

KC AFSC Peace and Justice Alert – January 9, 2014



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contact us at 816931-5256 or afsckc@afsc.org

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*“In the final analysis, the rich must not ignore the poor,
because both rich and poor are
tied together in a single garment of destiny
—for life is interrelated and all men are interdependent.
The agony of the poor diminishes the rich,
and the salvation of the poor enlarges the rich.”
~Martin Luther King, Jr.*

Dear Peacemakers,

Hope you had happy holidays and New Year.

The frigid weather makes me thankful that I have a safe and warm home and place to work out of the cold. But it also reminds me that many in our community do not. If you are thankful for the blessings and privileges you have, I encourage you to find ways to extend those to the many suffering the cold and struggling to pay heating and other bills.

With this in mind I invite you to join us this Saturday to view *If I Had A Trillion Dollars* (IHTD) films created by KC area youth sharing their vision of how the U.S. should spend our tax dollars so that all can have warm homes, can stay healthy, get an good education, and can be safe. **The KC IHTD Film Screening will take place Saturday, January 11, at 11:00am** at the Tivoli Cinema, 4050 Pennsylvania Ave., KCMO. The guest speaker will be Benjamin Pascoe, Assistant Professor of Film and Digital Media at Avila University. Ben will speak about the use of film and digital media to promote social change. We will also have some special guest spoken word poets who will share some poems as we introduce our *If I Could Change the World* Spoken Word project for 2014.

I also want to encourage you to join us at our **annual MLK forum. This years theme is “Waking from the Nightmare: Renewing Dr. King’s Poor People’s Campaign.”** The event is organized by AFSC and SCLC-KC and will take place on the MLK holiday, January 20, Monday

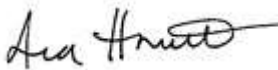
from 3:30 to 5:00pm, at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, 2310 E. Linwood Blvd. , KCMO. Speakers will include: Rev. Antoine Lee with the Oak Park Neighborhood Association; Bishop James Tindal with Urban Summit; Councilman Michael Brooks, President, Concerned Clergy of GKC; and Michael D. Bates with the NAACP-KCMO. Join us and learn what organizations are doing to revive a Poor People's campaign and how we all can work together to reduce poverty and create greater economic justice. (More at <http://www.afsc.org/event/mlk-forum-renewing-dr-kings-poor-peoples-campaign>)

And join us at the screening of **Park Avenue: Money, Power and the American Dream** January 29, Wednesday, 7:00pm, which the New York Observer called, "A story about the richest of the rich... and how they have managed to claim a larger and larger share of the nation's wealth."

See below for these activities, other calendar events, and articles, alerts and more.

Thanks for all of your work for our community.

Sincerely,



Ira Harritt
KC Program Coordinator
American Friends Service Committee
816 931-5256, iharritt@afsc.org

Check out these events below:

- **January 11, Saturday, 11:00am, If I Had a Trillion Dollars Youth Film festival screening** of films made by KC area youth
 - **January 20, Monday, 3:30 to 5:00pm, "Waking from the Nightmare: Renewing Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign" Forum**, which AFSC is organizing with SCLC and will take place at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, 2310 E. Linwood Blvd. , KCMO.
 - **January 29, Wednesday, 7:00pm, Film Screening: Park Avenue: Money, Power and the American Dream**. Sponsored by the UMKC Economics Club, the Jobs Now! Coalition, American Friends Service Committee, and the Friends of Community Media. At University of Missouri-Kansas City, Student Union Theater, 5100 Cherry, KCMO
-

Kansas City
Screening

If I Had A Trillion Dollars Youth Film Festival



With a projected four to six trillion tax dollar total cost of U.S. wars in Iraq and Afghanistan; trillions of dollar in tax breaks for the wealthiest one percent at home; and cuts to essential government programs like food stamps and Head Start, many believe there are better ways we can spend our tax dollars.

Kansas City area youth speak out in a series of short films as part of the national IHTD Youth Film Festival presenting their hopes and dreams for a federal budget which improves our community and the lives of Americans.

Tivoli Cinema

4050 Pennsylvania Ave., KCMO

Saturday, January 11, 2014

11:00am – 12:30pm



View IHTD films created by KC area youth. Hear comments by youth film-makers and a special guest speaker.

This event is sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee.
For more information contact us at: 816 931-5256; afsckc@afsc.org; www.afsc.org/kansascity

"True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring."

"Timid supplication for justice will not solve the problem. We have got to confront the power structure massively."

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Join us for a Community Forum

Waking from the Nightmare: Renewing Dr. King's Poor People's Campaign

Monday, January 20, 3:30 to 5:00pm
Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church,
2310 E. Linwood Blvd, KCMO.

(The forum precedes the 6:00pm MLK Holiday Mass Celebration)

Hear from an inspiring panel of community leaders including:

- **Rev. Antoine Lee** with the Oak Park Neighborhood Association;
- **Bishop James Tindal** with Urban Summit;
- **Councilman Michael Brooks**, President, Concerned Clergy of GKC;
- **Michael D. Bates**, NAACP-KCMO Executive Committee member

And learn what their organizations are doing to revive a Poor People's campaign and how we all can work together to reduce poverty and create greater economic justice.

This event is organized by: American Friends Service Committee & Southern Christian Leadership Conference of GKC. And co-sponsors: AdHoc Group Against Crime; Concerned Clergy of GKC; Jobs Now Coalition!; NAACP-KCMO; PeaceWorks, PROMO, Urban Summit-KC

For more information contact the American Friends Service Committee at 816 931-5256, afsckc@afsc.org Or go to: <http://afsc.org/event/mlk-forum-renewing-dr-kings-poor-peoples-campaign> For a list of all MLK KC events go to: <http://www.sclckc.org>

The poster features a background image of the New York City skyline across a body of water under a cloudy sky. The text is overlaid on this image.

THE JOBS NOW! COALITION, THE UMKC ECONOMICS CLUB,
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE AND
FRIENDS OF COMMUNITY MEDIA PRESENT

PARK AVENUE

MONEY, POWER and the AMERICAN DREAM

FREE SCREENING AND PANEL DISCUSSION
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29 AT 7 P.M.

STUDENT UNION THEATER
UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI-KANSAS CITY
5100 CHERRY, KCMO

Upcoming Peace and Justice Activities

Click on link or scroll down for more information about the peace and justice activity

January 11, Saturday, at 11:00am KC If I Had A Trillion Dollars Youth Film Screening of KC area youth's films at the Tivoli Cinema, 4050 Pennsylvania Ave., KCMO.

January 13, Monday, 6:00pm Citizens for justice in the Middle East Meeting, at Village Presbyterian Church located at 6641 Mission Rd, Prairie Village, KS in room 232

January 20, Monday, 3:30 to 5:00pm, “Waking from the Nightmare: Renewing Dr. King’s Poor People’s Campaign,” which AFSC is organizing with SCLC and will take place at Metropolitan Missionary Baptist Church, 2310 E. Linwood Blvd., KCMO.

January 21, Tuesday, 5:30-7:00pm, Move the Money Campaign meeting Help plan and implement listening sessions with area leaders to learn and document the impact of the sequester and other austerity measures, and hear their stories and visions of what we should be doing. Following listening sessions the results will be used in public education and action campaigns including meetings with editorial boards, lobby visits, forums and other actions. Join us on at the AFSC office, 4405 Gillham Rd., KCMO.

January 29, Wednesday, 7:00pm, Film Screening: Park Avenue: Money, Power and the American Dream. *“A story about the richest of the rich... and how they have managed to claim a larger and larger share of the nation’s wealth.”* Sponsored by the UMKC Economics Club, the Jobs Now! Coalition, American Friends Service Committee, and the Friends of Community Media. At University of Missouri-Kansas City, Student Union Theater, 5100 Cherry, KCMO

EVERY Tuesday, JOIN THIS Peace Demonstration between 5PM - 6 PM in the median strip on the south corner of the intersection at 63rd & Ward Parkway, Kansas City, Mo. For more information email '63rd Street Patriots' at schwartzkatz@sbcglobal.net

Weekly Wednesday, Noon, Jericho Walk for Immigrant Rights gather outside **KansasCity Immigration Court**, 2345 Grand Blvd., KCMO Info at <http://www.ijamkc.org/>

News and Alerts

Unemployment Insurance Update

From Coalition on Human Need

One important Senate step taken, but we're not there yet.

Thank you! Advocates nationwide contacted their Senators and the Senate [voted](#) to limit debate so the renewal of federal Unemployment Insurance could move forward. Now the Senate is negotiating on the amendments that will be considered before the 3-month extension of federal UI gets to a final vote. Some of the proposed amendments would pay for the 3-month extension by harmful cuts to other low-income programs. [See more about that, below.](#) It is not clear exactly when the Senate will be ready to take the next votes on the bill, but it could be late today or tomorrow.

So - we still need to speak out. If you haven't called your Senators yet (or even if you have!) please call.

Call 1-877-267-2485 (Toll Free)

Thanks to AFSCME for making this toll-free number available.

Tell your Senators to Renew Federal Unemployment Insurance, to stop leaving millions of families out in the cold this winter, and don't tie renewal to harmful amendments like denying the Child Tax Credit to low-income immigrant families.

And there is **one** more **way** you can **take action**:

Send emails: To Act; just [CLICK](#) and Send- JUST THAT SIMPLE!

Some of the six Republicans who voted to limit debate have said they won't vote for the actual bill unless the 3-month extension is paid for by cuts in other programs. It is also possible that negotiations will lead to a full-year restoration of UI. While Majority Leader Reid (D-NV) has opposed having to pay for a temporary 3-month extension, he is open to finding revenues to pay for a full year of UI. Extensions of Unemployment Insurance in the past have been considered emergency funding, and have not had to be paid for. We think that makes sense. But if Congress does move to pay the cost of renewing UI (\$6.4b for 3 months; approximately \$25b for a year), it should **not** do so by cutting other low-income programs.

Denying the Child Tax Credit to Children in Immigrant Families: Harmful amendments to the UI bill we are fighting:

Senator Ayotte (R-NH) has introduced an amendment to require taxpayers to have a Social Security number to qualify for the Child Tax Credit. Now, taxpayers can qualify by using an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number (ITIN); some immigrants use such numbers to pay their taxes. This would deny the tax credit to 5.5 million low-income children in immigrant families; 4 million of whom are U.S. citizen children. Senator Coats (R-IN) has offered a similar amendment. Taking income from poor children and their families is simply wrong. We have joined many other advocates in successfully opposing this provision in the past, and continue to oppose it now.

Thank you and share this message widely.

Published on Thursday, January 9, 2014 by RobertReich.org

**Why The Republican's Old Divide-and-Conquer Strategy—
Setting Working Class Against the Poor—Is Backfiring**

by [Robert Reich](http://RobertReich.org)

For almost forty years Republicans have pursued a divide-and-conquer strategy intended to convince working-class whites that the poor were their enemies.

The big news is it's starting to backfire.

Republicans told the working class that its hard-earned tax dollars were being siphoned off to pay for “welfare queens” (as Ronald Reagan decorously dubbed a black single woman on welfare) and other nefarious loafers. The poor were “them” — lazy, dependent on government handouts, and overwhelmingly black — in sharp contrast to “us,” who were working ever harder, proudly independent (even sending wives and mothers to work, in order to prop up family incomes dragged down by shrinking male paychecks), and white.

It was a cunning strategy designed to split the broad Democratic coalition that had supported the New Deal and Great Society, by using the cleavers of racial prejudice and economic anxiety. It also conveniently fueled resentment of government taxes and spending.

The strategy also served to distract attention from the real cause of the working class's shrinking paychecks — corporations that were busily busting unions, outsourcing abroad, and replacing jobs with automated equipment and, subsequently, computers and robotics.

But the divide-and-conquer strategy is no longer convincing because the dividing line between poor and middle class has all but disappeared. “They” are fast becoming “us.”

Poverty is now a condition that almost anyone can fall into. In the first two years of this recovery, according to new [report](#) from Census Bureau, about one in three Americans dropped into poverty for at least two to six months.

Three decades of flattening wages and declining economic security have taken a broader toll. Nearly [55 percent](#) of Americans between the ages of 25 and 60 have experienced at least a year in poverty or near poverty (below 150 percent of the poverty line). [Half](#) of all American children have at some point during their childhoods relied on food stamps.

Fifty years ago, when Lyndon Johnson declared a “war on poverty,” most of the nation's chronically poor had little or no connection to the labor force, while most working-class Americans had full-time jobs.

More> <http://www.commondreams.org/view/2014/01/09-12>

Published on Wednesday, January 8, 2014 by [Democracy Now!](#)

Activists Admit to 1971 FBI Burglary That Exposed COINTELPRO

One of the great mysteries of the Vietnam War era has been solved. On March 8, 1971, a group of activists — including a cabdriver, a day care director and two professors — broke into an FBI office in Media, Pennsylvania. They stole every document they found and then leaked many to the press, including details about FBI abuses and the then-secret counter-intelligence program to infiltrate, monitor and disrupt social and political movements, nicknamed COINTELPRO. They

called themselves the Citizens' Commission to Investigate the FBI. No one was ever caught for the break-in.

The burglars' identities remained a secret until this week when they finally came forward to take credit for the caper that changed history. Today we are joined by three of them — John Raines, Bonnie Raines and Keith Forsyth; their attorney, David Kairys; and Betty Medsger, the former Washington Post reporter who first broke the story of the stolen FBI documents in 1971 and has now revealed the burglars' identities in her new book, "The Burglary: The Discovery of J. Edgar Hoover's Secret FBI."

Video> <http://www.commondreams.org/video/2014/01/08-0>

We need your support to keep our life affirming peacemaking work alive.

Contribute. Volunteer. Spread the word!

Contact us and mail your tax deductible contribution to:

American Friends Service Committee

4405 Gillham Rd., KCMO 64110

(816) 931-5256

The information and events described in AFSC Peace and Justice Alerts are intended to educate and assist members of our community in becoming active in working for a more just and peaceful world. Inclusion of a listing does not necessarily imply that AFSC KC agrees with all points of view that will be represented at the event.

*The American Friends Service Committee is a Quaker organization that includes people of various faiths who are committed to social justice, peace, and humanitarian service.
Its work is based on the Quaker belief in the worth of every person and faith in the power of love to overcome violence and injustice*

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