

# PEACEWAYS

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



## CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR Peace & Justice

Join CKCPJ for the presentation of our annual awards: Lifetime of Waging Peace; Peacemaker of the Year; Chuck Sohner Worker’s Advocate; Young Peacemaker Recognition.

After dinner, we invite you to enjoy our featured speaker, Larry Johnson, who will address the topic “The Right Time to Address Violence: Potential Strategies in Lexington.” Larry will speak about Fayette County’s plans to partner with Cities United, a national initiative designed to eliminate violence related to deaths of African-American males. Cities United helps develop strategies to reduce violence that impacts too many members of the African American community.

Larry coordinates Lexington’s Disproportionate Minority Confinement Initiative, and provides assistance for grant and scholarship efforts. He provides input to the Commission on

Youth Development and Public Safety, the Central Kentucky Youth Orchestra and the Race Community and Child Welfare committee.

On the state level, Larry collaborates with the Department of Juvenile Justice and the foster care citizens’ review board.

Before the dinner begins, come to the Networking Fair. Learn who is doing what in central Kentucky. Dozens of exhibitors are expected, including Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, the Sierra Club, the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty and the Children’s Law Center. Dinner will include vegetarian and vegan options.

To reserve space for the fair or tickets for dinner, please go to our online reservation page at: <http://bit.ly/CKCPJ2014> or call Richard Mitchell, 859-327-6277.

Dinner ticket prices are \$20-50 for each diner, priced on a sliding scale according to your ability to pay. For students or those with low income, suggested ticket prices are \$10. (Our cost for the dinner, program and fair is estimated to be \$18 per ticket. All are welcome, regardless of ability to pay.

## CKCPJ Annual Dinner and Networking Fair

Sunday, March 16 at Imani Baptist Church

1555 Georgetown Road, Lexington

5 to 6 p.m. Networking and Resource Fair

6 to 8 p.m. Dinner and Program including keynote speaker

**Larry L. Johnson**

Director of Community Collaboration Initiatives  
at Partners For Youth, LFUCG  
The Right Time to Address Violence  
*Potential Strategies in Lexington*



Larry L. Johnson

Contributions beyond the cost will be recognized with tax receipts.) Child-care is available; please let us know how many children you will bring, to help us plan.

**Due date for reservations: March 7.**

*Unfortunately, we cannot guarantee tickets will be available at the door for those without reservations. Please contact us so we know you are coming.*

### Inside:

Reducing Racial Bias	2
I Love Mountains	2
About Us Kids	3
Calendar	4
Book Review	6
LexingtonUnited	8

### Correction

*Diana Queen and Susan Lamb worked together on the story about restorative circles that appeared on page 1 of the February issue. Peaceways regrets the oversight and thanks Diana for her contribution.*

# Reducing Racial Bias in Policing

by Gail Koehler

In February, the Lexington Fayette Urban County Human Rights Commission (LFUC-HRC) hosted two events as a commitment to ensure that community tensions regarding racial bias in policing are addressed in a straightforward and just manner. Information from the Department of Justice assert that "Racial profiling sends the dehumanizing message to our citizens that they are judged by the color of their skin and harms the criminal justice system by eviscerating the trust that is necessary if law enforcement is to effectively protect our communities." These events supported those principles and goals.

The first event was a panel discussion on the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 11. The discussion included a community forum titled "Police and Justice: Community Relations and the Lexington Police Department." Participants included guests from federal agencies: Walter Atkinson, Senior Conciliation Specialist, Community Relations Service, U.S. Dept. of Justice; Perrye Turner, Special Agent-In-Charge, FBI; and Ron L. Walker Jr, Assistant United States Attorney Deputy Chief, Criminal Division. They were joined by three representatives of Lexington-Fayette County agencies: Raymond Sexton, Executive Director of LFUC-HRC; Ronnie Bastin, Lexington Police Chief; and Penny McFadden, Lexington's Citizens' Advocate. Other members of Lexington's Police Training Division were also on hand.

The group fielded many questions, including concerns about experiences with uniformed police officers that community members believed to be unjust, and questions regarding the training that officers receive. Those in attendance learned:

- LFUC police trainees receive over 12 hours of cultural sensitivity training;
- The police department wants to hear about times that the public's interactions with the police do not meet the standards of fairness and respect and equal application of the law;
- The department's internal affairs department welcomes complaints and comments.

According to the webpage at the LFUCG site ([http://bit.ly/LexPolice\\_I\\_A](http://bit.ly/LexPolice_I_A)) "Complaints can be made in person, by mail, by telephone or anonymously to any supervisor with the Division of Police." Contact information: Internal Affairs Section, 150 East Main St., Lexington, KY 40507, 859-258-3625.

Audience members were invited to participate in the free Citizen Police Academy. The next session begins in March

and runs through May. The academy is designed to "foster better communication between citizens and police through education." For more information, see <http://bit.ly/LexCitizenPA> or call Officer Debbie Wagner, 859-258-3634. One audience member had completed the course and spoke highly of his experience.

On Wednesday, February 12, Walter Atkinson held a training session on *Reducing Racial Bias in Policing*. The day-long event was free and open to the public, and included many members of the police department.

Objectives of the training included understanding of how racial profiling allegations come about and why those complaints are on the rise. The goal of the workshop was to identify best practices of community and law



Walter Atkinson presents concepts about community tensions regarding racial bias at a Feb. 12 workshop

## I Love Mountains Day 2014

by Fr. John S. Rausch

Standing on the steps of the Capitol in Frankfort on February 12, 700-plus people braved 30-degree weather and chanted: "Here's what democracy looks like!" The 9th Annual "I Love Mountains Day" sponsored by the Kentuckians For The Commonwealth (KFTC) reminded legislators that many Kentucky residents demand an end to mountaintop removal (MTR) and a healthy environment based on a new economy.

Sprinkled throughout the crowd, but an obvious presence, Kentucky Power and Light (KP&L) signs designated churches and parishes that proclaimed creation care as part of their faith commitment. Aaron Tornis, program director for KP&L,

said while walking from the Capitol Avenue bridge to the Capitol steps, "Stewardship of the planet means stewardship of people."

On a stage fashioned on the steps, Sue Tallichet, chairperson of KFTC, referenced four over-sized puppets that represented earth, air, water and fire, reminding the rally that Kentucky could replace its energy from fossil fuels with geothermal, wind, hydro and solar powers. While the theme of "Love Mountains Day" targeted MTR, other environmental and social issues also made the agenda.

Eleven-year-old Chase Gladson of Harlan County spoke plainly about wanting to

*continued on page 7*



More than 700 people marched from the Kentucky River to the steps of the Kentucky Capitol to demand a stop to mountaintop removal.

# About Us Kids

by Tinka McIntosh

Since I became a foster parent in April 2013, 35 kids, both respite and placement alike, have lived in the home I share with my husband, Kendall. We have seen their challenges and heard them voice the difficulties they face every day as foster children. Out of our passion to help these kids "About Us Kids" was born.

AUK is a non-profit organization that works to see these kids as individuals with unique personalities and goals. We work to empower them to become the best people they can be. Our initial efforts are to collect donated items such as bedding, area rugs, curtains, furniture, hygiene items, clothing and toys to give the kids that enter foster care. A crucial element of AUK is to allow the kids to select the items they want.

By providing children with choices and allowing them to select their own clothing, bedroom décor and toys—things that they really like and feel connected to—they

regain a sense of control where they may have had none before. The control gives them a sense of belonging as these items become their personal possessions. When they enter foster care, they often come with nothing; providing a few familiar objects helps provide needed stability.

Ownership also reduces the likelihood of kids destroying property because they now have a vested interest in the home where they are placed. This material support to the foster family results in a greater chance for a successful placement which also decreases the number of moves the child has to endure.

If you are interested in becoming an About Us Kids volunteer or can provide donations, please contact Tinka McIntosh, 859-955-0543, [tinka@aboutuskids.com](mailto:tinka@aboutuskids.com).

*AUK is a host of the Muddy Cheer Challenge on July 26-27. A portion of the fee from those who register under AUK's their name will go to the organization.*

## Restoring Voting Rights

by Janet Tucker

Tayna Fogle, a spokesperson for voting rights, often says: "I made mistakes, but I am not a mistake!" This is true for the many that have lost their voting rights. Then again isn't true for all of us?

Kentucky, along with three other states, removes a person's voting rights for life if they are convicted of a felony. House Bill 70 is a step toward changing that. Because the removal of rights is in the Kentucky constitution, if HB 70 passes the question of restoration would be on the ballot for the November election.

The Restoration of Voting Rights Coalition (ROVRC) is a broad coalition, of which CKCPJ is a member. The coalition has worked for nine years to restore the vote. In the past, HB 70 has always passed by a large margin in the Kentucky House of Representatives only to be stonewalled in the Senate. Again, passage of this bill would allow the people of Kentucky to vote on this issue. Can this practice be seen as anything but very undemocratic?

The issue of revocation of voting rights affects a quarter-million citizens. While felony disenfranchisement affects many across Kentucky, in many different communities it disproportionately affects low-income communities and communities of color, including one in four African Americans. How can we call ourselves a democracy with so many denied the vote?

Under the present system, those con-

victed of a felony can petition the governor to restore their voting rights once their sentence is served. But the rates and rules have changed from governor to governor, and it is not uncommon to meet people that have requested their rights to no avail. This system is, at best, inconsistent and certainly unfair.

"I made a mistake when I was young and crazy over some guy," an older woman told me when I was registering people to vote. She said she had applied twice but never got her rights back. She had no idea why.

Christian Torp wrote in an article for *North of Center*: "According to J. Michael Brown, the Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary for the Commonwealth of Kentucky, over the last 30 years the incarceration rate has increased 600 percent, while the crime rate has increased only 3 percent, and African-Americans are incarcerated at nearly six (5.6) times the rate of whites."

For more in depth coverage see Christian's articles at <http://bit.ly/Torp-HB70> and <http://bit.ly/Torp-NoC>.

ROVRC is also against placing more amendments on HB70 which would add additional restrictions. People of Kentucky are encouraged to contact their Kentucky senator and ask him or her to work to pass HB 70 out of the Senate without any amendments. Let the people vote!

## 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.



*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 the April issue is March 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.*

**Sat. Mar. 1-Sat. Mar. 8**

**One World Film Festival** continues at the Kentucky Theatre on Thursday and Saturdays in early March. Festival films will include:

- *The Iran Job*, Sat., Mar. 1
- *The World Before Her*, Sat., Mar. 8
- *No Place on Earth*, Thurs., Mar. 6

Films on Thursdays will screen at 7 pm; on Saturdays at 10 am. After the Mar. 6 screening of *No Place on Earth*, CKCPJ will host a reception at the Kentucky Theatre. See more information about each film at [oneworldfilmfestival.org](http://oneworldfilmfestival.org). For more information, call 859-266-6073.

**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](http://geography.as.uky.edu/dimensions-political-ecology-conference-2013)

**Wed. Mar. 5**

**50th Anniversary March on Frankfurt**, 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](mailto:AOCR@ky.gov).

**Sat. Mar. 15**

**LexingtonUnited Conflict Resolution Workshop** The Plantory, 560 E. Third St., 9 am-3 pm. Session limited to 10 participants, \$55, scholarships available. For more information or to reserve your spot please email us at [lexingtoncommunitybuilding@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtoncommunitybuilding@gmail.com) or call 859-474-0487. For updates, check our Facebook event page: <http://bit.ly/15MarLexU>.

**Sun. Mar. 16**

**CKCPJ Annual Peace Fair and Dinner** Fair begins at 5 pm, dinner follows at 6 pm. At 7 pm, recipients of the 2014 CKCPJ awards will be announced. Imani Baptist Church, 1555 Georgetown Road, Lexington. See story, P.1.

**Fri-Mon. Mar. 21-24**

**Fly Kites Not Drones.** Organizers from KnowDrones are encouraging individuals to plan "Fly Kites Not Drones" events during these days in solidarity with people in Afghanistan and the United Kingdom. The United Kingdom event is organized by Voices for Creative Non-Violence UK and endorsed by Voices in the US. For more information: <http://bit.ly/KitesNotD>. KNOWDRONES provides drone replicas and educational materials to support citizen action to achieve an international ban on weaponized drones and surveillance drones - war drones. Contact: [nickmattern@earthlink.net](mailto:nickmattern@earthlink.net)

**Sat. Mar. 22**

**Our Blessed Earth:** One Woman's Quest for a Slower, Simpler, More Sustainable Life. Hunter Presbyterian Church, 10 am. Christian-Muslim Dialogue. The speaker will be Nancy Sleeth, author and co-founder of Blessed Earth, a Christian environmental nonprofit. See <http://cmdlex.org>.

**Wed. Mar. 26**

**Take Back the Night March and Rally**, a tribute to Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month. The march begins at 7 pm from Thoroughbred Park, Patterson Office Tower at UK, and Third Street Stuff on Limestone followed by the rally at Courthouse Plaza at 7:30.

The University of Kentucky Violence Intervention and Prevention (VIP) Center and campus/community partners work together to shape a violence-free campus and community. Every year, the VIP center hosts a community-wide Take Back the Night march and rally Lexington to take a visible stand against power-based personal violence in our community. More info, email: [vipcenter@uky.edu](mailto:vipcenter@uky.edu), call 859-257-2884 or go to the VIP center website: <http://bit.ly/TbtN2014>.

**Sat. Mar. 29**

**Training for Spring Break Camp** Staff and Volunteers by LexingtonUnited. For more details email: [lexingtoncommunitybuilding@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtoncommunitybuilding@gmail.com) or call 859-474-0487.

**Mon-Fri. Mar. 31-Apr. 4**

**YouthUnited!** Spring Break Leadership Camp for middle school students (grades 6-8). Participants will learn community building games, leadership skills and conflict resolution strategies. For more details contact [lexingtoncommunitybuilding@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtoncommunitybuilding@gmail.com) or 859-474-0487.

**Mon. Apr. 14**

**Standing with the Workers of the World: United Students Against Sweatshops.** Brock Meade, University of Kentucky student, 6:45-7:45 pm. Oswald Building Auditorium (OB230), BCTC Cooper Campus. BCTC Speaker Series, Spring 2014. Hosted by Students for Peace and Earth Justice.

**Wed. Apr. 16**

**Taking the Offensive to Protect and Strengthen Workers' Rights in Kentucky.** Bonifacio Aleman, Executive Director, Kentucky Jobs with Justice. 3:30-4:45 pm. Oswald Building Auditorium (OB230), BCTC Cooper Campus. BCTC Speaker Series, Spring 2014. Hosted by Students for Peace and Earth Justice.

**Thurs. Apr. 17**

**Iceland: A Role Model for Sustainability.** Kristjan Johannsson, a native of Iceland and currently a BCTC student, 6:30-7:45 pm. Oswald Building Auditorium (OB230), BCTC Cooper Campus. BCTC Speaker Series, Spring 2014. Hosted by Students for Peace and Earth Justice.

**Tues. Apr. 22**

**The Earth Day Event: A Walk with John Muir.** Dr. Richard Shore, Sierra Club and Whippoorwill Holler member. Oswald Building Auditorium (OB230), BCTC Cooper Campus. BCTC Speaker Series, Spring 2014. Hosted by Students for Peace and Earth Justice.

**Sat. Apr. 26**

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

# Increase your confidence in transforming conflict

## Join LexingtonUnited for a small-group workshop

Close your eyes for a moment and remember the last interpersonal conflict you faced. Is the situation one that you face regularly or is it a once-in-a-lifetime confrontation?

Whichever it is, simply recalling the circumstances likely brings back sensory memories of anger, disappointment, upset. Now imagine approaching the next conflict with a confidence that transforms the interaction.

LexingtonUnited, a CKCPJ initiative that provides education on mediation and peacemaking, would like to invite you to a small group workshop on Saturday, March 15, from 9 am to 3 pm. The workshop will provide strategies and skills for dealing with interpersonal conflict in a way that results in peaceful resolutions. The workshop will teach ways to use practical tools that can transform confrontational interactions.

The session is limited to 10 participants in order to foster an intimate and safe environment. The cost is \$55 and lunch is included. The workshop is priced to enable LexingtonUnited to provide scholarships. Please contact us if you have a financial need – we will make sure that you are able to attend. The day will also feature yoga with Madelaine Enochs.

For more information and to reserve your spot please email us at [lexingtoncommunitybuilding@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtoncommunitybuilding@gmail.com) or call 859-474-0487. For updates, check our Facebook event page: <http://bit.ly/15MarLexU>.



Richard Grissman

### 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 5:30-6 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](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 7:30 pm, 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** 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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com) or 859-488-1448.

# BINDING THEIR WOUNDS: *America's Assault on Its Veterans*

Robert J. Topmiller and T. Kerby Neill. Paradigm Press. 2011. 231 pages.

*Reviewed by Jim Trammel*

*As I fought my way through a firestorm of guilt, disbelief and depression, I became determined to find a way to confront Agent Orange.*

Robert "Doc" Topmiller

*I never heard Bob fulminate about the architects of the Vietnam War as vehemently as he did about Rumsfeld, Chaney, and other architects of the Iraq Wars.*

Mike Arche, Doc's friend

*When you gaze long into an abyss, the abyss also gazes into you.*

Friedrich Nietzsche

The U.S. depends heavily on its veterans but gives its injured warriors inadequate care and healing when they rotate home. Note the scandal of recent years at Walter Reed Hospital as only the most recent chapter in this shameful history.

Bob "Doc" Topmiller, former history professor at Eastern Kentucky University, experienced the horrors of Vietnam firsthand as a Marine medic in Khe Sanh in January 1968, arriving less than a month before the Viet Cong launched the bloody Tet Offensive.

The years to come would take a deeper toll on Doc, as he absorbed a wider view of the carnage. He returned to Vietnam 14 times over the next decades, participating personally and financially in Vietnamese schools and orphanages.

In particular Doc raged against Agent Orange, the dioxin defoliant with which the U.S. had soaked Vietnam since 1961.

This troubled sensibility carried into Doc's career at ECU. He wrote of Khe Sanh from 1968 to 2005 in *Red Clay on My Boots*, published in 2007.

The Iraq wars ramped up Doc's devotion to peace education and anti-war efforts, but also unsettled his stressful Vietnam memories.

He despaired of the renewed chemical devastation unleashed once again in Iraq and Afghanistan, once more to rebound on the destroyers – wounding innocent soldiers through the directives of policymakers ignorant or heedless of the dangers.

As he wrote the first chapters of this book, privately telling loved ones that the experience was vastly unsettling, Doc one day in mid-2008 suddenly disappeared. He was later found a suicide victim in a

Georgetown, Ky., motel room.

His co-author and other friends and resources brought his unfinished book to completion, and published it in 2011. It is an eye-opening critique of the shortcomings and failures of the Veterans Administration medical care system.

Doc's personal experience with the Lexington VA hospital is among these largely negative reviews. He found a few caring individuals there crucial to his stability, but overall he found service at the Lexington VA "poor" in comparison with his prior treatment in Seattle. The falloff is attributed to Clinton-era budget cuts.

The book has almost nothing good to say about medical-care shortcomings for the veterans who served at the direction of George W. Bush in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The VA, the authors charge, is helpless

to change fast enough to cope with the evolving nature of Persian Gulf injuries, including the familiar Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, which the authors want renamed PTSR, changing "disorder" to "response" so as not to suggest failure on the part of the victim.

The chapter on military suicides resonates eerily with the facts of Doc's case recounted earlier in the book.

Michael Archer, quoted above, Bob's friend and also a Khe Sanh veteran and memoir author, said this book "gives us a little more time with Bob," and this reviewer could not aspire to a more eloquent summary of its appeal.

*Binding Their Wounds* faces head-on a shame and horror many of us can look at only sideways. The story behind its writing is a warning to those who would stare directly into this abyss.

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## *Peace Studies program introduces initial offering, Fall 2013*

In the fall 2013 semester, Dr. Clayton Thyne taught the introductory course to the University of Kentucky Peace Studies program. A small nucleus of students taking the course will be the first candidates for the 12 credit sequence that leads to a Certificate in Peace Studies.

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, which helped initiate the six years of work that led to the program, remains involved in building this nascent effort. CKCPJ board member Kerby Neill has developed a syllabus for the *Theory and Practice of Conflict Resolution* which faculty hopes to include in offerings in the UK College of Social Work for the Fall 2014 semester.

The course, available to advanced-level

undergraduates and graduate students, will focus on the theory and skills of peaceful communication, negotiation, mediation, and advocacy—critical skills for peacemakers. This will provide skills of special value to students of social work and also to students who are continuing in the peace studies certificate program.

Peacemaking and social work enjoy an intimate historical connection. Acknowledged as the founder of the profession of social work in the United States, Jane Addams (1860-1935) was an untiring reformer and advocate for mothers, children, communities in poverty, public health, and world peace. Jane Addams was the first American woman to win the Nobel Peace Prize.

## *I Love Mountains*

continued from page 2

grow up close to home and about saving the mountains. He dreams of becoming a “physical therapist to help people, or a photographer to photograph the beauty of the mountains.” When he included a plea to restore the voting rights of felons through HB 70, he implied that healing must also come to the social fabric throughout Appalachia.

A group of Catholic sisters from the Bardstown area, sang “For the Beauty of the Earth” in testimony to their struggle for environmental justice. Sister Claire McGowen explicitly spoke against building the Bluegrass pipeline, citing its potential for spills and pollution.

Teri Blanton, a grandmother, a native of Harlan County and a veteran fighter for mountain justice, gave the keynote address for the rally. “Sadly, my home community today is an uncontrolled toxic mess,” Teri said. “The mines are long closed, but acid mine drainage continues to flow down one side of the hill.”

She referenced poor communities and communities of color as easy targets for destructive and polluting industries. Elaine Tanner and Jimmy Hall in Mill Creek, Ky., for example, saw their groundwater wells poisoned by high levels of arsenic from nearby mining and drilling. In the Cane Run area of Louisville, Kathy Little and her neighbors breathe the pollution that blows uncontrolled from the Louisville Gas and Electric Company coal ash dump.

To these injustices Teri offered some positive directions for a renewed economy:

- Invest in a just transition for workers and communities in eastern Kentucky;
- Pass the Clean Energy Opportunity Act, HB 195, and create 28,000 new jobs weatherizing homes and building renewable energy systems;
- Pass the Stream-Saver bill, HB 288, and ban the dumping of mine waste in headwater streams;
- Pass SB 14 and block pipeline companies from using eminent domain to take people’s land;
- Finally, fully fund the EPA, Mine Safety Administration, and other agencies that protect our health, safety, water, air and climate.

Asked about any specific theme for this year’s “I Love Mountains Day,” Teri simply replied, “It’s always been about stopping mountaintop removal and creating a new economy.”



## **CKCPJ Peace Plate Campaign**

***Be a Peacemaker with this specialty license for your Kentucky car!***

CKCPJ encourages its friends to purchase the specialty license plate pictured here. When you pay \$25 to CKCPJ, your money is kept in a special fund just for this campaign. By the end of May 2014, when we have all 900 required applicants, CKCPJ will send the money and your application information to the Kentucky Department of Transportation. KDT orders the plate’s production and will notify you when the plate is ready.

CKCPJ is working with peace activists in other Kentucky cities to get the word out. For example, Rebecca Glasscock notified Anne Walter, who is very active in Louisville’s peace community and has an important position at the Drepung Gomang Institute (which brought the Dalai Lama to Louisville last year) to help. Anne was very supportive and sent it out to her contacts, and then one of

those contacts distributed it further; on MLK day, Annette Mayer let Rebecca join the One World Film Festival table at the Kentucky Theatre—the response to the CKCPJ Peace Plate was very positive. Debra Hensley is also sharing the information widely.

Currently 200 people have applied for this specialty license plate. Your help is needed to reach our goal in May! Tell your friends that they can apply online today at <http://www.peaceandjusticeky.org/plate-form.htm> and use a credit card (with a \$3 processing fee) with our secure Vanco Services website. Or, download a paper application (.pdf file available at <http://www.peaceandjusticeky.org/TC96-15ApplicationforSpecialLicensePlate-042011.pdf>) and mail in your \$25 check to CKCPJ today. Call 859-488-1448 if you have any questions.

## ***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.

Articles submitted by non-Council members are welcome.

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 and will be edited for clarity. Include references in the text for quotations, statistics, and unusual facts. We encourage submissions to be queried to the editor at [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com) before writing a unique feature article intended solely for *Peaceways*.

The author’s name, address, and phone number should appear on the body of the submitted text. Submitted material that has been published or which is submitted to other publishers should be indicated. 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 the month. *Peaceways* appears 10 times a year.



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

*"Peace is not only better than war,  
but infinitely more arduous."*  
George Bernard Shaw

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Moving? Please send us your new address in advance.

*News from LexingtonUnited, CKCPJ's peace education initiative*

## Don't teach children just to say "I'm sorry"

Pre-school teacher Ann Hardesty McKinley has shared with Lexington United her method for teaching empathy to pre-schoolers. "Kids that age don't understand the word 'sorry,'" she says, "so I teach them what 'sorry' means.

"I'm the weird pre-K teacher that doesn't make kids say 'sorry' when they injure a peer either with words or actions.

"I do make them ask the injured peer, 'are you ok?' Sometimes the answer is 'yes' but most times it's 'no.' Then I send them back to ask 'what can I do to make it better?' At that point I often offer suggestions. 'Do you need him to help rebuild your tower of blocks? Do you need a hug? Would a cold wet paper towel make the boo-boo better? Would you prefer to be left alone?'"

"I know this method works because we

go through the scenario often in the fall and then by spring when someone falls on the playground, children run over and ask 'Are you ok? What can I do to make it better?'"

"What's special about this method is that it's not about who's to blame; it's about making a difference."

Do you know a teacher who has a creative way of teaching empathy?

Please share it! Send an email to [lexingtoncommunitybuilding@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtoncommunitybuilding@gmail.com) or send a note to the CKCPJ office: 560 E. Third Street, Suite 105, Lexington, KY 40508.



*Ann Hardesty McKinley teaches pre-school in Lexington.*

*An earlier version of this essay appeared on the LexingtonUnited blog. Sarabeth Brownrobie is Executive Director of LexingtonUnited, a project of CKCPJ.*

### Did you know ...

...the *Peaceways* newsletter you are reading costs CKCPJ almost \$12 a year per recipient? We mail to over 1,000 households, yet fewer than half of those who receive *Peaceways* in the mail contribute financially to CKCPJ.

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

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Questions? Contact us at [peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com) or call 859-488-1448.

Thank you to every one of you who has let us know that your financial circumstances prevents 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 in what you can, and we want you to know that every penny helps!