

CREATING A HEALTHY FUTURE FOR CHILDREN WITH INCARCERATED PARENTS

by **Judi Jennings and Loretta Hardin**

In November 2017, the Louisville Metro Department of Public Health and Wellness released a groundbreaking Health Equity Report: “Uncovering the Root Causes of our Health.” In addition to presenting important data, the report provides an equity framework for improving health in our community by addressing root causes and systems of power. The report concludes the following: “When we all come together and combine our resources, we can create effective, long-term change. Interventions must happen at multiple levels - individual, interpersonal, organizational, community and policy- to have the biggest impact on health.”

Health equity means everyone has a fair and just opportunity to achieve positive health outcomes and reach their full human potential. Health outcomes can range from well-being, to sickness, and to premature death. Health outcomes stem from root causes, like housing or employment and income. Root causes are, in turn, shaped by systems of power, including race and gender.

Differences in root causes lead to differences in health outcomes. Root causes must be addressed to make a difference in individual health. Systems of power—like

racism and sexism — shape how people experience root causes. These systems of power are embedded in the history of our community and in our present policies and practices.

Reimagining Criminal Justice

Since mass incarceration impacts parents and children throughout the country, how can we reimagine criminal justice in our community? A Health Equity framework helps us understand how individual health outcomes are linked to root causes and systems of power. Acting together, we can eliminate and mitigate the adverse health outcomes for children caused by parental incarceration.

Consider Root Causes: Housing, Employment, and Income

“Redlining Louisville,” an online dataset documented by Metro Louisville Government, describes “The History of Race, Class, and Real Estate” in our community. Redlining refers to the practice of denying loans in certain neighborhoods because of socioeconomic characteristics. That historic practice means that neighborhoods in Louisville today vary greatly in terms of access to housing, employment, and income, which are root causes shaping individual health.

Children of incarcerated parents are more likely to live in poverty and more likely to experience financial, economic, and residential instability. As an increasing number of mothers and fathers are incarcerated, more families struggle to provide children with basic needs and the security necessary for optimal outcomes. Research shows that families that report parental incarceration are more likely to indicate material hardship, economic instability, and residential instability and homelessness.

Consider Systems of Power: Race and Gender

Parental incarceration affects children of all races, ethnicities, economic levels, and immigration status in Louisville Metro. Yet, available data shows there is a marked disproportionate impact of jail incarceration on Black males. This reflects historic and current systemic power inequality based on race in our municipality, state, and nation.

Racial disparities in the rates of local jail incarceration mean that children of color in our community are disproportionately impacted as well. Evidence indicates that gender of the incarcerated parent also influences their children’s health. Because males often have higher incomes, incarcerating a father can immediately reduce financial support for their children.

Research suggests that maternal incarceration can be more detrimental emotionally and physically because mothers are more likely to reside with their children prior to incarceration. Therefore, when mothers are incarcerated, their children are more likely to transition residences and caregivers. Families that report maternal incarceration indicate residential instability, increased foster care placement, children being separated from siblings, and changing schools.

Making the Case for Family-Friendly Policies and Practices in Louisville-Metro

Having an incarcerated parent is now recognized as an Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) and a form of trauma. These children can develop toxic stress when there is an absence of protective factors that normalize stress levels. Currently, there is limited research that focuses on mechanisms that improve individual health outcomes for children with incarcerated parents. Yet some studies report significant positive differences observed for children who have a safe and

stable caregiver, maintain contact with their incarcerated parent, have caregivers who understand effective parenting behaviors, and who participate in mentoring.

Children with the same caregiver throughout the duration of their parent’s incarceration have more favorable health outcomes. In addition, children in environments that promote quality relationships are more successful. Conversely, children in environments with unhealthy caregiver relationships are less successful. Though few studies have evaluated the benefits of mentoring specifically for children of incarcerated parents, research suggests mentoring is a protective factor that ameliorates negative outcomes.

Children who can maintain contact with incarcerated parents, whether via mail, letters, or visits, evince less fear and concerns about their parents. Research suggests children who maintain parental contact are also less likely to exhibit anger and more likely to have improved school outcomes.



T-Shirt designed by Special Project Summer Art Camp for youth with incarcerated loved ones, YouthBuild Louisville, lead artists STEAM Exchange.

Photo courtesy of Judi Jennings.

Protective factors, included in practices like these, can mediate health outcomes for children. It is important to underscore that, with family and community support, children of incarcerated parents can develop resiliency and thrive.

A Personal Story: Shelton T. McElroy became a ward of the state at age 3. He moved from one foster home to another for the next 15 years. At age 18, he entered prison, serving a 7-year sentence. His life changed after his release when he became a single father. He began working to effect change in restrictive policies that apply to foster children. Now, he has completed the JustLeadership USA Leading with Conviction Fellowship Program and served on

(see HEALTHY FUTURE, page 6)

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THE ILLOGICALITY OF ISOLATIONISM

by **Adam Khayat**

To study history allows one to cultivate insights into purportedly new sociopolitical phenomena. In the modern age, we are led to believe that our experience is inherently novel; the perception that our society is so far removed from past generations has facilitated the diffusion of historical amnesia. Unaware of the past, we become doomed to repeat avoidable calamities.

The prevalence of xenophobia in today's political rhetoric has catalyzed anti-immigrant ideologies and brought them to the forefront. The now banal phrase, "build the wall," has become a fixture in partisan jargon; the endeavor is thought to be compelled by the notion that the construction of such an apparatus will solve our deeply rooted economic issues. Nonetheless, if history serves as indication, the true impetus is much more sinister: the amalgam of blind nationalism and bigoted ethnocentrism. Many Americans have expressed that this recent vitriolic trend in American politics is unique; but, such an observation could not be further from the truth.

The United States and the colonial society that preceded it were generated by successive waves of immigration from all corners of the globe. However, public and political perspectives regarding immigration have always been ambivalent and contradictory, and oftentimes hostile. The early immigrants to colonial America—from England, France, Germany, and other countries in northwestern Europe—came in

search of economic opportunity and political freedom, yet they often relied upon the labor of African slaves working land taken from Native Americans. The descendants of these immigrants, in turn, have often taken a dim view of the growing numbers of Latin American, Asian, and African immigrants who began to arrive in the second half of the 20th century and early 21st century.

The realm of modern immigration reform policy is multidimensional; the discourse surrounding this topic is saturated with proposals for legalization and the formulation of a pathway to citizenship and, conversely, the imposition of a strong limitation on immigration. However, the concomitant statistics are frequently not included in the conversation, which ultimately culminates in policies and perceptions that do not align with reality. Thus, it is vital that the economic ramifications of immigration be understood.

With regards to legal status and citizenship, three scenarios can be proposed. The first involves immediate legal status and citizenship. According to the Center for American Progress, this would lead to the growth of the U.S. gross domestic product (GDP) by \$1.4 trillion cumulatively, the growth of the personal income of Americans by \$791 billion over 10 years, and an increase of 203,000 jobs per year. Additionally, they would contribute \$184 billion to federal, state, and local taxes. The second scenario involves immediate legal status and citizen five years thereafter. Accordingly, the ten-year cumulative increase in the economy of the U.S. would be

\$1.1 trillion, and the annual increases in the incomes of Americans would sum to \$618 billion. Additionally, 159,000 jobs would be created per year over ten years and an additional \$144 billion in taxes would be paid. The third scenario involves immediate legal status and no citizenship within 10 years; the cumulative ten-year gain in U.S. GDP would be \$832 billion, an increase in annual incomes of \$470 billion, and an average of 121,000 more jobs per year. An additional \$109 billion in taxes would be paid.

Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) has garnered much attention; nonetheless, as reflected by the actions of the administration, comprehension of the policy's effect on the economy is lacking. Another study published by the Center for American Progress estimated that the loss of all DACA workers would reduce the U.S. GDP by \$433 billion over the next ten years. This impact would be felt unevenly throughout the country. California would suffer a GDP loss of \$11.3 billion a year, whereas Texas would lose \$6.1 in GDP annually.

A commonplace argument utilized by pundits that seek to limit immigration is that of "partial equilibrium." The very simple logic of supply and demand insinuates that an increase in labor supply reduces wages as workers compete in an increasingly crowded economy. While seemingly correct, this concept is predicated on the assumption that other aspects are kept fixed and does not adjust itself to the series of changes of the economy to immigration. In essence, it does not account for the other economic parameters that are affected by immigration. These "partial equilibrium" implications are thus theoretically and empirically incorrect. According to a study published in the American Economic Journal ("Task Specialization, Immigration, and Wages"), there are four important mechanisms that must be considered.

Firstly, investments play a critical role. Due to the availability of more workers, firms are more willing to invest; this leads to more establishments and augmented productive capacity. Consequently, immigrants increase the size and number of firms

providing investment opportunities.

Secondly, the educational background of immigrants must be taken into account. A derivation of the wage-depressing theory of immigration revolves around the assertion that the increased inflow of less educated foreign-born workers would depress the wages of less-educated natives relative to highly educated natives. However, statistics indicate otherwise; according to the Center for Latin American Studies at UC Berkeley, immigrants have had a balanced distribution because of the equal combination of immigrants at the top and the bottom of the schooling distribution. Therefore, their inflow did not affect the relative supply of those two groups, which means it is unlikely to have changed their relative wages. Indeed, correlation does not imply causation.

Thirdly, the resulting specialization of labor must be taken into consideration. It is important to analyze the differentiation of skills and productivity between natives and immigrants within each of the two education groups. Due to the limited knowledge of language, immigrants typically conduct manual jobs. Therefore, as a result, companies that hire immigrants generate higher demand for jobs requiring coordination, communication, and interaction, which are typically absorbed by natives. This dynamic specialization according to skills pushes natives to attain positions that are better paid, communication-intensive, and protected from competition. From this, it can be deduced that immigrants catalyze a reorganization of production along specialization lines that may increase the effectiveness and efficiency of labor.

Fourthly, immigration has served to smooth out local booms and busts. By moving away from declining regions and into booming areas, immigration begets economic stabilization and reduces the incongruities between local demand for labor and its supply.

Social capital must also be considered. Highly educated immigrants are a significant asset for the U.S. economy, which attracts scientists and engineers from all (see ISOLATIONISM, page 6)



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THE GORDIAN KNOT OF IMMIGRANT PERSECUTION

by **Stephen Bartlett**

“There is a Gordian Knot underlying the political moment we are living through with the overt and widespread persecution of immigrants living and working in the U.S. Yet, despite the dark logic of the Trump bully pulpit and institutional (Immigrant Customs Enforcement/ICE) and “informal” grass-roots onslaught of racially motivated hatred,

communities, food chain workers, etc. They are hammered by the privatization of collective lands and the dumping of cheap corn and other agricultural commodities, while vast numbers of family businesses have been wiped out by competition with the Walmart mega-corporate business model that has spread like a giant squid across the continent. Meanwhile, mega-mining corporations

Europe where national populations are shrinking, threatening the pensions and welfare state for European retirees. In the US, there is a kind of schizophrenia in the whole immigration debate. On the one hand, most politicians, economists, home owners, farmers, restaurant owners, janitorial companies, roofers, construction subcontractors, childcare outfits, disaster rebuilding entrepreneurs,

consolidating a pro-corporate, anti-worker agenda, as seen with the passage of the recent tax reform bill that saves the top 1% billions of dollars, on top of 20 years of tax relief they were already enjoying since the time of Reagan.

Despite this scenario and partly in response to it, people are stepping up in inspiring ways to confront and transform this reality. In Louisville, under the activism and leadership of Mijente, Black Lives Matter, and Louisvillians Showing Up for Racial Justice, and with the help of excellent investigative journalism, a coalition of Louisville residents were successful in passing a “sanctuary-light” ordinance through the Metro Council. The chief of police and mayor now feel obliged to report directly to the community on how they are implementing those new policies of non-cooperation between the Louisville police and I.C.E. This is a significant victory and firewall in a state as red as Kentucky. Dozens of volunteers have been trained and participate in an on-going program of accompaniment and intervention in solidarity with immigrants, including community ICE-watch activities. Significant resources have been channeled into staffing of front line organizations and faith communities providing much needed material and moral support, mental health therapy and, most importantly, pro-bono legal consultations for immigrants facing the reality of ICE detentions, deportations, loss of status, separation of families, impoverishment following deportations, etc. An inter-faith immigrant justice coalition has been launched and has claimed moral authority for the mandate of loving our neighbors. On a daily basis, these organized activists, volunteers and faith leaders are responding to the particular needs of our immigrant sisters and brothers, nieces and nephews, neighbors and friends. It is a golden moment for organizing such a safety net, and we are only into our second year with overt racists in the White House. We also see an increase in the intersectionality of our organizing, a trend that it could continue to build; it has the potential for creating transformative community power in the face of these threats from the federal and state governments, a power capable of significant social change. To that end, we continue our work, in the face of widespread suffering. The other aspect of this work that needs to be emphasized is as follows: it has a strong spiritual foundation, and it is done in a way we hope is nourishing. Our organizing is spiced by fantastic shared food, sometimes made from crops we grow ourselves as a collective. And it is accompanied by song and prayers and loving embraces, and even at times makes our souls sing.

Please join us!



Stephen Bartlett co-coordinates the intervention teams of the Red Alert Coalition, and directs and facilitates the MILPA program of Sustainable Agriculture of Louisville (SAL) that partners with community organizations and faith communities to produce culturally-appropriate foods to be shared. He can be reached at estebanbartlett@gmail.com or calling 502-415-1080.



Louisvillians from area Presbyterian churches in one of the weekly immigrant solidarity vigils that took place all fall around Louisville. The author, Stephen Bartlett, is wearing a drum.

Photo courtesy of Stephen Bartlett

fueled by white supremacy and “nativism,” social justice immigrant rights organizers and communities across Kentucky and the US are creating an unprecedented strong web of solidarity, accompaniment, and strategic actions. Happily, this web is led in inspirational ways by leaders from the most impacted communities. Louisville and Kentucky are no exception and count among the places where bold strides in terms of local organizing and mobilization are being taken to walk the hate-filled agenda back effectively, fueled by genuine neighborly love and revolutionary spirit. “Sanctuary for all” is a banner that has united communities across the country, and even claimed the entire state of California!

Here are some strands of the knot that we are tasked to unravel:

1. Trade agreements such as NAFTA, CAFTA, and bilateral so-called “free trade” agreements, as well as structural adjustments and outright right-wing or US military interventions or militarization campaigns (i.e. Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Mexico, Panama, Colombia) have, over the course of decades, undermined the ability of countries south of the US border to provide livelihoods for farmers, indigenous
2. The US needs the labor of immigrants which buoy up the US economy and keep the US growing (both demographically and economically). Immigrants are, in effect, saving the US from the fate of
3. We cannot have both savage, unrestrained corporate-driven capitalism and respect for civil and human rights and the internationally-recognized right of human beings to migrate when suffering the misery of impoverishment or chronic violence. The two are mutually exclusive. Under neoliberal economics, goods must enjoy free untaxed movement, but workers must be controlled to populations vulnerable and keep wages down and consolidate corporate power. Today, that reality will shape up as an attempt to expand and facilitate mass “guest worker” programs, so that workers will remain under institutional control, and we can still get the benefit of their labor. Having a free movement of people across our borders appears as a threat to the kind of control the corporate oligarchy wishes to preserve. The politics of fear depict such migration as an “invasion.”
4. Playing the “race card” has proved most successful when workers in the economy are slipping in terms of wages and quality of life, particularly when those workers are white and due to historical ignorance and cultural habit, the race card is palatable to them. Trump is the strongest player of the overt race card we have seen. The Republican party and the wealthy persons they represent have benefitted from this race card by

are running amok, contaminating and running roughshod over communities across the globe. Filling the vacuum in our continent has been the growth of an economy of remittances (immigrant workers in the US sending money home to their families) and narco-trafficking, fueled by the huge US market for illicit drugs, which has corrupted impoverished economies and police forces, and influenced who gets elected to office in those countries. The result: failed states governed by narco-corrupted oligarchs, where violence, gang-narco-police collusion, and horrendous unemployment and low wages are causing millions to migrate out of fear or to avoid the “tax” extortion of local mafias, no matter how militarized the borders between Guatemala and Mexico or Mexico and the US become. The flood of asylum seekers from Central America to the US-Mexico border is just one symptom of this cruel structural failure of US foreign and economic policy.

harming working class native-born people, and for being “illegal,” not to mention the outrageous lies being told about the alleged criminality of immigrants. Economically, neoliberal Obama as “deporter-in-chief” in one sense helped lay the groundwork for the rabid anti-immigrant push of Trump and prepared the country institutionally for Trump to build on in his “ICE MAN COMETH” agenda, with the goal of deporting another three million people on top of Obama’s four million.

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WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROTESTS IN IRAN?

by **Leila Zand**

Reprinted from the FOR National Website

In the final days of 2017, a series of anti-government rallies took place in Iran, taking by surprise both international observers and the Iranian society. Some argue the root cause was the nation's poor economy and financial difficulties, while others believe the lack of political freedom in Iran was the primary reason and that "regime change" was the protesters' ultimate demand.

President Hassan Rouhani's administration and other reformists initially found themselves in an unusual alliance alongside individuals from conservative camps, as they all spoke in support of the original demonstration that took place in the city of Mashhad. However, as the unrest continued and grew, many believed the nationwide protests occurred only with the support of "enemy" forces.

Domestic Rivalry

On December 29, one day after the initial rally in Mashhad, Iranian Vice President Eshaq Jahangiri blamed hardliners for staging a "show" that was intended only to criticize the Rouhani administration and weaken his leadership. The reason many people, including myself, believe Mr. Jahangiri's argument made sense was because – unlike any other movements in the modern history of Iran – this movement began in Mashhad.

Mashhad is located in the northeast of Iran, bordering Turkmenistan, and is the home of most of the Afghan refugees and

won a decisive reelection to a second term, beating Raisi by 57% to 38.5%.)

On the day following the start of the Mashhad uprising, Mr. Raisi wrote on his Twitter account: "President Rouhani! Do you remember how you wanted to bring western culture and concerts to the holy city of Mashhad? Now listen, people in the streets are holding their concerts, with the music of 'Death to Rouhani.'" [My translation.] I believe this tweet was an indication of support for the demonstrations, which many people believe were orchestrated by Raisi himself.

A Failing Economy

The uprising that began in Mashhad closely followed President Rouhani's announcement of the national budget for this coming year. The budget was not what most people had anticipated and hoped for. Instead, it was a much more conservative budget compared to previous years, and one that indicated further hardship for the majority of people, particularly those who have already been suffering.

Iran's economy has been in a state of hardship for a long time now; recent figures indicate an inflation rate of almost 10% and unemployment at around 12%, with no better economic prospects for at least the near future.

The role of the United States is essential, and Donald Trump's hawkish adventures toward Iran – specifically those in favor of two key U.S. allies in the region, Israel and Saudi Arabia – have essentially crushed Iran's hope for an economic turnaround. Trump's opposition to the Iran nuclear deal

raw resources has forced the government to put all its eggs into the "basket" of crude oil. Moreover, the devastating eight years of war with Iraq, which were followed by years of efforts to address what the country lost during the war, have had lasting negative effects on the nation's efforts to rebuild its economy.

By the end of the 1980-88 Iraq-Iran War, a major effort to liberalize the economy was initiated in Iran. Economic policy was formed around this new liberal ideology. A quarter-century later, however, we see negative results in the shrinking of the once-large middle class, plus a widening gap between the haves and the have-nots. Hence, Iran's severe financial problems are unfortunately nothing new, so it is surprising that economic factors would be seen as a precipitating factor for the recent unrest.

Peaceful Discontent

Besides the economy, it is important to note that a majority of Iranians are unhappy with the social policies and the political gridlock in the country. There are numerous issues that have frustrated large sectors of the populace – such as the mandatory wearing of the hijab; the role of women in the political arena; the monopoly of power by certain groups; etc. Interestingly, most of these social and political desires and demands are not new either; rather, they date back to the birth of the Islamic Republic itself in 1979.

Since the war period, during which the nation was primarily concerned with survival and sovereignty, for the past three decades Iranians have been focused on change for the better. Iranians have proven

place routinely in the country. Perhaps the greatest sign of this commitment is the high level of participation in both local and national elections.

A Turn Toward Violence?

A brief review of the recent unrest and its comparison with previous Iranian history indicates that although demonstrations, movements, and revolution are nothing new for the nation, this current model has had different characteristics.

The unrest that began in late December started from the holy city of Mashhad, as described above, instead of the cities of Tehran, Tabriz, Isfahan, or other large but more secular cities. Soon, demonstrations spread to smaller cities and towns that are unknown to many, while there were still no evident protests in these major cities. Rallies often started with slogans against President Rouhani and typically focused on the economy, but soon expanded to slogans criticizing Iranian foreign policy, such as "No Gaza, No Lebanon; My Life Is for Iran!"

That, I believe, was the moment in which the demonstrations developed a very different characteristic. Demonstrators began appearing with weapons and encouraging the use of violence. In the city of Izeh, a policeman was shot and killed by a hunting rifle; in Baluchistan, a soldier and another policeman were killed. In a social media post related to the latter incident, a man defended the killing, by writing: "We told them to join us, they declined, and while we are sorry we had to kill them, that only happened as the result of their own mistake." [My translation.]

These demonstrators burned public buildings, such as banks, town halls, police stations, etc. I believe that destruction was their agenda. Their slogans changed drastically: they shouted, "The Revolution [of 1979] Was a Mistake!" and "We Want the [son of the last] King to Return!" and other slogans. Interestingly, economic and social demands were replaced by political change, and, in fact, the topic of "regime change."

In one occasion, a demonstrator burned the Iranian flag. This was previously unheard of in Iran, and created a huge reaction on social media among Iranians of all walks of life. Iranian observers of the events questioned demonstrators' respect for Iran and national sovereignty. Another demonstrator in the city of Dorood hijacked a fire truck and allowed it to propel without a driver down a steep road, which ended up crushing a car and taking the lives of a father and his 13-year-old son on January 1st.

I have noticed that a large percentage of those active on social media have encouraged others to adopt a path of violence. One man shared a video of himself showing his gun and proclaiming, "We all have these toys [pointing at the gun]; there are many of us in Iran [which indicated he was not inside Iran] with weapons, and we will kill you all." Another Instagram user had a photo of knife and a religious outfit next to it, saying, "We will kill all the clerics." I noticed a post on Twitter encouraging everyone to "carry weapons, make Molotov cocktails, and come into the streets."

These social media posts have used photos from different historical times, while

(see PROTESTS IN IRAN, page 5)



Demonstration against the Rouhani government's economic policies in Kermanshah, Iran, on December 29, 2017

Photo courtesy of WikiCommons

immigrants who live in Iran. The city is one of the seven most important and holy places in Shi'a Islam, and it is often crowded with religious pilgrims.

But Mashhad is also an important pillar of the conservative sector of the Iranian regime. Indeed, the city represents the power base of the conservative cleric, Ebrahim Raisi, who was President Rouhani's main rival in the 2017 presidential campaign. (Rouhani

and his stated support for continuing and strengthening sanctions have kept foreign investments away from Iran, due to their fear of U.S. retribution. These are important factors in the financial crisis Iran faces today.

Yet while these reasons are important, they are not the only causes of Iran's ill economy. The nation has had a long history of corruption and financial mismanagement. Iran's dependency on oil and other

time and time again that the only acceptable way they wish to make change is through a nonviolent and civilized path.

Throughout this era, the majority of Iranians have been fully committed to peaceful and nonviolent methods of activism. This claim is made evident as one looks at various movements within the country as well as the countless peaceful demonstrations on various issues that take

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Mural in Exit Lobby of Louisville Metro Department of Corrections.
Lead artists: Joyce Ogden & Mary Yates with incarcerated artists, family members, and community partners. Commissioned by KY Foundation for Women Special Project, 2009.
 Photo courtesy of Judi Jennings

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HEALTHY FUTURE (continued from page 1)

two Special Project Community Coaching Teams to advance family friendly policies in Louisville Metro.

Together We Can Change the Future

Coordinated action and new policies and practices are urgently needed to improve children's health and support families affected by incarceration in our community.

Together, we can develop trauma informed training for educators, judges, police, and corrections staff.

Together, we can work to understand health equity and hold ourselves and public officials accountable for righting historic and current inequalities to create a healthier future for all children.

Together, we can develop and implement long term strategies that address the root causes and systems of power that make parental incarceration such a health hazard for the children of our community.

As the Health Equity report points out, we have the resources to work together, to find solutions to the root causes of poor health outcomes for all children, and create a Louisville Metro where we all thrive.

The first step in creating healthier futures for children with incarcerated parents in our community is the formation of a non-partisan, fully inclusive cross-sector citizen coalition, guided by those most directly affected. This coalition can coordinate and support comprehensive and sustainable policies and practices that support these children and families and create healthier futures for them.

This coalition is already underway, and

you can sign up to participate by contacting art4families@gmail.com.
 Together, we can make a difference.



Judi Jennings (pictured above) is a native of Kentucky with deep roots in the coalfields of Appalachia. The first in her family to attend college, she earned a Ph.D in British History, and is the author of books on articles on the abolition of the British slave trade. She worked at Appalshop, Inc. a media, arts and education center in eastern Kentucky, served as founding director of the UofL Women's Center and directed the Kentucky Foundation for Women from 1998 through 2014. She currently directs the Special Project, focusing on creating weekly artmaking activities to strengthen protective factors for children and families in the visitor's lobby of the Metro Louisville Jail.

Lorieta Hardin is a PhD candidate at Bellarmine University.



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ISOLATIONISM (continued from page 2)

over the world. One-quarter of the U.S.-based Nobel laureates of the last 50 years were foreign-born, and highly educated immigrants account for about one-third of U.S. innovation. In 2006, immigrants founded 25 percent of new high-tech companies with more than \$1 million in sales; this generated income and employment for the whole country. Innovation and technological growth are the catalysts of economic growth in technologically advanced countries like the United States, where attracting and training new scientists and engineers is integral to continued economic success. According to the data analyzed by Public Reference Bureau, the ratio of foreign-born to U.S.-born scientists and engineers doubled in little more than a decade: from approximately 6:1 to 3:1.

In conclusion, due to (1) the substantial anticipated gains in the U.S. GDP, average income, and jobs that correlate to legalization and citizenship, (2) the economic altering effects of immigration that galvanize investment, increase specialized job demand for natives, and stabilize economic growth in certain regions of the country, and (3) the fact that immigration enriches the available social capital of this country – which is imperative for future success – immigration must be understood as a force that benefits the economy rather than harms it. Furthermore, in consideration of foreign policy, how we treat and view immigrants will affect our relationships with other countries. We must establish a virtuous cycle of regimented acceptance that will enhance the efficiency of our country's diplomacy.

The current prevalence of anti-immigration rhetoric must be contextualized. This country has experienced a plethora of similar waves of xenophobia; the fight for social acceptance has proven to be an eternal struggle. But, this historical path is rich in victories and successes that demonstrate a common theme: illusions require the sustenance of illogicality to exist. Only through careful examination and the dissemination of relevant facts will negative and abrasive misconceptions be deconstructed.



Adam Khayat is a student at the University of Louisville and is pursuing a degree in Biology with minors in Philosophy and Middle Eastern and Islamic Studies. He is president of the Muslim Students Association, Managing Editor of the FORsooth newspaper, and a Brown Fellow. He hopes to attend medical school after graduation.



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TRUMP & DISABILITY RIGHTS

LABOR PAEANS

by Ira Grupper

In November 2015, Donald Trump gave us a taste of his respect for disabled people. New York Times reporter Serge Kovalski has a congenital joint disorder that is readily discernible when he stands and does his job.

At a campaign rally, soon thereafter, our president flailed his arms in what critics said was mockery of the reporter's disability. Internationally acclaimed violinist Itzhak Perlman, himself disabled, condemned Trump's disgusting behavior. Many others also were publicly outraged.

Reports DREDF (Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund): "People with disabilities make up one of the largest minorities in the U.S, with more than 25 percent living in poverty.

"However, some social and economic challenges the disabled face are not the consequence of physical limitations but are the result of a lack of accessibility provided by public policy..."

Comes now Betsy DeVos, our esteemed Secretary of Education. Reports The Hill (10/22/17): "The Education Department has rescinded 72 documents that laid out the rights of students with disabilities [per Washington Post]... (The rescissions included) information on how schools can spend federal funds allocated for special education, as well as guidance for parents on advocating for their children."

DeVos signed off on Trump's rules about which bathrooms transgender students can use. This was then followed by her rescinding rules that outlined how schools should investigate allegations of sexual assault—because, she felt, we need to better take into account the rights of the accused.

How did this Betsy DeVos develop her compassion? In 2016 the DeVos family was listed by Forbes Magazine as the 88th richest family in America, with an estimated net worth of \$5.4 billion. Her husband, Dick, is the former CEO of Amway, and she is the daughter-in-law of Amway's billionaire co-founder Richard DeVos.

National Public Radio reports (August 31, 2017): "(Erik Prince, Betsy's brother) first rose to prominence with his security firm Blackwater, which helped guard U.S. officials and government facilities overseas, most notably in Iraq. After selling the company in 2010, Prince fell off the U.S. radar for several years, during which he helped establish a mercenary army for the United Arab Emirates."

NPR analyzes Blackwater tactics: "On September 16, 2007, a convoy of Blackwater contractors guarding State Department employees entered a crowded square near the Mansour district in Baghdad, Iraq. Contractors opened fire first, shooting at a small car driven by a couple with their child that did not get out of the convoy's way as traffic slowed.

"...After a reported 20 Iraqi civilians were killed, including the couple and their child, who was...burned (next) to the mother's body after the car caught fire, the Iraqi government and populace exploded with anger." Blackwater disputes this account.

Back to Betsy DeVos. This is not the first time DeVos rolled back Education Department policy. She also scrapped rules that

outlined how schools should investigate allegations of sexual assault. She supports school choice, school voucher programs, and charter schools. She headed the All Children Matter PAC, which has received wide criticism for meddling in elections at the state level.

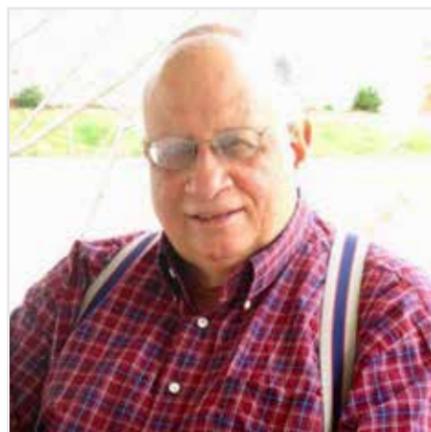
Analysis by the Center for American Progress shows that more than 15 million people with disabilities, including children and seniors, would be at risk under President Trump's and House Republicans' proposed Medicaid cuts. Many could be pushed out of their homes and into costly and isolating institutions as a result. But, that's just the tip of the iceberg:

"(W)e may no longer be able to rely on either the U.S. Department of Justice or the courts to protect and enforce disability rights under the Trump administration. In 2000, (the now-current) Attorney General Jeff Sessions lambasted the IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act) while still in the Senate, blaming the law for "the decline in civility and discipline in classrooms all over America." And Judge Neil Gorsuch, Trump's Supreme Court appointee, has evinced an extremely narrow view of not only the IDEA but also the Americans with Disabilities Act, going so far as to condemn the very use of lawsuits to enforce civil rights statutes. What's more, Republicans in Congress are currently advancing legislation that would make it more difficult to bring class actions, which serve as a critical tool for enforcing disability rights under the law."

What will happen to the more than 10 million people with disabilities who rely on programs, like community-based care, that promotes independent living opportunities and integrated work and community environments? Is the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) being rigorously enforced?

On a personal note. A fortune 50 corporation, in 1975, refused to hire me because of a disability. I filed a complaint under the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the predecessor to the ADA.

It took 1 1/2 long years, with the help of many organizations and volunteer attorneys, before I prevailed. I retired from the job when the company said I was too disabled to perform, with almost 24 years of seniority. Under the current, and worsening, conditions—I do not know for sure that I would prevail today.



Ira Grupper has been involved in civic affairs for over fifty nine years. He has been an organizer, a consultant, an activist and a teacher in the civil rights, labor, disability rights, anti-war and human rights movements, also covering many of these struggles as a journalist.

Regular Meeting Times for Area Organizations

- AMERICANS UNITED FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE—Third Friday at noon at Sullivan University, www.au.org. Contact Paul Simmons at 608-7517, pdsimmons14@gmail.com.
- AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL—Contact Sharon at 637-8951
- APPAF [American Palestine Public Affairs Forum]—www.appaf.org, 664-2761
- AUDUBON SOCIETY OF KENTUCKY—www.audubonsocietyofky.org
- BECKHAM BIRD CLUB—2nd Saturday, 7PM, www.beckhambirds.org
- BLACK LIVES MATTER—Every Sunday, 3PM, 3208 W. Broadway, chelm416@gmail.com
- BREAD FOR THE WORLD—Last Monday every other month, 239-4317
- CAPA [Citizens Against Police Abuse]—2nd Thursday, 778-8130. Meet at Braden Center, 3208 W. Broadway
- CART [Coalition for the Advancement of Regional Transportation]—3rd Wednesday, Union Station, TARC Board Room
- CEDAW [Convention for the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women]—2nd Tuesday, 6:30 PM, Bon Air Library, rosieblue1941@gmail.com
- CLOUT [Citizens of Louisville Organized and Working Together]—583-1267
- COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST—2nd Monday, 456-6586
- COMMON CAUSE—Ad hoc discussions. Continuous engagement. www.commoncause.org/ky
- COMMUNITY COALITION ON THE HEALTHY HOMETOWN—Every Monday, 5:30PM, 574-6209
- COMMUNITY FARM ALLIANCE OF KENTUCKY—(859)351-4508, cfaky.org
- COUNTER RECRUITMENT, "Aim Higher"—1st Sunday, 7PM, 899-4119
- EARTHSAVE POTLUCK—2nd Saturday, 6PM, 299-2520, www.LouisvilleEarthSave.org
- EVOLVE [Electric Vehicle Owners of Louisville]—Join us on facebook, stuartungar@icloud.com
- FAIRNESS CAMPAIGN—Quarterly community dialogues and volunteer opportunities, 893-0788
- FDR/LINCOLN LEGACY CLUB—1st Thursday, papajohn15@bellsouth.net
- FOR [Fellowship of Reconciliation]—2nd Thursday, www.louisvilleFOR.org, 609-7985 or 899-4119
- 15 THOUSAND FARMERS—15th day each month, www.15thousandfarmers.com
- FOOD IN NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY COALITION—2nd Tuesday, 6:30PM, 819-2957
- FORWARD RADIO PROJECT—296-1793, see page 6 for more info
- FRIENDS FOR HOPE—Support Group for Adult Cancer Survivors, 4th Wednesday, 6:30PM, 451-9600
- FRIENDSHIP FORCE OF LOUISVILLE—2nd Tuesday, 893-8436
- GREATER LOUISVILLE SIERRA CLUB—3rd Tuesday, 7PM, 644-0659
- GREEN CONVENE—2nd Tuesday, 6:30PM, www.greenconvene.org
- HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ADVOCACY BOARD—1st Monday, 9AM, 574-3631
- HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION ENFORCEMENT BOARD—1st Monday, 9:30AM, 574-3631
- HUMANISTS OF METRO LOUISVILLE—2nd Monday, 7PM, 896-4853
- INTERFAITH PATHS TO PEACE—3rd Wednesday, every other month, 214-7322
- IRFI [Islamic Research Foundation International]—Sundays at 6PM, 423-1988
- JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE—Third Wednesday, 7PM, 553-6451, barbaraberman2@gmail.com
- JUSTICE RESOURCE CENTER—www.louisvillejrc.org, 774-8624
- KENTUCKIANS FOR SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE—1st and 3rd Thursday, 5:30PM, Board Room in the Mezzanine of the Main Public Library, www.kyhealthcare.org, 636-1551
- KFTC [Kentuckians for the Commonwealth]—2nd Monday, 589-3188
- KTAG [Kentuckiana Taskforce Against Genocide]—www.facebook.com/KYAgainstGenocide, 553-6172
- KY ALLIANCE AGAINST RACIST & POLITICAL REPRESSION—1st Tuesday, 6:30PM, 778-8130
- KY COALITION TO ABOLISH THE DEATH PENALTY—www.kcadp.org, 636-1330
- KITLAC [KY Interfaith Taskforce on Latin America & The Caribbean]—kitlac@mailforce.net, 435-3265
- KRCRC [KY Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice]—www.krcrc.org, (866)606-0988
- KY WATERSHED WATCH—Volunteer water quality monitoring and training around the state every month. Call 1-800-928-0045
- LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS—www.lwvlouisville.org, 895-5218)
- LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR ISRAELI/PALESTINIAN STATES—3rd Sunday, 451-5658
- LOUISVILLE COMMITTEE FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST (LCPME)—First Monday, 7PM, 264-2437
- LOUISVILLE FORUM—2nd Wednesday, Noon, www.louisvilleforum.org, 329-0111
- LPAC [Louisville Peace Action Community]—www.louisvillepeace.org, 456-6914
- LOUISVILLE SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE (LSURJ)—Monthly meetings for learning and action, 558-7556
- LOUISVILLE WOMEN CHURCH—Meditation every Sunday, 473-8435
- LOUISVILLE YOUTH GROUP—Friday nights, 587-7755, www.louisvilleyouthgroup.com
- LOUISVILLIANS IN FAVOR OF EQUALITY (LIFE)—4th Sunday, 384-3875
- 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
- MOMS DEMAND ACTION FOR GUN SENSE—(571)278-2255, www.momsdemandaction.org
- MUHAMMAD ALI INSTITUTE FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE—U of L, 852-6372
- NAACP [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People]—3rd Monday, 776-7608
- NAMI [National Alliance for the Mentally Ill]—588-2008, www.namilouisville.org
- NATIONAL ACTION NETWORK, LOUISVILLE METRO CHAPTER—4th Sunday, 5PM, 778-8624 or (470)362-0317
- PARENTS, FAMILIES & FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS (P-FLAG)—233-1323, www.pflaglouisville.org
- PEACE EDUCATION PROGRAM—www.peaceeducationprogram.org, 589-6583
- RESULTS (a hunger lobby)—2nd Saturday, 451-4907
- SICKLE CELL ASSOCIATION—3rd Saturday, 569-2070
- SIERRA CLUB INNER CITY OUTINGS—2nd Thursday, 7:30PM, 558-0073
- LOUISVILLE SHOWING UP FOR RACIAL JUSTICE—Learning, support and action, 558-7556.
- SOCIAL CHANGE BOOK CLUB—3rd Monday, www.greenlistlouisville.com
- SOWERS OF JUSTICE NETWORK—www.sowersofjusticenetwork.org, sowersofjusticenetwork@gmail.com
- STAND UP SUNDAY/STAND UP LOUISVILLE—Every Sunday, 3PM, 3208 W. Broadway, chelm416@gmail.com
- URBAN LEAGUE YOUNG PROFESSIONALS—2nd Monday, 6PM, 561-6830
- VETERANS FOR PEACE, Louisville Chapter 168—500-6915, CRawertTrainer@twc.com
- WOMEN IN TRANSITION (WIT)—Every Wednesday, 6-8 PM, 636-0160

Note: If your group would like to be added to this list, or if information needs to be updated, please let us know by emailing calendar.peace@gmail.com

How Are We Doing?

What do you think about this issue of FORsooth?
Do you have any ideas of how we can improve?
Is there something you want to see more of? Let us know!

Contact the Editor: adamkhayat10@gmail.com

CALENDAR FOR PEACEMAKERS - MAY 2018

Meeting times are subject to change for some of these events. Before attending these events, it's best to contact the sponsoring organization to verify the time and place of the event. Please e-mail us information about your peace and justice events to calendar.peace@gmail.com

May 1 to 31 **ARTISTIC REFLECTIONS OF SEOUL AND LOUISVILLE.** The Crane House. Daily. See examples of hanji as an artistic medium. This experimental series of work was created entirely with Korean handmade papers called hanji and incorporates reflections of both the artist's birthplace, Seoul, South Korea, and her current home, Louisville. Visit <http://www.cranehouse.org>.

May 1 to 31 **SACK LUNCHES FOR THE HOMELESS.** Wayside Christian Mission. Open every day. Help us assemble sack lunches for men and women who are working and away from the Mission at mealtimes. Sack lunches are also used by our Good Samaritan Patrol. Visit <http://wcm1.weebly.com>.

May 1 to Jun 24 **SHINING A LIGHT PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT** The Muhammad Ali Center. See thought-provoking photos on survivors of gender-based violence, livelihoods, educations, rights and justice. Visit <http://www.alicenter.org>.

May 1 to Jul 1 **WOMEN IN 20TH CENTURY ART.** Speed Museum. See works of art by women artists and designers in the years after the Age of Impressionism. Visit www.speedmuseum.org.

May 2 (Wed) **VOLUNTEER FOR REFUGEE FAMILIES** Catholic Charities, 5:30pm. First Wednesday every month. Learn more about our refugee & immigration settlement program and family assistance efforts. Visit <http://cclou.org>.

May 2 (Wed) **THE LOUISVILLE SUSTAINABILITY FORUM.** Every first Wednesday. Sustainability and relationships that create a community for change. Bring your lunch. Noon to 1:45 PM, Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, the Barn at 1924 Newburg Road.

May 3 (Thurs) **KENTUCKY SINGLE PAYER HEALTH CARE.** Every first & third Thursday, 5:30PM at Main Public Library. Call Kay Tillow at 636-1551.

May 5 (Sat) **INTERFAITH SILENT MEDITATION.** Every first Saturday. 9:30AM. Brief meditation instruction and longer periods of silence, interspersed with opportunities for walking meditation. Passionist Earth & Spirit Center, the Barn at 1924 Newburg Road. Call 502-452-2749 for information. Visit <http://earthandspiritcenter.org>.

May 5 (Sat) **LOUISVILLE COMMUNITY AGRICULTURE.** Every Saturday morning. Also, other days and times. 26 farmers' markets from California neighborhood to Norton Commons. Visit <http://www.louisvilleky.gov/HealthyHometown>.

May 5 (Sat) **PRESERVE OUR URBAN FORESTS.** Olmstead Parks Conservancy. Almost every Saturday. Our tasks include invasive plant removal, mulching, painting or general park beautification in our various Olmstead parks and parkways. Gloves, tools and guidance provided. Be sure to sign-up before coming out. Visit <http://www.olmsteadparks.org>.

May 5 (Sat) | **HELP BUILD A HOME.** Habitat for Humanity of Metro Louisville. Almost every Saturday. Work alongside our sweat-equity families. Ask about our non-construction opportunities too. Visit <https://louisvillehabitat.org>.

May 5 (Sat) | **CANVASS NEIGHBORHOODS FOR FRESH FOOD.** Saturdays and Sundays. Join us any time. Fresh Stop Project volunteers take orders door to door for locally grown fruits and vegetables. Visit <http://newrootsproduce.org>.

May 6 (Sun) | **AIM HIGHER.** Focuses on military counter-recruitment. Every first Sunday at 7 PM. Discuss conscientious objection, military recruitment, and the possibility for high school students to "opt out" of having their names given to recruiters. Call Jim Johnson, 262-0148 or e-mail FORnonviolence@gmail.com.

May 6 (Sun) | **COMMUNITY COMPOSTING.** UofL Belknap Campus. Every Sunday, Noon to 2PM. Help us turn trash to treasure. Haul home some rich compost for your garden. Dress to get dirty. Tools provided. Visit <http://louisville.edu/sustainability>.

May 7 (Mon) | **REAL PEOPLE, REAL CHALLENGES, REAL SOLUTIONS.** Volunteers of America Family Emergency Shelter, morning and evening sessions. One-hour interactive tour of VOA's work and programs for self-determination. Call 636-4660 to RSVP.

May 8 (Tues) | **MOVIMIENTO DE MUJERES LATINA -- LATINA WOMEN'S MOVEMENT,** La Casita Center, every second Tuesday, 5:30PM. Network, mentor, find friends and share. Call 322-4036 for more information.

May 8 (Tues) | **AMERICANA COMMUNITY CENTER,** 6pm, Volunteer orientation every 2nd Tuesday. Help bridge the gap for our refugee and immigrant neighbors. Visit <http://americanacc.org>.

May 9 (Wed) | **Y-NOW CHILDREN OF PRISONERS MENTORING.** Luncheon at YMCA Safe Place. 2nd Wednesday each month. Learn how you can help break the cycle through mentoring and encouragement. RSVP to 635-5233.

May 9 (Wed) **LOUISVILLE FORUM.** Noon at Vincenzo's Downtown. Every 2nd Wednesday. Speakers on current public issues. Non-partisan discussion. For details, call 329-0111.

May 9 (Wed) **COMPASSIONATE LOUISVILLE.** Noon. Meeting locations rotate. Help monitor the progress of Metro Louisville's ten-year campaign for compassion. Visit <http://compassionatelouisville.weebly.com> for more information.

May 10 (Thurs) **EVERYONE READS TRAINING.** JCPS VanHoose Education Center, 4PM. Every 2nd Thursday. Join our communitywide effort to improve reading skills. Visit <https://apps.jefferson.kyschools.us/vounteer>.

May 11 (Fri) **A GLIMPSE OF ETERNITY.** The Louisville Astronomical Society at dusk in Tom Sawyer Park. Every 2nd Friday weather permitting. Look through telescopes at planets, our moon, stars, double stars, the Orion nebula, and other wonders. Visit <http://www.louisville-astro.org/>.

May 12 (Sat) **EARTHSAVE OF LOUISVILLE.** Crescent Hill Ministries, 6PM to 8PM. Every 2nd Saturday. Discuss healthy food and behavior change. Bring a plant-based dish and share your recipe. Mix, mingle, music. Call 299-9520 for more information.

May 12 (Sat) **CITIZENS' CLIMATE LOBBY.** Main Public Library, Noon. Every 2nd Saturday. Help plan efforts to lobby for state legislation to combat climate change. For more info contact Jean at jmchri@gmail.com or call 502-634-3114.

May 13 (Sun) **VIGIL FOR PEACE.** Louisville Peace Action Committee (LPAC) and Veterans for Peace Chapter 168, 4PM to 5PM. Every 2nd Sunday. Bardstown Rd. at Douglas Blvd. Bring a sign. Remember those suffering from conflicts in the Middle East. For more information, call Harold Trainer, 502-418-4083.

May 13 (Sun) **THE NONVIOLENT CITIES PROJECT.** Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service, every 2nd Sunday at 2:30PM. Help us spread and apply the principles of non-violent action here and now. Call 812-280-0665 or email rodwsm@gmail.com for more information.

May 15 (Tues) **GROWING FOOD AND COMMUNITY.** 15 Thousand Farmers at Dismas St. Ann's on Algonquin Pkwy, the 15th of every month. Share ideas and experiences about growing your own food. Taste samples. Visit www.15thousandfarmers.com.

May 16 (Wed) **JEWISH VOICE FOR PEACE.** Highlands-Shelby Park Public Library. Every third Wednesday. Help us plan for future and assess our accomplishments. Call 502-553-6451 or e-mail barbaraberman2@gmail.com.

May 17 (Thurs) **CHAT WITH POLICE.** 6PM. Open dialogue with police officers. Meetings places rotate month to month. Visit <https://louisvilleky.gov/events>.

May 17 (Thurs) **MENTAL ILLNESS SUPPORT & ADVOCACY.** NAMI Louisville every third Thursday at 3PM. Also Saturdays and Sundays. Support for families. Draw on years of experience. Visit www.namilouisville.org.

May 17 (Thurs) **COURT APPOINTED SPECIAL ADVOCATES FOR CHILDREN (CASA).** Orientation, Noon to 1PM. Learn how you can help defend the rights of abused and neglected children in our community. Call 595-4911 to RSVP

May 22 (Tues) **FREE NONPROFIT START-UP CLINIC.** Center for Nonprofit Excellence, 3PM. Every 4th Tuesday. Learn the fundamentals, avoid pitfalls, and find direction. Visit www.cnpe.org.

May 28 (Mon) **JEFFERSON COUNTY ECONOMIC JUSTICE TEAM.** Meeting at the Main Public Library. Every 4th Monday at 6:30PM. Help us organize and assess our local campaign for equitable development, affordable housing and healthcare, and participatory budgeting. Lean and share. Visit <https://www.kftc.org>.

May 29 (Tues) **KENTUCKY REFUGEE MINISTRIES LUNCH & LEARN.** Noon. Learn more about our refugee & immigration settlement program and citizenship tutoring classes. Visit <http://kyrm.org>.

May 29 to Jun 17 **HOST A BELARUSSIAN.** World Affairs Council of Kentucky and Southern Indiana. Ten women leaders from the public, private, and nonprofit fields are participating in USAID-sponsored program for international professional. Forge lasting memories and make lifelong friendships. Visit <https://www.worldkentucky.org>.

July 2 (Wed) **DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSIONS TO THE JULY/AUGUST CALENDAR ONLINE.** Please email calendar.peace@gmail.com.

July 26 (Thurs) **DEADLINE FOR THE SEPT. ISSUE OF FORsooth.** Email articles to adamkhayat10@gmail.com. Please email new or updated calendar listings to calendar.peace@gmail.com.

August 16 (Thurs) **FORsooth LABELING PARTY.** Presbyterian Seminary, Winn Center. 6:30 PM. We need volunteers! Many hands make light work, and the opposite is also true! So please join us if you can. Call 451-5658 for more information

OUT OF TOWN

May 1 to 29 **FAIRNESS MEETINGS.** ACLU of Kentucky. Help us promote LGBT Rights in Kentucky and join our meeting in Versailles, Georgetown, Frankfort, Bowling Green, Berea, and Shelbyville. Visit <http://www.aclu-ky.org>.

May 1 (Tues) **KENTUCKY WATERSHED WATCH TRAINING WORKSHOP.** Learn to take qualified water samples for professional lab analysis and collect basic field data. Visit <http://water.ky.gov/wsw/Pages/default.aspx>.

May 3 (Thurs) **INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL FOR PEACE.** Lexington, KY at West Main and Broadway, 5:30PM to 6:30PM. Every Thursday for eleven years. For more information, visit www.peaceandjustice.org.

May 7 (Mon) **KENTUCKY MIGRANT NETWORK COALITION.** Lexington KY at the Cardinal Valley Center, 12PM. Every first Monday. Get better acquainted with Kentucky's immigrant and refugee families. For more information, call 859-258-3824.

May 17 (Thurs) **ORGANIC AGRICULTURE WORKING GROUP.** KSU Research Farm, Frankfort, KY. Every third Thursday. Participate in efforts to develop local food economies with the Community Farm Alliance and others. Visit www.communityfarmalliance.org.

May 19 (Sat) **KFTC ORGANIZING ACADEMY.** Kentuckians for The Commonwealth, London, KY, 10:30AM to 4:30PM. Lean and practice meeting facilitation, creating agendas, and grassroots fundraising. Visit <https://www.kftc.org>.

AT THE LOUISVILLE FREE PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Visit www.lfpl.org for more information.

May 1 (Tues) **HOUR OF POWER BOOK DISCUSSIONS.** Newburg Public Library, every first Tuesday, 6:30 PM. Discuss books on personal efforts.

May 2 (Wed) **MEETING OF THE MINDS.** Crescent Hill Public Library, 7PM. Discuss current topics with your friends and neighbors.

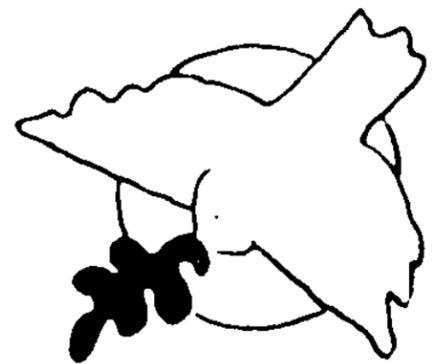
May 2 (Wed) **ENGLISH CONVERSATION CLUB.** Every Saturday at the Iroquois & Newburg Public Library Branches, 3PM. Also South Central on Mondays and Main Library on Wednesdays at 7PM.

May 10 (Thurs) **CITIZENSHIP CLASS.** Iroquois Public Library, 11AM. Every Thursday. Instruction by Kentucky Refugee Ministries.

May 22 (Tues) **RESILIENCE & COMMUNITY SERVICES.** Main Library, 10AM. Discuss Metro services available to homeless and low-income residents.

May 23 (Wed) **GRANTSEEKING BASICS FOR WORTHY CAUSES.** Main Library, 1:30PM. Learn to research and find the right grant for your cause. Practice the essential elements of grant proposals.

May 26 (Sat) **LA CUCARACHIA MARTINA.** Shively Public Library, 1PM. See Teatro Tercera Llamada's presentation of this inspiring bilingual play. Bring your family.



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