

FORsooth

Letter: Gazan rockets 'reprehensible,' but Israel's response cruel, excessive

Following is an open letter from members of the Ad Hoc Committee to End the Siege of Gaza and others to U.S. Rep John Yarmuth of Kentucky's 3rd District (to sign an on-line version, go to www.louisvillepeace.org/yarmuthletter.html):

There are times when the citizens of a free nation feel compelled to speak out and to petition their elected representatives to address a cause of grave concern. At such a time, we have chosen to write to you, not only because you represent us in the United States Congress, but because we hold you in high esteem. You have demonstrated that you are a public servant of rare integrity, commitment, and courage. It is these qualities that we hope will move you to give our cause serious consideration, and then to act in accord with the moral imperatives animating our request.

The impetus for this letter is Israel's recent assault on the Gaza Strip, and the humanitarian crisis it has caused. We believe it is incumbent upon the United States government to take action to end the current violence and address the needs of its victims. Consider the following points:

Israel's justification of its actions is one-sided and misleading. The firing of rockets on civilian areas from within the Gaza Strip is reprehensible, but it has not occurred in a vacuum. Israel has been guilty
(continued on page 7)



—photo by Cindy Scheldorf

Ralliers at the University of Louisville Jan. 12. denounce Israel's invasion of Gaza, which came after rocket attacks. Camyla Jasis-Wallace speaks while Stephon Babour's sign sums up the rally, one of several held in Louisville in January. See related Third Thursday Lunch story PAGE TWO. Jasis-Wallace's mother, Sharon Wallace of Louisville, recently delivered humanitarian aid to the besieged Gaza, saying: "There is no way, living in the United States, that the American people can know about the horror that the people of Gaza are suffering."

Play's focus is soldiers, premiere is March 4

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

Russ Vandenbroucke was about 7,000 miles from his Louisville home in 2006 when

"Soldiers Circle" will be performed March 4-8 at 8 p.m. (plus a 3 p.m. performance on the final day, a Sunday) at the Thrust Theater at U of L, 2314 S. Floyd St. (intersection of Floyd and Warnock streets). Tickets cost \$12 for the general public or \$8 for senior citizens or U of L students, faculty and staff. Seating is limited, so author Russ Vandenbroucke recommended buying tickets in advance by calling (502) 852-6814.

seeing a Russian war memorial brought him closer to a very American issue.

Vandenbroucke, the chair of the University of Louisville's Theatre Arts Department, was in Perm, Russia during a tour of "School Play," a play he wrote
(continued on page 2)

Restorative justice backed

by Eustace Durrett
and Ike M. Thacker IV

A new criminal justice method emphasizing criminals compensating victims and undergoing rehabilitation when possible gained the backing of the Kentucky Council of Churches in October at the council's annual meeting at Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Frankfort.

In a 25-page document, the council called for wider use of "restorative justice," which involves more than punishing offenders. Instead, it accents "the hurts and the needs of the victim, the offender, and the community in such a way that all... might be healed."

The council is a coalition of Protestant denominations and the Roman Catholic Church.

The document said restorative justice "is not an approach that ignores wrongdoing" or suggests "removing consequences for crimes," but calls for criminals to compensate victims and to be rehabilitated when possible for re-entry into society.

Restorative justice has been implemented in hundreds of communities and, to a lesser extent, by states. Its forms vary, but usually feature restitution plans worked out during face-to-face meetings between offenders and victims, moderated by a neutral mediator and held at a neutral site, often a church.

Offenders frequently agree to physically repair damage done to property, listen to victims describe the anguish caused by their crimes and tell the victims of problems in their own lives that may have led to their wrongful acts. Many offenders apologize.

Backers say the method helps victims heal and promotes accountability by offenders better than traditional methods relying on jail and impersonal bureaucratic courts. Occasionally, victims have actually become advocates for their offenders, meeting with them regularly to urge them to become more responsible and helping

them and their families receive better social services to address the problems the offenders brought up in the meetings.

The council's document also calls for:

- Efforts to prevent racial or class prejudice in law enforcement.
- A study of social problems which it sees as the root of violent crimes, "rather than simply punishing the actions that are truly symptomatic of the larger problems."
- Better treatment of inmates with mental-health and substance-abuse problems.
- Cooperation between law enforcement and citizen groups.
- Opposition to the death penalty.
- Alternatives to prison for first-time drug offenders.
- A study to determine whether the sex-offender registry is effective or is "driving convicted sex offenders underground."

The Council also supported a statement by the National Religious Coalition Against Torture. That coalition condemns severe interrogation measures used by American interrogators in recent years. It has said

Two excellent sites on restorative justice are by the Prison Fellowship International at www.restorativejustice.org/intro and the National Institute of Justice. Use that organization's name and "restorative justice" as key words.

allowing such inhumane treatment is "shocking and morally intolerable."

The Council of Churches also endorsed an updated version of the 1908 Social Creed, which resulted in a generation of religious reformers who fought against child labor abuse. The revised version emphasizes workplace safety, universal health care and an end to human trafficking and the death penalty.

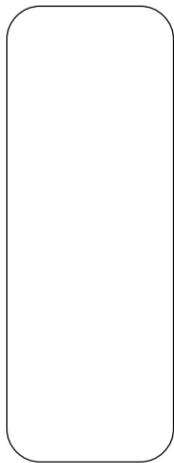
This version was drafted by the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) and approved by the National Council of Churches.

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Israeli moves in Gaza seen tied to US Mideast goals

FORsooth staff report

Israel's attack on Gaza in late December was part of a U.S.-overseen strategy to oust Hamas and replace its elected leaders with more moderate and pro-U.S. officials, a panelist told the Third Thursday Lunch Jan. 15, two days before Israel announced a unilateral ceasefire.

Ibrahim Imam, a Palestinian-American and professor at the University of Louisville (who said his views were not meant to represent the university), told the monthly lunch that backers of Israel's move have wrongly portrayed Hamas as having seized power from the Palestinian Authority.

"That wasn't an illegal takeover," Imam said. "Hamas won the majority and Hamas became the legally elected government."

Ibrahim Imam said the blockade of Gaza, which humanitarian workers have said has caused immense suffering, was copied from a strategy carried out by the U.S of embargoing trade with and sabotaging the economy of Nicaragua.

Imam spoke after a video from the cable television show "Democracy Now" was played featuring differing accounts of the events leading to the Israel's economic blockade, bombing and sending troops and tanks into Gaza.

On that video, Martin Indyk, adviser to the Obama administration, former ambassador to Israel and assistant secretary of state for Near East affairs during the Clinton administration, said the Israeli actions came in response to unprovoked rocket attacks against Israeli civilians and because Hamas hasn't changed its advocacy of destroying Israel.

He and then-Bush Administration Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice said on the video that Hamas had caused Gaza residents' suffering by what Rice called an "illegal coup" against the Palestinian Authority that

prompted the blockade and invasion.

Norman Finkelstein, an author and critic of Israel's policies, responded on the video that the blockade came about before Hamas came to power, a victory which he, like Imam, described as democratic and fair. Finkelstein said Israel attacked because it doesn't want Gaza to be economically developed and because of a strategy by it, the U.S. and the Palestinian Authority to oust Hamas.

As of the Jan. 15 lunch, the Democracy Now video said, more than 700 Gazans had been killed and 10 Israelis had died in the invasion and that more than 3,000 people had been wounded.

Imam said the blockade, which humanitarian workers have said has caused immense

suffering in Gaza, was copied from a strategy carried out by then-U.S. assistant secretary of state Elliott Abrams of embargoing trade with and sabotaging the economy of Nicaragua. The Abrams plan was to cause enough suffering that Nicaraguan voters would defeat the Sandinistas to end the war and embargo, Imam said.

"This is not very different than what actually has happened in the Middle East," Imam said. "It is morally corrupt to try to frame this, what's going on right now, as Israel is defending itself from Hamas rockets."

Louisville civil rights and labor activist and FORsooth columnist Ira Grupper will speak at the Feb. 19 Third Thursday Lunch about Vietnam, to which he traveled in January. See ad on page six.

Play's focus

(continued from page 1)

about school integration in the U.S. During some free time, he came upon a memorial to the dead in the Soviet Union's disastrous war in Afghanistan, and was struck with that 1980s war's similarity to his own nation's current-day situation.

"I found myself musing about the fact that the conflict was the same. The military was different," said Vandembroucke, an FOR member.

The experience inspired him to write a play to premiere March 4 in Louisville.

"Soldiers Circle" follows a group of young Americans through their recruitment, training, deployment in Iraq and—for the fortunate ones—return. The play, which includes singing, relies on real-life soldiers' blog postings and interviews Vandembroucke has conducted.

Vandembroucke, who traveled to many Southeast Asian nations in 2007 while a fellow at the Rotary Center for

Peace and Conflict Studies in Bangkok, Thailand, said "Soldiers Circle" is an intersection of his interest in theater and peacemaking.

While working on those passions, he has, since the 1980s, traveled to Finland, Rumania, and (then) East Germany, Australia, South Africa and Italy.

As a playwright, Vandembroucke authored "Feiffer's America" and "Eleanor: In Her Own Words," adapted from the writings of Eleanor Roosevelt, which won a Los Angeles Emmy and was broadcast on the "American Playhouse" television series. His play "Atomic Bombers" commemorated the 50th anniversary of the Hiroshima bombing.

At the conclusion of his work at the Rotary Center in Bangkok, Vandembroucke adapted and directed a public presentation of issues examined there called "An Evening with Global Peacemakers."



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Readings on nonviolence

The Louisville Peace Action Community is organizing a program of school-based reading and discussions called "Solutions to Violence" based on the work of acclaimed journalist and peace activist Colman McCarthy.

The community, which formed about the time of the start of the Iraq war, said in a news release: "The program consists of extensive readings and intensive discussion sessions which allow participants to become aware of the options available to them in dealing with conflict, other than aggression or violence."

The group said the program will include writings collected by McCarthy on nonviolent responses to conflict. Authors are to include: Gandhi, Tolstoy, Dorothy Day, Joan Baez, Sargent Shriver, Grace Yoder, Gene Sharp, Mary Roodkowski, Martin Luther King, Jr., Daniel Berrigan, Eric Fromm, Tho-

mas Merton and McCarthy himself.

"These readings are on topics ranging from physical assault to poverty, undeclared war to feminism, loving one's enemies to ministering to the condemned, nonviolent eating to defying a holocaust and much more. Participant discussions follow these readings."

An initial meeting about the program is slated for January 27 at 7 p.m. in the Fireside Room at the Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church, 142 Crescent Avenue between Frankfort Avenue and Brownsboro Road. That is one block west of Hillcrest Avenue.

Anyone wanting more information should contact LPAC organizer James J. McMillin at (502) 896-6503 or jjmcmillin@insightbb.com.

For a look at the Solutions to Violence curriculum, go to www.salsa.net/peace/conv/index.html.

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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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.

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Obama and the courts

Economy tops agenda, but rescuing judiciary is also crucial

Many progressives consider the November defeat of same-sex marriage in the nation's largest state to be a crushing blow to human rights and the only blemish on an overall celebratory election.

But all is far from lost for gay marriage and the overall movement for equality—consider that Massachusetts and Connecticut are recognizing same-sex marriages by residents and outsiders and there seems to be no movement toward amending either state's constitution to ban them.

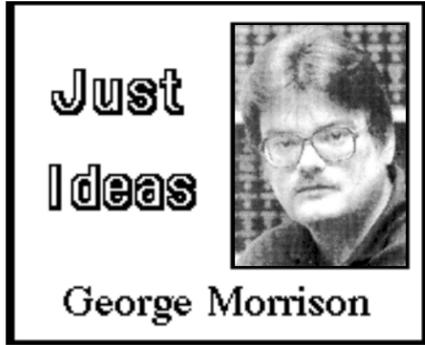
But the primary reason to be optimistic just may turn out to be another outcome Nov. 4, the election of Barack Obama, the invitation of Rick Warren to the inaugural notwithstanding.

So why is Obama's win so important to the future of same-sex marriage, when the issue is near the bottom of his economy-dominated agenda?

Yes, even a new president known for his bold strokes and a Congress controlled by a Democratic Party more empowered and more liberal than any time since the mid-1960s aren't going to risk political capital on something the people as a whole haven't backed in a single statewide referendum anywhere.

But what they can, and probably will be able to do that is crucial to same-sex marriage's chances is rescue the judiciary. They can end the stranglehold the right wing put on it through the GOP's failing to fill vacancies during the Clinton years, then ramming through right-wing approved judges and justices since 2001.

Obama, who has stated plainly his support for the principle of marriage equality, has bulked-up Democratic majorities in the House and Senate, which could allow a fairly quick turnaround in the direction of the federal judiciary. There are less certain, but still probable consequences for the future of the U.S. Supreme Court.



Two liberal justices, John Paul Stevens and Ruth Bader Ginsburg, are said to be eyeing retirement, so the election of Obama and a Democratic Senate was crucial to the future of civil liberties, gay rights and the non-establishment of religion.

With the Minnesota Senate recount all but settled as of this writing in Al Franken's favor, the Democrats have 57 seats, but if two independents who caucus with them—leftist Bernie Sanders and center-right former Democrat Joe Lieberman—vote with the party, that is 59 seats.

Ultimately, though, it isn't the Senate or the House or any White House that is going to enact same-sex marriage, at least in the next 25 years. The body which is someday going to rule quite correctly that the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution requires that legal marriage be extended to same-sex couples is the same one which ruled in 1967 that state bans on interracial marriages violated this amendment.

It's the one that ruled a decade earlier that segregated schools did, too. Yes, those were examples of the Supreme Court and the federal judiciary correctly seeing their role as protectors of those wrongly disempowered by majority rule—or as a Lani Guinier book title calls it, "The

Tyranny of the Majority."

We don't count on a majority of the voters to protect free speech, a free press and the non-establishment of religion. Majority rule is supposed to decide budgets, taxes and whether to build new bridges. But for rights which are *inalienable*, and, therefore, not contingent on a victory at the ballot box, we absolutely must have an independent judiciary committed to defending these rights.

Of course, before we start envisioning such a judiciary, there is the matter of filibustering a court nominee (aren't the Republicans lucky they failed in their reckless and shortsighted drive in 2005 to abolish the judicial filibuster, that typical effort of the now vanquished Karl Rove-Tom Delay far right to destroy any longstanding precedent for short-term gain?).

But to stop a vote on an Obama court nominee, a move which would take 40 Senate votes, Mitch McConnell and his diminished Republican forces would need nearly every GOP senator to vote to filibuster and that would be very unlikely. Many moderate members of both parties consider a filibuster justified by only drastic circumstances, not merely by the fact that they don't like a court nominee.

Well beyond the pitched debates in the U.S. Capitol, the picture for gay rights is also brightening in the private sector. The nation's largest and most visible matchmaking service, eHarmony, is to a large extent ending its heterosexuals-only policy.

Acting on a complaint from a New Jersey resident, that state's Civil Rights Commission has reached a settlement with eHarmony through which the company will at least create a new service under a different name for people seeking same-sex dates or relationships.

It still amounts to separate but equal; it isn't opening eHarmony's site itself to all people. But consider that just 25 or 30 years ago, a state government would never have become involved in a service which, like eHarmony, allowed only two categories: men seeking women, and women seeking men.

Excluding lesbians, gays, bisexuals and transgendered people in that way wouldn't even have been considered a slight, much less a denial of the constitutional right to

equal protection. It was the standard way of doing business in a world where homophobia was so engrained in the dominant culture it made oppression look normal.

Openness about sexual orientation is more common, in part, interestingly, because of homophobic initiatives designed to close up the issue. Consider that in Oregon, during that state's grueling, hot-button 1992 campaign over Proposition 9, a vicious bill that would have all but legislated gays out of existence, many Oregonians came out publicly on the airwaves or in print.

Their courage helped the "No on Nine" campaign win and helped move gay rights forward in a state that includes lots of economic and environmental leftist activism and social ultra-conservatism.

This year, as a presidential inauguration serves as a barometer of civil rights progress, the election that led to Barack Obama's swearing in generates hope that gay rights will also see wider, concrete and even unimagined victories.

The joyous site of an African-American man standing by the U.S. Capitol steps taking the presidential oath Jan. 20 – contrasted with the memory of how it took the U.S. military escorting Martin Luther King Jr. and the Selma marches to allow King to stand on the steps of the Alabama capitol as a private citizen – documents how action for justice allows public opinion to evolve.

Those who professed that government passing and enforcing civil rights laws would have no effect on, and would even reinforce bigotry, have seen a milestone arrive that clearly disproves that theory.

In terms of political strength, the gay rights struggle today is about where the movement for racial equality was in 1960. Unfortunately, some in the periphery of the Democratic Party were alarmed by the 2003 Massachusetts supreme court decision for same-sex marriage, insisting as those cynics and reactionaries did after Brown versus Board that the courts getting ahead of public opinion would only result in backlash.

I see better times coming that will eventually cause these doubters to acknowledge that you don't move forward to freedom by shrinking back into political expediency.

Contact George Morrison at klm86@att.net.

Imagine seeing this in color:



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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.



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Myth of heroic allied role in WWII held up to scrutiny

Human Smoke: The Beginnings of WWII, the End of Civilization

by Nicholson Baker, 565 pp.
Simon and Shuster, \$30.

reviewed by Terry Taylor

“The Good War” it wasn’t. At least according to what has been uncovered by the novelist and armchair historian, Nicholson Baker. For this book, Baker went back to original sources: newspaper and magazine articles and diary entries from the days leading up to and spanning the first months of the second great war of the 20th Century. As you turn the pages, you will recognize the names of many of the hundreds of people whose stories are retold here.

Baker chronicles the slow murderous slide into a war that devoured tens of millions of human souls, and marked the beginning of the large scale bombing of cities for the sole purpose of terrorizing civilians.

BOOK REVIEW

What we learn from the one- or two-paragraph vignettes he shares with us is that much of what we have been taught, and what many of us still believe about WWII simply isn’t true. There aren’t good guys and bad guys. There is only murder conducted at a scale that would sicken even the most hardened soldier.

There are signs of failed hope. We learn that there were German generals who had begun plotting to remove Hitler even before he invaded Czechoslovakia. He tells us that there were diplomats and peacemakers who tried to prevent the war, and tried to stop it once the tanks had begun to roll.

We see Quakers and members of other peace groups trying to get relief supplies to women and children in occupied France, but being prevented by the U.S. and England.

We witness the anonymous heroism of people, like the head of FOR in Germany,

who refused to fight and were executed.

Baker doesn’t shy away from the guilt that falls on the heads of allies. Hitler’s minions were evil, but in this book we discover something many of us had suspected: both Churchill and Roosevelt were anti-Semites who turned their backs

There aren’t good guys and bad guys. There is only murder conducted at a scale that would sicken even the most hardened soldier.

on the Jews who were attempting to flee the onrush of the Holocaust machine.

And then there is the bombing, the indiscriminate incineration of non-combatants undertaken to push them to the

point of suing their governments for peace. This bombing was conducted by all parties to this conflagration. One of the most breathtaking insights for me was learning that military strategists on both the Allied and Axis sides warned their leaders that strategic bombing was not only ineffective and a waste of munitions, it was in fact counter-productive, steeling the will of those who climbed out of the rubble after being bombed.

The title of the book, *Human Smoke*, is the way that one German military official referred to the ashes drifting down from the crematoria smokestacks at one of the death camps. But, I think that Baker chose these words for the title because ultimately they reflect our true legacy from WWII: a thirst for the ashes of civilians and an eerie ability to close our eyes to the price we pay for securing our political goals, no matter how lofty they seem.

The reviewer, of Louisville, is the executive director of Interfaith Paths to Peace.

Blues and Trunks

They have left the blue trunk,
jettisoned the orange
and the black;
skimmed their contents,
perhaps interned the rest
in landfills
and taken the two
for stuffing whatever
or even junked one or both.

The blue has
many things
of mini-value
tossed from here
even there
to hover over
and cover
its small bed
of lesser things.

The archaeologists of tomorrow
wait their centuries
to recover the blue trunk
and analyze the shards therein
torn and shaped in and by time
and report on our ancient civilization.

*Eustace Durrett
12-10-08*

Woman in the Passenger Seat

Crockpot on her lap.
Feminist bumper stickers.
Which way will we turn?

George Morrison

Robin

Careening, no longer preening—
A robin has been hit by a car.

Ike M. Thacker IV



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Wed., 4 February 2009, 7:30 p.m.,
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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.,
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Week 2:

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“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.

For more information: Ike Thacker or Eustace Durrett, (502) 384-3875.

Woman recalls her role in rerouting the flow of history

When those of you who receive the print copy of this column get it in the mail, your columnist will have recently returned from a trip to Vietnam, and will have missed the deadline for putting the February column to bed (the email edition will be sent out to the listserve in a timely manner). The March number will focus on the Vietnam trip.

Your humble scribe is most honored to turn this month's column over to a dear friend and colleague. We have known Lillie Elaine Lowe-Reid, and her family, for well over 40 years. She and they contributed in providing the strength and majesty and inspiration for a Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s that rerouted a tributary of the river of history from a stinking path of infestation to a sparkling sweet-smelling rolling glistening flow.

Discrimination and the Civil Rights Movement: My Personal Struggles

by Lillie Lowe-Reid

There are thousands of stories that were never told and that history never recorded. One such story is mine, and the story of my family. I was born in 1957 in rural Columbia, Miss. I lived there until December 1990. I started school at age five and at that time all the schools were segregated.

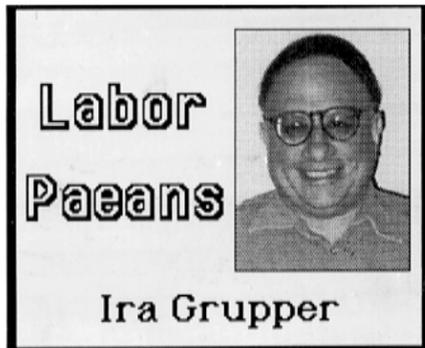
My parents, two of my mother's cousins, and several of our family friends, I remember being very active in the Civil Rights Movement. I am sure there were others. I remember our home was often busy with strangers and some familiar faces. One of my first memories is of a march down Main Street, Columbia. I don't remember how old I was, but I was very young—almost too small to keep up with the pace, feeling like I had to trot.

I remember we were running a little late, because my mother had eight of us to get ready, and when we arrived, the march had already started. We ran to fall in with the others. I remember my heart pounding so fast and feeling panic because there were police in riot gear with dogs and their billy clubs out.

People were singing, so I joined in. The more I sang, the better I felt. "Twas Grace That Brought Me Safe Thus Far and Grace Will Lead Me Home." That was the first of many marches that I participated in.

One day, my parents sat us down and told me and two of my sisters that we would be going to the "all white school" when school started in the fall. We knew something was brewing because we could hear lots of talk at night about what might happen. My parents, other relatives and some white civil rights lawyers and other white people from New York would stay up half the night talking. Being as nosy as I was, and still am, I tried to hear what they were talking about. I was in the fourth grade.

I am often asked by people who know some of my history, "Did they prepare you for what to expect." My answer is always: how do



you prepare someone to be discriminated against? Even an adult cannot be prepared for that. No matter what you say to someone, especially a child, you are never prepared.

When school started, two of my sisters and I waited nervously for the school bus to arrive. Lola was in the second grade, I was in the fourth and my sister Delores was in the seventh. Boy, were we scared, but trying not to show it. We were told not to show fear because that would make us more vulnerable.

We were picked up and on the way to school we could hear name calling, stereotypes shouted at us, like "stinking nigger," etc. The

people were like, even though most did not use the word "black." They used the word they normally used at home and did not think anything about it.

I remember a student asking me if I had been burned and if that was why I was the color I was. When I said no, she wanted to know why my skin was so dark. When slavery was discussed in class, I remember one teacher making comments about my grandmother probably being a slave and my mother was probably a maid. I was attacked many days by students. One teacher would leave the room while I was insulted, things thrown at me and other times both males and females would often just come up and physically attack me. I learned to be a pretty good fighter myself; I had to in order to survive everyday.

Oddly enough there was even more turmoil when we fully integrated. There were no longer three or four African-American students to pick on; there were many more to fight back. Another thing I remember to this day is during the process of working through integration, how many young black males were placed in special education classes when they were not in special education before. Most were just a little louder speaking, or a little bigger and not quite used to injustice in school. These

"For more than three years, I was in a panic mode, taking in everything that went on around me. Those years changed me profoundly." — Lillie Lowe-Reid

driver told us to sit together so we would not cause trouble. Not only were we different ages, but we were different sizes and heights. Despite this, we were dropped off at the wrong school, even though we tried to tell the driver. I stood outside waiting for the bus to pick me up and take me to the right school.

That entire week was hell for me. I was a pretty bright child, academically, but can remember getting low grades for work that I knew to be correct. My grandmother had been a school teacher of a one-room school. She still taught, in her home, classes for people who wanted to learn to read and write. She was good at math and English. My mother taught me to read, and I could read at the age of four. My mother chose to work with the Head Start program as a teacher and did that until she retired.

I, along with three other African-American children, attended Columbia Elementary School until school fully integrated. It was the second half of the seventh grade. For more than three years, I was in a panic mode, taking in everything that went on around me. Those years changed me profoundly. A lot of things that happened in those years I cannot remember or choose not to remember.

Not every teacher was mean and neither was every student. I will say, however, that everyone seemed curious about what black

young men somehow developed "emotional, learning and behavior problems."

When my sister Delores reached the 12th grade, school was fully integrated, and elections were held for homecoming queen. My sister was nominated, and won. You see, there was no such thing as run off yet and Delores was the only African-American running. It had always been whoever got the most votes won. Of course, now there are run offs. Anyway, I remember sitting in my math class with my teacher, Mrs. Chain. When the announcement was made that my sister had won Homecoming Queen, Ms. Chain fell to the floor and began sobbing. I really felt awkward and remember thinking, oh boy, I am in trouble now. We began to get all kinds of threatening phone calls telling my mother that if she wanted to keep her daughter alive, she would not let her get on that float. My mother asked my sister if she wanted to ride the float and Delores said "I won and I am riding the float." She did, but with men on the top of buildings looking for possible shooters. White men often drove down our lane where we lived trying to intimidate my mother. My father worked as a truck driver and was often away.

Because of my parents and our church's involvement with integration and desegregation, my father was nearly killed. After leaving a

meeting one night, the building where the meeting was held was bombed. The men had just made it to their cars when the bomb went off. We could hear the noise from where we lived. Also, one morning when we arrived at church for Sunday School, we found our church, which was within walking distance from our home, full of bullet holes. We heard shooting the night before but did not know it was our church being shot up.

I myself have had many Jim Crow experiences. Some that come to mind are:

1. Not being able to go to the front of a burger stand. There was a window at the side that said "Colored."
2. Going to the movie theater and having to go up to the balcony where blacks had to sit.
3. Not being able to try on clothes in the store. We could buy them, we just could not try them on and we could not return them.
4. One experience I will never forget is going to the dentist with an overwhelming toothache. My mother took me early one morning. We got up when it was still dark to get there early. I had been in pain for several days and the night before could not sleep. When we arrived, we had to go around back and wait in the colored waiting room, which had wooden floors and wooden benches for us to sit on. We waited for what seemed like forever. I know it was past lunch because someone came and asked if we would like for them to pick up some hamburgers for us from the stand nearby. I could not eat because my tooth, gums and jaw were so swollen. Finally, the nurse came and told my mother the dentist would see me. He took me in very matter of factly; I was so afraid, and still am to this day, of needles. He pulled the tooth and sent me home. When my mother and I left the dentist office, it was getting dark. We had been there ALL day.
5. Another very frightening experience for me was at the voting precincts. My parents worked to help people register to vote long after the Voting Rights Act was passed. I remember how uncomfortable we were made to feel, the looks and mean stares. Even when I vote as an adult, the voting polls still hold an uncomfortable feeling for me. We were made to feel like we were doing something we did not deserve to do and were participating in something we were not supposed to have.

Despite my experiences in school, I was able to push through all of that and accomplish many things at Columbia High School. I was a cheerleader, was in the National Honor Society and was elected into the Hall of Fame, was Senior Maid, and was the editor of the Annual Staff.

One thing that I have learned through all my experiences is that you can change laws, and laws can change behaviors—but not minds and attitudes.

Experiencing the things I did in life made me want to help others to whom society was not so eager to reach out. I went to college at the University of Southern Mississippi and obtained a Bachelors in Social and Rehabilitation Services. I began working for a Community Action Agency, assisting the economically disadvantaged and disabled students to obtain work experience, employability skills and their GEDs.

I went back to college in 1998 and completed a Masters in the field of Education and Psychology with a Masters in Counseling Psychology. Since then, I have worked exclusively with the disabled population, first with Helen Keller Services for the Blind, then the Epilepsy Foundation of America, the Center for Education Advancement, and finally with New Jersey Protection and Advocacy, now Disability Rights New Jersey, where I work today. Working with these agencies, I still see the need for mainstream America to open up and make room for the talents of hard-working people with disabilities, and not categorize and stereotype those with disabilities.

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com (mail directed to Ms. Lowe-Reid will be forwarded to her).

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



SHARON WALLACE REPORTS FROM GAZA

As we go to press, coping with the chill of temperature almost to zero, we feel surrounded by the heat and smoke of fires in Louisville — **Cafe Mimosa**, a favorite restaurant for the many pedestrians along Bardstown Road, and **Portland Presbyterian Church**, a landmark in Louisville — and then we turn to the many fires raging in Gaza as shown and described by Sharon Wallace in her new blog. At this point, while we are observing the 80th birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr., Sharon is still in Egypt waiting with many others to take truck loads of humanitarian aid into Gaza to bring some relief to those who have been experiencing unbelievable suffering without food, water and electricity.

During the two weeks since Sharon left Louisville on January 5, she has linked up with **Barbara Lubin, Director of the Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA)** a grassroots organization in Berkeley which for the past 20 years has worked with children and their families in the **Gaza Strip**. Indeed, Sharon Wallace is a founding member of MECA. Some of our readers may recall the time when Barbara Lubin was brought to speak in Louisville. We were deeply moved by her presentation and have been contributing to MECA ever since.

Taking advantage of the present cease fire between Israel and Gaza, Sharon expects to leave early on January 19 for the seven hour drive from Egypt to the entry at the border. She hopes to enter with the ambulances. The trucks will also take blankets, wheel chairs, diesel generators, medical supplies, baby formula and other needs.

Meanwhile Sharon has started a blog to give us her observations and photos while she is there. We can access this by going to <http://gaza2009.shutterfly.com>. More information about MECA can be found at www.meccaforpeace.org

The Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East has begun a community-wide effort to raise funds for MECA to relieve the suffering in Gaza. Many concerned individuals have requested information about how to contribute, and we urge everyone to send a tax deductible check to: **Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA), 1101 8TH Street, Suite 100, Berkeley, CA 94710** You may also send your check to Pat Geier, Coordinator LCPME, **2100 Gardiner Lane, Suite 311, Louisville, KY 40205**. She will forward these funds as the Louisville community fundraising effort. The people of Gaza desperately need our support at this time.

SAD NEWS FROM OUR FRIEND IN BETHLEHEM

I became acquainted with Noah Salameh some twenty years ago when Sister Margaret Hofstetter, OP invited him to speak in Louisville. She had become his friend when she was teaching English in Bethlehem. When the Louisville **FOR** learned of his work in conflict resolution and nonviolence training, we asked him to lead a workshop for us during his visit. Noah had become well known in Palestine and had made many friends through his work at **The Center for Conflict Resolution and Reconciliation (CCRR)** which he founded. I soon learned that his office might easily be called an FOR office, as our goals are quite similar.

Years passed and life in Palestine became increasingly difficult so that we lost touch. But recently Sister Margaret forwarded to me a letter she had received from Anne Goodman with the latest news from Noah. She quotes from her letter written by Noah in April 2002 telling of the destruction of the CCRR. We give excerpts here.

"Dear Friends,

I'm very sad today. It is the 8th day of the Israeli invasion and the closure of our homes. Today the Israeli army allowed us to leave our houses for one hour. I tried to go to the Center to see my Email at the CCRR address because I had not seen it for eight days and was using



my hotmail account. As I arrived with my three daughters, I found the door open and I was shocked to see that the Israeli Army had destroyed the door and entered the Center which is in an area with no population and no events of violence.

I'm very sad today as I saw what happened. I found that the army took the fax machine, three telephones, two printers, a camera. They opened all the four computers and took the most important parts, including disks with all our work, from training material to our contacts, and files...etc, and 400 US dollars.

I was shocked because I always thought that from the name of the Center and the advertisements and the papers on the walls it was clear that we are pro nonviolence and working for peace and reconciliation. It is written in English, in Arabic, in French, and in Spanish. They destroyed everything. Is this also to fight terror? ... !!! ??? It is clear from the pictures, and from the papers at the center, that we are working together with Israelis for peace and reconciliation. So I ask the Israeli government if the damage they did in our Center was to help security?

At our Center, it is written in big letters that we are working for peace, by nonviolent means. Did the soldiers look at that?

Did they read the name of the Center? Did they look at the materials that they took from the computers? I don't understand how they can do that? I thought that someone who has the minimum human values would be ashamed to destroy books and computers that have materials for peace and nonviolence. Is nonviolence also terror?

I'm sorry that I feel upset after this very sad day and use some difficult words, but trust me, my friends, that those people who have done this crime in our center and the leaders who sent them know very well that peace is not in their agenda, and all their work is to destroy peace and understanding and any kind of dialogue or contacts between peace people.

But I promise them that they will never succeed in changing my values, my principles and my morals. I believe in peace because it is my way, my moral and my mission in life, and I promise to continue my struggle for peace and justice all my life."

TRUTH WILL OUT — COMING FROM LONDON

Three retired senior military chiefs have appealed for Britain to scrap its \$30 billion nuclear missile program, claiming **it is unnecessary and no longer independent of the United States**.

Field Marshal Dwin Bramall, a former head of Britain's armed forces, and two colleagues wrote in a letter to The Times of London newspaper that **the Trident nuclear submarine system no longer serves a strategic military purpose**.

"Nuclear weapons have shown themselves to be completely useless as a deterrent to the threats and scale of violence we currently face or are likely to face, particularly international terrorism," the men wrote in their letter of January 16, 2009.

Bramall, and retired Army generals David Ramsbotham and Hugh Beach, said **funds being spent on nuclear weapons should be redeployed to buy conventional equipment that could be used in current conflicts**.

(From *Louisville Courier-Journal*, 1-17-09. A8)



Third Thursday Lunches

presented by the

Fellowship of Reconciliation & Interfaith Paths to Peace

February 19 Ira Grupper will speak about his two weeks in Vietnam during January, 2009, where he visited Hanoi, Ho Chi Minh City and elsewhere. Under the auspices of The Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism, and the Vietnam Women's Union, Ira went there to observe economic development, the status of human rights, and how Vietnam is coping with the millions of victims of US bombings and Agent Orange.

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)



**NOT
IN OUR NAME
AND WITH
OUR MONEY**



Courage in the face of oppression

KITLAC hears story of Guatemalan people's daily struggles

by Nico Menchu

A Guatemalan family brought to the forefront struggles against corporate power by some of this hemisphere's poorest people Dec. 10 as they told a meeting of the Kentucky Interfaith Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean of their work with various Mayan communities in their Central American nation.

Juan spoke about the effects of the lack of drainage in the community of Totonicapán. His group of young men and women has worked on this problem for 10 years. Their lack of funds and their lack of governmental assistance have made their work very difficult, he said, adding that this community, in spite of those barriers, has accomplished much more than one can see.

For example, all group members attend all meetings and they are willing to do whatever it takes to solve their drainage problems. Their most recent effort, Juan said, was to carry out several fundraising events to be able to hire an architect who created the blue print and the budget for the drainage project.

Hiring an architect was extremely costly—an almost impossible task for this community. The group continues to keep their hope alive to raise \$8,000 to have the much-needed drainage system in their community. "We know that some day we will have our drainage," Juan said.

Cristobalina, a teacher, spoke to KITLAC about her work in the afternoons with women and children in the poorest areas of Totonicapán.

"We want women and children to become fully independent and successful in their own communities," she said. But children in many rural areas of Totonicapán don't go to school because their parents cannot afford to buy their school supplies or pay for their transportation, Cristobalina said, adding that in other cases, schools are too far away and there is no transportation they could use.

Because these communities don't have access to education, have very poor health conditions and lack all basic necessities of life, Cristobalina told the meeting, she and

three other women provide each family with a pair of rabbits. The children in the family are the ones who feed and take care of the rabbits. In the process of taking care of the rabbits, children not only develop a bond with their animals, but they also learn values such as responsibility and a deeper respect for all living things, she said, adding that cleaning and removing all the rabbits' waste is a child's job. She described how children put the rabbit's waste in the family's small plot of land, then, in that plot of land mothers and children plant radishes, carrots, onions, potatoes, beets,

married at an early age. "What else can we do for these human beings?" she asked.

After Cristobalina and Juan talked about their personal involvement with various indigenous communities in Totonicapán, they talked about how they, as a family, are involved in Totonicapán's major struggle to keep its water. Historically, the Guatemalan government has never really paid attention to what the indigenous communities need to survive.

Therefore, in Totonicapán, people have organized the Water Committee of Totonicapán, the couple said, describing how

each community plants more trees and processes and administers the source and members even do rituals just as their Mayan ancestors did to give thanks for their sacred source of life. In 2005, more than 20,000 people gathered in Totonicapán to protest the Water Law, which has been discussed in congress, Cristobalina and Juan said, explaining that the government states that the water needs to be regulated and privatized, which the Water Law would do.

The people of Totonicapán resent the fact that laws are created without their participation and without having knowledge of the government's decisions that take place on their behalf. In November, a large protest was held in Totonicapán because people in Totonicapán don't want their water to be used for commercial purposes. For example, the Marlin Mine Company in San Miguel Ixtaguacan, San Marcos, a town that is about five hours from Totonicapán, uses 250,000 liters of water per hour while a family in San Marcos uses 30 liters per day.

This means that the Marlin Company uses in an hour what a family would use in more than 22 years. In 2006, Goldcorp had \$408 million in profit. Guatemala obtained one percent of this profit. The Marlin Company has a contract to excavate gold in Guatemala for 30 years. People in Totonicapán believe that the commercial uses of water will take away their main source of life. The towns that benefit from Totonicapán's water sources are part of San Marcos, Huehuetenango, Quiché, Sololá and Petén. It is believed that if water is put to commercial uses, Totonicapán will have water for just two more years.

The people of Totonicapán are asking the government to keep them informed and involved in all decisions that are taking place before passing of the Water Law in Guatemala. Cristobalina said, "Ignoring the people's voice or sending helicopters and soldiers where the people are protesting does not lead to solutions to our water problem."

The writer, a Guatemala native, teaches Spanish to elementary school students in Louisville.

If you wish to learn more about these issues go to these English language web sites:

www.wv4report.com/taxonomy/term/17?page=11

www.arsn.ca/arsn2.htm

www.minesandcommunities.org/article.php?a=2411

www.thetyee.ca/News/2007/02/07/MarlinProject/upsidedownworld.org/main/content/view/836/33

These sites are in Spanish:

homepage3.nifty.com/CADE/Espanol/Agua/agua.html

www.ecoport.net/content/view/full/51713

spinach, celery, and broccoli, which then become the major source of survival.

"In this way, children learn to see the interconnectedness that exists between people, animals, and our environment and families fight against illnesses by eating healthy foods and become more economically independent," Cristobalina said.

She said men from these poor communities have to go to the city to try to find jobs and when they find one, it is not stable and in most cases they are not well paid.

When families stop working in the evenings, Cristobalina teaches them how to read and write. Cristobalina is especially worried about the young girls in these communities, explaining that four of them desperately want to go to school and if they don't go to school, they end up getting

this committee is formed by 48 members who also represent the Water Committee of the community in which they live in. Cristobalina and Juan's father for more than thirty years have worked with his community to bring water into their homes. Some examples of the type of work they described the community performing include children and women carrying on their back rocks or removing them to allow the pipes to be placed where they need to go.

Men, women and children, they said, walk to the working site for at least eight hours carrying with them their tools and going through hills, pits, creeks and places where vehicles cannot go through. Their work is carried out on the weekends and at times during weekdays, the couple said, adding that to take care of its water source,



Gazan rockets 'reprehensible'

(continued from page 1)

of its own crimes in the preceding months and years, including the following:

The Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem reports that since 2000, Israeli Defense Forces have killed at least 117 innocent civilians near the wall that cuts off the Gaza Strip from Israel, including several minors. Civilians have also often been killed in operations targeting militants. In 2008 alone, over 150 Gazans who did not take part in hostilities were killed by Israeli Defense Forces, including over 50 minors.

After the Israeli military withdrew from the Gaza Strip in 2005, the Israeli government claimed it was no longer responsible for the well-being of the people there, despite maintaining complete control of the Strip's air and sea space, the movement of all goods and people to and from the Strip, and the fuel and gas supply. In 2006, Israel bombed Gaza's only independent power station, thereby rendering residents completely dependent on Israel for electricity. These conditions have led to a crippled economy, a lack of basic goods and necessities, and extremely high levels of poverty and unemployment.

Israel violated the recent cease-fire and has repeatedly rejected offers of a

truce. According to U.N. Special Rapporteur Richard Falk:

Hamas has repeatedly proposed long-term truces with Israel and offered to negotiate a permanent truce. During the last cease-fire... Hamas upheld the truce although Israel refused to ease the blockade. It was Israel that, on Nov. 4, initiated an armed attack that violated the truce and killed six Palestinians. It was only then that Hamas resumed firing rockets at Israel.

The Israeli press has reported that a security official told the Israeli cabinet as recently as December 21 that "Hamas is interested in continuing the truce," provided the blockade be lifted and the ceasefire extended to the West Bank. Clearly, the cabinet rejected this offer.

The scale of Israel's assault has dramatically raised the level of violence in the region and caused devastating harm to Gaza's civilian population. According to B'Tselem, "from June 2004 to the end of 2007, eleven Israelis, four of them minors, were killed by Qassam rockets fired by Palestinians." As of January 7, over 670 Palestinians have been killed in Israel's current assault on the Gaza Strip, including more than 300 civilians and over 130 children,

according to some reports. The number of wounded is close to 3,000. Gaza's main hospital has been overwhelmed, and critical supplies are running low. There can be no justification for this level of destruction.

Israel has been the recipient of billions of dollars worth of military aid from the U.S. government. From U.S.-made F16 fighter jets and Apache helicopters to tank components, bombs, and missiles, this assault has largely been paid for with our tax dollars. This is in violation of existing U.S. law, including the Arms Export Control Act, which stipulates that recipients of U.S. weapons cannot use them against civilians, and must use them only for "legitimate self-defense." Rather than hold Israel accountable, the U.S. has unilaterally blocked action by the United Nations Security Council, standing virtually alone in the international community in its refusal to condemn Israel's actions. It is a gross violation of the dictates of our conscience that our tax dollars are financing the devastation of Gaza, and that our government offers its implicit support through its silence.

This is why we write to you, Congressman. In view of the utter

inadequacy of Israel's justification for its assault on the Gaza Strip, the sheer scale of the attack and terribleness of its consequences, and our responsibility as U.S. taxpayers, we ask that you:

- Vote against any and all resolutions and bills providing material or symbolic support for Israel's actions,
- Condemn actions on all sides that unnecessarily put civilian lives at risk,
- Sponsor legislation to end military aid to Israel,
- Take any and all actions within your power to influence Israel to allow additional humanitarian aid into Gaza, and
- Work diligently toward an immediate ceasefire, the lifting of the blockade against Gaza, and a lasting peace agreement.

No matter our religion or politics, we the undersigned all agree that Israel's current assault on the Gaza Strip is unjustified, and the U.S. government must act to stop it. We are Jews, Christians, Muslims, Hindus, Buddhists, agnostics, atheists, and more. We are voters, taxpayers, and citizens of the United States, the state of Kentucky, and the city of Louisville. We are your constituents. We humbly ask for your consideration, and most of all for your action.

Calendar for peacemakers

Jan 24 (Sat) **LPAC REORGANIZATION MEETING.** Louisville Peace Action Community has come to a turning point, with new opportunities to end the US occupation of Iraq and push for world peace. Please join us as we reorganize for 2009, prepare for the year's events, and add new items to the LPAC archive. 10 AM-12 PM, Central Presbyterian Church, 4th and Kentucky Streets. For more information, contact James McMillin at jjmcmillin@insightbb.com or Judy Munro-Leighton at jmunroleighton@gmail.com.

Jan 26 (Mon) **"THE FREEDOM TO LIVE: Challenging the Unfairness and Arbitrariness of Capital Punishment."** 7:30 PM at Ray's Monkey House Coffeehouse, 1578 Bardstown Road. For more information, call 481-9746.

Jan 26 (Mon) **"FROM GAZA TO WEST LOUISVILLE."** Panel discussion, part of the 4th Monday Dialogue Series at the Carl Braden Center, 3208 West Broadway, 7-9 PM. For more information, call 778-8130.

Jan 27 (Tue) **SOLUTIONS TO VIOLENCE.** Developed by Colman McCarthy, founder of the Center for Teaching Peace in Washington, D.C., this eight-session class uses classics in peace and justice literature to teach peacemaking and nonviolence. Each Tuesday a different set of readings will be discussed. Free. 7 PM. Crescent Hill Presbyterian Church, 142 Crescent Ave. Sponsored by the Louisville Peace Action Community. For more information on the curriculum, including online access to the complete readings, please visit: <http://www.salsa.net/peace/conv/index.html> or contact James McMillin at jjmcmillin@insightbb.com.

Jan 28 (Wed) **"A PERSISTENT PEACE: ONE MAN'S STRUGGLE FOR A NONVIOLENT WORLD."** John Dear, renowned peace activist and writer, and former Executive Director of the FOR, will speak about his experiences. 7 PM. Free and open to the public. Bellarmine University, Frazier Hall, 2001 Newburg Road. Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace. For more information, visit: www.interfaithpathstopeace.org.

Feb 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.

Feb 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.

Feb 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.

Feb 4-28 **THE THIRD ANNUAL PAUL ROBESON FILM FESTIVAL.** The festival includes four feature films and a documentary. All events are free. For times and locations, please see the ad in this issue of FORsooth.

Feb 7 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by: "Crime, Justice and Black Communities," with Dr. Ricky Jones, UofL Pan African Studies Department, and Atty. Brian Edwards. (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Feb 8 (Sun) **"THE UOFL CULTURAL CENTER: BUILDING THE DREAM."** A community discussion sponsored by the University of Louisville and the Yearlings Club, with Mordean Taylor-Archer, UofL Vice-provost for Diversity and Equal Opportunity. Free and open to the public. Refreshments and networking at 4 PM; program 4:30 to 6 PM. Yearlings Club, 4309 West Broadway. For more information, contact Reginald Meeks at 852-3042 or reginald.meeks@louisville.edu.

Feb 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.

Feb 12 (Thurs) **APPAP (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum).** Every second Thursday. Documentary: "The Battles for Gaza in the US Media." 7:30 PM, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, Room 10. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Feb 13 (Fri) **THE VAGINA MONOLOGUES.** Eve Ensler's unique award-winning dramatic production performed by a cast of seminary students and faculty. Deals with the often hidden meaning of violence against women and girls. Proceeds will benefit the Louisville Center for Women and Families, and the V-Day 2009 Spotlight Campaign ("Stop Raping Our Greatest Resource: Power to the Women and Girls of the Democratic Republic of Congo"). Presbyterian Seminary, Gardencourt, 8:00 PM. Admission \$10 (Students \$7.50). Tickets at the door. Sponsored by the Seminary Women's Center. For more information, call 894-2285.

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

Feb 14 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by "Race and Reality:" UofL Pan African Studies Chair Dr. Theresa Rajack-Talley interviews activist and preservationist Maxine Brown. (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Feb 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.

Feb 15 (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.

Feb 16 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE MARCH ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Contact **George Morrison, editor, 454-2752**, E-mail: klm86@att.net. **Note: Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com, or call Nikki at 451-3402.**

Feb 19 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH.** Rudyard Kipling, 422 West Oak. Ira Grupper will speak about his two weeks in Vietnam during January, 2009, where he visited Hanoi, Ho Chi Min City and elsewhere. Under the auspices of The Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism, and the Vietnam Women's Union, Ira went there to observe the economic development, the status of human rights, and how Vietnam is coping with the millions of victims of the US bombings and Agent Orange. 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.

Feb 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.

Feb 19 (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.

Feb 19 (Thurs) **"A RESTLESS LONGING: THOMAS MERTON AND AFRICAN DIASPORAN CONTEMPORATIVE LEGACIES."** A lecture by Dr. Barbara Holmes, Vice President of Academic Affairs/Dean at Memphis Theological Seminary. 7 PM. Free and open to the public. Bellarmine University, Frazier Hall, 2001 Newburg Road. Sponsored by Interfaith Paths to Peace. For more information, visit: www.interfaithpathstopeace.org.

Feb 20-21 (Fri-Sat) **"WOMEN AT THE WELL—COME AND DRINK."** This retreat is designed to provide a context for the spiritual renewal of African American women who are in ministry or theological training, to address some of the issues related to being an African American woman in ministry, and to foster relationships and a network of sisterhood. Sponsored by the Louisville Seminary's Women at the Well Group. \$50, \$15 for seminarians. Law's Lodge, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road. For more information or to register, call 264-1839, ext. 429 or email dsawyer@lpts.edu.

Feb 21 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by: "The Female Perspective: Black Women's Narratives," with Dr. Anita Harris of UofL. (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Feb 22 (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.

Feb 26 (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.

Feb 28 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY.** Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by: "Catch Up—Pan African Studies Student Scholars Speak." (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Mar 4 (Wed) **GRAWEMEYER AWARD IN RELIGION LECTURE.** Donald Shriver Jr., an ethicist and former president of Union Seminary in New York City, has earned the 2009 prize for the ideas he set forth in his book, *Honest Patriots: Loving a Country Enough to Remember Its Misdeeds*. Free and open to the public. 7 PM, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, Caldwell Chapel, 1044 Alta Vista Road. For more information, call 264-1839, ext. 429 or email dsawyer@lpts.edu.

Mar 8 (Sun) **"THE NECESSITY OF BUILDING AND SUPPORTING BLACK POLITICAL CAPACITY IN KENTUCKY."** A community discussion sponsored by the University of Louisville and the Yearlings Club, featuring Gov. Steve Beshear and Delquan Dorsey, Director of the Governor's Office of Minority Empowerment. Free and open to the public. Refreshments and networking at 4 PM; program 4:30 to 6 PM. Yearlings Club, 4309 West Broadway. For more information, contact Reginald Meeks at 852-3042 or reginald.meeks@louisville.edu.

Mar 15-18 (Sun-Wed) **FESTIVAL OF THEOLOGY AND REUNION.** "New Ways of Being Church: Conversations on Renewal and Transformation in Mainline Churches," featuring lecturers Diana Butler Bass, Marcus Borg, and Brian McLaren, and alum preacher Michael Pentecost. Louisville Seminary welcomes these celebrated church leaders and scholars who are spreading the news that the Church of the 21st century can and does rethink, re-tradition, and reinvent itself. Pre-registration required. Visit www.lpts.edu for information on costs and location.

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 (299-9520) www.LouisvilleEarthSave.org
- 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)
- 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.