

FORsooth

The Lhotshampa – an identity under siege globally

by Buddha M. Dhakal

“Resettling refugees in the western countries would solve the refugee problem on humanitarian ground” is what is widely assumed today. “It is not simply a humanitarian issue, but rather political fallout” is another side of the debate on the Bhutanese refugee imbroglio. The crux of the problem, however, lies in the demographic representation of the Lhotshampa population in the Bhutanese polity. Even deeper lies the Indian hegemonic control over Bhutan’s water and mineral resources.

The Nepali speaking Lhotshampa people living in southern and central Bhutan were never illegal immigrants. Bhutan was not open to such immigrants and there exist strict barriers to avoid entry of outsiders. The refugee mass, therefore, possesses the distinct identity of Bhutanese origin with values, customs, language and costumes shared with Nepali hill-castes. The most important identity they bear is the Nepali language that has been the lingua franca for over a century in Bhutan.

Before the imposition of a dress and language code in 1988 to 1989, Lhotshampa commonly learned the Nepali language, a practice which became the basis for forming a society of Nepali literature. This literary organization made attempts to carry out detailed studies of socio-cultural life of various communities and publish them. Some other religious and cultural associations of Rai and Limbu, peoples living primarily in Nepal, have grown in

Activists for democracy in Bhutan have said the government has enacted a series of ex-post facto laws that have had the effect of declaring many Lhotshampa illegal immigrants even though they have always been in Bhutan legally.

This, activists say, was done to give the government the pretext to expel about 100,000 Lhotshampa from Bhutan since the 1980s. The Centre for the Protection of Minorities and Against Racism and Discrimination in Bhutan said the Bhutanese government did this because the Lhotshampa minority was at the forefront of demands for democracy.

For more on this matter, see the centre’s and other websites by going to www.google.com and entering key words “Lhotshampa culture.”

the camps in a quest to rejuvenate their ethno-cultural identity.

Resettlement cannot be at the cost of one’s identity of origin. Resettlement in the U.S. alone is set to distribute the refugees in 34 states, which means they will be easily integrated. Already accepted as cheap labor in the U.S., the resettled folks are sure to be absorbed in their income generation activity dawn to dusk. It is necessary for them to rebuild their family economy.

Given the busy working hours of U.S. corporate life, the resettled refugees will have little time to take care of their socio-cultural identity, which is doomed to fade away in next few years. The social and religious gathering that formed integral parts of refugee life too, can be gradually displaced, leading to cultural erosion.

Meanwhile, Bhutanese society is undergoing an incipient phase of social

disintegration, which is hastened by the resettlement process. Families are being broken, kiths and kin separated to far-off countries, social cohesion gradually disrupted in the course of getting an apt shelter and job. People might be compelled to forgo some of their cultural and religious observations such as birth and death rituals, important celebrations and devote more time to their mechanized errands. In such circumstances, people cannot maintain cultural and social integrity to reflect their dominant socio-cultural aspirations.

Political identity of the resettled people is not well-defined. Concomitantly, the legal basis of resettlement itself is not established yet. Most refugees do not know what status will be granted to them, though it is publicized the refugees will be eligible to apply for the citizenship after five years.

Does it mean they will no longer be treated as asylum-seekers after five years?



— photo courtesy APFA-Bhutan

Lhotshampa perform a traditional ceremony in Bhutan’s capital Thimphu in 2008.

Or are they free to choose between asylum-seekers and permanent citizenship? What about their long standing position of Lhotshampa origin and fight for democracy in Bhutan? It is rather doubtful that the resettled will be able to form a network of associations, prospectively working for monitoring procedures and components of Bhutanese democracy, in the days ahead.

Nevertheless, change must take place through time. Some alert, conscientious and vibrant media persons might continue to raise issues at appropriate forums, create a link of intellectual debate with media persons in Bhutan or try to influence parliamentary decisions in Bhutan.

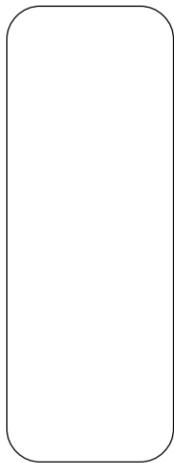
(continued on page 4)

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Louisville, KY
Permit No. 962

Fellowship of Reconciliation
Louisville Chapter
2236 Kaelin Avenue
Louisville, KY 40205-2608

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Call F.O.R. at 502/458-8056



Mountains get organic aid

by Virginia Bush

An organically grown group has coalesced in Louisville around the common passion of its members to stop the destruction of the mountains of Appalachia by the coal extraction practice known as Mountain Top Removal.

The group is organic because of the way it formed. The people who make up the group found they kept running in to each other at Mountain Justice events.

Some had taken a trip in January to the mountains to observe the destruction firsthand. Then, in February many of the members participated in a Mountain Justice Walk from Lexington to Frankfort, arriving there to participate in the annual I Love Mountains Day Rally.

In March, many of the same people

were off to Washington, D.C. to join in a mass civil disobedience action at the Capitol Power Plant. Here they formed an Affinity Group so that designated support members could assist those who would potentially be arrested. All received training in non-violent civil disobedience.

Through these shared experiences, the members realized a bond was forming among them. The glue was a common love for the earth and desire to work toward a sustainable future for all the earth’s inhabitants. The knowledge shared about the massive destruction caused by Mountain Top Removal called each of the members to stand up and act. The destruction is felt collectively as an unacceptable assault on the sacredness of creation and an oppressive injustice.

(continued on page 4)

Death penalty foes online talking about alternatives

Kentuckians favoring a humane alternative to executions can add their voices to an electronic testimonial against the death penalty.

The Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty has recently posted written and spoken commentaries on YouTube, an internet service that allows users to view and produce video features.

The KCADP’s YouTube channel includes statements by a former chaplain at the death row in the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville and by Henry County, Ky. farmer, peace and environmental activist and celebrated writer Wendell Berry.

“If you would like to add your voice as a witness in opposition to the death penalty, KCADP can schedule a recording,” coordinator Kaye Gallagher said in an e-

mail news release. She said the organization hopes to post hundreds of statements by Kentuckians.

“All we ask is that a person either be related to a person on death row or live in Kentucky,” she said. “And, if someone wants to make his or her own video with a running time of under three minutes, with 2.5 minutes being even better, and send it to us, we will edit it and add the title and credit frames and post it on the KCADP YouTube channel.”

The YouTube channel address is www.YouTube.com/KCADP.

The group also recently said it is using Twitter, an on-line information service. Find the KCADP there at: twitter.com/kcadp.

To contact the KCADP, email kcadp@earthlink.net or call (502) 636-1330.

INSIDE

The terrible suffering in Darfur — how to oppose it p. 2

An area anti-racism group speaks on torture p. 2

The peaceable side of our national symbol p. 4

A poet on memories, spirituality and dinosaurs p. 6

Much must, and can be done to help Darfur, lunch told

FORsooth staff report

As a senator known for his intransigence held up action on a bill in 2007 to help some of the world's worst suffering people, Louisville activist Bob Brousseau lined up a legion of middle school students to phone Jim Bunning's office.

Their message: release your hold on a bill to make it easier for Americans to divest their retirement and investment funds from Sudan and China as a way to possibly ease the frightful pain felt by millions in Darfur, a Sudanese state in rebellion.

After virtually the entire student body called urging release of the bill, Bunning relented and the Sudanese Accountability and Divestment Act soon passed and was signed into law by President Bush, Brousseau said. The act, he added, gave ordinary people a way to stop cooperating with Sudan – whose policies have led to

400,000 people dying in Darfur – and China, which has blocked every vote in the United Nations Security Council to condemn these Sudanese policies, which most observers consider genocide.

Brousseau and Phil Nippert, speakers at the Louisville FOR's Third Thursday Lunch May 21, told the gathering that far more needs to be done than divesting personal wealth, but that the students' calls were exemplary.

"You don't have to be a middle school student to make a difference," said Brousseau, who along with Nippert, are activists with the recently formed Kentuckiana Interfaith Task Force on Darfur.

Noting that former Illinois Senator Paul Simon said that 100 calls from constituents would be a "phenomenal" force to change a congressperson's vote, Brousseau and Nippert, both of Louisville, asked for calls to Senators and

Representatives for stronger sanctions.

China, particularly, should be dealt with more forcefully, they said, because the Beijing government is the largest weapons supplier to Sudan, which has fought in civil wars against Darfur rebel groups from 1955 to 1972 and 1983 to 2005 (since which genocide has continued).

China imports oil from Sudan, a principal reason for its using its veto power as a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council to prevent the council from intervening with strong diplomatic action, they told the lunch.

Nippert strongly criticized the Sudanese regime for deliberately hampering what had been the world's largest food relief program. After the International Criminal Court in the Netherlands last year charged Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir with genocide, his government expelled aid workers.

This greatly reduced the effectiveness of feeding centers and put, by a U.N. estimate, one million people at risk of dying, Nippert said.

Brousseau said a vote is scheduled in 2011 to allow Darfur residents to decide on independence, but he isn't optimistic that it would lead to freedom or peace, because of the Sudanese government's brutality. Another reason, he said, is Sudan's lack of experience with peace since it received its independence from Britain and Egypt, which controlled Sudan until 1956, (Brousseau noted that its first civil war started a year before independence).

"This country's been around since 1956," Brousseau said. "And they have only had 11 years of peace."

The Third Thursday Lunches will pause for the summer and will resume in September.

Statement against torture from Kentucky Alliance

President Obama is facing a tough decision that will reflect upon our values as Americans. The tough decision concerns how the Obama administration should handle American government officials who authorized the torture of prisoners and American intelligence officers and civilians who took part in that torture.

Torture is illegal. Those involved in its implementation are in violation not only of international law but of the laws of human decency. President Obama has said, quite rightly, that we lead with our values. If that is true we have no choice but to prosecute those who tortured prisoners to the full extent of the law. Our values demand it. We must know for sure if the Bush White House insisted upon torture to force confessions to falsely create a link between Al Quaida and Saddam Hussein. We must know for sure if torture was being used to produce false information about weapons of mass destruction.

The Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression knows well that

repressive violence directed against unpopular groups eventually opens the door to its use with other groups. Today torture is aimed at those labeled terrorists but tomorrow it could be aimed at anyone accused of a crime or even those who lawfully protest the actions of our government.

The last thing we want to do is empower public officials to use torture when they think it necessary because the very next step would be empowering American police officers to beat false confessions out of Americans as they once did quite frequently in this country.

If we don't lead with our values, we can't lead at all. Therefore President Obama must prosecute those who initiated, authorized and took part in torture.

Kathleen Parks
K.A. Owens
David Lott

Co-Chairs, Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression

FINANCIAL REPORT May 2009

BEGINNING BALANCE	\$11,846.79
Donations & Honorariums	<u>1,046.30</u>
TOTAL	\$12,893.09

EXPENDITURES:

FORsooth Editing	\$150.00
FORsooth Layout	100.00
FORsooth Printing	612.00
FORsooth Mailing	200.00
FOR National Dues	100.00
2009 Peace Essay Awards	550.00
Hosting Louisville-FOR.org	57.60
Office Expenses	<u>37.11</u>
	\$1,806.71
	<u>1,806.71</u>

ENDING BALANCE.....\$11,086.38

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



PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS TO:

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



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.

Like this paper?

Then sign up here to receive each issue of *FORsooth* in the mail!

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State ____ Zip _____
Telephone _____ (day) _____ (evening)

MAIL TO:

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

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.



Founded 1915

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

FORsooth Staff

Editor	George Morrison
Calendar editor	Nikki Gaines
Production manager	Barbara Powers
Bulk mailing	Beverly Marmion

94 Years on Peace Frontiers

Since 1915, the Fellowship of Reconciliation in the United States has led campaigns to obtain legal rights for conscientious objectors, win civil rights for all Americans, end the Vietnam War, oppose U.S. intervention in the Third World, and reverse the superpowers' arms race. An interfaith pacifist organization, the FOR has members from many religious and ethnic traditions. It is part of the International Fellowship of Reconciliation, with affiliates in 40 countries.

In the development of its program FOR depends upon persons who seek to apply these principles to every area of life. If you are not already a member, we invite you to join us in this endeavor. Membership consists of signing the Statement of Purpose, indicating that you agree with FOR goals.

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

Layoffs in Louisville; the keys to equality in Mississippi

This column is devoted to two separate and distinct issues, labor in the current economy, and the fight for civil rights and justice.

The city of Louisville, like so many other U.S. cities, is hit hard by the financial meltdown. So, who should pay the price for corporate greed? Why, union workers, of course. The mayor, in May, vetoed an ordinance passed by the Metro Council that would have set a "prevailing wage," a decent wage minimum for construction workers on projects that receive at least \$300,000 in city tax dollars.

"At a news conference yesterday, (Mayor Jerry) Abramson did not cite any specific ways the ordinance would create obstacles to job creation. He was pressed for specifics on at least four occasions," the Louisville *Courier-Journal* reported May 20.

The mayor followed this up a few days later by proposing a budget that would lay off 95 full time and 24 part time city employees, and leave empty many unfilled positions.

The *Courier-Journal* quotes Denny Norris, president of Teamsters Local 783, which represents about 600 city employees: " 'A lot of these folks that will get notices were working 12-hour shifts, seven days a week through snow and ice,' Norris said, referring to public works crews that cleaned up debris left behind after January's ice storm."

Organized labor, nationally, has slowly begun to cohere and fight back. But some elements of organized labor are responding to the economic crisis in a different way. Take, for example, the "Keep it Made in America" national bus tour, which recently stopped in Louisville. It is sponsored by the Alliance for American Manufacturing (AAM), the Mayors and Municipalities Automotive Coalition, the United Autoworkers (UAW), and the United Steelworkers (USW).

The tour hopes "to draw attention to the 7 million jobs supported by the U.S. auto supply chain. Business, labor, and community leaders will rally support for policies to revitalize the auto sector and U.S. manufacturing.

"The U. S. auto industry creates manufacturing and service jobs all across the country. More than 3.4 million workers are employed in auto-related industries in the 11 states on the 'Keep It Made in America' bus tour."

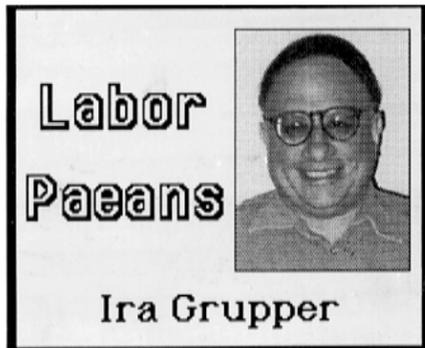
Your columnist appreciates the fact that "(t)he overall objective for this activity is to call for an Auto restructuring Plan that maximizes domestic production, automobile industry jobs, and retains sufficient American automobile production capacity to take advantage of the eventual resurgence of the automobile demand in America."

We need to ask our union brothers and sisters supporting this effort to please explain how this is a progressive cause. The labor movement's old "Buy American" campaign did nothing to show international working class solidarity. Years ago, at the two Ford plants in Louisville, we were told, you had better not drive a "foreign" car onto their parking lots; your windows might get busted out.

What is "American?" Look under the hood of a Ford and you'll find parts from all over the world. Look at all the "foreign" cars now being produced in the U.S. Should they not be purchased? How can you tell if a Toyota is made in the U.S. or elsewhere? Toyota is not Japanese, or American. It is multi-national, part of a multi-national corporation, and the working class needs to fashion a multi-national, as opposed to a narrow-national, response.

Make no mistake about it. Your columnist is very troubled by all the U.S. manufacturing jobs that have moved out of the country, including his own, leaving millions of U.S. workers without work. Yes, let's support a return of U.S. manufacturing. But let's not support a plan that feeds a narrow protectionist view that is doing the working class a disservice by pushing this campaign.

Layoffs usually result in workers losing health care coverage. Paul Krugman comments in the New York Times May 11 on the news that major industry players —



including America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP) and Service Employees International Union (SEIU) — have proposed to President Obama a plan to control health care costs: "The point is that there's every reason to be cynical about these players' motives. Remember that what the rest of us call health care costs, they call income."

AHIP is an association representing nearly 1,300 companies selling health insurance. SEIU's web site says the union has more than one million members in the health care field, including nurses, LPNs, doctors, lab technicians, nursing home workers and home care workers.

Illusions are not helpful when dealing with real-world problems. Like the illusion that the medical profession is nothing but a noble calling, above the profit system. Reports the New York Times April 27: "(Obama administration) officials said they

were particularly concerned about shortages of primary care providers who are the main source of health care for most Americans. One proposal — to increase Medicare payments to general practitioners, at the expense of high-paid specialists, has touched off a lobbying fight.

"Family doctors and internists are pressing Congress for an increase in their Medicare payments. But medical specialists are lobbying against any change that would cut their reimbursements. Congress, the specialists say, should find additional money to pay for primary care and should not redistribute dollars among doctors — a difficult argument at a time of huge budget deficits."

condition in a patient resulting from treatment by a physician or surgeon. Now that you know what iatrogenic is about, re-read the quote, two paragraphs above. It's enough to make us sick.

...

We now turn to the topic of civil rights. On June 20, your columnist will be in Philadelphia, Miss. to participate in a memorial service and conference marking the 45th anniversary of the deliberate and cold-blooded murders of three unarmed men by racists in that city. James Chaney, Mickey Schwerner and Andy Goodman were non-violent civil rights workers,

"The places where we were locked out, I'm gonna have the key..."
— Philadelphia, Miss. Mayor James Young

Now, we don't pretend knowledge about specific numbers of slots needed in medical schools for different areas of medical care. What we do know is that people who made the mistake of being poor, working class or "middle class" are currently deprived of medical care, unlike poor countries like Cuba and Venezuela, and unlike Europe and Canada.

We also know about *iatrogenic* diseases, diseases resulting from the activity of physicians; usually used for any adverse

martyrs in the fight for democracy in America, in a major battle to end apartheid made-in-the-USA.

There is glorious news to report about Philadelphia, and we'll save that for the end.

But we must focus on the murders in 1964. The Fifth Circuit of the United States Court of Appeals ruled in 1969: "There is ample—in fact, overwhelming—untainted evidence that the defendants conspired

(continued on page 7)



Louisville Events

Thursday June 25th
Film screening and Discussion
BREAKING THE SILENCE
7:00 – 9:00 p.m. Brescia Hall
Ursuline Campus 3105 Lexington Road

BREAKING THE SILENCE introduces the viewer to torture survivors from Africa, the Philippines, South America, the Middle East and the US, and the healing work of the Torture Abolition Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC).

Additional Activities – June 26-28. To be announced

Focus on action letters or petitions on legislative and policy changes that are possible or pending.

Faith community participation: A Prayer or sermon about torture in a worship service during June.

June 26th is United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture. A few years ago, religious and human rights organizations in the United States declared the month of June to be Torture Awareness Month as a way to provide greater visibility to this issue and provide an opportunity for coordinated actions across the country.

This year also marks 20 years since Ursuline Sister Dianna Ortiz was abducted and tortured in Guatemala. We realize that many people have been tortured in our names or with our funds. We must work to stop torture everywhere and also to focus on the healing and recovery of torture survivors worldwide.

For more information contact Marcy Allman, (502) 384-5813

Reminding the nation of its olive branch on March 19

by Kate Cunningham
and Judy Munro-Leighton

Marking the anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq, members of the Louisville Peace Action Community gathered March 19 once again at Sixth and Jefferson streets downtown. To highlight six long years of war and occupation, LPAC displayed large signs on the steps with the years of the war — 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009 — leading to a large banner at the top, which said, “End Both Wars Now.”

Six years ago, LPAC joined millions of irate Americans in protest against the illegal and immoral invasion of Iraq on March 19, 2003 and we have consistently opposed this war and occupation. We have written letters to the editor and communicated with our members of Congress, who ignored our pleas for peace. We marched through every neighborhood of the city and in Washington D.C.

On successive anniversaries of the U.S. Invasion, we set hundreds of pairs of boots on the Jefferson County Courthouse steps,

we strung clotheslines of t-shirts at busy intersections across the county, and we placed thousands of small flags on the Great Lawn to symbolize the unspeakable loss of American and Iraqi lives.

Now six years later, a majority of Louisvillians know that the 2003 invasion was based on a string of lies. Barack Obama

two wars? The Bush team said the cost of the Iraq War was just a fraction of a percent of our GDP. Now, an estimated two trillion dollars have been spent or committed to this war and untold trillions will be spent in the future taking care of our wounded veterans. LPAC has emphasized the price of war—in lives and dollars—at four annual

Hussein. The U.S. economy has tanked, but more importantly, we have lost the respect of our allies as a result of Abu Ghraib and other actions “on the dark side,” to borrow Cheney’s ominous phrase.

As we recall with chagrin and regret our rush to war in 2003, let us listen to wise journalist-scholars like Thomas E. Ricks whose recent book, *The Gamble*, warns us of the perils we court by continued and extended involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan. This year, on March 19, LPAC gathered once again at the courthouse steps to ponder: How do we obtain accountability from our two U.S. senators for the wars they have levied in our name?

How do we continue to struggle for peace — locally, nationally, and internationally? How do we extend the olive branch, which the American eagle holds in its right talon, and restrain the arrows it grasps in its left?

The writers, both of Louisville, are activists for peace and justice.

*The U.S. economy has tanked, but more importantly,
we have lost the respect of our allies...*

won election, in part, because of his early and consistent opposition to the Iraq War. We rejoiced in his vision. We deplore, however, his sending 17,000 additional U.S. troops to Afghanistan. LPAC supports diplomatic overtures to handle future problems in trouble spots around the globe.

Remember, in 2003, when we were told not to worry about how to pay for these

Kentucky State Fair booths. We had no idea then that the cost of war would, in fact, land the economy on the ropes today. Now we know this war has been disastrous for the economy, despite the Pentagon’s efforts to conceal exact figures.

Six years on, Iraq produces less oil, has a diminished energy grid, and less potable water than it had under Saddam

Lhotshampa

(continued from page 1)

Resettlement in the developed countries should be taken not only as an opportunity for aggrandizement but also to gain professionalism in various social, economic and technological disciplines. Capacity building through educational improvement, short-term courses, trainings or even apprenticeship is essential to take up diverse fields of employment.

Professional workforce development in the fields of media, law, social justice, conflict management, human rights and advocacy is much needed in Bhutanese society to provide leadership in the effort to establish democratic values in the country. However, that depends on how effectively the Bhutanese abroad and at home can communicate to accept each other’s ideas.

People’s democracy in its full swing shall only be stabilized when the citizens of a country can deeply acknowledge and appreciate core values of democracy contributed by the citizenry. Leadership,

on the other hand, needs to be a powerful guiding force to inculcate culture of mutual existence, tolerance and practice of democratic values at the lowest level too. It has to take place through continuous transformations and undergoing the flame-test with time.

Bhutanese Diaspora in their countries of resettlement should find means and resources to develop manpower and fight against the pseudo-democracy back home, another version of royal decree, managed by propagandists. In a long term, Bhutan should be their country of return because other countries are by no means of their origin.

The writer is a Bhutanese journalist in exile living in Louisville who works with the Association of Press Freedom Activists-Bhutan, an organization working for freedom of the press and of expression in Bhutan. The organization operates in exile in Nepal. See www.apfanews.com.



Mountains

(continued from page 1)

Upon returning from Washington D.C., the Affinity members met to reflect on the experience and discuss where to go from here. A group decision was made to continue to meet about once a month to plan, pursue and support continued action.

The group does support the initiatives of other groups with similar goals, such as Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, the I Love Mountains Group, Appalachian Voices, Footprints for Peace, etc. Efforts are made to network and keep group members informed of calls for political action, areas at risk for exploitation and future planned actions. There are no officers or elected officials.

During meetings, members share information and areas of concern. Self-appointed members may agree on a subject to research for possible future action and report their findings by email or at the next meeting.

Examples of areas being considered for future work include, but are not limited to: public education on MTR and its effects,

the spiritual and justice dimensions of mining, effects of MTR on the people and culture of Appalachia, health concerns and water quality issues related to the mining and burning of coal and the impact of coal burning on climate change.

Aware that we also are unwitting participants in the destruction, by the fact that we use the power derived from MTR, we continue to seek ways to reduce our use and inform ourselves and others about alternative, sustainable, clean options for energy.

Agendas at the meetings are loose to allow for creative discussion and brainstorming leading to supported action. Respectful listening and sharing is understood. If you have similar interests and are interested in learning more about the Affinity Group and its work, please call me at (502) 550-0997.

The writer, of Louisville, is active in Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, the Sierra Club and St. William Catholic Church.

An “oil import” peace activists can fully support

The Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East has fair trade, organic, cold pressed, extra virgin olive oil, a product of the West Bank, Palestine, for sale. The cost is \$18.00 for 750ml bottle. The oil is imported through the non-profit company Import Peace. Profits from the sale of the company’s oil go to a hospital in Gaza and to buy olive trees for planting in the West Bank. Last year \$11,000 was sent back to Palestine. To purchase, please call Polly Johnson at (502) 473-8435.



Imagine seeing this in color:



Now imagine reading instantly updated news from the FOR.

You can do both at

www.louisville-for.org

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

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

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

By any other name, mercenaries still obliterated peace

by Eustace Durrett

Recently, Blackwater Worldwide, the most notorious of all the for-profit mercenary armies, changed its name to XE (pronounced ZEE). The company rebranded itself due to its employees' involvement in a shooting episode in Iraq in September 2007 that left 17 Iraqi civilians dead. This was just one of the most egregious of several similar outrages.

As documented in *Blackwater: The Rise of the World's Most Powerful Mercenary Army*, by Jeremy Scahill, the company's growth is tied to militarism, evangelism and no-bid contracts. The 550-page book provides background on Blackwater founder Erik Prince, his and his father's evangelical roots, his experience as a U.S. Navy SEAL, and his conversion to a very conservative brand of Catholicism. Under the Bush administration, Blackwater was given multimillion-dollar contracts without bidding and grew to be the largest private security company in the world.

Scahill's *Blackwater*, published by Nation Books, has won the George Polk Book Award and the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism.

Since the September 2007 incident, Iraqi leaders have expelled Blackwater (or XE) from their country, and the U.S. State

Department has decided not to renew Blackwater's contract to protect diplomats. Blackwater's changing of its name is, of course, comparable to the recent changing of the name of the "School of the Americas" — which actually teaches the art of efficient torture and how to organize death squads — into something that sounds even more innocuous. Both Blackwater and the Army's school have kept their same and similar curriculums.

Blackwater was a more appropriate name than the bland "XE." There is so much negativity and just plain evil associated with the descriptive word, black. For starters, you have black widow spiders, the Black Plague (or Black Death), black letter day, black magic, blackmail, Black Maria, etc. A plumber friend tells me that the leak from a toilet is referred to in the trade as blackwater. That seems appropriate.

The American ambassador (viceroy) to Iraq, Paul Bremer, issued a directive, called Order 17, which gave sweeping immunity to private contractors working on U.S. projects in Iraq. Order 17 effectively barred the Iraqi government from prosecuting contractors' crimes in Iraqi courts. At the same time Bremer claimed that he was "handing over sovereignty" to the Iraqi government.

Since Blackwater was a "private" contractor, neither the company nor its employees could be prosecuted for any crime by either the U.S. military justice system or the "sovereign" Iraqi justice system. To put the situation in an American context, neither the sheriff nor the posse could jail Billy the Kid or bring him to trial. Billy would have immunity in adding notches to his pistol butt.

To add insult, private contractors' employees were being paid thousands of dollars per day more than U.S. military personnel. This was all based on no-bid contracts, paid for by U.S. taxpayers. This was sort of like the townspeople paying the bad guys to stay in town, looting and killing at will.

The book said that with the fall from grace of Chile's ruthless dictator Augusto Pinochet, many of his goons, highly skilled in the arts of torture, murder and the "disappearance" of the regime's opponents, were out of work. But Blackwater came to the rescue, providing them with well-paying jobs that gave outlet to their talents. Jose Miguel "Mike" Pizarro, who has dual citizenship in Chile and the U.S., has served in both militaries. A strong admirer of Pinochet, he became Blackwater's main recruiter of former Chilean commandos

and other personnel with the same kind of experiences from Honduras, El Salvador, and other Latin countries.

Blackwater is a good example of privatization's "merits." In the privatization world, you have many examples, such as schools and prisons in the U.S. and railroads etc. in Thatcher's England. From the Pentagon on down, the justifications for privatization are efficiency and saving the taxpayer money. In these examples with their addiction to profit and hence cutting corners both justifications are in doubt. The Pentagon spends the claimed savings (where they really exist) on more sophisticated weaponry that is often inefficient; and Thatcher's privatization of the English rail system would have made Mussolini gloat over getting Italian trains to run on time.

Further, the drive to privatize the support and the security elements of the American military has created a monster mercenary (Blackwater) out of control, a waste of money and questionable efficiency.

Most important, there is a moral issue as well—giving up the people's control of vital civic activity to the whims of capitalism.

The writer, of Louisville, is an activist for economic equality and rail transit.

Calendar for peacemakers (continued from back page)

July 12 (Sun) **PASTORS FOR PEACE CARAVAN TO CUBA.** A fun event is being planned for the evening. Locations and times to be announced. Music and dancing will be involved! We will be hosting two caravanistas and a caravan truck on their way to Cuba and a challenge to the embargo. For more information, call David Horvath at 479-9262.

July 16-19 (Thurs-Sun) **BUILDING THE UNSETTLING FORCE: A National Conference to End Poverty.** This conference is being organized to provide a forum for people to share ideas, inspire and motivate each other. We will strive for collective actions based in sound analyses—actions that can be taken locally, regionally, and nationally when we leave this gathering. To be held at Spalding University. For more information, contact Women In Transition at 636-0160 or email witadmin@witky.com.

July 20 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE AUGUST ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Contact **George Morrison, editor, at 454-2752, or klm86@att.net. Note: Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com, or call Nikki at 451-3402.**

July 21-23 (Tues-Thurs) **PEACE EDUCATION TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS.** This three-day training in conflict resolution and peer mediation is offered to school personnel and youth workers interested in creating a youth mediation program in their schools or community centers. Participants will learn to address basic conflict resolution theory, create a site-based mediation program, train youth mediators, and involve other staff in programming. Workshop fee is \$350 or \$650 for a two-person team. Training includes manual, daily continental breakfast and boxed lunch. Deadline to register is July 7th. Space limited. For more information, call 589-6583.

July 22-25 (Wed-Sat) **2009 WORSHIP AND THE ARTS CONFERENCE: "BORDERS AND BEYOND."** Participants will explore the biblical, theological, and liturgical significance of borders and boundaries through a variety of artistic media, including dance, drama, music, visual arts and writing. Keynote speaker will be Sara Miles, author of *Take this Bread: A Radical Conversion*. Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary,

1044 Alta Vista Road. To learn more about the conference or to register, visit www.lpts.edu/Academic_Programs/Borders_and_beyond.asp or call 569-5311.

July 30 (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.

July 31-Aug 2 (Fri-Sun) **KENTUCKY SOCIAL FORUM.** A thousand people from across the state will join together in Berea to share, reflect, dance, play, network, vision and strategize with the theme that "Another Ky is Possible." Register now! Do a workshop, too! For more info call Angelyn 649-7833 or visit www.kentuckysocialforum.org.

Aug 8 (Sat) **PEACE EDUCATION YARD SALE.** Sponsored by Central Presbyterian Church, all proceeds to directly benefit Peace Education Program. Estate items! Furniture! Treasures galore! Indoors, no sweat! 318 W. Kentucky Street. For more information, call 589-6583.

OUT OF TOWN

June 10 (Wed) **NATIONAL DAY OF ACTON AGAINST CATERPILLAR.** Shareholders' meeting in Chicago. Israel acquires Caterpillar bulldozers from the U.S. Government through its foreign aid or military aid and then converts them to war machines to demolish Palestinian homes and olive groves and build roads and walls on Palestinian lands. For more information, contact U.S. Campaign to End the Israeli Occupation at 202-332-0994 or visit www.EndTheOccupation.org.

July 17-19 (Fri-Sun) **NATIONAL COUNTER-RECRUITMENT AND DEMILITARIZATION CONFERENCE.** To be held in Chicago. This conference will bring together people of all ages, led by younger activists, to engage in organizing against the militarism of our youth and schools. FOR's Youth and Militarism Program will be present. For more information, email erconf@gmail.com, visit www.nnomy.org or call 866-338-2378.

The Israeli/Palestinian Conflict is an AMERICAN Issue

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

at the VIGIL

Every Friday: 12 Noon – 1:00 PM

Corner of 6th Street & Broadway
Louisville, Kentucky



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

Deadline for the July-Aug. issue is July 20.

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

Einstein on Israel: myth of his championing the state

The People's Forum

Letters to FORsooth

I want to thank Jeffrey Segal for sending me an excellent article: "Reclaiming Einstein: New Book Reveals Famed Scientist as an Opponent of Israel," by *Jaisal Noor*. Please read it at: <http://www.indypendent.org/2009/05/14/reclaiming-einstein/>.

The book, *Einstein on Zionism and Israel: His Provocative Ideas About the Middle East*, by Fred Jerome, also highlights Einstein's friendship with the great African-American activist Paul Robeson.

Noor says, "Einstein's opposition to Israel was widely known and reported on during his life. In fact, the myth of Einstein's support of Israel was born the day after Einstein's death in his obituary in *The New York Times*, which shamelessly wrote that he "championed" the establishment of the Jewish state.

In 1948, Einstein wrote a letter to the *New York Times* in which he lamented the

rise of Menachem Begin's "Tnuat HaHerut" (or "Herut") party in Israel.

Einstein correctly described Herut as, "a political party closely akin in its organization, methods, political philosophy and social appeal to the Nazi and Fascist parties."

Unfortunately, the Herut party became the modern Likud party, which recently gave rise to the Kadima party. Both Likud and Kadima retain Herut's right-wing, aggressive, quasi-fascist mentality.

Between Likud and Kadima and a few smaller parties, this right-wing bloc now controls about 70 percent of the Israeli Knesset. These same right-wingers have controlled the Israeli government, one way or another, for most of the past 23 years.

That is why there has been no peace agreement, and the violence gets worse and worse. These parties don't believe in

peace. They consider the pursuit of peace to be a dangerous folly. That is what they really think. They fear peace more than war. They have deliberately delayed, undermined, and sabotaged every peace process between Israel and the Palestinians.

Pressure from the U.S. is the only thing that can deter them, and there has been very little of that since Jimmy Carter was president. The Israel lobby, and our Jewish leaders here who support it, do their best to make sure no pressure of any sort is put on Israel for any reason.

Russ Greenleaf
Louisville

P.S. Read Einstein's letter at: http://www.globalwebpost.com/farooqm/study_res/einstein/nyt_letter.html.

MEMORY

We have erased our blackboard

Even the memory
of those
who have forgot us.

Eustace Durrett
5/7/09

BODHISATTVA LEAP STATION

Leap from underground,
Dance in the ether,
Sing
Nam Yoho Renge Kyo.

Eustace Durrett
5/7/09

DINOSAUR PLAY TIME

I

Your bones underground—
A loosed atom completes
The skin of my left hand.

II

You cradled your eggs
With the start of feathers—
And flew through to our times.

III

We were/are one my sister—
We have won
And through our time—forever.

Eustace Durrett
4/25/09

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



wants to end the military portion of next year's air show and replace it with family entertainment. We want to say NO to warplanes. Tell Derby Festival Committee:

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

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

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

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

Think your group should join those on the list below? Contact Chris Harmer/FOR (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.



WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO BAN CLUSTER BOMBS?

This is the question we need to ask our senators. This week (May 29 - June 4) is designated "Global Week of Action Against Cluster Bombs." At a press conference in Geneva held by Human Rights Watch and *Landmine Action* this special week will be launched. They will release a 288-page report produced for Landmine Monitor on the new international treaty banning cluster munitions.

This information is sent to us by **Mark Johnson**, Executive Secretary of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. May 30 marks the one-year anniversary of the agreement of 100 governments to ban the use, export, production, and stockpiling of cluster bombs, terrible weapons that kill many more civilians than soldiers around the world. You can read his article by visiting **FOR's** blog — www.FORpeace.net.

Sadly, the United States has not yet joined the treaty. However, new legislation to effectively ban cluster bombs is already supported by one-quarter of the Senate. Mark is urging us to contact our senators urging them to cosponsor the **Cluster Munitions Protection Act** (S.416).

Key Senate supporters of this legislation are maintaining a new push for additional cosponsors. **Mark Johnson** asks us to contact our senators right now. Their support could build momentum for passage of this legislation and a decision by the U.S. government to join the majority of world nations in banning these weapons.

"D" IS FOR DRONES – Damned devices of destruction

is another article by Mark Johnson (www.FORpeace.net) on the U.S. military drones bombing Pakistan (5/18/09). He refers to an article in the *Christian Science Monitor* by Dan Murphy, "Drones as weapons of war." We offer some excerpts here.

"Drones' great advantage is that they keep pilots and soldiers out of harm's way. They are also much cheaper to fly than conventional planes. Unmanned systems are used for jobs that meet one of three D's: dull, dirty, or dangerous," says Peter Singer of the Brookings Institution. "The most important 'D' in my mind is 'dangerous'," he continues. As one commander says, "he likes them because he doesn't have to worry about writing a letter to someone's mother."

Recently we were privileged to hear Sharon Wallace report on her trip last December to deliver humanitarian aid to Gaza. Her slides included pictures of damage caused by drones. Her description was very moving and continues to come before my eyes. Every day our tax dollars are being used to develop such terrible weapons.

"**Death From Above, Outrage From Below**," is how it was described in an Op-Ed article in the New York Times.

May these thoughts inspire us to call our member of Congress this week to oppose the war supplemental bill.

TALKING, SINGING FOR BETTER HEALTH

A single payer health care system for the U.S. would pay for itself over the long haul, speakers at a forum at Indiana University Southeast in New Albany said May 30.

Also, the proposed system of government-provided, universally accessible health insurance would improve the sagging health of the people, they said.

Speakers at the program sponsored by the Presbyterian Church USA and pro-single payer organizations included some of the leaders in the movement. One was U.S. Rep. John Conyers of Michigan, whose H.R. 676 would establish single payer for the nation.

The forum followed by one day a rally in downtown Louisville where protesters, borrowing from Bob Dylan's "Blowin' in the Wind," sang, "The answer to this fix, is H.R. 676."



COMING TOGETHER FOR ANOTHER KENTUCKY

In response to Margaret Thatcher's statement in the 1990s that "no other world is possible" besides unrestrained capitalism, the World Social Forum adopted the slogan "Another World is Possible," and that one, rather than Thatcher's vision, is clearly coming true.

Kentucky will get its own look at another way to organize economics July 31-Aug. 2 during the Kentucky Social Forum. One thousand people from across the state will meet in Berea to share, reflect, dance, play, network, vision and strategize around the idea that "Another Kentucky is Possible."

To register, to do a workshop or for more info, call Angelyn (502) 649-7833 or go to www.kentuckysocialforum.org. See more on Facebook and Twitter.



Mississippi (continued from page 3)

together to have Price, a deputy sheriff, arrest Schwerner, Chaney, and Goodman, United States citizens; that Price would hold them in custody until such time that when released, Price, Arledge, Barnette, Roberts, Snowden, Jordan and Posey could and would intercept them, assault and kill them; and that each was present at and participated in the murder of the three men and the disposal of their bodies by burial fifteen feet beneath the top of an earthen dam deep in the woods.

"Specifically, we find ample proof of conspiracy and each appellant's complicity in a calculated, cold-blooded and merciless plot to murder the three men."

Reports the Arkansas Delta Truth and Justice Center recently: "Eight people who faced federal conspiracy to deny civil rights or other charges in the 1960s related to the murders of the three civil rights workers in Neshoba County, Mississippi are still living.

"But only Edgar Ray 'Preacher' Killen has finally faced state charges. Why only Killen? What about the others? Earl Akin - presently living, Mississippi. Olen Burrage - presently living, Philadelphia, MS. James Thomas 'Pete' Harris - presently living, Meridian, MS. Billy Wayne Posey - presently living, Meridian, MS. Jimmy Snowden - presently living, Hickory, MS. Jimmy Lee Townsend - presently living, Philadelphia, MS. Richard Willis - presently living, Noxapater, MS.

"Why was Mr. Killen the only person

prosecuted by Mississippi on state charges?"

Now, for the gloriously stunning news. The times, indeed, they are a-changin', as the Bob Dylan folk song tells us. In Philadelphia, Miss., a town of 8,000 residents with a 55 percent white population, James Young has become the first African-American ever elected mayor!

"When you've been treated the way we've been treated," Mr. Young told CNN, choking up and then pausing to wipe the tears from his face. "That's why it's so overwhelming to be a part of this history.

"The places where we were locked out, I'm gonna have the key," he said. "The places we couldn't go, I've got the key. No better way to say it than that."

Still, your columnist wants to find out a few things. What is the specific program upon which Mr. Young won? How did this differ from his opponent's program? We need to know his plan for governance.

This takes nothing away from the importance of the victory. But without more information, we are simply saying: thank goodness, it has only taken almost half a century since the assassinations for a Black person to attain office.

Again, the victory is so sweet. We must wish James Young, that is Philadelphia, Mississippi **MAYOR** James Young, all the very best. What a stunning victory this is for all Americans.

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

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.

Calendar for peacemakers

June 3 (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. Special meeting time: 5:30 PM to 7 PM. Join us to hear guest presenter Nate Pederson of EarthSave Louisville speak of the global benefits of adopting a vegetarian diet. Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, The Barn at 1924 Newburg Road.

June 4 (Thurs) **METROPOLITAN HOUSING COALITION 2009 ANNUAL MEETING.** Featuring keynote speaker Michael Bodaken, President of the National Housing Trust. Louisville Hyatt Downtown, 320 W. Jefferson Street. Social hour begins at 5 PM; program and dinner at 6 PM. Single tickets are \$50 and a table of 8 seats is \$500. Call MHC for sponsorship opportunities and ticket sales at 584-6858.

June 5 (Fri) **"IRAQ: REMAINS."** Rotating photographic documentary to August 1st, with film "Meeting Resistance" by Molly Bingham and Steve Connors. Opening reception 6-9 PM. Kaviar Forge & Gallery, 1718 Frankfort Avenue. For more information, call 561-0377 or visit www.KaviarGallery.com.

June 6 (Sat) **GOLF SCRAMBLE FOR PEACE.** Get your foursome together and sign up for the Peace Education Program's golf scramble to be held at the Shawnee Golf Course. Putting contest, chipping contest, and much more! Registration required. Call for a registration form at 589-6583 or download one at www.peaceeducationprogram.org.

June 7 (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.

June 7 (Sun) **SUSTAINABLE LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY.** Every Sunday at 2 PM at the Legal Aid Society, 416 W. Muhammad Ali. Become a part of this grassroots movement bringing principles of sustainability into local public policy. For details, contact: j@bikecourier.org.

June 8 (Mon) **SUSTAINABLE LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY.** Every Monday at 6 PM at the Center for Neighborhoods, 610 South Fourth Street, #701. Become a part of this grassroots movement bringing principles of sustainability into local public policy. For details, contact: j@bikecourier.org.

June 8-12 (Mon-Fri) **PEACECASTERS SUMMER CAMP: GET READY!** Empowering youth to explore messages of peace and cooperation through digital media. In this first of three camps, learn the foundational skills. The second camp "Get Set" to be held July 6-10, and third camp, "Go!" will be August 3-7. Space is strictly limited so register early! Each camp includes fun, games, lunch, and a DVD of your completed projects. For ages 12-15. Registration is \$95 for each camp. Some scholarship funds are available. For more information or to register, contact Mark Steiner at the Center for Interfaith Relations at 583-3100 or visit www.interfaithrelations.org.

June 10 (Wed) **KITLAC (Ky Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America and the Caribbean).** Every second Wednesday at the Presbyterian Seminary. 7:30 pm. Call David Horvath, 479-9262, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.

June 11 (Thu) **THE FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB.** Meets the second Thursday of the month, for those interested in learning about fair trade and the American system of economics of Hamilton and Clay. 6:30 PM, 1838 Frankfort Ave. For more information, contact John Miller at papajohn15@bellsouth.net.

June 11 (Thurs) **APPAP (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum).** Every second Thursday. A documentary film exploring the situation in Middle East will be presented. 7:30 PM, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road, Nelson Hall, Room 118. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

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

June 13 (Sat) **LYMAN T. JOHNSON 103RD BIRTHDAY MEMORIAL AND CHITCHAT.** Join us for a discussion of what Lyman T. Johnson would be saying about and to our new President Barack Obama. Former friends, students, and acquaintances as well as the general public are welcome. Noon to 2 PM. Plymouth Congregational United Church of Christ, 1630 West Chestnut. For more information, call the Johnson Historical Society at 583-3682.

June 13 (Sat) **WOMEN IN TRANSITION BOOK SIGNING AND RECEPTION.** 1-3 PM. Egan Leadership Center, Spalding University at the corner of Fourth and Breckinridge. A short presentation about the book making process will be presented at 2:00 pm.

"Women In Transition" is a grassroots organization run by and for poor people working to create a world where everyone's economic human rights are provided. For more information about the event, call 636-0160 or email witadmin@witky.com.

June 14 (Sun) **"AIM HIGHER"** focusing on military counter-recruitment. Every 2nd Sunday at 7:00 PM, 2236 Kaelin Avenue at the FOR office. This group welcomes invitations to speak about conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for high school students to "opt out" of having their names given to recruiters. Call Chris Harmer, 893-2334. colonel221@yahoo.com.

June 14 (Sun) **COSMOLOGY AND FAITH: REVELATIONS IN DEEP TIME.** Sr. Miriam Therese MacGillis will explore the wisdom of the Judeo-Christian tradition for deep spiritual energy for supporting the faith community as it transitions from the destructive patterns of the industrialized economy into a more ecological and inclusive culture for sustaining the whole web of Earth's life. Free and open to the public. 7 PM, the Cathedral of Assumption Undercroft, 433 South Fifth Street. For more information, email Darlene@interfaithrelations.org or call 583-3100.

June 15 (Mon) **OPENING THE CHRISTIAN MYSTERIES TO DEEP TIME.** In this workshop, Sr. Miriam Therese MacGillis will expand on the central themes of the previous evening's lecture and will focus on the life and teachings of Jesus for guidance in opening to an ecological and cosmological dimension emerging in our times. Workshop fee: \$40. 9:30 AM to 4 PM, the Cathedral of Assumption Undercroft, 433 South Fifth Street. For more information or to register, email Darlene@interfaithrelations.org or call 583-3100.

June 18 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Every third Thursday, 5:30 PM. Main Library, 4th & York Streets, Mezzanine Board Room. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

June 19 (Fri) **ANNUAL PRIDE PARADE.** Launching from Tryangles parking lot (209 South Preston), arriving at the Belvedere about 45 minutes later just in time for live entertainment and beverages. There will be a Pride Pet contest again with this year's parade. \$100 prize for best float and \$100 prize for the best-dressed pet. For more information, visit www.kentuckianapridefestival.com.

June 20 (Sat) **"CHAMPIONS 4 HER" 5K WALK, RUN AND FESTIVAL.** Join this annual benefit at Waterfront Park to support eleven local women's organizations, including Women for Habitat, Girl Scouts of Kentuckiana, Maryhurst, and the Center for Women & Families. Walk begins at 8 AM. Cost is \$25. Participants choose which organization will receive proceeds. For more information, visit www.champions4her.com or contact Habitat Development Director, Jane White at 637-6265, ext. 30.

June 20 (Sat) **KENTUCKIANA PRIDE FESTIVAL.** Beginning at 11 AM at the Belvedere. \$5 entry includes musical entertainment, including very special guests, the Indigo Girls (10 PM). For more information, visit: www.kentuckianapridefestival.com.

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

June 21 (Sun) **2009 WORLD REFUGEE DAY CELEBRATION.** A community chorus will present a choral performance in observance of World Refugee Day at 3 PM, University of Louisville, Comstock Hall in the School of Music. Internationally-renowned jazz pianist, composer and recording artist Harry Pickens will conduct the chorus in rehearsal and performance. The program will include original compositions by Harry Pickens based on the lives and stories of local refugees. Community residents of all ages are invited to join refugee children and adults in forming an intergenerational, intercultural chorus that reflects our city's increasingly diverse social mosaic. For more information about how you can participate, contact Shelley Dewig at Kentucky Refugee Ministries at 479-9180 x53, or email volunteer@kyrm.org.

June 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.

June 25 (Thurs) **BREAKING THE SILENCE.** Film screening and discussion. This film introduces the viewer to torture survivors from Africa, the Philippines, South America, the Middle East and the US, and the healing work of the Torture Abolition Survivors Support Coalition (TASSC). 7-9 PM, Brescia Hall, Ursuline Campus, 3105 Lexington Road. For more information contact Marcy Allman at 384-5813.

June 25 (Thurs) **CFAIR ROAST OF CARLA WALLACE.** 7 PM, 1333 South Third Street. \$50; Roast time will be auctioned. For more information, email cfair@fairness.org or call the Fairness Campaign at 893-0788.

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 – Last Monday (239-4317)

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

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

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

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

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

COMMUNIST PARTY USA – First Sunday at 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)

FDR/Lincoln Legacy Club – 1st Thursday, papajohn15@bellsouth.net

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

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

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

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

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

IRFI (Islamic Research Foundation International, Inc.) – Sundays at 6:00 PM (502-423-1988)

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)

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

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

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

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

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

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

KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (245-2272)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

911 TRUTH LOUISVILLE (502-609-6020)

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

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.

(continued on page 5)