

FORsooth

“The legacy of Louis Coleman... is to organize and organize and organize.”

Justice center calls on Mattie Jones after Coleman dies

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

The unexpected death of acclaimed justice activist Rev. Louis Coleman July 5 stunned activists and neighborhood organizers and propelled retired national FOR director of racial and economic justice Mattie Jones to temporarily take the director post of the Justice Resource Center Coleman founded in the 1970s.

Coleman, who was 64, died after a series of seizures in his home and en route to a hospital, ending 35 years of nonviolent struggling for breathable air, safe streets and a fair share of economic opportunities for the West Louisville neighborhoods which, although he worked in many other communities in Kentucky, were his primary focus as director of the JRC.

Maintaining a dizzying schedule, he led protests, vigils, boycotts and marches for civilian review of police, more minority contracting by state government, strong regulations to clean up severe air pollution in the Rubbertown neighborhood and open housing in neighborhoods where black residents faced harassment.

Under Coleman’s leadership, the JRC also organized the Street Academy, weekly education sessions designed to improve the academic work and behavior of black males at risk of dropping out of school. He also regularly did gun buy-backs and



—photos by Eddie Davis

The death July 5 of Rev. Louis Coleman, left photo, left a gigantic void that longtime activist and retired FOR administrator Mattie Jones, right photo, will help his Justice Resource Center fill as interim director. See more on Coleman and Jones on page four.

confronted drug dealers with daring street vigils to try to reduce crime.

“He loved people. He loved equality,” Jones said July 8 at a memorial at West Broadway and 28th street, often a vortex of Coleman’s whirlpool-like activism. “He wasn’t just a leader of black people. He was a leader of all the people that God created.”

Coleman also lent his support to causes not commonly associated with African-American ministers, such as media reform, an effort to make broadcasters more inclusive and less corporate-dominated. He also stepped up when support for the Fairness Amendment, Louisville’s proposed gay rights law, was scant in West Louisville.

Coleman, along with Mattie Jones, publically supported it, helping to move black public opinion to the pro-fairness side.

With a poll in the mid-1990s showing a majority of African-American city residents supporting fairness (and a wide majority backing it throughout the city), (continued on page 5)

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Talk on atomic horrors starts commemoration

by Ken Nevitt

While on an errand to a post office in Miyuki-bashi, in Hiroshima, Japan, under the scorching sun, young Miyoko Watanabe could not bear the heat anymore, so she turned back home to fetch her parasol. She was just about to open the parasol, when an intense flash burst upon her.

Through her interpreter, Elizabeth Baldwin, she told a gathering July 11 at Thomas Jefferson Unitarian Church: “It looked as if the gas tanks in Minami-machi on the other side of the river had exploded. The flash was a yellowish orange color, just like magnesium light but hundreds of times stronger. It became dark and there were ghastly crashing and rattling sounds.”

In a moving talk on “Hibakusha,” or atomic bomb survivors, Watanabe shared the stage with American Steve Leeper, a Japanese resident and the first foreign chairman of the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, which is the peace and international relations arm of the City of Hiroshima.

Their talk is just one of several area events in commemoration of the dropping of the bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan in 1945, which killed about 145,000 and 80,000 people, respectively, and caused radiation sickness in countless others.

A group will gather Wednesday, Aug. 6, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Muhammad Ali Boulevard and 4th Street (also known as Merton Square) to read from John Hersey’s book *Hiroshima* and pass out literature.

Concerned people will gather Saturday Aug. 9, just before sunset for the very moving yearly Candle Floating Ceremony at the lake at Lexington Road and Grinstead Drive.

For more information on these events, call Interfaith Paths to Peace at (502) 214-7322.

Continuing her talk at Thomas Jefferson, Watanabe said that following a period of

unconsciousness after the blast, she opened her eyes and saw that everything had been destroyed to the west, except for a factory, and thought a bomb had been dropped on the factory. Watanabe saw her mother, whose hair was a mess and standing on end, her lips cracked and her head bleeding, standing like some unearthly creature.

She told of seeing a woman lying dead at a house by the river bank, her neck stuck through with a piece of glass blown by the blast. Watanabe said the woman had been suckling her baby, adding that the glass must have cut an artery and that blood was scattered around her. Watanabe said the baby continued to suckle her breast.

Watanabe’s father came home with his body burned all over and died the next day, Watanabe said, adding that she was numbed by facing many deaths throughout the following weeks. A single bomb inflicted tremendous agony and pain on the people of Hiroshima, she noted. The city was reduced to ashes.

The damage caused by the bomb was not confined to those who were actually exposed to it. People who sustained no injuries, including those who went near the hypocenter to search for their children, suffered a high fever and soon had purple spots all over their bodies, Watanabe said. They soon went almost mad, and died one after another during the six months following the bombing, she added. Watanabe said her elder brother was suddenly stricken with leukemia and died many years after that dreadful experience.

Leeper has also served as the U.S. representative to the nongovernmental agency Mayors for Peace, which seeks abolition of nuclear weapons. Their presentation, titled “Voices from Hiroshima: Nuclear Weapons Abolition,

(continued on page 5)

US FOR out to become an even greater communicator

by Phil Schervish

June 20 to 22 marked the beginning of the 93rd year of FOR National. The National Council held one of its three-times-per-year meetings.

The council has expanded to 24 members representing all geographic areas. Louisville is represented by two people: Dennis Bricking is beginning his three-year term, while I am entering the last year of my term. Dennis serves on the Administration Committee and I am on the Membership and Program Committee.

The national office is completing a reorganization brought about by some financial and staff problems a few years ago. Mark Johnson, the executive director for the last year, and almost an entirely new staff have performed admirably in bringing FOR back to a national stature. The reorganization has focused on the following primary programs now undertaken by FOR:

Colombian Peace Community. The FOR's Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean continues to operate and expand its staff based in Southern California. FOR maintains a continuous presence in Colombia. This visible international presence provides credibility to and a modicum of protection for the peace village natives. Since FOR-USA began its involvement, several other international delegations have taken up residence in Colombia. To solidify, coordinate, and better account for the presence of internationals, FOR-USA is in the process of registering as a formally recognized international organization with the Colombian government. FOR will open an office and provide a full-time staff member working in Colombia. Volunteers to live in the peace village for extended periods are still needed and encouraged.

Youth + Militarism. FOR National is very active in a Youth De-militarization program. National will continue to sponsor nonviolence training and Advanced Peacemaker Training for high school- and college-aged young adults. However, the actual training will be contracted out to the

Peacemaker Training Institute so that FOR may put more effort into developing the Nonviolent Youth Collective. This year's theme, "Building the Conscientious Objector Movement through Creative Resistance," will have a primary focus on developing college campus chapters. The major event for the year will be International C.O. Day, May 15, 2009, and the continuation of the "I Will Not Kill" campaign. Those interested can stay abreast of Youth + Militarism activities at the website, youth.forusa.org.

Iran Program. Iran continues to be a focus of FOR National. The third Civilian Diplomat delegation (21 people) recently

both the international peace-making community and the operating environment of local non-profit organizations. The hopes are that the plan will be a living document, consulted often during the day-to-day decision making process.

FOR National wants to hear from you. Check out, and feel free to contribute to the new FOR blog at www.forpeace.net.

As you might have picked up, enhanced, meaningful communication is a goal for the coming year. The FOR USA website is undergoing complete redesign. It can be accessed at www.forusa.org. Also, the national office hopes to facilitate communication among the chapters with

Peace Fellowships will select two members each year. Local groups and chapters have been divided into six regional groups. Three regions will participate in the selection of three council members each year. Louisville, in the Mid-West region, along with the Mid-Atlantic and Northwest regions will select council members beginning their terms in even-numbered years. A complete list of chapters by region is forthcoming.

Finally, the new National Council Committee will propose three at-large candidates for selection each year. When the first cycle (three years) is completed, the National Council will have six members from the traditional peace fellowships, nine members from local chapters, and nine at-large members.

The council passed a \$1.8 million budget for the operation of these programs and for communication. This budget, although in-part covered by funds on reserve, calls for significant increases in fundraising.

In addition to National work, the budget represents a continued commitment to FOR-International and peace work in Palestine-Israel with direct appropriations to FOR-I and Interfaith Peace-Builders.

My take on the weekend: FOR-USA is alive and vibrant and reasserting itself as a national and international leader in the search for peace and social justice. Please show them your continued support.

The writer is a member of the steering committee of the Louisville FOR and outgoing member of the FOR National Council.

FOR National wants to hear from you. Check out, and feel free to contribute to the new FOR blog at www.forpeace.net.

returned from its tour of Iran. These delegates, like the previous delegations, did not waste any time once they returned, immediately starting to work on plans for public education, government relations and media interactions. The program is now directed by a full-time staff member, Leila Zand. Leila is a young Iranian woman. Her background and heritage give her access to areas of Iran other groups might miss. Already, she has begun a process of public education and media presence for the National office. Her latest article in the *Middle East Times* received a lot of attention and was translated into Arabic, French and Spanish for republication. The activities of the returned delegates can be followed at the web site they created, www.peacewithiran.com. The next delegation, in November 2008, will be an interfaith group composed of leaders from the Jewish, Muslim and Christian communities.

The National Council began a two-year process of developing a new strategic plan scheduled to go into effect in June 2010. The process will start with a "blank slate" and a new "environmental scan" of

the creation of a chapters listserve. E-mail to chapters@forusa.org will be echoed to all local group and affiliate subscribers.

The expansion of the National Council completed a year of discussion on governance and representation to the national office. The Council will be maintained with a new selection process which goes into effect in October. The process will see eight members selected to the council each year. Five of the new members will be selected by local chapters and affiliates.

The affiliate traditional Religious

Cuts to needy lessened by Louisville council

by Ike M. Thacker IV and Eustace Durrett

The fiscal year 2009 budget that nominally Democratic Louisville Mayor Jerry Abramson proposed to the Metro Council in late May looked decidedly Republican. For example, it would have appropriated more than \$1.2 million to one "economic development" independent agency, Greater Louisville Incorporated (GLI) — and cut more than twice that mostly from similar agencies that serve the poor and needy.

And despite the alleged tightness of funds, Abramson somehow found money enough to increase police funding substantially (by about \$4 million) and fire protection stipends at least minimally. Meanwhile, the Health and Parks departments got no increases from fiscal year 2008.

Thankfully, the council has moderated (by modifying) this very lean and mean, even draconian, proposal by "giving it a heart" before passage on June 26.

For example, the Metro Council restored about \$2.2 million of the \$2.6 million Abramson had proposed cutting from "external agencies" (mostly nonprofit private agencies that help those in need).

The \$2.2 million included \$35,000 of the \$40,000 — its entire city allotment — that the Mayor had cut from the Kling Center, which provides meals and social services for the elderly. The restored funding also included 80 percent (\$68,800) of the \$86,000 that Abramson proposed cutting from Family and Children First —

again, the agency's entire city allocation — which helps many hundreds of victims of child sexual abuse each year. We are simply not so poor that we can't afford these things. Bravo for the Council!

To fund these and other changes they made in the mayor's proposed budget, which came to an additional \$8 million on top of the \$812 million version Abramson sent them, the council used about \$3 million in expected savings from state pension reform; saved \$1.5 million by delaying three bond issues; and increased the general obligation bond by about \$3.5 million, which Metro Council president Jim King has told media will cost metro taxpayers only \$125,000 in debt service this year and \$225,000 yearly after that, burdens he said would be greatly outweighed by the benefits of expanded services.

This last move is an especially hopeful sign. Louisville has long had an excellent bond rating and should use it much more frequently to alleviate as much of people's very real suffering in this city as possible.

In short, the Metro Council quite properly exercised its function as "the voice of the people," especially the "little person," and made fairly extensive changes in Mayor Abramson's proposed budget before okaying it just a few days before it went into effect on July 1. One just wishes they were even (much) more populist and progressive.

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

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93 Years on Peace Frontiers

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

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

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Some capitalists opposing others – yes, times are hard

Once upon a time there were big companies that profited from making weapons of war, and they were proponents of war. Then there were capitalists who made their fortunes from non-war making industry, like Cyrus Eaton, the enlightened billionaire industrialist who created the Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, and was a critic of United States foreign and military policies during the Cold War (even if he had worshipped at the feet of John D. Rockefeller).

Big capital accumulators nowadays, like GE, make their money from peace as well as war manufacturing, from washing machines as well as missile components. So, there is not that big split in the ruling class any more. Or is there?

Northwest Airlines issued on July 10 “An Open letter to All Airline Customers,” in which it states: “Our country is facing a possible sharp economic downturn because of skyrocketing oil and fuel prices, but by pulling together, we can all do something to help now.” It lists a website titled “Stop Oil Speculation Now.” We don’t make this stuff up, y’all.

Our environmental champion continues: “For airlines, ultra-expensive fuel means thousands of lost jobs and severe reductions in air service to both large and small communities. To the broader economy, oil prices mean slower activity and widespread economic pain. This pain can be alleviated, and that is why we are taking the extraordinary step of writing this joint letter to our customers.”

Read on, ye of little faith: “Since high oil prices are partly a response to normal market forces, the nation needs to focus on increased energy supplies and conservation. However, there is another side to this story because normal market forces are being dangerously (undermined).”

Well, we’re scratching our heads, thinking about the time, a few years ago, when Northwest declared bankruptcy, and got the bankruptcy judge to allow the company to slash its union retirees’ pensions (it is now out of bankruptcy).

To continue with this company epiphany: “Twenty years ago, 21 percent of oil contracts were purchased by speculators who trade oil on paper with no intention of ever taking delivery. Today, oil speculators purchase 66 percent of all oil futures contracts, and that reflects just the transactions that are known.”

The letter was signed not just by Northwest Airlines, but also by a gaggle of other airlines. So, now we know: the airline industry has gone green, opposes manipulation of “normal” market forces, and wants to expose oil speculators. Well, shut my mouth — and I done thought leopards couldn’t change their spots.

Ah, but leopards cannot. Nor can the ex-



propriators of our labor power. These airlines’ collective ox is being gored, and they see another sector of the ruling class, Big Oil, as currently doing the goring. Seems like a gory mess to me, when thieves fall out. But, hark, one need not worry. Northwest will be laying off 2,500 workers. Now, that’s a great solution.

These soon-to-be unemployed workers could soon join the millions of others facing mortgage foreclosure and other unplanned-economy perks. Did you know, by the way, that house sellers outnumber purchasers by 15 to 1 (Financial Times reported this June 22)?

The plot thickens, as the two biggest mortgage guarantors, the Federal National Mortgage Association (Fannie Mae) and the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation (Freddie Mac), are in deep financial doo-doo. Again, don’t worry, be happy. U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry M. Paulson Jr., is coming to the rescue: “Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac play a central role in our housing finance system and must continue to do so in their current form as shareholder-owned companies. Their support for the housing market is particularly important as we work through the current housing correction.”

A few days later, on July 15, the New York Times gives some background: “The warnings of a potential systemic failure led to the resulting rescue package, and one of the most striking — though unspoken — regulatory shifts in modern times. For decades, Treasury secretaries and Federal Reserve chairmen have insisted that the government did not stand behind the debt of Fannie and Freddie. But the safety net Mr. Paulson announced on Sunday sends the opposite message: that the government is determined not to let either one fail.”

Why? Same article: “The Bush administration hastily arranged the dramatic... rescue of Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac after Wall Street executives and foreign central bankers told Washington that any further erosion of confidence could have a cascading effect around the world, officials said.”

These two companies were government-created, but are for-profits, and what business does U.S. taxpayer money have in bail-

ing out private profiteers? And what about surplus-value-hoarders Citigroup, Merrill Lynch, and JP Morgan Chase, all tottering on the precipice of unplanned-economy meltdown? Well, why shouldn’t we bail out the big owners? We did it for Chrysler Corp. many years ago.

As folk singer Tom Paxton put it back then: “Since the first amphibians crawled out of the slime/We’ve been struggling in an unrelenting climb/We were hardly up and walking before money started talking/And it’s sad that failure is an awful crime/Well it’s been that way for a millennium or two/But now it seems that there’s a different point of view/If you’re a corporate titanic and your failure is gigantic/Down in congress there’s a safety net for you.”

And here is Tom’s chorus: “I am changing my name to Chrysler/I am going down to Washington D.C./I will tell some power broker/What they did for Iacocca/Will be perfectly acceptable to me/I am changing my name to Chrysler/I am headed for that great receiving line/So when they hand a million grand out/I’ll be standing with my hand out/ Yes sir I’ll get mine” (Lee Iacocca was then the head of Chrysler).

Now, I have a question for Ben Bernanke (Federal Reserve chairman) and Henry Paulson: will you back the good working class folk whose mortgages have already been foreclosed, and let them return to their homes? Or is it just the rich folk you help out?

It’s enough to make you sick. So, we need healthcare. The U.S. Conference of Mayors unanimously adopted a resolution in June in support of single-payer national health insurance. This is the result of excellent grassroots organizing on behalf of Healthcare NOW, Physicians for a National Health Program (PNHP) and other groups.

The mayors unanimously backed a resolution calling for the enactment of the “United States National Health Insurance Act,” H.R. 676. The bill, which is also known as the “Improved and Expanded Medicare for All Act,” is sponsored by Rep. John Conyers of Michigan and 90 other members of Congress.

Rep. Conyers’ bill would guarantee everyone care for all medically necessary services, contain costs by slashing the administrative waste and bureaucracy associated with the private insurance industry and assure patients their choice of doctor and hospital. Thirty-four state AFL-CIO federations and 110 central labor councils support this legislation.

Our mailbag contains two letters. The first is from Marilyn Albert of Cleveland. She is a registered nurse and National Nurses Organizing Committee/Attendee at Labor Notes Conference in Dearborn, Michigan.”

She wrote: “(your) description (May

A sentence in the 30th paragraph of the June Labor Paeans column had an error in transmission from Ira Grupper’s original writing. It should have read: “Service, intellectual workers, bureaucrats, the informal economy – all go to the creation and marketing of stuff.”

2008 *Labor Paeans*) of the storming by SEIUers (Service Employees International Union) of the Labor Notes Conference on April 12, 2008 states, ‘one worker died in the ensuing scuffle.’ This is misleading. David Smith, a SEIU home care worker from Michigan, did die of a fatal heart attack which took place during or right after the SEIU people forced their way into the hotel, led by SEIU staff, but the way you describe his death might cause people to conclude that someone died of another cause and this is not true....

“I believe the rank and file members of SEIU were manipulated into participating in the planned storming of the conference (or else why would they have brought children with them?). As a nurse, I believe the extreme stress of this action may well have precipitated David Smith’s heart attack. California members of SEIU’s African American caucus, AFRAM, issued a statement which strongly criticized the way in which rank and file members were used in this irresponsible action.” Sister Marilyn’s criticism/clarification is correct.

Kerry Taylor writes from Chapel Hill, N.C. with reference to your correspondent’s presentation at State University of New York (June *Labor Paeans* column): “I may have misunderstood your point about steel, but if it’s any help, the U.S. produces more steel than all but two nations in the world (China and the E.U.). U.S. production has remained robust for the past 30 years or so. I’m not sure what you mean by only two remaining steel mills in the U.S. They are all over the country from Georgetown, S.C. to Gary, Ind.”

Brother Kerry needs to add Japan as the third country leading the U.S. in steel production. His bigger point, concerning the large amount of steel still being produced in the U.S., is right. However, the huge number of workers at U.S. Steel (now called USX) in Pittsburgh is no longer there, replaced by many small steel specialty producers. U.S. Steel’s Fairfield (Ala.) Works is still a major employer, though the number of workers is nowhere near what it was in the 1950s. And Buffalo, N.Y. can hardly still be considered a robust steel town.

Contact Ira Grupper at irag@iglou.com.

Robeson review strong, but more on him would help it

An Evening with Kenneth Anderson as Paul Robeson

reviewed by Eustace Durrett, A. David Bos and Ike M. Thacker IV

On Friday night and Sunday morning May 9 and 11, Kenneth Anderson of Bath, N.Y. made appearances at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Lexington, Ky. His one-man performance consisted of selections from Paul Robeson’s song repertoire; excerpts from Robeson’s speeches; and discussion of Robeson’s life, artistry, political philosophy, and activism.

Anderson — singer, actor, and activist, himself — also presented his concept of “black” music history and its evolution from Negro spirituals to blues and jazz. From time to time, the (barely) octogenarian Anderson has made joint appearances with his old friend and fellow activist, Pete Seeger, who is some ten years older yet.

“Robeson” (Anderson) began his full length Friday concert by singing some of the songs most identified with Robeson — such as “Ol’ Man River” (written specifically for Robeson by Jerome Kern), “Deep River,” “Joe Hill,” and “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot” — in his deep bass/baritone voice.

Anderson then proceeded to request Negro spirituals from the audience for him

REVIEW

to sing. It is important to Anderson (and in fact) to refer to these songs as *Negro* spirituals, because if we do not we lose three things: first, that the songs (and therefore the blues and jazz traditions that were derived in large part from them) were based in slavery and thus reflect *radical* beginnings; second, the breadth and depth of the corpus of Negro spirituals; and finally, the musicological significance of the Negro spiritual.

Anderson also expounded at some length about the significance of the Negro spiritual in the *civil rights* movement.

In Anderson’s Robeson reviews there seem to be three competing focuses: Paul Robeson, obviously; the rehabilitation of the Negro spiritual; and the role of Robeson and the Negro spiritual in the civil rights movement.

While this makes for fascinating and entertaining evenings (or mornings), his presentation could perhaps be more tightly focused on Robeson.

This, one gets the feeling, would not sit ill with Anderson: in talking with him you still sense the “fire in his belly” about the *many* injustices done to Robeson both during

his life and after, even though this doesn’t really come out in his concerts, which (in addition to the Negro spirituals and the “signature” Robeson songs) include folk music and labor union and peace-related numbers.

Perhaps the examples of Robeson and Anderson also are testaments to the fundamental radicalism of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., by whom Anderson has been strongly influenced.

Anderson has presented his one-man Robeson show throughout the country. One hopes he can be persuaded to participate in the Third Annual Paul Robeson Film Festival here in Louisville.

The Festival is scheduled for the 2009 Black History Month (February). How-

ever, at least one student program in conjunction with the Robeson film festival is also planned for January. This student program will include activities to introduce the life, artistry, and significance of Robeson to high school and college students. Anderson-as-Robeson may be available for the January or February program, or perhaps both.

Eustace Durrett and Ike M. Thacker IV are regular contributors to FORsooth. A. David Bos is a retired Presbyterian minister who co-chairs the Presbyterian Association for Community Transformation, which encourages involvement by the denomination in social justice.

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.

Coleman: Effective, imperfect, beautifully nonviolent

by George Morrison
FORsooth editor

He broke all the rules of the 21st century. While most observers of the left would say street-based civil disobedience by handfuls of people is inadequate in the era of instantaneous cyber-activism that has millions e-mailing their grievances to officials, followers of Rev. Louis Coleman might disagree.

While even progressive figures are blaming behavior by African-Americans for the troubles of their neighborhoods, Louis still pointed out – and to a small but inspiring extent helped to locally reverse – the draining of good jobs from black communities by the white power structure.

While Bill Cosby punctuates his lectures to black communities by repeating the mantra “50 percent drop-out rate,” Louis dared to call these black youth “push outs,” rather than “drop outs,” asserting that the educational system had exiled them.

And with no blog, hired PR professionals or political action committee, Louis, who died July 5, and the Justice Resource Center (JRC) he founded 35 years ago got results. The Strategic Toxic Air Reduction (STAR) plan approved by the Louisville Metro Council in 2005 – which was credited with greatly reducing dangerous pollution in the Rubbertown neighborhood – came about directly because of the work of neighborhood activists spurred on by Louis.

A Courier-Journal story this spring about vastly lower levels of one toxic airborne substance in the neighborhood bordering rubber and chemical plants credited “local regulators” with enacting the plan, making no mention of the group Rubbertown Emergency Action (REACT). This group, whose lobbying, protesting and outstanding public speaking forced the city to force the Rubbertown firms to clean up, was created by the JRC.

Early on, those “regulators” wouldn’t even acknowledge the health crisis for the neighborhood’s residents as officials fretted over the possible loss of jobs – until scientific evidence gathered by the JRC kept mounting, overwhelming the contrary statistics chemical industry groups released.

While pro-business groups locally and nationally kept insisting there was no need for STAR, not one of their members demonstrated their confidence in the health of the Rubbertown air by moving there.

That illustrated exactly what was so unfair about the bulk of the daily, often vitriolic criticism Louis received on blogs, in C-J letters and over radio airwaves.

From neighborhoods where, unlike West Louisville, state contract dollars flowed in freely, where Rubbertown’s polluters would never have been allowed to set up shop, where police don’t shoot fleeing suspects in the back who pose no immediate danger, came the drumbeat:



Louis Coleman is an agitator, he doesn’t have his facts straight, he only wants his picture in the paper (unlike the mayor or corporate CEOs, who loathe publicity).

C-J columnist Bob Hill, after praising most of Louis’ work, added: “The other side of that was he seemed to have just one gear — and it didn’t allow, at least in his public persona, for the many complexities that come with race and racism.”

This and other non-vituperative criticisms are fair enough – yes some non-racist and non- reactionary folks said Louis sometimes lacked finesse in his relentless actions.

Of course, one person’s (say, for instance, a person not living next to deadly pollution) complexities are another’s race-based intransigence rooted in unquestioning allegiance to corporate greed.

This is not to say Louis wouldn’t sit across the table from corporate people. His persistent, often fervent actions always included opening the door to negotiations. This, coupled with straightforward vows to escalate protests outside the Valhalla Golf Club around the 1996 PGA championship, prompted the golf body to make moves to improve minorities’ opportunities in golf as competitors and event vendors.

A similar approach persuaded the University of Louisville to find more black subcontractors to finish its football stadium and to expand minority contracting goals for all university projects.

How effective were Louis’ follow-throughs on calling for more corporate inclusiveness? Depends on whom you watch or read.

WLKY-TV in Louisville reported that many firms and groups who had hired the JRC to teach them diversity concluded that the center had failed to do so. The magazine Louisville Eccentric Observer, however, shortly reported that many of those firms said WLKY took their words out of context and that the JRC was effective.

Whatever imperfections Louis and his JRC had, one of my lasting memories of them is likely to be Louis intervening during a demonstration outside Metro Police headquarters to absolutely stop a few people from becoming more violent when they started breaking glass on the outside of the building.

Police chief Robert White said after Louis’ death that he was very helpful in keeping the many demonstrations against police shootings from turning violent. So, I’ll conclude with this unpublished letter I wrote to the Courier-Journal after his death:

Lexington and Cincinnati had riots in recent years over police shootings of blacks.

Why didn’t Louisville? Very possibly, it’s because of the tireless work of Rev. Louis Coleman, who persevered through health problems, right-wing backlashes and a day that had only 24 hours in it to show angry, dispossessed black youth that persistent, strategic and unrelenting nonviolent action gets results.

Thank you, Louis.

Activist and photographer Eddie Davis saved many moments from the life of Rev. Louis Coleman. Top photo, Louis confers in 2002 with U.S. Rep. John Conyers about police issues in Louisville. With his trademark megaphone, second photo from top, he marches on West Broadway to protest killings by police and jail staff. Mattie Jones, second photo from bottom, was named interim Justice Resource Center director after Louis’ death. Louis, right photo, prays during one of his always nonviolent actions. Left photo, he supports reforming area broadcast media to make them more inclusive and honest.



Justice center calls on Jones (continued from page 1)

the city and county councils voted in several steps to extend civil rights protection to sexual orientation and gender identity, with the crowning achievement being the 19-6 vote for fairness by the merged Metro Council in 2004.

Jones, 75, an area and national activist for equality through the JRC, FOR and other groups, was chosen hours before the memorial service as interim director of the JRC.

"I don't know exactly when the board will begin the search for a permanent director," she said days later, adding that she accepted the interim position because she wanted to help the JRC weather the loss of Coleman.

"We do not want the work of Rev. Coleman to cease, slow up or just go away," she said. That will require grass-roots effort, Jones said at the memorial service after it was announced she would take the interim post.

"I'm asking for your help," she passionately told the crowd of about 100. "I need you. I need you."

Commenting on a line put forth by some of Coleman's critics that his tactics were too steeped in 1960s methods and no longer effective, Jones said to the gathering:

"Don't let them tell you the struggle is over... or that it is out of date to demonstrate or that it is out of date to use civil disobedience," adding that such tactics "got us from the back of the bus to the front of the bus and from the front of the bus to the driver seat."

JRC board member Ruben Pulliam summed up how Coleman, who served as pastor of First Congregational Methodist Church, viewed his calling: "He took the word 'faith' not as a noun, but as a verb. He put faith into action."

Coleman, a former minor league baseball player, also had worked for the Louisville Urban League and had served as director of the Smoketown Presbyterian Community Center. He earned a master's degree in community development from the University of Louisville and a divinity degree from the Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary.

Coleman and his widow Etta had three children and 12 grandchildren.

Rev. James Tennyson, pastor New Golden Star Baptist Church and a JRC board member introduced Etta Coleman as "the first lady," describing her as a woman of few words, but who strengthened her

husband during times of heated controversies and constant right-wing backlashes.

"It takes a strong woman to overcome all the obstacles and Etta did it," Tennyson said. "Thank God for her."

One person interviewed in the crowd at the memorial service wondered whether a higher power helped Coleman achieve his many successes, such as persuading the golfing organization PGA to take concrete steps to improve minority opportunities associated with golf events nationwide and forcing U of L to adopt goals for more minority contracting for its projects, particularly construction of the school's football stadium.

"If you want to try to understand the Rev. Louis Coleman, look at the principles of Jesus — and you will understand why he seemed, sometimes, to be in three places at once," said Howard Owens, who had attended anti-drug vigils with Coleman.

Owens said he hopes those mourning the loss of an irreplaceable leader will also see his death as "a great opportunity to build on his legacy," adding: "We must keep in mind the legacy of Louis Coleman, which is to organize and organize and organize."

Atomic horrors

(continued from page 1)

Now or Never," was preceded by Thomas Jefferson pastor Rev. Elwood Sturtevant leading a moment of silent meditation. The event was sponsored by The Louisville Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration Committee, Interfaith Paths to Peace, Thomas Jefferson Unitarian, The Louisville FOR, Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, Saint William Catholic Church, The U.N. Association of Louisville and the LEO weekly newspaper.

Leeper talked about the history of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, which has as its goal a nuclear weapon-free world by the year 2020. He said the treaty provides for verification which can be monitored by satellite.

Still, Leeper explained, more countries each year are moving toward acquisition of nuclear weapons, and every year the likelihood of such weapons being used increases dramatically. He urged listeners to sign — and encourage others to sign — the Cities Are Not Targets (CANT) project petition drive. This petition, which can be found at the website for the Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, demands that the leaders of all nuclear weapon states agree that they will not target cities, towns or villages with nuclear weapons, and that they engage in good faith negotiations to abolish all nuclear weapons.

Prior to the presentation, the group from Hiroshima attended a luncheon (provided by Zen Garden restaurant) at the Crane House, the Asian cultural center in Louisville. There they met with Dave Thomas, the Crane House's executive director, and several others, including Margie Hunt, a Hibakusha from Hiroshima, and Barbara Brown, a Hibakusha from Nagasaki, both of whom now live in Louisville. At the Crane House, the group viewed a poster exhibition titled "Voices From Hiroshima," which will be on display through July 31.

The writer is a member of Interfaith Paths to Peace, through which he has helped organize Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations for five years.

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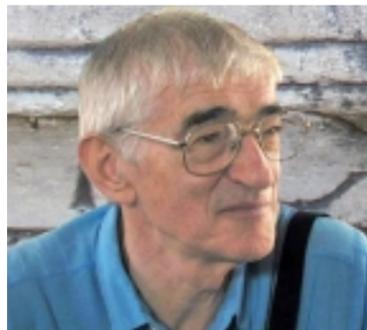
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11:00–12:30 PM

Jesus & God

12:30–1:15 PM

Lunch provided by Bellarmino

1:30–3:00 PM

Apocalypse & Violence



Guatemalans emigrate – and cooperate – to find hope

by Emily Brown

This summer's Witness for Peace delegation to Guatemala (June 12 to 20) was an enlightening and enriching experience for all 12 members of the delegation. Our focus was on the causes of emigration from Guatemala to the U.S. and the phrase "connecting the dots" was used as a principal theme. We wanted to find out why over one million Guatemalans (10 percent of the population) have felt it necessary to undertake the arduous and risky journey to the U.S.

For many, the cost is extremely high and can mean death or dismemberment, especially if they take the "train of death" from Chiapas on the southern border of Mexico north to Oaxaca. If lucky, someone will pay from \$5,000 to \$10,000 to a good "coyote," or smuggler of people, then will make the trip successfully, cross the border and secure a job.

Most, however, are much less fortunate and if not killed or injured, will be captured, detained, and deported. (The publication *Entremundos* reports that only 17 out of 200 Guatemalans that leave on a daily basis for Mexico actually get to the U.S.) Such was the case of Lucio, a 15-year old whom we met, along with his parents, in the town of Cajola.

After spending several days in a detention facility where he was given very little sustenance, as well as being shackled, he was sent back to Guatemala and met at the airport by his parents.

The majority, however, are not fortunate enough to have a loving family to receive them and help them resettle. This is why the Episcopal Conference of Guatemala has founded the Centro Pastoral de Atencion al Migrante in order to provide a haven for at least three days, if necessary, to those deported as well as serving as a stopover for those emigrating.

The organization emphasizes that it is by no means encouraging emigration and it warns of the hardships. We visited one of its facilities, called the Casa Migrante, which was located in Guatemala City. The organization has other shelters in Guatemala and Mexico. Increasing numbers of Guatemalans are being deported from the U.S.; one source placed it as high as 11,000 over the past six months.

While it is well known that Guatemala endured a brutal civil war lasting for 36 years (1960 to 1996), it seems to have been a civil war that received less press in the U.S. than the civil wars in Nicaragua and El Salvador. The Iran-Contra affair put Nicaragua on the front pages and U.S. aid to the government of El Salvador was openly publicized, but the role of the U.S. in Guatemala was probably less visible to most U.S. citizens.

It was preceded with our helping to overthrow the elected government of Jacobo Arbenz in 1954. President Arbenz had initiated a program of land reform that would have brought about a more equitable distribution of land, but this was opposed by the United Fruit Company and a CIA orchestrated coup was the result.

The purpose of the delegation was not to study the war itself, but we were made aware of some of the long-lasting effects of U.S. policy during this epoch and we learned about the thousands of people who were tortured, killed or disappeared by Guatemalan forces. Many of these forces had been armed by the U.S. government or trained at the School of the Americas.

By the time the war ended, more than 200,000 people had been tortured, killed or disappeared. Many of these were Mayans who were killed during the genocide of 1981 to 1983. Peace Accords were officially signed in 1996 and were intended to address some of the social, political and economic problems that brought on the war. Unfortunately, however, the Guatemalan Congress has never ratified them, and in a referendum in 1999, amendments containing some of the accord's provisions were defeated by the Guatemalan voters.

Our first official meeting was with the executive director of INCEDES (Central American Institute for Social Studies and Development), an organization that studies emigration and gathers statistics about migrants and their communities. According to the executive director, emigration is the responsibility of Guatemala because the reasons for emigration are partly the government's fault.

Concentrated ownership of land, scarcity of jobs and low salaries are all "push factors" that propel people to the north. A typical day's wage for an agricultural worker in Guatemala is \$5-to-7, and the same amount can be typically earned per hour in the U.S.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, 48.7 percent of remittances, money sent home from emigrants to the U.S., are used mainly for food and other essentials of the family budget. Goods and services use up another 20.6 percent, savings and investments absorb 15.2 percent and the remaining 15.4 percent is spent on education and health.

Family survival is therefore the main reason for emigration, all the more necessary as the average family has seven members. About five million Guatemalans or 40 percent of the population depend on remittances which amount to \$4.1 billion a year; still 60 percent of the population falls below the poverty line and lives on \$1-to-2 a day. The significance of remittances is even more evident when compared with the total value of exports, which is \$4.2 billion.

Naturally, some remittances are also spent on non-essentials such as televisions, cell phones, refrigerators and construction, but it is what is known as a "retransfer of value" economy. Money is earned by emigrants at low wages and is then spent on items produced by large multinationals which have helped place them in a situation of poverty. While there is no official government sanction of emigration, some government officials view emigrants as "heroes."

The money they send back is directed to banks, large businesses, cell phone companies, financial and construction companies and thus helps stimulate the economy. Unfortunately, it does little to help those who need it most.

Guatemala is known to have the most inequitable distribution of land in the Western Hemisphere, the Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala, an NGO, has found. Claudia Samayoa, Director of Human Rights' Defenders, has said land was basically given to 110 families during the time of colonization by the Spanish. Even following the Declaration of Independence in 1871, this "feudal system" continued.

Vagrants were required to work for free for large landowners for many years, a practice officially banned by law in 1945. Agriculture is still extremely important for the economy of Guatemala and more than 50 percent of Guatemalans rely on it for their livelihood, but a mere five percent of the population (two percent of

President Arbenz had initiated a program of land reform that would have brought about a more equitable distribution of land, but this was opposed by the United Fruit Company and a CIA orchestrated coup was the result.

farmers) control 65 percent of the arable land.

Of the other 95 percent, 80 percent are peasant farmers whose plots of land are too small for them to subsist off what they produce. The most fertile land is in the southeast section of the country and belongs to the wealthiest families.

While emigrants are from all over Guatemala most come from densely populated areas such as Xela, a region in the altiplano, where there are 793 people, mostly campesinos, per square kilometer. Such areas also lack good roads and have less fertile land.

One of our most interesting visits was to Cajola, about one and one-half hours from Quetzaltenango (Xela). Here we attended a Mayan



— photo courtesy Emily Brown

Mayans from Cajola, Guatemala join Americans on a delegation (including, at left, longtime Louisville activist Father Jim Flynn) in June. They are in front of a community center built by an emigrant to the U.S. who returned.

spiritual ceremony and then heard from a former emigrant who had returned to Cajola with enough money to build a solid two-story home.

Cajola is a town of about 16,000 people, 6,000 of whom have emigrated to the U.S. (It is easy to see the impact of remittances by observing the number of concrete block homes that have replaced the previous tin-roof dwellings.) After returning, however, the former emigrant decided that he really did not need

to benefit others so that they could earn a decent living and not have to make the trek northward.

Another interesting experience on our trip to Xela was a visit to the Santa Anita coffee cooperative about two hours outside the city. The cooperative is farmed by former "guerrilleros," guerilla fighters in the civil war, and their families.

The farm produces only organic coffee, and our visit made all of us appreciate the time and labor necessary in this type of production. Each family has its own plot parceled out by a lottery.

Some have been able to be self-sufficient while others have had to seek additional work outside the community. After the visit we heard from one of the members about worsening economic conditions influenced by low salaries, lack of job opportunities and lack of education.

According to our speaker, only 40 out of 100 Guatemalans complete elementary school and 20 percent finish secondary school. About 50 percent of those continue to the university level.

Fortunately, the cooperative does provide an elementary and secondary school for children in the community. Coffee from Santa Anita is exported to Heine Brothers. The cooperative accepts volunteers to help with clearing and planting, as well as the harvesting of beans, all of which is done entirely by hand.

Part two of Emily Brown's piece, slated for the September FORsooth, will look at the murder of a Roman Catholic bishop and the effects of the Central American Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA). Brown, of Louisville, teaches Spanish at Providence High School in Clarksville, Ind.

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Would the right recoil, or rejoice over an Obama win?

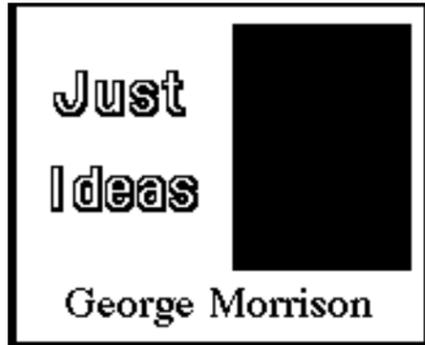
I can already hear George F. Will clicking away at his keyboard, his thesaurus at his side, eager to tell millions of newspaper readers the real meaning of the 2008 election outcome.

Likewise for Matt Labash, R. Emmett Tyrrell Jr. and the rest of the ardent right-wing press.

And oh, won't black conservatives like Ward Connerly, Larry Elder and the Hoover Institution's Thomas Sowell emphatically join in on this reverse spin on the election (should it happen) of Barack Obama: If America has just hired a black man to be president, then we clearly don't need... You know what.

The federal government, Will and the others shall say, makes restaurant owners and car repair shops hire a certain percentage of minorities because the effects of generations of official discrimination and segregation make the white mind unable to open the doors of power to blacks.

But look what door was just opened to an African American (perceived to be such if not fully ethnically) by a nation 75 percent white without candidate Obama receiving any help whatsoever from quotas, set-asides, goals and timetables or any other



feature of that institution they despise, affirmative action.

What does this say about that same populous' ability to hire minorities fairly in the offices, shops and factories of America without any prompting from Washington, they will ask just hours after the election, using its outcome to launch a drive against affirmative action before anything on Obama's actual agenda can get moving.

After all, they'll remind us, JFK's election largely extinguished anti-Catholic discrimination and Joe Lieberman running on a ticket that finished first in the popular

vote similarly said: so much for anti-Semitism. Isn't Obama's win the same episode for blacks?

Anti-Catholic bias, however, was on its last legs by 1960, and, I also am happy to observe — at least from my gente perspective — that anti-Semitism had drastically declined by the time the Connecticut senator was tapped by Al Gore 40 years later.

It's still around, but consider the national furor when Louisville native Louis Brandeis became the first Jew on the U.S. Supreme Court, barely overcoming a bigoted backlash to win confirmation. Compare that to Stephen Breyer's and Ruth Bader Ginsburg's confirmations — did anybody care about religion any more than in the confirmations of Antonin Scalia or John Roberts?

Prejudice against Irish, Catholics or Jews, I would further tell those equating an Obama win in November with a sign that affirmative action should cease, waned largely because of intermarriage and because those groups — even before nuptials commonly spanned ethnicities— weren't as easy to identify.

Yes, I know that negative stereotypes

believed by a boss could easily rise to the surface if a job interviewee were named O'Bryan or Greenberg, but what about seeing someone with those monikers walking down the sidewalk, or moving in next door or sitting at the lunch counter?

Would the reaction have been at all as great as the hostile and violent responses to African-Americans doing these simple things to which they were entitled?

I don't want to be misunderstood. Barack Obama being elected president would be a giant step forward. However, far from portending the end of affirmative action, the advent of a black president would show the value of it.

Let us be mindful of how affirmative action's bringing blacks and whites together — as co-workers, classmates, bosses and employees — has lessened the suspicions and stereotypes and fostered a level of trust between the races impossible during the days of job and academic discrimination.

And that trust, as much as anything, just may be what allows enough whites to check the name "Obama" on their ballots in November and make history.

Contact George Morrison at klm86@att.net.

IS CANADA CLOSING ITS DOOR?

In our April 2008 issue we spoke hopefully of the Canadian lenient policy toward Iraq deserters. Some 200 deserters were said to have found an uncertain haven in Canada. While the Canadian government does not grant asylum, still it had not moved to deport any of these deserters.

In fact, on June 3, 2008, the Canadian Parliament passed an historic motion to officially welcome war resisters! This action, however, may have triggered an unfavorable response. For it now appears that the Conservative government of Canada may be disregarding the motion.

We have an Associated Press report (7-17-08) stating that a U.S. Army deserter, **Robin Long**, who fled to Canada three years ago, was deported on July 15, 2008. This marks the first time a resister to the U.S. war effort in Iraq has been removed from Canada. He was taken to Fort Carson, Colorado, according to a report from www.couragetoresist.org Long, 25, a native of Boise, Idaho, fled to Canada in 2005 to avoid serving in Iraq. He said he sought refuge because the U.S. Army wanted him to participate in what he calls an "illegal war of aggression in Iraq." Courage to Resist has made legal representation available to Robin, and will be doing everything possible to provide him with full support.

Another report came in the July FOR newsletter from Spokane, WA. **Corey Glass**, 25, an Iraq war veteran and a sergeant in the Indiana National Guard, was scheduled to be deported on July 10th. A massive protest was organized and ten thousand letters were sent to Canadian officials with the message, "Dear Canada, Abide by the June 3rd Resolution. Let U.S. War Resisters Stay!" Actions were quickly organized at 14 Canadian Consulates in the U.S. In a surprising victory, a Canadian Federal Court granted Corey a last minute reprieve of at least several months while his lawyers are given an opportunity to appeal earlier negative rulings.

Recently in Louisville, our media has focused on resister **James Burmeister** of Eugene, Oregon who went through a court martial at Fort Knox and was sentenced to six months in the stockade plus a bad conduct discharge. James, 23, was serving in Baghdad when his humvee was hit by a roadside bomb. He was knocked unconscious and bits of shrapnel were embedded in his face. Suffering from his physical and emotional wounds resulting from his injury, and his experiences working with "bait and kill" teams in Iraq, James went AWOL and fled to Canada. Earlier this year he decided to return to the US, turn himself in and move on with his life. Burmeister and his family felt devastated upon hearing the harsh sentence. Read more at www.couragetoresist.org



A ray of hope may be on the way for deserters in Canada. In the case of a favorable outcome for **Joshua Key**, the Federal Court stated that the regular abuse of Iraqi civilians at the hands of the U.S. military are systematic violations of the Geneva Conventions, and should be a basis for granting refugee status

PASTORS FOR PEACE CARAVAN RETURNS FROM CUBA

Members of the 19th US/CUBA Friendship Caravan returned via Mexico on July 14 after challenging the US blockade on travel to Cuba and delivering nearly 100 tons of humanitarian aid to that island nation — but not without some harrassment. On the way down, authorities had seized the computers that were an important part of the shipment.

Now on the way back, when they crossed through Mexico and reached the US border at Hidalgo, TX, the 32 computers that had been seized were handed over. This as a result of constant pressure from communities all across the U.S. Nevertheless, the question arose as to how to get the computers over to the Mexican side. The determined *caravanistas* then hand-carried the computers across the International Bridge from Hidalgo, Texas into Reynosa, Mexico.

The computers were then sent from Reynosa on to Cuba, which means that every item of the nearly 100 tons of humanitarian aid collected by the caravan from all across the United States was donated to Cuba.

In his final statement, **Rev. Lucius Walker, Jr.**, executive director of IFCO/Pastors for Peace, said: "Even now, our work is not complete until this mean-spirited, foolish, petty, counterproductive, immoral blockade against our Cuban sisters and brothers is ended."

While in Cuba, the caravanistas visited different provinces, homes for the elderly, and health care sites. They also visited the Latin American School of Medicine where young people from 30 nations of the Americas and Africa are studying medicine on full scholarship in order to serve as physicians in their home countries. More than 100 students in this program are from medically under-served communities in the United States.

NEW NUKES LOSE: THANK YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Good news! By one of the widest margins in years, the House has rejected the administration's request to build a new nuclear weapon. By a bipartisan vote of 271 to 145, the House refused to add money for the Reliable Replacement Warhead (RRW) to its military authorization bill. This vote is particularly important because the RRW would have been the first new U.S. nuclear weapon in two decades.

The Senate still needs to act on its funding bills, so the RRW is not dead yet. But thanks to your help, chances are good that the Senate will follow the House's lead and refuse to fund the program.

(From Kathy Guthrie, Friends Committee on National Legislation, June 26, 2008. E-mail: kathyguthrie@fcnl.org)

THIRD ANNUAL PEACE ESSAY CONTEST PLANNED

The Louisville Chapter of the Fellowship of Reconciliation (FOR) is making plans now to sponsor another peace essay contest for high school students. The contest is designed to help students thoughtfully consider and frame peaceful alternatives for solving difficult international conflicts, while improving their writing and critical thinking skills. Cash awards and certificates will be presented to the winners at a school assembly.

Details are coordinated by FOR's **Aim Higher Committee**. *Your help is needed in suggesting names and contact information of high school principals and teachers who can help us develop and promote the 2009 contest.* Please contact Ellen Schagene, ellensmail03@yahoo.com, or Chris Harmer, colonel2211@yahoo.com or Jim Johnson, teachesart@bellsouth.net

The Committee felt highly rewarded for its efforts when they received the following thank-you note from **Irina Markina** who won third place for her essay "Planting the Seeds of Peace in Iran." She wrote:

"I'd like to thank the Fellowship of Reconciliation and all of the people who make it possible for providing me with an opportunity to be published in *FORsooth* as well as for inspiring me to learn more about the world. Writing this essay led me to understand just how valuable peace is to the world and how much it could benefit the entire global society. Thanks to organizations like the Fellowship of Reconciliation more people will appreciate peace and help spread this concept to others. Thank you!"



*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
EdwardsFOR@bellsouth.net 502-458-8056

Calendar for peacemakers

July 26 (Sat) **BRADEN CENTER ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE.** Free backyard BBQ, youth presentations, and good company! This event is dedicated to the memory of Alice Wade. 3208 West Broadway, 1-5 PM. Donations to the Braden Center and the Kentucky Alliance are welcome. For more information, call Shameka at 502-619-8294, or email: shamekaparrish@msn.com.

July 27 (Sun) **SUSTAINABLE LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY. Meets each 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.** Meetings also held Monday evenings. For more information, please contact: j@bikecourier.org.

July 28 (Mon) **PIZZA a la Heart, All you can eat Pizza Buffet.** Benefit for *AIDS Interfaith Ministries of Kentuckiana (AIM)*. Clifton's Pizza, 2230 Frankfort Ave, 6:00 -9:30pm. Tickets \$12; \$6 for children 10 and under. Call Janet Mann, 574-6086, or Paige Gottlieb, 377-4196. Tickets also at the door. Enjoy music, door prizes, good food, and fun.

July 28 (Mon) **SUSTAINABLE LOCAL PUBLIC POLICY. Meets each 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.** Meetings also held Sunday afternoons. For more information, please contact: j@bikecourier.org.

July 30 (Wed) **DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR NOVEMBER PEACE DELEGATION TO IRAN.** Sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation. Tentative delegation dates are Nov. 15-30, 2008. For more information, visit: www.forusa.org/programs/iran/ or contact Leila Zand, Iran Program Director, at 845-358-4601 or iran@forusa.org.

July 31-Aug 3 (Thurs-Sun) **CREATION SPIRITUALITY COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE.** Featuring Matthew Fox, author of *Original Blessing* and *The Coming of the Cosmic Christ*, and Nancy Abrams, author of *The View from the Center of the Universe*. DePauw University, Indiana. For more information or to register, please visit: www.creationspirituality.info/Events.html.

Aug 2 (Sat) **POETRY SLAM CELEBRATING JAMES BALDWIN. Expressions of You Coffee Shop, 5:30 PM-8 PM.** Poets from across Metro Louisville will participate and men from MENSWORK will read from James Baldwin's works. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact MENSWORK through Rus Funk at 494-9044 or rus@rusfunk.com. Tickets can also be purchased at Expressions of You Coffee Shop.

Aug 6 (Wed) **HIROSHIMA OBSERVANCE.** Leafleting and readings from John Hersey's book *HIROSHIMA*. 4th & Muhammad Ali (Merton Square). 11:00 - 2:00. Contact Terry Taylor, 299-7591 or email: tatuende2@yahoo.com.

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

Aug 9 (Sat) **NAGASAKI OBSERVANCE.** Candle Floating Ceremony at the lake in Cherokee Park, Grinstead Drive and Lexington Road, 8:00 pm. Contact Terry Taylor, 299-7591. tatuende2@yahoo.com.

Aug 10 (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.

Aug 13 (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.

Aug 14 (Thurs) **APPAPF (American Palestine Public Affairs Forum).** Meets every second Thursday. Award-winning documentary: "Occupation 101: Voices of the Silenced Majority." 7:30 PM, League of Women Voters, 115 S Ewing. For more information, call Bashar Masri, 773-1836.

Aug 17 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES.** Meets every third Sunday. First Unitarian Church, 4th & York Streets, 3:00 PM. Call Beverley Marmion, 451-5658.

Aug 18 (Mon) **DEADLINE FOR THE SEPTEMBER ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Contact **George Morrison, editor**, 944-6460, E-mail: klm86@att.net
Note: Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com, or call Nikki at 451-3402.

Aug 21 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTHCARE,** every third Thursday, 5:30 PM. Main Library, 4th & York Streets, Mezzanine Board Room. Call Kay Tillow, 636-1551.

Aug 21 (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 E-mail: pcunity@yahoo.com.

Aug 25 (Mon) **F.O.R. STEERING COMMITTEE.** Presbyterian Seminary, 1044 Alta Vista Road. Meets every fourth Monday. Visitors encouraged. Call Dennis Bricking, 298-0590, or Pat Geier, 456-6586.

Aug 26 (Tue) **KCADP (Ky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty)** every last Tuesday. Highland Presbyterian Church, 1011 Cherokee Rd, 6:30 pm. Call Kaye Gallagher, 721-8885 or Mark Meade, 541-9998, E-mail: kcadp@earthlink.net.

Aug 28 (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. Call 451-5658.

Sept 28 (Sun) **LOUISVILLE AIDS WALK 2008.** For more information about the walk, visit: www.louisvilleaidswalk.org.

Oct 10-12 (Fri-Sun) **KFTC ANNUAL MEETING.** Held at the Kentucky Leadership Center in Jabez, Ky. Family-friendly atmosphere! Relax, meet new people, visit old friends, learn about KFTC, share stories, dance, listen to music, attend workshops, and have fun! For more information, visit: <http://www.kftc.org/>.

Oct 12 (Sun) **FUNERAL CONSUMERS ALLIANCE OF GREATER LOUISVILLE,** annual meeting. Speakers will be **Evelyn Glass** from Kentucky Organ Donor Affiliates (KODA) and **Steve Anderson** from UofL Dept of Anatomical Sciences & Neurobiology — Body Bequeathal Program. Main Library, 4th & York Sts. Call 499-8043 or visit: www.funerals.org/louisville.

Oct 15 (Wed) **"DZOGCHEN—THE GREAT PERFECTION."** Public talk and introduction featuring the Venerable Tsoknyi Rinpoche. Gardencourt, Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary, 7 PM. For more information, visit: <http://pyus.com/client/fv/2008b.html> or contact the Fons Vitae coordinator at gracious007@aol.com.

Oct 16 (Thurs) **ACLU OF KY BILL OF RIGHTS DINNER.** 5:30 PM-9:00 PM. The Henry Clay, Louisville. Join us for an evening of dynamic presentations focusing on our past, present and future vision for protecting civil liberties in Kentucky. For more information, details will be posted at: www.aclu-ky.org, or call 502-581-9746.

Oct 16-19 (Thurs-Sun) **"DZOGCHEN—THE GREAT PERFECTION: A Retreat with the Venerable Tsoknyi Rinpoche on the Nature of Mind."** Law's Lodge. For more information or to register, visit: <http://pyus.com/client/fv/2008b.html> or contact the Fons Vitae coordinator at gracious007@aol.com.

Oct 18 (Sat) **"RACE, POVERTY, AND HEALTHCARE."** Featuring Dr. Adewale Troutman, Director of Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness. 9 AM-3 PM. Church of the Epiphany, 914 Old Harrods Creek Road. For more information or to register, call Mary Ann Stenger, 425-5473.

Oct 19 (Sun) **30TH ANNIVERSARY HUNGER WALK.** Sponsored by the Dare to Care Food Bank and Kentuckiana Interfaith Community. For more information or to register, contact Lauren Hensley, 966-3821, or visit: www.thehungerwalk.org.

Oct 24 (Fri) **ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS.** Celebrate by urging your member of Congress to support US funding for the UN. It provides a much needed forum to resolve global disputes and address transnational problems such as extreme poverty, weapons proliferation, climate change and disease.

Nov 7-8 (Fri-Sat) **"GOD AND EMPIRE: The Normalcy of Violence and the Ambiguity of Bible."** Ecumenical Lecture Series, featuring John Dominic Crossan. Bellarmine University. \$20. For details on the lecture schedule or to register online visit: www.midkentuckypresbytery.org.

Nov 20-24 (Thurs-Mon) **"VIGIL TO CLOSE THE U.S. ARMY'S SCHOOL OF THE ASSASSINS."** Thousands will gather at the gates of Fort Benning in Georgia for the vigil and the nonviolent direct action to close the School of the Americas. More information to come!

OUT OF TOWN EVENTS

Sept 14 (Sun) **FESTIVAL OF PEACE,** by the Hudson. Fourth Annual Festival of Peace sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation in Nyack, NY. Music, multi-media art exhibition, food, fun, families, festivities, plus the awarding of FOR's annual Dr. King Peace Award and also the Pfeffer International Peace Prize. For more information, contact: 845-358-4601, ext. 22. development@forusa.org

Oct 18-28 **WITNESS FOR PEACE, Delegation to Colombia. "GLOBALIZATION AND COFFEE: The Impact of Free Trade and Fair Trade on Colombian Farmers."** Application due by August 22, along with deposit of \$150. Cost \$1,350 includes deposit, plus airfare to Colombia. Apply online: www.witnessforpeace.org/travel/application.html Sponsored by the Equal Exchange Interfaith Program and Witness for Peace. For more information call Anna Utech, 774-776-7411. autech@equalexchange.coop Learn about the historical context of Colombia and the economic and political roots of the inequality and conflict that exist in Colombia today. Visit an indigenous coffee cooperative. Stay in homes of coffee farmers. Meet with experts and activists to hear their analyses of US policy in Colombia.

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)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

CONVERSATION CAFE – Wednesday evenings (560-0085)

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

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

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

FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION – 4th Monday (451-6638 or 895-8516)

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

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

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

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

JOBS WITH JUSTICE KENTUCKY (582-5454)

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

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

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

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

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

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

KY RAINBOW/PUSH COALITION – (245-2272)

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

911 TRUTH LOUISVILLE (502-609-6020)

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

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

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