

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

METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION – 4th Wednesday (584-6858)

MIGHTY KINDNESS – mightykindness@gmail.com (235-0711)

MUHAMMAD ALI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE, at UL (852-6372)

NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) – 3rd Monday (776-7608)

NAMI (National Alliance for the Mentally Ill) – 2nd Monday (245-5287)

PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG) – 3rd Sunday (329-0229)

PEACE & COMPASSION BUDDHA CIRCLE/CML – (451-2193, brozier@bellsouth.net)

RCRC [Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice] – (866-606-0988)

RESULTS (a hunger lobby) – 2nd Saturday (451-4907)

SINGLE WOMEN'S GROUP – 3rd Sunday (812-866-1667)

911 TRUTH LOUISVILLE (502-609-6020)

US DEPARTMENT OF PEACE CAMPAIGN OF KY – 3rd Sunday (472-1772)

YOUNG DEMOCRATIC SOCIALISTS – every Friday at 2:30 PM (712-2338)

Note: If your group would like to be added to this list or if information needs to be updated, please let us know by calling 458-8056.