

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

November 2017

Understanding the Partisan Wars

A reflection on a series of books by women authors about the current political climate

by Randolph Hollingsworth

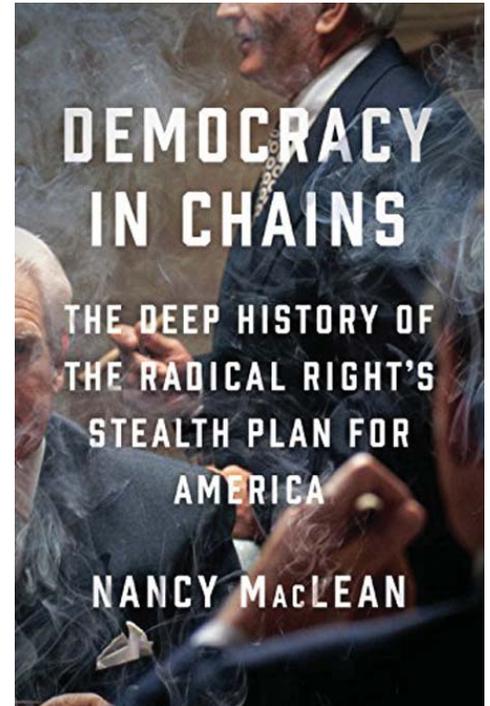
In a book review of “Dark Money” (Doubleday, 2016) by Jane Mayer, Alan Ehrenhalt surmised that Mayer’s book seemed to him to be “as if conceived in quiet anger (*NYT Sunday Book Review*, 19 January 2016).” Mayer’s scholarship on the Koch family was set within a context of the ascendancy of anti-government libertarians and conservative ultra-right ideologies now gone mainstream. Her book focused on how 20th century plutocrats have drastically changed American democracy today — and how they essentially out-shouted, out-manuevered their adversaries. An American investigative journalist and staff writer for *The New Yorker*, Mayer (see jane-mayer.com) is one of several scholars who have been open about their belief that the future of American democracy is threatened by an elite group who are bankrolling those who participate in fundamentally altering the American political system.

Kim Phillips-Fein, while an assistant professor of U.S. history at New York University, published her first book, *Invisible Hands: The Businessmen’s Crusade Against the New Deal* (Norton, 2009). In this book, we read about the influence of Frederick van Hayek, Ludwig von Meis and Ayn Rand on business/industry leaders and bankers starting with the American Liberty League forming in 1934. Playing off of Adam

Smith’s notion of the “invisible hand” of the free market, Phillips-Fein highlights how an economic theory associated success with a small, weak central government grew in popularity to become equivalent to, and necessary for, American freedom. With the prominence of William F. Buckley, Jr. and Barry Goldwater in the 1960s, Phillips-Fein shows that a newly partisan effort was underway in the 1970s. From the New Deal up to Reagan’s election as president, *Invisible Hands* chronicled how an anti-New Deal movement gained a foothold after the 1920s and coalesced into a crusade-like power broker of modern conservatism by 1980 with the Reagan Revolution.

Most recently, historian Nancy MacLean’s book *Democracy in Chains: The Deep History of the Radical Right’s Stealth Plan for America* (Viking, 2017) joins in this exposure of what is happening in the U.S. as we tolerate the rise of the ultra-right in our local, state and federal governments. A professor of history and public policy at Duke University, MacLean has written a book that is important for us to understand better what has been happening in the hotly contested partisan wars today.

In this book we find a history that traces how wealthy donors have begun enchainning modern democratic government using funding and public relations campaigns staffed by thousands. This scholar uses her historian’s skills of research, analysis and persuasive writing to demand the need for us to understand better what is now called “public-choice economics.” Nevertheless, some scholars and think-tank members have called out her scholarship as flawed and even some have called for her to be stalked at her home or fired from her position at Duke because of what she wrote. These insults and personal attacks have not stopped MacLean, but they damage those who continue to uphold the greatest of American traditions:



challenging and using critical inquiry in civic discussions about our institutions and traditions.

In her chapter “Get Ready,” MacLean reminds us of the maxim given to us by the great Kentuckian Louis Brandeis: “Sunlight is said to be the best of disinfectants (211).” And these scholars along with many others are committed to shining a spotlight on what has heretofore seemed to be (or was) hidden from public scrutiny.

However, these brave women scholars mentioned here have not gone unscathed, personally or professionally. MacLean’s book has spurred a huge outpouring of indignation and hate. She told Marc Parry of *The Chronicle of Higher Education*: “Such rhetorical bullying would be laughable if it weren’t part of a pattern on the right (CHE, 19 July 2017).”

So, if you believe American democracy is in trouble in ways never seen before, then you need to listen to and discuss the works of these brave scholars. They tell us that we need to take seriously the words, images and actions of those espousing a new American conservatism.

Gun Violence In America as of 10-30-17

(excluding suicide)

2017

Killed	12,835
Wounded	26,398

2016

Killed	11,936
Wounded	24,772

Source: www.gunviolencearchive.org

League of Women Voters sponsors essay contest

To promote and support informed citizenship, the League of Women Voters of Lexington is sponsoring an essay contest open to Fayette County students grades 9-12.

Informed citizens examine events around them, forming educated opinions shaping what they say and do. The contest offers students an opportunity to think about an issue and, through the writing process, develop and explain a position on the topic.

The topic for the 2017 contest is: Given that the first amendment of our Constitution protects "the freedom of speech and of the press," is there any way to avoid the influence of distorted or false reports? In these contentious political times, how do you evaluate the information that comes your way? What sources do you feel you can trust, and why? In your essay, use as context a current issue, such as, but not limited to, the reality of climate change or the vulnerable status of DREAMERS (young people known as DREAMERS who have taken advantage of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals).

The first place essay-writer will receive \$250 cash; second place, \$150; third place, \$100. An honorarium will be given to the teacher or sponsor of each award-winning writer.

The deadline for submission is Friday, December 8. Awards will be presented in January, 2018. Entering contestants should submit the following:

- Submit all information requested on the attached Essay Title Page form. (Title page is available in PDF form on page 7 of *Peaceways*.)
- Essays are to be printed double-spaced, using Times New Roman 12 point font (or larger), and should be minimum three pages excluding the title page.
- Essays should be research-based, thoughtful, organized writings.

Mail essays to: League of Women Voters of Lexington, P.O. Box 22045, Lexington, KY 40522-2045, postmarked no later than Friday, December 8, 2017.

Email submissions may be made by midnight on December 8, 2017 to Judy Johnson at lexington.lwvessaycontest@gmail.com.

Questions may be submitted to the above email address at any time.

Information on the essay contest can be found at www.lwvlexington.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, Steven Lee Katz (treasurer), 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.

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.



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 December. Deadline for calendar items is November 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., Nov. 7

CKCPJ Peace Action committee, 7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Ongoing discussion of non-violence training sessions in Lexington and Central Kentucky.

Sun., Nov. 12

Central Kentucky Showing up for Racial Justice Book Club, 2-4 p.m., Wild Fig Coffee and Books, 726 N. Limestone, Lexington. The club will discuss *Same Kind of Different As Me* by Ron Hall, Denver Moore, Lynn Vincent.

Tues., Nov. 14

CKCPJ single-payer health care committee, 7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include promotion of the single-payer health care concept, how it will benefit citizens and how it can be promoted to lawmakers.

Tues., Nov. 14

Central Kentucky Showing up for Racial Justice, 5:30-7:30 p.m. Wild Fig Coffee and Books, 726 N. Limestone, Lexington. November Chapter Meeting: Re-learning Thanksgiving. Official meeting starts at 6, but SURJ encourages folks to enjoy the Wild Fig Cafe. People of any race, gender, sexuality, age, ability or class are welcome.

Sun., Nov. 19

Christian-Muslim Dialogue, 4-6 p.m. Temple Adath Israel, 134 N. Ashland Ave., Lexington. Rabbi David Wirtschafter and the congregation of Temple Adath Israel will host the CMD annual Thanksgiving dinner.

Tues., Nov. 21

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., Dec. 5

CKCPJ Peace Action committee, 7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Ongoing discussion of non-violence training sessions in Lexington and Central Kentucky.

Thurs., Dec. 7

Human Rights Day, 6 p.m. Smiley Pete Publishing, 434 Old Vine St., Lexington. Sponsored by the United Nations Association of the USA Bluegrass Chapter and the Migrant Network, Dr. Nadia Rasheed and Marilyn Daniel will speak about Muslim and DACA issues.

Tues., Dec. 12

CKCPJ single-payer health care committee, 7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include promotion of the single-payer health care concept, how it will benefit citizens and how it can be promoted to lawmakers.

Tues., Dec. 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.

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

Tues-Thurs., Dec. 19-21

Faith and Community Christmas Store, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day, Southland Christian Church, 2349 Richmond Road (old Lexington Mall). The store provides free, gently used toys to children, and gifts to people of all ages. No registration needed to shop for gifts. To register for one or more volunteer shifts or to make donations, see www.godsnet.info.

Mon., Jan. 15

One World Film Festival, 2:30 p.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 E. Main Street. As part of Lexington's celebration of Martin Luther King Day, OWF will screen *Hidden Figures*, a 2016 film that tells the story of African-American women mathematicians and their integral role in NASA during the space race in the 1960s. The film won Golden Globe and Screen Actors Guild awards and was nominated for several Oscars.

Tues., Feb. 27

CKCPJ Peace Action committee, 7 p.m. Memorial Hall, University of Kentucky. Dr. Jonathan Granoff will be the speaker. The public is invited to attend.

*Afflict the comfortable;
give comfort
to the afflicted*

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice commends Mayor Jim Gray and the LFUCG council members for the removal of the statues of Confederate generals from places of prominence in downtown Lexington after Attorney General Andy Beshear determined that the LFUCG had the authority to make the decision to remove the statues. The statues are in storage awaiting the final details of moving them to the Lexington Cemetery.

CKCPJ was poised to stage a counter-demonstration if white supremacist groups protested the removal, but because of the speed and lack of fanfare with which the action was taken, the demonstration — and therefore the possibility of violence similar to the outbreak in Charlottesville, Virginia — never took place.

Thank you for keeping Lexington safe and demonstrating principles of peace and justice.

OWF to launch 2018 festival

The December-January issue of *Peaceways* will include information about the 2018 One World Film Festival, which will include the screening of *Hidden Figures*, on Monday, Jan. 15, at 2:30 p.m. in the Kentucky Theater as part of Lexington's celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day. *Hidden Figures* is the story of three African-American women who worked for NASA and served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. The work of these women crossed gender and race lines to inspire generations to dream big.

One World Films is a 501c3 non-profit organization formed in 1998 to establish an annual film festival in Lexington.

OWF believes film can present issues of culture, society, ethnicity, gender and the politics that surrounds them in ways that increase understanding and encourage creative thinking about complex social situations. The organization therefore challenges the increasingly diverse population of Lexington and Central Kentucky on these issues through an annual One World Film Festival: a festival with speakers worth hearing, discussions worth having and — most importantly — current films worth seeing.

Since its inception, the One World Film Festival has shown over 130 films to over 18,000 festival attendees. Films have been shown at a variety of venues, including the historic Kentucky Theater, the Lexington Public Library Theater, the University of Kentucky and Transylvania University. Some screenings are followed by discussions about the issues brought up in the films. Festival highlights have included film participants and directors discussing their work with audiences and panelists who are expert on the issues raised in the films. All festival screenings are free and open to the public. If you would like flyers for distribution to your employees, customers or friends, make a request at lexfilm.org.

OWF board members are all volunteers, and the film festival relies on the generosity of local businesses, community groups, and individuals. Whenever possible the names of sponsors appear in mailings, posters, and programs.

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 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.

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

What do husbands *REALLY* think about ...

VoiceMale: What Husbands Really Think About Their Marriages, Their Wives, Sex, Housework, and Commitment. By Neil Chethik. ©2006: 259 pages. Simon & Shuster.

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

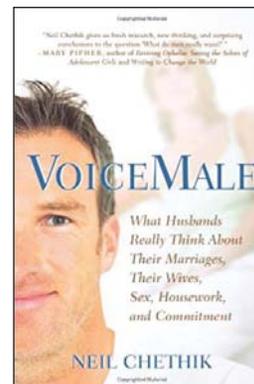
VoiceMale was Neil's second nonfiction work after *FatherLoss*, a similarly structured survey of men's reactions to losing their fathers. This one surveys hundreds of men, and goes in-depth with 70 stories, examining men's histories, attitudes, and outcomes.

It accurately assesses the social currents defining and re-arranging men's and women's roles and attitudes about the commitments and details of marriage. The anecdotes are somewhat self-cancelling (one guy does this, the next guy

does the opposite). Often the research verifies what were already common-sense observations, or sometimes ironic reversals of those maxims.

For example, we learn that arguing decreases in the third and fourth decade of marriage. Am I telling too much if I insist that one reason might be that the arguments have by that time shown themselves by this time to be interminable and the participants rigidly dug in? So I'm told.

Regarding the ironic reversals, we learn that many women get totally turned on by husbands who do housework. The often-referenced VoiceMale Survey that Chethik commissioned verifies that the more satisfied the wife is with the division of household duties, the more satisfied their husbands are with their married sex lives.



Author and speaker Neil Chethik is executive director of the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning.

The value of the studies to the reader is likely the many times the reader recognizes common details, similar experiences, and the "I'm not alone" feeling that results. Chethik pursues these experiences from both ends of the spectrum: normal to exotic. He doesn't flinch from accounts of marital infidelity, even if there isn't a "just" ending. Affairs, for one example, aren't always ruinous to a marriage; participants aren't always caught, they don't always 'fess up, and some marriages endure beyond them.

The direct quotes throughout are well and tellingly selected, and would make an excellent book in themselves. The best are chapter headings. The best of these is over the chapter, "How To Change a Man," where a fifty-year-old said, "I married her for certain qualities, but I only wanted them in certain quantities." My very own dear wife had a take on this same idea when she said before our vows, "I want a man in my life, I just don't want him in my house." (I went ahead anyway, and that was 27 years ago.)

The book is a breezy read and a useful springboard for couples discussion. Chethik wrote that he hoped this 2006 work would spark further research into marriage from the male point of view. Any progress in this overly female point-of-view genre would still be welcome – there seems to be much more to do.

Reviewer Jim Trammel hopes to reincarnate as a fly on the wall in the Chethik-Flood house, to hear what he's sure are the scintillating dinner conversations of writer-educator Neil Chethik and his courageous, accomplished wife, State Representative Kelly Flood. (We learn that in their early years, Kelly once woke Neil three times in a row, at 3 a.m., to announce their immediate urgent need for divorce. Lucky are we they worked through it.)

CKCPJ Committees

Peace Action Committee

Kerby Neill reports that details for the visit of Jonathan Granoff, president of the Global Security Institute, on February 27 are still working. A meeting with the University of Kentucky Peace Studies is anticipated with the time to be announced. Confirmed at press time was a noon meeting with the University of Kentucky Law School and a "town and gown" meeting in the evening at Memorial Hall. Kerby hopes to schedule an event for people who may be interested in contributing to Granoff's organization.

The committee continues to non-violence in schools. A meeting is planned for Nov. 28 at Bryan Station High School which will examine the proposed non-violence curriculum for Fayette County high schools. Committee member Dick Shore is working on grant proposals that will supply the needed funds to send two people to Providence, Rhode Island, for "train the trainer" sessions at the Institute for the Study and Practice of Nonviolence.

The committee will meet at 7 p.m. at the Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington, on Nov. 7.

Single Payer Health Care

The first meeting of the single-payer health care committee will be on Tues., Nov. 14 at the Quaker Meeting House. Chair Richard Mitchell proposes that the

committee focus on working to preserve the Affordable Healthcare Act and suggests collaborating with Kentuckians for Single Payer Health Care, a group in Louisville. In the short term, Richard said, the committee will work to prevent further deterioration of the current healthcare system

No group in Louisville is currently working on the minimum wage issue, although the issue is closely aligned to the high rate of eviction in Lexington. The steering committee is looking at the possibility of promoting the earned income tax credit rather than minimum wage.

Lexington Advocacy Team

Richard Mitchell reported that the team has 15 members and had a good meeting with Sen. Rand Paul. The committee met on Oct. 25 with a representative of Rep. Andy Barr and hopes to schedule a meeting in November with a representative from the office of Sen. Mitch McConnell.

The Friends Committee on National Legislation, which lobbies Congress and the administration to advance peace, justice, opportunity and environmental stewardship, held trainings in Lexington in August and September to create a team to lobby Kentucky politicians. The key, Richard said, is to build relationships and identify places where peace-loving citizens and politicians can come together.

PEACEWAYS

The Central Kentucky Council
for Peace and Justice
1588 Leestown Rd., Ste. 130-138,
Lexington KY 40511

Issue #307 • November 2017

*Gratitude makes sense of
our past, brings peace for
today and creates a vision for
tomorrow.*

~Melodie Beattie

Lexington still in need of affordable housing

The following commentary by CKCPJ member Rick Clewett was published in the Lexington Herald-Leader about 18 months ago. Rick reports that, in his opinion, little has improved on the affordable housing front in Lexington since its publication.

Several years ago the Urban County Government created both the Affordable Housing Fund and the Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention. Under Rick McQuady and Charlie Lanter, these programs are doing important work and are pointing in a positive direction for Lexington's future.

But we face a shortage of affording rental housing that will only worsen over the next five years unless we take decisive steps to reverse it.

According to the Lexington Public Housing website, 10,560 of Fayette County's 54,225 renter households (almost 20 percent) live at or below the official poverty line. And only 36 percent of those renters receive any form of assistance with rent.

Since Lexington created the Office of Affordable Housing, that program has financed 164 new units as well as the rehab of another 269 existing units (March 24 2016 *Herald-Leader*). The program hopes to rehabilitate and create an additional 300 to 500 units in the coming year. However, this doesn't begin to fill the affordable rental housing gap.

According to a 2014 study cited in the *Herald-Leader*, Lexington is losing about 400 "affordable" rental units each year to higher rents. And since the 2014 report the number of affordable housing units has continued to decline. This continuing net loss in affordable rental units is projected to intensify for at least the next five years, as large complexes, the

construction of which was subsidized by federal programs, "age out" of the period during which they were required to offer sub-market rental rates.

For historical context, consider another comparison included in the *Herald-Leader* piece. In 1990, "There were 35,017 apartments that someone making a minimum wage could afford, about 88 percent of all apartments and rental units. In 2010 minimum wage employees could afford only 17 percent of apartments and rental units."

This shortage of affordable rental housing and rental subsidies carries a tragic human cost.

According to data from the Lexington Fair Housing Council, there were nearly 6,000 eviction notices issued last year in Fayette County, and the vast majority of these resulted in evictions. In recent years, about 10 percent of Lexington's renter households have faced eviction proceedings. That is more renters than are assisted by all forms of housing aid administered by the Lexington Public Housing Authority, whose programs benefit about 4,700 residents of Fayette County.

Also alarming is the fact that only about

one percent of those issued eviction notices are represented by any sort of legal counsel, clearly an important reason the vast majority of those cases end in eviction, often with a family's possessions thrown out on the curb.

Matthew Desmond's opinion piece "The Eviction Economy" (*New York Times, Sunday Review*, March 5, 2016), based on his book, *Evicted*, gives a vivid sense of what many people in our community also face.

"Take Lorraine," Desmond says, "Even though she lived in a mobile home park with so many code violations that city inspectors called it an 'environmental biohazard,' she kept a tidy trailer and used a hand steamer on the curtains. But Lorraine spent more than 70 percent of her income on housing — just as one in four of all renting families who live below the poverty line do. After paying the rent, she was left with \$5 a day. Under conditions like these, evictions have become routine."

For the sake of our less fortunate neighbors and the future well-being of the community of Lexington as a whole, let's ramp up our efforts to provide housing all Lexingtonians can afford.

Peace is Possible

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.

If you reserved a license plate but have not given information about how to direct your deposit or would like request a front plate please contact Rebecca at rebecca.glasscock@kctcs.edu.



2017-18 LWV Essay Title Page

Title:

Date:

Name:

Home Address/Zip:

Email Address:

Phone:

Fayette County School:

Grade:

Sponsoring Teacher:

Teacher's E-mail Address:

- In submitting an essay the writer of this work gives the Lexington LWV permission to publish his/her writing and photo.
- Each essay must be accompanied by a Title Page including the information requested above.
- Additional information about the Essay Contest may be obtained on the League of Women Voters website www.lwvlexington.com or by addressing questions to Judy Johnson at lexingtonlwvessaycontest@gmail.com.