

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE May 2017

Re-Set Supper Planned for May 24

by Richard Mitchell

Friends, in the spring of 2017, the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice (CKCPJ) is more essential to our community than ever. Tea Party-dominated administrations in Frankfort and Washington are adopting policies that threaten justice and peace in our state and world, often targeting women and immigrants, as well as racial, ethnic, and religious minorities.

CKCPJ is a force for a community grounded in nonviolence and its essential elements of economic fairness, compassion, and sustainability.

Unfortunately, our ability to do this essential work has been reduced by the loss of several steering committee members. Two of our co-chairs have moved out of the area, one steering committee member has been ill, and another, our treasurer, may be leaving the area this year.

As an organization, CKCPJ needs a re-set. Without new volunteers the organization cannot continue to do all that it has been doing. Your help is needed. Please consider joining a community of experience and passion for justice; one that values inclusion, collaborates rather than competes,

and has a record of over 30 years of effective advocacy.

You are invited to a CKCPJ Re-Set Supper. Please give 90 minutes of your time. We'll eat together and, in the last 45 minutes, you'll hear CKCPJ's story and will be given an opportunity to share your ideas for making CKCPJ stronger and more effective. The gathering will begin at 6:30 p.m. on Wed., May 24 at the Quaker Meetinghouse, 649 Price Ave. A light supper will be served.

To reserve a place at the supper, please contact us by phone or email (peaceandjusticeKY@gmail.com or 859-488-1448). Please note: This event is free and open to all. We will conclude by 8 p.m.

Although we are short-handed, CKCPJ continues to be an effective organization. This is possible because of the way the organization works. For 37 years the core strategy has been to build coalitions to amplify power. During the last 12 months, two accomplishments have been particularly successful. Each is an example of what diverse coalitions can accomplish:

- First, at the behest of CKCPJ, a coalition of organizations came

together to work on higher minimum wages in Fayette County. CKCPJ played an active role in that coalition as it succeeded in convincing the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council to enact an ordinance for a higher minimum wage in the county. Although the Kentucky Supreme Court ruled the ordinance unconstitutional, the coalition continued its efforts and determined that a statewide law is needed.

- Council activists were instrumental in bringing together the Safe Summer Coalition that has worked to prevent youth violence in Lexington. In late April, with the help of CKCPJ funding and volunteers, and with trainers from the Rhode Island-based Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence, this coalition sponsored the three-day Nonviolence Workshop to a diverse group that included young and old, ex-felons and police, blacks, whites, Hispanics, teachers, counselors, and students. Said one participant: "This was the best training I've ever attended."

In the present moment there is more to do than ever. With your help, and that of other peace-loving people in Central Kentucky, CKCPJ will continue as a stronger organization, one more capable than ever of making a difference.

Gun Violence In America as of 5-8-17 (excluding suicide)

2017

Killed	5,174
Wounded	10,198

2016

Killed	13,218
Wounded	27,241

Source: www.gunviolencearchive.org

Provide financial support
to CKCPJ by using the
Kroger Community Rewards program.
Link your Kroger Plus card to #16439
at krogercommunityrewards.com

LWV Essay Contest Winners

The League of Women Voters reports that its essay contest for high school students drew exceptionally thoughtful writings. Students were asked to tell their stories as voters and potential voters who had just lived through a very divisive election season. They were challenged to think about the meaning of all they witnessed, how they evaluated what they heard and how the experience would affect their future as citizens.

The Essay Contest Committee members were impressed with the honesty and skill of this year's winning writers. Committee members Barbara Sterrett, Lynne Flynn, Ellie Sutter, Carol O'Reilly, Donna Blue, Cindy Butor, and Judy Johnson had little trouble agreeing on the results.

"We were impressed with their ability to separate real facts from half-truths and fiction," said Judy Johnson, who chaired the committee. "They capably demonstrated their potential as writers, political analysts

and active citizens who understand their rights and responsibilities."

The final results were:

- 1st place (\$250) — Hanae Yoshida, 9th grade, Sayre School, "*The Election 2016: Do You See What I See?*"
 - 2nd place (\$150) — Sahar Mohammadzadeh, 11th grade, Paul Laurence Dunbar H.S., "*Searching for Liberty and Justice for All*"
 - 3rd place (\$100) — Jons Theodore Ehrenborg, 10th grade, Henry Clay H.S., "*My Last Bystander Election*"
 - Special Recognition for ELL Student (\$100) — Samwele John, 12th grade, Lafayette H.S., "*The Way of America*"
- A \$50 honorarium went to the teacher/sponsor of each student: George Bebensee (Sayre), Kristin Studle (Paul Laurence Dunbar), Scott Brown (Henry Clay), and Tim Mitsumori (Lafayette), to recognize the encouragement they provided these students.

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The membership year of the League of Women Voters extends from July 1 of one calendar year to June 30 of the next. Joining the organization during May gives the local chapter an accurate count for the national report in June.

There is no longer a national membership category. Dues are made payable to Lexington LWV. Categories include Household (\$90), Individual (\$60), and Student (\$30).

Resolve to be an active member of LWV. There is much work to do—one time tasks as well as ongoing efforts. Surely, something for everyone.

For more information, contact 859-494-3203 or lexingtonlwv@gmail.com.

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, Richard Mitchell, Bruce Mundy, Steve Pavey, Nadia Rasheed, Rabbi Uri Smith, Teddi Smith-Robillard, Craig Wilkie.

Peaceways Staff:

Margaret Gabriel (editor); Penny Christian, Gail Koehler, Betsy Neale, Jim Trammel (proofreaders). The views expressed in *Peaceways* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of CKCPJ.

Member Organizations: ACLU-Central Kentucky Chapter; Ahava Center for Spiritual Living; Amnesty International, UK Chapter; Bahá'ís of Lexington; Berea Friends Meeting; Bluegrass Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program; Bluegrass United Church of Christ; Catholic Action Center; Central Christian Church; Commission for Peace and Justice, Catholic Diocese of Lexington; Gay and Lesbian Services Organization; Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky; Hunter Presbyterian Church; Islamic Society of Central Kentucky; Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass; Kentuckians for the Commonwealth; Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Central Kentucky Chapter; Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights; Kentucky Resources Council; Lexington Fair Housing Council; Lexington Fairness; Lexington Friends Meeting; Lexington Hispanic Association (Asociación de Hispanos Unidos); Lexington Labor Council, Jobs with Justice Committee; Lexington Living Wage Campaign; Lexington Socialist Student Union; Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church; Newman Center at UK; North East Lexington Initiative; One World Film Festival; Students for Peace and Earth Justice (Bluegrass Community and Technical College); Peacecraft; The Plantory; Progress (student group at Transylvania University); Second Presbyterian Church; Shambhala Center; Sustainable Communities Network; Union Church at Berea; Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington; United Nations Association, Bluegrass Chapter.



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. Deadline for calendar items for the June issue is May 20. We do not publish in January and August. Contact (859) 488-1448 or email peacewayseditor@gmail.com.

Are you interested in becoming more involved with **Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice?**

Find out how that interest can be fulfilled this year by attending a CKCPJ committee meeting.

Any and all meetings are open to all.

If you're not sure about which committee, or aren't sure about the time you can commit, feel free to come and listen.

Quaker Meeting House,
649 Price Avenue, Lexington.

Safe Summer Lexington hosts Non-Violence Workshop

by T. Kerby Neill

The Safe Summer Lexington Coalition, which includes representatives from the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice (CKCPJ), organized a three-day Nonviolence Workshop which inspired a highly diverse group of 31 participants on April 20-22. The workshop included young and old; male and female; ex-felons and police; blacks, Hispanics, and whites; teachers, counselors and students. The workshop was provided by a training team from the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence in Providence, R.I. Sal Monteiro, the director of training, came to nonviolence while serving 13 years of a 20-year sentence as an accessory to murder. Steeped in the street experience of his growing up as well as the violent culture of prison life, Sal brings a harshly tested lifestyle of nonviolence to his teaching. His co-trainer, P. J. Fox, is executive director of the institute and an enthusiastic presenter.

As a team, Sal and P. J. sense the importance of learning that thoroughly engages participants and becomes emotional and experiential as well as intellectual. A simple exercise of opening the clenched fist of another participant can reveal much about our assumptions, thinking and approach to potential violence. The trainers emphasize that nonviolence is NOT a quick-fix for the problems that plague our communities but, with listening and patience, actions guided by nonviolence can be transformative.

Participants were helped to explore and unpack the implications of Six Principles of Nonviolence:

1. Nonviolence is not for cowards, but a way of life for courageous people;
2. Nonviolent actions serve the development of the beloved community (where everyone is treated equally with respect and love);
3. Nonviolence attacks the forces of evil, NOT persons doing evil;
4. Practitioners of nonviolence accept suffering without retaliation for the sake of the cause;
5. We must avoid internal violence of the spirit (e.g., assaulting others verbally, or in attitudes and fantasies) as well as external physical violence;

6. The universe (understood as the movement of mankind through history) is on the side of justice.

The principles were illustrated by stories and exercises to bring the ideas to life. As an example of principle 4, Sal described returning to the prison where he had served his sentence to offer nonviolence training. The staff, who knew him as a prisoner, insisted that he be strip-searched before entering the locked areas, though that was not a requirement for authorized visitors. Sal submitted to the utter indignity of the search rather than abort the training.

On the final day, the workshop explored ways to conduct nonviolence in a conflict:

1. Information-gathering by all sides in the conflict (done well, this process is often where most conflicts are resolved);
2. Education (peacefully sharing the information gathered with all groups);
3. Personal commitment (if conflict has not been resolved by this point, a conscious commitment to go forward in a nonviolent manner is essential);
4. Negotiation (to produce a win-win solution that does not compromise moral truths like justice or freedom, or gloat when a goal is achieved);
5. Direct action (to educate or move parties back to the table; such actions cannot compromise any of the Six Principles of Nonviolence);
6. Reconciliation (to build the beloved community).

The exploration of these steps

culminated when participants were divided into three groups to identify a real goal, and construct a viable direct-action plan to realize that goal. Participants then assessed the plans for their use of nonviolent principles and potential effectiveness by choosing a place to stand on the floor along a grid with effectiveness and nonviolence, explaining their positions in terms of their critique of the plans. Far from a simple exercise, workshop members left not only energized by new understandings but prepared to tackle issues related to their planning exercises. CKCPJ Board member Mary Ann Ghosal lauded the workshop as "The best training I've ever attended."

Most gratifying was the nearly unanimous sentiment of the participants to bring the trainers back and share their experiences with venues in which they work and with the larger community.

The CKCPJ, acting as fiscal agent for the Safe Summer Lexington Coalition, provided some financial support for the workshop and received generous donations from Alltech, Second Presbyterian Church, and Fayette County Public Schools. Significant donations were also provided by several concerned citizens. The Interdenominational Pastoral Fellowship of Lexington and Vicinity also assisted in recruiting participants.

The Safe Summer Lexington Coalition continues to work on increased summer youth employment and other strategies for reducing violence in our community.

For more information or to work with the coalition, contact Dick Shore (dick@johnmuirky.com) or Kerby Neill (kerbyneill@yahoo.com).



Armando Buenrostro and Lexington Police Commander, William Persley, enact a violence reduction scenario at the workshop.

Calendar

Mon., May 15

Bluegrass Sierra Club, 7 - 9 p.m., Hunter Presbyterian Church Annex, 109 Rosemont Garden, Lexington. The evening will feature the award-winning documentary "Trashed," which looks at risks to the food chain and the environment through pollution of air, land and sea by solid waste. It features a global conversation from Iceland to Indonesia, with scientists, politicians, and individuals whose well-being has been fundamentally affected by waste pollution. "Trashed" ends on a hopeful note, by showing how the risks to survival can be averted through sustainable approaches that also generate more employment than current industry practices. For more information, Judith Humble (859) 576-0002.

Tues., May 16

CKCPJ steering committee meeting, 7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Planning for the Re-set Supper, continuing re-organization, ongoing committee work, planning awards in the fall.

Wed., May 24

CKCPJ Re-set Supper, 7 - 8:30 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion of the ongoing work of CKCPJ, the direction needed and plans for progress. To reserve a place at the supper, please contact us by phone or email peaceandjusticeKY@gmail.com or 859-488-1448.

Tues., June 13

PFLAG, 6:30-8:30 p.m., St. Michael Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington. Rev. Brian Chenowith, will share his personal story of leadership in a welcoming community, the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington. Learn about UU, where diversity and spirituality of all kinds are celebrated. PFLAG welcomes LGBTQ persons, family members, friends and allies. Presentation and Q & A takes place the first hour, followed by our confidential support group meeting.

Your Event Here

Send information about your event to peacewayseditor@gmail.com. Send notice of June events by May 20, 2017. We do not publish in January or August.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

CKCPJ Steering Committee Meetings, third Tuesday, 7 p.m. 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 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 Ondine Quinn, (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 namilex.org.

Christian-Muslim Dialogue Program, fourth Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon. All are welcome. Locations vary, For more info, visit cmdlex.org. 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.

PEACEWAYS



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for Peace and Justice
1588 Leestown Rd Ste 130-138,
Lexington KY 40511

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“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

~ Margaret Mead

Peace is Possible

Because it was unable to secure the needed number of reservations for a speciality license plate, CKCPJ decided to re-design a front plate. If you reserved a plate but have not been in touch with Rebecca Glasscock, please contact her at rebecca.glasscock@kctcs.edu to learn of your choices for the use of your investment.

CKCPJ continues the sale of its artistic specialty Kentucky license plate that proclaims “Peace is Possible.”

The lovely artwork for the license plate was created by local artist Jaqui Linder and features a flock of sandhill cranes. The crane is a centuries-old, cross-cultural symbol for wisdom, peace and longevity.

Locally, the ancient sandhill crane is recognized as a multi-cultural ambassador of peace. The sandhill migration is a wonderful sign, familiar to many Kentuckians.

In Japan, the crane is especially revered and thought to bring good fortune. It is believed that crafting 1,000 origami cranes grants the creator a single wish.

After World War II, author Eleanor Coerr published a moving children’s book, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, a tale of a young girl’s failed attempt to fold 1,000 origami cranes before her premature death due to radiation exposure from the atomic bomb blast over Hiroshima. Folded origami cranes took on a powerful meaning after the book’s publication in 1977 and came to symbolize peace through the title character’s unforgettable perseverance.

“I envisioned several cranes in flight to communicate movement upward and outward toward hope,” Jacqui said.

The lavender-purple on the plate represents transformation while the dramatic oranges, which blend to soft yellows, symbolize strength and light.

If you did not reserve a plate but would like to purchase a front plate, please email Rebecca, give her your mailing address, and send a check or money order for \$25 to CKCPJ, 1588 Leestown Road, Ste 130-138, Lexington, KY 40511.

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 10 times a year.

