

VOICES for Peace and Justice
...the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice. -MLK Jr.

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

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The CKCPJ is a coalition of peacemaking groups and individuals, incorporated in 1984 as a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

A unique association which addresses the whole fabric of peace and justice issues, some members are associated with religious denominations and others are secular. Some concentrate on peace with the individual, family, and community - others emphasize issues of international peace. We have different talents and priorities, but we share a belief that peace and justice can best be advanced by sharing ideas and working together.

Primary Objectives

- Provide members and the community with resources and information about peace and justice issues.
- Mobilize, coordinate, and support activities and actions focused on peace and justice issues.
- Facilitate and encourage communication and interchange of ideas among our members and within the community.

Board Members, 2010 and 2011

Arne Bathke, Co-Chair

Randolph Hollingsworth, Co-Chair

Howard Myers, Treasurer

Kerby Neill, Secretary

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Sandra Powell

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Tonya Torp

Highlights of CKCPJ Activities in 2010 and 2011

CKCPJ hosted displays of work by local artists and advocacy groups at our 112 N. Upper offices during the Gallery Hop Downtown Lexington. We began in April 2010 with "Framing Families," an art show focusing on health families sponsored by UK VOX, a student organization. In June, the Council hosted a celebration marking ten years of work by the Latitude Artist Community which addresses issues surrounding disabilities. In November CKCPJ featured Bluegrass Literacy's Puppets for Peace, a project that brings together refugee and at-risk youth to create puppets and scripts on themes of diversity and problem-solving. February 2011 featured the photography of long-time CKCPJ supporter Richard Greissman in his show "A Peaceful State of Mind." Greissman donates 20% of net proceeds of sales to the Council and had a drawing for one of his prints (all proceeds donated to the Council).

Along with the annual Peace and Justice Resource Fair, CKCPJ hosts an Annual Dinner. In 2010 a panel of UK and BCTC faculty, staff and students talked about their collaboration in planning a UK Peace House living-learning community. BCTC currently offers a Peace Studies certificate, and UK faculty are also working on the development of an undergraduate certificate at the baccalaureate level. The Annual Dinner co-hosted at Transylvania University in March 2011 centered around a keynote speech by Dr. Catherine Fosl of the Anne Braden Center for Social Justice in Louisville. Dr. Fosl's passionate and compelling presentation on peace and justice movements since the civil rights era, "Beyond the Oppression Olympics," led to a very stimulating discussion among the many activists present. CKCPJ presented its first annual Peace Leader award to Betsy Neale for her lifetime of waging peace, and Dr. Ernie Yanarella of UK, charter board chair of CKCPJ, gave the felicitation speech.

CKCPJ organized a mayoral debate in April 2010, "Toward a Sustainable Lexington" at Fayette County Public School's Norsworthy Auditorium. The four primary candidates for Lexington's next mayor responded to questions from representatives of several partner organizations, including Bluegrass Greenworks, the Clergy and Laity Network of Kentucky, the Graduate Student Council at the University of Kentucky (UK), the Kentucky Environmental Foundation, LexCoolCity, and students from UK and Fayette County high schools. The questions spanned a range of issues, including climate change and renewable energy, water, coal and Lexington's carbon footprint, recycling, green space, fair trade, living wages, affordable mass transportation, and retaining the creative brain power in our city. April 2011 saw the horrors of nuclear catastrophe from the devastation of the power plants in Japan from a tsunami and, ironically, also marked the 25th anniversary of Chernobyl. CKCPJ organized a forum at UK led by Craig E. Williams (Chemical Weapons Working Group and recipient of the 2006 Goldman Environmental Prize); Jim Toren (Footprints for Peace); and, Doug Slaymaker (UK Japan Studies Program).

Each year in May, CKCPJ celebrates Earth Day by co-sponsoring the Peace and Global Citizenship Fair at Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC). Organized by BCTC's Students for Peace and Earth Justice, the Fair is also supported by such organizations as OpenGround, Bluegrass Greenworks and Sustainable Berea. The art, live music, Kentucky food, and activities all focus on global and local understanding, sustainability and re-skilling.

In October 2010, CKCPJ Board members helped organize and offer refreshments during the third Annual Homeless Resource Connection where more than 30 service providers served over 200 individuals experiencing homelessness or in need of community resources, including medical and mental health care, housing, veterans and disability benefits. In addition, Board members and volunteers supported events during the October's Fair Trade month in collaboration with Lucia's World Friendly Boutique.

The CKCPJ Voices series in 2010 featured Paul K. Chappell, former Army captain and Peace Leadership Director of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, who gave 28 presentations in central Kentucky in one week in October—with over 1,075 participating. CKCPJ and BCTC co-hosted a half-day peace leadership training session where more than 60 people participated. CKCPJ also co-sponsored an event with UK that gave central Kentuckians the chance to talk with South African human rights activist and former political prisoner, Eddie Daniels. A CKCPJ Peace Leaders website has been developed to support continued efforts in training and mentoring programming to encourage skill-building in waging peace in central Kentucky and beyond. The CKCPJ Voices series in the fall of 2011 will focus on issues of justice and immigration.

CKCPJ's Peace Rally in the Court House square on March 20, 2011, marked the 8th anniversary of the U.S. invasion of Iraq. Signs, music, speeches and car horns blaring sent a message: we will not stop, we will not go away.

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice supports events organized by our member organizations or any other local group whose event is consistent with our principles. We participate by co-sponsoring with funding, in-kind contributions and publicity for events and opportunities within the local and regional progressive community.

Our goal is to build coalitions and to distribute information as widely as possible because we believe cooperation and collaboration requires sharing knowledge and increasing understanding. We choose the specific pieces of legislation for which we lobby based on our dedication to: nonviolent solutions to conflict; equitable distribution of the world's resources; respect and human rights for all, regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, age, disabilities, or religious, political, and philosophical belief; and our desire to achieve a safe, diverse, and sustainable environment.

Standing Committees and Action Groups

Programs in Celebration of Peace and Justice

Annual Dinner for Peace and Justice with a Featured Speaker
International Day of Peace Festival
Open House for Downtown Lexington Gallery Hop
VOICES for Peace and Justice

Local/Global Economic Justice

Fair Trade Awareness and Challenge for the Lexington Fayette County Government
Living Wage Campaign

Justice and Human Rights

Ex-Felon's Voting Rights
Housing and Homelessness
Immigration and Children's Legal Issues
Veterans

Peace Education and Direct Action

Peace advocacy
Co-leading a coalition to establish Peace Studies at the University of Kentucky
Improved youth services in Lexington
Peace Leadership training
Peaceways Newsletter, Justicelist blog, CKCPJ Facebook page, CKCPJ Leaders site

Sustainability Centered in Peace and Justice

Central Kentucky's Carbon Footprint, Dependence on Non-Renewable Fuel Sources
Community Gardens