

PEACEWAYS

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The Newsletter of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice
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Congressional subcommittee hears about war profiteering from filmmaker

The following is **Robert Greenwald's** testimony to the House Appropriations Committee, Subcommittee on Defense about war profiteering.

Thank you for inviting me to testify today. I appreciate the opportunity to share with you what I have learned in the course of making the documentary film, "Iraq For Sale: The War Profiteers." Along with my colleagues at Brave New Films, I spent a year researching the experiences of soldiers, truck drivers, and families affected by the presence of private military contractors in Iraq. They shared with us their harrowing experiences of how military privatization and war profiteering have affected their lives, and in some cases taken the life of a loved one.

It is their personal stories that compel me to testify today. I am not a lawyer or a financial specialist or a government expert, but I can tell you from my extensive first-hand experience with these folks that something is seriously wrong. We are hurting our country and the many patriots who serve in the military. Our taxpayer dollars are being spent, abused, misused, and wasted on profiteers. It is a true tragedy, and it is costing the lives of Americans and Iraqis.

Please let me introduce you to a few of these people and their stories.

Imagine someone with the exact same job as you, working next to you,

but getting paid three times as much as you! We heard this story over and over again from the soldiers we interviewed. And in the case of US Army SPC David Mann, a radio repair technician who served in Iraq, he was even required to train KBR contractors to replace him. In "Iraq For Sale," David shared his frustration:

"When I could be actively becoming a better soldier and becoming more proficient in my job, instead I'm going to sit up on guard duty and wait around while KBR contractors are doing the job that I had to train them to do."

US Army specialist Anthony Lagouranis also spoke of the effects of the private contractors on the military:

"It certainly affected retention because I don't know why any military person would re-enlist to do the same job when they could get out of the military and make six times the money — I really don't understand why they were outsourced. I mean, it seems like this is a military job and the military should be doing it. Especially because the more civilians you have out there, the more military people you need to guard them. So we're spreading us thin."

"Iraq For Sale" was seen by hundreds of thousands of people around the country, and I cannot tell you the number of soldiers who saw it and thanked us for exposing the toll that

contracting and profiteering are taking on our armed forces and on the war in Iraq.

I was also appalled to learn of the amount of waste by contractors in Iraq.

I remember clearly my interview with Stewart Scott, a former Halliburton employee. With pain and rage in his voice, he said how dare Halliburton put its people up at five-star hotels, while the soldiers, who he was there to help, were sleeping on the ground. I did not believe in him at first, but then he began naming the hotels and the locations. It was all true.

I also spoke with Shane Ratliff, a truck driver from Ruby, South Carolina.

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The Central Kentucky Council for Peace & Justice

Staff: Michael Fogler, Newsletter Editor and Mailing Coordinator; Candice Watson, Administrative Assistant.

Board of Directors: Arne Bathke, Soreyda Begley, Joan Braun, Jim Embry, Mary Ann Ghosal, Rebecca Glasscock, Mami Hayashida, Richard Mitchell, Howard Myers (treasurer), Rosie Moosnick (co-chair), Kerby Neill (co-chair), Aaron Hutson, Nabeel Jawahir, Larry Johnson, Steve Kay, Billie Mallory, Rabbi Uri Smith, Chris Strecker.

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Submissions of articles or items in the *Calendar* are welcome. Contact the editor, Michael Fogler, at (859) 299-3074 or michael@lexingtonguitartrio.com. Deadline: the first Wednesday of the month.

The views expressed in *Peaceways* are those of the authors, and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice.

War Profiteering (continued from front page)

He saw Halliburton advertising a job for truck drivers in Iraq and he signed up. When Shane started telling me that empty trucks were being driven across dangerous stretches of desert, I assumed he was mistaken. Why would they do that? Then he explained that Halliburton got paid for the number of trips they took, regardless of whether they were carrying anything. These unnecessary trips were putting the lives of truckers at risk, exposing drivers and co-workers to attack. This was the result of cost-plus, no-bid contracts.

Another young Halliburton worker named James Logsdon told me about the burn pits. Burn pits are large dumps near military stations where they would burn equipment, trucks, trash, etc. If they ordered the wrong item, they'd throw it in the burn pit. If a tire blew on a piece of equipment, they'd throw the whole thing into the burn pit. They burn pits had so much equipment, they even gave them a nickname — "Home Depot."

The trucker said he would get us some photos. And I naively asked, how big are they, the size of a backyard swimming pool? He laughed, and referred to one that he had seen that was 15 football fields large, and burned around the clock! It infuriated him to have to burn stuff rather than give it to the Iraqis or to the military. Yet Halliburton was being rewarded each time they billed the government for a new truck or new piece of equipment. With a cost-plus contract, the contractors receive a percentage of the money they spend. As Shane told me, "It's a legal way of stealing from the government or the taxpayers' money."

These costs eat up the money that could be used for other supplies.

Sgt. Phillip Slocum wrote to us and said, "In previous experiences I went off to war with extra everything, and then some. This time however, Uncle Sam sent me off with one pair of desert boots, two uniforms, and body armor that didn't fit."

Cost-plus and no-bid contracts are hopelessly undermining our efforts and costing the taxpayers billions. They do not operate within a free-market sys-

tem and have no competition, but instead create a Stalinist system of rewarding cronies. In a letter from Sgt. Jon Lacore talking about the enormous amount of waste, he said, "I just can't believe that no one at all is going to jail for this or even being fired or forced to resign."

In my research, I was also shocked to discover the role of contractors in the tragedy of Abu Ghraib. Its images are seared into the minds of people throughout the world, yet few realize the role of CACI and its interrogators. As our team dug deeper and deeper into the numerous contracts, CACI and JP London kept appearing over and over. The Taguba report, the Fay report, and the Human Rights Watch report "By The Numbers" all made clear that CACI had played a significant role in the torture. As Pratap Chatterjee, head of CorpWatch has stated, CACI was using "information technology contracts through the department of Interior. So either somebody was in a big hurry or they did this deliberately so nobody would ever be able to track this ... CACI does a lot of work directly with OSD, Office of the Secretary of Defense."

And even after the investigations, there were no consequences; in fact, CACI continued to receive more and more contracts with no oversight. Later, CACI and JP London were even hired to process cases of fraud and incompetence by contractors! I kid you not — CACI, a corporation that had profited enormously from the war and whose CEO JP London personally made \$22,249,453 from his stock and salary in 2004 — was being hired to oversee other contractors! This is a madhouse run amuck. And we need your help to fix this.

We know corporations are designed to create significant returns for its shareholders. Do we really believe they can and should be fighting for hearts and minds? Do we really think that the corporations with their legal commitment to profitability are to be given the responsibility for some of our country's most critical decisions and actions? Do we want corporations representing us in the battles for our country? ■

Peaceful Education with middle schoolers

by Rebecca Self

From Rebecca Glasscock: As part of this year's Peace and Global Citizenship Fair, BCC (in cooperation with Citizens Create! and the Shambhala Center) hosted a writing contest on creating a culture of peace. Adults, 18 years of age and older, from any of the counties in the Bluegrass, were eligible to enter.

We know what a culture of war looks like, but what does a culture of peace look like? We hosted the contest to generate ideas. We had no idea if we would receive even one entry, but in fact we received ten. We had a review team made up of students, faculty, and an outside reader. The writers of the two winning entries received \$50 awards and a contribution (on their behalf) to building a school in the rural Kenyan village of Okela.

This is one of the two winners. The other one will appear next month.

It is a familiar refrain. When I meet someone and tell them that I teach middle schoolers, their reaction is always the same: "I could never work with adolescents. I remember what I was like at that age!" But for those of us who work with these young adults, the rewards are obvious. With no other age group would I have the opportunity to witness a carefree and unconscious child transform into a thoughtful and aware young adult. Through careful guidance and encouragement during this delicate transition, I firmly believe we will ensure the hope of a peaceful future.

I am fortunate enough to work at the Montessori Middle School of Kentucky, whose mission is directed by the visionary work of Dr. Maria Montessori (1870–1952). Not only did Dr. Montessori realize the potential that rests in adolescents (actually all levels of human development), but she identified the critical connection between education and peace. She believed, as I do, that education holds the key to a brighter tomorrow. It is part of our nature as humans to desire peace, to love one another, to care for our earth, and to do what is possible to preserve it for our children. Dr. Montessori writes: "If a person were to grow up with a healthy soul, enjoying the full development of a strong character and a

clear intellect, they could not endure to uphold two kinds of justice—the one protecting life and the other destroying it. Nor would they consent to cultivate in their heart both love and hate." I consider it to be my noble charge to help develop and encourage the daily development of this healthy soul in my students, and while, at times, this responsibility can seem overwhelming, I am continually fed by the students' willingness to search for truth and fairness. Indeed, their inner good is undeniable, and I am truly thankful to be an eyewitness to their journey. If I can provide them with any assistance along the way, then I am all the more blessed.

For some, this rosy outlook might seem overly optimistic or even downright naïve. After all, the students I work with are continually bombarded with competing messages from our society. Marketers wisely direct their campaigns towards adolescents, and they are rewarded by unprecedented levels of consumerism among this age group. Middle school students are overwhelmingly impressionable, always quick to note what is "cool" and "uncool," and their sources of this information are not always the ones we might choose for them. Furthermore, they can be very cynical. After all, they are in the process of becoming adult thinkers, and yet they feel disenfranchised by the prevailing assumption that they are still children. They aren't old enough to vote, but they are old enough to care. For them, it feels as though no one wants to listen. Is this not the most basic human need, though? To feel like you matter, like you count? Montessori calls this *valorization*, a cornerstone of her philosophy of adolescent education. When adolescents are valorized, they can then reach their true potential and we, as the human race, can best secure a lasting peace.

Over the past years, I have witnessed countless instances of such valorization, and the results never cease to amaze me. For example, following a unit on sustainability, the students were encouraged to attend the local conference at UK, Growing Kentucky II. Upon entering the conference, we were fortunate enough to run into Wendell Berry, whose

writings the students had read as part of their studies, and we were all shocked when he encouraged the students to participate actively in the days' workshops and sessions. Essentially, he invited the students to speak and made it clear that our community was here to listen. Our scholars, given such an invitation, eagerly stood up to ask questions of panel members and willingly engaged with the other attendees who peppered them with questions. It has been my experience, in my own classroom, that these students are always able to rise to the challenge when the bar is set high, and I was thrilled to watch them present to such a large audience. Needless to say, the students were overjoyed; the experience has fueled their passion for sustainability. Their experience has also generated more interest among the students for further opportunities in which to share their work with the larger community. The Peace and Global Citizenship Fair is one such ideal forum.

I feel fortunate to be so optimistic about our future. I feel fortunate to work for such an amazing school. I feel fortunate to witness the growth of such inspiring students. And yet, I, too, live in the real world. I see the signs of growing global unrest. I see the news of horrifying violence, atrocious inequalities of resources, and unforgivable conditions for human life. I fear for the future of our planet and its resources, both living and not. I experience times of genuine despair and disbelief. Yet I value the blessings in my life too much to believe in a future that would not bestow the same to others. I refuse to imagine a tomorrow that does not include the beauty of an early Kentucky sunrise, the smell of the first spring rain, the joy in the sound of a baby's laugh, the delight in the crunch of the just-picked orchard apple, and the warmth of the embrace in a heartfelt thank you. Certainly, we must all do our part to secure such treasures for the future. My path has led me to teaching, and I firmly believe that through education, we will nurture the spirits of those who will go forth to produce countless peaceful contributions. My students show me everyday that the best is truly yet to come. ■

Introducing our new Board of Directors

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice has undergone some major changes for the coming year. Effective in August most of the Board consists of new members. We are excited by the diversity we have in talent, background, and age.

The members of the Board are listed as follows with new members indicated by an asterisk: Arne Bathke*, Soreyda Begley*, Joan Braun*, Jim Embry, Mary Ann Ghosal, Rebecca Glasscock*, Mami Hayashida*, Richard Mitchell, Howard Myers* (treasurer), Rosie Moosnick (co-chair), Kerby Neill (co-chair), Aaron Hutson*, Nabeel Jawahir*, Larry Johnson*, Steve Kay*, Billie Mallory, Rabbi Uri Smith, Chris Strecker*.

Longtime board stalwart, Richard Mitchell, remains involved as Board Member, Emeritus, Webmaster, and guardian of our active e-mail listserve. We are excited about our board and look forward to entering our 25th year (2008) with new energy and a passion for peace and justice. As we develop projects in the coming year we will be inviting our readers to join us and help in any way they can, so look in *Peaceways* for how you can help.

Here are some brief biographical sketches of some of the Board members.

Steve Kay

Age: 63

Issues of Peace and Justice you care about most: Equity in all its forms, especially at the local level.

Skills and experiences you hope will aid your work with the Council: Facilitation, planning, group process.

Type of work you do (and profession if relevant): Facilitation, organization development, qualitative research

Something else we might like to know about you: served on the LFUCG planning commission and been an at-large candidate for Lexington's Urban-County Council.

Spouse's name: Rona Roberts

Children: Three sons: Elisha, 28; Eli, 27; Noah 27

Birthplace: Lawrence, Mass.

Years in Kentucky: 35

Schools you attended: Bowdoin College, Yale University, University of Kentucky.

Jim Embry

Age: 58

Issues of Peace and Justice you care about most: integrating the various issues into a framework that sees (and practices) their interconnection.

Skills and experiences you hope will aid your work with the Council: 40 years of community activism.

Type of work you do (and profession if relevant): to earn a living I own a small home repair business, "House Doctor."

Children: 5 children

Birthplace: Richmond KY

Years in Kentucky: 54

Schools you attended: Covington Holmes High school, University of Kentucky

Rebecca Claire Glasscock

Age: 57

Issues of Peace and Justice you care about most: I care about building a just and sustainable future for everyone, including all the species - beautiful or not. I know that a peaceful world is an ecologically sustainable world.

Skills and experiences you hope will aid your work with the Council: Well, I am usually fairly good at organizing things and creating ideas.

Type of work you do (and profession if relevant): I am an Associate Professor at Bluegrass Community and Technical College. I am Area Coordinator for Anthropology, Religious Studies, Sociology, Geography, Peace & Justice, and Criminal Justice, the chair of the Sustainability Committee, and faculty advisor for the Peace and Justice Coalition.

Something else we might like to know about you: I worked as a pro-

fessional environmentalist in Washington State. I grew up on an organic farm before the term was used.

Spouse's name: I am single

Children: Jonathan David Meek-soul, Adrienne Claire Voerman (deceased)

Birthplace: Florence, Alabama

Years in Kentucky: 13

Schools you attended: University of Kentucky (Lexington - PhD), University of North Carolina (Chapel Hill - MSPH), University of North Alabama (Florence - BS), Coffee High School (Florence, AL), Appleby Junior High School (Florence, AL), and Kilby Laboratory School (Florence, AL).

Mary Ann Ghosal

Age: 66

Issues of Peace and Justice you care about most: peace, environmental issues, racism, voting rights for felons.

Skills and experiences you hope will aid your work with the Council: I'm an "enhancer" of the creative ideas of others. I'm also a doer (if I don't have to stand and walk too much). I was arrested at the Bluegrass Army Depot just before we invaded Iraq.

Type of work you do (and profession if relevant): Coordinate Math/Stat Tutoring Center at Eastern Kentucky University

Kerby Neill

Age: 69

Issues of Peace and Justice you care about most: Believe that we need Peace Education in all our schools and universities. Support simpler life styles and local food production for greater sustainability. Concerned with increasing economic disparities locally, nationally, and globally. Support comprehensive immigration reform. We need prison reform and the restoration of voting rights.

Skills and experiences you hope will aid your work with the Council: Experience as a community organ-

(Continued on next page)

izer, advocate, and administrator

Type of work you do (and profession if relevant): Semi-retired psychologist. Teaching course in Peacemaking and nonviolent conflict resolution at UK

Something else we might like to know about you: Former Naval officer

Spouse's name: Mary Ellen

Children: 6 grown

Birthplace: New York

Years in Kentucky: 33

Schools you attended: U. of Notre Dame, Catholic University, DC

Mami Hayashida

Age: 36

Issues of Peace and Justice you care about most: Issues related to economic inequality including (but not limited to) "living wage," workers' rights, tax system, welfare; diversity issues; world peace

Skills and experiences you hope will aid your work with the Council: having been moderately active in this area for the last few years: being 2.7-lingual (0.7 being German); piano playing; research skill.

Type of work you do (and profession if relevant): pianist/piano instructor. I teach at Georgetown College (Assistant Professor of Music).

Something else we might like to know about you: I am very much into eating and cooking.

Spouse's Name: Daniel Mason; as you may know, he teaches violin at UK and is the concert master of the Lexington Philharmonic.

Children: None (yet).

Birthplace: Tokyo, Japan

Years in Kentucky: 6

Schools you attended: Oberlin College, Musikhochschule Frankfurt (Germany), Indiana University, UK

Chris Strecker

Age: 62

Issues of Peace and Justice you care about most: Regarding all issues of Peace and Justice, environment, coal related issues, bicycle paths.

Skills and experiences you hope will aid your work with the Council: I am very much a grass roots type of person and hope to be of some help.

Type of work you do (and profession if relevant): I am an artist.

Children: Two daughters, Zoe and Erika

Birthplace: Born in a small village in Northern Greece

Years in Kentucky: 20 Years in Ky.

Schools you attended: Ohio U. Armstrong college, Volunteer State

Billy Mallory

Age: 55

Issues of Peace and Justice you care about most: Social and economic justice issues, especially with homeless, disabled and other disadvantaged groups.

Skills and experiences you hope will aid your work with the Council: Skills and experience with event planning, volunteer recruitment, soliciting donations. Strong written and verbal communication skills.

Type of work you do (and profession if relevant): Will be working for Americorps this year helping find housing for the homeless, refugees, and others with difficulty finding housing.

Something else we might like to know about you: Masters in Social Work and Education. Certified Family Dispute Mediator

Children: One son, Justin

Birthplace: Frankfort KY

Years in Kentucky: All my life

Schools you attended: Cumberland College, Eastern Ky. Univ., and Univ. of KY

Arne Bathke

Age: 35

Issues of Peace and Justice you care about most: Many issues of peace and justice are connected and it is difficult to rank-order them. Can there be justice without peace? What is peace without justice? I got involved with CKCPJ during the build-up of the still ongoing horror of the Iraq war. War reflects the darkest of humanity. But among the other issues that I consider related to peace and justice is also the global "war on the environment" that has already induced and will lead to much more injustice and instability. Working for peace and justice encompasses working for a more sustainable society.

Skills and experiences you hope will aid your work with the Council: I think that I tend to get along with others well. That helps in getting connected to people. And I can listen if someone has something to say. My job requires that I am often somewhat meticulous.

Type of work you do (and profession if relevant): As a faculty member at the University of Kentucky, I teach, and I do research. I very much enjoy both aspects of the job.

Something else we might like to know about you: I love soccer. And I used to play church organ.

Years in Kentucky: Six.

Nabeel Jawahir

Nabeel Jawahir grew up in Lexington, and graduated from Henry Clay High School, class of '02. He proceeded to go on to UK for college. He graduated from UK with degrees in both Political Science and History, along with a minor in Islamic Studies. Since graduation, he has been serving as the Executive Director of the Kentucky Chapter of the Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR) and continues to be active in the local Muslim community.

Soreyda Begley

Soreyda Begley, originally from Honduras, is a clothing designer who has lived in Lexington since 2000. She is married to archaeologist Chris Begley, and is the mother of three children; Isabella, William, and Aaron. She has been involved in the community in a variety of ways, including serving on a community advisory board of the Health Department, the committee for the Fiesta Latina, and has helped organize V-Day Latina activities. She is involved in issues of fair trade, speaking often to local groups about her experiences working in sweatshops in Honduras. She also co-founded Artisans for Activism, Revitalization, and Networking (AARN), a non-profit group supporting local artists and artisans and promoting education on issues of fair trade. She was raised in a community of Garifuna, an African-Caribbean group along the north coast of Honduras.

More Board bios may follow! ■

Multi-Faith Walk for World Peace 10/14

The Lexington-based Franciscan Peace Center is preparing to host its third multi-faith Walk for World Peace and Solidarity on October 14, 2007. This year the Franciscan Peace Center wants to widen the circle to include friends of the city—patrons of Catholic Action Center, Salvation Army, Hope Center—as well as Hispanic neighbors and friends. A poem written by Friar Murray Bodo of Cincinnati entitled “slow-walking a way of prayer” will guide the Walk.

Other components of the Walk include hearing about volunteer opportunities from service organizations. Volunteer pledge cards will be available. There will also be an opportunity to partake in blessings from various faith traditions.

Patricia Griffin, community liaison for Franciscan Peace Center, uses a quote from Sr. Jean Schwieters to sum up the intent of this event: “For it is through awareness of injustice that suffering will be healed; it is by simplifying our life style that consumerism will lose its grip; and it is through a selfless commitment to love that peace will be reborn.”

This walk is an expression of unity and solidarity as peoples of the Earth. Its purpose is to raise awareness in the Center’s belief of a nonviolent way of life that will bring about a peaceful global community. It models a locally diverse group of people from many faith traditions walking together towards the same goal.

This fall, as in 2005 and in 2006 and then not for another 30 years, the most sacred seasons of Judaism and Islam and some sacred seasons of Christian communities will coincide. Sacred Hindu festivals and feast days of famous peace activists also coincide in the month of October, as does recognition of the wisdom of Native American people. October 4 is the feast of St. Francis of Assisi.

3rd Annual WALK FOR WORLD PEACE AND SOLIDARITY

*slow-walking a way of prayer

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 14, 3-5 PM
2:45 p.m. GATHER at High Street parking lot above Lexington Transit Center
3:00 p.m. WALK in and around downtown parks
5:00 p.m. END Walk with a simple meal shared with our friends in the city (location to be announced)

COMPONENTS OF WALK
PRAYER: reflections along the way on Murray Bodo’s poem “slow-walking a way of prayer”
SERVICE: hear about volunteer opportunities from service organizations—pledge cards available
BLESSINGS: from various faith traditions

Prayer for Jefferson Day

by Jim Powell

Jim Powell is a retired pastor and active minister of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), member of the Clergy and Laity Network of Kentucky-United for Social Justice, Kentucky Disability Coalition, and several peace and justice advocacy groups. He offered this prayer for Jefferson Day at a dinner in Mercer County.

Creator God, Mother and Father of all Creation, known differently by many peoples, we confess our essential oneness with the natural world and all that is living.

God, You answer our question “Who is our neighbor? We are a people whose true identity is known only as we claim our oneness with the homeless, the hungry, those without adequate health care, those without opportunities of quality education and those without living wages.

God, we are citizens fortunate to be born in a great nation as a result of the immigration of our forebears. Now we are called to welcome the sojourners among us seeking hope and a home.

God, we confess that as a free people America has more people in prison than most nations in the world.

God, we confess that as a nation we have great possibilities of health care yet stand alone among the developed nations without universal health care for all, with rankings of infant mortality as high as third world countries and a decreasing life span.

God, we confess that classism, racism, sexism continues to blight, impoverish and limit our potential as a just society,

God, we confess that the common good of all is being sacrificed before the idols of profits, materialism and consumerism.

God, We confess that we are in great distress at the degradation of our environment & the threat to clean air, drinkable water, global warming and the sacred life of our mountains.

God, we know life is not sustainable in the ways the sacred earth is being desecrated, devastating the poor, vulnerable and threatening the well-being of present and future generations of Your children.

God, we join the lament of families everywhere who are suffering the great harms caused by America’s preventable, preemptive wars.

God, we are assembled here as a people who have Kentucky and America in our hearts as our Kentucky Home and the Country we love.

God, stir us to re-prioritize our policies and practices that the Commonwealth of KY not continue last or near last in every ranking in our nation.

God, You call us to repent of our silence and inaction. You challenge us to shake off the chains of fearful, hateful and divisive ideology. You call us to use Your gifts of faith and reason for the realization of a just and peaceful Commonwealth and Country.

God of peace help us reject that power is based on force against others. Tonight help us claim the true power that is based on integrity, reason and justice for the common good of all.

Bless us this evening—Grant us wisdom. Grant us courage for the facing of this hour. Amen. ■

Events at a Glance

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Event Description</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Sunday, September 23 2:00 - 5:00 pm	CKCPJ Annual Planning Retreat , Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Road. All welcome!	Kerby Neill, 293-2265
Thursday, September 27 7:00 pm	Film: Motherland Afghanistan , Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main St. Free and open to the public. ●	Kate Black, 257-4207
Sat. Oct. 6, 10 am - 6 pm Sun. Oct. 7, 12 noon - 6 pm	Bluegrass Energy & Green Living Expo , Heritage Hall Convention Center. The largest selection of healthy, sustainable, energy saving & renewable energy products, services & information ever assembled in Kentucky. Free and open to the public.	Ben Perry, 523-4773; 327-0924
Sunday, October 14 3:00 - 5:00 pm	3rd Annual Multi-Faith Walk for World Peace & Solidarity ; Gather at High Street parking lot above Lexington Transit Center in downtown Lexington. ●	Pat Griffin 230-1986
1 st Wed. of the month, 7:00 pm	CKCPJ Board Meeting , KCCJ offices, 112 N. Upper St. All welcome.	Kerby Neill, 293-2265
Every Sunday 6:00 pm	Sustainable Communities Network , Third Street Stuff, on N.Limestone near the corner of Third St. www.SustainLex.org	Jim Embry, 312-7024
1 st Wed. of the month, 7:00 pm	Kitchen Gardeners of the Bluegrass , Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd.	John Walker 225-3866
1 st Wed. of the month, 4:00 - 6:30 pm	Franciscan Peace Center , 3389 Squire Oak.	Pat Griffin 230-1986
Every Thursday, 5:30 - 6:00 pm	Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace , Triangle Park in downtown Lexington.	
2 nd Wed. of the month, 7:00 - 8:30 pm	Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky (AHA) , Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd.	Dick Renfro, 255-7029
3 rd Thursday of the month,	Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) , Episcopal Diocese Mission House, corner of 4th St. and Martin Luther	Janet Tucker, 389-8575
New meeting schedule TBA soon.	Lexington Living Wage Campaign , Community Action Council, Georgetown St., Lexington.	
1 st Tuesday of the month, 7:30 pm	Bluegrass Fairness Steering Committee , KCCJ office, 112 N Upper St.	Paul Brown, Chair, heme1588@yahoo.com
4 th Thursday of the month,	Central Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty , Central Library, downtown.	Will Warner, 278-9232
1 st Monday of the month, 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm	Kentucky Migrant Network , Cooperative Extension Building, 1141 Red Mile Place.	Andrea Tapia, 268-3353

● *Denotes article in this issue containing more information.*



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"Each of us who is female, nonwhite, or without land would have been guaranteed in 1776 the same voting rights as a horse. We owe a precious debt to Americans before us who refused to believe patriotism just meant going with the crowd." — Barbara Kingsolver

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Bits and Peaces

Film on Afghanistan at Kentucky Theater 9/27

A documentary film, *Motherland Afghanistan*, will screen in downtown Lexington on September 27th, 7:00 p.m. at the Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street.

In Afghanistan, one in seven women dies in childbirth and the infant mortality rate is the second highest in the world. *Motherland Afghanistan* (2006, 73 min.) by Afghan-American filmmaker Sedika Mojadidi follows her OB/GYN father, Qudrat Mojadidi, as he returns to his native country post-9/11 to intervene in this medical and social crisis born of war. While the film centers on Dr. Mojadidi's interventions in the dire conditions faced by women, it is also a rumination about returning to one's homeland after a long exile to find the social and physical landscapes disrupted and changed by decades of war. The *Los Angeles Journal* called his insights into US-Afghanistan relations "acute and concise."

Produced and directed by Sedika Mojadidi, *Motherland Afghanistan* aired on PBS/ Independent Lens this past February and was a 2006 "Official Selection" at the prestigious American Film Institute's International Film Festival. Mojadidi holds master's degrees in Film Theory from the University of Florida and in Video from the School of the Art

Institute of Chicago. *Motherland Afghanistan* is her third film.

Ms. Mojadidi will introduce her documentary. Following the screening she will discuss her film with the audience and talk about her trips to Afghanistan.

Motherland Afghanistan is part of a film series organized each year by the University of Kentucky's Gender and Women's Studies Program. This special screening is also the opening event of the 28th Kentucky Women Writers Conference for which Ms. Mojadidi will be teaching a workshop. Funded, in part, by the College of Arts and Sciences and the Anthropology Department, other support is provided by the CKCPJ. The event is free and open to the public. A reception will follow. For more information, contact Kate Black at 859-257-4207 or email: kate.black@uky.edu.

Workers' Rights Board meets with Toyota

Representatives of the Kentucky Workers' Rights Board on August 29 attempted to meet with managers of the Toyota plant in Georgetown, to make recommendations for improving working conditions and addressing other issues of concern to workers.

The board members sent a certified letter to Steve St. Angelo, president of the Toyota Kentucky facility to request a meeting. Toyota initially indicated

they would make arrangements for a meeting, but then failed to do so.

The Workers' Rights Board representatives—the Rev. Cynthia Cain, Father John Rausch and State Rep. Reginald Meeks—visited the plant in an effort to meet with managers. After the community leaders waited 40 minutes and made several requests to speak with top managers, Toyota spokesman Rick Hesterberg went down and accepted a copy of the board's recommendations. He declined to meet with panel members or discuss the issues raised in their report, but said it would be reviewed by management.

Following testimony from workers and other concerned citizens, the Workers' Rights Board issued recommendations for Toyota to implement, including:

Hire temporary workers with full benefits and wages after they complete a 90-day probationary period.

Reinstate with back pay and benefits workers who were terminated unjustly.

Address workers' claims of sexual harassment in line with federal law.

Treat injured workers fairly by allowing them time to recover and return to suitable work without repercussions.

Established by Kentucky Jobs With Justice, the Kentucky Workers' Rights Board comprises 70 civic leaders concerned with promoting and creating good jobs and fair working conditions for Kentucky residents. For a copy of the report, contact Kentucky Jobs With Justice at (502) 582-5454.