

2009 Gandhi-King Conference
Presentation Schedule

Friday 2:15-3:30

Dr. Becky Thompson-University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and Yolandrea Clark-Midtown Yoga, Memphis

“Long Night’s Journey into Day” part 1 of 2

Montessi, Buckman Hall

This two-session workshop begins with showing the award winning documentary, “Long Night’s Journey into Day”, that chronicles the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in South Africa. The film will be followed by a facilitated discussion by Becky Thompson and a yoga session taught by Yo Clark. Our plan to combine the film with discussion and yoga comes from our attempt to keep ourselves embodied as we explore what truth and reconciliation might look like in our activist communities and lives.

James A. Termotto, Sr.

The Ethical Thinkers Colloquium

Rochester, NY

“Healing the Harm to Secondary Victims of Crime through Restorative Justice”

Buckman Hall, Room 222

There is a belief that for every victim of crime there are ten more people affected. Those considered victims of crime are not limited to the "victim" side of the equation. There are as many individuals affected - family and friends - on the "perpetrator" side. This session works through the elements of that understanding and the means to deal with it.

Stephan McLaughlin

Sharaze Colley

HEAL, Memphis

“Aikido: The Way of Harmony and Peace”

Buckman Hall, Room 112

This workshop will introduce the principles of Aikido, a nonviolent martial art developed in the aftermath of World War II Japan. Aikido literally means *The Way of Harmony and Peace* and was intended by its founder Morihei Ueshiba to be "a way of reconciling the world." Participants will identify and explore the principles of Aikido and the tools it provides for dealing with negative conflict in positive ways on and off the training mat through the development of inner harmony.

Patrick Saunders

Bowling Green State, Ohio

"Teaching Classism and Racism on the Street Corner (retail) and in the Classroom (wholesale)"

Buckman Hall, Room 224

In order for a movement to happen, there has to be movement from the lower rungs of the social hierarchy. How is that to be accomplished in an age of disconnect with the ideas of class and marginalization? We have to start over, and recreate these networks of thought, one person and one student at a time.

Dr. Sis Levin and Jerry Levin

Community Nonviolence Resource Center, Birmingham, AL

"Minding the Gap in Educating for Nonviolence"

Buckman Hall, Room 225

The Levins see the need for persistent advocacy to eliminate a counterproductive education policy gap in schools of education, local school systems, state legislatures and the federal government. Necessary reforms would encourage and sustain funding for the training of future teaching professionals in how to reinforce or revive in school age children the recently discovered genetic predisposition in the developing brains of the unborn for caring, compassionate, nonviolent behavior.

Virginia Murphy

Playback Memphis

"Playback Theater: A Tool for Community and Self-Reflection"

Buckman Hall, Room 358

Playback Theatre is a unique form of improvisation based on personal story from the audience, and it is an outstanding tool for promoting dialogue, inviting reflection, and building community. In this workshop you will learn how Playback is being used to inspire, engage, and empower communities around the world. The workshop will also introduce you to the form in a hands-on way, giving you an opportunity to immerse yourself in the rich atmosphere and dynamics of the Playback experience. We will tell and enact stories together in a supportive spirit of fun and fellowship.

Friday 3:45-5:00

Leah Wells-BioDimensions, Dr. David Ciscel-MSPJC Board member, Josephine Williams-Grow Memphis, and Tonya Meeks- Greening Greater Memphis

“Moving the Mid-South Forward: Green Jobs and the Green Economy”

Buckman Hall, Spain Auditorium

Green jobs. The green economy. The bioeconomy. Cleantech. Sustainability. What are these things and what do they mean for the Mid-South? What's our niche and how do we make the most of our regional strengths? Learn about immediate and long-term green opportunities at this workshop featuring local community leaders in the green revolution.

Dr. Becky Thompson-University of Colorado, Colorado Springs and Yolandra Clark-Midtown Yoga

“Long Night’s Journey into Day” part 2 of 2

Montessi, Buckman Hall

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Sarai Chisala and Ivonne Amill

University of Memphis

“Shrines in Memphis: An Exploration of Globalization and Diversity”

Buckman Hall, Room 209

Through an examination of immigrant shrines (large and small) this presentation considers how otherwise common, daily-life articles can become highly valued symbols of immigrant culture. These shrines come to represent tangible expressions of cultural flow and the globalizing movement of people. We propose that peace and nonviolence stem from greater cultural awareness, and we recognize that Memphis, as a global city, is ready to engage in this dialogue.

Brigitte Benchimol
Author, Los Angeles, CA

“Essential Tools to Achieve Peace”

Buckman Hall, Room 222

Using a heartfelt technique of communication called The Way of Council - all the participants will experience how to elevate the dialogue with this tool in order to achieve Peace within and out.

Maxine Birdsong and Russ Vernon-Jones
United to End Racism

”Ending Racism and all Other Oppressions: Listening and Emotional Healing as Tools for Change”

Buckman Hall, Room 358

Peace is not possible while racism and other forms of oppression continue because of the ways they are used in the present society to separate us from each other, maintain and justify inequities in access to resources, and interfere with our efforts to create peace. Though none of us are to be blamed for their existence, each of us must take responsibility for ending them. In this workshop, participants will learn the tools of listening and emotional healing (as developed in Re-evaluation Counseling) for ending racism and other forms of oppression.

Thom Clark

Community Media Workshop and Progressive Communicators Network, Chicago

“Telling Your Story”

Buckman Hall, Room 223

In an ever-changing media landscape, how do peace and justice groups get their story out? Get tips on advancing your mission by building a communications strategy and creating an elevator speech that inspires audiences outside of the choir.

Saturday 7:45-8:45

Caroline Schmidt

Midtown Yoga, Memphis

“Vinyasa Yoga: The Art of Movement”

Sabbatini Lounge, Thomas Center

Come experience the art of Vinyasa, a yoga practice centered on flowing from one asana, or pose, to the next. This is an all levels practice that focuses on developing grace and strength through transitions both on the mat and in our lives. Come share this creative practice, a meditation in motion.

Saturday 10:30-11:45

Rev. Dr. Gary Gunderson - Methodist LeBonheur Healthcare, Dr. Manoj Jain – Baptist and Methodist Hospitals, Emily Fulmer – Tennessee Health Care Campaign, and an additional panelist

“Peace through Healing”

Buckman Hall, Spain Auditorium

What’s the relationship between health care and peace? Why has the idea of ‘doctor as healer’ disappeared, and how can we restore it? Is access to health care a basic human right or a luxury? This panel of doctors and health care activists will answer these questions and more in this moderated discussion.

Dr. Jim Highland-Northern Michigan University and Dr. Harold McDougall-Howard University School of Law

“Nonviolent Resistance is Not a Game, Or Is It?”

Buckman Hall, Room 222

The methods, beliefs, goals and principles of nonviolent action can be studied in more traditional manners, but in our College-level Academic Game, based on the Civil Rights Movement, *The Struggle for Civil Rights*, students must take what they've studied about nonviolent protests and apply it as characters in debates and votes as part of a historically-based game. We will discuss the methodology, give examples of the characters, the issues debated and the votes, as well as provide film of students playing the game.

Abdulsattar Younus, La’Onf Nonviolence Network of Iraq

Terry Kay Rockefeller, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows

“Iraqi Nonviolence Activists: the Inspiration of Gandhi and King in Iraq Today”

Buckman Hall, Room 223

In 2005, as their society was descending into a nightmare of sectarian and ethnic violence unleashed by the US invasion and occupation, Iraqi activists asked, “Can nonviolence be a tool for social transformation, even in the midst of war?” Today in Iraq, nonviolence is a force for hope and the reconstruction of

civil society. The Iraqi Nonviolence Network, La'Onf, has grown into a coalition of more than 120 NGOs from every province of Iraq. Their goal: to enable Iraqis to build a stable, peaceful and prosperous future for themselves.

Anna Brown

St. Peter's College, NJ

“Expand Your Heart! Clowning and Nonviolent Peacemaking”

Buckman Hall, Room 224

The workshop explores and engages the practice of clowning as a means of nonviolent awakening and transformation. The workshop leader will speak about her own experience with clowning while trying to deliver aid this past summer to the people of Gaza. Stopped on three consecutive days by the Israeli military at the border crossing, she joined with Patch Adams and other members of a Codepink delegation in working to transform hardened hearts (including her own!) and militarized space through clowning.

Chris Moore-Backman

Lesley University, Cambridge, MA

“Walking with Gandhi- and Exploration of the Mahatma’s Threefold Approach to Nonviolence”

Buckman Hall, Room 225

Gandhi's approach to nonviolence involved the interplay of three indispensable elements: personal transformation, constructive program, and political action. While today's peacemakers tend to favor one or the other of these aspects, a balance of all three generates far more lasting power. Let's invite the Mahatma down from his pedestal so we can grapple with the nuts and bolts of his teaching, and apply it to our day to day living and our work for justice.

Dorothy Marcy and Mary Ferguson

United to End Racism

“Emotional Healing: The Power of Listening as a Non-violent Tool for Peacemaking”

Buckman Hall, Room 358

Our leadership in community-building and peacemaking increases in effectiveness when it includes healing from the hurts of racism, violence, and separation - for ourselves and for others. This healing improves our lives, our organizing, our relationships, and our leadership. This workshop will teach the tools of listening and emotional healing (as developed in Re-evaluation Counseling) as tools for nonviolent peacemaking.

Saturday 1:45-3:00

Clare Hanrahan, Kathy Kelly, Pam Beziat, and Judy Scheckel
National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee

“The Power of the Purse: Women and War Tax Resistance”

Buckman Hall, Spain Auditorium

Taking on the economic risks of acting for peace through war tax resistance is a powerful means to awaken to the power of nonviolence in a deeply personal and authentic way. The presentation will include a panel of current women war tax resisters, a historical overview with profiles and stories of past and present war tax resisting women, and practical tips for sustaining a lifetime of active peacemaking and non-cooperation with war.

Sheri Dorn-Giarmoleo
Claremont Graduate University, CA

“Forbidden Knowledge”

Buckman Hall, Room 222

To engage in critical postmodern teaching and thought is to take part in a process of critical world making. How is our personal and political identity cultivated to be complicit with the pleasure of privilege - when truths are suppressed, marginalized and/or distorted.

Richard Harnack
Aikido Institute of Mid-America, MO & Lindenwood University

“Gandhi’s Anger - King’s Despair”

Buckman Hall, Room 223

Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr. were both tested early in life by pride and anger. Initially each succumbed to these emotions, only to realize later their error. In this talk I will be exploring the four events from each life: two events illustrating their error, and, two events showing how they changed into the men we now honor and remember.

Mike McCullough, Angie MacKewn, Heidi Huse and Leslie LaChance
University of Tennessee at Martin

“Listening for the Voice of Nonviolence”

Buckman Hall, Room 224

The brand new Institute for Civic Engagement at the University of Tennessee at Martin is committed to creating opportunities for our students to reflect and act on the daunting challenges of their generation. This session will feature many of the students who have addressed through writing the act of peacemaking in the face of endless promotion of war. Some will read essays, others poetry, and these readings will be used as a springboard to discussions of how University students can more effectively participate in the effort to reduce international conflict.

Kathryn Hollahan, RN, BSN and Judy Powell, MSSW, MA
Crossroads Hospice, Memphis

“The Peaceful Death Experience and the Role of the Sacred Witness”

Buckman Hall, Room 225

Evidence abounds that our culture needs to explore death in a sacred and peaceful manner and provide compassionate support for caregivers and families of the dying. This presentation will include topics to assist in this process such as; creating sacred space, providing comfort care with dignity and respect, allowance and giving permission, and resolution of issues.

Julia Simon-Mishel
Student Peace Alliance

“Peace Is Cool Again? Now What? How to Empower Youth in Creating Sustainable Peace”

Buckman Hall, Room 226

This workshop will address the methodology used by Student Peace Alliance in taking a two-pronged approach to sustainable peacebuilding. It will focus on how to create successful relationships and programs with community peacebuilding practitioners and how to effectively lobby for peacebuilding-oriented pieces of legislation in Congress. Participants will walk away with an understanding how to empower youth to create a powerful platform from which we can move peace into the national discourse of our country.

Paper Poster Sessions

Paper presenters will be available to discuss their papers in the exhibit hall on Saturday from 1:00-1:40 and again from 3:00-3:25.

Sapna Jain

Lausanne Collegiate School, Memphis

“Teaching Students Nonviolence through International Example”

This presentation incorporates the Tennessee Governor's School for International Studies and the way that nonviolence can be taught and explained through international examples. During the summer of 2009 specifically, the students attended the Guantanamo Colloquium sponsored by the National Civil Rights Museum and the International Coalition of Sites of Conscience. The paper presentation discusses the reactions to the Colloquium by both the speakers and the Governor's School students and faculty. It also includes other innovative methods of teaching nonviolence to students.

Leslie LaChance

University of Tennessee at Martin

“Cultivating Common Ground: How Collaborative Community Arts Programs Promote Peace”

Educators, artists and activists often share a vision for achieving a more peaceful society through encouraging creative expression and artistic collaboration. This poster session will describe ongoing work in rural Tennessee communities undertaken by a number of partnering non-profit organizations over the past four years to offer creative arts programs in photography, ceramics, mural painting and digital storytelling to local youth and children from Hispanic migrant families. This poster session include samples of the children's creative work and will outline general principles of the relationship between creative arts programs and the promotion of peaceful community development.

Marc Simon

Bowling Green State University

“Terrorism and Nonviolence: Comparing Techniques of Influence”

This poster session will show some surprising similarities between terrorism and nonviolent protest. It will also highlight the important differences, which account for the greater effectiveness of nonviolence. Open minded advocates of peace may find that they can learn something from even methods that are deplorable.

Court Lewis

University of Tennessee at Knoxville

“Better Understanding Forgiveness and Reconciliation to Live a Better, Non-Violent Life”

In order to promote the living of a non-violent life, I will explore the conceptual differences between forgiveness and reconciliation. There is a difference of opinion within the literature about how we should understand both topics, which needs to be addressed. From this disagreement three main questions arise: is forgiveness a process that

leads to the end-state of reconciliation; is reconciliation a process that leads to the end-state of forgiveness; or are both processes that lead to some other end-state? I will lay some groundwork for how we can answer these questions, and therefore, be better equipped to live a non-violent life properly seeking reconciliation and forgiveness.