

PEACEWAYS

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

Restorative Practice – A Healing Dialogue for Homelessness

by Susan Lamb

Have you ever wondered why a human being would choose to live without a home, spending days and nights meandering through a maze of concrete and metal, unfamiliar faces and voices, church bells and sirens, delicious aromas from restaurants and pungent odors from garbage, anxious and tired, while toting all of his or her life's possessions?

Some people—and people who are homeless often fall into this category—don't see the world the way we do. Many see our possessions, achievements, lack of spontaneity, and rigid adherences to time and social structure as misery. Our ability to understand and express empathy is compromised when we are separated from

another's personal human experience. We believe we understand but in reality our understanding of homelessness is superficial.

When trust is non-existent, walls of fear are built around us, and we are isolated from a deeper sense of community. We are *all victims* of homelessness whether we tote our possessions on our backs, worry about safety when living near a homeless shelter, or experience disappointment in our community response to this public health problem.

Restorative practice is one way to solve this community problem. The practice brings people together through restorative circles, creating new relationships by addressing questions or fears through honest and meaningful dialogue. The process can reconcile fears, stigmas and misconceptions drawn from our experiences.

Restorative practice offers a process for addressing conflict, creating meaningful dialogue, increasing social capital, decreasing crime and anti-social behavior, repairing harm, and restoring relationships. It strengthens

civil society and collectively builds a stronger fabric for a community to address social ills. It offers both *proactive* and *reactive* measures that build respect and trust as they address conflict and wrongdoing. As a result, conflict and violence decreases, and fears are replaced with a deeper sense of accountability, compassion, and peace in our community.

Restorative practice includes formal and informal processes to build relationships and a sense of community. One way to begin that process is through a restorative circle, which allows people the opportunity to speak and listen to each other in a non-confrontational environment. Circles allow people to tell their stories and offer their own experiences.

Many meetings rely on hierarchy, win-lose positioning and argument. In contrast, a restorative circle creates conflict resolution and healing, encourages the exchange of information, and offers support and relationship development.

Lexington truly cares about its citizens, as recently exhibited during the cold spell when community and government came together to ensure everyone's health and safety. Lexington has taken steps by creating public and private partnerships, government task forces, and expanding the public dialogue, but deeper levels of meaningful dialogue and problem solving are still needed to improve our understanding of poverty and homelessness.

Restorative practices, beginning with circles, should be implemented to develop community and manage conflict and tensions by repairing harm and building relationships. These practices can have a positive impact on our community and become a part of our everyday life. We can reconcile fears and stigma by tearing down walls, so that everyone can enjoy Lexington's the sense of community.

Watch upcoming issues of *Peaceways* for more information about the implementation of restorative practices, including circles and please consider attending upcoming circles.



Participants in a restorative circle can include representatives of government, law enforcement and faith communities.

Lexington's Big Ugly Truth

by Billie Mallory

Just as New York City is known as the "Big Apple," Lexington could be called the "Big Ugly TRUTH." While fast horses and championship basketball brings world acclaim, Lexington struggles to care for its most vulnerable citizens—its homeless and other fringe population people which begs the "Big Ugly TRUTH" that no one

wants to mention. Rather the "Big Ugly" TRUTH prefers to hide our homeless, mentally ill, addicted and other "undesirables" when world-class events or "first class" visitors come to town.

Another "Big Ugly" TRUTH is that our city leaders (dating back to 1990) have spent numerous hours and endless energy to study the issue of this struggle but have repeatedly failed to put their own recommendations into action or allocate adequate funding to address the myriad of issues comprehensively. Yet, the number of homeless people has continued to increase and even more fragile subcultures (veterans, elderly, youth/children) have joined the masses on our streets. As

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From the Bullet to the Ballot: Williams gives an insight into chapter of civil rights era

by Janet Tucker

Jakobi Williams's *From the Bullet to the Ballot: The Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party and Racial Coalition Politics in Chicago* is a book with many rich lessons. As we take a good look at the civil rights movement we can see that it stretched far beyond the borders of the Southern states. As Martin Luther King said, the struggle for civil rights became the struggle for human rights.

The Black Panther Party was formed in Oakland, Calif., by Bobby Seale and Huey P. Newton. In his book Dr. Williams focuses on the Illinois Black Panther Party (IBPP) and particularly their charismatic leader, Fred Hampton, his contributions and his brutal murder. Williams also shows how the IBPP has its roots in the history of Chicago. He elaborates on the history of racial segregation and voter repression in Chicago, starting in the 1920s. He describes the widespread police violence to which the black community in Chicago was subjected, saying the "tactics of mafia violence and police brutality" was "par for the course" for Mayor Daley's Chicago.

Hampton's father remembers a youthful Fred telling him, "Daddy, I've got to help people uplift themselves." He started

out doing student-organizing with the NAACP. In 1968 he, along with former Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee members Bobby Rush and Bob Brown, formed the IBPP. The legacy of the IBPP is multi-faceted, from their defense of community members against police brutality to free breakfast programs and free health clinics, to fighting for a democratic voice for poor communities of Chicago. Particularly significant is the grassroots anti-racist and anti-class organizing that worked to unite poor communities across Chicago forming the first "Rainbow Coalition."

On November 1, 1968, Fred Hampton met with Bob Lee from Houston, Texas. Lee was a VISTA volunteer working in a YMCA in a poor white community, and, with Hampton, built a coalition of several groups. The Young Patriots grew from a white Appalachian migrant community, one of the poorest in Chicago. Other groups came from communities of Puerto Ricans, Vietnam veterans and Students for a Democratic Society. On April 4, 1969, one year after the murder of Dr. Martin Luther King, the coalition held a press conference telling Chicago's Daley

administration "You can no longer divide us by race, control our communities and control our votes."

The idea of the "Rainbow Coalition" came from a Kentuckian, Charles Geary, a migrant from Hart County, Ky. He got some buttons that had been thrown out by the Nixon-Agnew campaign, painted them with a multi-colored striped pattern to represent the groups they represented, resulting in the term Fred Hampton coined name: the Rainbow Coalition. The Chicago Black Panthers helped groups initiate the "survival" programs (free breakfast programs for children, free medical clinics, etc.) in their communities.

In researching his book, Dr. Williams was able to use previously sealed Chicago police files. In them they called Fred Hampton "more dangerous than Martin Luther King ever was." The FBI and Chicago police conspired to assassinate Fred Hampton. On December 4, 1969, his shared apartment was raided in the middle of the night—Fred Hampton was shot as he slept. Dr. Williams called it not a shoot-out, but a shoot-in. Ninety-nine police rounds were fired, seven people shot, and Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were killed.

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***We are each other's harvest; we are each other's business;
we are each other's magnitude and bond.***

Gwendolyn Brooks

Looking for a Home: A Lexington Posada

by Gail Koehler

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice held the "Looking for a Home Procession: A Lexington Posada" on Dec. 17 to draw attention to the need for our community to focus on, and take action to providing true homes for the displaced among us.

At its root the event bore witness to the fact that we are all human beings and each of us, regardless of nationality or economic status, deserve respect and dignity. These issues are human rights issues and should be treated as such. The procession took advantage of the Posada tradition which re-enacts the search for shelter in the Christmas story of Jesus' birth—which finally took place in a manger because there was "no room in the inn."

During the procession, pilgrims made multiple stops, with organizers reading statements at each focused on these themes:

If you are looking for a home, you need a living wage, to be paid fairly as you work to keep body and soul together.

If you are looking for a home, shelter must be available for the homeless and housing must be available and affordable.

If you are looking for a home, you don't want to live where you have no voice. CKCPJ supports the passage of legislation that allows returning citizens the right to vote when they have paid their debt to society.

If you are looking for a home, you need to have a country to call home and you need to be safe from deportation.

You can see more coverage of this event at the CKCPJ PEACE Leaders blog. Find a link to that blog on the home page of CKCPJ's website (www.peaceandjusticeky.org) or use these links to access the posts directly: <http://bit.ly/ckcpjposada1> (Dec. 18); <http://bit.ly/ckcpjposada2> (Dec. 19) and http://bit.ly/ckcpj_posada3 (Dec. 21).

THE LITTLEST PILGRIM



On a cold night during the Christmas season, Lexingtonians participated in Posada, a Latin American tradition. The Posada included pleas with government officials to fix broken immigration laws.

long as we prevail in this collective denial, the "Big Ugly TRUTH" continues to grow without addressing the reality of what so many know as the cold hard truth of a "hard-rock life" that takes its toll and often takes life prematurely for many.

Creating affordable housing options, providing respite care for mentally ill, disabled and medically fragile people and assuring that there are adequate support services for elderly and disengaged youth has not been a priority for our city leaders. Maybe because it is not as sexy, attractive or economically beneficial as downtown development, supporting the arts or public murals or other investments that provide high visibility for the dollars that are spent.

What is the return on investment of reducing poverty, providing safe and affordable housing and services for the least of our citizens? The "REAL TRUTH" is that the return is human dignity and compassion, qualities that reveal the best of our humanity in action by doing the right things for the right reasons—caring for one another.

Sharing Stories, Sharing Cultures

People are shaped by their stories and we value one another more when we understand those stories. We value the benefits we enjoy even more when we realize what was required to secure those benefits.

On Feb. 8, 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., at Connie Griffith Ballarat Towers, the Children's Law Center is hosting *Sharing Stories of Elders Through Young Voices: Learning from Those Who Have Paved the Way Before Us, Youth Making Connections with our Elders*.

This event is designed to help those who participate—adolescents, college students and elders—with their understanding of the importance of community and the value we bring to one another's lives. For young people, it can be easy to take for granted our right to an education, freedom of movement, and opportunity to pursue the career path of our dreams. Seniors, however, faced many barriers yet often courageously overcame them. It will do all of us, and especially young people, well to recognize these contributions.

Their stories will help young people realize that the elders who walk humbly among us are often heroes; they capture our community's history and realize its value. We plan to share the history we

Now that Lexington has wasted a year of inaction following the Mayor's Commission on Homelessness, it is past time to stop studying and time to take meaningful, compassionate action by implementing the proposed Office on Homeless Prevention and Intervention to carry out the identified recommendations by experts, advocates, service providers, faith leaders and caring citizens. Regardless of the outcome of the government's consultant's findings on proposed funding sources for affordable housing options, there are many other issues to be addressed to offer solutions, provide stop-gap measures and create more immediate relief to our homeless population.

Everyone who cares about the "least of these" vulnerable citizens needs to contact the mayor and city council members and demand that this proposed office be implemented immediately to begin addressing the issues of homelessness in a systematic and comprehensive way.

Contact by e-mail mayor@lexingtonky.gov and councilmembers@lexingtonky.gov or phone Mayor's Office 258-3100 and Steve Kay 258-3200 (Chair of Homeless Commission).

capture with the University of Kentucky Oral History Project, African American Alumni Project and the Louie B. Nunn Oral History Project by video-taping the stories that are told and submitting paragraphs written by the students who participate as they talk with the seniors at Connie Griffith Manor. The first of these events was held a year ago to commemorate Martin Luther King, Jr., and in honor of the National Day of Service.

Students from the University of Kentucky College of Social Work and College of Law have volunteered to lead this year's event. They will draw in middle and high school students from the Gainesway Empowerment Center, Emerging Young Leaders Program, Leading Ladies of Tomorrow program, Imani Family Life Center, the William Wells Brown Center, children served by Children's Law Center, SKY Families and Partners for Youth. Mattie Morton, a community leader, is a key partner in securing the young people who will participate. CLC externs will supervise the event and ensure coordination, adult supervision, permission slips, and required supplies are all in place.

Those interested in assisting can contact Laura Kern, 859-253-3353.

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 Sehon, Rabbi Uri Smith, Janet Tucker, Craig Wilkie (treasurer). *Peaceways Staff:* Margaret Gabriel (editor), Penny Christian, Gail Koehler, Betsy Neale, Jim Trammel (Proofreaders). 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.

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.



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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.

Thurs. Feb. 6-Sat. Mar. 8

Searching for Silverman will be the first film shown in the One World Film Festival. 7 pm, Kentucky Theater. The festival will include:

- *Gattu*, Sat., Feb. 8
- *Wadjda*, Sat., Feb. 15
- *Beasts of the Southern Wild*, Sat., Feb. 22
- *The Iran Job*, Sat., Mar. 1
- *The World Before Her*, Sat., Mar. 8
- *Hitler's Children*, Thurs., Feb. 13
- *Where Do We Go Now*, Thurs., Feb. 20
- *La Source*, Thurs., Feb. 27
- *No Place on Earth*, Thurs., Mar. 6

Films on Thursdays will screen at 7 pm; on Saturday at 10 am. See more information about each film at oneworldfilmfestival.org. For more information, call 859-266-6073.

Wed. Feb. 12

The Darwin We Don't Know To commemorate the birth of Charles Darwin on Feb. 12, 1809, the Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky will host an event designed to lift the veil of ignorance that surrounds the theory of evolution for many people.

Dr. Robert Bevins, president of Kentuckians for Science Education (KSE) which advocates for the improvement of science standards of education and teaching science in accordance with the best scientific evidence available, will present "The Darwin We Don't Know" in the Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, 3564 Clays Mill Road, at 7 pm.

Dr. Bevins received his BS in Biology from Georgetown College and PhD in Toxicology from the University of Kentucky. He has taught biology at Georgetown College as an adjunct and visiting assistant professor. He says he was "inducted into skepticism at birth having been born on a Friday the 13th."

While the adults hear from Dr. Bevins, older children will hold a discussion of Charles Darwin and the theory of evolution. Childcare will be provided for younger children.

Following the presentation, everyone is invited to join in celebrating Darwin's 105th birthday with cake and light refreshments in the church foyer. For more information contact Humanist Forum President Staci Maney, staci@olliegee.com.

Sat. Feb. 8

Sharing Stories of Elders Through Young Voices, Connie Griffith Ballarat Towers, 650 Tower Plaza, Lexington, 1 pm to 5 pm. The event will introduce young people to seniors who will share stories, experiences and culture. The event will be lead by students from UK colleges of Social Work and Law. For more information contact Laura Kern, 859-253-3353.

Wed. Feb. 12

I Love the Mountains Day, Frankfort. Before the rally at the capitol steps at 1:15, participants will engage in lobbying and a march from the Kentucky River to the capitol steps (about a half-mile). For more information see the Kentuckians for the Commonwealth website, kftc.org.

Sat. Feb. 22

Embry Book Signing and Photo Exhibit, hosted by the Embry family at the Lyric Theatre and Cultural Arts Center, 300 E. 3rd Street, Lexington, 11:30 am to 3 pm.

The event will include spoken word poetry, live music, food, books for sale (signed by the authors; prices vary), photo and painting exhibit, historical presentations, and an opportunity to take pictures and catch up with the Embry family from Lexington and Richmond. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, go to <https://www.embrybooks.org/>.

Sat. Feb. 22

Women in Religion: Exploring women's role; considering agents of change within faith communities. Hunter Presbyterian Church, 10 am. The event will include a screening of "Pink Smoke Over the Vatican" and a panel discussion with Rev. Donna Rougeux, Rev. Janice Sevre-Duszynska with Dr. Nadia Rasheed. The moderator is to be named.

Sat. Mar. 22

Our Blessed Earth: One Woman's Quest for a Slower, Simpler, More Sustainable Life. Hunter Presbyterian Church, 10 am. The speaker will be Nancy Sleeth, author and co-founder of Blessed Earth, a Christian environmental nonprofit.

Sat. Apr. 26

World Religions: Hindrance or Help to Peace and Justice? Hunter Presbyterian Church, 10 am. The speaker will be Rev. Don Nunnley, Retired Minister, First Christian Church, Frankfort.

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

Dimensions of Political Ecology Conference, University of Kentucky, Lexington. Keynote addresses by Dr. Laura Pulido, Dr. Bruce Braun. See geography.as.uky.edu/dimensions-political-ecology-conference-2013

Wed. Mar. 5

50th Anniversary March on Frankfort, Allied Organizations for Civil Rights invites you to join a commemoration of the 1964 event. For updates, send your name, organization (if applicable), email address and phone number to AOCR@ky.gov.

Sun. Mar. 16

CKCPJ Annual Peace Networking and Dinner Networking begins at 5 pm, dinner follows at 6 pm. At 7 pm, recipients of the 2014 CKCPJ awards will be recognized and Larry Johnson will give the keynote speech. Imani Baptist Church, 1555 Georgetown Road, Lexington.



Bruce Mundy, past CKCPJ co-chair, welcomes participants to the 2012 Peace Networking and Dinner.

Your Event Here

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

CKCPJ Seeks Award Nominations

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice seeks to recognize individuals or groups in Central Kentucky who make significant contributions to advancing causes of peace and justice in our region.

The council's longest standing award is the Chuck Sohner Award, given to a person or group in Central Kentucky who has made important contributions to civil rights or fairer labor practices. This is an annual award but may acknowledge long-standing efforts as well as efforts in the prior year.

Chuck Sohner was a long-time social justice activist in Central Kentucky who worked on civil rights and labor issues and was one of the founders of the Living Wage Campaign. After his death in 2003, his family, including his wife, Michelle, and daughter, Amy, set up this award in his honor. Chuck was a board member of the CKCPJ; in the words of Jeffery Freyman who reviewed Chuck's memoir *Final Exams*, he was "a guiding figure in the progressive politics of Lexington from the time he arrived here from California in 1988 until his death in 2003."

In 2011, the council initiated two additional awards. They are:

Peacemaker of the Year, which recognizes a person who has made major efforts to address issues of peace, justice, human rights, or environmental protection/improvement in the Central Kentucky area.

Lifetime of Waging Peace, which recognizes a Central Kentucky person or group whose personal commitment and efforts over a significant period of time have made sustained and major contributions to the cause of peace, justice, rights, or environmental protection and improvement.

In 2013 CKCPJ added a **Youth Peacemaker** award to recognize the efforts of a Central Kentucky youth group or Central Kentuckian (under the age of 25) who has made important contributions to advancing awareness, developing skills, or leading action with respect to peace, justice, human rights, or environmental protection/improvement.

To nominate individuals or groups for these awards, please send

- the nominee's name or names and the award you are nominating for;
- nominee contact information;
- a list of nominee's achievements and a description of why you believe this nominee should be recognized; and
- your name and contact information (phone, email, address) so CKCPJ can ask you clarifying and follow-up questions.

Send your nomination via email to peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com by February 14 at 5 pm. For more information, call 859-488-1448. Award winners will be recognized at the CKCPJ Annual Dinner on March 16.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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

Kentucky Migrant Network 1st Monday Noon-1:30 pm, Cardinal Valley Center, 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington. Contact Isabel Gereda Taylor, 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 or email 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 7:30 pm, Lexington Public Central Library, 140 E. Main St, Lexington. Contact Craig Cammack, Chair, 859-951-8565 or info@lexfair.org.

Wed Night GLSO discussion group 7 pm 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.glsso.org>.

Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky 2nd Wednesday, 7-8:30 pm, 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 or 859-797-2662.

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

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

Christian-Muslim Dialogue Fall Program 4th Saturday 10 am-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.

Movies with Spirit 2nd Friday of every month. Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clay's Mill Road, Lexington. Potluck at 6 pm, film at 7.

Want your group's meeting listed here?

Contact peacewayseditor@gmail.com or 859-488-1448.

Solutions to Homelessness...Housing, Housing, Housing

by Billie Mallory

“Housing, housing, housing,” was the mantra of Michael Stoops, executive director of the National Coalition for Homelessness, who visited Lexington in the last days of 2013. The NCH, whose mission is to prevent and end homelessness, is an advocacy organization that conducts research, litigates and lobbies for issues that address homelessness across the nation.

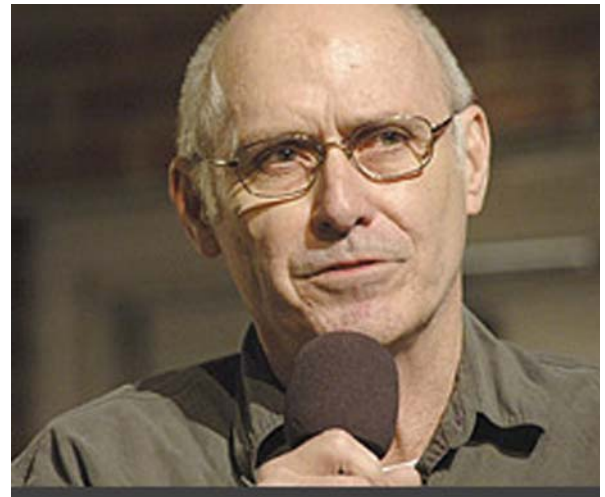
Michael, a Quaker and former AmeriCorps/VISTA volunteer, became interested in the issue of homelessness when his own grandfather died on the streets of Cincinnati as a homeless alcoholic. As a social worker, Michael studied the Catholic Worker Movement which inspired him to stay in nearly fifty percent of the homeless shelters across the country since the early 1980s. His stays include Lexington’s Salvation Army and Hope Center. He also lived homeless in Washington, D.C., for six months on a hunger fast in civil disobedience with Mitch Snyder in 1986-87.

Offering a bit of history, Michael recognized 2013 as the 50th anniversary of Lyndon Johnson’s War on Poverty, saying that “poverty has won that war.” He further discussed the federal legislation, the McKinney-Vento Act, that was enacted in the early 1980s with bi-partisan support. The bill now provides \$3 billion for housing and other support programs for

people who are homeless. He further shared that other administrations have attempted to address homelessness, including the Ten Year Plan to End Homelessness during George W. Bush’s time as president and Barack Obama’s focus on housing and providing programs for homeless veterans.

Stoops believes that we must focus on the root causes of homelessness, which include poverty, low wages, substance abuse, mental illness and the lack of adequate community support and programming. What he is convinced will not work is the criminalization of poverty or economic profiling which is the current trend across the nation. He says one simple solution is housing, housing, housing, along with the much-needed case management and support programs within the community to help transition and stabilize people who are homeless. Stoops offered another grim statistic: there are now more than one million homeless children in the nation. This is a trend that we have seen in Lexington, along an increase in homelessness among elderly and medically fragile people.

After his talk, Stoops joined people at the Catholic Action Center for pizza where he met two “first timers” at the center. One was a man who had just been released from prison without even a bag; he was trying the hitchhike home to Tennessee. The other was a man who had



Michael Stoops

been released from the hospital following surgery and required the use of two canes to walk. Both were homeless and directed to the Community Inn for shelter.

This begs the question: what has happened to our collective conscience when society can fail such broken and needy people? Though they had been released and rejected by the systems, they were well-fed by the Little Caesar’s Love Kitchen, a mobile, fully-equipped kitchen in an 18-wheeler truck, pulled up to the curb. They were later welcomed at the Community Inn for a night’s rest. Simple compassion with a simple solution, for at least these two in need.

For more information about issues relating to efforts to combat homelessness and hunger, see nationalhomeless.org, littлекаesars.com/aboutus/communityrelations.

Book Review,

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The shooting did not stop the initiative. The concept and organizing strategy continued, resulting in Harold Washington defeating Richard Daley as mayor of Chicago and making Washington Chicago’s first black mayor.

Wikipedia states of that campaign, “In the February 22, 1983, Democratic mayoral primary, community organizers registered more than 100,000 new African American, Latino and poor and independent white voters.”

Many strategies of the Rainbow Coalition were gleaned by David Axelrod and used in Barack Obama’s campaigns. The slogan of the original Rainbow Coalition: “Got to have hope to create change and got to have change to create hope” has been reinvented several times over.

Dr. Williams’ book is well worth the read and provides a valuable snapshot of a particular part of United States history. The book is published by Chapel Hill: University of North Carolina Press, 2013. 312 pp. \$34.95 (cloth).

Just Livin’ to Survive

by Billie Mallory

Watch the march of the just livin’—
each morning from shelter to downtown
to find food, coffee and companionship —
Whatever it takes to get through the day —
Just livin’ to survive.
Watch the march of the just livin’—
Each midday from place to place
to find food, clothing, shelter for the day —
Whatever it takes to get by —
Just livin’ to survive.
Watch the march of the just livin’—
Each night from town to shelter
to find a safe place to lay their head —
Whatever it takes to put down the burdens of the day —
Just livin’ to survive.
One day at a time —
One step at a time,
another wait in line.
There’s got to be more to being alive than —
Just livin’ to survive.

Child Care Assistance Cuts

In early 2013, the Cabinet for Health and Family Services announced significant cuts being made to the child care assistance program and kinship care (relatives receiving subsidy for caring for abused/neglected children/youth family members). On April 1, 2013, new applications were no longer being accepted for parents that were working or attending school trying to improve their lives and on July 1, 2013, the income guidelines for existing families was reduced from 145 percent to 100 percent of the Federal Poverty Level, resulting in loss of benefits for 525 Kentucky families over the past nine months. This has resulted in a reduction of the ability of with low-wage earners to work because they cannot afford child care. The alternative is to put their children at risk by placing them in substandard child care situations.

These child care cuts have particularly increased the obstacles for families headed by single parents. This burden, added to that which followed the reduction of food stamp/EBT benefits (which occurred on November 1, 2013) has further burdened other available support resources. In Fayette County alone, five licensed child care providers and 87 across the state have closed due to lack of these subsidy payments that are made directly to providers, thus putting many child care providers out of work, many of whom are low-wage earners. This is indeed a sad state of reality for many Kentucky families struggling to survive. The current situation makes it nearly impossible for them to escape poverty.

LFUCG recently sent a resolution to those making cuts or approving those decisions in Frankfort, as they did when these cuts were first announced at the beginning of last year. CKCPJ urges you to do the same by writing or sending e-mails to your representatives. The voice can make a difference in the lives of our most vulnerable families and children.

Gov. Steve Beshear, 700 Capitol Ave, Frankfort, KY 40601; Robert Stivers, Senate President, 702 Capitol Annex (all those listed here serve on the committee and can be reached at the same address). Rep. Greg Stumbo, House Speaker; Rep. Jimmie Lee, Rep. Ruth Ann Palumbo; Rep. Tom Burch; Sen. Alice Forgy Kerr; Sen. Julie Denton; and your own representatives and senator at their respective legislative offices.

Sources for this article include Child Care Council of Kentucky and Kentucky Youth Advocates.



CKCPJ is in the process of recruiting 900 applicants for the license plate pictured here. For each plate sold, CKCPJ will receive \$25. Applicants will pay \$25 and CKCPJ will send the money in one check to the Kentucky Department of Transportation when the campaign is finished. Information and money toward the specialty license plate goes to CKCPJ up front and money will be kept in a special fund just for this campaign.

At the completion of the successful campaign, the CKCPJ will begin to receive a portion of the funds from each specialty plate sold. Funds will be used to help schools integrate peace education into secondary school curricula, paying

particular attention to college and career readiness standards.

Sign up today at www.peaceandjusticeky.org and use your credit card (with a \$3 processing fee) with our secure Vanco Services website. Or you can request a paper application from us and mail it back with your \$25 check to CKCPJ today. You can call 859-488-1448 to request the application.

CKCPJ is also looking for places to set up sign-up tables, i.e., at local social justice organization event or religious gathering. Contact organizers at peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com with ideas on how to get the word out about this beautiful specialty plate.

Submissions to *Peaceways*

Articles submitted for publication in *Peaceways* should show an awareness of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice's mission and concerns as well as a sensitivity to them. Articles submitted by non-Council members are welcome.

CKCPJ prefers articles written in a fresh, nonacademic style, using language that clearly includes both sexes. Articles having a positive approach to problems are more likely to be selected over those with a negative one. Articles written by or speaking to young people are encouraged.

Articles of varying lengths are encouraged. News items (50-250 words) are welcome; announcements or reports of council-sponsored events (or events of council member groups) are likely to receive priority. Short personal essays reflecting an individual's experience of peace and justice-related events and community action or activism are encouraged, as well.

Feature articles should be no longer than 500 words, unless you are

willing to have the piece cut to fit one page of *Peaceways* text. Pieces will be edited for clarity. Please include references in the text for all quotations, statistics, and unusual facts. End- or footnotes are not used. We encourage submissions to be queried to the editor at peacewayseditor@gmail.com before writing a unique feature article intended solely for *Peaceways*.

For all submissions, the author's name, address, and phone number should appear on the body of the submitted text. If you submit material that has been published or which you are also submitting to other publishers, be sure to indicate this. Please make submissions in Word format via email. Book reviews are usually solicited by the editor; we welcome inquiries from potential reviewers.

Submission deadline is the 10th of each month. *Peaceways* is published 10 times a year.



The Central Kentucky Council
for Peace and Justice
560 E. Third Street
Lexington, KY 40508

“It isn’t enough to talk about peace. One must believe in it. And it isn’t enough to believe in it. One must work at it.”
Eleanor Roosevelt

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News from LexingtonUnited, CKCPJ’s peace education initiative

What We’ve Been Reading: *Studies Describe Successful Youth Programs*

By Gail Koehler

Anyone remember the “just say no” to drugs push that started in 1982 with Nancy Reagan? Decades of controlled studies have long discredited that approach. Recently, *Scientific American* reviewed those studies, and provided a list of elements that psychologists and epidemiologists outline that contribute to youth-learning practical, real-life skills that help them navigate harmful influences. At LexingtonUnited, we were struck by descriptions of successful youth programs that precisely match our training and goals.

According to a *Scientific American* article titled “Why ‘Just Say No’ Doesn’t Work” by Scott O. Lilienfeld and Hal Arkowitz (http://bit.ly/SA_2013), the most effective youth programs:

- involve substantial amounts of interaction between instructors and students
- teach students the social skills they need
- give students opportunities to prac-

tice those skills—for example, by asking students to play roles on both sides of a conversation—while instructors coach them about what to say and do

- unfold during many sessions—ideally, over several years, because they provide students with lessons that are reinforced over time, as children mature and encounter different environments.

When LexingtonUnited trainers teach children cooperative games and use role plays, we’re creating small temporary communities that model workable non-

violent models and provide safe places for children to practice cooperation and problem solving. During the winter break LexingtonUnited provided cooperative game sessions every day at East 7th St. Kids Center, and during the school year we’ll be there every week. We see an improved climate already, and look forward to helping cultivate a culture of respect and creative resolution to conflicts that are a natural part of human interaction.

Gail Koehler is a lead trainer at LexingtonUnited.

A Giant Thank You To All of Our Contributors!

CKCPJ is grateful to every one of our supporters. Approximately 350 contributors underwrite the CKCPJ’s programs and costs, contributions that allow us to publish *Peaceways*, the newsletter you are reading. The publication costs nearly \$12 a year per recipient for production and distribution.

Because we want to use our financial resources as wisely as possible, you can help us in a number of ways.

First, if you have not yet made a financial contribution to offset the cost of the *Peaceways*, please do! You can donate by credit card by going to our website, or directly at http://bit.ly/ckcpj_donate. Prefer to send a check? Please mail it to our office: at the Plantory, 560 E. Third St., Lexington KY 40508.

If you you prefer to receive *Peaceways* electronically you can subscribe directly at our website (www.peaceandjusticeky.org) and Facebook pages.

Questions? Contact us at peaceandjustice@gmail.com or call 859-488-1448.

Thanks to every one of you who has let us know that your financial circumstances prevent you from making large financial contributions. We will not discontinue sending *Peaceways* to anyone who reads it to keep up on the latest peace and justice news in Central Kentucky. Some of you send what you can, and we want you to know that every penny helps!



Cooperative games are among the ways that LexingtonUnited teaches youth work together to solve problems and use critical thinking skills.