

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE April 2021

Campaign protests, promotes policy priorities

by Margaret Gabriel, editor

Requiring masking and social distancing of eight feet, the Kentucky Poor People’s Campaign (PPC) on March 15 protested legislation that directly and negatively impacts poor people during the Kentucky General Assembly;

The campaign vows not to be silent as legislators ignore bills that will directly help all Kentuckians. The General Assembly — especially in the last few days — hurriedly passed a multitude of bills that could have negative effects on low-income people. Similar campaigns took place in other cities throughout the United States.

The program was also available to view on-line.

The emailed invitation to the Frankfort event said, “We stand united with folks across the country as they, too, deliver the Poor People’s Campaign 14 Policy Priorities to legislative leaders and governor at their state capitals. Together we are bringing attention to the impact of policies which promote systemic racism, poverty and inequality, the war economy and militarism, environmental devastation, and the corrupt moral narrative.”

Richard Mitchell represented CKCPJ at the protest and commended PPC state leadership. The March 15 program protested the voter bills that are working their way through the General Assembly and will effectively suppress votes. Forty cars looped the capitol, with about 50 people. The keynote prayer was given by Bishop John Stowe and was followed by

the new president of KCC, Amanda Groves.

Arnold Farr read the PPC’s policy priorities to the group, and a delegation of members distributed letters to every member of the House and Senate, as well as leadership.

The Poor People’s Campaign 14 Policy Priorities:

- 1) Enact comprehensive, free and just COVID-19 relief;
 - 2) Guarantee quality health care for all;
 - 3) Raise the minimum wage to \$15/hour immediately;
 - 4) Update the poverty measure;
 - 5) Guarantee quality housing for all;
 - 6) Enact a federal jobs program to build up investments, infrastructure, public institutions, climate resilience, energy efficiency and socially beneficial industries and jobs in poor and low-income communities;
 - 7) Protect and expand voting rights and civil rights;
 - 8) Guarantee safe, quality and equitable public education, with supports for protection against re-segregation;
 - 9) Comprehensive and just immigration reform;
 - 10) Ensure all of the rights of indigenous peoples;
 - 11) Enact fair taxes;
 - 12) Use the power of executive orders;
 - 13) Redirect the bloated Pentagon budget towards these priorities as matters of national security;
 - 14) Work with the Poor People’s Campaign to establish a permanent Presidential Council to advocate for this bold agenda.
- For more information and discussion about the Policy Priorities, see www.poorpeoplescampaign.org/resource/policy-and-legislative-priorities/



LGBTQ finds support

“I wish for a world of kindness because we are all fighting our own unknown battles.”

These words from Angel, an LGBTQ asylum seeker now living in Sweden, convey the hope and heartache woven throughout the short film *Life Returns*, a 35-minute documentary.

Filmmaker Israel Benavides draws us into the personal stories of what life is like in countries where being lesbian, gay, Bi, trans or queer is illegal, or even punishable by death. Criminalizing LGBTQ people is a view supported and encouraged by churches with colonizing and homophobic interpretations of Christianity.

But in migrating to Sweden, LGBTQ asylum seekers find new support and a new home from a different, progressive form of Christianity in the Church of Sweden and from the non-profit Find Hope, an advocacy and lobbying organization for LGBTQ youth and immigrants.

Contact Emily Askew, askew03@gmail.com to learn more or to schedule a showing, <http://find-hope.eu/about%20us.html>

Gun Violence	
In America as of 3-30-21	
2021 (year to date)	
Killed	4,453
Suicide	5,874
Wounded	7,930
2020 (annual)	
Killed	19,335
Wounded	39,424
Source: www.gunviolencearchive.org	

Black Pain 2021 by Nita Clark

Black pain swelling against the strain of white humiliation,
Slavery, Jim Crow, segregation.
Black pain exploding in my brain,
Frustration, aggravation, shame and pain
Red line districts, dilapidated schools
Where's my 40 acres and a mule?
Black pain falling down like rain
Telling my children, it's hard to explain.
Micro aggressions newly in place
Disrespecting the black human race.
"Can I touch your hair?"
No girl, don't go there!
This is my natural, my God-given crown
Up high, down low and all around.
Black pain I can feel you to my bone
Makes me crazy, makes me moan.
Black pain, oh what do you see?
When you're looking down at me?
Do I have eyes? Oh yes, I do.
I have two, just like you.
But my eyes sadden from a tormented past
Of white hatred, born to last.
Do I have a heart? Oh yes, I do.
I have a heart, just like you.
But mine was broken from the day of my birth
When you questioned my value, my color, my worth.
Do I have blood? Oh yes, I do.
I have blood just like you.
Red as the blood shed by my ancestors
Lying, shackled together on the slave ship floors.
Black pain suffering from morning to night
Who gave you the almighty right?
To judge me and my esteem
From accepting myself as a Nubian Queen
From being loved and loving just like you
Why do you hate me? I haven't a clue.
Is it the color of my smooth, brown skin?
My broad nose or my squared-off chin?
Could it be that you're really afraid
Of how freely and perfectly I am made?
By the same wonderful God that created you
From the dust of the earth, He created the two.
Could they have been black and really not white?
Food for thought, in the middle of the night.
For the Word says that brass was the color of His feet
With hair like lamb's wool, next to God is His seat.
Black pain rushing through my head
Filled with all the lies that you have said.
To crush my spirit and bruise my soul
And to live those lies that I've been told.
That I'm not worthy, and I'm not free
But that's just a story that you've told me.
For you see, I know just exactly who I am
I am a child of God, true follower of the Lamb.

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

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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 May 2021. Deadline for calendar items is April 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.

Thurs., Apr. 1

Rank the Vote 7 p.m.-8 p.m. Meeting to discuss ongoing organization of a grassroots campaign for ranked-choice voting in Kentucky. Access the Zoom link at us02web.zoom.us.

Tues., Apr. 6

CKCPJ peace action committee, 4:30 - 6 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link, email Richard Mitchell at rjm47@twc.com.

Tues., Apr. 13

CKCPJ health care action team, 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 rjm47@twc.com.

Tues., Apr. 13

PFLAG Central Kentucky, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Topic: The Transgender Experience — A Family Perspective. Please go to the PFLAG Central Kentucky Facebook page before the meeting and register to join and receive the Zoom link. The support group discussion will follow the discussion.

Mon., Apr. 19

CKCPJ 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 rjm47@twc.com.

Tues., Apr. 20

Catholic Diocese of Lexington LGBT Ministry and Fortunate Families “Racial Justice and the Call of Discipleship.” Rev. Bryan Massingale, a leader in the field of theological ethics. The Zoom event is free, but registration is required. To receive the link for registration email peacewayseditor@gmail.com.

Tues, Apr. 27

BUILD 6:30 p.m. Nehemiah Action. The action this year will be held in the Mary Queen parking lot (stay in your car) and *via* Zoom. To receive the Zoom link contact peacewayseditor@gmail.com.

Tues., May 3

CKCPJ peace action committee, 4:30 - 6 p.m. The committee will meet online *via* Zoom. To receive the needed link, email Richard Mitchell at rjm47@twc.com.

Tues., May 10

CKCPJ health care action team, 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 rjm47@twc.com.

Mon., May 17

CKCPJ 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 rjm47@twc.com.

Mon., May 17

Newman Foundation, Inc. 6:30 p.m. Distinguished Speakers will feature Bishop John Stowe, who will address the role of Catholics in the political forum. Request the Zoom link at peacewayseditor@gmail.com.



CKCPJ supports federal jobs legislation

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice is among dozens of organizations lending support to a bill calling for a federal job guarantee introduced by Congresswoman Ayanna Pressley (D-Mass.) in February.

The resolution, which builds on the legacy and work of generations of Black women in the Civil Rights Movement, will help the United States achieve the promise of full employment, ensure a just, equitable recovery, establish a more resilient and inclusive economy, and begin to close racial and gender income gaps.

A federal job guarantee would provide every person with an enforceable legal right to a quality job on projects that meet long-neglected community, physical and human infrastructure needs, such as delivering quality care for children and seniors, building and sustaining 21st century transit systems, strengthening neighborhoods, and protecting the environment.

Funded by the federal government and implemented locally in partnership with communities, the program would provide public jobs for all adults seeking employment.

By ensuring everyone has access to a good job with dignified wages, safe working conditions, health care and other benefits including full worker rights and union protections, a federal job guarantee would address the current jobs crisis while laying the foundation for an equitable economic recovery.

It would create a pathway to stable employment and begin to close the gaping income gap for Black, Latinx, and Indigenous workers who continue to face discrimination and are often the “first fired, last hired” during economic crises.

It would also ensure economic inclusion for those experiencing discrimination in the labor market, including people with disabilities, transgender people,

caregivers, and people with criminal records or involvement with the criminal legal system. And it would enable the just transition of workers in unsustainable sectors.

“It’s time to establish a legal right to a job for all people in America,” Congresswoman Pressley said. For years, we have legislated hate, harm and injustice in this country. It’s long past time to pursue bold, intentional policies that affirm equity and recognize the dignity and humanity of all people.

“A federal job guarantee is an important investment in the American people, our communities, and an equitable economy that works for all. It affirms the right to meaningful, dignified work and a living wage. I’m proud to build upon and honor the legacy and work of generations of Black women Civil Rights leaders by introducing this historic resolution.”

Happy post-pandemic days are (almost) here again

POST CORONA: From Crisis to Opportunity. By Scott Galloway. Published Nov. 24, 2020 by Portfolio / Penguin Random House, New York. 256 pages.

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

Investment firm Morgan Stanley predicts economic growth in excess of seven percent during 2021, following the 3.5 percent rollback of 2020. That would be the highest percentage gain since the end of the Korean Conflict.

With more than a million Kentuckians already in the vaccination queue, schools re-opening, and businesses re-starting, it is perhaps time to cautiously look forward to what will change, and how, in that happy day when COVID is under control and we can resume normal business.

We should not allow things to reset precisely to the way they were a year ago. Instead, says business marketing educator Scott Galloway, the effect will be a fast-forward to what would have taken 10 years to develop on its own, and it's a unique opportunity for an equity reset.

Look at your own case: We all learned about Zoom meeting software in the same few days in March 2020. A bit later we all learned to wear masks (though some shell-backed individualists refuse to help the common good). Big change can happen in very quick time. We mark time's passage by what we observe changing, after all.

White supremacy won't die until white people see it as a white issue they need to solve rather than a black issue they need to empathize with.

On a business level, Galloway says, the big secure companies will get bigger and more secure, while the middle-size and smaller companies will go under. This is also true for higher education and health care, two segments that found themselves vulnerable because in the passing years they had increased costs without increasing value.

Professor Galloway is hardest on what he knows best, higher ed, for educating mostly the children of the one percent and perpetuating the autocratic social divide.

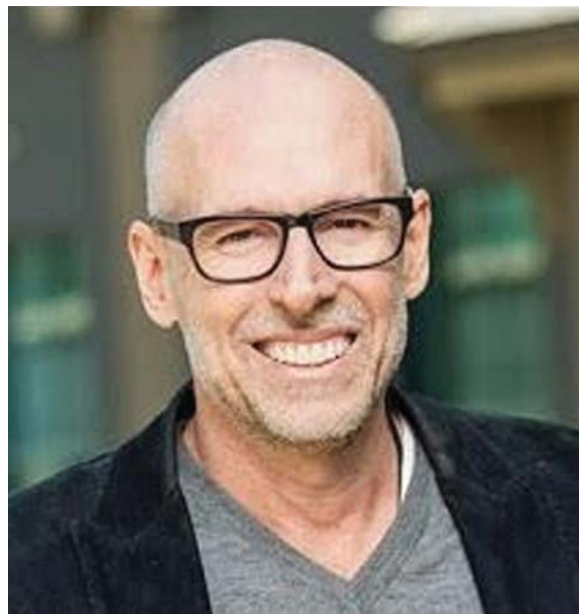
This compression of the market is also not healthy for a society under already too much influence of what he calls "The Four" – Amazon, Apple, Facebook and Google.

Galloway appeared on Bill Maher's HBO show on the March 11 "quarantine-iversary," seriously proposing these companies should be broken up. They are perniciously well-placed to move into central roles in all our lives, either because they supply free entertainment in exchange for our personal data (Facebook and Google) or because we directly pay for their services (Apple and Amazon).

The Four gain a big advantage from a "flywheel" – recurrent automatic revenue from its customers – which accelerates their growth. These avenues aren't open to very many other less capitalized businesses, although the occasional "unicorn," (a business with more than a billion dollars in start-up funding) comes along.

Galloway shares investment suggestions, always making clear which ones he is involved in. One of the pretender companies he has special contempt for is the Uber driving system, which he says benefits from a number of inequities other companies couldn't get away with.

He also has special vitriol for how our national weaknesses of character allowed COVID to spread worse in America than any other country. He contrasts the united deep sacrifices of



Americans during World War II with the uneven public response to much milder requests to which COVID would have responded.

He never mentions Donald Trump by name, but Trump's fingerprints are all over this part of the book – early indifference, uninformed reassurances, the fragmented search for vaccines, ignoring the challenges of distribution, politicization of mask-wearing, bad advice (bleach, UV light) or total wishful-thinking disdain, and absurd insistence on asserting individual rights in the face of the need for cooperation – all traceable to the Orange Menace whose inaction and malfeasance has now resulted in several hundred thousand unnecessary deaths.

We have to set about reducing the disparities that the pandemic escalated: the women who had to leave the workplace because home duties make working from the house impossible; those in service occupations who had to get out in the toxic environment to work; and college students who will find themselves frozen out of top-tier education when the middle- and lower-tier opportunities collapse

The business inequities wrought by the pandemic will be corrected by market forces, but action to correct the social inequities will take conscious resolve. Galloway provides the blueprint if we can just find the guts.

Reviewer Jim Trammel had his bout with COVID in December and is now fully inoculated. Go thou and do likewise.

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.

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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
for Peace and Justice
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*We ourselves feel that what we are doing
is just a drop in the ocean. But the ocean
would be less because of that missing drop.*

— *Saint Teresa of Kolkata (Calcutta)*

The light at the end of the tunnel

by Margaret Gabriel, editor

It seems like just yesterday I placed a COVID bingo card where we're used to seeing a calendar of events in *Peaceways*. But after the year that's slogged by there seems to be light at the end of the tunnel. As you probably know, the CDC says small groups of people who are fully vaccinated can gather without masks or social distancing and distancing in schools can be three feet instead of six. (Is the virus moving more slowly in its old age?) I must say, this is MONTHS earlier than I thought it would be, even though I'm usually the first person to look at the bright side. You've heard that story about the little girl who digs through a pile of horse manure and says, "There's gotta be a pony in here somewhere!" That kid could be me.

So, today, instead of looking at the past year as unending days of boredom and drudgery, I'm looking at the good things that have emerged after a year of shelter in place, quarantine, and social distance.

As of this writing, I have received my first of two shots and several of my family members are also on their way to being fully vaccinated. I see a big Italian dinner, complete with an Italian cream cake for dessert, in my future. And the more family there, the better. Lasagna, meatballs, garlic bread, wine—and cake! I can hardly wait!

I'll take great delight in introducing my granddaughter, April, to her great-aunts and uncles and cousins. In just five months, she's become an All-Star at smiling. When I look at pictures of her brother, Connor, from March 2020, I realize he was a baby then, just beginning to walk, and full-fledged toddler now. While I haven't been able

to see them in person, through the miracle of FaceTime, we have breakfast together almost every day. It's a joy, but you can't transmit baby-smells over the phone. If we had been able to visit in person anytime we wanted, would we have connected every morning? I wonder.

Despite the lack of baby-smells, technology—and my ability to use it with more agility—is one of the things I am grateful for as I look at the light at the end of the tunnel (and I'm fairly sure it's not another train). Many of us bemoan the amount of time we've spent staring at faces on a computer screen, but haven't those screens allowed you to meet virtually, while spending less time in meetings?

Our CKCPJ meetings have taken place in the late afternoon for the last couple of years. It's good to get home earlier, but what is more aggravating than rush hour traffic in Lexington? A Zoom meeting eliminates that aggravation. We've certainly increased the amount of power we need to use for meetings by using Zoom, but we've decreased the amount of driving we've done. It's hard to say that the carbon footprint is definitely lighter, but it might be a draw, don't you think?

Zoom meetings enable us to be far more geographically inclusive with our meetings, too. I attended a five-person meeting recently with two of us in Lexington, but the others in eastern Kentucky, West Virginia and Houston, Texas. Who'da thought?

Did you read more books this year than you did last year? I did.

Jim and I like to see as many Oscar-nominated movies as we can during Academy Award season. We miss going

to the movies and I'm sure we'll go back before long, but when the nominations were announced this morning, we saw that we've already seen a good number of them, thanks to our streaming services. It's much cheaper and we can watch three movies in a day when we're only able to see two when we're trotting off to theatres. And I'm not using calories for popcorn. (I wonder if a movie theatre would allow me to buy popcorn if I don't buy a movie ticket. Hmhmhmhm.)

I hope a *Peaceways* reader can relate to this next tidbit of COVID good news. I talked to a woman last week who told me her daughter had been laid off as a result of COVID. She got another job, then was called back to the first job and received a \$20,000 bump in salary. I don't know how long she was unemployed, but for whatever amount of time it was, I'm sure it was stressful. If she knew then what she knows now, she probably wishes she'd looked at the lay-off time as vacation.

So, we've been through spring, summer, fall, winter and here we are, back to spring again. When you look at the things we lost — a full academic year for many students, weddings, loved ones and their funerals, vacations, even things like movies and shopping — the few things I appreciate that I've listed here certainly don't balance the scale. But is there a part of your new routine would you like to carry forward?

Be careful as you begin to resume a more normal routine, take Dr. Fauci at his word, and don't do too much too fast. And do yourself a favor and look for things that the slower pace of "shelter in place" contributed to your life.