

# FORsooth

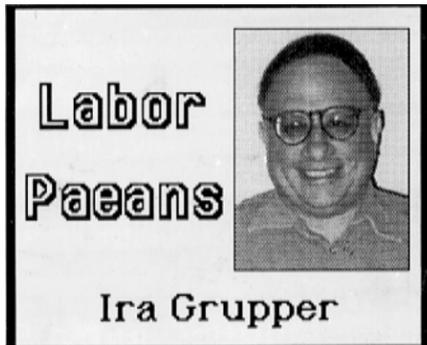
Acclaimed human rights activist Father Roy Bourgeois will speak at the Third Thursday Lunch March 19. See ad page 5.

Volume 20, No. 2

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March 2009

## Vietnam trip turned thoughts of war to wish for peace



There we were, 16 of us, all of us citizens of the United States, in Vietnam for 15 days. All of us socialists, one born in France, now a Vietnamese-American; another, originally from Columbia, and still another currently living in Italy. The rest of us, a mix of white and African American, women and men, the youngest of us 39 years old, and the oldest 82. And our whole group, so eager with anticipation at our adventure, from the very end of December through mid-January.

Half of us were members of Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism (CCDS). The rest, independent socialists or members of other groups. This was the first journey any of us had made to Vietnam.

Three changes of planes enroute (four on the return), and your columnist could think of nothing but the Vietnam War, or rather, as it is called in Vietnam: the American War. So much shame, and yet



— photos by Felicia Gustin

**A woman in Hanoi (left) buys fruit from a peasant during a delegation's visit to Vietnam in January. Two girls (right) at the Friendship Village, about an hour from Hanoi, are among 200 children and teens being treated for the suspected effects of Agent Orange, the defoliant sprayed by the U.S. during the war (www.vietnamfriendship.org). See more pictures page six.**

your scribe had never picked up arms against his Vietnamese sisters and brothers.

But U.S. mass murder of Vietnamese, and that is not too strong a term for our cruelty, was done in the name of the people of the USA, all the napalm, the phosgene, the dioxin, the unspeakable Agent Orange

we visited upon a mostly-rural farming population. So many place names flashed across the brain: Phu Bai, Khe Sanh, My Lai, and more.

We landed at Noi Bai International Airport (Hanoi), from a number of planes at different times, and were welcomed by

Mr. Nguyen Hoai Nam, our guide from the tourist agency that is the sister organization to the Vietnam Women's Union (VWU), our official Vietnamese sponsor.

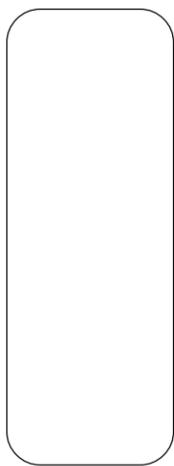
Your correspondent has had the good fortune to have visited a number of countries (continued on page 6)

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## In peace plea, faiths make a Kaddish prayer for Gaza

by Russ Greenleaf

We met at 6<sup>th</sup> Street and Broadway at noon on Friday, January 23 and held signs saying, "Jews and friends for the ceasefire," and "400 children killed by Israel in Gaza: Investigate."

We also held photos of individual children who had been killed or injured in Gaza, and we placed children's shoes on the sidewalk in front of us.

A demonstration that had been held on the other side of Broadway for the past several weeks (supporting Israel's assault on Gaza) was not there this week. It had been sponsored by Christian Zionists and the Jewish Community Federation.

The regular Friday vigil sponsored by the Louisville Committee for Israeli and Palestinian States was happening across 6<sup>th</sup> Street, on the same side of Broadway as we were. There were about 25 people there. I had spoken with event organizers Beverley Marmion and Sonja Devries about how we could cooperate to honor the memory of the children. Beverley decided to announce that we would be praying at 12:30 p.m., so the Friday vigil would pause in silence at that time.

At 12:30 several people from the Friday vigil crossed 6<sup>th</sup> Street to join us for the Kaddish prayer for the 400 children and all the victims of the Gaza war. We had a group of over 10 people, at least four of whom were Jewish.

Kaddish is the Jewish prayer of mourning. It glorifies God and asks for peace. Together, we faced east and said Kaddish in English, and then in Aramaic, as it is traditionally said.

Then several of us picked up children's shoes from the sidewalk and threw them on the steps of the Federal Building as a protest against the killing of 400 innocent children. We placed photos of the children on the

steps next to the pile of shoes. Then we read the names of some of the children who had died.

At about 12:50 p.m. we all crossed 6<sup>th</sup> Street and joined the Friday vigil, where they were also reading the names of the children. Several of us helped read the names.

Everyone was very cooperative and supportive. We all shared a deep sense of grief over what had happened in Gaza. Many people thanked me for being there and for doing this.

A Palestinian woman with a look of great sadness thanked me and said, "We are cousins."

I said, "Yes, we are all cousins. I'm very sorry for what happened in Gaza."

### Afterthoughts:

The firing of primitive rockets at Israeli towns was wrong. Even though it rarely killed anyone, almost everyone I know condemned it.

Israel killing 400 children in response was even more wrong, and rises to the level of war crimes. It deserves to be condemned much more strongly.

The right-wing Israeli government that killed the 400 children is putting together a team to defend itself against charges of war crimes.

Human rights groups are calling for war crimes investigations. The Israeli government is refusing to reveal the names of the commanders of the Gaza war for fear that they will not be able to travel abroad without being arrested.

What Israel did in Gaza was not self-defense. It was indiscriminate killing. There is a difference.

Of the many unbelievable excuses this right-wing Israeli government gave for killing 400 children, the most absurd one (continued on page 5)

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# In Vietnam, puppetry, napalm contrasted

by George Morrison  
FORsooth editor

Neither Ira Grupper nor David Horvath experienced combat during the Vietnam War, but both Feb. 19 Third Thursday Lunch speakers said recent trips to the Southeast Asian nation involved awareness of the war, which the U.S. fought from the early 1960s to 1973.

"I... wanted to deal with my great burden as an American, an American progressive, who knew that crimes against humanity were committed not by me, but in my name—crimes against a largely rural and innocent people," said Grupper, a longtime activist for civil rights and economic equality.

His trip, from late December through mid-January, included time in Hanoi, Da Nang, Hue and Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon), farms and a Buddhist convent.



Grupper shared the podium with Horvath, a peace activist who traveled to Vietnam in 2007.

"I came with a good friend, a Vietnam combat veteran, on a healing journey," Horvath said of that trip. The friend, named Michael, had fought in countless jungle firefights and was shot down twice in helicopters, Horvath said.

*A 2007 trip, David Horvath said, was beneficial to a friend and war veteran because it "gave him the gift of knowing not all the damage he inflicted was permanent."*

The 2007 trip, he added, "gave him the gift of knowing not all the damage he inflicted was permanent."

Grupper noted that Marxist leader and Democratic Republic of Vietnam founder Ho Chi Minh had been a dock worker in the U.S. and had adopted verbatim portions of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution in some of Vietnam's documents.

Although Ho's image is highly public in Vietnam, his Marxist-Leninist economic doctrine has been modified considerably since 1985, when Vietnam realized it was "up against a wall," Grupper said. The decline of the Soviet Union meant capitalist investment would have to be sought, he explained.

But officials speaking on a video Grupper showed said this was done strictly because of pragmatism, not because of an ideological shift and that this capitalist

activity is intended to work within a socialist framework.

Grupper said health care in Vietnam is universal, free and of good quality and that education is without charge.

The video also included scenes of an ancient performance art form that fascinated Grupper called "water puppetry." Puppets appearing to stand freely in water perform

while guided by people behind a curtain, he explained.

"The Vietnamese are very adept at puppetry," Grupper said. "And we responded with napalm."

*Maryknoll priest Father Roy Bourgeois, an acclaimed activist for justice and nonviolence, will speak at the March 12 Third Thursday Lunch. He is the founder of SOA Watch, through which millions have pressed the U.S. to close the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation (formerly School of the Americas), which has trained tyrants and human rights abusers in terrorism and torture.*

The Vatican has started procedures to possibly excommunicate Father Bourgeois for ordaining a woman as a priest last year in Lexington. See ad about the lunch on page five.



# Seedlings to be given on April 4

Volunteers working with neighborhoods in Louisville's Highlands will give away 1,300 tree seedlings from the Kentucky Division of Forestry April 4 to anyone who pledges to plant and nurse them to adulthood.

The giveaway, called "Plant for the Planet," is being done in conjunction with Arbor Day, organizer Stephen R. Spanyer said. The trees will be given out from 9 a.m. to about 3 p.m., rain or shine, at Warheim Park, 1832 Overlook Terrace in Louisville, four blocks from the Douglass Loop. Extra parking is available at the loop, which is near Douglass Boulevard and Bardstown Road, Spanyer said.

"Just follow the balloons to Warheim Park," a news release said. "The festivities include refreshments and entertainment along with plenty of information and expert advice from foresters, arborists, tree huggers, area naturalists associated with the Olmsted Parks Conservancy, and master gardeners from the Jefferson County Cooperative Extension, UK College of Agriculture."

The idea for the giveaway grew out of a United Nations Environment Program initiative to have 1 billion trees planted worldwide, Spanyer said. The yearly Highlands effort started in 2007 with 300 trees given away, he added.

The news release said: "These are 12-to-24-inch, bare-root seedlings. Canopy species mature into 70-to-120-foot trees—the choices include Oaks (White, Northern Red, Swamp Chestnut), Shagbark Hickory, Bald Cypress, River Birch, Persimmon, Kentucky Coffeetree, Yellow/Tulip Poplar, Pecan and American Sycamore. Understory species are the Eastern Redbud and Flowering Dogwood, which grow to some 30 feet."

For more information, contact Spanyer at (502) 459-1405 or [srs@iglou.com](mailto:srs@iglou.com).

Imagine seeing this in color:



Now imagine reading instantly updated news from the FOR.

You can do both at

[www.louisville-for.org](http://www.louisville-for.org)

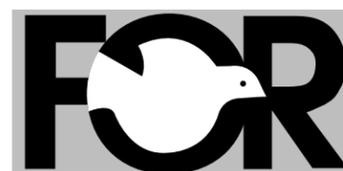
The Louisville FOR's web site includes Action Alerts about issues of great concern to peace and justice people. It also lets you link to peace groups in many nations and look over every FORsooth going back to April 2002. And the pictures – starting with the July-August 2008 issue – are in color.

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

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

## FOR's Mission Statement

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



Founded 1915

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

### FORsooth Staff

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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.

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

# “My Country ’Tis of Thee” had more meaning Jan. 20

by Gracie M. Lewis

After traveling all night long, we finally arrived at the Baltimore Marriott Hotel. We were so excited about being able to attend the Inauguration of Barack Obama, the 44th President of the United States. Many of those attending with us had worked on Obama’s campaign. People came from every race, region and station to witness this orderly transition of power in our democracy. Now I know what it will be like “When We All Get to Heaven.” What a day of rejoicing that will be!

It was estimated there were close to two million people who gathered, from the National Mall to the Lincoln Memorial.

Thousands around the world watched the ceremony on TV. When I woke that morning, people had already gathered on the mall; many had camped out all night long in bitter cold weather. By noon, all you could see was a sea of American flags flowing over the mall and “smiling faces” standing for *change*.

Obama accepted the Democratic Party’s nomination on the 45th anniversary of Dr. King’s famous “I Have a Dream” speech. Obama won 67 million votes on

Election Day for a 53 percent mandate. The Inauguration represented an end to his wonderful journey.

On Saturday, January 17, President-Elect Barack Obama started out the Inaugural celebrations by retracing Lincoln’s path on a slow rolling Amtrak train from Philadelphia to the nation’s Capital. A “welcome event” was held on

in its worst economic crisis since the depression, and we’re at war on two fronts. Thanks to his parents, this son of a Kenyan father and a mother from Kansas had *hope* instilled in him. Barack rose from the obscurity of the Illinois state senate in 2004 to the President of the United States. This incredible journey enables the present generation to “dream the impossible dream!”

slaves. When Malia and Sasha walked out, I couldn’t help believing they are such an inspiration to children everywhere. We were all so happy to see Senator Edward Kennedy attend the swearing-in ceremony. He later became ill and had to be hospitalized after suffering a seizure.

When President-Elect Obama took the oath of office using President Lincoln’s inaugural Bible, I knew our ancestors were smiling. Chief Justice John Roberts rendered the Oath of Office. President Barack Hussein Obama, in his inaugural address, reordered our nation’s priorities focusing on a “New Era of Responsibility.” I am looking forward to the day when we can wipe out poverty, provide health insurance for everyone, and seek peace instead of war! This would represent the “dream being truly realized!”

The Reverend Joseph Lowery gave the benediction with the opening lines of the Negro National Anthem, “Lift Every Voice and Sing.” Lowery said, “God of our weary years, God of our silent tears, thou who has brought us into the light, keep us forever in the path, we pray, lest our feet stray.”

After the swearing-in, the inaugural parade and balls followed. What a wonderful day! Now it is up to all of *us* to do our part in helping the Obama Administration *succeed*. Seize the moment!

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

*When President-Elect Obama was sworn in as the first African-American president, I broke into tears of “joy.” I felt that the old hatreds had passed on.*

the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on the eve of Martin Luther King Day. It was estimated over half a million people turned out for the star-studded, two-hour event that featured Jamie Foxx, Marisa Tomei, Denzel Washington, Queen Latifah, Tom Hanks, Stevie Wonder, Pete Seeger and many others.

When President Obama took the Oath of Office, he was aware that he is facing many challenges and high expectations. America is

I got on the bus because Barack Obama would become the most powerful black man in the Western Hemisphere! As I watched those to be seated on the platform coming in, I could barely contain myself. At 11:18, Michelle Obama and Joe Biden were announced. When Aretha Franklin started to sing “My Country ’Tis of Thee,” I just about lost it! Somehow it had new meaning now! When President-Elect Obama was sworn in as the first African-American president, I broke into tears of “joy.” I felt that the old hatreds had passed on.

The first African American president took the Oath of Office at the U.S. Capital, a building built by slaves. His family would be living in the White House, built by

## Calendar (continued from back page)

April 2 (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.

April 4 (Sat) **ARBOR DAY “PLANT FOR THE PLANET.”** Volunteers will give away 1,300 trees from the Kentucky Division of Forestry to anyone who pledges to plant and nurse them to adulthood. Choices include both canopy and understory species. 9 AM to 3 PM. Warheim Park, 1832 Overlook Terrace (four blocks from the Douglass Loop). For more information, contact Stephen Spanyer at 459-1405 or [srs@iglou.com](mailto:srs@iglou.com).

Apr 7 (Tues) **RASHID KHALIDI** will explore themes from his recent book, *Sowing Crisis: The Cold War and American Hegemony in the Middle East*. Khalidi is the Edward Said Professor of Arab Studies at Columbia University. Free and open to the public. 4 PM, UofL Ekstrom Library, Chao Auditorium. For more details, call John Morrison, 741-0690.

Apr 11 (Sat) **CHURCH WOMEN UNITED ANNUAL ASSEMBLY LUNCHEON.** This year’s speaker will be Sarah Lynn Cunningham of the Louisville Climate Action Network (L.CAN). She will discuss ways we can clean up our environment and keep it more environmentally safe. Beginning at 10 AM, Masterson’s Restaurant, 1830 South Third St. \$16. For tickets, please call Doris Yochim, 425-5927, by March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Apr 27 (Mon) **SHARON WALLACE REPORTS ON GAZA.** Sharon will share her experiences of delivering humanitarian aid to Gaza at the Fourth Monday Forum at the Braden Center, 3208 West Broadway, 7 to 9 PM. For more details, call 778-8130.

## OUT OF TOWN

Mar 2-5 (Mon-Thur) **ISRAELI APARTHEID WEEK.** Emory Advocates for Justice in Palestine announces “Israeli Apartheid Week” and invites all those who care about the cause of justice in Palestine to come to Emory University in Atlanta, GA, for a week of lectures, public rallies and multimedia presentations. Events will include lectures by Dr. Norman Finkelstein, Zeiad Abbas, Dr. Stephen Bell, and Kali Akuno. For more information, visit <http://www.emorypalestineadvocates.com/> or email [eajpc@gmail.com](mailto:eajpc@gmail.com).

## Support for LGBT adoptions sought

Fairness activists are asking for calls to oppose Kentucky Senate Bill 68, which would prohibit same-sex couples from adopting children or becoming foster parents.

The bill would block any couple not living in a legal marriage, including heterosexual couples cohabitating, from adopting or being chosen to give foster care. The state’s constitution was amended in 2004 to ban same-sex marriage.

The bill is similar to one enacted in Arkansas and under a constitutional challenge in that state. At press time, SB 68 had not been voted on by the Kentucky Senate. If approved, it would go to the House.

To comment to legislators on the bill, call the Kentucky legislative message line at 800-372-7181.



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Note: If you are already receiving *FORsooth* but haven’t sent a contribution lately, please send your check now to help with our increasing expenses.

## Is It Your Mission to Carry Out FOR’s Mission?

*Join FOR’s Steering Committee and help make our witness for a nonviolent world happen here in Louisville through:*

International citizen diplomacy and solidarity trips

Nationally-known speakers

Counter-recruiting and peace studies in high schools

Local panels on peace and justice issues



Peace and justice coalition work

FORsooth’s news and views

Louisville’s best darn peace and justice calendar

We welcome your energy and ideas. Please join us and choose some “peace” to work on. If you would like to join our Steering Committee or want more information, call Cathy Ford at 502-458-1223 or Cindy Scheldorf at 502-239-5931. We meet on the fourth Monday of every month at 7:30 p.m. at the Louisville Presbyterian Seminary. Visitors are always welcome.

**The  
People's  
Forum**

Letters to  
FORsooth

**Praise for,  
addition  
to poetry**

I just read FORsooth—really drawn to the poetry. Yours is very much appreciated.

I gave a retreat recently to volunteers and ministers at the Federal Detention Center for Illegal Immigrants in Arizona. Sister Rose, a former contributor to FORsooth, is a chaplain there now and I visited with her. After going to work with her, I wrote the following. Thought you might appreciate it and maybe use it in FORsooth.

**MICHELLE**

Her Name is Michelle  
Long Black Hair  
Red Nails  
Graceful Hands  
Sweet Smile  
Fair Countenance  
Bruised Black & Blue  
Illegal Immigrant  
Solitary in Protected Cell  
This Sister Betrayed in a Man's Body  
Longing for Acceptance  
Brown Eyes Plead,  
"Will You Love Me as I am?"

— Corrine McCann  
Crawfordsville, Ind.

**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](http://www.louisvillepeace.org/twostates.html)  
Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR)/Louisville Chapter (502.458.8056) [www.louisville-for.org](http://www.louisville-for.org)  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)/Kentucky Chapter (502.893.9828) [www.adckentucky.com](http://www.adckentucky.com)*

**The Derby Festival is all about friendly competition.  
Bombers never will be. The Silence over Thunder coalition**



**wants to end the military  
portion of the air show and  
replace it with family  
entertainment. We want to  
say NO to three days of  
warplanes, and tell Derby  
Festival Committee:**

Fighters, attack helicopters and nuclear-capable bombers flying overhead are not "family entertainment" as the Festival committee has advertised;  
Don't just consider visitor revenues, but also Louisville's growing immigrant communities and the thousands of area veterans suffering from PTSD. Don't force them to relive for three days the past terrors of warplanes bombing towns;  
Reveling in glamorized military might is militarism, not patriotism, and certainly not what is greatest about America;  
Take the symbols of a divisive war, and the recruiters that are a part of the military's air show deal, out of our celebration.

**Think your group should join those on the list below?  
Contact Chris Harmer/FOR ([colonel221@yahoo.com](mailto:colonel221@yahoo.com) or  
893-2334). FOR will work with you, listening to and educating  
your members. And in turn, you can help us with leafleting,  
witness, writing letters to papers and corporate sponsors,  
and a peaceful skies alternative everyone can enjoy.**

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



# US must end its longstanding Mideast double standard

by Mark Chmiel

**Double standard**, noun. Any code or set of principles containing different provisions for one group of people than for another.

Hopes are being raised for President Obama's approach to the Israel-Palestine conflict. To many, the appointing of George Mitchell as the Special Middle East Envoy seems to augur well, given Mitchell's previous negotiations in the Northern Ireland conflict. President Obama acknowledged the difficulties of reaching an agreement between Israelis and Palestinians, but said, "That's why we've got George Mitchell going there. This is somebody with extraordinary patience as well as extraordinary skill, and that's what's going to be necessary."

Undoubtedly, these traits and skills are necessary, but certainly not sufficient. For there to be a breakthrough, Mitchell is going to have to terminate a long-standing practice of U.S. policy in the Middle East, which is the adherence to a strict double-standard.

For example, prepare yourself to hear for the thousandth time how it is absolutely central for Hamas to make good on three issues: recognize Israel, renounce all violence, and adhere to previous agreements.

Who could disagree with these wonderful goals?

Yet, will Mitchell insist (not merely ask) that Israel also renounce violence? If so, will that renunciation include the fundamental violence of the Israel occupation of the West Bank and the violence of the embargo and the creation of Gaza as an open-air prison (and, now, morgue)? Will the U.S. envoy call for

others in the international community to work to prevent Israel from securing more weapons, which aren't smuggled in through tunnels, but arrive in broad daylight at Israeli ports?

Will Mitchell's research assistants provide him with a single instance of any Israeli Prime Minister who has recognized any Palestinian right to exist on the land they have cultivated for centuries?

Will the Special Envoy demand that Israel, like Hamas, abide by previous agreements or, more broadly, international law? Like the Geneva Conventions which prohibit an occupying power from moving its population into occupied territory?

These questions cut to the heart of the

resources), double standards are standard operating procedure. The U.S. cloaks its actions and policies in the most noble and moralistic rhetoric, yet *realpolitik* is the way, the truth, and the life.

Remember: Saddam Hussein's gassing of the Kurds did not arouse the Reagan Administration's indignation; that indignation was only expressible years later when, in his rhetorical build-up to invasion, George W. Bush repeated ad nauseum, "He gassed his own people!"

Remember: The U.S. is dead set against Iran having a nuclear weapons program. Indeed, the thought of Iran having nuclear bombs is nerve-wracking, but the thought of anyone having nuclear weapons ought

Remember: In recent years, U.S. military officials and politicians have expressed outrage that a foreign political power—Iran—dares to interfere with Iraq's progress to stability and democracy. Of course, the foreign power that is the U.S. isn't meddling—it's *helping*.

Many people outside U.S. borders understand quite clearly that the U.S. government and corporations have long played a crucial role in assisting Israel in its dispossession and torment of the Palestinian people. They can also see the pertinence to the U.S. of Orwell's observation, "In our time, political speech and writing are largely the defence of the indefensible."

The horrors in Gaza are indefensible. We have to undermine the righteous defense of these horrors and increase the number of people in our own society who can see the true workings of the United States in the Middle East. We can start by asking our friends, relatives, co-workers, neighbors, clergy, teachers, and media workers: Should we conduct our public affairs by a single standard based on human rights and international law? Or is the United States entitled to a double standard? Does might make right? Are we above the law?

How the Bush Administration answered these questions is painfully clear. Mitchell, President Obama, and Secretary of State Hilary Clinton are soon to reveal their answer.

*The writer, a Louisville native, is a member of the Center for Theology and Social Analysis and author of Elie Wiesel and the Politics of Moral Leadership. He teaches in the Department of Theology at St. Louis University.*

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*The horrors in Gaza are indefensible. We have to undermine the righteous defense of these horrors...*

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matter: How can one reasonably expect our government to "broker" a peace settlement, when the United States has such a lopsided relationship to one of the antagonists? Consider the arms deals, the diplomatic support in the U.N., and the year-after-year munificence lavished on the Jewish State.

Here's a thought experiment: Given the Israeli onslaught in Gaza, how many U.S. Senators do you think would issue a public statement (however belated) supporting the Palestinians' right to self-defense?

As La Rochefoucauld remarked, "Hypocrisy is a tribute vice pays to virtue." In U.S. policy in the Middle East (a region so indispensable because of the oil

to be similarly nerve-wracking. When have you heard a single comment from a U.S. politician critical of Israel's existing nuclear weapons arsenal? It's regularly asserted that Israel is the only democracy in the Middle East; it's also the only nuclear power. The U.S. isn't concerned about that some nation has nuclear weapons per se; it's which nation has them.

Remember: The U.S. justified its invasion of Iraq because the Iraqi people deserved freedom and democracy, which we, as U.S. citizens, are to understand as worthwhile objectives. Notice, though: There has been no invasion of Saudi Arabia to liberate those people under the thumb of a brutal Islamic fundamentalist regime.

## Faiths make a Kaddish prayer for Gaza *(continued from page 1)*

was this: "Hamas bears full responsibility. They make us kill their children."

Let's think about that logically. If you made that defense in court here, would it work?

Suppose a cop were chasing a man who ran into his house and hid behind a couch where his children were sitting, and the cop sprayed the couch with bullets and killed some children.

What if the cop said to the judge, "He made me kill his children. It's his fault, not mine." That defense would not work, because it is so obviously absurd. The cop would be judged reckless, or mentally unbalanced, and would end up in prison for homicide.

So, why should anyone let this Israeli government get away with that absurd excuse?

The blood of 400 children cries out from the ground for justice. Justice demands an investigation.

When Nazis inflicted collective punishment on a whole class of people and killed them indiscriminately, regardless of gender or age, guilt or innocence, it was a war crime. When Jews do that to Palestinians, it is a war crime just the same.

All good people of conscience, Jews and Gentiles alike, should demand an investigation.

One way to do that is to sign Amnesty International's "Call for accountability" at [www.amnestyusa.org](http://www.amnestyusa.org). Click on "What you

can do" then choose the country, "Palestinian Authority."

Call and write President Obama and your U.S. senators and representatives as well.

The writer is in the process of moving to Florida from Louisville. While living in the city, he worked with several Jewish peace groups, but said this piece reflects only his own views, not any group's. He was a member of The Temple (Adath Israel Brith Sholom) and Congregation Adath Jeshurun in Louisville.

Greenleaf recommended several web sites for more insights into the Gaza issue, including:

A five minute speech by Gerald Kaufmann, a Member of the British Parliament and an Orthodox Jew whose family perished in the Holocaust, at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k2vV5qOf5YQ>.

A report on white phosphorus used on civilians (BBC News) [http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle\\_east/7848768.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/7848768.stm).

## Third Thursday Lunches

*presented by the*

### Fellowship of Reconciliation & Interfaith Paths to Peace

March 19

FATHER ROY BOURGEOIS, MM, founder of the School of the Americas Watch in 1990 at Ft Benning, Georgia, will speak about efforts to close this school, now renamed "The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation" (WHINSEC), which has been producing death squad leaders and human rights abusers since 1946. Many individuals from the Louisville area have participated in the November vigils which have numbered some 20,000 persons for the last two years.

In addition to the Lunch presentation, Father Roy will also speak in the evening at 7:00 pm in the Centennial Room (lower level) at the main library downtown at 4th and York Streets. Everyone is invited. Free and open to the public.

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)*



# Vietnam trip turned to wish for peace *(continued from page 1)*

on several continents, yet never has he been on a more well-organized tour. There were tourist venues, and there were meetings with/tours of the VWU, Vietnam Union of Friendship Societies, a clothing factory and its labor union, students at Da Nang University, and so much more. We were mostly in Hanoi, Da Nang, Hue, and Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

But we also toured Ha Long Bay ("Bay of the Descending Dragon"), north of Hanoi and relatively near China, where beautiful limestone mountains magically arise from the sea. Our tourist boat, shaped like a Chinese junk, delivered us to the foot of one mountain, and we climbed (and climbed) about four stories- worth of steps dug into the mountainside.

We entered, lo and behold, a grotto, with its magnificent and alluring geological shapes all around us. We have the gorgeous Mammoth Cave here in Kentucky, but your scribe has never been to a grotto before, nor to a mountain coming out of the water.

We met with women from the Vietnam Women's Union branches in Hanoi, Da Nang, the ancient city of Hue, and Ho Chi Minh City, to learn about their goals, progress that has been made in women's emancipation, and work to be done. The VWU assigned Ms. Tran Thu Thuy, a high-ranking personage, as our tour leader, evidently attaching much importance to this visit from American socialists ("Twee," as she asked us to call her, has a masters degree from a U.S. university).

Our visit to a VWU project in a rural part of Da Nang City began with a dance presentation by very talented local women. These were mostly middle-aged women, so dignified and proud to share their culture with us. Da Nang was, of course, where the U.S. built a huge airbase from which planes filled with bombs and napalm and more left full and returned empty. And now we are seeing dancers.

The residents, men and women, asked us a number of questions. This being a VWU "project for gender equality," we asked our hosts one question: We have been told that both women and men work outside the home. When the man and woman come home at night, does the couple both cook dinner and clean, etc., or does the man sit down, watch his wife work, and then talk about gender equity?" Well, there was a moment of silence, then the women and men burst out laughing, and all the women, and some men, applauded.

Interestingly, we passed by three "self-contained" resorts under construction in Da Nang, adjacent to the South China Sea.

What will happen to these resorts when the worldwide depression hits Vietnam?

And that was one reason your columnist was so anxious to travel to Vietnam. In 1985 the Vietnamese economy was in bad shape. The U.S. embargo of Vietnam, so similar to our stranglehold of Cuba, was bad enough. But the U.S.S.R. was in deep economic trouble, and Vietnam's close ally, Cuba, could not support Vietnam's needs.

So the Vietnamese instituted a policy of *Doi Moi* ("renewal"), allowing foreign investment. In essence, capitalist development was being allowed in the Socialist Republic of Vietnam. This is not the place for elaboration. Suffice it to say some, not all, in Vietnam have likened the concept to Lenin's New Economic Policy of 1921 to prevent the Russian economy from collapsing. NEP allowed some private ventures and small businesses to reopen for private profit while the state continued to control banks, foreign trade, and large industries.

But Vietnam knows that with private capital comes danger. The law in Vietnam, we were told, prevents workers from working more than five days a week. The government caught some companies working their employees seven days a week, and put a stop to it.

With private capital comes the possibility of layoffs. We visited a large privately-owned clothing factory. One of their customers is Wal-Mart. What happens if (when) Wal-Mart hits the economic wall and ends its contract? Will the workers get laid off?

There is no social safety net in Vietnam, a very poor country. No unemployment insurance. Yet, there is a safety net which laid off workers in the U.S., if ever the truth can get out, would envy. Medical care is of good quality, and free. If you, or your children, study hard and can get into a university, room and board, and books and tuition, are free. If you are an ethnic minority, you get an additional stipend.

Your humble scribe went to Vietnam and discovered that the Vietnamese people seem to have no animosity, no bitterness toward Americans. Three visits to Nicaragua, starting in the 1980s, and we heard so many Nicaraguenses say: there is a difference between the American people and the American government. But still there was bitterness, and understandably so.

This was not the case in Vietnam, and we still cannot fully understand the reason. Perhaps the words of a spokesperson from the veterans group at the Cu Chi tunnels (through which the Vietnamese thwarted B-52 bombings) best explained it, and I



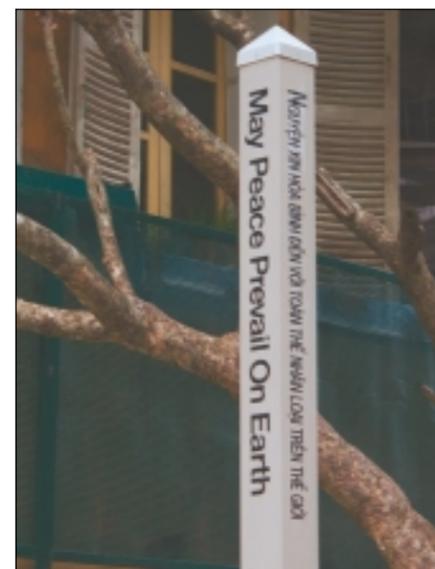
— photos by Felicia Gustin

Vietnam delegation member Felicia Gustin, director of the Oakland, Ca.-based Speak Out - the Institute for Democratic Education & Culture, said Ha Long Bay, above, has been designed by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site. Below left, a water puppet performs in *roi nuoc*, a Vietnamese art form believed to be hundreds of years old. Below right, a pole in Hanoi spreads a hopeful message.



paraphrase: you Americans are not our first invaders. We fought the Chinese, the Japanese, the French—twice, before you invaded us. What we want is peace. True peace and friendship.

Your columnist left Vietnam with



peace in his heart. Peace wishes for the Vietnamese people. Peace for all peoples. Peace, especially, for the people of Vietnam. Lord knows, they deserve peace.

Contact Ira Grupper at [irag@iglou.com](mailto:irag@iglou.com).

## FOUNDER OF SOA WATCH TO VISIT LOUISVILLE

by Dennis Bricking

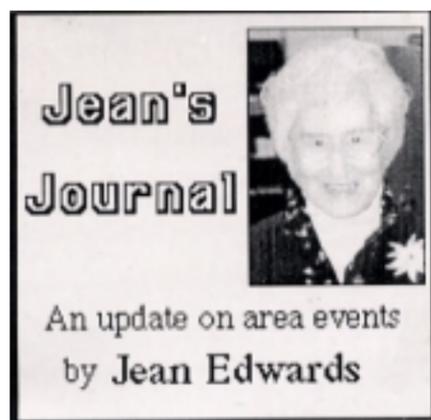
We are honored to have as our speaker on March 19 at the Third Thursday Lunch, 11:30 a.m., **Father Roy Bourgeois**, founder of the School of the Americas Watch at Ft. Benning, Georgia, in 1990. There will also be a special evening presentation by Father Roy on the 19th at 7:00 p.m. in the Centennial Room on the lower level of the main library located between 3rd and 4th Streets in downtown Louisville. The event is being sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation, along with Interfaith Paths to Peace and the Kentucky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean.

In its first year a protest was organized outside the SOA entrance at Ft Benning, Georgia with only five people present, but in the last two vigils there were some 20,000 participants from all over the nation.

Efforts have also been underway to persuade Latin American countries to stop sending their soldiers to train at the School of the Americas (now renamed "the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation"). Father Roy with a team of SOA members has traveled widely in Central and South America to accomplish this. As a direct result of their visits and advocacy, five of these nations have announced they will no longer send their military personnel to Ft Benning for "counter insurgency" training there. **Venezuela** was the first to pull its soldiers out, followed by **Uruguay, Argentina, Bolivia, and Costa Rica.** (However, under pressure from the U.S., Costa Rica reversed its decision last year.)

The Legislative Campaign is underway in the United States Congress to close the SOA, building on the success in the last Congress when the vote came within a handful of removing the funding. Hope is building because in the 2008 elections many negative voters were replaced. For information on the legislative campaign, check out [www.soaw.org/legislative](http://www.soaw.org/legislative)

To receive the SOAW newsletter, go to [www.SOAW.org/presente/distribute](http://www.SOAW.org/presente/distribute) Telephone 202.234.3440.



## MORE TROOPS HEADED TO AFGHANISTAN

Last week, President Barack Obama signed the order to send 17,000 more U.S. troops to Afghanistan. Congress still must vote to provide the funds for this escalation.

Before the election in November, we were told that Obama was to develop a new strategy for the war in Afghanistan before putting more soldiers in harm's way. Now the troops are heading out, **but where is the new plan?**

"We saw this coming even before the November election," states Joe Volk Friends Committee on National Legislature, FCNL) Bombing civilians and wielding the barrel of a gun will only help extremists recruit more fighters. It failed in Iraq, and it will fail in Afghanistan. What we need is diplomacy, development and cooperation with China, Russia, Iran, Pakistan, India, and other important regional actors." Tell Congress: **More troops won't bring more peace.** (FCNL, 245 2nd Street NE, Washington, DC 2002. 1/800-630-1330)

## NEW! FDR/Lincoln Legacy Club

This new organization is meeting on the first Thursday of the month, 6:30 p.m. at 1838 Frankfort Avenue. The contact is John Miller, [papajohn15@bellsouth.net](mailto:papajohn15@bellsouth.net) or see :// [globalization.meetup.com/89/](http://globalization.meetup.com/89/)

"Speak not of parties, but of universal principles." Come join us in a much-needed discussion on the substance of human economy, the history of the true American System, and the fate of the flawed "Free-Trade" system, including the only viable solution to the meltdown of the current failed world system of floating exchange-rate policies. Globalization is the new name for "imperialism;" it must be buried and replaced by a return to the founding principles of our U.S. Constitution. The emphasis of government must be on the General Welfare clause of the Preamble where the people come first; not the bankers, the corporations, and the lobbyists. Come meet other local activists to discuss Globalization issues and what can be done to put a stop to globalization. Learn about the resolution just introduced into the Kentucky State Senate to start the process of getting back to a government of, by and for the people. We call it the "Firewall bill."

*(continued on page 7)*

# Mulling college sports today makes for March sadness

One needn't care about the fate of the many prominent college basketball teams from Kentucky and Indiana to get caught up in what promoters call "March Madness," the tournament of 65 collegiate hoops squads starting in a week or so.

If nothing else, the arrival of the National Collegiate Athletic Association men's and women's tournaments means spring is coming, a delightful end to a season of horrendous ice and snow.

Beyond that, our area's 69-year span of men's national championships won by the University of Louisville (two titles), University of Kentucky (seven) and Indiana University (five) provides this region with some sense of identity, testifying before national audiences to our love for and proficiency at the game.

But when you are watching the teams play (the men's squads, at least), you are supporting not only the Big Blue and the Big Red, but also big money.

Forget about NCAA men's basketball being "amateur" or "unpaid." Whereas the women's game (at most universities) and many other college sports of both genders are still "non-revenue," meaning they don't bring in money above their many expenses, the widely televised men's game is generally a bonanza of cash for NCAA Division One schools.

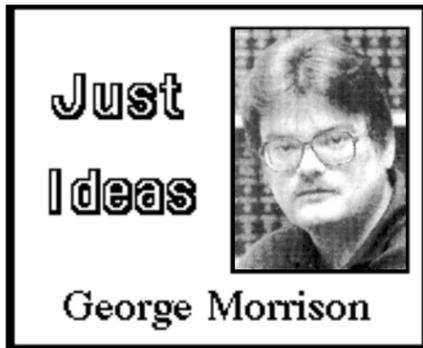
Not all even large university athletic programs are in the black after expenses. Some dip into the pockets of students' families, adding "activity fees" onto tuition to help sports stay afloat.

But at schools large and small, the men's college basketball components of athletic programs are almost always in the black. After counting all revenue from television appearances, gate receipts and the very lucrative merchandising of shirts and other apparel bearing the most popular schools' logos, the big programs make big bucks.

And it's the players' success which sells shirts and tickets and brings in TV viewers. Consider the fate of the sports programs at the University of Florida.

By the end of the spring 2007 semester, Florida's Gators had won two men's college basketball titles and a football title in the two previous academic years—an unprecedented two-sport domination of college athletics. And fans, TV viewers and apparel shoppers took notice. In 06-07, Florida brought in \$107.8 million in before-expense revenue, federally-required financial reports showed. That was the most of any program in the nation.

Meanwhile, the University of Notre Dame, by far the most fabled college



sports program, brought in \$83.6 million, hardly small change, but \$24 million less than Florida.

Notre Dame, despite having an image advantage over any other school because of its mystique and history, had been suffering through many years of dreadful losing football seasons and mediocre men's basketball seasons when those figures were released.

So clearly, on-court and on-field performance determines revenue. But whereas the athletes' toils in practices, games and workout rooms are for-profit, they are almost never for the athletes' profit; the

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*What is responsible for taking the concept of amateur athletics and turning it into a force that perverts the legacy of one of the world's greatest peacemakers?*

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NCAA has said one percent of Division One men's college basketball players will play in the National Basketball Association, where even being a moderately successful player can make a person a multi-millionaire.

So who is reaping the fruits of the labor of these players of the college "revenue sports?" The most successful coaches make seven and even eight figures in salaries, bonuses and endorsement deals. The elite athletic directors also can make in the millions.

But many more people not commonly associated with sports may be dependent on the money tree grown by it. At schools making revenue above expenses, some of that money goes into the universities' general funds, meaning it may, by some measure, help pay the salaries of English professors, bursars and cloning researchers, as well as campus security officers and building cleaners.

And, yes, the ol' capitalist system has its great invisible hand deeply and intricately mixed into the supposedly amateur realm of college sports.

The back-court steals, slam dunks and buzzer-beating three-pointers you'll see this month will bring in immeasurable profits to the CBS Corp., which has exclusive rights to televise the whole men's tourney, and to, well, you know whose commercials will bombard you every few minutes:

Cars that waste oil, the military that kills to keep that wasteful oil economy alive and—just as distressing, considering the myriad of college campus problems caused by it—beer.

The NCAA has stubbornly refused to agree to a broadly-supported proposal to end beer ads on college sports broadcasts. Since 2002, the American Medical Association, the Center for Science in the Public Interest and a committee of more than 100 college presidents and athletic directors have urged the association to drop or greatly curtail beer ads.

A letter last year to NCAA president Myles Brand by that committee called the ads "embarrassingly prominent" during the televised basketball tournament, and condemned the "hypocrisy of airing commercials for the very product that causes college administrators, coaches, and

parents so much distress."

Former University of Nebraska football coach Tom Osborne, whose championship-winning program in the 1990s was plagued by constant arrests of some of his players—who were then bailed out by a person the athletic department hired, believe it or not, to do that full time, seems to have seen the light.

He wrote in a letter to Brand: "Over my 36 years of coaching, most of the really negative occurrences that I had to deal with in regards to student-athletes involved alcohol and invariably the alcohol chosen was beer." Osborne then added some shocking figures that should make all sports fans think about whether beer ads really belong on college game ads: alcohol contributes to 70,000 sexual assaults and 1,700 deaths on college campuses each year.

Center for Science in the Public Interest alcohol policies director George Hacker said: "College administrators and local law enforcement are really struggling to control the violence, vandalism, and health problems

fueled by binge drinking on campus.... It's time for the NCAA to stop pouring gasoline on the fire and stop airing these ads."

Capitalism's relationship to college sports isn't limited to the big powers like U of L. It also is heavily involved with the mid-sized sports programs that want what U of L's Cardinals have—a 20,000-seat arena, ultra-modern, lavish work-out facilities and national television appearances almost weekly.

And for these wannabes, an entire industry helps them "market" themselves and their conferences.

Why does this matter to peace activists? Consider the recent deal brokered by Nelligan Sports Marketing involving the Horizon League, an Indianapolis-based conference tired of being overshadowed by the giant Big 10 and other prestigious, always-on-TV leagues.

Nelligan announced last fall that the U.S. Army would extend its deal to be the sponsor, or as a press release says, "presenter" of the Horizon League's soccer and baseball championships.

But it gets much worse. Via Nelligan, the Army is also supporting a yearly Horizon League elementary school arts, essay and music contest held in conjunction with Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday in each of the 10 league schools' communities.

The resulting repulsive name is the "2009 Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration presented by the U.S. Army."

So what is responsible for taking the concept of amateur athletics and turning it into a force that perverts the legacy of one of the world's greatest peacemakers—a man who gave his life precisely to *avert* a war that surely would have resulted without his guiding the civil rights movement into nonviolence?

And, for that matter, a force that makes a mockery of colleges' efforts to curb dangerous alcohol use?

Well, NCAA president Brand (who, in fairness, it should be noted, has successfully pressed colleges to improve graduation rates and academic integrity of their sports programs) answered those questions with a slam-dunk of a revealing comment during a speech in 2006:

"Athletics, like the university as a whole, seeks to maximize revenues. In this respect, it has an obligation to conduct its revenue-generating activities in a productive and sound business-like manner. Anything less would be incompetence at best and malfeasance at worst."

The madness continues.

Contact George Morrison at [klm86@att.net](mailto:klm86@att.net).

## MARK JOHNSON DESCRIBES FOR'S VISIT TO THE YOUSEF-ABAD SYNAGOGUE IN TEHRAN

"As we entered Tehran's Abu Joseph Central Synagogue, the first thing that struck me was the ornate nature of the bimah with scripture tiled in the typical Persian blues and yellows the graven vineyard in dark oak; and then the strange array of seating in blocks of fifty theatre type chairs facing in different directions. Our delegation was separated first by gender and then spread out in what appeared to be an effort to fill the large empty space at 4:30 in the afternoon. As services began, an estimated 60 Iranian Jews had gathered in a semblance of a remnant, and we thought it would be a quiet evening.

By 5:30 every one of the 500 or more seats was filled and the chanting of the evening prayers echoed off the balcony filled with women. Little children wandered through the aisles hand-in-hand, gathered around the pulpit or sat in their fathers' laps with candy bars in hand. The look of awe and appreciation at the energetic congregation was clear in the eyes of the ten Jewish members of FOR's delegation. This is not the image Americans have of the state of the Jewish community in Iran.

When the FOR delegation of ten Jews and four Christians was introduced there was more than polite applause. After Rabbi Rosen offered a D'var Torah on the story of Jacob and Esau, and Rabbi Lynn Gottlieb, who had been the first female Rabbi to visit the Synagogue from the United States during an earlier FOR delegation this year, gave gifts from the group for the Synagogue, there was overwhelmingly enthusiastic applause.

Rabbi Brant had been urged by the Synagogue leadership not to be political in his reflections on the evening's scripture; but in his interpretation of the story of Jacob and Esau I was reminded that it is nearly impossible in the privacy of one's own conscience not to hear the lesson from a political view. The story begins with Jacob and Esau wrestling in Rebekah's womb even before they are born. The conflict between the brothers continues throughout their lives until their father Isaac's death. But in Brant's midrash the central point was that the practice of wrestling was internalized in Jacob's case and in the end his wrestling match with an unnamed emissary (of? God) finally moves the struggle to where it ultimately rests for all of us. We are wrestling with how each of us individually can bring peace to the world.

I had the sense that Brant had broken down any remaining barriers or distinctions between the 14 of us from the United States and this Synagogue of 500 Iranian Jews in that message. We all share that struggle and that goal."

(Ed note- Mark Johnson is FOR's executive director at the office in Nyack, NY. E-mail [FOR@forusa.org](mailto:FOR@forusa.org) Web site: [www.forusa.org](http://www.forusa.org) Phone: 845-358-4601)



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

## Join the Fellowship of Reconciliation

LOCAL CONTACT:

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

# Calendar for peacemakers

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

Mar 1-April 11. **HUMANA FESTIVAL OF NEW PLAYS**. Poet-playwright **Naomi Wallace** returns to the festival with a play based on Louisville's Rubbertown neighborhood. This year's festival also pays tribute to Kentucky writer **Wendell Berry** with a stage adaptation of his poetry. For more information or tickets, call 584-1205 or visit [www.actors theatre.com](http://www.actors theatre.com).

Mar 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](mailto:j@bikecourier.org).

Mar 2 (Mon) **KCADP ANNUAL MEETING** (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty) in Frankfort, 5:30-6:30 pm. The meeting will be at Good Shepherd Parish, 1050 US Highway 421 South, on Frankfort's east side. Of special interest will be a report from the new staff person, Don Vish, who is the full time Director of Public Education, Advocacy and Outreach. For more information call Rev. Patrick Delehanty, Associate Director, Catholic Conference of Kentucky, 502-875-4345.

Mar 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](mailto:j@bikecourier.org).

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](mailto:dsawyer@lpts.edu).

Mar 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.

Mar 5 (Thu) **THE FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB**. Discussing how to put a stop to globalization. 6:30 PM, 1838 Frankfort Ave. For more information, contact John Miller at [papajohn15@bellsouth.net](mailto:papajohn15@bellsouth.net).

Mar 6 (Fri) **WORLD DAY OF PRAYER** sponsored by Church Women United. Thirty churches and 3 retirement centers in the Louisville area will participate. The event, taking place at different times in various churches, is designed to bring together women from different denominations, backgrounds, races and cultures. The service has been prepared by Christian women in Papua, New Guinea. Everyone is invited to attend and to bring canned goods for Dare to Care. A list of churches participating with the times of the services is available. Please call Genny Scheldorf, 239-5931.

Mar 7 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY**. Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by feminist performance group S.H.E. (Solidifying Her Evolution). (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Mar 8 (Sun) **INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY**. Join in celebration and help raise funds for women in Gaza. 6 PM, Ray's Monkey House, 1578 Bardstown Road. Sponsored by Code Pink Women for Peace. For more information, contact Jody Bolduc at [jintahoe@hotmail.com](mailto:jintahoe@hotmail.com).

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](mailto:reginald.meeks@louisville.edu).

Mar 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.

Mar 12 (Thurs) **SPEAK FOR PEACE TOUR: U.S VETERANS AND IRAQIS CREATING THE WAY**. Join us to hear from Iraqi political analyst Raed Jarrar and Iraq War veteran and former Marine Ken Mills as they tell the stories of war that we seldom hear and discuss ways that we can bring an end to the suffering. Free and open to the public. 7 PM, UofL Ekstrom Library, Chao Auditorium. Sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee and the Anne Braden Institute for Social Justice Research. For more information, contact Chris Harmer at 893-2334.

Mar 12 (Thurs) **APPAP (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum)**. Every second Thursday. In this month's film, Israeli scholar Avi Shlaim discusses the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. 7:30 PM, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, Room 10. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

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

Mar 14 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY**. Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by the Race and Reality Series: Carrider Jones presents "Let the Dust Fly" from her book *Backward Glance*. (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Mar 14 (Sat) **ST. JOHN CENTER "RENT RAISIN' PARTY."** Join us for an evening of food, dancing and fun. Proceeds will go toward transitional housing costs of the St. John Center's Residential Recovery Program. \$15. 8 PM to midnight, Kentucky Center for the Arts. For more information, call 568-6758.

Mar 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.

Mar 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](mailto:colonel221@yahoo.com).

Mar 15-18 (Sun-Wed) **FESTIVAL OF THEOLOGY AND RE-UNION**. "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 re-think, re-tradition, and reinvent itself. Pre-registration required. Visit [www.lpts.edu](http://www.lpts.edu) for information on costs and location.

Mar 19 (Thurs) **THIRD THURSDAY LUNCH**. Rudyard Kipling, 422 West Oak. Father Roy Bourgeois, founder of the School of the Americas Watch in 1990 at Fort Benning, Georgia, will speak about efforts to close this school, now renamed "The Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation" (WHINSEC), which has been producing death squad leaders and human rights abusers since 1946. Many individuals from the Louisville area have participated in the November vigils which have numbered some 20,000 persons for the last two years. 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.

Mar 19 (Thurs) **6th ANNIVERSARY OF THE US INVASION OF IRAQ**. The Louisville Peace Action Community will mark the anniversary at the steps of the Jefferson County Courthouse, 6th & Jefferson Streets, 3 PM to 6 PM. For more information or to volunteer to help with the event, contact Jamie at [jjmcmillin@insightbb.com](mailto:jjmcmillin@insightbb.com) or Judy at [jmunroleighton@gmail.com](mailto:jmunroleighton@gmail.com).

Mar 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.

Mar 19 (Thurs) **FATHER ROY BOURGEOIS**, founder of the School of the Americas Watch in 1990 at Fort Benning, Georgia, will speak about efforts to close this school, which has been producing death squad leaders and human rights abusers since 1946. Free and open to the public. 7 PM, Louisville Free Public Library, Centennial Room (lower level), Fourth and York Streets.

Mar 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](http://www.louisvillepeace.org). Email: [pcunity@yahoo.com](mailto:pcunity@yahoo.com).

Mar 21 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY**. Black and African World History with Dr. Blaine Hudson (11 AM to 12:30 PM). Followed by the Female Perspective Series: "Kentucky Women on the Plantation," with guest speakers Patti Linn, Kathy Nichols and Andrea Saylor. (12:45 PM to 2 PM). DuValle Education Center Cafeteria, 3610 Bohne Avenue. Call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Mar 23 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE**. Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road. Meets every fourth Monday. Visitors encouraged. Call Dennis Bricking, 298-0590, or Phil Schervish, 558-7175.

Mar 23 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE APRIL ISSUE OF FORsooth**. Contact **George Morrison, editor, 454-2752**, E-mail: [klm86@att.net](mailto:klm86@att.net). **Note: Please email new or updated calendar listings to [calendar.peace@gmail.com](mailto:calendar.peace@gmail.com), or call Nikki at 451-3402.**

Mar 24 (Tues) **JIM DOUGLASS: "MERTON, JFK AND THE UNSPEAKABLE"**. Theologian and peace activist Jim Douglass will explore themes from his most recent book, *JFK and the Unspeakable* (Orbis 2008). 7 PM. Free and open to the public. Bellarmine University, Cralle Theater, 2001 Newburg Road. Sponsored by the Merton Center and Interfaith Paths to Peace. For more information, call 452-8187 or visit: [www.interfaithpathstopeace.org](http://www.interfaithpathstopeace.org).

Mar 27 (Fri) **SATURDAY ACADEMY "SISTAH TO SISTERHOOD" BREAKFAST**. Dr. Grace Cornish Livingstone will speak on "Women at the Crossroads." 7:30 AM to 9:30 AM, \$15. Spalding University Cafeteria, 824 South Fourth Street. A Sistah Summit event co-sponsored by the Spalding University School of Social Work. For more information, call Bani Hines-Hudson, 295-7531.

Mar 28 (Sat) **SATURDAY ACADEMY SISTAH SUMMIT**. "Sistahs Work It Out: Life, Liberty and the Pursuit of Happiness." Black woman-led sessions on self, sisterhood, sexuality and spirituality—open to all women. Public luncheon (men welcome) will feature keynote speaker Dr. Grace Cornish Livingstone. For a full listing of events, speakers and discount package rates, contact Bani Hines-Hudson at 295-7531 or [bhineshudson@yahoo.com](mailto:bhineshudson@yahoo.com).

Mar 31 (Tues) **APPLICATION DEADLINE: F.O.R. AUGUST 2009 DELEGATION TO IRAN**. In 2009, F.O.R. is sending a series of peace missions to Iran to build relationships between the people of the U.S. and the people of Iran, and to develop a community of grassroots civilian diplomats in North America. For information about the most recent mission or more information on the application process, please visit: <http://forusa.org/programs/iran/>.

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## Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

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

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

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

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

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL – 1st Saturday (637-8951)

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](http://www.LouisvilleEarthSave.org)

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

FDR/Lincoln Legacy Club – 1st Thursday, [papajohn15@bellsouth.net](mailto:papajohn15@bellsouth.net)

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

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

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

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

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

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)

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

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

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

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

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

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

KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (245-2272)

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

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

LPAC (LOUISVILLE PEACE ACTION COMMUNITY) – (558-9124)

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

LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP – Friday nights (893-0788), [www.louisvilleyouthgroup.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto: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.