

# PEACEWAYS

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE • WWW.PEACEANDJUSTICEKY.ORG

## University, Community Launch Peace Studies Certificate Program

*Kerby Neill's address at the Sept. 18 celebration of the community-university effort that led to UK's Peace Studies Certificate program.*

While we are excited about the development of Peace Studies at the University of Kentucky, we are still a seedling of a program.

We need to encourage other faculty to join us in teaching peace-related courses and we aspire to grow from a certificate program to a level where students can minor in Peace Studies.

We also need to determine how we relate to existing programs from which students will be entering UK, especially the exciting peace courses that have been developed at Bluegrass Community and Technical College.

Of special importance to Peace Studies and to this evening's forum is the question of how Peace Studies students can simultaneously gain practical experiences of peacemaking and be of meaningful service to the campus and Lexington communities. How do we facilitate the acquisition of personal, social, and global awareness



*Left to right: Lexington Mayor Jim Gray, CKCPJ Board Member Kerby Neill, Roshan Palli from the UK Student Government and UK President Eli Capilouto.*

that enables growing peacemakers to appreciate the perspectives of others and to grasp the historical, cultural, economic, and structural conditions that ease or exacerbate problems? Where on campus and in the community do they ply the skills that empower them to work towards just, nonviolent, and transformative solutions to local, regional, and

global conflicts? The possibilities are many and I would like to share some thoughts about our opportunities and challenges.

We can certainly learn from existing peace studies programs. Faculty at the Peace Studies program at the University of Louisville took the

*continued on page 2*



*CKCPJ's education initiative, Lexington United, participated in the September 24 "Create Peace" event at the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning by focusing on peace-making skills for young people. More about the event in November's Peaceways.*

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*The photograph of Lexington's commemoration of the March on Washington on page 1 of the September issue of Peaceways was the work of Richard Griessman.*

.....  
*In an article about Latitude Arts in the September issue of Peaceways, Mollie Rabiner's title was incorrect in the print version of Peaceways. Molly is the new Community Division Director of Latitude. Rebecca Pendleton is the new Executive Director, Medicaid Division for Latitude.*

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## ***Peace studies celebration***

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initiative to gather representatives from peace studies programs in the tri-state area of Kentucky, Indiana, and Ohio earlier this year to share ideas and explore ways to support one another. We learned what was happening in Louisville, Columbus, and Cleveland. We discovered that Bellarmine University in Louisville offers a course in peaceful communication where half the class, composed of local students, interacts via satellite with the other half, comprised of students in Lebanon.

As we were developing the Peace Studies program at UK, there was a parallel university/community effort to create a Peace House on campus where students from areas of national and international conflict might choose to work together in an enriching living/learning community. That initiative is currently sidetracked. In September, former Lexington Mayor Teresa Isaacs approached a faculty member who was working on the project to express her hope that it might be revived. We certainly share that hope.

Still, peace does break out on campus. Even as our Peace Studies program was wending its way through the approval process of the Faculty Senate last year, many UK students, with faculty support, were tackling problems of global justice. One particularly dynamic group of UK students opposed to sweatshops sought to improve the university's process for vetting corporations who might make UK apparel. The students organized, demonstrated, and did their homework. As a result, university president Dr. Eli Capilouto accepted recommendations

for the university to ally with a vetting organization with stronger ties to worker rights than the industry group with which UK was previously allied. CKCPJ recognized those students last year with their Sohner Award for advancing workers' rights.

During the past two years, CKCPJ developed a capacity for teaching conflict resolution skills to youth through creative games, and we are working hard to expand our capacity to offer experiential learning in areas of conflict resolution, prejudice reduction, and coalition building. As our capacity grows, we hope we can partner with both the University and the community in developing peace leaders.

In 2011, several members of the Lexington community expressed a concern about the declining opportunities for Lexington's low-income youth. In response, the Lexington Youth Initiative of the CKCPJ met on four occasions with over 30 youth to seek their input on issues of primary concern. We turned their concerns into a survey of 1,209 of Lexington's middle and high school youth and channeled the results to Mayor Gray's Commission on Youth Development and Public Safety, a commission set up in response to an outbreak of gun violence in Lexington. Part-time and summer jobs was the primary need given by the surveyed youth. The youth who helped us frame the questions and collect and enter the data were able to see the LFUCG respond to their efforts by adding 75 new youth jobs to the city budget. The University also engages in such classic action research and has enormous capacity to inform action on many

local problems. In retrospect, we could have all used more help from UK in the work of that commission, and we must be sure we are more conscious of one another when we tackle community problems.

Finally, I would like to suggest an area of fruitful community/University partnership that is dear to CKCPJ. We are now located in Lexington's East End about which we learn more each day. Just north of our offices lies the William Wells Brown neighborhood—a new grouping of attractive homes and apartments for low income families. I hesitate to call it a neighborhood because the residents are still in the process of getting to know each other and the community's potential for mutual support is hardly tapped. In the center of the new houses is the beautiful William Wells Brown Community School where the majority of the children are on the low side of the notorious "achievement gap." Less than 10 minutes away at the University of Kentucky are many faculty and students versed in the research that tells us what predicts low achievement, family stress, and potentials for violence.

Over the past few years several members of the CKCPJ Board have worked with community groups committed to addressing the needs of the East End or of Lexington's at-risk youth. Lisa Higgins-Hord, UK's Assistant Vice President for Community Engagement, has been an active player in these efforts. This is one of many areas of Lexington rich in opportunities for the application of peacemaking skills and multidisciplinary support. I hope we can strengthen this relationship, not with the bandaged approaches of encapsulated service learning or research projects, but with a holistic and sustained, multi-disciplinary effort in respectful partnership with community stakeholders.

Last spring I was walking through the bright halls of the William Wells Brown School when a little girl standing in line waved to me cheerily. I responded with an upbeat, "Good morning." She quickly moved her index finger over her lips to let me know there was no talking in the hallway. We are welcome there but we must follow the rules—we must empower those we serve and respect the strengths of the existing culture! We must be Peacemakers.

*Kerby Neill was key to the establishment of the UK-community partnership. He is a CKCPJ board member.*

## ***Sponsorship, co-hosting opportunities available for upcoming forum***

On November 16, Strengthening KY Families (SKY), the Fayette County Race, Community and Child Welfare Initiative and CKCPJ are sponsoring a community event: RACE

**Resolving racial issues within institutions serving families and children of color**

**Accepting accountability, creating ways to**

**Collaborating with gatekeepers and the community, and**

**Encouraging action to be taken**

The forum will present information to the community about how bias (intentional or unintentional) in institutions that serve children and families of color creates disparities that harm children. Those in attendance will

propose actions designed to build a bridge between gatekeepers and the community, and help all of us serve all children and families by increasing our compassion and commitment.

The November 16 RACE forum will be held from 1 to 4 pm at the Imani Family Life Center, 1555 Georgetown Road, Lexington.

Opportunities to co-host the event are still available and include setting up a table, donating \$25, and participating in a session at the end of the forum to help plan effective follow-up action. A response concerning co-hosting is needed by October 11. Call Shanee Walker, 859-253-1500 or email shanee.walker@kysu.edu.

# World Food Day

## March Against Monsanto-Lexington

*The March against Monsanto will be held on Sat. Oct. 12, 2013, 2pm at the Robert F. Stephenson Courthouse Plaza.*

*by April Browning*

## Kentuckians Against Monsanto

Monsanto, the world's largest pesticide producer, is a multinational agricultural biotechnology corporation and their sights are set on nothing short of complete control of our seed, therefore, of our food supply. Strategic efforts by Monsanto are facilitated by the "revolving door" between corporations and government agencies whereby Monsanto writes its own legislation, in favor of the corporation and against the common good of the people.

Why do we march?

There are many reasons to oppose the practices of one of the most nefarious corporations the world has known. They include Monsanto's tendency to sue small farmers out of business for patent infringement, (either for seed saving--something humans have done for thousands of years--or pollen drift, which farmers have no control over); documented and overwhelming examples of unethical practices; potential health risks; degradation of health; and worldwide documentation of mass deaths of livestock, Bee Colony Collapse Disorder, and much more.

"The widespread use of glyphosate [the main ingredient in Monsanto's weed killer, Roundup] is causing negative impacts on soil and plants as well as possibly animal and human health," according to Don Huber, professor emeritus of plant pathology, Purdue University.

Kentuckians Against Monsanto advocates seed sovereignty: diversity and control of our own life-providing seeds. Our first step is to spread awareness and educate, while simultaneously working on petitions and legislation to ask the Lexington-

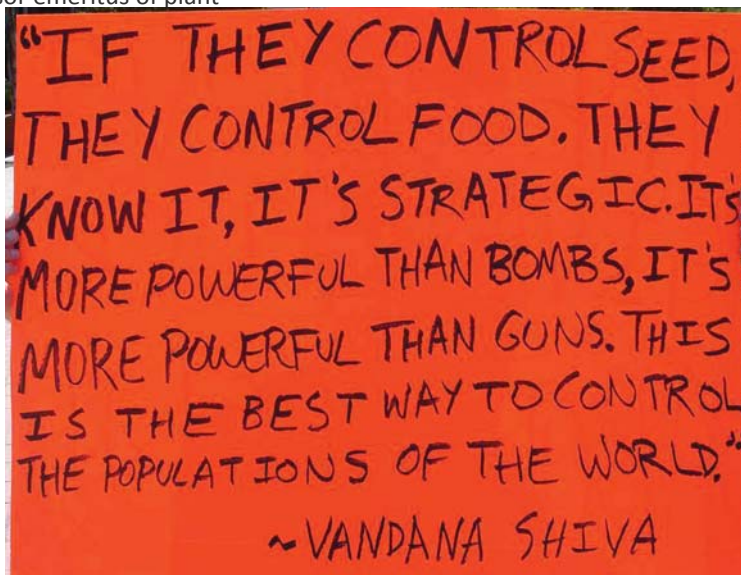
Fayette Urban County Government and the Kentucky legislature to stand behind provisions that advocate the labeling of genetically modified organisms. Poll after poll suggests that a significant majority of Americans want to know if the food they're purchasing contains GMOs. This is only the beginning of the fight against Monsanto and KAM. We fully intend to continue to demand that our elected officials represent the desires of individual constituents over corporations.

Chances are that today you ate food contaminated with Monsanto chemical and unlabeled GMOs. Monsanto already controls a large percentage of the world's food supply at the expense of food democracy worldwide. This movement is dedicated to empowering citizens of the world to take action against Monsanto, Syngenta, Bayer, Dupont, and the like. Please join us. We will have a number of dynamic speakers and entertainment, and it is extremely kid-friendly. Hope to see you there!

Join us on Facebook for updates and info: <https://www.facebook.com/events/198163960361474/>

The Non-GMO Project: <http://www.nongmoproject.org/learn-more/>

Institute for Responsible Technology: <http://www.responsibletechnology.org/health-risks>



## The Central Kentucky Council for Peace & Justice

*Board of Directors:* April Browning, David Christiansen (co-chair), Bilal El-Amin, Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto (co-chair), Mary Ann Ghosal (secretary), Marion Gibson, Randolph Hollingsworth, Rahul Karanth, Susan Lamb, Richard Mitchell, Bruce Mundy (past co-chair), Howard Myers, Kerby Neill, Steve Pavey, Nadia Rasheed, Alexandria Schon, Rabbi Uri Smith, Janet Tucker, Craig Wilkie (treasurer). *Peaceways Staff:* Margaret Gabriel (editor), Penny Christian, Gail Koehler,etsy Neale, Jim Trammel, (Proofreaders). The views expressed in this *Peaceways* newsletter are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice.

*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 Street 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.



*Peaceways* is published ten times a year by the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, 560 W. Third St., Lexington KY 40508. Deadline for calendar items for our November/December issue is October 10. Contact: 859-488-1448 or send an email to [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com).

# 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.*

**Wed. Oct. 9**

**Fifteen Years of the Humanist Forum** at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, 3564 Clay's Mill Road, Lexington. 7pm. Where have we been? Where are we going? Why are we here? Discussion leaders: Staci and Clay Maney and Dick Renfro.

**Fri.-Sun. Oct. 11-13**

**Appalachian Public Interest Environmental Law Conference**, University of Tennessee College of Law, Knoxville. The APIEL conference brings together hundreds of eco-minded and socially conscious activists, attorneys, students, scientists, and citizens to achieve environmental and social justice throughout Appalachia and surrounding areas. The conference features workshops with the goal of exchanging information, sharing skills, and fostering collaboration between grassroots organizations, the bar, and future lawyers and policy-makers. These workshops address the region's most pressing ecological problems, and the laws, policies and institutional dynamics linked to them.

Registration at [apiel.org](http://apiel.org). For questions regarding the conference please contact [apiel.info@gmail.com](mailto:apiel.info@gmail.com)

**Fri.-Sun. Oct. 11-13**

**Changing of the Leaves Festival** on Kayford Mountain in West Virginia (Larry Gibson's mountain) Sponsored by Keepers of the Mountains Foundation. Contact [elise@mountainkeeper.org](mailto:elise@mountainkeeper.org), 304-205-0920.

**Sat. Oct. 12**

**March Against Monsanto** 2pm, Robert F. Stephenson Courthouse Plaza, Lexington. The event will include speakers and entertainment. See story, p. 3.

**Your Information Here**

*Do you have an event that you would like to promote in Peaceways? Send information to [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com). Please send notification by the 10th of the month.*

**Tues. Oct. 15**

**Nourished & Ruled by Scripture**, Newman Foundation, Inc., Distinguished Speakers' Program. Oct. 15, W.T. Young Library, 7pm. Dr. Margaret Ralph, author of 15 books on Scripture, will review the contextualist approach to Scripture and then ask if we are being nourished and ruled by Scripture in regard to issues such as homosexuality and women's ordination. Parking will be available in the pay lot on Hilltop Ave.

**Thurs. Oct. 17**

**Homeless Resource Fair/Stand Down**, Central Christian Church, 205 East Short Street, Lexington 9am- 2pm. Stand Down Homeless Connect offers resources and information for veterans and people who are homeless. The event brings together service providers and information from the region to one spot and serves hundreds of Lexington's homeless people, many of whom are veterans. CKCPJ serves coffee beginning at 8am. To help, contact Billie Mallory at [mallory.billie@yahoo.com](mailto:mallory.billie@yahoo.com) or 859-285-5211. See story, p. 7

**Fri.-Sun. Oct. 18-20**

**Powershift** Pittsburgh, Penn. Large youth climate and energy conference. For more information and registration, see [www.wearepowershift.org](http://www.wearepowershift.org).

**Sat. Oct. 19**

**Celebration of the Streets**, Courthouse Square, 11 am - 4 pm. The celebration will highlight the talents of our homeless brothers and sisters. Event will include art displays, crafts made by the Street Voice Council, music, food, contests and games. See story, p8.

**Sat. Oct. 26**

**Centre Faith-Living Among Many Faith Traditions** Christian-Muslim Dialogue. Panel: Students from Centre College, Danville, Ky., Dr. Rick Axtel, Paul L. Cantrell, Associate Professor of Religion and Chaplain, Centre College. Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden, Lexington.

**Thurs. Oct. 31**

**Deadline LWV 2013 Essay Contest.** Open to all Fayette County high school students (public and private). Topic: Gerrymandering. Prizes awarded for the top three essays. For more information, see story, p7.

**Sat. Nov. 9**

**Book Signing, Dr. Jakobi Williams**, Wild Fig Bookstore, 1439 Leestown Road, Lexington. 4 pm Dr. Williams will speak and sign copies of his new book, *From the Bullet to the Ballot: The Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party and Racial Coalition Politics in Chicago*

**Sat. Nov. 16**

**Resolving Accepting Creating Encouraging** Community Event. 1- 4 pm Imani Family Life Center, 1555 Georgetown Road, Lexington. The forum will present information about how bias in institutions that serve children and families of color creates disparities for children. Participants will propose actions designed to build bridges between gatekeepers and the community. Contact Shanee Walker, 859-253-1500 or [shanee.walker@kysu.edu](mailto:shanee.walker@kysu.edu).

**Sat. Nov. 23**

**Annual Shared Thanksgiving Feast** Christian Muslim dialogue. Turkey (halel) dinner with all the trimmings. Program: Counting Our Blessings Through the Arts. Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden, Lexington.

**Tues. Dec. 3**

**Wild and Scenic Film Festival**, Kentucky Theater, Lexington. Sponsored by Kentucky Heartwood. Volunteers needed to screen films and assemble sponsors. [www.kyheartwood.org/wild--scenic-film-festival.html](http://www.kyheartwood.org/wild--scenic-film-festival.html)

**Thurs.-Sat. Feb. 27-Mar. 1**

**Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference**, University of Kentucky, Lexington. Keynote addresses by Dr. Laura Pulido, Dr. Bruce Braun. Registration deadline, Dec. 2.

# Mountain Justice

## Fall Summit

Friday - Sunday Oct 25-27  
Southern West Virginia

Join Mountain Justice in southern West Virginia for a weekend of workshops, trainings and action in the heart of the Appalachian Mountains. You will learn about Appalachian culture and history and the long tradition of resistance to strip mining and mountaintop removal mining. You will see mountaintop removal from the top of Kayford Mountain, the homeplace of the famous "Mountain Keeper," the late Larry Gibson.

Larry died protecting his mountain from mountaintop removal; now it's up to us to keep defending his home.

We will teach you about non-violent civil disobedience and direct action and how Mountain Justice and allied organizations are using these tools to directly confront coal companies who are blowing the tops off America's oldest mountains. Mountain Justice is committed to peaceful, non-violent resistance to mountaintop removal.

Students from across America will attend. Everyone who agrees to abide by Mountain Justice's non-violence policy and mission statement is welcome to attend the Mountain Justice Fall Summit. You will have the option to participate in a direct action, or in a support role, or not. There will be opportunities to perform community service work on Kayford Mountain and in the West Virginia communities impacted by mountaintop removal.

Participants will have the option of remaining in the area for the following week for more in-depth training, listening projects and other activities. <https://www.facebook.com/events/1407707029448939/>

Registration fee for Mountain Justice Fall Summit includes all food and activities for the weekend. Lodging is tent camping, so bring your own tent, sleeping bag, water bottle, sleeping pad, camera, camping chair, warm clothes, etc. You will need to provide your own transportation and carpooling is encouraged.

The Fall Summit begins with a dinner Friday night around 6pm. We will have a youth panel after dinner, followed by a screening of the great documentary film about the mountaintop removal resistance movement *On Coal River*. There will be workshops Saturday, with live Appalachian and folk music around the campfire Saturday night. On Sunday we will visit Kayford Mountain.

### MONTHLY MEETINGS

**CKCPJ Board Meetings** THIRD MONDAYS 7pm. More info: 859-488-1448 or [peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com). All are welcome!

**Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace** Every Thursday 5:30-6pm at Triangle Park (corner of Broadway and Main St ) in downtown Lexington. Contact Richard Mitchell 859-327-6277.

**Kentucky Migrant Network** 1st Monday Noon-1:30pm, Cardinal Valley Center, 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington. Contact Isabel Gereda Taylor [itaylor@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:itaylor@lexingtonky.gov), 859-258-3824.

**PFLAG: Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered** 2nd Tuesday 6:30-8:30 pm. Support Group Meeting. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr. Lexington (Go to the end of the parking lot, and then in the side door). Info: [www.pflaglex.org](http://www.pflaglex.org) or email [president@pflaglex.org](mailto:president@pflaglex.org) or call 859-338-4393. Programs are followed by a question and answer session, support group discussion, refreshments. Family members, allies, and GLBT individuals of all ages are welcome.

**Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky** 2nd Tuesday 7:30pm, Lexington Public Central Library, 140 E.Main St, Lexington. Contact Craig Cammack, Chair, 859-951-8565 or [info@lexfair.org](mailto:info@lexfair.org).

**Wed Night GLSO discussion group** 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 GLBTQQA community for decades. More info, hours Pride Center is open and other links at: <http://www.glso.org>.

**Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky** 2nd Wednesday, 7-8:30pm, in the Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church. The Forum is a Chapter of the American Humanist Association. 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.

**Kentuckians for the Commonwealth** 3rd Thursday, 7pm Episcopal Diocese Mission House at 4th St. & MLK Blvd, Lexington. Contact Ondine Quinn, 859-276-0563.

**NAMI Lexington Support Groups** Every Sunday 2:30-4pm. Participation Station, 869 Sparta Court, Lexington. Call 859-272-7891 or go to [www.namilex.org](http://www.namilex.org).

**Christian-Muslim Dialogue Fall Program** 4th Saturday 10am-noon. All are welcome. Locations vary, call 859-277-5126. The Christian-Muslim Dialogue promotes understanding and mutual respect between Christians and Muslims. By exploring moral, cultural and political factors shaping the current context, it promotes personal and collective responsibility to build a more just and peaceful world.

**Want your group's meeting listed here?**  
Contact [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com) or 859-488-1448.

# Lexington Observes the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington

by Richard Mitchell

A march on Washington took place on August 28, 1963. Exactly 50 years later to the day, August 28, 2013, over 300 central Kentuckians gathered at Lexington's Courthouse Square to observe the anniversary of what was arguably the most important march in our nation's history.

The *March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom* was neither the beginning nor the end. The march crowned a decade of activism. Between 1957 and 1967, thousands of smaller actions (marches, sit-ins, pray-ins) involved tens of thousands of people from the rural South to the cities of the West, Midwest, and Northeast. In those smaller events, the work was done. But on that day in 1963, the movement defined itself, through the voices of Dr. Martin Luther King and many others, clearly calling our nation to justice, freedom, and equality. Over 250,000 Americans, led by African Americans, but including many Caucasians, filled the mall in front of the Lincoln Memorial. They came together on a weekday



Lexington's commemoration of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom included speakers, singers, and poets.

– union members, clergy, Christian and Jewish Americans – to sing, pray, listen, and, ultimately, to call the nation to dream.

Similarly, our goal 50 years later was to bring together a diverse assembly to remind Kentuckians of Dr. King's Dream. The event came together when the Lexington Chapter of the NAACP and the CKCPJ decided to observe the anniversary in central Kentucky. On short notice a committee assembled. Representing the NAACP were Adrian Wallace,

Jojuana Greene, and Rev. Jim Thurman. Representing the CKCPJ were George Ella Lyon, Randolph Hollingsworth, and Richard Mitchell.

The Committee agreed to honor those who had risked their lives for freedom 50 years ago. Their work produced major change, but we were not certain we wanted to characterize the event as a "celebration." There is still much to do. Too many African Americans, immigrants, and women are poor, unemployed or marginally employed. They are profiled by race, tangled in the prison system, suffer from poor health outcomes, or underachievement in school. Our goals were to honor activists of the 1960s and recommit ourselves to their work.

It was an amazing, uplifting event. Thanks to all who attended and to speakers (Fr. Norman Fischer, Lexington Mayor Jim Gray, P. G. Peebles, Monica Hall, Rev. Dr. Nancy Jo Kemper, Rabbi Marc Kline and Imam Shahied Rashid); poets (Frank X Walker and George Ella Lyon); musicians (Whit Whitaker, the Reel World String Band and Unity Chorus, Justin Rohrer, Clay Coffey, and Jojuana Greene); and the Total Grace Anointed Dancers; 7<sup>th</sup> graders of Carter G. Woodson Academy; Steve Lyon for the sound system; Central Christian Church for providing a backup site in case of rain; and Adrian Wallace for all sorts of logistics. Finally, thanks to our moderators, NAACP President Rev. Jim Thurman and former CKCPJ co-Chair Dr. Randolph Hollingsworth, who deftly guided us through a program that changed in progress.

## Williams to sign new book at Wild Fig Bookstore

by Janet Tucker

On November 9 the Central Kentucky Restoration of Voting Rights Campaign (ROVRC) will welcome Jakobi Williams to Lexington. He was on the faculty in the history department at UK until August 2013



Dr. Jakobi Williams will speak and sign copies of his new book at Wild Fig Bookstore on Nov. 9.

and is currently associate professor at Indiana University. Dr. Williams will be at Wild Fig Bookstore, 1439 Leestown Road, at 4pm to speak and sign his book, *From the Bullet to the Ballot: The Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party and Racial Coalition Politics in Chicago*.

The community has been focused on history following the commemoration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1963 march on Washington for Jobs and Freedom. Dr. Williams' book tells another and often overlooked part of the history of the United States. He focuses on the history of the Black Panther Party in Chicago in the context of the long history of racial segregation in Chicago. Fred Hampton was a charismatic, highly effective and visionary leader of the ILBPP (Illinois Black Panther Party). His life was cut short with his brutal murder on December 4, 1969, at the age of 21.

Speaking of the legacy of the

*continued on page 8*



Sandra Brown

*Lexington United trainer Gail Koehler, summer camp graduate Ya'el Brown, trainer William Anderson, and summer camp graduate Simon Houlihan practice the cooperative game Levitating Hula Hoop" at the Carnegie Center's "Create Peace" event.*

## LWV 2013 Essay Contest

The League for Women Voters 2013 essay contest for high school students in Fayette County is open. The deadline to submit essays is October 31.

The 2013 topic is gerrymandering with supporting questions about its use today, its effects and possible ways to redistrict that are fair to all constituencies.

The prizes are \$250 for first place, \$150 for second place and \$100 for third place with cash honoraria for the teacher mentors of the winners.

If you know teenagers attending school in Fayette County, public or private, please encourage them to participate. Please ask teachers to encourage students to take up this challenge.

Detailed information is available on at the LWV website, [lwvlexington.com](http://lwvlexington.com).

# Stand Down: A Community Event

*by David Christiansen*

Each October the local Veterans Administration and member organizations of the Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative (CKHHI) coordinate a one-day event to reach out to homeless people in the community in an effort to connect individuals and families with services that enable them to find housing, employment, health care and other services. This year's event, Stand Down, is scheduled for Thursday, October 17 from 9 am until 2 pm at Central Christian Church, 205 E. Short Street, Lexington.

As you may know, Stand Down was originally inspired by the work of Billie Mallory under the auspices of the CKCPJ. This annual community effort has been operational for more than half a decade.

Each year approximately 240 individuals and families receive services at this event. More than one-third of those served are veterans. Other statistics indicate that 58 percent report some type of disability and most have no or very low income. It is also reported that as many as 100 live with adults who receive services each year.

Stand Down provides a broad range of services. In 2012, 23

percent of those served completed employment applications and 28 percent completed housing applications. More than 970 services were provided directly at Stand Down, including general health screenings, health supply packets, HIV testing, blood glucose testing, flu shots, meal service, gift packets, clothing donations and haircuts. More than 375 referrals were made for other services including food, employment, shelter and housing, vocational rehab, health care, mental health care, dental care and public benefits.

None of this would happen if not for the dedicated work of many local organizations which collaborate to plan and implement the event. Stand Down is a true community collaboration that involves about 30 local agencies.

A core group of representatives participates in the planning phase that generally starts four months prior to the event. In October more agency representatives become involved to ensure that all of the services and items needed are secured well in advance.

The day before Stand Down, the activity level explodes as items are unloaded at Central Christian

Church, tables are set up and final preparations are made.

And finally, the planning is complete and it's time for action. The day starts early for organizers as staff members of agencies arrive early to set up their materials and services. The doors open at 9am but the line outside begins to form as early as 7:30. Donated coffee, rolls and breakfast sandwiches are distributed by volunteers. Other volunteers, numbering in the dozens, will help people sign up and navigate through the various services. They, too, arrive early for a quick refresher orientation of their duties.

When the doors open and folks begin to circulate among the various tables, the atmosphere seems chaotic at first but then one notices a purposeful and directed effort. Lunch arrives and is distributed as the noon hour approaches. Activity slows after that until the traffic becomes a crawl in the early afternoon. Agencies gradually begin to break down their tables, more volunteers descend and cleanup ensues.

Before long the church hall is again empty, saved for stacked tables and chairs, and all of those involved take a deep sigh of relief. Another year, another Stand Down, and a host of people have been connected to much-needed services.

*To help with CKCPJ coffee service, see contact information on p4.*



Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play. Every individual makes a difference.  
- Jane Goodall

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Moving? Please send us your new address in advance.



Lexington United is CKCPJ's peace education initiative.

**Dr. Williams** *continued from page 6*  
ILBBP, Dr. Williams stated, "The story of the Illinois Panthers is a multifaceted one, so too is the chapter's legacy, touching on race, poverty, and politics in Chicago and the nation. Fred Hampton's conviction that the Panthers had to 'unite with as many people as possible' as (Jose) Jimenez puts it, lay behind the three most significant elements of this legacy: the ILBPP survival programs (free breakfast, medical clinics, etc.) its influence on racial coalition politics (particularly through the Rainbow Coalition), and its ongoing effect as a catalyst for 21<sup>st</sup> century racial and political conflict in Chicago."

Yes, they formed the first Rainbow Coalition, years before Jessie Jackson trademarked the name. They laid the groundwork for Harold Washington's defeat of the Daley machine in 1983. The examples and lessons from the

'60s were also used by David Axelrod in President Obama's run for office.

ROVRC, sponsor of the event, reports that Kentucky is one of only four states that revokes voting rights for life following the conviction of a felony. This means that 250,000 Kentuckians have lost their right to vote, including one in four African-American men. This is a huge insult to our democracy. As we work toward building a broader and better functioning democracy, these are important discussions to have.

Let us come together and discuss this rich history and what it means for our democracy today. I encourage everyone to buy and read this very compelling book. Come out on November 9 at 4 pm to Wild Fig Bookstore.

In addition to ROVRC, this event is also sponsored by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and CKCPJ.

### Celebration of the Streets

On Sat.Oct. 19 the Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative, Divine Providence, Inc., and the Street Voice Council will host a Celebration of the Streets at the Courthouse Square from 11am to 4pm. The celebration will highlight the talents of our homeless brothers and sisters through art displays, crafts and food, music and contests.

"In Lexington, we celebrate the horse and artists; we thought it was time to celebrate people who are often neglected in our community," said Ginny Ramsey, co-director of the Catholic Action Center.

Folks in the culinary program at CTE will organize the help and prepare food; games played will be those loved by those on the streets. The SVC folks define this event as a celebration for *them*. Therefore, no agencies, pitch tables or other such stuff will be allowed!