

Showing Up For Racial Justice

by Margaret Gabriel

I've been walking regularly in my neighborhood a couple of times a day for what seems like forever, but in reality since the YMCA closed back in March. Then, I bundled up with leggings and a turtleneck, a hoodie, and a scarf, but as time went on and we went through spring and then into summer, I began to check the hourly weather report in order to avoid walking during the hottest portion of the day.

I change my route very little — I'm totally a creature of habit — but in May I passed a variety of yard signs congratulating high school seniors, eighth-graders and fifth-graders for completing their off-beat year at Clay's Mill Elementary, Jessie Clark Middle School and Lafayette High School. There were a couple of signs that saluted the service of teachers. Some wished someone a happy birthday, and I think I remember seeing a sign that welcomed a new baby.

In the last couple of weeks, I was happy to see one and then another sign proclaiming "Black Lives Matter." Upon closer examination I found Showing Up for Racial Justice in small letters.

SURJ is a national network of groups and individuals working to undermine white supremacy and to work for racial justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability.

The website has a listing for all of the chapters and affiliates in Kentucky: Louisville, Berea, central and eastern Kentucky. Kentuckians for the Commonwealth has a page on its website devoted to SURJ.

If you're interested in a yard sign, you can find a contact on the Central Kentucky SURJ Facebook page.

I was most interested, however to see a Call to Action for White Folks. For every point, there is a link to a site where the reader can learn more or sign up to participate in an action. For those links, go to showingupforracialjustice.org/call-to-action.

"Thank you for joining us in this Call to Action for White Folks. Now it's time to move into action to call for #JusticeforGeorgeFloyd, #JusticeforTonyMcDade, #JusticeforBreonna and #JusticeforAhmaud. It is time to #EndWhiteSilence and here are ways to take accountable action for racial, economic and gender justice.

"Below you'll find the details on how to take action in the streets, take on white supremacy in the political arena, meaningfully support SURJ's and our partners' work financially and to support key local actions. The time to get off the sidelines is now and we're so glad you're here. [To become a member of SURJ, go to the website and click on the link.]

- "Support local fights: There are ways to show up to support on the ground work in the Twin Cities, Louisville, and Georgia. [The website has links in each of these places. The Louisville link includes a petition calling for justice for Breonna Taylor.]
- "Take Action in the Streets: Show Up for and/or Organize Actions at Your Local Police Headquarters or City Hall and help #EndWhiteSilence #InDefenseOfBlackLives. Take action to #DefundThePolice.
- "Take Action By Taking on the Politics of White Supremacy and Defeating



Trump: Black leaders and activists have been asking us to do and call white voters and join the #CollectYourCousins Community. If you are down to defeat Trump and racist candidates like him up and down the ballot, the link will allow you to join SURJ's Collect Your Cousins Community.

- "Take Action by Putting Our Money Where Our Hearts and Rage Are: The Right Wing has billionaires but we've got something better: YOU. Take a moment to make a commitment that feels meaningful to you to support the work of defeating Trump, dismantling White Supremacy and fighting for our collective liberation. Whether it's \$5, \$50 or \$500 just once or as a long haul, sustaining contribution - your commitment will make a difference. We ask that you split your donation between SURJ and Movement for Black Lives. [You can donate to either group through the SURJ website.]

Don't forget to stay connected. These short-term actions are meaningful and the struggle to dismantle white supremacy and to fight for our collective liberation is a long haul. Follow us and tag us on social media:

- Facebook @showingupforracialjustice
- IG @showingupforracialjustice
- Twitter @showup4rj

Gun Violence In America as of 7-29-20 2020 (year to date)	
Killed	10,132
Suicide	13,926
Wounded	20,321
2019 (annual)	
Killed	15,208
Wounded	29,501
Source: www.gunviolencearchive.org	

What can I do about climate change?

We often hear about climate change, but for many people contributing to its mitigation feels out of reach. Listed here, though, are some projects that represent gateway experiences to a greater relationship with nature:

Rain Gardens

These are gardens of native plants placed in low areas that catch the flow of rainwater to help purify it by eliminating nearly 90 percent of the nutrients and chemicals, plus 80 percent of the sediments.

Bioswales

Similar to rain gardens, bioswales are designed for areas that receive large amounts of stormwater into a moderate trench. Again, they purify water and help with the effects of heavy storm runoff.

Pollinator Gardens

These gardens create an ecosystem that support pollinators such as butterflies and bees, that keep plant species strong and productive. The decline of bees, the great pollinators, has raised grave concerns.

Vegetable/Herb Gardens

Edible plants can be grown in a vegetable or herb garden. Churches can share the produce with people who are poor or encourage members to cook with the fresh herbs and focus on local production for sustainability.

Composting

Organic material added to a compost pile will decompose and create lush, fertile matter to enrich gardens and help plants grow. Recycling a church's food waste will underscore a respect for food and elevate it as the special gift it is.

Green Roof

Here's a strategy to support runoff from impermeable surfaces, such as flat roofs. Planting a garden of sedums or small plants that can tolerate heat and dry periods on a roof will also improve the heating/cooling efficiency of a building.

Stream/Riparian Restoration

Stream restoration projects can yield aquatic ecosystem improvement, habitat creation and sediment control.



Discussion on Zoom One Sunny Day: Remembering Hiroshima Sunday, August 9, 2020 6:00 p.m. ET

Atomic bomb survivor Dr. Hideko Tamura Snider, author of "One Sunny Day" and founder of One Sunny Day Initiatives, will speak of her childhood experience of the Hiroshima bombing, and life before and after, in this webinar.

In the photo, Dr. Tamura is standing beneath the Enola Gay, the plane which dropped the bomb on Hiroshima, which is on display at the National Air and Space Museum in Cantilly, Virginia. The photographer, Noriko Hansen, gave the photo to Dr. Tamura, who has given permission to use it. Dr. Tamura writes about the Enola Gay, "9,000 feet closer this time and nearly 75 years later, I came to grips with my nightmare and saw it was still a piece of metal without the men aboard and the order to

follow. Culture of war and patriotism on both sides are so dangerous to the Human Race!"

Zoom meeting details for connecting by phone: By phone: +1 301 715 8592 Meeting ID: 822 0630 8742 Password: 267619 One tap mobile +13017158592,,82206308742#,,,,0#,,26



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, Teddi Smith-Robillard, Craig Wilkie.

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Peaceways is published 10 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 September 2020. Deadline for calendar items is Aug. 10. Contact (859) 488-1448 or email peacewayseditor@gmail.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.

Tues., Aug. 4

CKCJ health care action committee, 5-6 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link to attend the meeting, email Richard Mitchell at rjmq47@twc.com.

Sun., Aug. 9

Hiroshima Discussion 6 p.m. A zoom discussion with atomic bomb survivor Dr. Hideko Tamura Snider, founder of One Sunny Day Initiatives. Information about accessing the discussion is on page 2.

Tues., Aug 11

CKCJ peace action committee, 4:30-6 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link to attend the meeting, email Richard Mitchell at rjmq47@twc.com.

Mon., Aug. 17

CKCJ steering committee meeting, 5 - 6:30 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link to participate in the meeting, email Richard Mitchell at rjmq47@twc.com

PFLAG Central Kentucky

PFLAG Central Kentucky, Second Tuesday 6:30-8:30 p.m., St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. Meetings are suspended, but support is available at info@pflagcentralky.org or by phone, 859-338-4393.

Rescheduled for September

BUILD, Nehemiah Action, Heritage Hall, 430 Vine Street, Lexington. More info TBA

Mon., Oct. 5

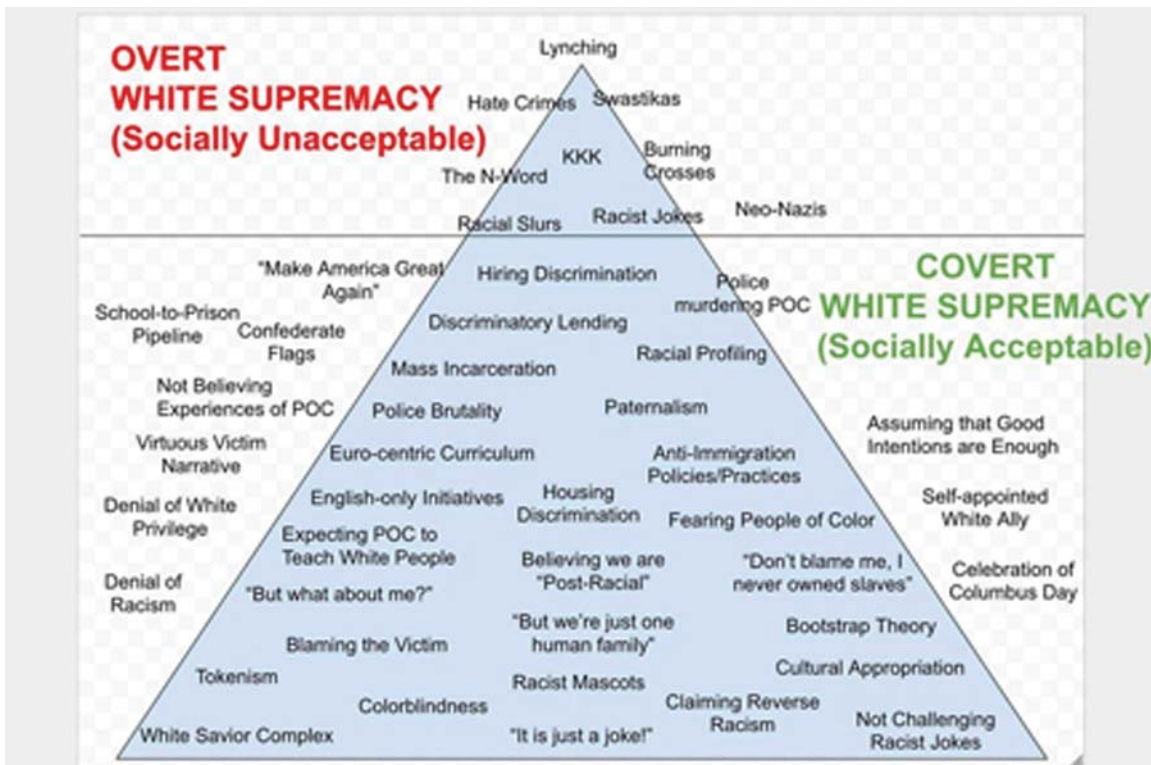
Deadline, voter registration for the general election. At press time there was no information about absentee voting for the general election Nov. 3.

Fri-Sat., Oct. 23-24

Plowshares Lexington, Pursuing Peace, Gun Violence and the Church. Asbury Theological Seminary, 204 North Lexington Avenue, Wilmore. For information about cost and speakers: pursuingpeace.com.

Christian-Muslim Dialogue

Monthly Meetings Last Saturdays, 10 a.m.-noon. Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden. Meetings have been cancelled until Fall. Watch *Peaceways* calendar page for the specific date.



From the Unitarian Universalist College of Social Justice website
 Developed by Safehouse Progressive Alliance for Nonviolence (2005), adapted by Ellen Tuzzolo, 2016.

Mary Trump's book would have been way more fun

No one really knows how the game is played,
The art of the trade, how the sausage gets made
We want our leaders to save the day,
But we don't get a say in what they trade away

~ from *Hamilton*, "The Room Where It Happens"

We endured this cycle repeatedly, always with the same outcome. Every few days ... Trump would be repeating his lines from the same movie soundtrack.

~ Bolton, p. 210.

The Room Where It Happened.

By John Bolton. Simon and Schuster Digital Sales, Published June 23, 2020. 592 pages.

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

In all these years of reviewing, this is only the second book I've tackled (after *Hillbilly Elegy*) in which I found nothing worthwhile to recommend.

If you've ever wished to experience the non-stop backstage thrills of a NATO summit in Brussels, with a 10,000-word explanation of why Donald Trump thinks NATO's financing arrangement is unfair to the U.S., then here you go, dig in.

The first 13 chapters are the wheres, whens and whys of several crises of the moment that people don't remember now, just a few years later, in Syria, Afghanistan, Venezuela, and points east (all sinister roads in the Boltonverse lead back to Iran, the masterminds behind all world evil, he thinks). After a while I was racing through the accounts.

There isn't even much for Trump to get embarrassed about. Bolton forgives Trump's workday that starts at the crack of 11, "working the phones in the Residence" with "all manner of people." Others say Trumpian mornings consist of tweeting and Fox News. We report, you decide.

In summary of the first 13 chapters: "Person A was best for the job, but Trump insider B asked C, which surprised D who thought the job was his friend E's, but it turned out F got the job, but I knew G was waiting for him to fail ..." You can read only so much of this before sleepiness overwhelms.

Kentuckians will note that Trump briefly tapped Rand Paul to go-between with him and Iran after they downed that expensive U.S. spy drone. "It was mind-boggling that Trump would entrust anything sensitive to Paul," Bolton marvels. No affection wasted: Bolton claims Paul used language too salty for this column when told of Bolton's hiring.

Bolton gets down to Ukraine in Chapter 14, but even then he dances us off, saying in essence, "I knew better, but I kept it to myself." Not only did he not tell Congress the timely truths about Trump, he didn't even advise Trump himself too well, tiptoeing around the moody tot to try to read moods and stay employed, as they all were doing.

Bolton is now happy to describe Trump's Ukraine dealings as "obstruction of justice as a way of life," a phrase that would have echoed well in the hearing rooms of the House of Representatives.

Bolton writes that he noticed Trump strangely mentally linking hundreds of millions in proposed weapons aid to Ukraine with what Bolton calls a "fantasy" theory that Ukraine was the go-between in Moscow's election tampering in 2016.

Bolton says presidential hanger-on Rudy Giuliani originally planted this evil connection, likely to help Rudy's other legal clients. Trump delayed the release of the funds until the press noticed, dug up the "investigate Hunter Biden" *quid pro quo* in that phone call to Ukraine's president, and the impeachment ball got rolling.



Dan (Tom Tomorrow) Perkins, *thismodernworld.com*. (Spoiler: Bolton doesn't tell many stories in much detail.)

Bolton resigned just before the whistleblower complaint set impeachment in motion, and didn't know who the whistleblower was. Bolton didn't testify when the House wanted him, and the Senate rushed to acquittal without calling witnesses. Worked out well.

Bolton faults the House impeachment inquiry for rushing forward without a complete inquiry into all the Trump transgressions (where to find all that time?), but he doesn't fault the Senate for their lack of a trial.

He justifies his post-acquittal coyness thusly: "Trying to explain my views didn't pass my cost-benefit analysis of time and effort expended." The book deal presumably tipped his benefit calculus.

Indeed, to return once more to the *Hamilton* musical, Bolton was "not throwing away his shot"—he was selling it to the highest bidder.

Reviewer Jim Trammel has logged over 20 years of low-level state government service, and not once has dangerous and illegal intrigue ever asked directions to his cubicle.

Submissions to *Peaceways*

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

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-notes 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 that 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.

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

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Check with website for times when meetings are resumed

CKCPJ Steering Committee Meetings, third Monday, 5 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 GLBTQQA 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 Ct., 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.

Showing Up for Racial Justice, second Tuesday of the month, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wild Fig Coffee and Books, 726 N. Limestone, Lexington.

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



The Central Kentucky Council
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I guess if I'd had any sense, I'd have been a little scared — but what was the point of being scared? The only thing they could do was kill me, and it kinda seemed like they'd been trying to do that a little bit at a time since I could remember.

~ Fannie Lou Hamer

A model of strength and courage

The life of Fanny Lou Hamer is one that should come into focus as we grow into the long-standing truth that Black lives matter. A native of Montgomery County, Alabama, Mrs. Hamer was a civil rights advocate and community organizer who was passionate about voting rights for Black citizens as well as rights for women.

On August 31, 1962, she learned from a volunteer with the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee that she had a constitutional right to vote and traveled to Indianola, Miss., to register. The registration test, designed to block voting rights for Mrs. Hamer and other Black citizens, asked her to explain “de facto laws.”

“I knowed as much about a facto law as a horse knows about Christmas

Day,” she was reported as saying.

Because of the rights she was trying to claim for herself and others, Mrs. Hamer was evicted from the plantation where she lived with her sharecropper husband, Perry Hamer, was shot at by the Ku Klux Klan, and intimidated by other white supremacists. In December of that same year, she tried again, and failed again, to register to vote. Telling officials they would see her every 30 days until she passed, Mrs. Hamer passed the test on her third try.

When she went to vote, however, she was unable to produce the poll tax receipts that she was required to have but was allowed to vote after she acquired the needed papers.

After becoming a field secretary for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, Mrs. Hamer was again subjected to violence at the hands of Mississippi police and white supremacists and received beatings from which she never completely recovered.

Mrs. Hamer was a co-founder of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party, a party for all people that did not stand for any form of exploitation and discrimination (especially toward minorities). She was a member of a delegation that demanded to be seated at the 1964 national Democratic convention in Atlantic City.

A compromise proposed by Hubert Humphrey was rejected by the MFDP and Mississippi’s all-white delegation walked out. When the MFDP was seated at the 1968 convention, Mrs. Hamer was elected as a national party delegate.

In order to make agriculture accessible to African-Americans, Mrs. Hamer created the Freedom Farm Cooperative, which established a “pig bank” that provided pregnant pigs to families. In exchange for caring for the pig, the family would keep the piglets as a source of both food and income.

Mrs. Hamer was a driving force in the National Women’s Political Caucus and the National Council of Negro Women.

She died in 1977 from complications from hypertension and breast cancer. Over 1,500 people attended her funeral, including Andrew Young, who spoke at the service, saying “None of us would be where we are now had she not been there then.”

She is one of 28 civil rights icons on the Freedom Wall in Buffalo, New York.

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CKCPJ on Facebook

If you have “Liked” the CKCPJ Facebook page, thank you. You’ve seen posts that are both informational and inspirational from a variety of people focused on local, national and international issues. If you haven’t check it out!

Items from local and national publications and websites routinely appear on the CKCPJ Facebook page, so you can expect varied and enlightening posts. Check them out and be sure to share.

Recent posts include several from *The Washington Post*, including: reports on the moms in Portland who protected the protesters; why the Georgia governor stands alone on the mask mandates; the ongoing rancor between Donald Trump and scientists; insight about the executions by the federal government; how John Lewis should be remembered and memorialized; the live and virtual re-opening of schools in Kentucky; and a posting about the addition of Stephen Miller, a White House official, to the list of extremists.



Fannie Lou Hamer