

PEACEWAYS



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The Newsletter of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice
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Create and sustain your school garden: “Gardening with Class” workshop June 12th

'Tis spring and our attention turns to... gardens! We've all seen the popular spots in local newspapers and TV telecasts featuring children planting gardens at their schools. The time has never been better or the interest higher to provide all children with the tools and opportunities to learn, hands-on, how food is grown and what healthy environments require.

It will, of course, take more than a photo-opportunity planting day to make those initiatives successful. If you've ever cared for your own garden, you know the kind of long-term commitment maintaining a garden requires and can imagine how much those schools appreciate community assistance.

Whether you've already committed to helping your local school with a garden, or even if you're still just considering it, the June 12th “Gardening with Class: creating and sustaining your school garden” workshop can provide you and your team the tools that guarantee success.

The workshop is suitable for teachers, parents, students, volunteers, and school administrators.

Funding support allows the organizers to offer this program at no cost, and all participants will receive a complimentary lunch. Other incentives include stipend awards of \$50 each to the first 30 teachers who register, and the distribution to 15 schools of a School Garden Start-Up Kit, a \$400 value. Each school will receive a copy of *Edible School Yards* by Alice Waters. The workshop is available for professional development credit

The day-long workshop will take place at the University of Kentucky's Gorham Hall from 9 am to 4 pm (registration begins at 8:30).

Participants will receive a comprehensive introduction to the practicalities of school gardens and learn about: garden benefits; funding; design; planting and harvesting; and curriculum integration by grade levels. Abundant resource materials are available to start your garden program on the right foot.

The workshop is co-sponsored by: Kentucky Green and Healthy Schools program (www.sustainlex.org); the UK Tracy

Farmer Center; Sustainable Communities Network (www.sustainlex.org), the Arboretum (www.ca.uky.edu/arboretum); and the Kentucky School Garden Network, Bluegrass.

Schools are encouraged to send a team of 3 to 4 participants. Pre-registration is required at: www.sustainlex.org or call 859.312.7024. ■

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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.

~ Council Alerts, Reports, Updates ~

At our recent May meeting, the CKCPJ board voted to endorse:

Campaign by United for Peace and Justice to reduce military spending by 25%

United for Peace is a nonpartisan resource for anti-war and social change activists. Their "Cut Military Spending by 25%" petition states:

"In the spirit of Martin Luther King, Jr.'s work to end poverty, racism, and war, we, the people of the United States, call on the Obama administration and the U.S. Congress to end the U.S. wars and occupations in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to address the economic and environmental crises by cutting military spending by 25% in 2010 and redirecting our tax dollars to housing, health care, education, green jobs, and clean energy." You can sign online or download the petition at their website www.unitedforpeace.org.

Single Payer Health Care Reform (HR 676)

This issue strikes home for Kentuckians as nearly one out of three people (32%) in Kentucky under the age of 65 went without health insurance for all or part of the two-year period 2007-2008. Did you know that the U.S. spends more per capita on health care than any other nation, yet trails the others in life expectancy, infant mortality, and other key indicators?

On April 29th Ewell G. Scott, MD spoke in Lexington. The talk was sponsored by: Physicians for a National Health Program—Kentucky (www.pnhp.org/stateactions/kentucky or e-mail: info@kyhealthcare.org) and Kentuckians for Single Payer Healthcare. Their web site (www.kyhealthcare.org) lists upcoming actions and contains the text of that talk by Dr. Scott. A May 4th planning meeting moved efforts forward. To join your voice or for more information, contact Janet Tucker: call 859.389.8575 or e-mail her at jlynjenks@qx.net.

Employee Free Choice Act (EFCA) (H.R. 1409, S. 560)

This pending legislation would amend the National Labor Relations Act to establish an easier system to enable employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, to provide for mandatory injunctions for unfair labor practices during organizing efforts, and for other purposes. The latest version was introduced into both chambers of the U.S. Congress in March 2009.

This important reform faces a tough battle. The nonpartisan international human rights organization Human Rights Watch has stated that at present, "a culture of near-impunity has taken shape in much of U.S. labor law and practice. Any employer intent on resisting workers' self-organization can drag out legal proceedings for years, fearing little more than an order to post a written notice in the workplace promising not to repeat unlawful conduct. Many employers have come to view remedies like back pay for workers fired because of union activity as routine costs of doing business, well worth it to get rid of organizing leaders and derail workers' organizing efforts."

Watch our justicelist e-mail alerts for upcoming actions and lobbying opportunities on these important matters. If you are not yet a subscriber but would like to be, send a note to Richard Mitchell at richard.mitchell@insightbb.com.

War: a moral analysis

by Betsy Neale

When Bishop Thomas Gumbleton spoke on April 2nd at the Newman Center in Lexington, he not only addressed his advertised topic—"Iraq: Moral Analysis"—but he also presented a powerful moral argument against all war and for the need to abolish war.

The Bishop noted that both Pope Paul VI in 1965 at the United Nations and Pope John Paul II in his 1991 encyclical letter had said "never again war." He argued that war is immoral on three central counts: 1) it destroys the lives of innocent people, 2) it causes upheaval in the lives of those who do the killing in war, and 3) it produces hatred and resentment that make future peace impossible.

The Iraq war of this decade, he said, can be seen as a continuation of the Persian Gulf War on Iraq of 1991. The two wars are linked by the embargo that was leveled against Iraq from 1991 to 2003: the United Nations reports that 1.5 million Iraqis died due to the sanctions.

The current Iraq war's devastation has resulted in the deaths of up to 1.2 million people. In addition, 2 million Iraqis have been internally displaced, and 2.5 million people have become external refugees. Of those displaced 75% are women and children, and 20% of Iraqi children are malnourished due to the war.

Since 1991, cancer rates among Iraqis have increased 300-400%. Cancer is up 56% among children under 5 years old. The American use of depleted uranium in weapons is the likely cause, the Bishop argued. Another devastating weapon

that the U.S. has used in Iraq is the cluster bomb, which tears bodies apart on impact and which has been used on civilian targets. The Bishop argued that these examples show that there is no moral justification for war.

He went on to discuss the emotional effects of war fighting on soldiers. John McCain has said of his combat experience in the Vietnam War that before he became a prisoner of war, he had to learn to hate

Bishop Gumbleton expressed hope that President Obama wants to take the country in another direction, but noted that the President will not be able to do so without strong pressure from citizens.

the Vietnamese in order to be able to kill them, in order to overcome the natural human revulsion at killing. General Curtis LeMay has said that all war is immoral and that if you let that bother you, you're not a good soldier. The Bishop noted that in the current Iraq War more U.S. soldiers have committed suicide than have died in combat, a clear indication of the terrific emotional toll that fighting this war has on their psyches.

Looking at the third factor that makes war immoral, the Bishop noted that the current wars have created a trail of hatred and resentment, and that U.S. aggression has created a volatile climate in the Middle East and Central Asia that has not made us any safer.

In making further arguments against war, the Bishop noted that Pope John XXIII in 1963 had said that it is irrational to think of war as a means to vindicate rights. War

has become total war because of the existence of nuclear weapons and aerial bombing. We have the capacity to destroy all life on earth.

In modern warfare, the vast majority of people killed are civilians. War does not consist of armies fighting each other on battlefields. Instead, indiscriminate aerial bombing kills large numbers of civilians and destroys infrastructure, causing further death and hardship.

The Bishop noted that Americans are very tolerant of war and seem to have no concern for the suffering of the people of Iraq. Until the attacks of September 11th, we had not experienced violence

against our civilian population. We need to recognize the immoral aspects of our war making. He expressed hope that President Obama wants to take the country in another direction, but he noted that the President will not be

able to do so without strong pressure from citizens. He encouraged us to speak out and act out for an end to all war.

Biographical note: Thomas Gumbleton is recently retired as Auxiliary Bishop of Detroit and as pastor of St. Leo Parish, Detroit. He is founding president of Pax Christi, USA, a national Catholic peace movement and affiliate of Pax Christi International, which is dedicated to preventing war. Throughout a lifetime of peacemaking, Bishop Gumbleton has traveled to: Syria, Jordan, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Cuba, Palestine, and Iraq. His Sunday homilies appear on The National Catholic Reporter website, www.natcath.org.

Betsy Neale founded CKCPJ in 1983 and served as its first executive director.

Demonstrating solidarity at May Day rally

by Kerby Neill

On the first of May, a delegation of people traveled by bus and car from Lexington to a rally at Jefferson Park in Louisville in a strong spirit of solidarity. The bus was organized by the Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and included a significant number of Latino students from Bluegrass Community and Technical College, students who are passionate about the Dream Act. This federal legislation would offer educational opportunities and a way to citizenship for children of the undocumented who have grown up here, been educated here, and have

virtually no connections to their native land.

I was particularly excited by the strong alliance at the rally between immigrant issues and the labor movement. Many union members joined the rally carrying banners from local and regional unions. They also carried signs supporting the Employee Free Choice Act (see page 2), so crucial to establishing a better balance between labor and management in the U.S., and signs supporting comprehensive immigration reform. Union members know we need many of the undocumented workers in our economy but also understand that worker exploitation and substan-

dard wages will continue as long as immigrant workers remain in the shadows.

A group of Latino students from Oldham County presented a powerful play in 4 short acts depicting the hopes of undocumented high school grads frozen out of higher education and the U.S. job market under current immigration laws. As Attica Scott of Jobs with Justice emphasized at the rally, comprehensive immigration reform, the Dream Act, and the Employee Free Choice Act are places where migrant workers and union members find solid common ground.

Kerby Neill is a CKCPJ board member.

For more information:

Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (KCIRR)

560 E. Third St., Ste. 203, Lexington, KY 40508
Call: 859.685-0387; e-mail: rarms@kcirr.org.
They encourage you to view and join their Facebook page (accessible from their website www.kcirr.org/), which includes latest updates.

The Dream Act

Internet sites with more information include:
• www.change.org/ideas/view/pass_the_dream_act_now
• <http://dreamact.info>
• www.nilc.org/immlawpolicy/DREAM/index.htm

Jobs with Justice

Jobs with Justice was founded in 1987 with the vision of lifting up workers' rights struggles as part of a larger campaign for economic and social justice. On their website, they say they work on "long-term multi-issue coalition building, grassroots base-building and organizing and strategic militant action as the foundation for building a grassroots movement, and ... believe that by engaging a broad community of allies, we can win bigger victories."

Kentucky Jobs with Justice
1800 W Muhammad Ali Boulevard, Suite 2E, Louisville, KY 40203. Call: 502.582.5454; e-mail: kyjwj@kyjwj.org
Website: www.kyjwj.org/.

"...we are more when we are together ... there are no limits to our desire to be better human beings, to fight for access to higher education, decent working conditions and life without fear."

— Excerpt from editorial in Lexington's bilingual newspaper La Voz in their current issue May 7-May 21, 2009 available at www.lavozky.com.
Photo from La Voz.



Mobilizing to end poverty

by Mary Alice Pratt

From April 26th through 29th I participated with six others from Kentucky and over 1000 from all over the U.S. in the project "Mobilization to End Poverty" in Washington D.C. sponsored by *Sojourners* magazine (for more information, see their web site at www.sojo.net).

An important part of the experience was visiting Congressional delegations and urging them to:

- Support of House Congressional Resolution 102 which proposes a national goal of cutting poverty in half by 2020.

- Support passage of health care reform that protects and improves the health of the most vulnerable.

- Sign a "Dear Colleague" letter that urges full funding of the presidents' foreign affairs budget request of at least \$51.7 billion for State/Foreign Operations for fiscal 2010.

To elaborate on that last item, countries receiving aid must fulfill certain prerequisites to help assure that money is spent for specified programs, for example, education, AIDS, and other health problems.

Those of us who visited Senators McConnell and Bunning felt that these two legislators will need

encouragement to support these proposals. Representative Chandler has already signed the "Dear Colleague" letter for which we should thank him and encourage him to support and gain colleague support for all three issues.

You are **ALL** encouraged to contact both senators and your district representative to express your support for these proposals. **You may reach all senators and representatives by calling Capitol Switchboard, 202.224.3131, and ask to be connected to their offices.** Telephone calls are preferred over e-mail or written letters. The latter may take several weeks to reach their offices.

Mary Alice Pratt is a Lexington-area activist and former CKCPJ board member.

Building a village and its garden

by Billie Mallory

It's been said that "it takes a village" but you can also "make a village" — when people in need first receive care and then in turn care for others. The village I want to tell you about is found on Village Drive in Lexington in a new initiative by the Catholic Action Center.

In last month's *Peaceways* (page 5) we reported on this program, "From the Streets to a Home," which partners area agencies using a Shelter Care Plus grant administered through the Lexington Housing Authority. It provides subsidized housing for individuals and families who are chronically homeless and also exhibit mental illness, substance abuse or HIV/AIDS. This month I'd like to provide an overview of our first month's progress.

We have recently provided 20 fully-furnished apartments, housing

approximately 30 persons, including families with children, expectant mothers and several senior citizens

We have recruited 25 mentors who will provide care and accountability by walking with these individuals and families as they adapt to their new lifestyle to assure success. These mentors meet with our tenants on a weekly basis in Caring Circles to review their weekly schedule of appointments and activities and provide assistance and support.

I staff an on-site office that serves as a connection center and touchstone for tenants and mentors, as well as volunteers and other community resources. It's available for making referrals, providing assistance, and monitoring tenant progress.

An exciting addition to this program is God's Garden, located near the BCTC Leestown campus. Two acres of an organic vegetable

garden will provide fresh produce for tenants, area feeding programs, and families in need.

Volunteers in the community, individuals in the homeless marginally housed populations served by the Catholic Action Center, and mission groups who visit Lexington will maintain the garden. All workers are scheduled under the supervision of God's Garden Community volunteers.

This garden needs your extra garden tools and your support! Rakes, hoes, shovels, wheelbarrows, gloves will be collected at the Catholic Action Center, 614 East 7th Street, Lexington. To get involved, call 859.514.7210 or e-mail godsgarden@insightbb.com. For more info, see: www.godsnet.info/currentevents.

Billie Mallory is a Lexington-area activist and a CKCPJ board member.

Empower Walk: Uganda this June 26th to July 8th

A long-distance walk across Kentucky to raise money for a development project, "Empower Walk: Uganda," is the brainchild of Courtney Cox. In 2008, Courtney was a first-year student at UK who volunteered for three months in rural villages in the Mukono District of Uganda.

There, she taught in local schools, helped with a micro-finance program, and worked on agricultural development through two local non-governmental organi-

zations, The Real Uganda and the Youth Focus Africa Foundation.

Upon her return to the U.S., she teamed up with another volunteer, Robbie Beattie, a British student with a master's degree in African History and a degree in secondary education who volunteered in Uganda for six months.

The two planned a second trip to Uganda where they hoped to sponsor development and empowerment projects.

To accomplish their goals, they developed the organization "Empower Walk: World" in order to raise awareness about developing areas of the world and to raise funds to empower those communities through grassroots development projects.

Their walk is planned from June 26th to July 8th and will cover over 200 miles, from Newport, Kentucky to the Tennessee border in McCreary County, Kentucky.

You can reach Courtney by calling 859.322.5900 or e-mailing Courtney.Cox@uky.edu. The Facebook group is called Empower Walk: Uganda, and already has over 100 members. ■

Middle East Children's Alliance

The Louisville Committee for Peace in the Middle East has begun a community-wide effort to raise funds for the Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA), a grassroots organization with Louisville connections, which for the past 20 years has worked with children and their families in the Gaza Strip. Louisville resident and founding

member of MECA, Sharon Wallace, is in Rafah with Barbara Lubin, MECA Director, and Dr. Mona El-Farrah, Gaza Project Director, waiting to enter Gaza to deliver tons of medicine and medical equipment. More information about MECA can be found at www.mecaforpeace.org. MECA is a tax deductible organization, and every

dime that you give will find its way to provide desperately needed medical supplies to the people of Gaza. You may send your check made payable to MECA to Pat Geier, Coordinator LCPME, 2100 Gardiner Lane, Ste. 311, Louisville, KY 40205. Pat will forward these funds with the Louisville community raising effort. Or you may mail your contribution directly to MECA, 1101 8th Street, Ste. 100, Berkeley, CA 94710. ■

Giant Steps Walk a success

Last month *Peaceways* featured a Giant Steps Walk fundraising event organized by Flaget Nally and the Giant Steps Team. This month, those organizers wish to thank all who participated, donated or helped in any way to make the Lexington fundraiser Giant Steps for African Girls a huge success.

On April 26th over 160 walkers and runners completed the 3K

course around the UK football stadium and Greg Page apartments. Strollers and four-legged pets of all sizes mixed in with the group of people made it a community affair.

The event raised \$13,645.39, bringing the total amount raised to almost \$100,000 of the \$800,000 goal.

Phase one (of an eight-phase project) to build a girls' boarding

school in Bukoba, Tanzania, East Africa is well on its way to being completed. This includes the purchase of seven acres of land and a facility that will act as home for the first nursery school.

Flaget Nally reports that "if you or someone you know wishes to make a tax-deductible contribution to this project, you can still visit www.EducateAfricanGirls.org and click on the 'support' link. And thank you!" ■

Events at a Glance

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Event Description</i>	<i>Contact</i>
<p>Help the Lexington History Museum give back to our community by participating in Preservation Month Food Drive</p> <p>The Lexington History Museum is sponsoring the Lighthouse Ministries by holding a month-long food drive. At the end of the month, all canned and non-perishable foods will be donated to the Lighthouse Ministries, an organization that provides food, shelter, job-placement programs, and more to needy men, women and children in the Bluegrass region. For details on the museum's exhibits and hours, see their website at www.lexingtonhistorymuseum.org. You can find Lighthouse Ministries at www.thelighthouseministries.org.</p>		
<p>Wednesday, May 20th 8:00 pm Al's Bar, 6th & Limestone, Lexington</p>	<p>Holler Poets Series #13 features Dean Crawford, Liz Mandrell and music by the Englishmen.</p>	<p>For more info: www.myspace.com/hollerpoets</p>
<p>Through June 14, 2009 4435 Old Frankfort Pike Lexington Tues-Fri: 10:00 am-5:00 pm Sat & Sun: noon to 5:00 pm</p>	<p>The Headley-Whitney Museum presents "Istanbul-Istanbul." These works by Haydar Hatemi aim to bring faiths together through art. A native of Iran, Hatemi began studying the Torah, the Bible and the Koran, finding similar stories in each text. The 27 paintings, he says, are intended to "bring people of faith under the same umbrella, so they will start listening to each other."</p>	<p>For more info: call 859.255.6654 or see www.headley-whitney.org</p>
<p>1st Wednesday 7:30 pm</p>	<p>CKCPJ Board Meeting, in our offices at 112 N. Upper St. All are welcome.</p>	<p>Nabeel Jawahir, Co-chair 859.619.3369</p>
<p>Every Thursday 5:30 - 6:00 pm</p>	<p>Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace, Triangle Park in downtown Lexington.</p>	
<p>1st Monday 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm</p>	<p>Kentucky Migrant Network, Cardinal Valley Center 1306 Versailles Road</p>	<p>Jennifer Hubbard-Sánchez jsanchez@lfucg.com</p>
<p>2nd Tuesday 7:30 pm</p>	<p>Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky, KCCJ office, 112 N Upper St. info@lexfair.org</p>	<p>Paul Brown, Chair, heme1588@yahoo.com</p>
<p>1st Wednesday 4:00-6:30</p>	<p>Franciscan Peace Center, 3389 Squire Oak. FranciscanVision.org</p>	<p>Pat Griffin 859.230.1986</p>
<p>2nd Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm</p>	<p>Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky (AHA), Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd.</p>	<p>Dick Renfro 859.255.7029</p>
<p>3rd Thursday 7:00 pm</p>	<p>Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC), Episcopal Diocese Mission House, 4th St. and Martin Luther King</p>	<p>Ondine Quinn 859.276.0563</p>
<p>Every Sunday 2:30-4:00pm</p>	<p>NAMI Lexington Support Groups -- Faye Morton Center, Eastern State Hospital, Lexington, Wendall Building basement</p>	<p>call 859.272.7891 or go to lexington.nami.org for</p>



The Central Kentucky Council
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Find your place on the planet.
Dig in, and take responsibility
from there.

—poet Gary Snyder

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Issue #228 May 2009

Bits and Peaces

09 Mountain Justice Camp: May 17th-23th

Emphasizing education, strategy, non-violence and cultural sensitivity, the 2009 Mountain Justice Training Camp will provide participants with comprehensive workshops covering the impacts and politics behind mountaintop removal mining and the hands-on tactical training.



Space is limited, register online today!
WWW.MOUNTAINJUSTICE.ORG

For more information and links to registration pages and schedule, you can go to: www.mountainjusticesummer.org.

Another Kentucky is possible: inaugural statewide social forum in Berea from July 31st to Aug. 2nd

If you are a member of a grass-roots, Kentucky-based organization you should know that the inaugural Kentucky Social Forum, "Another Kentucky is Possible," will be held July 31st through August 2nd at Berea College. This is an opportunity to meet with groups from around the state for a weekend full of workshops, networking, celebrating diversity and strategizing to achieve justice.

But this is more than just a conference. As the first statewide social forum in the southern United States, the Kentucky Social Forum will provide space for progressive activists to build relationships, learn from each other's experiences, share analyses of the problems our communities face, and bring renewed insight and inspiration. The forum is designed to help Kentuckians develop the leadership, consciousness, vision, and strategy needed to realize another world.

Organizers say: "Because we value participatory structures we see the KY Social Forum as being an event that will further align us with each other's goals and strategies for change. We want the KY Social Forum to be accessible to the entire state, to value all issues no matter how localized or 'small' they may seem. We believe what effects one person affects us all!"

You can go to <http://kentuckysocialforum.org> for more information and to download workshop proposal guidelines. Completed proposals should be submitted no later than Monday, June 15th.

The web site also contains a link to their Facebook group page and information on their next organizing meeting in Bowling Green on May 16th. Fundraising efforts continue as well: donations can be made through Kentucky Jobs With Justice, at www.kyjwj.org.

We'll also bring you more details in the next issue of *Peaceways*.