Issue # 254



January 2012

The Newsletter of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice 110 N. Upper St. Lexington KY 40507 to phone, dial: 859.488.1448

E-mail: peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com Website: www.peaceandjusticeky.org



THANKS for Standing for Peace & Justice: Together We Make Our Democracy Stronger

The people holding a giant-sized *Thank You* above are cast members of "Please Don't Call Me Homesless, I Don't Call You Homed." Our photographer, Richard Greissman, snapped this shot just before the performance of that play at the Lexington Opera House this November during Thanksgiving as a giant-sized appreciation for all our readers and supporters.

We arranged the shot to say *thank you* for all you have done to help make our community and world more just and peaceful. Now, in this political season, we want to provide you with some guidelines for letter writing and encourage you to make your voice heard.

Below are the basics of effective written communication to your elected representatives (adapted from. http://bit.ly/fcnl_toolkit) but they can also be adapted for phone messages you can leave for legislators when time is of the essence.

- → Identify yourself—Elected representatives are accountable to voters in their district, so giving your address is important, especially in emails. Additionally, many offices need your address to send a response. If you are not a constituent but want to make your voice heard, you will need another appeal. Perhaps you can argue the morality, logic, or greater good of the action you want to see taken.
- → Stick to one issue per letter (or phone call)— Staying focused keeps your request clear.

- → Keep it short, simple and polite—Our representatives get piles of mail each day, so make your letter brief and to the point. Keep the tone respectful no matter how frustrated you feel with any particular vote.
- → Include relevant personal information—If you can describe the financial challenges you see real people facing, those personal links boost your letter's power.
- → Send thank you letters—Many constituents write when they are unhappy, but few write when they are pleased. Recognizing a vote or speech lets your representative or senator know that constituents support such actions.
- ⇒Personalize sample letters—When you use a sample letter provided by an organization, use it to guide your own letter as you personalize it, instead of copying it word-for-word.

Finally: letter writing done with others can change a lonely task into an empowering one. We are offering our "Crepes of Wrath" story—written by Sharman Chapman Crane in 2010—in this downloadable reprint: http://bit.ly/Letter-Writing. Consider hosting a party like one Sharman describes, where over 100 letters were generated to newspapers and legislators.

Let's ensure our voices are heard!

See pages 4 & 5 for more tools to make your voice heard this General Assembly season in Frankfort.

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace & Justice

Board of Directors: Arne Bathke, Joan Braune, Mary Ann Ghosal (secretary), Teresa Hendricks, Randolph Hollingsworth (co-chair), Matthew Longacre, Billie Mallory, Richard Mitchell, Bruce Mundy (co-chair), Howard Myers (treasurer), Kerby Neill, Sandra Powell, Melynda Price, Pedro Santiago, Rabbi Uri Smith, Tanya Torp.

Member Organizations: ACLU-Central Kentucky Chapter, Amnesty International UK Chapter, Bahá'is of Lexington, Berea Friends Meeting, Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program, Catholic Action Center, Central Christian Church, Commission for Peace and Justice-Lexington Catholic Diocese, Franciscan Peace Center, Gay and Lesbian Services Organization (GLSO), Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky, Humanitarium, Hunter Presbyterian Church, Islamic Society of Central Kentucky, Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass, Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty-Central Kentucky Chapter, Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (KCIRR), Kentucky Conference for Community and Justice (KCCJ), Kentucky Resources Council, Lexington Fair Housing Council, Lexington Fairness, Lexington Friends Meeting, Lexington Hispanic Association (Asociacion de Hispanos Unidos), Lexington Labor Council-Jobs With Justice Committee, Lexington Living Wage Campaign, Maxwell St. Presbyterian Church, Newman Center at UK, North East Lexington Initiative, One World Film Festival, Students for Peace and Earth Justice (Bluegrass Community and Technical College), Progress-student group at Transylvania University, Second Presbyterian Church, Shambhala Center, Sustainable Communities Network, Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, United Nations Association-Blue Grass Chapter, waragainstviolence.org.

PEACEWAYS

Peaceways is published ten times a year by the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, 110 N. Upper St., Lexington KY 40507. For subscriptions, queries regarding articles or if you'd like to submit items for the calendar, contact the editor, Gail M. Koehler at 859.488.1448 or peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com. Deadline: 1st 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.

Celebrating Mary Alice Pratt's Life and Work for Peace and Social Justice

With Mary Alice Pratt's death, our community has lost a loving and faithful champion of peace and justice. She recently labored to end predatory payday loans, the death penalty, and mountain top removal, and to ensure health care for all and funding for Lexington's affordable housing initiative. In fact, this issue of *Peaceways* contains an article she just finished for us on payday lending (see page 5).

The community gathering on Jan. 24, hosted by CKCPJ was an opportunity to publicly honor and celebrate Mary Alice Pratt's life and work for peace and social justice. Participants were invited to bring memories of Mary Alice to share. Long-time Council members have relied on the grace and tenacity of Mary Alice—a former board member—for decades to undergird our efforts.

While Mary Alice's deep and abiding faith was the foundation for all of her efforts, she nonetheless worked with people regardless of their religious backgrounds, and was the founder of the Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace. On Nov. 3, vigil participants observed the 10th anniversary of their steadfast witness for peace, as for 520 consecutive Thursdays there have been one or more persons on the corner of Broadway and Main St. in Lexington. Frequently, Mary Alice was that one person.

We are grateful to poet George Ella Lyon for permission to print this memorial poem, composed the day Mary Alice died.

The Council continues to collect remembrances of Mary Alice: you cancontact us at peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com. with your own.

—George Ella Lyon.

(A)

In Memoriam: Mary Alice Pratt Cofounder of the Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace

She who helped	lobbied	over, she is
call us here	in Frankfort.	free and we
has left		are left
this corner	Not on her watch	standing
crossed the street	would the Gospel	where she
the Jordan.	be forgotten.	called us—
		at this rush
She who labored	Her initials	hour peace
for peace	spelled MAP	vigil corner
has come into	and she set out	grieving
her inheritance.	to follow	grateful
	the map that led	holding fast
Tirelessly	from the stable	to each other
she stood	through the temple	holding up
for justice	to the mountain	this dream.
on corners	and the cross.	

Now she has

crossed

sat

in meetings

wrote letters

PITTING CONTRACTOR AND CONTRACTOR AN

Carrying the CKCPJ banner this year with returning friends were a number of new faces, participants in the Youth Initiative headed up by board members Kerby Neill and Bruce Mundy. Photo: Elena Schulgina.

MLK Day in Lexington 2012

Lexington's observance of Martin
Luther King, Jr., Day
began as it has for 18
years, with the Unity
Breakfast, followed by
the city-sponsored
Freedom March
through downtown.
The Council was represented at the breakfast, and in the march.

At Heritage Hall the commemorative program included the MLK vocal ensemble and, as featured guest, author and commentator Dr. Marc Lamont Hill.

For the fourth year, One World Films sponsored a free screening at the Kentucky Theatre in the afternoon. This year's film was "Freedom Riders," a powerful 2-hour documentary commissioned by PBS as part of its "American Experience" series (see www.pbs.org/wgbh/americanexperience/freedomriders). Producer

Laurens Grant spoke before the film and conducted a Q&A afterward at the downtown Arts Center. Her enthusiasm for her work sparked vigorous discussion, and reminded the audience how essential are activities that recapture civil rights history.

NOTE:

The Lexington public library owns 6 copies of this film, each available as a

O LE CODE

Laurens Grant spent time talking to the next generation of documentartians. Here she is pictured at the Kentucky Theatre with Lucian III and Shannon Booker. Photo: Lucian Booker Jr.

free 7-day loan. The PBS site mentioned earlier contains numerous resources designed to facilitate group discussions including summaries of historic legal challenges to segregation, and descriptions of the need for civil rights activists to shine light on abuses. You can also watch the entire film online and access and download the transcript.

News and Notes—News and Notes—News and Notes—



On Nov. 29, Mohammed Saeed, pictured at left with students from the University of Kentucky, presented "A Brief History of Iraq, U.S. Involvement, and Current Issues" at a a CKCPJ-sponsored event on the UK campus. Saeed is an Iraqi doctor and currently a student at UK. CKCPJ board member Tanya Torp reported: "I learned more about the wars and 'conflicts' in Iraq from a native [at this event], than I learned in years of mainstream media. I am amazed at myself that I did not seek more knowledge on the situation. Eyeopening. Thanks to CKCPJ: Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice for sponsoring this event. I'm proud to sit on the Board."

Photo by Arne Bathke.



Occupy Lexington celebrated 100 days of continual occupation Jan. 7 (video clip at http://bit.ly/OccupyLex100). To keep up with the group, you can attend a General Assembly meeting every night at 6:30pm. Their Facebook page (OccupyLexKY) has the most up-to-date news, photos, and links. Their website (www.occupylexingtonky.

org) contains archives of teaching aids and history. Most recent actions: Jan. 20 Occupy the Courts action and Jan. 22 rally against redistricting. Photo courtesy of Occupy Lexington KY: note board members MaryAnn Ghosal and Howard Myers, far right.



Kentucky General Assembly

Resources to Keep Informed and Be Heard!

This year is a "long" session for the Kentucky General Assembly, beginning on Jan 3 with adjournment scheduled for April 9. For Kentucky citizens, NOW is the time to make our voices heard.

One of the best ways to keep updated on legislation during the session is to become familiar with the Kentucky Legislative Research Commission's website at www.lrc.ky.gov. This site is updated daily during the legislative session. There you can follow the progress of legislative issues through bill summaries, amendments, and resolutions. Updates track each bill's status in the legislative process, as well as the next day's committee-meeting schedule and agendas. The website provides information on each of Kentucky's state senators and representatives, including their phone numbers, addresses, and legislative committee assignments. You can access an email form from the digital pages for each representative or senator, too.

Of course, we can all see legislative action in person in the State Capitol's legislative chambers and committee meeting rooms, which are open to the public. (See page 5 for upcoming lobby days of interest, and don't forget your photo I.D. to enter the Capitol or Annex buildings.)

Want to give lawmakers immediate feedback on issues under consideration? You can track the status of bills and check on the legislative calendar by phone. See below for numbers to call.

And don't forget: You can write to any legislator by sending a letter with a lawmaker's name on it to: Legislative Offices, 701 Capitol Ave., Frankfort, KY 40601.

text adapted from http://www.lrc.ky.gov/pubinfo/capitol_notes.htm_



Kentucky General Assembly toll-free numbers

Legislative Message Line......800.372.7181

Bill Status Line.....866.840.2835

Calendar (Meetings) Line.....800.633.9650

Message Line en Espanol...,,,,,,....866.840.6574

TTY Message Line.....800.896.0305

Legislative Research Commission website www.lrc.ky.gov.

On the homepage of the LRC website, click the "Capitol Notes" link for a blog digest—daily notes in narrative form to keep abreast of recent legislative developments.

Not sure who your representatives are? Go to www.lrc.ky. gov/legislators.htm.

And note: you can reach a legislator's office via 502.564.8100, but this is not a toll-free number.

Resources: Advocacy and Information

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth

(KFTC) is one of the most active citizens' advocacy organizations in the state. Go to their home page at http://www.kftc.org and click on the General Assembly button at left for details of the pending legislation they're tracking regarding the environment and clean energy, economic justice, and voting rights.

Kentucky Resources Council issues updates that you can access from its home page under the title "Bills We're Watching" http://bit.ly/KyResources. The site is full of research and resources on environmental topics.

Kentucky Youth Advocates "is the only multiissue, statewide child advocacy organization in Kentucky." At http://www.kyyouth.org, you can sign up to receive updates, access their research, and learn about their legislative priorities. See info for the Child Advocacy Day, at right, to participate in their lobbying this session.



We Need Laws for Responsible Lending

by Mary Alice Pratt

At the 2011 release of new study data, Uriah King, a senior vice-president with Center for Responsible Lending, said the new information indicated patterns even more disturbing than previously realized: "Not only is the actual length of payday borrowing longer, the amount and frequency grows as well. The first payday loan becomes the gateway to long-term debt and robs working families of funds available to cover everyday living expenses."

(see http://bit.ly/LongTermDebt)

Payday lenders provide short term loans, typically about \$200-\$500 to be repaid usually in two weeks. They incur fees of about \$15 per \$100 borrowed. Persons seeking these loans are in economic distress and are often unable to repay within the time requirement. Their recourse is to take another loan, at a new fee of \$15 per \$100. Studies show that many of these people take as many as ten loans in a year, incurring fees that approach 400% in addition to the loans themselves, a pattern many call "debt traps."

For three years, Rep. Darryl Owens of Louisville has introduced a bill in the Kentucky state legislature, that would cap fees for payday loans at 36% in Kentucky (recent federal law limits fees to 36% APR for loans to active military personnel). Necessary first steps in passing this legislation include a hearing in the House Banking & Insurance Committee and passage by that com-

mittee to the full House. Last February the bill was heard in the House B&I Committee but failed to the full House. Supporters of the 36% cap, however, are not discouraged. The hope is to get a comparable bill again into and passed by this committee, advanced to the full House and passed. Rep. Darryl Owens is the logical person to submit such a bill. But it will require some citizen action.

First, contact your state representative and ask her or him to pledge support to Rep. Owens in submitting a bill to cap payday lending at 36% APR. (Don't know who your rep. is? See box at bottom of page 4 for a web link.) Find out if your representative is a member of the House B&I Committee (you can check at http://www.lrc .ky.gov/ under "Committees" or http://bit.ly/xBX5EJ). It is especially important that we urge those Committee members to support such a bill so it can pass out of Committee to the full House.

Rep. Greer, Committee Chair, supported it last year and should be encouraged by all of us to do so again. It is also important for constituents of those B&I members who opposed or did not vote on the bill last year to contact them. (I am thinking particularly Robert Damron and Ryan Quarles in central Kentucky.)

The Kentucky Coalition for Responsible Lending has a wealth of study data, survey results, and personal stories (see http://bit.ly/Data_Support) for you to use when you contact your legislators. Or contact the group's co-chairs: Lisa Gabberd lgabbard@kdva.org or Anne Marie Regan amregan@kyequaljustice.org.

4

Lobbying Days and Activities For Justice and Kentucky's Sustainable Future

Tues, Feb. 14—I Love Mountains Day brings hundreds of citizens out to Frankfort to tell legislators loud and clear that Kentuckians want clean energy to power their future. The schedule begins at 9 am; for details and to register go to http://bit.ly/LoveMountains2012. When you register, you can indicate your willingness to provide transportation or your need for a ride. This year participants are asked to bring pinwheels to represent those suffering from cancer caused by strip mining in their community and to represent the hope of clean energy. You can find directions for making pinwheels at the site, too.

Footprints for Peace will again be conducting their walk from Prestonsburg to Frankfort from Feb. 1st, culminating in their arrival for I Love Mountains Day. You can get updates, download fliers, register, and make donations to this year's walk at:http://www.footprintsforpeace.org or http://walkforasustainablefuture.footprintsforpeace.net Contact organizer Larry Crane directly at: 859-229-9472 or by email: jim@footprintsforpeace.org

Thurs, Feb. 16—Children's Advocacy Day at the Capitol in the Capitol Rotunda in Frankfort. Rally begins at 10am and activities run through 4pm. Registration begins at 9:30am or register at: http://bit.ly/KYchildren. More info: Kentucky Youth Advocates: http://www.kyyouth.org/. Contact Whitney Neal at wneal@kyyouth.org or 502.895.8167 x 121.

Look for a Refugee Rights Advocacy Day in March: Progressive Immigration Compact for Kentucky (PICK) is designed to build a common framework around which people can engage in civil dialogue about immigration issues. The Compact is based on Kentucky values and provides guiding principles for our leaders to consider as they address the complex issues of a broken immigration system. The Compact does not intend to reflect a particular policy platform or to define or limit the mission and work of those who sign onto the Compact. For more info contact: stephencpavey@gmail.com or jbialosky@kyequaljustice.org.



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.

"Better Together: The Interfaith Youth Core at Berea College" Hosted by the Christian-Muslim Dialogue—Sat. Jan 28: 10 am to noon

Join the Christian-Muslim Dialogue as students from the Berea College Interfaith Youth Core discuss their two-year experiment in fostering tolerance in religion. Panel moderator is Katherine Basham, Coordinator of International Programs at Berea College. The students' experiment was based on a nationwide challenge for interfaith activism on college campuses issued by Eboo Patel, author of *Acts of Faith: The Story of an American Muslim, in.* the Struggle for the Soul of a Generation., and the founder and president of InterFaith Youth Core (IFYC)—see more at www.ifyc.org. This program is free and the public is warmly invited to both the panel discussion and the customary potluck luncheon and informal discussion that follows the formal presentation. You are invited to bring a dish of your choosing to share with the others. (Please, no pork.) Students are especially welcome. Invite others: download a flyer to share at http://tinyurl.com/28JanIFYC. More info: email obrashid@gmail.com

Undressing Normal: an (Un)conference on Sexuality for Those of Us DisLabeled—Fri. Feb 10 in Lexington

From http://undressingnormal.wordpress.com: "This unconference explores the range of human sexualities and abilities. We welcome all people and acknowledge that whatever your orientation and/or disability labels, you are well within the range of human normality. Our focus will be on minority sexualities and gender identities within the context of services to persons who are considered by some to have disabilities. The creators of the unconference have a particular interest in the rights of people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities, as well as those who work to support them. We seek to create a welcoming community for all lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, asexual, queer, questioning, straight, and other people to discuss issues of concern." Location: Clarion Hotel at 1950 Newtown Pike in Lexington. Cost: \$10. Register for the conference, request a scholarship, and more please go to http:// undressingnormal.wordpress.com.



The Edible Garden 2012 Meetings Beginning Now! Jan. 30 & Feb. 27

You might not think it's gardening season yet, but the folks at the Edible Garden know better! The network of farmers that make up the Edible Garden meet monthly to share potluck dinner, discuss growing vegetables in Kentucky, and get brief updates on the activities of Faith Feeds. Meetings are held at Beaumont Presbyterian Church, 1070 Lane Allen Rd in Lexington the last Monday of each month. Potluck meal: 6:30pm. Presentation and Discussion: 7 – 8pm. All meetings are free of charge, compliments of Faith Feeds. Next meetings are Jan 30 (Seed Swap) and Feb 27 (Seed Starting, hands-on). Full schedule: http://faithfeedslex.org/edible-garden-series. Any new or seasoned gardener is welcome to attend the Edible Garden meetings; participation in Faith Feeds is not a requirement.

Faith Feeds is a cooperative association of individuals and faith communities who alleviate hunger in the Bluegrass. Their website is a trove of resources including research on the food gap in Kentucky. See http://faithfeedslex.org for more.

University Students—Consider Mountain Justice Spring Break this March 2012:

Through education, community service, speakers, hiking, music, poetry, direct action and more, hundreds of participants will learn from and stand with Appalachian communities in the struggle to maintain our land and culture. See details for Mountain Justice Spring Break 2012 at http://mountainjustice.org.

Call from United for Peace and Justice (UFPJ)—Dr. MLKing's "Beyond Vietnam"

Among other long-term plans for UFPJ, the group is asking activists to organize a public reading of Dr. King's "BeyondVietnam" speech in our community for April 4th to commemorate his assassination. We'll keep you informed of local plans in these pages of course, but if you already know you are interested, we urge you to contact us at peaceandjusticeky@gmail.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.

Date/Time

Event Description

Contact

Wed. Feb 8 at 7pm: "Geochronology: Geologic Time and the Age of the Earth" talk presented by Daniel J. Phelps at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, 3564 Clay's Mill Rd. Sponsored by the Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky (a chapter of the American Humanist Association), the Kentucky Association of Science Educators and Skeptics, and the Kentucky Paleontological Society. Daniel J. Phelps is the President of the KPS. This presentation commemorates the birth of Charles Darwin (12 Feb 1809). Refreshments and childcare provided. Info: Dick Renfro 859.255.7029 frickdan@windstream.net.

Thurs. Feb 16 at 7 pm: Darwin: Demon or Revolutionary? Featuring Eugenie C. Scott, Ph.D. at the University of Kentucky, Lexington Singletary Center. Dr. Eugenie Scott is the executive director of the National Center for Science Education (NCSE). From NCSE literature: "Mischaracterizations of Darwin's science serve to promote an overall anti-evolutionary agenda that survey research has shown has been embraced by a surprisingly large percentage of Americans." Event is free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Kentucky Section of the American Institute for Professional Geologists and the Kentucky Paleontological Society. On the web: http://bit.ly/Darwin16Feb. Email: info@ncse.com, or more info contact Dick Renfro (details above).

Recurring events are listed below		
1 st Wednesday 7:00 pm	CKCPJ Board Meeting , Locations are rotating this winter: contact us for details! ALL ARE WELCOME!	peaceandjusticeky@gmail. com or 859.488.1448
Every Thursday 5:30 - 6:00 pm	Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace , Triangle Park (corner of Broadway and Main St), downtown Lexington.	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 itayor@lexingtonky.gov 859.258.3824
2nd 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. see note above for Wed. Feb 8 meeting	Dick Renfro 859.255.7029 frickdan@windstream.net)
3 rd Thursday 7:00 pm	Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC), Episcopal Diocese Mission House at 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. www.nami.org.	call 859.272.7891 or go to www.namilex.org

NOTE: Food Not Bombs organizer Melody Millage reports she is taking a break from that work during the winter months and we should look for the effort to begin again in the spring. You can contact her via email at: melodyxvx@yahoo.com.



The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice 110 N. Upper St. Lexington KY 40507

"The deep rumbling of discontent that we hear today is the thunder of disinherited masses, rising from dungeons of oppression to the bright hills of freedom, in one majestic chorus the rising masses singing, in the words of our freedom song, 'Ain't gonna let nobody turn us around'."

—MLK, Jr., 1964 Nobel Lecture

Non Profit Org. US Postage PAID Lexington KY Permit No. 850

MOVING SOON??-Please send us your new address in advance.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Issue #254 Jan 2012

Bits and Peaces: News and Events to Note

SAVE THE DATE!! Sun. Feb. 26, 5-8pm—CKCPJ's Annual Dinner

Location: Transylvania University, Lexington. Meet Eduardo Nino-Moreno, first director of campus diversity and inclusion at Transy. We'll be presenting Lifetime Peacemaker and Peacemaker of the Year Awards.

Registration details coming soon

Fri. Feb 3 from 5:30pm-8:30pm: "Cooks for a Cause"—CKCPJ Board Members Melynda Price and Tanya Torp join more than 2 dozen "Cook Competitors" at Debra Hensley's next Social Stimulus, held at God's Pantry Warehouse (1685 Jaggie Fox Way, Lexington). Event is kid-friendly, free and open to the public, and alleviates hunger in our region: info at http://www.debrassocialstimulus.com/project ironchef.shtml.

Congrats to board member Arne Bathke,

recognized as one of six Great Teachers at the University of Kentucky. Honors included taking center court at Rupp Arena Jan. 17 during the Arkansas vs. Kentucky men's basketball game. To see a video of the teachers reflecting on the honor and their teaching goals, go to: http://bit.ly/UKteachers.

March 22-24—5th Annual Bluegrass Local

Food Summit: Promotional material from Sustainable Communities Network states: "The Bluegrass Local Food Summit serves as a place to celebrate food, learn from each other, and develop common understandings about the links between food, health, the environment, and local economies."

Events and activities include workshops on Food Policy, Climate Change and Food, Sustainable Farming Methods, Faith and Food, the journey from Farm to School or Institution, and Food Equity.

Saturday will feature hands-on workshops such as: School Gardens, Bee-Keeping, Raising Chickens, Goats in the City, Composting, Organic Gardening, Youth-Run sessions, Healthy Cooking, Native Plants.

Info: www.sustainlex.org, Contact: Jim Embry by email: embryjim@gmail.com; or 859.270.3699.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

•Thank You! Now's the Time to Make Your Voice Heard—
Letter Writing Tips and Suggestionsfront page
•Mary Alice Pratt: A Life of Peace and Justicepage 2
·CKCPJ and MLK Day—Freedom Riders Film; !00 Days of
·Occupy Lexington; Our Nov. Iran Presentation at U.Kpage 3
·Kentucky General Assembly: Resources & Advocacypage 4
·We Need Laws for Responsible Lending; Lobbying Days for

Mountains, Children, Progressive Immigration	page 5
·Christian-Muslim Dialogue Sat. Jan. 28; Fri. Feb. 10	Un-
dressing Normal; .Edible Garden 2012 Meetings; Mou	ıntain
Justice Spring Break 2012; MLK "Beyond Vietnam"	page 6
·Feb. 8 Humanist Forum "Geochronology: Geologic Tin	ne and
the Age of the Earth; Feb. 16 Eugenie Scott-"Darwi	in:
Revolutionary or Demon?"	page 7