

# PEACEWAYS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE | JANUARY 2013 | #264 | WWW.PEACEANDJUSTICEKY.ORG

## THANK YOU to All of Our Supporters

**As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them.**

**—John F. Kennedy**

We at The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice offer our most heart-felt thanks to every one of you who contributed financially in the past weeks.

This year, through our participation in Lexington's GoodGiving Challenge 2012 (run through the Blue Grass Community Foundation with Smiley Pete Publishers), and our annual holiday greeting, we have been the beneficiaries of tremendous generosity.

We are still a tiny organization whose budget is smaller than most people's salary. We remain almost entirely dependent on the volunteer efforts of dedicated individuals. But at a time when many charities are needing to scale back, your contributions enable us to continue our efforts and even seek ways to expand our reach and capacity.

Yes, we'll be looking for more volunteer energy! However, we are tremendously heartened by your vote of confidence. We know that peace is possible, but that it takes courage, determination, grit, good humor, and many, many hands.

We present the words of Martin Luther King, Jr. at right as a reminder of the distance yet to travel. His words inspire us and sober us. Here's to the work that lies ahead of us as a Council, a nation, and a people of peace dedicated to justice.

## Conquering the Giant Triplets of Racism, Materialism, and Militarism

*This excerpt is from Martin Luther King's "A Time to Break Silence" speech, delivered at Riverside Church, New York City, on April 4, 1967*

I am convinced that if we are to get on the right side of the world revolution, we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a "thing-oriented" society to a "person-oriented" society. When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism, and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

A true revolution of values will soon cause us to question the fairness and justice of many of our past and present policies. On the one hand we are called to play the good Samaritan on life's roadside; but that will be only an initial act. One day we must come to see that the whole Jericho road must be transformed so that men and women will not be constantly beaten and robbed as they make their journey on life's highway. True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it is not haphazard and superficial. It comes to see that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring. A true revolution of values will soon look uneasily on the glaring contrast of poverty and wealth.

## New at the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice in 2013

### We're Moving!

As of February 1, our new address will be

**The Central Kentucky Council  
for Peace and Justice  
@ The Plantory, Suite 105  
560 East Main Street  
Lexington KY 40508**

The new office space costs less, provides us with ADA-accessible facilities, a large

conference room for meetings and trainings, and a community of social innovators and folks who are working to create change. To learn more about The Plantory, go to <http://plantory.org>.

### Keep in Touch!

**Our email addresses, phone number, website address all remain the same. We'd love to hear from you.**

### Welcome, Craig Wilkie, CKCPJ's new Treasurer!

Craig's professional knowledge and expertise has already benefitted the Council tremendously. We are most grateful for his commitment to CKCPJ as our newest board member.

Former Treasurer Howard Myers has taken on a new role as Chair of our Finance Committee. Thank you, Howard, for your years of service as our Treasurer, and for continuing your efforts on behalf of our financial health.

## The Central Kentucky Council for Peace & Justice

Board of Directors: Joan Braune, April Browning, Rebecca DiLoreto (co-chair), Corey Dunn, Mary Ann Ghosal, Teresa Hendricks, Randolph Hollingsworth, Billie Mallory, Richard Mitchell, Bruce Mundy (co-chair), Howard Myers (chair, finance committee), Kerby Neill, Steve Pavey, Pedro Santiago, Rabbi Uri Smith, Tanya Torp, Janet Tucker, Craig Wilkie (treasurer) **Staff:** *Peaceways* Newsletter: Gail M. Koehler, editor. Betsy Neale, copy editing and proof-reading.

*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, Gay and Lesbian Services Organization (GLSO), Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky, Humanitarian, 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,



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# Homelessness in Lexington

## The Greatness of a Nation —or City— Is Determined by How It Cares for Its Most Vulnerable Citizens

During 2011, 36,897 homeless individuals died in America, and at least a dozen of those died in Lexington, from their grueling lifestyles and lack of basic needs.

Statistics reveal that homeless people live 30 years fewer than the general population, due to the lack of adequate medical care for chronic health conditions or severe mental illness, high incidence of drug and alcohol abuse and the harsh conditions under which they live, as well as the increased risk of victimization and murder on our streets across America.

Recently, in Lexington, a severely mentally ill man in a wheelchair suffering from loss of bowel and bladder control was discharged from area hospitals three times to the streets. His organs were shutting down, and he eventually died.

He was not just another number. He was a son, a brother, a fellow human being and a child of God, who died alone without comfort or dignity.

It has been said that the greatness of a nation is determined by how it cares for its most vulnerable citizens. The same goes for a city that aspires to greatness.

Is this the compassionate city that we desire for our citizens with no address? We can and should do better, Lexington, regardless of one's status in life. We must do better.

Rest in peace, Charlie.

*Billie Mallory, Social Worker, Lexington*

*Note: this letter appeared in the Letters to the Editor section of the Lexington Herald-Leader, Nov. 21, under the title "Homeless die on our streets due to lifestyles, neglect"*

## Local Updates and Volunteer Opportunities

### Point-in-Time Homelessness

**Count:** This year's homeless count will be on Jan 31. Organizers need volunteers to help with surveys of homeless individuals in centers /shelters/on the street. If you have an hour or two on that day (particularly between 12 noon and-2pm), call Bille Mallory at 859.285.5211 if you can help.

Conducting a Point-in-Time Count provides a snapshot of who experiences homelessness throughout the year, and is important in determining a community's needs and where limited resources should go.

### The Catholic Action Center:

Go to [www.godsnet.info](http://www.godsnet.info) to see details of items needed and volunteer opportunities, or call 859.514.7210. With recent changes at the Veterans Administration, veterans in Lexington are now moving through transitional housing in 4-5 months, and into their own apartment. You can assist this effort by donating gently used household supplies (sheets, towels/washcloths, silverware especially).

### The New Life Day Center is

thriving with over 100-150 individuals each day (on an afternoon before Christmas, there were groups playing Bingo, making tree ornaments, and working jigsaw puzzles). Volunteers are needed Mon-Fri 10 am-2 pm or any amount of time, particularly in the morning. Please contact Director Steve Polson at: [sapolson1@aol.com](mailto:sapolson1@aol.com).

**The Lighthouse** will be expanding with the purchase and renovation of a large building behind their current location. This will allow them to serve more men for residential substance abuse treatment, with hopes to eventually serve women as well. Interested in helping? Contact the Lighthouse at 859.259.3434.

# Lexington's Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) Needs Your Support!

On Thurs, Jan. 29, at 1pm in the LFUCG Council Chambers, 200 East Main St, Lexington, we have an opportunity to demonstrate to the city council our support for an AHTF in Lexington.

## What is a Housing Trust Fund?

(This text is adapted from the Center for Community Change Housing Trust Fund resources found at ([http://bit.ly/H\\_TF](http://bit.ly/H_TF)))

Because access to decent, affordable housing is the foundation of every healthy community, many local and state governments recognize that they need to contribute public resources to adequately house their residents. Housing trust funds (HTFs) are a vehicle to do exactly that.

The key to a fund's success is that it receives ongoing dedicated sources of public funding which then support the preservation and production of affordable housing.

Because of the cyclical nature of public and private funding, communities can fall farther and farther behind in addressing the growing need for affordable housing. Dedicated sources of public funding are essential because decent affordable housing should not be dependent upon an unreliable and highly political budget process.

A Housing Trust Fund with guaranteed revenue streams can provide a stable and steady source of funding for affordable shelter.

## LFUCG Council Needs to Hear From You by Jan. 29!

by Kelly Doyle, BUILD Organizer

The affordable housing crisis in Lexington continues to grow:

- In 2010, over half (53%) of the renters in our city paid unaffordable rents to keep a roof over their family.
- Over a quarter (26%) of those renters are forced to pay half of their income in rent each month.
- Families that pay too much in housing costs are at risk of becoming homeless.
- The lack of affordable housing affects nearly 27,000 Lexingtonians directly.

An affordable housing trust fund can significantly reduce this problem.

Affordable housing trust funds are the single most impressive advance in the affordable housing field in the United States over the last several decades. There are now more than 625 city and county housing trust funds in operation nationwide.

These funds are efficient and report highly successful track records addressing a wide range of critical housing needs.

In Lexington, an important study proposed investment of \$4 million would provide resources for the following:

- An average of approximately 470 housing opportunities each year, including 150 new construction projects and 320 rehabilitation projects.
- More than 363 new jobs directly and indirectly supported by the trust fund investment.
- More than \$43.3 million of direct, indirect and induced economic activity generated from trust fund investment.

And what would this cost those of us with means? The proposal is to raise revenue for this investment through a 1% increase to the insurance premium tax.

Now, the LFUCG has adjusted to a 0.5% increase to the insurance premium tax. To estimate your own cost, add up the total of your insurance and multiple it by .005. While the cost would vary with the cost of insurance for households and businesses, one BUILD leader determined her own cost to be about \$15 per year.

Lexington needs the substantial benefits of more affordable housing today.

Be sure to contact your LFUCG council member, the at-large members, and the vice mayor before Jan. 29 to encourage them to support the affordable housing trust fund. You can reach them by phone by dialing 311.

## Columnist Beth Connors-Manke: We're Presented with a Moral Choice

For the full text of the excellent article by Beth Connors-Manke in the Dec. 5 edition of the newspaper North of Center, go to <http://bit.ly/BC-M>.

In her Dec. 5 article, Beth Connors-Manke reflects on the experience of re-watching the film *It's a Wonderful Life*.

"The transcendent part of *It's a Wonderful Life* is supposed to be George Bailey's realization that his life, disappointing as it was to him, had positively impacted others' lives. As viewers, we're supposed to empathize with George's struggles and be warmed by his hope and reconciliation at the end. However, when I watched the film again..., the part that resonated the most wasn't George's redemption; it was the economics of housing.

**... "as in the film, we're in the midst of historic economic injustices rooted in the housing market... And, as in the film, we're presented with a moral choice: do we make housing affordable, or do we let the market perpetually inflate rent, let it mandate that families are put out of their homes, let it drown homeowners whose mortgages are upside down?"**

"After almost five years, the volleying of the AHTF question between various Council committees, and much 'studying,' Council is still generally squeamish about standing for affordable housing in Lexington. The councilmembers who have committed to this form of justice are Chris Ford (District 1) and Steve Kay (At-Large). If your councilmember is not on that list, you're encouraged to call his or her office and press the importance of an AHTF. You can reach them by dialing 311.

# Calendar for Peace & Justice

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

**TUE. JAN. 22**

## Peaceable Kingdom Documentary Screening

6 pm, Good Foods Market & Café's Board presents Peaceable Kingdom, the first film in its 2013 series at Lexington Public Central Library's Parish Theater, 140 East Main St, Lexington. This prize-winning documentary explores the awakening conscience of several people who grew up in the traditional farming culture and are now questioning the basic assumptions of their way of life. Admission is free. Moderated discussion to follow. Recommended for teen and adult audiences only (due to graphic footage). Facebook event page: <http://bit.ly/CoopKing>.

**TUE. JAN. 29**

## Support the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (AHTF) in Lexington!

1pm in the LFUCG Council Chambers, 200 East Main St, Lexington, the Budget and Finance committee meets to consider a funding proposal to guarantee a revenue stream for the AHTF. Over a quarter of renters in Lexington are forced to pay half of their income in rent each month, and the lack of affordable housing affects nearly 27,000 people directly. Lexington needs the substantial benefits of more affordable housing. (See page 3 for more on the AHTF)

Call your LFUCG council member, the at-large members, and the vice mayor before January 29 to encourage them to support the affordable housing trust fund. You can reach them by dialing 311.

See page 3 for more details.

Monthly Community Meetings

•**February CKCPJ Board Meeting** Location: at our new offices, 560 E. Third St. Lexington. Date and Time TBA. Now that we are in new office space, we look forward to setting a regular schedule. All are welcome at our board meetings. Thank you for your patience! Contact us at 859.488.1448 or [peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com) for details of February's meeting.

•**Every Thursday 5:30-6:00 pm, Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace**, Triangle Park (corner of Broadway and Main St ) in downtown Lexington. Contact: Richard Mitchell 859.327.6277.

•**1st Monday 12:00 noon - 1:30 pm, Kentucky Migrant Network**, Cardinal Valley Center, 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington. Contact: Isabel Gereda Taylor [itaylor@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:itaylor@lexingtonky.gov) 859.258.3824.

•**2nd Tuesday 6:30-8:30 pm, PFLAG: Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered**. Support Group Mtg. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr. Lexington (Go to the end of the parking lot, and then in the side door). **Tues, Feb. 12:** Guest speaker Dr. April S. Callis, Anthropology Dept, NKU. "The GLBT community and ex-gay 'recovery' ministries." Programs are followed by Q & A, support group discussion, refreshments. Family members, allies, and GLBT individuals of all ages are welcome. Info: [www.pflaglex.org](http://www.pflaglex.org) or email: [president@pflaglex.org](mailto:president@pflaglex.org) or call 859.338.4393.

•**2nd Tuesday 7:30 pm, Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky** Central Lexington Public Library, 140 E. Main St, Lexington. Contact: Craig Cammack, Chair 859.951.8565 or [info@lexfair.org](mailto:info@lexfair.org).

•**Wed Night GLSO (Gay and Lesbian Services Organization) discussion group** is back at 7pm at the Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave, Lexington. GLSO operates Kentucky's only Pride Center, where they've been quietly providing services to the GLBTQQIA community for decades. More info, hours Pride Center is open and other links at: <http://www.glsso.org>.

•**2nd Wednesday Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky:** 7-8:30pm, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd, Lexington.. **Feb. 13** "Darwin Day" program. The Forum is a Chapter of the American Humanist Association). Its meetings are open to people of all beliefs willing to express their opinions in a civil manner. Childcare is provided. Contact: President Staci Maney, [staci@olliegee.com](mailto:staci@olliegee.com) or 859.797.2662.

•**3rd Thursday 7:00 pm Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC)**, Episcopal Diocese Mission House at 4th St. & MLK Blvd, Lexington. Contact: Ondine Quinn 859.276.0563.

•**Every Sunday 2:30-4:00pm, NAMI Lexington** Support Groups—Participation Station, 869 Sparta Court, Lexington. Contact: call 859.272.7891 or go to [www.namilex.org](http://www.namilex.org).

•**Saturday Christian-Muslim Dialogue: Usually 4th Sat. 10-noon**, meetings followed by a potluck. **Jan. 26:** Barbara Klein, Exec. Dir, Kentucky Refugee Ministry, "Welcoming the Stranger." At Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden, Lexington. More Info: email [holmes@uky.edu](mailto:holmes@uky.edu).

Want your group's meeting listed here?

Contact us: [peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com) or call 859.488.1448

**THUR. JAN 31**

### **Walk for a Sustainable Future Fund Raiser Event**

7 pm, at University of Kentucky's W.T. Young Library, 401 Hilltop Ave, Lexington. Come join the kick off event for the FootPrints for Peace "Walk For A Sustainable Future \*People \*Jobs \*Environment & To Stop Mountaintop Removal." You're invited to hear Jim Toren, CEO and Event Organizer for FootPrints for Peace, Ondine Quinn, Central Kentucky Organizer for KFTC (Kentuckians for the Commonwealth), and Colonel Bob Thompson, Resident Front Porch Storyteller for the Kentucky Home Front Radio Show in Louisville & Friends. Facebook event with link to FootPrints for Peace donation site: <http://bit.ly/WalkFFP>.

**FRI. FEB. 1**

### **Essays for I Love Mountains Day Contest DUE!**

KFTC's Essay Contest Topic: "Why we need to protect our mountains and mountain communities." Open to youth, age 5 to 25, who live in Kentucky. Essay writers from each age category will be invited to join a special KFTC youth delegation that hand-delivers their essays to top lawmakers in the Kentucky House and Senate at I Love Mountains Day. Each winning essay author will also receive a KFTC t-shirt of his or her choosing. Details, registration, and to upload essays directly by Feb. 1: <http://kftc.org/love/essay>.

**FEB. 1-14**

### **FootPrints for Peace Walk For A Sustainable Future**

Starting February 1st in Prestonsburg with a tour of a Mountaintop Removal site, walkers will make their way through the state, finishing Feb.

14 in Frankfort for the I Love Mountains Day Event organized by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC). Info and to register for the MTR Tour & Walk see FootPrints for Peace website:

[www.footprintsforpeace.org](http://www.footprintsforpeace.org).

Info on I Love Mountains Day Event please visit: [www.kftc.org](http://www.kftc.org).

**THURS. FEB. 7**

### **Tax Reform Meeting: Partnership for Kentucky's Future**

2 pm in the Capitol Annex, Room 171, in Frankfort. Review and explore what the Partnership can do to make good tax reform more likely in 2013. For more: contact Jason Bailey, Director, Kentucky Center for Economic Policy (KCEP) at [jbailey@maced.org](mailto:jbailey@maced.org) or 859.986.2373. Website: [www.kypolicy.org](http://www.kypolicy.org).

**THURS. FEB. 28**

### **Anne Braden: Southern Patriot Film Screening**

SAVE THE DATE! 6-8:30pm in the Lexington Public Central Library's Farish Theater, 140 East Main St, Lexington. Celebrate the last day of Black History Month and beginning of Women's History Month by attending this film screening and discussion.

### **Project C.U.R.E. Lexington update**

Retired organizer Suzi Kifer says: "We continue to receive contacts from people with medical supplies to donate to Project CURE. As no one has stepped forward to coordinate Lexington Project CURE, we take names and contact information but tell donors that for the moment we are no longer accepting donations and they will be contacted if the program begins again. I have been referring people to the SOS program in Louisville that does many of the same things that Project CURE does. If anyone would consider coordinating the Lexington Project CURE, please let me know at 859.277.0816 or [suzikifer@insightbb.com](mailto:suzikifer@insightbb.com)."

## **...After the Vigils**



In the aftermath of the Dec. 14 shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary school, CKCPJ held a vigil in downtown Lexington to express our deep sadness, and also our hope that the "light that inspires us inspires others to step forward as well," said CKCPJ board member Richard Mitchell.

Vigils were organized throughout the Commonwealth and nationally. In Lexington, Maxwell Presbyterian Church clergy Woody Berry and Kyle Brown led another, well-attended vigil at Triangle Park in early January.

Since then, we've been keeping our ears open for organizing efforts on the issues raised by this latest incident of high-profile gun violence. Here are two we've heard of:

### **The Power of Peace in the Park**

Patrice Muhammed, publisher of the Key Newsjournal, organized a gathering of people concerned about gun violence for Jan. 17 in Douglass Park on Georgetown St. in Lexington. We are hoping to have a report of that meeting in our February issue.

### **Million Mom March**

The Central KY Chapter of the Million Mom March is planning a meeting. Their motto is "Sensible gun laws, safe kids." Contact Nancy McKenney, chapter president, at [Nancy.mckenney@eku.edu](mailto:Nancy.mckenney@eku.edu) or 895.273.4280 for more information.

**Do you know of other organizing efforts to solve gun violence? We'd love to hear from you: send reports of activities, or announcements of meetings, to [peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com).**

# The Force That's More Powerful: Nonviolence

## A Force More Powerful: A Century of Nonviolent Conflict

By Peter Ackerman and Jack Duvall, 2000, published by Palgrave, New York

Book review by Geoff Young

The main point of this sweeping historical book is that well-organized, nonviolent campaigns can often bring about political progress more effectively than violence and warfare. The authors describe more than a dozen 20th-Century conflicts where dictators were overthrown, authoritarian systems were opened up, and civil rights were obtained through nonviolent means. Although I will focus on the book, a video and a simulation game are also available via the internet. (The related website with full online supports including additional resources, lesson plans and more, are available at: [www.aforcemorepowerful.org](http://www.aforcemorepowerful.org).)

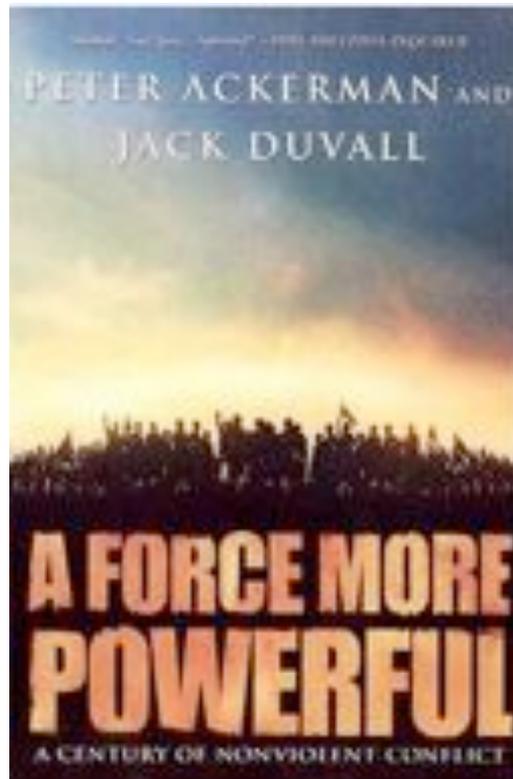
A wide range of nonviolent actions have been used, including strikes, boycotts, sit-ins, demonstrations, creating alternative sources of information, resignations from key positions, and organizing mutual assistance networks to counter repression. Activists need to be ready to negotiate and sometimes temporarily settle for less than their maximal demands in order to keep the movement alive to resume the struggle in other ways or at a later time.

It takes a great deal of courage, discipline, and training for a movement to refrain from violence when the authorities are using violence to maintain their positions of power.

But time and again, dictators have found themselves powerless when their own military forces refused to carry out orders to attack their fellow citizens. The authorities are usually skilled and practiced in

using force; for a movement to choose to use their opponent's favorite tactic is often a serious blunder.

The authors devote chapters to some of the most exciting nonviolent campaigns of the 20th Century, including Gandhi's campaign for India's independence from Britain in the 1930s, the civil rights movement in



the American South, the campaign to end Apartheid in South Africa, the campaign by Solidarity in Poland to reform the Communist government there, and the People's Power movement in the Philippines against dictator Ferdinand Marcos. Several lesser-known nonviolent struggles are also described in fascinating detail.

Certain themes emerge repeatedly, but one stands out. A ruler's power ultimately depends on people's willingness to obey his commands, not on the weapons the authorities have. Successful nonviolent movements systematically whittle away at their opponent's sources of power, whether those sources be military, economic, or ideological.

In a discussion of violence at the end of the book, the authors warn:

While nonviolent movements often made progress in the twentieth century by instigating conflict rather than seeking peace, the addition of violence to a movement's sanctions can discredit any kind of cause. Terror as a weapon of insurgency frightens and eventually antagonizes the population whose support is needed for achieving legitimacy and attracting outside help; it can change the issue in the conflict from the substantive goal at stake to the means chosen to pursue that goal. [p.466]

The means cannot be separated from the ends. Nonviolent movements also enable people to develop the skills they need to govern themselves.

Nonviolent movements in India, Poland, and elsewhere were incubators of democracy. They taught individuals how to assume responsibility for their own action and make consensual decisions about the substance of goals and the process of reaching them. Violence is not a learning tool, and military force is intrinsically negative: It can deter or diminish an enemy, but it cannot force people to embrace its agenda. Shooting your way to power may destroy the old order, but you cannot free your people until they give you their consent. [p.468]

The book could be updated to include the Arab Spring, where nonviolent movements have proven to be more successful than armed revolts in laying the basis for functioning democracies.

Given that few of us learned in school how effective nonviolent conflict can be, the lessons this book contains are invaluable.

*Geoff Young is a Lexington -based activist. You can reach him via email at [energetic@windstream.net](mailto:energetic@windstream.net).*

# Working Against Sweatshops, for Fairness

## UK Students Hold Vigil to Remember Sweatshop Workers Who Lost Their Lives

On Dec. 3, on UK's front lawn, the University of Kentucky student group United Students Against Sweatshops held an interfaith candlelight vigil for workers who have died in the garment industry. Most recently, just weeks before the vigil, 122 garment workers lost their lives in an avoidable factory fire in Bangladesh.



University of Kentucky Students United Against Sweatshops, at the December 3rd vigil. Photo: Peaceways staff

In a letter to UK President Capilouto, the student group wrote: "The industry's unaccountable business model that allows major apparel brands to claim no responsibility for the working conditions under which their apparel is produced will only lead to more such disasters."

Their organizing actions are intended to encourage President Capilouto to affiliate UK with an independent watchdog group called the Workers Rights Consortium.

If you're interested, they have a very active Facebook group that shares updates, events, and links ([http://bit.ly/UK\\_united](http://bit.ly/UK_united)). We hear there is a teach-in Jan. 23, and a rally to demonstrate support when next they talk to Pres. Capilouto, Jan. 30. We'll have to watch the fb page for details: let us know if you want to hear their news from us ([peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com)), as support from the larger community is invited.

## CKCPJ Board Members Contribute

The vigil included contributions from a number of people. Among them, CKCPJ board member Kerby Neil offered a prayer, and former board member Soreyda Benedict-Begley spoke about her own experiences as a former sweatshop worker in Honduras. She is the current director of the Lexington Fashion Collaborative, and one of the organizers of a new project (*see right*).

From the UK Kernel article covering the vigil:

Soreyda Benedict-Begley "told about the need for her to work to help support her family at the age of fourteen and how people, girls mostly, would line up outside factories and beg to be chosen for work.

"Fourteen-year-olds here shout for Justin Beiber, fourteen-year-olds there shout to get a job," Benedict-Begley said.

She said in a place where money was so scarce, the small wages of the sweatshops seemed like a lot.

"I actually wanted to leave school to work in those places because I was like, yeah, I'm making money," Benedict-Begley said.

The work day, generally spanning from seven in the morning to ten at night was full of stress and expectations causing workers to skip lunch and breaks, she said.

"There is always a continuous pressure, if you were not keeping up you could be fired," Benedict-Begley said.

Since coming to Lexington about 13 years ago, Benedict-Begley has become involved with fashion—not just the glamour of it, she says, but the background of how things are made. One student said the program was a motivation to act.

"I think hearing from Soreyda was very striking for me," said Delia Gibbs, psychology and Spanish senior. "Hearing first-hand her accounts was very powerful."

For the full text of the article by UK Kernel reporter Morgan Eades, go to: [http://bit.ly/M\\_Eads](http://bit.ly/M_Eads).

## Lexington Fashion Collaborative Creates Program to Develop Skills and Industry Here in Kentucky

The Lexington Fashion Collaborative is in the pilot phase of their Professional Sewing Cooperative and Classes project.

The initial phase of the project targets refugees who are learning English, with the goal of providing a means of sustainable employment and a means of social and economic integration to a network of professionals in the fashion design industry. However, the project is not exclusive and will be open to any other individual interested in the training.

Intended to provide participants with professional sewing skills, the project simultaneously develops manufacturing capacity for the high fashion industry in the central KY area. And it targets and benefits the local emerging design industry that has no access to designer garment manufacturing in the central Kentucky area.

The pilot project is intended to grow into an extended series of classes to support tailoring and small business entrepreneurship and a sustainable high fashion garment manufacturing base.

The mission of the Lexington Fashion Collaborative "is to validate, promote and bring together the diverse elements of the fashion industry in Kentucky." One of their goals is inclusivity, and the collaborative "strives to be anti-oppressive and anti-racist, [and to] work for equality in all relationships."

For more on the collaborative, see [www.lexingtonfashion.org](http://www.lexingtonfashion.org).





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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

"In our culture... we have made an artificial division between thinking and acting, as though the two were mutually exclusive... The most important thing, the thing I have always lived by, is that you must be engaged in some way in the world in which you live. How, is for each person to choose."

*Feminist historian Gerda Lerner (1920-2013)*

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Moving? Please send us your new address in advance.

## Mon, Jan. 21: Some MLK Day Activities & Events

### In the City of Lexington

#### Lexington Unity Breakfast

Doors open at 6:30 am; buffet breakfast 6:30-7:45; program at 7:50. Location: Lexington Center's Heritage Hall, 430 W. Vine St, Lexington. \$20, \$200 for table of 10. (Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. <http://www.lexingtonalpha.org>)

#### 10:00 am: Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Freedom March

Participants should line up inside the corridor of downtown Lexington Center, Heritage Hall on West Main Street prior to 10 am. Departure is from downtown Lexington Center Heritage Hall.

**LOOK FOR THE CKCPJ BANNER  
TO JOIN US IN THE MARCH!!**

#### 11:00 am: "My Lord, What a Morning"

**Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Celebration  
Commemorative Program**

**Featured guest: Jeff Johnson**, award-winning journalist, author, social activist and political commentator  
Lexington Center, Heritage Halls East and Center  
[www.uky.edu/MLK](http://www.uky.edu/MLK).

#### 2:00 pm: One World Films Presents The Harry Belafonte Documentary "Sing Your Song"

**Kentucky Theater, 214 E. Main, Lexington**  
Free Parking all day in the Lexington Public Library/  
Park Plaza Garage

The 2013 One World Film Festival opens on Sun. Feb. 10, in the Farish Theatre, Lexington Public Library with the showing of the Indian film, I am Kalam. Info: 859-266-6073, or check the website [www.oneworldfilmfestival.org](http://www.oneworldfilmfestival.org).

### Berea College: Moving Beyond the Dream to Brighten the Future

- 9:15 am **Gather Union Church Sanctuary**  
*200 Prospect Street*
- 9:30 am **Why We March**  
**Dr. Gail Bowman, Director**  
*Berea College Campus Christian Center*
- 10:00 am **March to First Christian Church**  
*206 Chestnut Street*
- 11:00 am **Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Program**  
*First Christian Church Sanctuary*
- 12 noon Lunch  
*Berea College Cafeteria (Reduced Lunch—\$4)*
- 12 noon **Culturally Inclusive Teaching—Workshop**  
**Dr. Roger Cleveland, ECU College of Education:** Carter G. Woodson Center for Interracial Education  
*Seating Limited—Reservation Required*
- 1:00 pm **Presidential Inauguration Viewing**  
*Baird Lounge, Alumni Building (open to public)*
- 3:00 pm **Convocation—Never Turning Back:  
How Do We Know When We've Won?**  
**Jim Kates, Civil Rights Activist**  
Phelps-Stokes Auditorium, Berea College

Download this poster at:

<http://www.berea.edu/cgwc/calendar/>.

For more information please contact the Carter G. Woodson Center for Interracial Education at 859.985.3785.