Tennessee Alliance for Progress, Humanities Tennessee and Mid-South Peace and Justice Center present
Wednesday March 15, 2017, First Congregation Church
1000 South Cooper, Memphis, TN 38104
Parking in the rear. Entrance via red double doors by children’s playground.
6:30 to 8:30 pm, Pay what you can. No one turned away for financial reasons. Light refreshments provided.
FREE, Seating is limited, please RSVP to brad@midsouthpeace.org
More info: Nell Levin, 615-579-0451, bernellalevin@gmail.com

**A Musical History of Joe Hill & The Early Labor Movement**

Nashville-based acoustic folk artists Shelby Bottom Duo will bring their multi-media *Musical History to Memphis on March 15, 2017*. The Duo’s recently released companion CD *Joe Hill Roadshow* will be available at this show.

Perhaps best known through Joan Baez’s stirring singing of “I Dreamed I Saw Joe Hill Last Night” at Woodstock, the Swedish-born Joe Hill was an activist and songwriter for the Industrial Workers of the World (I.W.W.), or Wobblies. His best-known song “The Preacher and the Slave” introduced the phrase “pie in the sky” into the English lexicon. He is the precursor of Woody Guthrie, Pete Seeger and Bob Dylan.

Joe Hill was framed for two murders he did not commit and executed by a firing squad in Salt Lake City, Utah in 1915. There is little doubt today that Hill was framed for the crimes because he was a foreigner and a well-known labor activist. The case drew international attention and appeals for clemency from U.S. President Woodrow Wilson, Helen Keller, the Swedish Ambassador, the American Federation of Labor, and many others. After his execution, Hill became a labor icon.

In 2015, on the 100-year anniversary of Joe Hill’s death, 40 shows were held around the country to celebrate his life and his legacy. Shelby Bottom Duo organized and played in the Nashville show and also played in the Knoxville show.

Shelby Bottom Duo’s entertaining, educational presentation includes early labor history interspersed with live music and a slide show. The Duo will hold a post-concert discussion on art and activism and the relevance of this history to what is going on in our country today. The event is “donate what you can” and open to the public. No one will be
turned away for lack of funds. Light refreshments will be served at 5:30 before the show. All are encouraged to attend, including creative artists who are seeking to understand how art can influence social change.

“When setting the agenda for our annual Leadership Conference, we were looking for a unique addition that would be a lively experience for our attendees. That’s exactly what we found with the Shelby Bottom Duo. Nell and Michael engaged the audience and provided everyone with a memorable and distinct take on the history of the labor movement.”
Tennessee AFL-CIO President Billy Dycus

"For those who wonder about the lineage of Woody Guthrie’s celebrated songs of social conscience and labor activism, the Shelby Bottom Duo & Friends have provided a compelling answer with the Joe Hill Roadshow—a collection that places top notch musicianship and heartfelt singing at the service of songs as meaningful now as they were when Hill wrote them a century ago."
Jon Weisberger, International Bluegrass Music Association Print Media Person of the Year as needed.