

PEACEWAYS



Issue # 216

March 2008

The Newsletter of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice
112 N. Upper St. Lexington KY 40507 (859) 255-6999

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Working together, BUILDing for Justice Annual BUILD Action Monday, April 7th from 6:30 to 8:30 pm at Consolidated Baptist Church on Russell Cave Road

by Mary-Alice Pratt

During the past year, the Lexington-Fayette County Health Department gave primary care to 700 additional persons per month. These are mostly working people unable to afford health insurance.

Also last year, LFUCG Code Enforcement began inspections of trailer parks and cited several for code violations.

The previous year women in the local jail began recovery through a program with demonstrated effectiveness, and local middle schools committed to bullying prevention programs that have been proven effective.

These accomplishments occurred through the initiative of BUILD, Building United Interfaith Lexington through Direct action.

BUILD is an affiliate of the Direct Action and Research Training (DART) Center, which builds powerful, diverse, congregation-based, and

democratically-run organizations that seek justice by holding systems accountable. DART has over 20 local affiliate organizations in six states.

The purpose of BUILD in Lexington is to address community issues through a self-sustaining, interfaith, interracial, proactive organization, rooted in religious congregations.

BUILD was formed several years ago by a group of congregations working with DART. They agreed that this community had issues that needed to be addressed and that justice is a moral issue.

With one community organizer, BUILD works through an annual process of listening sessions in which members of the congregations brainstorm to identify community issues.

At a community meeting each fall, the membership votes on one or two broadly defined issues to be researched and pursued during the coming year. These issues *must* be agreed

upon by all member congregations.

During the next several months members narrow the issues, research specific problems, and identify systems that should be held accountable for the problems. They also evaluate the feasibility of resolving aspects of the problems within a determined time.

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The Central Kentucky Council for Peace & Justice

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Peaceways is published ten times a year by the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, 112 N. Upper St., Lexington KY 40507.

Submissions of articles or items in the Calendar are welcome. Contact the editor, Gail M. Koehler at 859.335.5701 or gmkkentucky@gmail.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.

A Day of Silence: April 25th

by Lucy Arthur-Paratley

Imagine for a moment living every day in silence. Imagine not being able to tell people who you are, what you think, and what you feel.

Imagine knowing that if you were to speak up, you would be harassed emotionally and sometimes physically. Imagine being gay, lesbian, transgender, or bisexual. Imagine the above realities in school.

The national program Day of Silence is organized in high schools by GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian, and Straight Education Network) and in colleges by LGBT Student Empowerment Project—United States Student Association (USSA).

Last year over 500,000 people across the country participated in this program. So, what do I and hundreds of thousands of others plan to do on April 25th?

For the past two years I've spent this day, from the time I leave home in the morning to the time I return in the evening, completely in silence. I am not gay, lesbian, transgender, or bisexual.

I participate because I think harassment of anyone is wrong and I want to stand in solidarity with anyone who feels marginalized for what they think and feel.

For me, the point of Day of Silence is to draw attention to our

society's intolerance. This day should not be contentious because it is simply "saying" no to harassment.

This year, for the third time, my silence will draw attention to the silence of many other students at my school and across our community.

I participate in Day of Silence because I don't want other students to be permanently silenced by suicide or violence against them. Four out of five students who say they are lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender also say they were bullied or harassed because of that. If you can't be silent the whole day, just try it for an hour.

Most importantly, spread the word and stop harassment—it doesn't stop after high school.

This year's Day of Silence will be held in memory of Lawrence King, who friends say was murdered in a California school February 12th because of his sexual orientation and gender expression.

For more information on Day of Silence, to register, and obtain supporting materials, see:

www.dayofsilence.org,
www.glsen.org, or :
www.usstudents.org.

Lucy Arthur-Paratley is a student at Bryan Station High School in Lexington.

Join The Jump-Start 2008-2009 National Student Leadership Team

GLSEN (Gay, Lesbian and Straight Education Network) is searching for its next team of middle and high school student leaders! Students must fill out a brief application form and provide a recommendation and a letter of support from a local organization. Applications are due May 9th. Students can access the application and more information at www.GLSEN.org. For further information please contact the Director of Student Organizing, by emailing Benny Vasquez at bvasquez@glSEN.org

Seeking Solutions

*Note: See our January 2008 issue, pages 4 and 5, for our special feature on Homelessness in Central Kentucky. Back issues are archived at our website, www.peaceandjustice.org under *Peaceways Archives*.*

Exerpts from the February 2008 address by William H. Gates, Sr., to the National Conference on Ending Homelessness in Seattle, Washington:

“Across the country, we lose more affordable housing every year than we build. There is not a single county in the United States—out of more than 3,000—where a working parent who earns minimum wage can afford rent.

“What we have learned is this: Homelessness is not really the problem we need to end—homelessness is a symptom. Homelessness is part of a massive, ever-changing constellation of problems. People become homeless for a reason—usually more than one reason over a period of time and events—drug or alcohol abuse, mental illness, leaving an abusive relationship, loss of a job, or just a stroke of circumstances. Homeless individuals and families need help addressing all the rea-

sons—whatever crises that put them on the very edge of destitution.

“So how do we attack these problems? We need to weave a new safety net—one that is bigger, so we can cast it wide—one that is finer, so nobody slips through it. We need more affordable housing, more social services, more treatment programs and counseling, more resources to help people increase their income.

“The best safety net in the world doesn’t save anybody if they have no place to go. If we expect to give people the help they deserve, we have to be willing to pay for it! We must also change our systems to be more comprehensive and coordinated and willing to work together for the good of all. Success means giving consumers the help they need and can use in practical ways. Doing it right takes courage and determination and a willingness to do things differently to make it work.”

For more information nationally contact www.gatesfoundation.org. Or in Frankfort, the Homeless and Housing Coalition (HHCK) of Kentucky at www.hhck.org.

2008 Lexington Housing Count Update

In a March 1, 2008, article, the Lexington Herald-Leader reported the recent housing count shows the number of homeless in Lexington has more than doubled in a year’s time.

Those numbers reflect nearly 500 persons in emergency shelters, which often must turn people away, and over 700 in transitional housing programs.

There is also an increase in the number of places serving free meals, as well as capacity crowds at those sites, including families with children.

Many people who live in low-income housing pay as much as 50% of their income on rent alone.

The lack of affordable housing forces people to make tough choices between how to pay the rent and utilities to maintain their housing and where and how to eat.

Material for these updates provided by Billie Mallory.

U.K. Gender and Women’s Studies Film

Tuesday, April 8, 7:00 pm—*Enemies of Happiness* (Eva Mulvad and Anja Al-Erhayem; 2007; 59 min.)

This film follows Malalai Joya, a 28 year-old woman from Afghanistan, and her election as a delegate in the National Assembly in 2005—the first democratic parliament election in Afghanistan in over 30 years. Surrounded by security due to threats issued by the very same

warlords she challenges, Malalai Joya spreads her political beliefs despite several death threats.

Leslie Felperin, in *Variety* called the film “A political documentary with a difference” and noted that it “...quietly celebrates its heroine’s fierce determination to reform her country’s attitude toward women.”

The film will be shown on the UK campus in Lexington at the Gaines Center’s Bingham-Davis

House, 218 E. Maxwell Street. Free and open to the public.

Commentary and discussion will be led by Diane King, assistant professor in Anthropology, whose research in Iraqi Kurdistan has explored many of the same themes in the film—local political leadership, threats of violence, and gendered injustice.

For complete film listing and more information, see www.uky.edu/AS/GWS/New/about.

Working together, BUILDing Justice

continued from page 1

For the first Action in 2004, BUILD selected a procedure for sending information to the police regarding drug trafficking in neighborhoods while protecting the confidentiality of the informant.

At the 2004 Action, the police chief agreed in the presence of several hundred people on the value of this service to the community. As a result, police received information that enabled them to do more effective drug control. The police expressed their appreciation for these citizen activities and BUILD was seen as a positive force in the community.

Since 2004, BUILD has expanded its membership to over twenty congregations: African-American, white, affluent and

not-so-affluent, small and large, Protestant and Catholic. Savoring their early successes, they have begun to tackle more complex issues.

Because BUILD operates on the premise of people power, it is important that as large an assembly as possible be present at the Action, when community authorities having responsibility for specific problems are invited to make specific commitments to resolve the.

For example, in past Actions, Mayor Teresa Isaac consented to fund a woman's recovery program. Health Commissioner Dr. Melinda Rowe agreed to increase availability of health care to some of the 33,000 uninsured adults in Lexington.

This year as BUILD continues its efforts for health care and housing they will be inviting authorities having responsibilities in those areas.

The 2008 Action will be held **Monday, April 7th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Consolidated Baptist Church on Russell Cave Road.** Member churches are recruiting their congregations in the hope of having at least 1,000 people at the Action.

The assembly is not limited to congregations of member churches. Everyone is welcome, because BUILD members believe that community officials work for the people, and the people must hold them accountable for justice to the community.

For more information, contact the BUILD Office at 859.367.0152, P. O. Box 21874, Lexington, KY 40522 or go to www.thedartcenter.org/BUILD.



Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights Event: Citizenship Workshop – April 5th, 10am to 4pm

From the Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights website www.kcirr.org:

The Maxwell Street Legal Clinic is hosting a **Citizenship Workshop** for all eligible permanent residents.

The workshop takes place on Saturday, April 5th 10:00am – 4:00pm at: Maxwell Street Legal Clinic, 315 Lexington Avenue.

To register or for more information, contact Xochi at 859. 233-3840 or maxlegalaid@aol.com.

The Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights

(KCIRR) is a grassroots educational and advocacy organization composed of individuals and organizations from around the state of Kentucky, dedicated to promoting and defending the rights of all immigrants and refugees at the local, state, and federal levels.

Members are individuals, community-based organizations, and leaders from diverse communities in Kentucky, working together for a just and humane society that recognizes the rights and contributions of immigrants and refugees.

Also from the www.kcirr.org website is notice of the upcoming April 30th deadline to RSVP for the **2008 Jobs With Justice National Conference** to be held May 2nd through 4th in Providence, Rhode Island.

The conference will attract a diverse group of more than 1,000 labor, community, student, and religious activists from across the country and the world.

Event sessions include: building power for workers, health care for all, immigrant rights, the campaign for a floor wage in Asia, student and youth organizing, low-income worker organizing, music, art, fun, and more!

For more information contact Jobs for Justice at 202-393-1044 or email info@jwj.org.



Carry A Torch For Human Rights in China: Relay April 11

by Richard Mitchell

Note: This is our second article on the Human Rights Torch Relay. For background and a personal appeal by Kentucky resident. Hai Dong, see our February issue for "The Human Rights Torch Relay comes to Central Kentucky" page 4.

The CKCPJ, the Franciscan Peace Center, The Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass, the BCTC Peace & Justice Coalition, and Temple Adath Israel invite you to participate in the April 11 Central Kentucky Human Rights Torch Relay (HRTR), either as a torch carrier or as a supporter of our torch carriers.

The Relay is part of an international campaign that seeks to end all human rights abuses against the people of China while highlighting the persecution of Falun Gong practitioners. The torch was lit and the relay began on August 9, 2007, in Athens, Greece.

Between now and the beginning of the 2008 Olympics, citizen torch carriers will pass the torch along courses that will span cities in 37 countries and five continents.

In Lexington, torch carriers and their supporters (Kentuckians of all ages, athletes, public officials, edu-

cators, religious leaders, business leaders) will gather downtown at Triangle Park at 4:00 p.m. Friday April 11. Participants will carry the torch from Triangle Park to Woodland Park near Chevy Chase where closing ceremonies will take place.

The HRTR will raise awareness of the escalation of China's human rights violations in advance of the Olympic games. For example:

*An estimated 100 million Falun Gong practitioners and their families endure ever more stringent persecution; thousands of Falun Gong prisoners of conscience have had their organs forcibly extracted and sold.

*Hundreds of thousands of Chinese citizens are held as political prisoners without charge or trial, including democracy activists, lawyers, human rights defenders, religious leaders, journalists, trade unionists, Tibetan Buddhists, Uighurs, members of 'unofficial' churches, Falun Gong practitioners, environmental activists, health and reproductive rights activists, and political dissidents.

*Millions of Chinese are sent without trial to slave labor camps, where they are tortured and forced

to work long days producing consumer goods.

*China imprisons more reporters and executes more prisoners than any other country in the world

*Stringent Internet censorship and public surveillance, with technology supplied by western companies, enables close monitoring and suppression of free speech.

We hope you will participate in the relay, either as a torch carrier or a supporter.

Being a torch carrier involves walking or jogging a short distance (approximately 50 yards) with the torch.

To defray the costs of the event, we are charging \$15 for each adult and \$5 for each young torch carrier.

Being a supporter involves making a contribution to the HRTR and being present April 11, if possible, to cheer on the torch carriers.

If you wish to be a torch carrier or supporter, please return the registration form that can be found at www.peaceandjusticeky.org/HRTRReg.pdf.

Each torch carrier or supporter will receive a colorful HRTR tee-shirt. Pick up your tee-shirt at the Relay or, if you are unable to attend, at the CKCPJ offices, 112 N. Upper in Lexington. Registration deadline is Friday March 28.



March 24-28 is Fair Trade Week at Transylvania University

Sponsored by the Anthropology Club, Fair Trade Week promotes awareness of global issues and the Fair Trade campaign, which aims to alter the ways in which commerce is conducted so that trade can empower the poorest of the poor.

Fair Trade Organizations seek to create sustainable and positive change in developing and developed countries. Events for the week include: Monday, March 24th: Info Booth, during lunch in the Front Lobby of Forrer Hall. Tues-

day, March 25th: Panel discussion, in Conference Room A during open hour (12:30-1:30). Wednesday, March 26th: Movie in the Campus Center Gym from 6:30-9:30. Friday, March 28th: Fashion Show and Fair Trade Bazaar in the Campus Center Gym.

For details contact Stephenie Hart at shart@transy.edu.



2008 Peace and Global Citizenship Fair May 10th in Lexington Saturday from 12:00 noon to 8 p.m. This year's theme: Human Rights Third Annual Children for Peace Banner contest deadline: April 18th

All K-8 classrooms and groups are invited to create banners for the Bluegrass Community and Technical College (BCTC) Peace and Justice Coalition's third annual Children for Peace contest on this year's theme of Human Rights.

Banners should be approximately 24" x 30" and made of cloth (an old sheet is fine: be sure edges are finished). Acrylic paints, permanent markers, cloth, beads, or other materials can be used.

Completed banners should be mailed or delivered to BCTC, attn: Rebecca Glasscock, 221 Moloney Building, 470 Cooper Drive, Lexington, KY 40506 by 4:00 pm on April 18, 2008.

Be sure to include information to identify the classroom or group, including teacher/facilitator, address and telephone number.

Four winners will be announced (each receives a \$50 prize) and the banners flown on May 10 at the 2008 Peace and Global Citizen-

ship Fair, BCTC Cooper Campus Grounds, Lexington.

This event is focused on ecological and social sustainability, global understanding and human rights.

If your group is interested in having an activity at this event, contact organizer Rebecca Glasscock at 859.246.6319 or email her at rebecca.glasscock@kctcs.edu for more information. ■

Lauren K. Weinberg Humanitarian Dinner Thursday, April 17th at 5:30 pm Honorary Dinner Chair and Host: Joel Pett

On April 17, 2008, the Kentucky Conference for Community and Justice (KCCJ) will honor The Catholic Action Center; Larry Conner, Fayette County Board of Education Chair; and George W. Privett, Jr., M.D., neurologist and philanthropist, at the 2008 Lauren K. Weinberg Humanitarian Award dinner. Joel Pett will be the Honorary Dinner Chair and Host for the event.

The Humanitarian Award is given to an individual or organization whose life or work affirms the mission of KCCJ – to raise awareness and speak out for the just, fair and equal treatment of all people by promoting respect, understanding and acceptance through advocacy, education and empowerment.

Dinner and reception will be at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at 5:30, and tickets are available at www.kccjky.org, or by calling 859.255.6999.

Note: The Catholic Action Center is based on the Catholic Worker Movement founded in 1933 by Dorothy Day to reach out to those in need by providing food, shelter, and clothing and to work for justice for all. The Center makes available showers, phones, restrooms and meals along with connection to social service agencies. When the temperature is below 34 degrees, the Catholic Action Center remains open 24 hours a day to shelter those who have no other place to go. Other programs include laundry service and a clothing and household goods distribution center. The Center is solely funded by private donations. See their website at www.godsnet.info for more information or call Ginny Ramsey at 859.514.7210. ■

Franciscan Peace Center Earth Day Celebration April 20th – 3 to 5 pm at McConnell Springs

“These days we encounter a laundry list of things we can do to help the environment,” says Christine Cunha of Healthy Planet Initiatives in Danville, KY. “I’ll try to simplify this list by providing advice about the most effective actions we can take.”

Gather at McConnell Springs Educational Center where Christine Cunha will share how the “Healthy Planet Initiatives” group developed its “Green Tips” column published weekly in the *Advocate-Messenger* newspaper of Danville.

The day includes a guided tour of McConnell Springs, the founding site of Lexington. Please note that the tour is a ½ mile paved trail that is handicap accessible. Bring a sack lunch and stay afterwards to eat and socialize.

For more information, contact: Pat Griffin, 859.230.1986, or email FranciscanVision@aol.com. ■

Events at a Glance

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Event Description</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Wednesday, March 19 5:30 - 6:30 pm	Observe, mourn, protest the 5th Anniversary of the Iraq Invasion At Triangle Park (corner of Main & Broadway) in Lexington. We will solemnly name the 63 Kentuckians and 63 randomly chosen Iraqis slain in the invasion and occupation. http://justicelist.typepad.com/jl/2008/03/319-observe-mou.html	For details please go to website at left.
Thursday, March 20 7:00 pm	The Central Kentucky Civil Liberties Union presents "Conservative? Liberal? Just What is the ACLU?" David Friedman, General Counsel, ACLU of Kentucky Temple Adath Israel, 124 N. Ashland Ave. Free.	For more information, email ckclu@aclu-ky.org or call 859.269.9443
Thursday, March 20 7:00 pm	Drumming for Peace at Woodland Park Join other drummers across America as we Drum for Peace in the heart, the home, the workplace, in schools and in the world!	Jerry Moody for details at 859.266-6243 or upkentucky@yahoo.com
Saturday, March 29 10 am -12 noon	Christian-Muslim Dialog event — speaker Gray Henry, director of Fons Vitae Publishing Company, speaks on the common spiritual principles of the world's great religions.	Place: TBA. For details call John Parks at 859.269.6588
1 st Wed. of the month 7:00 pm	CKCPJ Board Meeting , KCCJ offices, 112 N. Upper St. All welcome.	Rosie Moosnick 859.268.5260
Every Thursday 5:30 - 6:00 pm	Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace , Triangle Park in downtown Lexington.	
1 st Monday of the month 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm	Kentucky Migrant Network , Cardinal Valley Center 1306 Versailles Road	Miguel Rodriguez, Chair miguelug929@yahoo.com
2 nd Tuesday of the month 7:30 pm	Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky , KCCJ office, 112 N Upper St.	Paul Brown, Chair, heme1588@yahoo.com
4th Tuesday of the month 5:30 pm	Lexington Living Wage Campaign Meeting Community Action Council, 710 W. High Street	Richard Mitchell 859-327-6277
1 st Wed. of the month 4:00-6:30	Franciscan Peace Center , 3389 Squire Oak.	Pat Griffin 859-230-1986
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 859.255.7029
3 rd Thursday. of the month 7:00 pm	Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) , Episcopal Diocese Mission House, 4th St. and Martin Luther King	Dave Newton 859.420.8919
TBA -- call John Walker, right, for details	Kitchen Gardeners of the Bluegrass , Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd.	John Walker 859-225-3866
Every Sunday 2:30-4:00pm	NAMI Lexington Support Groups -- Faye Morton Center, Eastern State Hospital, Lexington, Wendall Building basement	call 859.272.7891 or go to lexington.nami.org for info



The Central Kentucky Council
for Peace and Justice
112 N. Upper St.
Lexington KY 40507

The task that remains is to cope with our interdependence — to see ourselves reflected in every other human being and to respect and honor our differences.
—Melba Parillo Beals

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Bits and Peaces

25th Anniversary Bluegrass Forum: Mapping Peace and Justice in Central KY *Call for Volunteers*

In October 2008 the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice will celebrate its 25th anniversary. As part of our celebration we hope to bring together the many people in our region who are working for a better world to jointly plan a week-long **Bluegrass Forum: Mapping Peace and Justice in Central Kentucky**.

The forum is a celebration with several themes:

- **Peace and Global Citizenship;**
- **Human Rights and Human Differences;**
- **Environmental Integrity and Sustainability;**
- **Health Care—What Does Tomorrow Hold?;** and
- **Interfaith Dialog.**

Our goal is to incorporate the arts and youth throughout the forum! What are the gifts you might bring to this celebration? We will need help with programming, publicity, fundraising, videotaping and numerous other tasks.

Are there issues in these themes you would like to present? Do you have presenters or performers to suggest?

For more information and to offer your own suggestions and expertise please contact Council Board Members Rosie Moosnick at 859.268.5260 or rmoosnick@insightbb.com; or Kerby Neill at 859.293.2265 or tkneill@earthlink.net.

Film Screening: Two Angry Moms

On **Wednesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m.** Good Foods Market & Cafe on 455 Southland Drive in Lexington will screen the film **Two Angry Moms**.

The film explores the roles the federal government, corporate interest, school administration and parents play in the feeding of our country's school kids.

In the face of a national child health crisis, the film seeks to answer the questions: What are our children eating in school and how is it impacting their learning, their behavior and their health?

From New Hampshire to California, filmmaker Amy Kalafa follows a cast of charming and awe-inspiring leaders in the fledgling better school food movement. Along the way, she finds solutions that are working in school systems across the country.

For more information and free tickets, contact Crystal Stites, marketing manager, at 859.278.1813 extension 231.