

PEACEWAYS



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May 2011

The Newsletter of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice
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Community Activism Meets the Love of Kentucky's Mountains

by Dave Cooper

Mountain Justice Training Camp

Time is running out to register for Mountain Justice Summer Training Camp, May 20th-27th, in the mountains of eastern Kentucky.

Mountain Justice training camp is an opportunity for veteran and novice activists to build the skills and vision needed to abolish mountaintop removal and build vibrant, healthy, self-reliant communities. We ask that you attend camp with the intention of using these skills either working with allies in Appalachia or working on this issue in your hometown.

The camp registration process will help you develop a plan for how you will use this training. The camp is a time for training, strategizing, bonding, service and action for people living both within and outside of Appalachia, for all sexualities and genders, for people of all races, for youth and elders, and anyone in between. You can register at www.mountainjustice.org

Heartwood Forest Council

Immediately following Mountain Justice camp, the 21st annual Heartwood Forest Council will be held deep in the mountains of southwest Virginia near Damascus on Memorial Day weekend, from May 27th to 30th. The Heartwood Forest Council will be held at Camp Ahistadi, a Methodist summer camp with dorms, a

crystal clear mountain stream and dense rhododendron forests. Tent camping is also available. Bring your mountain bike and ride the Virginia Creeper Trail after the camp is over. The theme of this year's Council is "Energy!" and we will focus on energy-based threats to our region's forests and communities: mountaintop

removal coal mining, industrial-scale biomass burning for electricity, and hydrofracking for natural gas. We will also highlight the positive "energy" in the region that is working to move us away from these destructive sources of power and toward more sustainable lives and communities. Come out for 3 days of workshops, discussions, keynote speakers, and field trips—interspersed with ample social time, leisure, lively local music, dancing, and great food. Register at www.heartwood.org. Some background on Heartwood, from their website: "Heartwood is a regional network that protects forests and supports community activism in the eastern United States through education, advocacy, and citizen empowerment. Heartwood was founded in 1991, when concerned

citizens from several midwestern states met and agreed to work together to protect the heartland hardwood forest."

For information on Dave Cooper's Mountain Top Removal Roadshow, got to [/www.mountainroadshow.com](http://www.mountainroadshow.com).

"We cannot secure lasting protection through the courts or even Congress. True change can only come with a change of heart. We have to learn how to live in the landscape in ways that meet the needs of people without destroying the forests that sustain us. We also must learn to live together, even with those with whom we disagree. The way we treat our neighbors is as important as the way we treat the Earth. Our future depends on the choices we make today."

from Heartwood's promotional brochure



The Central Kentucky Council for Peace & Justice

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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.

April 27 Commemoration of Chernobyl Disaster and Call to Action on Nuclear Power—Looking Forward

On Wednesday, April 27th, CKCPJ sponsored an evening at the University of Kentucky's W.T. Young Library. Pictured below—with *Peaceways* in their hands—are participants Jim Torren of Footprints for Peace (www.footprintsforpeace.net); main presenter Craig E. Williams, Recipient of the 2006 Goldman Environmental Prize and director of the Chemical Weapons Working Group (www.cwwg.org); and Doug Slaymaker, UK professor of Japanese Studies, who was visiting Japan during the recent earthquake and tsunami.



In his featured presentation, Craig Williams—who has traveled near Chernobyl and has met with emergency workers who responded to that disaster and have since died—provided the audience with his analysis of what's wrong with "state of the art" technology when toxic materials and dangerous situations are involved. His success at the CWWG in blocking the Pentagon's plans to incinerate chemical weapons was due, he says, to many factors. Working in coalitions, doing his research, staying firmly on focus, and not allowing setbacks to deter efforts to right bad policy: all were all essential parts of his strategy. Audience members had many questions as he led the group in using those strategies as we look forward, needing to address the dangers of developing nuclear power in a ill-conceived bid to seek "clean" energy. It only seems "clean," he pointed out, because the costs and dangers are hidden from the public. ☺

It's Springtime and You've Probably Received a Call from Our Faithful Phonathon Volunteers ...

...or, if we missed you, you may be receiving a letter in the mail asking you to consider making a financial donation to support the efforts of CKCPJ. Our board has been hard at work, as well, introducing the Council's efforts at Gallery Hop receptions (see back page for news of our June reception), and at fundraising house parties. Below are some photos from a May Day event hosted by our treasurer and co-chairs. We know that this is a financially challenging time for many people, and pledge to continue to leverage the modest budget we manage, reaching the most people and making the greatest impact possible in the causes of peace, justice, and a sustainable future. We are extremely grateful for all of the support we receive, both financial and in the thousands of hours of volunteer time that make our many events and activities possible. ☺



Photos: Richard Greissman

Puppets for Peace 2011: A Bluegrass Literacy–Literacy Blooms Project *Volunteers and donations invited!*

Last year for the first time, CKCPJ helped sponsor Bluegrass Literacy's developing Puppets for Peace project. Designed to promote literacy experiences for youth and second-language adults, Puppets for Peace is part of a Literacy-Blooms Service Learning initiative that served refugee and at-risk populations in Lexington. Participants created personal puppets and wrote short scripts which culminated in performances of problem-solving skits. This programming involved several groups of teens, including those enrolled in a number of the Summer Y camps in the Lexington area, and a mother-daughter group. In total, well over 80 people were served by the project. We were pleased to feature some of the puppets created for the project at CKCPJ's November 2010 Gallery Hop exhibit .

For 2011, CKCPJ is again helping sponsor these activities, and is pleased to promote volunteer and donation opportunities. Norma Spencer, Bluegrass Literacy's Director, reports that Puppet Project sessions will begin with a Teen Puppet Camp with refugee teens early in the summer, and be offered at a couple of locations in the Lexington area through the fall. Young teens or mother-daughter pairs will create puppets, write scripts, and develop a collection of puppet performance scenes, presenting a puppet performance as a culminating event.

Volunteer Opportunities

Bluegrass Literacy is looking for volunteer help with this summer's puppet programming—adults and teens who are interested in art or diversity non-profit activities. The project is done in groups of 10 or fewer participants for each 6-8 week session. Volunteers have flexibility when committing to assist. If you would like to help with the scheduled activities of the Puppet Pro-

ject sessions, or if you have in mind a group that might be interested in participating in Lexington this summer, contact Norma at: 859.299.5982 or spencer@qx.net.

Bluegrass Literacy is a non-profit Literacy Provider that offers Free ABE (Adult Basic) support, GED Study Skills Instruction, and English Classes for English as a Second Language Students. The organization works with a number of affiliate programs in Central Kentucky, near and in the Lexington area. Bluegrass Literacy has over 40 outreach sites where they offer classes and other program activities. They train over 240 tutor-volunteers.

To help fund these efforts, Bluegrass Literacy is having a "Christmas in July Boutique" at the end of July and would appreciate any holiday décor or gift item you have to donate. The boutique will feature handmade items for sale, many from their sewing program, and holiday gift items.



Participants in the 2010 summer Puppets for Peace program display their creations. Photo courtesy of Bluegrass Literacy.

Visit the Bluegrass Literacy website for their "Wish List" For more information about their many programs, you can find Bluegrass Literacy on the web at: www.bluegrassliteracy.org. There they also post a "Wish List" of craft items and supplies they would appreciate being donated, such as: dowels, colored/wrapping paper, embellishments—decorative bits and pieces that are "child-safe," acrylic or watercolor paints—especially bright colors, brushes, fabric, buttons, thread, ribbons, yarn, colored markers, glue sticks and decorative glassware or colored bottles, construction/copy paper—especially brightly colored. For more details and a more comprehensive list, please see their website or call 859.299.5982. To arrange a drop-off site or collection of your donation items, you can call that number or e-mail Norma Spencer at: spencer@qx.net. ☺

Sun, May 22 5:30 pm: Rwandan Pastor Speaks about Reconciliation After Genocide at Quaker Meeting in Lexington

David Bucura, a Quaker pastor from Rwanda, has been involved in reconciliation and rebuilding from the genocide that occurred in 1994. You are invited to hear the inspiring work done in Rwanda to create peace and healing.

Come at 5:30 to enjoy a potluck supper with Friends and Pastor Bucura, and hear his presentation. Lexington Friends Meetinghouse is found at: 649 Price Avenue. Info: 859.254.3319. ☺

The Failure of Militarism as Metaphor

by Michael Fogler

Racism, materialism, and militarism are what Martin Luther King, Jr., referred to as the “evil triplets.” All three have been major themes running throughout the history of the United States. And of the three, militarism has been given the least attention. Racism, while certainly not yet a thing of the past, has been firmly in this country’s consciousness since the civil rights movement of the 1960s. Materialism has been given some (albeit not enough) attention through the efforts of the environmental movement. Militarism remains the big elephant in our collective living room.

I am not speaking here about the multiple wars in which we are involved, or the spending for the military, which rivals all of the rest of the world’s military spending combined. But, what is not getting much attention is our militaristic approach to many other aspects of our society, the way that militarism is a metaphor for much of our way of life.

Take politics as an example. As quickly as possible, we always reduce every public or political issue to two sides, two candidates, or two parties. The purpose of reducing issues or campaigns to two sides seems to be to look at any given situation as a vehicle for one side defeating the other. The two sides, who are often not very far apart, are seen as arch enemies, each one trying to demolish the other.

How refreshing it would be to have a political campaign or an issue in the public discourse with three or four or more “sides” to consider. Rather than assuming there are only two sides to any issue, we could look at several angles and points of view, and combine good ideas for the benefit of all. Instead of watching two sides each trying to defeat the other, we could learn consensus building, with everyone working toward a sense of everyone winning. There are democratic systems that go in this direction (check out ideas like proportional representation and instant runoff voting), but ours isn’t one of them.

Another example: President Obama gives a speech about our country working to out-compete, out-educate, and out-do in all ways everybody else. Sure, I want our population to be well-educated. But that doesn’t mean I want people in other countries to be less educated.

What *do* we really want? I want a happy, satisfied life. And I want people in the rest of the world to have happy, satisfied lives. I don’t want to out-do others so that I can be well-off while others are lacking, which in turn makes the other people want to out-do me, so that they can be well-off while I am lacking.

Instead of pounding the drum beat of competition, I want to hear the President of the United States say: let’s create a world in which everyone both here *and* in the rest of the world can live happy, safe, and fulfilled lives. Let’s work toward the *whole world* (which includes us) having good education, satisfying arts and recreation, good access to healthy food and a healthy planet. It’s not about statistics. It’s about quality of life. Surely, we have the creativity, resources, and intellect to do this.

How short-sighted it is to think that our out-doing and “winning” at the expense of others truly is winning. This is thoroughly militaristic thinking. It pits us against them, one side against the other side. The wisdom of King is appropriate again: “We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny.”

It’s time to take good look at this beast in our living room. Two-party oxymoronic democracy and the idea of out-competing everyone else has us blindly doing everything in a militaristic manner. I now ask the question: Would you rather win or be happy?

I think another world *is* possible; but we’ll need to change our words and our ways.

Michael Fogler edited Peaceways for 18 years.

Still active in peace work, he now devotes much of his time to his career as a classical guitarist.

See his website at: <http://michaelfogler.com>.



Martin Luther King’s “triplets” quote comes from his “Beyond Vietnam—A Time to Break Silence speech” delivered 4 April 1967, Riverside Church, New York city; available at: <http://bit.ly/mlktimebreaksilence>. Later in that speech, he says:

“We can no longer afford to worship the god of hate or bow before the altar of retaliation. The oceans of history are made turbulent by the ever-rising tides of hate. And history is cluttered with the wreckage of nations and individuals that pursued this self-defeating path of hate.”

The Ugly Side of Victory

During the first week of May, if you were not following social media (Facebook, Twitter, “the blogosphere”), or reading and viewing alternative news sources, you might be one of many who were both appalled at the nation’s euphoric response to our military’s targeted killing of Osama bin Laden, yet convinced that your reaction was not shared by many others. In fact, you were not as much in the minority as you may have feared. Just a single sample follows, here, of a very different view of recent events.

In a blog post for the regional New York state paper *Times Union* (from which the photo, right, is taken), Kevin Marshall wrote on May 3rd, in “this time of excessive pride bordering on or passing the line into jingoism: Inside the White House on May 1st, hours before the rest of the world knew, they watched. Absent was the undeterred exuberance displayed by people too young to remember the tragedy that shook us on September 11th, 2001. There was no whooping and hollering, no chants of “U-S-A!”, no college kids pumping their fists. There weren’t any smiles or high-fives, no gloating or posturing. Instead, the President, his Vice-President, his Secretary of State, his Generals and staff sat in a room, silent, a few mortified. Some in the room had worked years, or even a full decade, to reach this moment. They sat watching, somber and attentive, as we killed an enemy of the State.

Marshall says: “The further removed we are from the situation, the easier it is to be embarrassingly crass in reaction to an assassination.”



ACTION ALERT! CONTACT CONGRESSIONAL REPRESENTATIVES TO STOP LEGISLATION SUPPORTING PERPETUAL WAR

Congress currently has before it legislation that would grant the president broad new authority to engage in unlimited military conflict for an unlimited time against a wide array of individuals and groups that may at some time engage in hostilities against the U.S. or allies. The language cedes significant congressional authority to the President.

Please call and write your representative NOW to oppose Section 7 of HR 968, "Affirmation of Armed Conflict with Al-Qaeda, the Taliban, and Associated Forces," and to urge that this section not be included in the National Defense Authorization Act or approved in any other form.

Online, you can go to http://bit.ly/perpetual_war_fcnl to sign a Friends Committee on National Legislation petition. At http://bit.ly/aclu_oppose_war you can sign an ACLU petition to take action and tell your representative to oppose new worldwide war authority. Go to www.whitehouse.gov/contact to send a note to President Obama directly. **Now is the time to speak out.**



Death and Destruction are Not Answers

On Sept. 15, 2001, Orlando and Phyllis Rodriguez, who lost their son Greg at the World Trade Center four days earlier, sent an open letter to then-president Bush and a slightly different text to the *New York Times*. They have asked that both texts are shared widely. They wrote because they felt **“our government is heading in the direction of violent revenge, with the prospect of sons, daughters, parents, friends in distant lands dying, suffering, and nursing further grievances against us. It is not the way to go. It will not avenge our son's death. Not in our son's name. Our son died a victim of an inhuman ideology. Our actions should not serve the same purpose. Let us grieve. Let us reflect and pray. Let us think about a rational response that brings real peace and justice to our world. But let us not as a nation add to the inhumanity of our times.”**

Go to <http://www.inoursonsname.com>, for updates on a documentary about their story, now in post-production with the goal of release this September on the 10th anniversary of 9/11. They are also active in the group September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows <http://peacefultomorrows.org>. (See page 6 for more).

“Wars are poor chisels for carving out peaceful tomorrows.”

—Martin Luther King, Jr. ☺

Bits and Peaces

Updated Needs From BUILD's "Make a Difference" Initiative

In February, *Peaceways* reported on efforts by organizers at the "Make a Difference" initiative which has grown out of restorative justice efforts and work done through Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct action (BUILD). Specifically, Kabby Akers, a BUILD volunteer, has been running a listserv that communicates with volunteers and donors willing to lend a hand in the lives of juveniles in the court system (for a *Lexington Herald-Leader* article on these efforts, see <http://bit.ly/BUILDlistserv>).

Recently, she reported that two of the professionals consulted on these efforts, Linda Harvey and Suzanne Allen of Juvenile Restorative Justice, feel that many of the 16-17 year old kids with whom they are coming into contact would greatly benefit from having a summer or part-time job. However, says Kabby Akers, those children, "don't know how to begin to get one and don't have the kind of help from home they need to learn these skills. We talked about having a workshop for them to help them learn how to find jobs, fill out applications, interview, think about their interests and talents, learn how to keep a job and be successful. Another workshop could teach them how to handle money, open savings and checking accounts. We think this kind of information will really help them to get and keep jobs and be successful and occupied."

If this sounds like something that you would like to be a part of, please contact Akers by e-mail at kakers@cdlex.org.

Powerful Friendship Born of Unthinkable Loss

In time for Mother's Day, organizers at the TED talks (TED is a non-profit "devoted to Ideas Worth Spreading") posted a moving video of two mothers, Phyllis Rodriguez and Aicha el-Wafi, who "have a powerful friendship born of unthinkable loss." Rodriguez' son was killed in the World Trade Center attacks on September 11, 2001; el-Wafi's son Zacarias Moussaoui was convicted of a role in those attacks and is serving a life sentence. In hoping to find peace, these two mothers have come to understand and respect one another.

In 2001, Rodriguez and her husband Orlando wrote an open letter, "Not in Our Son's Name," calling on President Bush to oppose a military response in Afghanistan. Aicha el-Wafi, married at the age of 14, is now an activist with the French feminist group Ni Putes Ni Soumise, working with Muslim women. One of her activities includes speaking to groups of young Muslim girls about refusing to be married too young. In November 2002, Phyllis Rodriguez and several other relatives of victims of the attacks were invited to meet Aicha el-Wafi. At the time they met, el-Wafi's son, Zacarias Moussaoui, was yet to be tried in relation to the attacks on U.S. soil, and faced the possibility of execution if convicted. Since then, Rodriguez and el-Wafi have appeared together throughout Europe and the US, telling their story of reconciliation and forgiveness.

"Our suffering is equal. Yet I'm treated with sympathy; she is treated with hostility," says Rodriguez of Aicha el-Wafi.

From the conclusion of their letter "Not in Our Son's Name" (Sept. 15, 2001) Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez wrote to then-president Bush: **"It is not the first time that a person in your position has been given unlimited power and came to regret it. This is not the time for empty gestures to make us feel better. It is not the time to act like bullies. We urge you to think about how our government can develop peaceful, rational solutions to terrorism, solutions that do not sink us to the inhuman level of terrorists."**

You can see the TED video at: http://bit.ly/Rodriguez_elWafi or go to the TED.com website and search for the footage under the title "9/11 healing: The mothers who found forgiveness, friendship." See page 4 of this issue of *Peaceways* for more efforts of the group in which they are active, September 11th Families for Peaceful Tomorrows <http://peacefultomorrows.org>.

Commentator Bruce Shapiro of *The Nation* magazine wrote in May 2006, when Moussaoui was sentenced, "The twelve anonymous jurors who sentenced Zacarias Moussaoui to life in prison...showed that it is possible to reconcile prosecution of terror with the rule of law. ...Nine of them agreed that the extraordinary violence of his childhood weighed against a death sentence. ...Whatever his malignant intent, [he] was in jail on 9/11, and even before that was peripheral to the plot." (see www.thenation.com/article/moussaoui-paradox.)



from: <http://theforgivenessproject.com>

Events at a Glance

The Council seeks to promote dialogue as a path to peace and justice. Consequently, we announce events that we do not necessarily endorse.

<i>Date/Time</i>	<i>Event Description</i>	<i>Contact</i>
<p>Saturday, June 11, 2011 from 12:00 noon to 4:30 pm Voting Rights Coalition Meeting: Organizer Dave Newton called this meeting for the coalition of groups working to restore voting rights to former felons who have served their debt to society. He says "KFTC members and ally groups are welcome as we map out our strategy and field work leading up to the 2012 General Assembly." Several members of the Central Kentucky chapter of KFTC have begun educating the Lexington urban county council about voting rights. asking that they pass a resolution in favor of returning the right to vote to former felons who have served their debt to society. For location of the meeting and additional questions? Contact Dave Newton via e-mail at Dave@kftc.org or by phone: 859-420-8919.</p>		
<p>Thursday, June 16, 2011 5:00 pm - 7:00 pm Support the Children's Law Center Fundraiser event at The Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning at 251 West 2nd Street. Meet Joker Phillips, head coach of UK Wildcats Football Team and support the Children's Law Center Lexington office (www.childrenslawky.org); minimum \$20 donation requested. Please rsvp to Mary Fisher at fisherm@fuse.net or 859.431.3313. Be sure to tell her you saw this note in <i>Peaceways</i>. "We hope to make members of the bar across the Commonwealth aware of our presence in the Bluegrass Region and across the state and introduce ourselves to more members of the Bluegrass community," says litigation director of the Lexington office and CKCPJ board member, Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto.</p>		
1 st Wednesday 7:00 pm	CKCPJ Board Meeting , in our offices at 112 N. Upper St. ALL ARE WELCOME!	Arne Bathke, co-chair 859.257.3610 or arne@uky.edu .
Every Thursday 5:30 - 6:00 pm	Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace , Triangle Park in downtown Lexington. <i>Mourn the dead. Heal the wounded. End the wars.</i>	Richard Mitchell 859.327.6277
1 st Monday 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm	Kentucky Migrant Network , Cardinal Valley Center 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington	Isabel Gereda Taylor itaylor@lexingtonky.gov 859.258.3824
1 st Tuesday 6:30-8:30 pm www.pflaglex.org	PFLAG: Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered. Support Group Mtg. Beaumont Library, Fieldstone Way, Lexington	Info: president@pflaglex.org or call 859.338.4393
2 nd Tuesday 7:30 pm	Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky , Lexington Public Library downtown branch info@lexfair.org	Craig Cammack, Chair 859.951.8565
1 st Wednesday 4:00-6:30	Franciscan Peace Center , 3389 Squire Oak, Lexington Info: www.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, Lexington	Dick Renfro 859.255.7029 frickdan@windstream.net
3 rd Thursday 7:00 pm	Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC) , Episcopal Diocese Mission House, 4th St. & MLK Blvd, Lexington	Ondine Quinn 859.276.0563
Every Sunday 2:30-4:00pm	NAMI Lexington Support Groups—Participation Station, 869 Sparta Court, Lexington.	call 859.272.7891 or go to www.namilex.org



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"We urge you to think about how our government can develop peaceful, rational solutions to terrorism, solutions that do not sink us to the inhuman level of terrorists."
—Phyllis and Orlando Rodriguez, Not in Our Son's Name
(see pages 5 & 6)

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Issue #248 May 2011

Photography by Chrysalis House: Join us Fri, June 17, for Gallery Hop at our 112 N. Upper Street offices

Art can provide a means for self-exploration, expression and healing. Through a generous grant from the Kentucky Foundation for Women, women of Chrysalis House have been given an opportunity to tell their stories of healing and recovery through photography in a project called "A Picture is Worth a Thousand Words: A Journey of Healing in Picture." These women have received photography lessons from Frank Becker from *The Time Photography* (www.thetimephotography.com), and have been capturing images for months to describe the journeys they are on to heal mind, body, and spirit. Mr. Becker has volunteered his time and talent to instruct the women and to work with them as they choose the best photographs to reflect their stories.

On June 17, 2011 from 5 to 8 pm, these remarkable women will display their work during the Gallery Hop exhibit at CKCPJ's 112 North Upper offices. Tonya Jernigan, Domestic Violence Coordinator at Chrysalis House, says "An amazing story will be told through pictures. We hope that you will be able to join us and provide support to the women of Chrysalis House as they continue this metamorphosis."

Our Gallery Hop receptions give us unique opportunities to introduce the work of the Council to people who have not heard of CKCPJ. What would you like to tell Lexington about our work? Come out as an ambassador, to share your experiences with people who are just learning about our commitment to peace, justice, and a sustainable future.

Please contact us via e-mail at peaceandjustice@gmail.com or call 859.338.2418 if you can help serve as an ambassador during our Hop activities.



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