

Newsletter

METROPOLITAN
HOUSING
COALITION
LOUISVILLE KY
APRIL 2006

Remembering Anne Braden by Suzy Post

Anne Braden died on March 6 and it is possible none of us will live long enough to know another like her. There is a certain irony in your reading this remembrance of Anne in MHC's April newsletter since MHC has held a Fair Housing Month celebration in April ever since I became its first Director in 1990. Anne's first public foray into Louisville civil rights' struggles occurred in 1955 when she and her husband, Carl, bought a house in Shively for a black family because African Americans were not able to buy homes in white neighborhoods. The home was bombed and Anne and Carl were arrested for sedition, under a state law that was subsequently found to be unconstitutional.

The mood isn't set until you realize that 1955 was still during the McCarthy period, and although the Senator from Wisconsin was ultimately repudiated for his scare tactics, it took a long time for the fear he generated to dissipate in the United States.

It is altogether fitting that I am writing this memorial to Anne in the newsletter of



the primary advocacy organization for affordable housing in the Commonwealth, and completely "right" that you read this in time to attend MHC's 15th Annual Fair Housing Month celebration when Anne's biographer, Cate Fosl, will speak.

Anne and Carl were both working journalists who met as reporters for the *Louisville Times*, when they were arrested for this "heinous" crime. Carl spent a year in jail, and Henry Wallace, a loyal supporter of MHC, helped him make bail.

It was in the open housing movement that I first met the Bradens. By the 1960's the McCarthy "dust" had settled. The thinking people of the city had finally decided that we needed an open housing law prohibiting discrimination in housing against people of color or on the basis of race and religion. (It is worth noting that when I bought an old house in Crescent Hill in 1986, the deed read "this house may not be sold to anyone of the Negro race or the Jewish persuasion.")

In order to secure passage of an open housing ordinance, marches were held in many locations. Open Housing marches took place in the Cherokee Triangle area, the south end, and the middle of town; they drew hundreds of marchers, raucous hecklers and a group of Klansmen in full regalia. Many were arrested — including some on our side — and once again, Henry put up bail. Raising money was also my job in this campaign and I seem to have been doing it ever since. Eventually, an open housing law was enacted when a black Republican alderwoman, Louise Reynolds, introduced it in 1968, and Anne and Carl moved on to other equally pressing matters of racial justice.

I was privileged to work with Anne almost up to the time of her death on areas

Meetings in April

Fair Housing Month General Membership Meetings

4/13 — Wednesday, April 13, 11:30am, Louisville Urban League, 1535 Broadway. Dr. Ed Goetz to speak on deconcentration of poverty

4/18 — Wednesday, April 18, 12pm, Louisville Urban League. Dr. Tracy K'Meyer speaks at a celebration to commemorate the Open Housing Movement

4/26 — MHC Board of Directors

Wednesday, April 26, 12pm, Jewish Family and Vocational Services

that ran the gamut from open housing, to police malpractice, school desegregation, environmental racism, and the Fairness campaign. She was a masterful propagandist and scholar and having her take a position meant that we had a good chance of eventually succeeding in our cause.

She often shook her head at me as if I was never going to really amount to an effective rabble rouser, but then, she shook her head at nearly all of us. None of us could match her intelligence, her drive, her outrage and her indefatigable belief that people would do the "right thing" if they only knew what it was.

Anne was always there to tell them. This community will certainly have a new crop of activists who might match Anne's outrage. As one who knew her well, I hope that they will also match her tenacity.

As Dr. Lyman T. Johnson told us over and over again, in the struggle for civil rights, "we mustn't let the wagon roll down the hill." 



Metropolitan Housing Coalition

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MHC Member News

Take a look at what some of our member organizations are doing!

Just a reminder — the **Louisville Asset Building Coalition**, supported by Metro United Way, will continue to offer free income tax preparation at a dozen local tax sites until the filing deadline of April 15 for households earning up to \$37,000. For a complete list of sites, call the LABC information line at 581-7262. ☎

Fifth Third Bank is pleased to announce the availability of down payment assistance grants from the Homeownership Opportunities Program of the Federal Home Loan Bank of Indianapolis. Effective March 1, 2006 and continuing until funds are depleted, income-eligible, first-time homebuyers may apply for grants up to \$5,000. Se habla Español, para mas informacion, puede llamar a Terri Reyes (502) 412-9972. For more information, call Karen Campbell at 449-3297. ☎

The **Louisville Metro Human Relations Commission** is having a Brown Bag Lunch meeting on April 27 at 12 noon at the Commission, 410 W. Chestnut Street, Suite 300A, on *What is Discriminatory Lending*. This event is free. Please RSVP at 574-3631 or hrc@louisvilleky.gov. ☎

New Directions Housing Corporation is now accepting reservations from Volunteer Teams for its annual Repair Affair Event. New Directions began its Repair Affair program in 1993. Since then the program's mission has been to mobilize community-wide resources and volunteers to support the housing repair needs of elderly and disabled homeowners of low income. Volunteer teams from local corporations, service and social organizations, congregations and individuals work to complete repairs including wheelchair ramps, handrails/grab-bars, flooring, steps, locks, door/window repair, minor

mechanical repairs, exterior/interior painting, etc. We stress safety, security, accessibility, maintenance and weatherization. Call 589-2272, ext. 3039, for more information. ☎

ACTIVE Louisville, an inter-agency partnership with **TARC**, will be sponsoring its third session of the *Back on Track* walking club at the Shelby Park Community Center at 600 East Oak every Saturday from April 1—May 13. Join us for fitness, friendship and fun as we walk the track, get *free* pilates lessons, and have a healthy snack afterward. Walking begins at 10:30am, with pilates at 11am. Call Lisa Samuels at 574-1780 for more information or to sign up for the class. ☎

October 1 is the date for the **Dare to Care** Food Bank Festival on the Lawn presented by Kroger. This fun family event will be held at the Great Lawn at Waterfront Park. Mark the date now and look for more details soon. ☎

A Coalition at work

by Cathy Hinko
MHC Executive Director

The Affordable Housing Trust Fund Campaign has taught us, once again, how strong we are when we unite our efforts. The need for stable, healthy, affordable housing is so basic that many organizations decided that the AHTF was a way to help reach their diverse missions.

Now we are focusing on local government in Louisville. We need to have the local AHTF established and funded in the upcoming FY07 Louisville budget. This means meeting with our Council members and with the Mayor's staff to ensure that we do not lose any time in addressing the issues of affordable housing.

I have already written columns on the erosion of federal funding. It is time to act locally. ☎

MHC warmly welcomes all of our new members

Organizational members **Boys Haven** with organizational delegate **Jim Grote, Gold Key Realty** with organizational delegate **Patricia Edison** and individual members **Nick Braden & Carmen Tisdale**. Another BIG THANKS to **Judith & John Cumbler** for hosting a wonderful house party on March 5. They introduced MHC to many individuals, and the following joined at the party: **Ella Schagene, Lee Welsh, Marshall & Shelley Kahn, Rebecca & Brad Phillips, Beverly Bromley, Chris & Maria Purcell, David & Mary Craft Horvath, Rebecca Linda Raymond Ellison, Judi Jennings, Ann Allen, Dennis & Susan Hall, Fanny Rose Rosenbaum, Claude Rosen, Glen & Jane Dentinger, Matthieu Dalle & Jenny Thrasher, Bob & Judy Tiell, Lisa Markowitz, and Melinda Erickson**. ☎



Please join us!

Special events for Fair Housing Month

April has been designated national Fair Housing Month to celebrate the national legislation prohibiting discrimination in housing based upon race, religion, national origin, gender, disability or age.

For 15 years, MHC has hosted a Fair Housing Month Forum to bring the issue of housing justice into focus.

Please join us this month for the following events:

April 13 — Dr. Ed Goetz, a national expert, will speak about deconcentration of poverty at noon at the Louisville Urban League. This event is co-sponsored by the University of Louisville, School of Urban and Public Affairs.

April 18 — Tracy K'Meyer will speak about the history of the Open Housing movement in Louisville at noon at the Louisville Urban League. This is the first of four events to take place from April 2006—April 2007 on the movement, the marches and the passage of the local Fair Housing ordinance. ☺

UPDATE for House Bill 338 for the Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Everyone has been working hard on House Bill 338 and we won't know the outcome until after this newsletter has been printed. It is currently stuck in the Senate Banking & Industry Committee, despite thousands of constituents from all over the state calling in to demand a hearing. It passed the House on February 23, with a vote of 83 to 15.

Thank you all for your hard work and for continuing to read the day-to-day action alerts that have supported these massive campaigning efforts. Irregardless of the outcome at the state level, MHC will continue to strengthen the Open the Door campaign at the local level to ensure that a Louisville Affordable Housing Trust Fund is established and administered for optimal effectiveness.

If you would like to be added to the AHTF action list, email Nancy Reinhart at nancy@metropolitanhousing.org. All documents and information regarding the trust fund can be found on our website at www.metropolitanhousing.org. The Metropolitan Housing Coalition thanks the **Presbyterian Church USA** for its crucial support of this advocacy effort. We also thank the **United Food and Commercial Workers Local 227** for sticker printing support. ☺



FYI: Federal Budget FY 2007

The President's recently released funding proposal is not good news for people who need affordable housing. His budget proposes massive cuts to the HUD, CDBG, and Section 811 (housing for the elderly) budgets amongst a host of others. Using the President's request as a starting point, the House and Senate must each approve their own HUD funding levels, and then reach agreement on them.

ACTION → Please call your representative and senators this week, and ask to speak to the staffperson in each who deals with housing issues.

MESSAGE → Especially considering the fallout that continues to occur from Hurricane Katrina, now is *not* the time to cut funding for affordable housing. We must invest in our communities and maintain full funding for all housing programs.

An overview of the President's proposal is available at www.nlihc.org/news/020906.html. ☺



Want to receive MHC's newsletter by email?

If you would like to receive MHC's newsletter by email only, please contact Nancy at (502) 584-6858 or email her at nancy@metropolitanhousing.org

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MHC'S WEBSITE!**
www.metropolitanhousing.org

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MHC's monthly newsletter is underwritten by a grant from

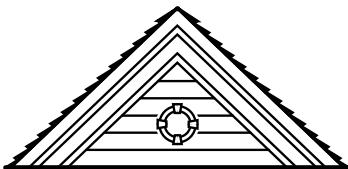
PNC BANK
Where Performance Counts

MHC Board offers slate of nominees

In July of 2006, MHC will say goodbye to a wonderful board member — **Ron McKulick**, from the **Southern 7 Workforce Investment**. The Board of Directors and staff are very grateful to Ron for his contributions to MHC over the last few years.

At the Annual Meeting on May 9, at 5pm at the Louisville Downtown Marriott, MHC's Board of Directors will offer a new slate of nominees. Additional nominees may be nominated in writing to the MHC office 30 days before the Annual Meeting on May 9.

MHC members will have the opportunity to respond to these nominations at the Annual Meeting. Please be sure to be there!



MHC Annual Meeting is May 9

Tickets and tables are being sold like hotcakes for our **17th Annual Meeting on May 9**. Get yours today! Of course you will regret it if you miss the largest local gathering of housing advocates and industry representatives this year!

As **Harvard Professor Dr. Gary Orfield** is the keynote speaker, many individuals and organizations from the educational field will be attending the event as well. We expect well over 600 to attend.

Parking is always difficult, so come early and enjoy the full social hour. Marriott and Convention Center garages are convenient for parking or you can look for super secret spaces somewhere on the streets near the Louisville Downtown Marriott, 280 W. Jefferson, where our event will be held.

For more information, please contact Nancy Reinhart at (502) 584-6858.