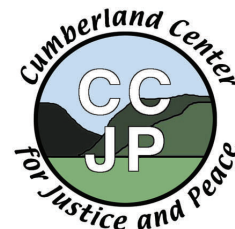


LOCAL ACTION and beyond . . .

the journal of the Cumberland Center for Justice and Peace



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Local Citizen Activism Delays Nuclear Plant

by Leslie Lytle

On March 26, CCJP hosted a presentation and affidavit signing session in response to the Tennessee Valley Authority's application for a license to construct and operate two nuclear reactors at its Bellefonte site near Scottsboro, Alabama.

More than twenty-five people attended the meeting, with others who could not be present phoning to find out what they might do to express their discomfort with TVA's Bellefonte plans.

The proposed reactors would be cooled with water drawn from the Tennessee River, with a net water loss of 66%—8.6 billion gallons per year—due to evaporation. The plant would return 91° water to the river, a temperature devastating to most aquatic life.

Equally serious concerns included the potential for radioactive air pollution; that the Bellefonte site is located on an active seismic fault; that there is no long-term off-site storage available for the high-level nuclear waste the plant would generate; and the cost inefficiency of TVA's strategy. (The estimated price tag for each reactor is \$20 billion; \$20 billion worth of energy efficiency spending by TVA would result in energy consumption reduction equal to the amount of energy one Bellefonte reactor would generate.)

A number of those attending the March 26 meeting joined the Bellefonte Efficiency and Sustainability Team (BEST), a Chattanooga area chapter of the Blue Ridge Environmental Defense

League (BREDL), devoted to stopping construction of the Bellefonte plant. BREDL has years of experience and a track record of successes in championing environmental causes. A PowerPoint presentation by BEST/BREDL member Sara Fitzgerald highlighted the hazards and economic unfeasibility of the project. Sewanee notary public and attorney Peter Trenchi notarized citizens' affidavits authorizing BEST/BREDL to represent them in opposing the issuance of a license to TVA by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

The NRC had designated April 8 as the deadline for intervening in opposition to TVA's Bellefonte application. A public scoping hearing was scheduled for April 3 in Scottsboro. The NRC would consider comments only from individuals living within a 50-mile radius of the Bellefonte site. Sewanee and much of the Cumberland Plateau fell within that radius.

Sewanee resident Yolande Gottfried, a member of CCJP and BEST/BREDL attended the April 3 hearing. Gottfried received a standing ovation when she asked if the NRC had ever refused an application for construction of a nuclear power plant. An NRC official delivered a lengthy reply, explaining that a New Jersey application was initially denied, but later approved when the New Jersey applicant addressed concerns raised by the NRC.

The day before the hearing, April 2,

(Continued on page 3)

Inside this issue:

Community Responses to 2
Emerging Disease Threat

Haiti Outreach 3

CCJP Awards Banquet 4

Joe Lujan: Persevering for 5
Peaceful Change

CCJP Health Care 6
Committee Investigates...

CCJP Receives Gift for Films 6

Board Member 7
Spotlight

Did You Know... 8

Did You Know, 9
Environment

Poetry Page 10

Good News 11

Upcoming Events 12

The Real Cost of War 12

Many Thanks to the Following Members for Their Support!!

Sarah Little
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John and Tan Hille
Robin and David Michaels
James Dunkley
Evie and Brown Patterson
S. Dixon Myers
Charles and Joy Lord
Marc and Lydia Boroughs
Katherine Frazier
Marianna Handler

Community Responses to an Emerging Disease Threat

By Henry Hamman

One night in February this year I went to bed feeling fine. The next morning, purple blotches stained my lower left leg, and a lump about the size of half a hard-boiled egg bulged from my calf. A few days later, I learned I had become another statistic, succumbing to a disease I'd never heard of: community-associated methicillin resistant staphylococcus aureus, more commonly known as CA-MRSA.

CA-MRSA and its better-known, more frequently occurring relative, hospital-related MRSA (HA-MRSA), are drug-resistant staphylococcus infections that usually affect the skin but can invade other parts of the body, including the lungs, bones, and other organs. Both forms of the disease are potentially life threatening. MRSA infections have become the most frequent forms of infection severe enough to send Americans to emergency rooms. A study published in autumn 2007 in *JAMA*, the Journal of the American Medical Association, estimated that in 2005 nearly 100,000 people in this country contracted some form of MRSA, and nearly 19,000 people died from its effects, making MRSA more deadly than AIDS in the United States.

Good luck and our excellent, caring doctor saved me: I was promptly and correctly diagnosed, spent nearly three days in Emerald-Hodgson Memorial Hospital for a course of intravenous antibiotics, and after several days of recovery, all traces of the disease appeared to be gone. I have learned, however, that CA-MRSA is a real danger to the people of our community.

As Sewanee is a close community, many people heard about my hospital stay, and several kindly asked what had happened. Upon learning I'd contracted CA-MRSA, a startling number said that they, a family member, or friend had also contracted MRSA infections. One friend told about an abscess the size of a grapefruit that appeared on her hip. Another said her husband had gone to bed one night feeling perfectly healthy and awakened the next morning with a raging fever and MRSA pneumonia.

Of particular concern locally are two facts about CA-MRSA. First, one means of infection is through insect bites, scratches from pets, or superficial cuts and abrasions that are normal parts of country living. Second, the incidence of CA-MRSA is higher among the poor and elderly. As economic conditions deteriorate and the local population ages, we can expect to see more CA-MRSA.

We are likely to hear more bad news about MRSA in coming months and years: new strains of the disease are ap-

pearing that are resistant to more antibiotics. Unfortunately, pharmaceutical companies are no longer developing new antibiotics at the same rate they once did. Cynics suggest this slowed rate is due to the relative profitability of drugs like Viagra and Botox compared with new antibiotics. More worrying news is that CA-MRSA is more virulent than HA-MRSA, and CA-MRSA is finding its way into hospitals and nursing homes.

We can take widely agreed steps to protect others and ourselves from CA-MRSA. The simplest yet most overlooked action is frequent, thorough hand washing. Sanitizing equipment shared with others, from telephones to computer keyboards to gym equipment, is also effective. Not sharing towels, toothbrushes, and other personal care items makes good sense. We should insist that public facilities provide good sanitary facilities and complain publicly when we see violations. To convince skeptics to take MRSA seriously: log on to www.youtube.com and search for MRSA. The graphic videos of these infections are nauseating but should convince even teenagers who think they'll live forever to take precautions. When you get an insect bite or scratch, thoroughly disinfect it with a strong antiseptic, and keep the wound covered until it heals. This should protect you from infection, and if you develop a MRSA infection, you'll protect others from exposure.

One behavioral change can be difficult: we should insist that others take sanitary precautions. When I was in the hospital, I forced myself to ask nurses and others to wash their hands before and after they cared for me. They took this surprisingly well: several figured out that our doctor had coached me. At a doctor's office or laboratory, you have the right and responsibility (to yourself and others) to make sure that anyone who draws blood wears gloves and properly disinfects your skin before puncturing it. Why? Research suggests about 30 percent of the US population carry MRSA. You have no way of knowing whether your doctor's or nurse's hands have just touched one of those carriers or touched items where MRSA pathogens reside.

I have no idea how I became infected. It is clear that these precautions will not eradicate MRSA. Nonetheless, we need to remember that as responsible members of this community, we have an ethical and moral duty to do what we can to protect each other.

Henry Hamman writes frequently for The Financial Times and other publications. He and his wife, Kathy, also a freelance writer and editor, recently launched a small press, Plateau Books, that will publish non-fiction and academic books.

Haiti Outreach: A Nation of Contradictions

By Jennifer Dusenberry

Haiti is the saddest place I have ever been, with the happiest, most hopeful people that I have ever met. After three flight delays and an unexpected night in Miami, we finally landed in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. For the next nine days, our lives would be filled with the contradictions of Haiti. The houses were colorful and beautiful mountains surrounded us. However, the colorful houses had dirt floors and people jammed in every corner. Instead of signs displaying support for political candidates, their names were spray painted on walls. The mountains were gorgeous but bare, and the roads leading up to them made a drive that would last 45 minutes in the states take four hours. Some of us were lucky enough to participate in a voodoo ceremony, and absurdly, the Hungan's (i.e. the priest's) cell phone went off. (Haitians get better cell phone reception than residents of Montego.)

The University of the South students who traveled to Haiti could talk for days about the wonderful, overwhelming adventure, and all of us would attribute the remarkable experience to the amazing leaders of the trip—Bruce Baird, a Sewanee area dentist; Sandy Baird, his wife who runs his office; their son, Matt Baird, who practices medicine in Virginia; Diane Petrilla, a Sewanee area physician; and Dixon Myers and Angela Galbreath, from the University Outreach Office.

Sometimes assisted by translators and sometimes not, our adult guides worked long hours in small hot rooms seeing

Nuclear Plant Delayed

(Continued from page 1)

BEST/BREDL filed a motion with the NRC requesting that the hearing be postponed and the intervention period extended because TVA's incomplete application lacked critical data related to water surface flow and earthquakes, resulting in three violations making it impossible for the NRC to complete the safety and environmental review of the proposed project. The earthquake-susceptible conditions of the region are a function of the sinkhole-prone karst topography which can become unstable and crumble, a phenomenon exacerbated during dry spells.

Four days after the scoping hearing, on April 7, the NRC granted "a 60-day extension...for interested persons to file a petition of intervention." The NRC order was wholly in response to citizen activism coordinated by the BEST/BREDL coalition. The new deadline is June 6! There is still time to express your concern to the NRC by joining BEST/BREDL and, via affidavit, authorizing them to represent your interests. For information contact Leslie Lytle at sllytle@blomand.net or 931/592-6594.

endless lines of patients and providing these people with health care that many would have gone without their entire lives. When we ran out of supplies, Dr. Petrilla went to local stores to buy more with her own money, and Sandy Baird hopped on a motorcycle taxi and went in search of syringes for anesthesia.

And meanwhile, although we were college students pursuing degrees like Religion and English, we were not just standing on the sidelines. Bruce and Sandy let all of the students work with dentistry patients and even pull teeth. I'll never forget pulling a tooth, and looking at Bruce to tell him, "I can't believe you just let me do that." Bruce trained Kit Deppe, a pre-dental student, to do the entire tooth-pulling procedure, including anesthesia. Chane Rennie told me that, after working with Diane and Matt, he could tell the month of a patient's pregnancy by feeling her stomach.

Haiti was an amazing experience, both happy and sad, exciting and overwhelming. Asked to sum up Haiti after we got back, I chose to relay the words of Mossima, a Haitian student at my homestay—"Haiti definitely has its problems, but we are improving everyday. *I am proud of Haiti.*"

Jennifer Dusenberry is a rising junior at the University and president elect of the Sewanee Student Peace Coalition.

Special Thanks to the Following Members for "In-kind" Contributions

Elizabeth Koella (for the banquet centerpieces)
Diane Jones (for the banquet award certificates)
Connie Kelly, Kat O'Donohue, Marianne Tyndall, Robin Clark, Philip Lorenz, Jennifer Raulston, Tom Boughan (for banquet set-up, clean-up, and beverages)
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Ann Oliver, Tom Boughan, Samantha Fuqua (for helping paint the office)
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Linda Ayers and Jeanie Stephenson (for booth set-up at the Student Peace Festival)
Tom Boughan (for film research)
Ann Oliver, Marilyn Davidheiser, Philip Lorenz, Ruth Wendling (for aiding in identifying a Dora Turner Scholar)

The aim of an argument or discussion should not be victory, but progress.—Joseph Joubert, author (1754-1824)

**CCJP's Annual Awards Banquet—
*Celebrating Pilgrims on "The Road to Where"***

By Leslie Lytle

CCJP held its annual Awards Banquet on February 29 at the Sewanee Inn. In spite of torrential rain, more than fifty people turned out to share in the feast, honor this year's award recipients, and hear keynote speaker Michelle Benjamin.

World War II veteran, educator, and longtime CCJP member Joe Lujan received emeritus status in recognition of the role he played in furthering CCJP's mission, particularly for his work to end segregation at Arnold Engineering and Development Center, in area factories, and in the Franklin County Public Schools.

David and Glenda Clark of Tullahoma were recognized for the role they played in founding the Tullahoma based Highland Rim Peace and Justice Council and Go-Green, an organization dedicated to fostering environmental sustainability on a local level. Modeled after CCJP, Highland Rim hosts monthly peace vigils, as well as sponsoring forums addressing peace and justice issues. CCJP and Highland Rim have come to function as sister organizations, by promoting parallel agendas and cooperative efforts greatly strengthening and enhancing the efficacy of the peace and justice community in Middle Tennessee.

CCJP founding member the Rev. Jack Gessell presented a special award to Ann Oliver for her many years of service on CCJP's board and her unfailing support and presence from the very early days in furthering the Center's mission.

The highlight of the evening was Michelle Benjamin's keynote address titled, "The Road to Where." In 1965, at the age of 14, Benjamin led the way in integrating her high school in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, as one of 11 people of color among a student body of more than 2000 Caucasians. From the racism and prejudice she encountered over the years, she learned fear, anger, and a sense that she was in some essential way "lacking." When Benjamin made the decision to open a law practice in Winchester, Tennessee, a local colleague advised her to reconsider, insisting that she had "two strikes" against her—she was black and she was a woman. "That was last year," Michelle Benjamin replied. The colleague observed wryly that for all appearances nothing had changed. "A year ago I believed being black and being a woman were strikes against me," Benjamin answered—"That's what changed." Physically she was the same person, but she had arrived at a place in her mind where her vision of herself had altered dramatically. Benjamin lauded CCJP for taking the initiative in difficult and unpopular campaigns, counseling perseverance when confronted with criticism and hostility—"It's what you believe about yourself that counts."



Keynote speaker Michelle Benjamin



Honoree Ann Oliver with the Rev. Jack Gessell



Honorees David and Glenda Clark

CCJP News & Events Continued...

Joe Lujan: *Persevering for Peaceful Change*

Excerpted by Kathy Hamman from the CCJP Awards Banquet tribute to Joe Lujan

Joe Lujan had a vision early on of what he wanted in life. As a child on his way to the black grade school in Sewanee, he saw the college students on campus, inspiring him to seek out an upper level education, but he never dreamed he would attend college. Joe Lujan would go on to make a lasting impact on many people's lives as an educator and coach in the public schools and as a social justice and civil rights activist for more than 40 years.

In 1943, shortly after Joe married, he was called into the military. He tried to go into the Army, having heard that the Navy only allowed blacks to work as stewards, bakers, or cooks. He was sent to the Navy anyway, trained as a hospital corpsman, and graduated with the first class of black corpsmen. His training in pharmacology, first aid, minor surgery, and physiology paid life-long dividends, as did his experiences traveling all over the Pacific on the way to Japan. While he was gone, his wife Ethel attended college and prepared for her 40-year career as an educator.

Mr. Lujan earned his bachelor's degree in health and physical education at Nashville's Tennessee State University and later returned to TSU for a master's degree in health. During the Korean conflict in 1950, he was recalled to active duty as a hospital corpsman with the Marines. He taught and coached at the all-black Townsend High School and, following integration, at Franklin County High School, Tullahoma High School, and the University of Tennessee.

Some of the most valuable lessons Mr. Lujan learned took place at the Highlander Folk School. Beginning in 1952, he attended workshops, met civil rights pioneers Septima Clark and May Justis, and heard young Martin Luther King, Jr. speak at the integrated school. He attended former first lady Eleanor Roosevelt's presentation at the school in 1958.

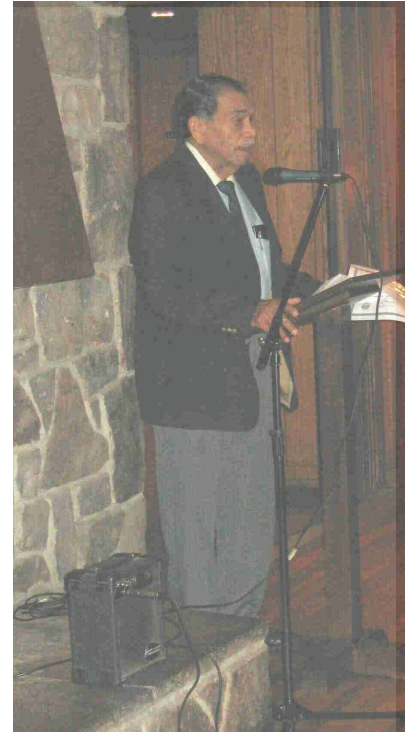
Seeing blacks and whites working, living, and playing together at the Highlander School—taking a grassroots approach to finding common ground for dealing with issues of inequality and injustice—inspired Mr. Lujan and other local activists like Dora Turner, Johnnie Fowler, Scott Bates, and Marvin Goodstein, to bring the same kinds of changes to Franklin County and beyond.

Mr. Lujan was among local civil rights pioneers who challenged the status quo of only hiring blacks as custodians at Arnold Engineering Development Center. His group succeeded in getting AEDC to accept qualified black applicants for such positions as engineers, technicians, secretaries, upper level managers, and electricians. They then worked successfully to integrate all but one of the local factories.

Despite a sterling reputation as an outstanding coach, particularly in basketball and football, Mr. Lujan was turned down for the position of head football coach at Franklin County High School, which was desegregated in 1966. Yet, his leadership and expert coaching led the FCHS girls' basketball team to the state championships in 1969.

Joe Lujan's courage, intelligence, curiosity, compassion, and perseverance carried him through some rough times in a society that only grudgingly accepted blacks. He took a stand when it was risky and unpopular to do so. Such actions could jeopardize individuals' careers and all too often their lives. Mr. Lujan's life exemplifies thinking globally and acting locally. Joe Lujan literally helped to change the face of Franklin County.

Kathy Hamman is a freelance author and editor, and, with her husband, publisher of Plateau Books, specializing in nonfiction titles "with a lasting significance."



Emeritus Honoree Joe Lujan



Joe Lujan WW II

CCJP Health Care Committee...

Investigates community transportation and the relationship between health and learning by Connie Kelley

The problem of transportation is a big one for many residents of this area, so committee members have researched transportation sources available to Franklin County residents for medical appointments and other services. Through the committee's efforts, details about South Central Area Transit Service (SCATS) and Franklin County Public Transport will be available at the Sewanee Senior Center and the Community Action Committee (CAC) office in Otey Parish. For reservations and additional information on both services, phone the Franklin County Senior Center (967-0741). Trips within Franklin County are \$2 one way. Longer trips are available and costs vary accordingly. Everyone is eligible for these services.

Responding to the awareness that the health of children and youth affects their ability to learn, a report from Bonita Nolan, coordinator of the Office of Coordinated School Health, Franklin County Schools, details a number of studies, new activities, and curriculum begun this school year or planned for next year. The critical health behaviors contributing to the leading causes of disease and death in youth and young adults include: inadequate physical activity, unhealthy eating habits, tobacco use, sexual behaviors that may result in STD's and unintended pregnancies, alcohol and other drug use, and behaviors that contribute to unintended injuries and violence (risky behaviors). Critical health behaviors are being addressed in Franklin County

Schools by the following activities and programs: a minimum of 90 minutes of physical activity per week; additional funding for physical education programs; health screenings for vision, hearing, blood pressure, height and weight, and scoliosis; alcohol and drug education and positive peer pressure through the P³ Club at Huntland High School, the REAL program, and the "Scene Smoking" curriculum; and STD education, Grief Support, and Parenting and Anger Management classes for teens and adults sponsored in coordination with the Campora Family Resource Center.

The above information was made available to the CCJP Health Care Committee through the Franklin County Health Council (FCHC), which meets on the third Thursday of each month. Meetings are open to the public. Call the Franklin County Health Department for details (967-3826). The Health Care Committee has dispersed copies of the FCHC's Franklin County Community Resource Directory to local doctors' and dentists' offices, the Sewanee Senior Center, CAC, Sewanee Elementary School, and the post office. The Health Care Committee welcomes anyone interested in joining us! Current members are Marianne Tyndall, Robbin Clark, April Minkler, Kathy Hamman, Connie Kelley, and Phil Loney.

CCJP Receives Gift for Films

CCJP has continued to host documentary films in conjunction with the Sewanee Community Center's free-film series. The Focus Sewanee Community Action Team recently gave CCJP a \$100 gift designated for community screenings of films that promote environmental awareness. Inspired by the Focus the Nation initiative, Focus Sewanee organized in March of 2007 to help educate the community about global climate change and what can be done to address the problems fostered by the phenomenon. To that end, the Community Action Team hosted monthly activities and joined with CCJP to sponsor several films over the course of the past year.

This spring's films offerings included *Iraq for Sale: The War Profiteers*, with a follow-up discussion led by Peter Frogner who lived and worked in Saudi Arabia in the 1970s as a computer programmer for the Arabian-American Oil Company; and *Uncounted: The New Math of American Elections*, an eye-opening documentary on problems with the voting process in the U.S. Journalist and attorney Katherine Frazier led the follow-up Q & A. CCJP welcomes suggestions for future films. Contact Leslie Lytle at slytle@blomand.net or 931/592-6594. (Please research the cost and procedure for obtaining screening rights in conjunction with making recommendations.)



CCJP's Monthly Third Friday Vigils calling for an end to the Iraq occupation began in July 2007. Pictured above, veteran and rising peace activists, at the March 21 vigil in Sewanee. Left to right: Aaron Carlos, Ava Carlos, Reese Michaels, Sophia Carlos, Robin Hille Michaels.

Board Member Spotlight
The Reverend Walter Brownridge



The Reverend (Fr.) Walter Brownridge is an Episcopal (Anglican) Priest from the Diocese of Ohio currently serving as Associate Dean for Community Life at the School of Theology, Sewanee: The University of the South. He holds a M.A. in International Relations from the University of San Diego (1985) and a J.D. from Georgetown University (1987) and a Masters of Divinity from the General Theological Seminary in New York City (2000). Prior to entering seminary, Walter practiced law and worked in public policy for ten years. In Washington, D.C., he served as Special Counsel and Assistant to a U.S. Senator and as a Trial Attorney in the Criminal Division of the U.S. Justice Department prosecuting white-collar crime. He later moved to Cleveland, Ohio, taking a position as Executive Assistant to the Mayor/Counsel to the Chief of Police for the City of Cleveland.

Fr. Brownridge has long maintained a scholarly and personal interest in political theology and the role of religion and faith-based organizations in public policy. Following seminary, he was appointed Assistant Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Shaker Heights, Ohio. In the Diocese of Ohio, he served on the Peace and Justice Commission and The Episcopal Peace Fellowship and is a member of the Episcopal Church's National and Ohio Public Policy Network. He has also served on the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland's Commission on Racism and belongs to The Potomac Coalition, a political and public policy group composed primarily of African-American professionals devoted to advancing political and economic development and opportunity in urban America. He has lectured and written extensively on the issues of race, public policy, and the role of the church, notably an article appearing in the religious journal *Fellowship Papers* entitled "We've Come this Far by Faith: Reflections on Afro/Anglican Catholicism Past, Present, Future."

Prior to his appointment at Sewanee, Fr. Brownridge served in the Diocese of Cape Town, South Africa, at St. George's Cathedral, initially as Canon Precentor in charge of liturgy and worship and later as Canon Pastor responsible for pastoral care, the Cathedral HIV/AIDS ministry, and the Cathedral's participation in the International Cross of Nails, a global network involved in the ministry of justice, peace and reconciliation. He has written on South Africa from the diverse perspectives of law, politics, and theology. The South Africa experience has highlighted for him the vital role of spirituality and pastoral care as a matter of personal and community development.

***Have you paid
your CCJP dues
for 2008?***

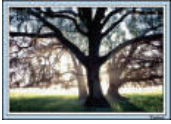
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Darlene Amacher
Tom Boughan
Robbin Clark
Gertrude F. Mignery
Anne F. Griffin
Kathleen O'Donohue

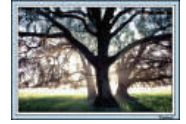
Jane Holmes
Joe Lujan
Jennifer Raulston
Irene Hamer
David Bowman
Scott and Phoebe Bates
Linda Rogers
Sally McCrady
Keith Pohl
Carolyn Hatchett
Leslie Lytle
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Corkin and Phyllis Cherubini
Arlyn Ende and Jack Hastings
Bran and Cindy Potter
Karen Keele
John Brewster
Kent E. Lewis
Pat and Connie Kelley
The Rev. Earl J. Lewis



DID YOU KNOW...

Compiled by Leslie Lytle



A behind the scenes look at the sub-prime mortgage crisis

Since the Bush regime came to power, a new species of loan became the norm, the 'sub-prime' mortgage. At Countrywide, the top lender, 73% of high-income Black and Hispanic borrowers were given sub-prime loans versus 17% of similar-income Whites. 90 percent of sub-prime loans originating between 2004 and 2006 carried exploding adjustable rates; 70 percent had prepayment penalties, versus 2 percent of prime loan. The sub-prime borrowers were 'steered,' as it's called in the mortgage sharking business, with fake inducements to over-borrow, called 'fraudulent conveyance' or 'predatory lending'—tactics forbidden under US law during the Clinton Administration and before. Eliot Spitzer, when serving as Attorney General of New York, attempted to sue the predatory lenders. Bush administration federal regulators filed a lawsuit to block Spitzer's investigation of racial mortgage steering and, making an unprecedented use of the legal power of "federal pre-emption," ordered states not to enforce their consumer protection laws. The financial institutions backing the sub-prime lenders (Bank of America, Goldman Sachs, Merrill Lynch, and Citibank) made huge profits by repackaging junk mortgages as "tranches" of bonds, stamped "AAA"—top grade—by bond rating agencies. These bond packages were sold as sparkling safe investments to US school district pension funds and town governments in Finland. When the housing bubble burst, the investors were left with worthless bonds; and, in turn, flagging consumer confidence caused the value of the lending institutions to plummet. Eliot Spitzer—who was elected New York's governor in 2006—commented on the crisis in a February 13 interview with the *Washington Post*—"Not only did the Bush administration do nothing to protect consumers, it embarked on an aggressive and unprecedented campaign to prevent states from protecting their residents from the very problems to which the federal government was turning a blind eye." Less than a month later, federal prosecutors brought charges against Spitzer for being a client of a prostitution ring and the governor resigned. On March 12, Carlyle Capital went bankrupt, but with Spitzer out of the way, the Federal government gave the ailing bank a cash infusion, and, in turn, every mortgage sharking operation shot up in value. ("Eliot's Mess," Greg Palast, *Clout*, 3/14/08; "Where Did the Water Come in?" Katrina Vanden Heuvel, *The Nation*, 3/20/08).

Gay bishop excluded from conference For the first time in the 140-year history of the Lambeth Conference, a gathering traditionally including all Anglican Bishops, the Archbishop of Canterbury has chosen not to invite some, notably, openly gay Bishop Gene Robinson. 800 are expected to attend, but the number may be reduced if threats to boycott the conference are carried out. ("Lambeth Conference '08," *Anglican Matters*)

\$300 million in military contracts go to 22-year-old Miami resident The Pentagon awarded \$300 million in contracts to AEY, the company of 22-year-old Efraim Diveroli, to supply munitions to Afghanistan's army and police forces and rifles for Iraqi forces. AEY fulfilled the contracts by negotiating with shady arms dealers, buying tens of millions of cartridges manufactured in Albania as long ago as 1950 and ammunition manufactured in China in 1966. It is illegal to deal in Chinese arms, and the Army has suspended AEY from any future federal contracting. According to an Army spokesperson, Diveroli misled the Army by saying the munitions were Hungarian. ("Supplier Under Scrutiny on Aging Arms for Afghans," C. J. Chivers, *New York Times*, 3/27/08)

Food crisis here and abroad The number of Americans receiving food stamps is projected to reach 28 million in 2008, the highest level since the aid program began in the 1960s. Recipients must have few assets and incomes below 130 percent of the poverty line, or less than \$27,560 for a family of four. The World Food Programme (WFP), an international relief organization, estimates that food prices rose by 55 per cent between June 2007 and the end of February 2008, and then increased an additional 20 percent in March. ("As Jobs Vanish, Food Stamp Use Is at Record Pace," Erik Eckholm, *The New York Times*, 3/31/08; "Threat to millions as food aid scheme runs out of money," Peter Popham, *The Independent*, 3/25/08)

Pentagon doesn't want receipts? The U.S. Defense Department disburses \$80 million monthly, roughly \$1 billion a year for the past six years, to Pakistan for maintaining Pakistani antiterrorism troops. No receipts are required by the Defense Department. Commented one pentagon official, "The last thing we'd want is boxes and boxes of crumpled receipts." Said another, "We don't want to offend the Pakistanis. What if the balance of their calculus changes and they decide that cooperation is more than it's worth?" ("US Payments to Pakistan Face New Scrutiny," Robin Wright, *The Washington Post*, 2/21/08)

Homosexuality and the Bible: Another Look

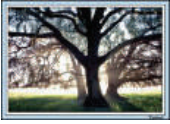
By Barbara Hughes

CCJP The Bible and Contemporary Issues pamphlet

Available singly (\$2) or in bulk (100/\$150)

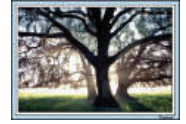
Contact Leslie Lytle:

sllytle@blomand.net or 931/592-6594



DID YOU KNOW...On the Environment

Compiled by Leslie Lytle



Recycling wasted energy The U.S. economy wastes 55 percent of the energy it consumes. The amount lost by electric utilities alone could power all of Japan. Recent studies indicate that U.S. industry could profitably recycle enough waste energy—including steam, furnace gases, heat, and pressure—to reduce the country’s fossil-fuel use (and greenhouse-gas emissions) by nearly a fifth. Looked at from an economic standpoint, \$50 billion floats into the air each year. The technologies required to save that money are not new or unproven, or particularly expensive. Most have been around since the 19th century. Natural-gas pipelines use nearly a tenth of the gas they carry to keep the fuel flowing; capture some of the heat and pressure they lose, and the U.S. could take four coal-fired power plants offline (out of roughly 300). Another power plant could be switched off if energy were collected at the country’s 27 carbon-black plants, which make particles used in the manufacture of tires. Consider also, that for the better part of a century, we’ve gotten electricity from large, central generators, which waste nearly 70 percent of the energy they burn. They face little competition and are allowed to simply pass energy costs on to their customers. Distributing generators across the grid would reduce waste, improve reliability, and provide at least some competition. A success story in the waste-energy recycling field is an East Chicago steel plant that captures heat energy from its coke ovens; in 2004, the plant produced as much clean energy as all the grid-connected solar panels in the world. (“Waste Not,” Lisa Margonelli, *TheAtlantic.com*, 4/21/08)

Did Your Shopping List Kill a Songbird? North American songbirds are being poisoned on their wintering grounds. Since the 1980s, pesticide use has increased fivefold in Latin America as countries have expanded their production of nontraditional crops to fuel the demand for fresh produce during winter in North America and Europe. The imported fruits and vegetables found in our shopping carts in winter and early spring are often grown with types and amounts of pesticides that would be illegal in the United States. Bobolink numbers have plummeted almost 50 percent in the last four decades. Barn swallows and Eastern kingbirds are likewise suffering severe population declines. American consumers can discourage this poisoning with selective grocery shopping. Buy only organic coffee and bananas and avoid altogether imported melons, green beans, tomatoes, bell peppers and strawberries, since they are seldom organically grown. (“Did Your Shopping List Kill a Songbird?”, Bridget Stutchbury, *New York Times*, 3/30/08)

Tennessee ranks first in per capita electricity consumption. (“State’s energy appetite sizable” Larisa Brass, 5/6/08)

What is your water footprint? At a new website run by the University of Twente in the Netherlands, waterfootprint.org, common commodities including groceries, clothes, stationery and electrical goods are evaluated according to a water footprint calculator. An apple weighing 100g has a water footprint of 70 litres, while a 125ml cup of coffee has a water footprint twice that size, 140 litres. Far greater, still, is the difference in the water footprint of grain compared to beef. A single kilogram of barley has a water footprint of 1,300 litres, while the industrial production of a kilogram of beef amasses a water footprint of 15,500 litres. Poultry, meanwhile, has a smaller water footprint than red meat: producing a kilogram of chicken meat leaves a comparably much smaller water footprint of 3,900 litres. The water-footprint website also ranks the water gluttony of different countries. The US is the biggest offender, with a water footprint of close to 2,500 cubic metres per year per capita. (“Forget carbon: you should be checking your water footprint,” Amol Rajan, *The Independent*, 4/21/08)

Drugs in our drinking water A vast array of pharmaceuticals—including antibiotics, anti-convulsants, mood stabilizers and sex hormones—have been found in the drinking water supplies of at least 41 million Americans in 24 major metropolitan areas, according to an Associated Press investigation. When people take pills, their bodies absorb some of the medication, but the rest of it passes through and is flushed down the toilet. The wastewater is treated before it is discharged into reservoirs, but most treatments do not remove all drug residue. While the concentrations of these pharmaceuticals are tiny, far below the levels of a medical dose, recent studies have found that low levels of pharmaceuticals can have alarming effects on human embryonic kidney cells, human blood cells, and human breast cancer cells: the cancer cells proliferated too quickly; the kidney cells grew too slowly; and the blood cells showed biological activity associated with inflammation. Also, pharmaceuticals in waterways are damaging wildlife; notably, male fish are being feminized, creating egg yolk proteins, a process usually restricted to females. The federal government does not require any testing and has not set any safety limits for drugs in water. (“AP probe finds drugs in drinking water,” Jeff Donn, Martha Mendoza, and Justin Pritchard, Associated Press, 3/9/08)

Reusable Shopping Bags—\$3

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POETRY PAGE

Poems and Reflections on Trees...

“Fancy cutting down all those lovely trees to make pulp or bloody newspapers and calling it civilization.”
—Winston Churchill

Break the Momentum

By Jim Drescher

“It's my land;
I can do whatever I want with it.
If I want to destroy the forest,
that's my business, not yours.
If I want to strip off the topsoil,
that's my business, not yours.
If I want to liquidate the homes of a thousand animals,
that's my business, not yours.
I own the land;
the law says I can do whatever I want with it.”

Who owns a forest that took 10,000 years to develop?
Who owns the soil formed by that forest?
Who owns the plants and animals?
How can you own a tree that was already
old in this place
when your grandfather was not yet born?
How can you own the topsoil which has accumulated
naturally
for thousands of years from the bodies of untold
trillions of beings?
How can you own the animals
each of whom has been your mother?
What kind of law says you can?
Whose law?
We need legal assistance in this dark age
if we are to avoid total destruction
in the name of the law,
the law that makes legal all manner
of arrogance, greed, and stupidity
if you "own the land."

Perhaps there is a higher law
based on gentleness, intelligence and fearlessness:
Gentleness to find one's natural place
in the community of all other beings;
intelligence to recognize that we can be sustained by nature
only if we minimize our impacts on it;
fearlessness to break the momentum
of anthropocentric law.
Is there the possibility of enlightened society?
Is it legal?

Emancipation Proclamation

By William Heyen

WHEREAS it minds its own business
& lives in its one place so faithfully
& its trunk supports us when we lean against it
& its branches remind us of how we think

WHEREAS it keeps no bank account but hoards carbon
& does not discriminate between starlings & robins
& provides free housing for insects & squirrels
& lifts its heartwood grave into the air

WHEREAS it holds our firmament in place
& writes underground gospel with its roots
& whispers us oxygen with its leaves
& may not survive its new climate of ultraviolet

WE THE PEOPLE for ourselves & our children
necessarily proclaim this tree
free from commerce & belonging to itself
as long as it & we shall live.

Many Thanks to the Following Members for Their Support!!

David Haskell and Sarah Vance
Paul Von Ward
Doris Tate Trevino
Henry & Kathy Hamman
Cynthia Putnam
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Elizabeth Lipsey
Kathy and Dan Backlund
Laura and John Willis
Tennessee Coalition to Abolish State Killing
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Cumberland Farmers Market

Buy from local vendors—
vegetables, eggs, meat, bread, soap and more
Order on line for pick up Tuesday, 5:00-6:30 pm,
at the Sewanee Community Center
www.sewanee.locallygrown.org



DID YOU KNOW...Good News

Compiled by Leslie Lytle



Judge Orders Release of Innocent Tennessee Death Row Inmate On April 7, U.S. District Court Judge Harry S. Mattice Jr. ordered that Paul House was to be released into the custody of his mother following a hearing scheduled for May 28, at which the court would determine the conditions of his freedom. House, who suffers from multiple sclerosis and is confined to a wheelchair, was sentenced to death in 1986 for the rape and murder of Carolyn Muncey in Union County, north of Knoxville, Tennessee. In 2006, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that House was not given a fair trial because the jury did not hear DNA evidence and other testimony that could have exonerated him. In December of 2007, Judge Mattice ordered the state to retry House within 180 days or release him, a ruling confirmed by the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals on May 5. [Editors's Note: When *Local Action* went to press, the state of Tennessee had just indicated its intention to retry Paul House. May truth, and reason, prevail!] ("Judge orders death row inmate Paul House released," Chris Echegaray, *Tennessean*, 4/7/08; "Give House new trial," Wendell Rawls, Jr., *Tennessean*, 5/6/08)

Saving Seeds Norway has opened a "doomsday" vault in the Arctic that will safeguard up to 4.5 million seeds as insurance in case of a global catastrophe that wipes out food crops in the regions where they are grown. The Svalbard Global Seed Vault is built to withstand global warming, earthquakes, and nuclear strikes. Norway owns the bank, but any country can deposit seeds. Although there are already around 1400 other seed banks worldwide, this vault will be one of the largest and most secure sites. Global seed supplies are becoming increasingly concentrated in the hands of multinational companies, raising concerns about the survival of diverse crop varieties that have been developed by local farmers and breeders over the centuries. If genetically diverse varieties are lost, the genes that they possess for resistance to drought or pests will be lost too, reducing our ability to cope with global change. (Union of Concerned Scientists e-blast 3/17/08)

Guyana Enters into Deal to Save Its Rainforest Guyana recently entered into a deal placing its entire standing forest under the protection of a British-led international body in return for development aid. Drawn up by the international firm Stephenson Harwood, the agreement is the first serious attempt to pay for the ecosystem services provided by rainforests, by securing the future of one million acres of pristine rainforest in Guyana. Deforestation is the second leading cause of CO2 emissions. Guyana, sandwiched between the Latin American giants Venezuela and Brazil, is home to fewer than a million people, but 80% of its land is covered by an intact rainforest, one of only four intact rainforests left on the planet. ("Million acres of Guyanese rainforest to be saved in groundbreaking deal," Daniel Howden, *The Independent*, 3/27/08)

Babies Go to Work A new trend in the American workplace finds mothers bringing their babies to the office, until they are old enough to crawl—at about six months. Usually, mothers keep their infants in bassinets next to their desks and breast-feed them there, if they have enough privacy, or take them to a special room designated for that purpose. Some employers require mothers to clock off during childcare times. For the employer, benefits include employees returning to work sooner, lower turnover, improved morale, increase in overall productivity, and enhanced teamwork, collaboration, and recruiting of new employees. ("US firms in 'bring baby to work' scheme," Andrew Gumbel, *The Independent*, 4/3/08)

The Mission of CCJP

The mission of the Cumberland Center for Justice and Peace is to establish a trust and a community of concerned citizens to promote efforts, programs, and activities that bring about a measure of peace and justice to the local area, surrounding region, and world at large. The center is organized exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

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Upcoming Events

- CCJP Board and Membership Retreat, Friday, June 6, 4:30 pm, Scott and Phoebe Bates' home. Please join us in deciding on areas of concentration and programs for the coming year. The evening concludes with a potluck feast. For more information phone 931/592-6594.
- *Pollinators in Peril*, documentary film and discussion, Thursday, June 12, 7:00 pm, Sewanee Community Center
- Peace Vigils, Friday, June 20, July 18, and August 15, 4:30 pm, (location TBA)
- Hiroshima Day observance, Wednesday, August 6, 9:00 am, (location TBA)

The Real Cost of War:

- 2003 Bush Administration prediction for the cost of the Iraq War: \$50-60 billion
- 2003 Congressional Democrats prediction for the cost of the Iraq War: \$93 billion
- Current predictions for the long range cost of the Iraq War: \$1-5 trillion
- What \$1 trillion would buy: health care for all 47 million uninsured Americans and quality pre-kindergarten for every American child
- What \$500 billion would buy: solar plants to power all 105 million U.S. households
- The 2007 Iraq War budget of \$138 billion cost America 1 million jobs (from money that would have been spent on education, health care, etc.)



*This newsletter
is printed on
recycled paper.*

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