

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE September 2017

CKCPJ hosts peace vigil

by Margaret Gabriel, Editor

On Monday, Aug. 14 hundreds of people gathered in downtown Lexington for a vigil expressing solidarity with the people of Charlottesville, Va., after the violence that occurred in that city on Aug. 12. The vigil was sponsored and hosted by CKCPJ, the Kentucky National Organization for Women, Indivisible

Bluegrass and Together We Will.

Speakers for the event included Mayor Jim Gray, as well as other politicians, and religious and community leaders.

Their messages included affirmative words about the value of diversity, the importance of standing with and for each other, and the necessity to recognize and root out racism in the community.

After hearing about the event on Sunday, the choir of the Catholic Action Center volunteered to come to the rally to lead the crowd in singing “Amazing Grace.”

Rabbi David Wirtschafter, Temple Adath Israel, opened his remarks with “Shalom, y’all,” and closed by commending Mayor Gray for his recommendation to relocate the statues of John Hunt Morgan and John C. Breckinridge. “We stand with the mayor to say those men must be removed and they must be removed in peace,” Rabbi Wirtschafter said.

DeBraun Thomas, founder of Take Back Cheapside, which has worked for two years to have the statues removed, asked the crowd to call their city council people in support of removal,

and encouraged people to attend the city council meetings where the issue was discussed on Aug. 15 and Aug. 17.

The city council chamber was packed for the discussion on Aug. 15 and the council voted unanimously to move forward with a proposal to remove the statues from the lawn of the former Fayette County courthouse. Later that week, the council voted—again, unanimously—to send a request to the Military Heritage Commission asking that the statues be moved from their current locations to a site that will be determined within 30 days.

Mayor Gray first proposed moving the statues to Veterans Park, but has agreed to look at other locations. Lexington Cemetery has declined the request to move the statues to its grounds.

Rep. Kelly Flood addressed the crowd as “good people of Lexington,” and said, “I just say the truth as I know it. White supremacy is being supported by the 45th President of the United States,” and asked people to repeat the words that she said state government has a difficult time saying; “Black Lives Matter.”

Father Dan Noll, pastor of Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Church, encouraged the assembly to revel in its diversity and “Continue to become greater sons and daughters of God.”

The CKCPJ steering committee is poised to plan a counter-rally if white nationalist groups protest the removal of the statues as approved by the city council. Watch Facebook for further updates.



Margaret Gabriel

George Ella Lyon performed a poem she wrote, accompanying herself, as is her custom, on a washboard. The poem about race relations, repeated “I stand convicted.”

Non-Violence leaders invite participants

by Mary Ann Ghosal

A small group of leaders and participants from the non-violence workshop held in Lexington in April met on Thursday, Aug. 3, to consider future plans for non-violence efforts in Lexington. The group hopes to create an advisory team to coordinate existing programs and create additional programming for area youth who are at risk for violence. The group

hopes programs can be made available within area high schools and within the community. They started a list of possible resources and resource people. The initial planning group is currently in formation and invites anyone who would like to participate contact Kerby Neill, tkneill@earthlink.net or (859) 396-6811.

Gun Violence In America as of 8-21-17

(excluding suicide)

2017

Killed	9,897
Wounded	19,844

2016

Killed	13,218
Wounded	27,241

Source: www.gunviolencearchive.org

Lexington Advocacy Team Forming

by Mary Ann Ghosal

On Wednesday, Aug. 2, Emily Savin from the Friends Committee on National Legislation (FCNL) came to Lexington to recruit a Lexington Advocacy Team to lobby Kentucky members of Congress (Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul and Representative Andy Barr) on national legislative issues.

Emily explained that the FCNL Advocacy Team effort is two years old and has formed 60 teams throughout the United States. The teams are organized to help citizens develop skills in respectful, active-listening lobbying techniques for lobbying members of Congress and their aides that get at basic values through sharing and listening to stories. Lobbying can take place through letters, visits to local offices, participation in town hall meetings, and during other opportunities.

Each year the advocacy team program chooses a lobbying topic. In 2015 the topic was the Iran Nuclear Deal; in 2016 it was mass incarceration and sentencing. This year (2017) the topic is the Pentagon budget and as of July this year there have been 47 lobbying visits to members of Congress or their aides.

Advantages of lobbying as part of an advocacy team include:

- Initial training (four sessions)
- Accurate and detailed up-to-date information about the annual lobbying topic
- Monthly advocacy calls, support, and deeper advocacy training
- Multiple roles within the team — not everyone has to be good at everything

It is never too late to join the Lexington Advocacy Team. During the next few weeks there will be four training sessions at the Quaker Meeting House (649 Price Avenue, Lexington). One training session is sufficient to begin the process.

The first two training sessions took place in August. The final two sessions are scheduled for

- Wed., Sept. 6, 6:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.
- Wed., Sept. 13, 6:15 p.m. to 8 p.m.

If you cannot attend a training but want to be part of the team, please contact Jenny O'Neill at (757) 710-1675 or email her at jenchas4@verizon.net.

Mary Ann is the secretary for CKCPJ's steering committee.

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Submissions to Peaceways

Articles submitted for publication in *Peaceways* should show an awareness of and sensitivity to the CKCPJ's mission and concerns.

Articles of varying lengths are encouraged. Short essays reflecting an individual's experience of peace- and justice-related events and community action or activism are encouraged, as well.

Feature articles should be no longer than 500 words, unless you are willing to have the piece cut to fit one page of *Peaceways* text. Pieces will be edited for clarity.

Please include references in the text for all quotations, statistics, and unusual facts. End- or footnotes are not used. Please query submissions to peacewayseditor@gmail.com before writing a feature article intended solely for *Peaceways*.

For all submissions, the author's name, address, and phone number should appear on the body of the submitted text. If you submit material that has been published or which you are also submitting to other publishers, be sure to indicate this. Also include information about your relationship to any organization or issue mentioned in the article for inclusion in a biographical reference at the end of the story. Submissions should be made in Word format *via* email. Book reviews are usually solicited by the editor but we welcome inquiries from potential reviewers.

Submission deadline is the 10th of each month. *Peaceways* is published monthly except January.

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

Board of Directors: Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto, Rick Clewett, Bilal El-Amin, Mary Ann Ghosal (secretary), Heather Hadi, Randolph Hollingsworth, Rahul Karanth, Steven Lee Katz (treasurer), Richard Mitchell, Bruce Mundy, Steve Pavey, Nadia Rasheed, Rabbi Uri Smith, Teddi Smith-Robillard, Craig Wilkie. *Peaceways Staff:*

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Peaceways is published ten times a year by the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, 1588 Leestown Rd., Ste. 130-138, Lexington KY 40511. The next issue of *Peaceways* will appear in October. Deadline for calendar items is September 10. Contact (859) 488-1448 or email peacewayseditor@gmail.com.

The Color of Service

by Margaret Gabriel, Editor

Some stories I wrote several years ago required trips to the Kentucky State Penitentiary in Eddyville, the location of Kentucky's Death Row.

For two of the trips, I traveled with Father John Rausch, a Glenmary priest who said Mass in the prison's day room for about a dozen Death Row inmates. They were the only men allowed to attend because Death Row inmates are isolated from the rest of the prison population.

For that reason, the primary color in the room that day was red — a rich red that is the color of the jumpsuits worn by Death Row inmates. Father John vested in the same color, a show of solidarity with the men who were gathered in prayer.

I don't remember, but I suspect a prison official told us that if an Eddyville guard sees a red jumpsuit someplace it's not supposed to be, it triggers trouble for the out-of-place inmate: solitary confinement, harsh punishment of some kind.

Like a sound or a scent that triggers a memory, that red takes me back to that day room in Eddyville. For me, the color often spells isolation and danger.

That being said, you'll understand when I write that I was taken aback when I saw a box of t-shirts intended for distribution to the Community Service Team at the Catholic Action Center. The dozens of shirts in the box were Death Row Red.

The new Catholic Action Center, 1055 Industry Road, opened in April, bringing under one roof services from the Catholic Action Center (the day center on East 5th Street), the Community Inn (the overnight shelter on Winchester Road), and God's Net (the clothing bank, free laundry services and administrative offices on 7th Street).

The Community Service Team is made up of guests of the Catholic Action Center. On the day of the center's dedication in May, the red-shirted team gave tours of their new home, showing supporters from the social service community, the faith community and government officials the bright sunny gathering room; the industrial kitchen where members of the team work with volunteers from dozens of churches throughout Lexington to prepare three meals a day; shower facilities and large sleeping rooms, one for men and one for women.

The thin sleeping mats that kept guests off the floor when they slept at the Community Inn have been replaced by single beds with mattresses donated by Sealy Tempur-Pedic. (Lexington has the only facility in the nation to provide such an amenity, according to co-director Ginny Ramsey.)

By the day of the dedication, guests had been in residence for about three weeks and were clearly proud to show supporters throughout the building.

Those red t-shirts were everywhere that day and it was the first time I had seen them out of the box. The color still took me back to the day room at the penitentiary at Eddyville, but it was a memory I shared with no one, especially the guests who proudly wore shirts that identified them as a member of the team.

Months later, the Catholic Action Center has settled into a recognizable routine. When I go in the front door every Tuesday morning, I see new faces as well as familiar faces. Folks in red t-shirts clean the gathering area, wipe table tops after breakfast, sweep and mop the green polished concrete floor. Members of the Community Service Team carry sheets from the sleeping rooms to the laundry area.

After team members wash the sheets, other members make the beds. Still others water the flowers in the raised beds in the Daddy Joe Taylor Park, a beautiful feature that provides guests the opportunity to sit outside in the fresh air and sunshine where they play cornhole (painted with a UK Wildcats logo), chat and smoke.

Every Sunday at 1 p.m. Ginny holds a community meeting that opens with a prayer, then followed by announcements about upcoming events.

A recent meeting told of the services that will be available when Mountain Comprehensive Care moves into the offices in the upstairs space at Industry Road.

Housing activist Billie Mallory told the group of 100-plus people that she had started working to locate housing for each of them. She likes their magic word, she said, which is "Patience."

After the meeting, guests registered for four hours of community service. In return for those hours of service, guests

have a reserved bed for the week and a small locker where they can store belongings. Many weeks, all 130 beds at the Catholic Action Center are reserved, although guests must be in by 9:30 or beds are released to those who are waiting. Exceptions are made, of course, for folks who work nights.

I don't mean to give the impression that 1055 Industry Road is an idyllic place where people live out of choice. They don't call it a homeless shelter, but a community. It's a community where people are treated with kindness and dignity, but — make no mistake — people are there because they have no other place to stay.

I suppose some of the members of the Community Service Team work because of an overwhelming desire to serve, but more realistically, I'm sure folks are mopping, cleaning and making beds in order to reserve that bed for the week. But those are still tasks they perform proudly in order to earn a bed and a locker.

Guests' survival skills never fail to amaze me, and although I've volunteered various services to the Catholic Action Center for over 15 years, there are moments I cringe at my own insensitivity because I still have a very narrow frame of reference for the realities of homelessness.

Since May, though, I've learned several lessons from the Community Service Team. One is that everyone has a gift to give. By combining our gifts, the community functions well and truly becomes a team.

Something else I recently realized is that the color red has been transformed in my consciousness.

Red is no longer the color of Death Row—the color of danger and isolation—but the color of service.

Margaret Gabriel is the editor of Peaceways, and volunteers several times a week at the CAC.

Support CKCPJ by linking
your Kroger Plus card
to #16439 at
krogercommunityrewards.com

Calendar for Peace & Justice

The council seeks to promote dialogue as a path to peace and justice. Consequently, we announce events that we do not necessarily endorse.

Wed., Sept. 6, 13

Lobbying Workshop, 6:15-8 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Meeting of the Lexington Advocacy Team. The local group is part of the Friends Committee on National Legislation, which is lobbying in 2017 about the Pentagon budget. Contact Jenny O'Neill at (757) 710-1675 or email jenchas4@verizon.net.

Tues., Sept. 12

PFLAG, 6:30-8:30 p.m., St. Michael Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington. Learn how a Pentecostal family came to accept their gay son. PFLAG welcomes LGBTQ persons, family members, friends and allies. Come to learn. Come for support. Come to stand with us. We are stronger together. Presentation, questions and answers take place the first hour, followed by our confidential support group meeting. More information at www.pflagcentralky.org or call (859) 338-4393

Tues., Sept. 12

Central Kentucky SURJ, 5:30 p.m. Wild Fig Books and Coffee, 726 N. Limestone, Lexington. Discussion will include plans for advocacy for the coming months, including updates on the advancing progress of "Take Back Cheapside."

Tues., Sept. 19

CKCPJ steering committee meeting, 7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include planning for the upcoming committee meetings, proposals for new initiatives and continuing action.

Tues., Sept. 25-27

Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Appalachia. This year's Pilgrimage, beginning in Stanton, Ky, offers opportunities to integrate faith life with the environment, health issues, and lifestyles. The cost of \$300 includes overnights, transportation and program expenses. Partial scholarships are available, and no one will be denied participation because of costs. For more information, contact Father John Rausch, (859) 663-0823, jrausch@bellsouth.net.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

CKCPJ Steering Committee Meetings, third Tuesday, 7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave. More info: (859) 488-1448 or peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com. All are welcome.

Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace, every Thursday, 5:30 - 6 p.m. at Triangle Park (corner of Broadway and Main Street) in downtown Lexington. Contact Richard Mitchell, (859) 327-6277.

Migrant Network Coalition, first Monday, noon - 1:15 p.m., GLOBAL LEX, 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington. Contact Lindsay Mattingly, lmatingly@lexpublib.org, (859) 231-5514.

PFLAG Central Kentucky, second Tuesday, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. LGBTQ individuals of all ages, family members, friends and allies are welcome. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. Visit info@pflagcentralky.org or (859) 338-4393. Speakers followed by confidential support group meeting.

Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky, second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Lexington Public Central Library, 140 E. Main St., Lexington. Contact Craig Cammack, chair, (859) 951-8565 or info@lexfair.org.

Wednesday Night GLSO "Heart to Heart" discussion group, 7 p.m., Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave., Lexington. GLSO operates Kentucky's only Pride Center, where they have quietly provided services to the GLBTQQIA community for decades. More info, Pride Center hours, and other links at www.glsso.org.

Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky, first Thursday, 7 p.m., Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd., Lexington. The Forum is a Chapter of the American Humanist Association. Meetings are open to people of all beliefs willing to express their opinions in a civil manner. Child care is provided. Contact President Staci Maney, staci@olliegee.com or (859) 797-2662.

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, third Thursday, 7 p.m., Episcopal Diocese Mission House at Fourth St. and MLK Blvd, Lexington. Contact Beth Howard, (859) 276-0563.

NAMI Lexington Support Groups, every Sunday, 2:30 - 4 p.m. Participation Station, 869 Sparta Court, Lexington. Call (859) 272-7891 or visit www.namilex.org.

Christian-Muslim Dialogue Program, fourth Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon. All are welcome. Locations vary, call (859) 277-5126. The Christian-Muslim dialogue promotes understanding and mutual respect between Christians and Muslims. By exploring moral, cultural and political factors shaping the current context, the program promotes personal and collective responsibility to build a more just and peaceful world.

Dance Jam, every Tuesday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave. Move to the extent you are able. Sponsored by Motion Matters, \$7 per session to cover space rental. Contact Pamela, info@motionmatters.org, (859) 351-3142.

Movies with Spirit, second Friday of every month. Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Road, Lexington. Potluck at 6 p.m., film at 7.

National Action Network, third Thursday each month, 7 - 8:30 p.m. at the Central Library, Lexington.

To include a regular meeting of your organization in this space, contact Margaret Gabriel, peacewayseditor@gmail.com.

Movie review

Tough story, undeserved happy ending

The Glass Castle (2017). A film directed by Destin Daniel Cretton. Screenplay by Cretton, Andrew Lanham, and Jeannette Walls (based on her book). Starring Brie Larson, Woody Harrelson and Naomi Watts.

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

It's summer, and I find book review deadline encroaching without my finding the spine to take on the current dysfunctional Administration yet again.

So just this once let's watch a movie, albeit one based on a book that still illustrates causes dear to the progressive heart.

If you would rather be "entertained" by escapism at the movies than see filmic truths that might make you uncomfortable, there are several theaters showing

animated comic books, warmed-over TV sitcoms transferred uncomfortably to the screen, or farcical romantic romps with gender-flipped casts from the first go-round 15 years ago. You can have my seat at those. For me, a worthwhile film sparks uncomfortable discussion after the crowd disperses. And wow, does this ever.

"The Glass Castle" had me squirming and sniffing as Jeannette Walls unfolded her true story of Appalachian family deprivation in pitiless detail.

Rex (Woody Harrelson) is a drunkard father with intellectual potential but no discipline, who we see in an early scene railing against the medical establishment treating his daughter Jeannette for burns she suffered cooking hot dogs on a gas stove while wearing loose clothing

He rants at the doctor who has impugned him for not formally schooling his four children. He says the doc is putting a Band-Aid on his burned child and for that will charge a year's salary so the doctor can live well.

There's truth to that, but that's not his real passion. He's deficient, and knows it, he takes up the social cudgel and lashes out offensively at the doctor rather than

defend himself. In the next sequence, he has his son stage a howling fake seizure in the hospital corridors so that Rex can scoop his daughter out of her hospital bed and runs out on the bill and her treatment.

I thought here about the movie "Precious," which contended for Best Picture of 2009. That picture featured a welfare mom, practically right out of Ronald Reagan's book of unfair stereotypes, who made life decisions for

herself and her tragic daughter based completely on how it would affect the number and size of assistance checks she would receive. Surely we progressives didn't have this in mind, nor Rex and his family, when we designed the social safety net.

Rex runs away with tireless facility. He packs the family from state to state as he loses job after job and is pursued by unpleasant situations. The children become familiar with being yanked out of sleep and packed into a vehicle at a moment's notice, knowing they'll never return to the current place they were trying to develop into a home.

Finally they arrive in Welch, West Virginia (a few miles down the road from Pike County, Kentucky). They reach a utilities-free ramshackle house on an Appalachian hilltop, where Rex fulfills the drunken stereotype until his children flee one by one. Rex and his wife Rose Mary (Naomi Watts), a useless, delusional and only marginally talented artist, follow daughter Jeannette to New York City, becoming homeless squatters in an abandoned building for years, as Jeannette tries to ignore them.

Adult Jeannette (Brie Larson, Best Actress for "Room" where she played another woman equally trapped) is a textbook model ACA (adult child of an alcoholic). Children get this way because they are resilient in the face of staggering childhood disappointments

— they cope by growing a shell. But the childhood shell in adulthood becomes a wall, and adult Jeannette is walled off — icy and out of touch with her feelings. Superficially successful, ignoring her inward unhappiness.

These conflicting feelings and situations surface and resolve in the Hollywoodland of happy endings, which strikes false notes with me. Can't say more without revealing too much, both about Jeannette and myself.

Those who have read the book tell me the book is more honest and generally superior to the movie. (The illustration is of the audiobook for this reason.) I can't tell you for myself because the movie was so painful I can't face the book. You'll forgive me this time.

Reviewer Jim Trammel has a sort-of-tough-childhood story, but if he wrote his book now, it would read like he was copying "Glass Castle" or "Hillbilly Elegy." Or possibly "National Lampoon's Vacation."

CKCPJ Committees

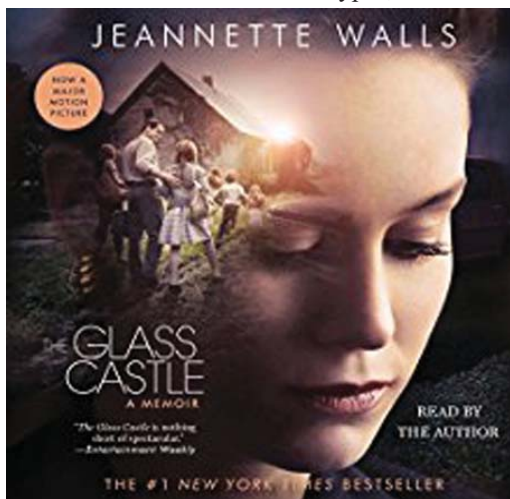
The CKCPJ steering committee decided in consensus to plan action team meetings on Tuesday evenings.

The teams include peace action, which has scheduled a visit from Jonathan Granoff for early spring 2018. The team will plan for that visit and will continue to explore the possibility of a follow-up workshop on peace education. Currently, the first Tuesday of the month will be reserved for the peace action team. For more information about the peace action team, contact Kerby Neill, tkneill@earthlink.net.

The third Tuesday of the month will continue to be reserved for the steering committee. The committee manages the administrative detail of CKCPJ and is open to the public. Anyone with an issue which he or she would like to bring to the attention of CKCPJ for action or discussion is encouraged to bring it to the steering committee.

The committee encourages people with an interest in promoting a single-payer health care system to contact Richard Mitchell, (859) 327-6277, for information about a monthly Tuesday meeting.

Other issues under consideration for monthly discussion include housing justice and political action.



PEACEWAYS

The Central Kentucky Council
for Peace and Justice
1588 Leestown Rd., Ste. 130-138,
Lexington KY 40511
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*More rights for other
people doesn't mean
fewer rights for you.
This isn't pie.*

~ Sign at the August 14 rally in Lexington

Images of the Rally for Peace



Mayor Jim Gray, above, received a long and loud ovation in approval for his move to remove Confederate monuments from downtown locations. Right, the Catholic Action Center choir led the rally in "Amazing Grace." Photos by Margaret Gabriel.



License plate refunds to continue through September 30

CKCPJ thanks Rebecca Glasscock for her continuing efforts to reconcile the account that collected reservations for the sale of its artistic specialty Kentucky license plate that proclaims "Peace is Possible."

Rebecca has contacted everyone who reserved a license plate to tell them their options concerning the refund of deposits to reserve the plate. There are still a few folks who have not responded to her inquiries.

The steering committee has asked



Rebecca to complete her effort by September 30. If you reserved a license plate but have not given information about how to direct your deposit please contact Rebecca at rebecca.glasscock@kctcs.edu.