

PEACEWAYS



Issue # 229

June/July 2009

The Newsletter of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice
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Lexington's Second Annual Pride Festival Downtown Saturday June 27th 11am–9pm

by Mary Crone

On Saturday, June 27th, Lexington's second annual Pride Festival will fill the area around the old courthouse building in Cheapside Park on Main St. From 11am to 9pm, come enjoy merchants, entertainment, children's games, food and alcohol sales, speakers representing the "Faces of Pride," and fabulous drag performances. Admission is free and all are welcome.

This year's theme, "Stonewall Lives," celebrates the 40th anniversary of the historic events at the Stonewall Inn, in the Greenwich Village neighborhood of New York City, where GLBT Americans stood up to the organized power of oppression in an event that captured the imagination of the world.

From that beginning in June 1969, LGBT Americans have become increasingly recognized as part of the fabric of this country. We have helped create an America that is diverse, colorful, innovative, curious about difference, and is moving forward into a new world. Come be a part of history

and celebrate on June 27th.

Entertainment will include headliner Josh Zuckerman; Caribbean Blues; The Sexual Disaster Quartet; SisterSound; Karen Scalf; Another Note; and The Confessionals; and the finals of the Pride Festival Idol Contest where performers chosen in the preliminary rounds in May will be singing for your votes.

The Festival is a "family" event in every sense of the word. Bring your friends, partners, children, parents, and grandparents to enjoy this year's celebration of Pride. The dunking booth, so popular last year, will be back (with a twist), along with new activities including a Velcro wall and carnival games.

The Lexington County Health Department will again have the Outloud Health Fair on the third floor of the History Museum (in the old courthouse) presenting information about your current health and your risk factors for future problems, including free testing for HIV/AIDS and Syphilis.

The festival is followed after 9 pm by Avol's Red Dance Party

where the music is guaranteed to get your body in motion. The cost for the party is \$10 for which you get a wrist band, needed in order to buy drinks. Costumes are welcome.

For updates, go to www.Lexpride.com. Contact Ondine at 859.368.4438 or laexigente@gmail.com to volunteer the day of the festival. ■

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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 ~

Welcome to Miranda Hileman, Compton Fellowship recipient:

The Council welcomes Miranda Hileman, recipient of the Compton Foundation Mentor Fellowship award, who will be working in Lexington for the next year with CKCPJ board member Jim Embry acting as her mentor. She'll be working on local urban sustainability including Lexington's growing network of community gardens. We are very pleased that she will share office space with Council staff and board members at our offices in the building at 112 N. Upper Street.

The Compton Foundation program's purpose is to promote the creativity, commitment, and service of graduating seniors each year. The Mentor Fellowship Program is based on the belief that life-changing experiences can occur when formal learning is transformed by action. Each Mentor Fellow designs a project of social merit that focuses on the environment, peace and conflict resolution, reproductive health, and/or equal opportunity.

For more information on Compton Foundation Mentor Fellowship Program, see their website at www.comptonfoundation.org/fellowships.html.

At its June meeting, the CKCPJ board voted to join **The Kentucky Forward Coalition** which addresses the budget crisis in Kentucky. Some sources estimate that Kentucky's budget deficit could top more than 10% of our \$9.4 billion general fund budget. A deficit of this magnitude holds Kentucky back, jeopardizing our schools, our elderly and disabled, our efforts for an economic recovery, and our ability to keep our communities safe and healthy.

The coalition is made up of area organizations such as: Kentuckians for The Commonwealth; Jobs with Justice; the Kentucky Education Association; and the Kentucky Council of Churches. Member groups believe that Kentucky's current tax system produces inadequate revenue and takes a larger percentage of the incomes of lower- and moderate-income families than it does from the states' wealthiest. The coalition has endorsed the Kentucky Forward Bill which includes legislation that helps correct the inadequacy and imbalance in our current system by:

- Expanding the sales tax to selected services.
- Restoring Kentucky's estate tax (with a \$1 million exemption to protect working-class families).
- Making our income taxes more progressive.
- Returning \$100 million to Kentucky's working families earning up to about \$41,000 with a state Earned Income Tax Credit.

These reforms would generate an estimated \$350 million to \$450 million in revenue per year. The funding they would provide would be more stable than, for example, the "charitable gaming" currently under consideration to remedy the current budget crisis (see page 8 for notes on the Governor's local issues conference in August).

Watch our justicelist e-mail alerts for upcoming actions and lobbying opportunities on these important matters. To subscribe, send an e-mail to Richard Mitchell at richard.mitchell@insightbb.com.

Arts and Activism Converge to End Violence Against Women and Girls

by LeTonia Jones, MSW

While violence against women and girls impacts our world on a daily basis, it is often shrouded in silence. Once again, however, Lexington has shown itself as a community willing to engage in dialogue aimed at ending violence against women and girls.

Witness is a pilot project to build relationships to end violence against women and girls. The *Witness* project uses visual art to educate the community about the issue and move our community toward social change and an end to this violence.

Witness is the collaboration between professional visual artists and women who have experienced sexual or intimate partner violence. The project will provide the space

for women who have experienced violence to tell their stories to the artist with whom they are paired. The artist will serve as a “witness” to the woman’s story and together they will collaborate on a piece that will convey the story she has told. The program will begin in September 2009.

A public exhibition of the completed pieces will be held in Lexington in November 2009 as an opportunity for the community at-large to “witness” this powerful collaboration.

The project is designed by organizations that understand the importance of combining arts and activism: The Lexington Art League, the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program, the Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center, the Kentucky Domestic

Violence Association, and the Kentucky United Methodist Home for Children and Youth.

If you are an adult female who has experienced sexual or intimate partner violence and would like the opportunity to participate in this pilot project, please contact Julia Curiel at the Lexington Art League at 859.254.0614. Space is limited and unfortunately, not all who inquire will be able to participate in the pilot.

Remember that together we can end violence against women and girls.

(LeTonia Jones is a former CKCPJ board member. She works at the Kentucky Domestic Violence Association)



Sleepless in Lexington: Benefit Sleepout Aug 1st through 2nd at Applebee’s Park

Sleepless in Lexington is a unique fundraising benefit designed to help end homelessness in Lexington. Funds raised from the event will go to raise awareness of homelessness and also support local non-profit organizations dedicated to helping the homeless and poor.

In the tradition of a walkathon, participants will ask family and friends to sponsor them. Each participating sleeper will have a choice of a cot (for a rental fee), cardboard, or plastic sheeting to sleep on and should bring everything needed to spend the night outdoors (sleeping bags, pillows, blankets).

Cardboard, duct tape and markers will be supplied to individuals or groups wanting to build their own “Cardboard City.” An award will be given to the youth group building the most creative city.

The event is organized by leaders from a variety of churches and ministries and aims to raise public awareness about the plight of the poor and homeless in Lexington and to highlight the current efforts of Christian organizations that are serving the homeless in Lexington. Organizations supported by Sleepless in Lexington include: Catholic Action Center, Church Under the

Bridge, Lexington Rescue Mission, Lighthouse Ministries, Nathaniel Mission, Room in the Inn, ROSM, Salvation Army, and Step by Step.

See the event website at www.sleeplessinlexington.com for more details about activities planned for the night; for answers to Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs); for registration information; and to donate. There’s a “contact us” button on the site for sponsorship and donation e-mails. Questions? phone 859.381.9600, extension 224 or e-mail info@sleeplessinlexington.com.



If we don't lead with our values, we can't lead at all

by Kathleen Parks,
K.A. Owens, and David Lott

This letter to the editor was printed in the Louisville Courier-Journal on the 28th of May. The authors are the co-chairs of the Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression. See the website at: www.louisvillepeace.org/KYAlliance.html.

President Obama is facing a tough decision that will reflect on our values as Americans. It concerns how his administration should handle government officials who authorized the torture of prisoners and those intelligence officers and civilians who took part in that torture.

Torture is illegal. Those involved in its implementation are in

violation not only of international law but the laws of human decency. President Obama has said, quite rightly, that we lead with our values. If that is true, we have no choice but to prosecute those who tortured prisoners to the full extent of the law. Our values demand it. We must know for sure if the Bush White House insisted upon torture to force confessions to falsely create a link between Al Quaida and Saddam Hussein. We must know for sure if torture was being used to produce false information about weapons of mass destruction.

The Kentucky Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression knows well that repressive violence directed against unpopular

groups eventually opens the door to its use with other groups. Today, it is aimed at those labeled "terrorists" but tomorrow it could be aimed at anyone accused of a crime or even those who lawfully protest our government's actions. The last thing we want to do is empower public officials to use torture when they think it necessary because the very next step would be empowering American police officers to beat confessions out of Americans as they once did quite frequently in this country. If we don't lead with our values, we can't lead at all. Therefore President Obama must prosecute those who initiated, authorized and took part in torture. ■

We cannot kill our way to love

"We have given war, pestilence, hate, greed, judgment, ego, self-sufficiency a good try. And it failed. We need a new paradigm that consists of kindness, courtesy, justice, love and respect in all our relationships."

—Dr. George Tiller (August 8, 1941 – May 31, 2009)

The assassination of Dr. George Tiller, the Wichita physician who offered abortions to women at risk and in distress, is a horrific affront to the effort to create supportive human community. We all hope children are a welcome blessing conceived in love, but children are also conceived in violence or in error. A pregnancy may involve serious medical risks. While some mothers have the prospect of a supportive community, others confront poverty and rejection that require courage and endurance few of us ever ask of ourselves. Children need love as much as food and shelter to grow.

In the intensity of the abortion debate "pro-choice" advocates may undervalue the promise of new life and "pro-life" advocates may fail to appreciate the harsh realities of women with unwanted pregnancies. Even in our privileged, "developed" country, we fall seriously short of creating communities supportive of all women, mothers and children.

We cannot kill our way to love.

(Excerpted from a reflection written by board member Kerby Neill.) ■



Below are some samples from the interactive board created by participants at the Peace and Global Citizenship Fair held at the Bluegrass Community and Technical College Cooper Drive campus on May 16th on the theme of the Fair: "Singing a Song of Peace is like..."

- ◆ Respecting every person's value and talents regardless of their disabilities
- ◆ Listening to new harmony—sometimes it's a bit jarring
- ◆ Joy! with tears
- ◆ [Realizing] ... We need a different world
- ◆ Juggling—keeping all the world's balls in the air!
- ◆ A drink of cool, pure water

... (and lots more to be shared at later dates...) ■

We shouldn't be afraid to live our values

The following media summary comes from the CKCPJ Nopreemption (NP) Listserv, a lightly moderated forum for progressive discussion about peace, justice, and environmental action. You can join the community conversation by sending an e-mail note to subscribe at: nopreemption-subscribe@yahoogroups.com. Subscribers can then post to the listserv directly.

The following is adapted from a NP post dated June 3, 2009, by Don Pratt, CKCPJ member:

Listen to what General David Petraeus, Commander of U.S. Central Command, thinks about keeping America safe: "I don't think we should be afraid to live our values. That's what we're fighting for, it's what we stand for," General Petraeus, Friday, May 30, 2009 (Fox News): <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXhhZOboC-I>.

In former Vice President Cheney's steady march of media appearances, he defends the usefulness of torture and cruelty in extracting intelligence. Every American should be clear: We do not need torture to keep us safe. Experienced interrogators have come forward to report that torture does not yield accurate or timely information. In fact, U.S. use of torture ac-

tually increased the number of terrorists in Iraq intent on killing American forces who served there.

From an interrogator's perspective, torture stands in the way of gaining valuable information. Torture leads to false confessions and unreliable information. Though there is an exception to every rule, we should not make our rules based on exceptions.

Watch senior interrogator Matthew Alexander—who served for 14 years in the U.S. Air Force—explain why Vice President Cheney's assertions are wrong. Alexander conducted over 300 interrogations in Iraq and supervised over a thousand interrogations of detainees: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SfYov505_2s.

Watch Afghanistan veteran Jay Bagwell—who worked in counterintelligence—explain why torture is ineffective, puts our troops at risk, and is against military values: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7cEJRxnGnt4>. (This video is posted by VoteVets.org, which is also collecting signatures on their petition "to demand the truth about torture.")

The former Vice President is attempting to rewrite our history by claiming that American values allow for torture—or what he calls "un-

pleasant things"—when we are dealing with terrorists. This argument threatens to fundamentally change the principles on which our country was founded.

Also recently posted on the web is Chris Hedges' column found on Truthdig. Titled "War is Sin," Hedges writes:

"The crisis faced by combat veterans returning from war is not simply a profound struggle with trauma and alienation. It is often, for those who can slice through the suffering to self-awareness, an existential crisis.

"War exposes the lies we tell ourselves about ourselves. It rips open the hypocrisy of our religions and secular institutions. Those who return from war have learned something which is often incomprehensible to those who have stayed home.

"We are not a virtuous nation. God and fate have not blessed us above others. Victory is not assured. War is neither glorious nor noble. And we carry within us the capacity for evil we ascribe to those we fight."

(You can see Truthdig at www.truthdig.com. Chris Hedges and the other columnists are accessed by selecting the "Reports" button.)



Anti-terror tactics weaken law

After a three-year global study, the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) said many states used the public's fear of terrorism to introduce anti-terror measures [which] have seriously undermined international human rights law.

These included detention without trial, illegal disappearance, and torture. The report also said that the United Kingdom and the

U.S. have "actively undermined" international law by their actions.

The report concluded that many measures introduced to fight terrorism were illegal and counterproductive, and it called for justice systems to be strengthened and warned that temporary measures should not become permanent.

ICJ is a non-governmental organization which promotes the

observance of the rule of law and the legal protection of human rights.

The panel of eminent lawyers and judges concluded that the framework of international law that existed before the 9/11 attacks on the U.S. was robust and effective.

This story is excerpted from a BBC NEWS report dated Feb. 16, 2009: <http://news.bbc.co.uk/go/pr/fr/-/2/bi/europe/7892387.stm>.



Kentucky Social Forum: Another Kentucky is possible and she is on her way

by Sierra Parsons,
Kentucky Social Forum

"Another world is not only possible, she is on her way. On a quiet day, I can bear her breathing."

—Arundhati Roy

In a globalized culture where humans are deeply wounded and in turn perpetuate cycles of destruction upon the young and the politically silenced, it can be challenging to rise up and believe in something different.

Every person who is engaged in justice-related work on any level is essentially a believer in healing what Toltec wisdom describes as the collective dream of hell that humans have created. What we do to make the world a better place matters, because by doing it we are transformed and begin to release ourselves from the dream of hell. Let's harvest the fruits of our hard work for justice and initiate more growth at the Kentucky Social Forum, July 31st through August 2nd in Berea, KY.

The Kentucky Social Forum (KYSF) is about bridging the gaps in the collective of believers who are all dreaming a better dream. We do this in order to energize more radical changes across Kentucky that we, together, believe are possible.

The inaugural KYSF is a time to tend to the dreams that we have planted, to share and celebrate our growth, and to prepare and strategize on where and how we can grow stronger.

Because transformation and awakening is a continual and evolving process that requires innovation and creativity, let's get together and help each other become stronger, more courageous dreamers.

We are calling all visionaries and engaged community members to bring your love and your skills to the KYSF, register today, and consider giving an energizing workshop about what you believe in.

Tremendous opportunities abound at the KYSF, which will

centralized debate, reflection, proposals building, experiences exchange and alliances among movements and organizations engaged in concrete actions towards a more democratic and fair world."

In addition, we are excited that the People's Movement Assembly will be in attendance at the Kentucky Social Forum. This exciting group was formed to continue the movement-building process following the U.S. Social Forum in 2007. We hope to energize their work

leading up to the U.S. Social Forum in 2010, to be held in Detroit (for a statement of the USSF vision for that 2010 meeting, you can go to www.ussf2007.org/en/vision). The People's Movement Assembly is dedicated to people setting their own agenda for change, creating spaces for sharing information without hierarchy or institutions.

We in Kentucky need each other: to change first ourselves, and then to change this state, this nation, and the world, so please join us! The KYSF sends a message to other movements around the country that there is an active movement to make Kentucky a place we can all call home. We must declare what we want our state to look like and begin planning the path to get there.

A national movement is rising. The KYSF is our opportunity to demonstrate to the nation that Another Kentucky is Possible.

The Kentucky Social Forum July 31st to August 2nd in Berea, Kentucky

To register & for more information:
visit <http://kentuckysocialforum.org>

WE NEED VOLUNTEERS: big dreams abound and we want you to help us make it all happen—visit: http://kentuckysocialforum.org/?page_id=7.

Questions? contact: Angelyn

by phone at 502.582.5454

or by e-mail at: kentuckysocialforum@yahoo.com

follow KYSF on twitter: <http://twitter.com/KYSocialForum>

join the Facebook group:

www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=27435455119&ref=ts

include: a creative center for community art projects and performances; a spiritual tent for yoga, reiki, workshops, healing, massage; children's programs for education, not just childcare; and workshops on about every progressive issue we can think of.

At the KYSF we have chosen to use the World Social Forum's definition of itself as we hope to create an "an opened space—plural, diverse, non-governmental and non-partisan—that stimulates the de-

Events at a Glance

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Event Description</i>	<i>Contact</i>
<p align="center">The Lexington History Museum's "Hands-On History" Summer Day Camp For children ages 5-8—Sign-up deadline has been extended to Friday, June 26. The camp runs M-F from 9 am-4 pm. Each session includes exploration of: Native Americans in Kentucky; Lexington's Pioneer Heritage; ; Civil War Lexington; Behind the Scenes at the Lexington History Museum . Offered in three one-week sessions,: June 29-July 3; July 6-10; and July 13-17. For more information including cost and extended day arrangements, contact Debra Watkins, Camp Director call at 859.254.0530 or e-mail at debra@lexingtonhistorymuseum.org.</p>		
<p>Wednesday, July 22nd 8:00 pm Al's Bar, 6th & Limestone, Lexington</p>	<p>Holler Poets Series #15 featuring Maurice Manning, Affrilachian Poet Mitchell Douglas, and music by US Band. Hosted by Eric Sutherland.</p>	<p>For more info: www.myspace.com/hollerpoets</p>
<p>Runs through Aug. 30th For information on the exhibit, see: www.womenandspirit.org.</p>	<p>Women and Spirit: Catholic Sisters in America: Traveling exhibit at the Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal, 1301 Western Ave. in Cincinnati. Discover the pivotal presence of these very self-determined women at many of our nation's dramatic turning points, including the Civil War, the Depression, the Civil Rights Movement, and Hurricane Katrina.</p>	<p>For directions and details about the Museum Center, call 513.287.7043 or go to their website: www.cincymuseum.org.</p>
<p>Every Sunday 6:00 pm</p>	<p>New Morning Drums For Peace. Isaac Murphy Memorial Garden; 3rd Street near Midland, Lexington. For info: Jerry Moody at: newmorningworld@gmail.com</p>	<p>sponsored by: http://newmorningworld.com</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</p>



The Central Kentucky Council
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We are continually faced with a series
of great opportunities brilliantly disguised
as insoluble problems.

—John W. Gardner, founder of Common Cause

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Issue #229 June/July 2009

Bits and Peaces

We invite you to join CKCPJ's Voices for Peace and Justice 2009 event this fall

We invite you to take part in CKCPJ's fall event **Voices for Peace and Justice 2009** to take place through the month of October.

We enjoyed great success last year celebrating the Council's 25th anniversary with friends and allies during dozens of events and activities that occurred throughout the region. This year, we are scheduling a more concentrated series with fewer events. If your organization would like to reserve a space on the planning calendar, please contact organizing chair Howard Myers by e-mail at howard.myers@insightbb.com or phone at 859.268.9225.

We'll have more details on **Voices for Peace and Justice 2009** in upcoming issues of *Peaceways*.

Governor's local issues conference "Guiding communities through challenging times" Aug. 17th—19th

The 34th annual Governor's local issues conference takes place Aug. 17th through the 19th at the Galt House hotel and suites in Louisville. Brought to you by the state Department for Local Government (DLG), this year's conference theme is "guiding communities through challenging times," and conference organizers say they recognize local governments are "making tough fiscal and policy decisions affecting [their] bottom line and the delivery of public services."

An update on the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is highlighted on the conference's first day (the federal government's website explaining and accounting for the funds spent on the ARRA can be found at www.recovery.gov. Our state government has developed a "Kentucky at Work" program to implement

an "estimated ... \$3 billion in stimulus funding from the federal government to be invested in Kentucky over the next 28 months." Details are available at <http://kentuckyatwork.ky.gov>.

Conference organizers say they "pledge to assist in any way possible" local governments to help meet the "difficult challenges" they are facing. Details about the workshops offered, on topics including "charitable gaming," will be posted in July. The homepage for the DLG is <http://dlg.ky.gov>.

Registrations for the conference must be received in writing and the deadline for payment of registration fees is Aug. 3rd. Registration forms are available at <https://secure.kentucky.gov/dlg/registration>. Contact is Shannon Holbrook who can be reached by e-mail: shannon.holbrook@ky.gov. Or call 800.346.5606.