

PEACEWAYS



Issue # 230

August 2009

The Newsletter of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

112 N. Upper St. Lexington KY 40507 859.255.6999

E-mail List: richard.mitchell@insightbb.com Website: www.peaceandjusticeky.org

VOICES for Peace and Justice

...the arc of the moral universe is long but it bends towards justice. -MLK Jr.

October Event Series

Voices logo by Erin Fifield

Last October, the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice celebrated our 25th Anniversary with our 20 Days for Peace and Justice celebrations. Through over 35 events and activities, we collaborated with our coalition partners and grassroots supporters, all working toward bending the moral arc of the universe a little closer toward justice. In a year where a historic federal election took place, many who attended last year's events reflected on the distance the country has traveled in those 25 years, and the role peace and justice work has played in Central Kentucky during that time.

This year, the political landscape has considerably altered. Yet the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq rage on, and we hear of increased violence—including death threats—as the country struggles to reach agreement and resolution of in-

creasingly acrimonious issues. On pages 2 and 3 of this issue, see just a few of the examples of recent violence directed against activists working to change the way our democracy meets the most fundamental human needs of its members. These recent events indicate that educating for and advocating non-violent responses to conflict remains as important as ever.

Continuing our work to ensure all VOICES receive the hearing they are due, we are offering another event series for this October. While this year's series has fewer events than last year, each high-quality offering highlights aspects of the essential work done in Central Kentucky toward a more peaceable, just, and equitable future.

Planned events will include: a deepening of last year's well-attended multi-faith panel discussion on faith and the environment;

FranciFest 2009's Pathways to Peace activities; a discussion of UK's Coal Fired Energy Plant; "Surviving in Hard Times," presented by the Peace Action Task Force in collaboration with community members; the Woodland Triangle Fall Celebration; a Muslim/Arab/Jewish dialogue; the second Veterans and Homeless Resource Fair; a writing competition sponsored by Bluegrass Literacy; an outreach event to youth to who are immigrants, homeless or have special education needs; and activities sponsored by the local Human Rights Commission.

Our complete schedule of events will be published in September's *Peaceways* newsletter.

See page 3 for a summary of how your financial support helped us achieve success last year, and how you can continue to support the Council's work now.

~ Council Alerts, Reports, Updates ~

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace & Justice

Board of Directors: Arne Bathke (co-chair), Soreyda Begley, Joan Braune, Rebecca DiLoreto, Jim Embry, Mary Ann Ghosal, Rebecca Glasscock (co-chair), Chester Grundy, Teresa Hendricks, Randolph Hollingsworth, Stephanie Hopkins, Nabeel Jawahir, Steve Kay, Billie allory, Richard Mitchell, Bruce Mundy, Howard Myers (treasurer), Kerby Neill, Rabbi Uri Smith

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Staff: Editor of *Peaceways*, Gail M. Koehler, contact information below.



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.

Board News

We are extremely pleased to welcome to our board as new members: Rebecca DiLoreto, Teresa Hendricks, Randolph Holingsworth, Stephanie Hopkins, and Nadia Rasheed. Look for brief profiles on each of them in upcoming issues.

We wish to thank outgoing board members for their service to the board and their continued support for our efforts: Katie Goldey, Joe Gallenstein, Mami Hayashida, LeTonia Jones and Rosie Moosnick. In addition, we appreciate Nabeel Jawahir's valuable work he did during his term as co-chair, and welcome Arne Bathke who has agreed to replace him as one of our co-chairs

Peaceways Readers Respond

In our last issue, *Peaceways* ran a comment by board member Kerby Neill regarding the assassination of Dr. George Tiller, the Wichita physician who offered abortions to women at risk and in distress. His murder, Neill wrote, "is a horrific affront to the effort to create supportive human community." The comment ended with the reflection "We cannot kill our way to love" (June/July *Peaceways*, page 4). A number of appreciative verbal comments from local readers indicated some found the piece helpful. One out-of-town respondent who took the time to write asked that this note be included in *Peaceways*: "True, we cannot kill our way to love—nor can we abort our way to peace—since we are part of one another." Another included excerpts of an essay by Parker Palmer, "The Politics of the Brokenhearted," citing particularly his definition of violence: "By violence I mean *any way we have of violating the identity and integrity of the other*" [emphasis in original]. "Sometimes, while thinking they are defending the identity and integrity of potential life, ardent folk do not appreciate that they are violating others," suggested this reader. Of concern to others is the rhetoric of Operation Rescue Founder Randall Terry, who has been quoted as warning of "violent convulsions" if the health care bill before our federal legislators "doesn't ban abortions," and as threatening "random acts of violence against things, against facilities, things happening in the streets, acts of vandalism..." and "...reprisals against the individuals...deemed guilty...of pushing this tyranny."

Mountain Top Removal Activists in Danger

Dave Cooper, of the Mountain Top Removal Road Show, posted an e-newsletter update this summer citing several alarming events. At a June 23rd rally in West Virginia, Judy Bonds of Coal River was assaulted in an unprovoked attack by a miner's wife. Death threats were hurled at actress Daryl Hannah, who spoke against mountaintop removal. A July 4th family picnic atop Larry Gibson's Kayford Mountain was disrupted by angry drunken miners, one of whom threatened to slit the throats of picnickers (you can see the disturbing 4-minute video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gjc7Jg_gMyo). "I have been told that Larry is now wearing a bullet proof vest at public events," says Cooper in his e-mail. Cooper urged readers to call WV "Friend of Coal" Gov. Joe Manchin at 304. 558.2000 and tell him to stop the violence, and to keep the peace. (If you would like to receive these e-notes from Cooper, send him note at: davecooper928@yahoo.com).

Many hands contribute to the Council's efforts

"All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing," said Edmund Burke. Doing nothing, however, is the last thing on the minds of the members and supporters of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice.

Last year, through the exceptional efforts of several board members, contributions to the Council went from approximately \$14,000 to \$24,500. This remarkable generosity enabled us to provide unprecedented support throughout the year to worthy grassroots groups. For example, our 20 Days for Peace and Justice anniversary event series brought together more than 35 organizations who collaborated in advocacy, education, and art.

Because the heart of the Council beats with the lifeblood of volunteer efforts and labors, every dollar contributed has been leveraged into a score of hours dedicated to-

ward peace, justice, and sustainability. Last year we estimate that your working board members volunteered approximately 3,300 hours beyond the normal duties of a non-profit board. If CKCPJ were to pay for these services, we calculate costs of approximately \$50,000. Collectively, we accomplish so much more than any one of us could, isolated, as individuals.

And much work remains before us. As we turn to this year's challenges, we see recent reports of violence and rancorous debate fill the news.

Locally here at the Council, members involved in the issue of health care reform have experienced firsthand disruptive anger and fear: at a recent town hall meeting at the Central Branch of the Library in Lexington, shouting and accusations prevented real dialogue from taking place.

This spring, our offices received calls about the rise in racist speech

and schoolyard taunting taking place in surrounding counties. Our board members were able to respond to requests for assistance and additional referrals. Clearly, the work of nonviolent activists dedicated to goals such as ours is just as important as it ever has been.

With your continued support, we will continue our work of education, advocacy, and protest to ensure all VOICES receive the hearing they are due. To support our 2009 VOICES event series, please consider making an additional financial contribution to CKCPJ by mailing a check to: 112 N. Upper St., Lexington KY 40507, or contacting our treasurer, Howard Myers (phone: 859.268.9225 or e-mail howard.myers@insightbb.com).

Here in the newsletter we will continue to highlight and celebrate the tremendously important work done by people nurturing possibility and peaceable, sustainable futures for all. ■

Opposition to Health Care Reform: Violence in the National News

- In Tampa, Florida, a town hall meeting erupted into violence, with the police being called to break up fist fights and shoving matches.
 - A Texas Democrat was shouted down by right-wing hecklers, many of whom admitted they didn't even live in his district.
 - One North Carolina representative announced he wouldn't be holding any town-hall meetings after his office began receiving death threats.
 - And in Maryland, protesters hung a Democratic congressman in effigy to oppose health-care reform.
-

Save the Date: Interfaith Service for Hope and Health Care Reform

An "Interfaith Candlelight Prayer Service for Hope and Health Care Reform" will be held Sunday, August 30th, at 7:30 pm for the interfaith community in and around Lexington. The exact location has yet to be determined: please **Contact the Reverend Merry Jones for more information at: merryjones@kycouncilofchurches.org or 859.269.7715.**

As indicated on this page (nationally, at left, and locally, above), discussions over health care reform have provoked intense rancor that has spilled over into violence. The August 30th service is an opportunity for people of all faiths to reflect and respond to God's call to the moral vision of health care for all, using our voices of faith to rise above partisan politics in order to create a health care future that is grounded in the sacred bonds of our common humanity and reflects faithful stewardship of our abundant health care resources.

The event is sponsored by the Kentucky Council of Churches and by Faithful Reform in Health Care, an interfaith coalition of national, state, and local groups and individuals who believe that the scriptural and spiritual roots of our faith traditions call us to work for compassionate and comprehensive health care for all God's children. ■

Third Annual Garden Tour Report

text and photos by Miranda Hileman, Compton Mentor Fellow

The 3rd Annual Lexington Community Garden tour provided almost 100 people the opportunity to learn about community gardening in Lexington, celebrate the efforts of community gardeners in the area, and take ideas home to their gardens..

The first garden on the stop was **The Rock/La Roca United Methodist Church's Garden of Eatin'**, just across the street from the church. This year they planted a variety of vegetables including tomatoes, peppers, peanuts, amaranth, watermelons, cucumbers, and beans along the perimeter of a grassy area in hopes to avoid soggy soil. The church also has a larger garden on Todds Road. Church and community members—who originate from all over the world—are invited to plant in the garden, providing an opportunity for all to celebrate cultural diversity. Gardeners are encouraged to harvest and use the vegetables for themselves; leftover vegetables are harvested and distributed to neighbors.

At the **Winburn Community Art Garden** we were greeted by Roy Woods, the director of the Community Action Council, Carolyn Benford, neighborhood garden director, youth who were working through the Mayor's Summer Youth



Employment program, and folks from the Winburn Neighborhood Association, all excited to describe what the garden brings to a neighborhood that's been identified as a food desert by the Community Farm Alliance because of the lack of access residents have to fresh fruit and vegetables.

To combat this food desert and to create a food oasis, children and adults work in fellowship side-by-side planting corn, squash, beans, peppers, cabbage, tomatoes, okra, sage, greens, yams, coneflowers, lettuce, eggplant and more. Artwork in the garden was made from found objects, emphasizing that recycling and reusing is a necessary and fun thing to do. This garden has served as a community service

site for groups such as: UNESCO Art Miles Project, youth from the Fayette County drug court program, Leadership Lexington, Youth Green Corps, Lexington Youth Leadership, and has also been a grand place for discovery of life and has also reaped community connection.

Out at **PeaceMeal Gardens** on the Bluegrass Community and Technical College Leestown campus, farm manager Jessica Ballard was there to speak about the two-acre garden and the concept of PeaceMeal: to encourage the community and students to develop healthy associations with local food production and become concretely involved in the process. The many participants in this large, multi-





faceted garden include allotment gardeners, Food Not Bombs, the Lexington Free Store, God's Garden, and the

BCTC Market Garden. Many of those participants were onsite to discuss all the work that's gone into the garden. This summer, through the support of Ginny Ramsey at the Catholic Action Center, PeaceMeal Gardens received a deer fence, large-scale plowing, many vegetable plants that found a home in the rich soil at the farm, and volunteers from across the USA. Carrie Berend and Caitlin Lucille from the Catholic Action Center spoke about how the group's efforts have helped create this sacred space for gardening and building community.

Next we traveled to the **Day Treatment Center** where Fred Reed has been managing the student-led garden for about two years.

The garden provides students an opportunity to get outside working with their hands and shows them that food does not just show up on a shelf in the grocery store.

This year's garden is full of just about everything: potatoes, tomatoes, beans, flowers, peanuts, herbs, raspberries, apple and pear trees, grapes, cantaloupe and watermelons, squash, corn, peppers and

gourds. It showcases youth involvement and empowerment: students have planted everything, done research on various parts of gardening and food production, and know thoroughly what is planted where.

The incredible and inspiring garden was established in 1998 by Josh Radner (now at Yates Elementary) and Janet Daner.

After that we headed to the **Chrysalis House Community Garden** off Versailles Road where we were treated to a song by the children and a small presentation with signs about the garden. We met Director Lisa Minton, and volunteers Jennifer and Nettie Appleby.

We heard from one of the gardeners, Belinda, who explained how she became involved in the garden and told us what working in the garden has done for her, providing a community for her, and being one of the best experiences that she has had through the Chrysalis House.

Since March the kids have been discovering what happens in a garden each week. They have eaten snow peas, lettuce and greens right off the plants and have fun just digging holes and finding earth worm, lady bug, and butterfly companions. The children have made much of the art in the garden, and other art pieces have been donated by Latitude.

Our last stop was **The Croft at Beaumont Presbyterian Church** where Jim DeLeo pointed

out that in England and Scotland, a "croft" was a small enclosed parcel of land located in close proximity to a house, and cultivated by tenant farmers who did not own the land, but were entitled to keep some of the produce they raised.

This community garden provides a place for people to grow their own flowers, fruits and vegetables. It began in the summer of 2008 after DeLeo read the July 2008 issue of ACE Weekly that featured last year's Lexington Community Garden Tour.

Erica Horn heads The Garden Squad, the committee that developed the garden. She says "the land was a former tobacco farm, so the soil was excellent."

Gardeners include families from within the congregation and from the community, and even Boy Scout Troop 279. The garden boasts a large three-bin compost structure, built and donated by one of Eagle Scouts.

The gardeners grow food mainly for their own use, but contributing a portion of the harvest is encouraged as part of the garden contract; there is even an extra bucket where surplus produce is available for community members and passersby to share the bounty.

A delicious potluck concluded the event-filled tour, as we gathered to eat and clean up together and to reflect on all we'd seen and learned.



Edible Gardening Series Update

Organizer John Walker reports that the final Edible Garden Series events at The Arboretum will be held in September. They include three programs on seed saving. For details, please contact him (his information is in the shaded box at right). The group, he says, is transitioning to programs at the Episcopal Burying ground on Third Street sponsored by Seedleaf, a group that supports community and private gardens throughout Fayette County. They see “gardening together as part of a larger solution to local food insecurity, an entry point for conservation efforts, as well as a means to help neighbors have human interactions over food” (<http://seedleaf.org>). When you contact Walker for more information, you can also sign up for his e-mail updates on the series. We fea-

ured Walker’s article on an exciting gleaning project in the January issue of *Peaceways*. See updated information at the project’s new website: <http://home.insightbb.com/-igrowfood/>

LUGN/. Should you wish to take part in those city-wide efforts to share the summer bounty with those of our community in the most need, you may want to clip out the shaded box below to use when you approach gardeners to ask them to participate in gleaning. ■

Gleaners Wanted

- Do you have fruit trees or a vegetable garden in your yard?
- Do you ever have more fruit or produce than you know what to do with?
- Would you like to donate this fruit or produce to feed those less fortunate?

If the answer to any of these questions is yes, then I invite you to join the Gleaning Network. Gleaning is the act of collecting leftover crops from fields after they have been harvested. God’s Pantry and other food charities are in need of all the good, fresh local produce that they can get.

For more information about being part of the Gleaning Network, contact John Walker by e-mail at igrowfood@insightbb.com; or phone at 859.797-2326.

When you reap the harvest of your land, moreover, you shall not reap to the very corners of your field nor gather the gleaning of your harvest; you are to leave them for the needy and the alien.

(Leviticus 23:22)



**"Eating is
an agricultural act."
—Wendell Berry**



Slow Foods Eat-In—Labor Day—Sept. 7

Slow Foods USA is conducting their Eat-In campaign this Labor Day, Sept. 7th. They want to send our nation's leaders a clear message: It's time to provide our children with real food at school. Slow Foods says that “Real food is good at every link in the chain. It tastes good, it’s good for us, it’s good for the people who grow it, it’s good for our country and it’s good for the planet.” They are encouraging people to tell friends, contact legisla-

tors and to organize Eat-Ins Sept. 7th. An Eat-In brings people together to share a meal and show their support for getting real food into schools.

You can go to the national slowfoods campaign site at: http://www.slowfoodusa.org/index.php/campaign/time_for_lunch/ to sign the petition and download organizer materials. Click the YouTube button on that page to see an explanation of the Time for Lunch

Campaign. There’s also a clip of MacArthur Genius Will Allen—who visited Lexington last April as a University of Kentucky Gaines Center lecturer—insisting on the importance of real food to all our children.

Locally, you can contact Mark Williams of Slow Food Bluegrass by phone at 502.303.3760 or by e-mail at slowfoodbluegrass@msn.com. Slow Food Bluegrass is a nonprofit organization that supports a biodiverse, sustainable food supply, local producers, heritage food traditions, and rediscovery of the pleasures of the table. ■

Announcement: Time to recycle your old lap tops! “Free U,” a local collation working to make university-level learning available without charge, has partnered in a project with Woodland Computers, who are accepting used lap top computers to be refurbished and donated to local non-profits. For more information, contact Jerry Moody at newmorningworld@gmail.com. ■

Events at a Glance

Events listed here and on our our Justicelist listserv (see www.peaceandjusticeky.org) reflect a broad spectrum of views, all intended to advance justice, peace, and a sustainable environment. The Council does not necessarily endorse the views of the originators of any given posting.

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Event Description</i>	<i>Contact</i>
Wednesday, Aug. 26th 8:00 pm Al's Bar, 6th & Limestone	Holler Poets Series #16 featuring Lynnell Major Edwards and Keith Wilson with music by Rough Customers, for an evening for fans of the word to come together in celebration of community.	For more info: www.myspace.com/hollerpoets
Saturday Sept. 12th multiple times and locations throughout the day: see details, right	Cindy Sheehan visits Lexington: 11:30 am: potluck and talk at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd.; 3:00 pm: book signing at Morris Book Shop, 408 Southland Dr.; 7:00 p.m.: talk at Transylvania University 300 N. Broadway, Cowgill Auditorium (102 Cowgill Building).	For details, contact Rebecca Glasscock at: rebecca.glasscock@kctcs.edu or 859.246.6319.
1 st Wednesday 7:30 pm	CKCPJ Board Meeting All are welcome. In September, we meet in our offices at 112 N. Upper St. Please check with our co-chair (see box at right) to determine locations for future meetings, as we occasionally use other locations to increase collaboration with and knowledge of some of our member organizations..	Arne Bathke, Co-chair: 859.312.2695 or e-mail: arne@uky.edu
Every Thursday 5:30 - 6:00 pm	Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace , Triangle Park in downtown Lexington.	
1 st Monday 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm	Kentucky Migrant Network , Cardinal Valley Center 1306 Versailles Road	Jennifer Hubbard-Sánchez jsanchez@lfucg.com
2 nd Tuesday 7:30 pm	Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky , KCCJ office, 112 N Upper St. info@lexfair.org	Paul Brown, Chair, heme1588@yahoo.com
1 st Wednesday 4:00-6:30	Franciscan Peace Center , 3389 Squire Oak. FranciscanVision.org	Pat Griffin 859.230.1986
2 nd Wednesday 7:00 - 8:30 pm	Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky (AHA) , Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd. (see page 8 for details of September event).	Dick Renfro 859.255.7029
3 rd Thursday 7:00 pm	Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) , Episcopal Diocese Mission House, 4th St. and Martin Luther King	Ondine Quinn 859.276.0563
2 nd Sunday 4-5 pm	Bluegrass Army Depot near Richmond, Kentucky , monthly peace vigil with Janice Sevre-Duszynska (see page 8 for more details of the inaugural vigil held August 9 th).	for more info: rhythmsofthedance@msn.com
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



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

Democracy is based on empathy, on
the bonds of care and responsibility
that link us together and make us a nation.
—George Lakoff

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Issue #230 August 2009

Bits and Peaces

Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki



Thursday, August 6th, marked the 64th anniversary of the dropping of nuclear weapons on the Japanese city Hiroshima. In Lexington, the weekly interfaith peace vigil included readings and commemorations of the massive loss of civilian life and the futility of war.

From Frankfort, blogger Anne Woodhead, author of The Peace Advocate blog (<http://thepeaceadvocate.blogspot.com>) posted on the occasion, reflecting on continued federal spending on weapons: “it seems that something is askew. With the dire financial crisis and poor well-being of the

nation and the commonwealth, something is not right....We need healthcare and education, not warfare. We need life-affirming budgeting, not death-enabling funding.”

At the Bluegrass Army Depot near Richmond, Kentucky, on Nagasaki Day, Sunday August 9th Janice Sevre-Duszynska—with the sponsorship of CKCPJ’s Peace Action Task Group—began the first of what is intended to be a monthly vigil. Subsequent vigils will be 4–5 pm on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Janice and fellow vigilers will be carrying a large-lettered banner that reads “The Killing Starts Here—End the Wars Now.”

Cindy Sheehan to visit Lexington Sept. 12th

On Saturday, Sept. 12th, Cindy Sheehan will be in Lexington for several events. Please see our calendar listings on page 7 for the details. For more information, contact Rebecca Glasscock: e-mail rebecca.glasscock@kctcs.edu or call 859.246.6319.

Humanist Forum event Sept. 9th

Wednesday, Sept. 9th, at 7:00 pm in the Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, the Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky will sponsor a lecture titled "Is Diplomacy Appeasement?" by Dr. John Stempel, Senior Professor of International Relations and former Director of the UK Patterson School of Diplomacy and International Commerce. Professor Stempel is the author of "Common Sense and Foreign Policy" (2008) and is in the process of updating his 1981 book, "Inside the Iranian Revolution." For more on Stempel and the Patterson School of Diplomacy, see his webpage at <http://www.uky.edu/~stempel>.