

PEACEWAYS

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

CKCPJ annual dinner connects peacemakers

by Margaret Gabriel, Peaceways editor

The gathering area of Imani Baptist Church was filled with the energy of peacemakers on the evening of March 16 as people exchanged ideas, dreams and contact information. The energy was the by-product of the 2014 Networking Fair that preceded the annual dinner of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice.

The 24 exhibitors included CKCPJ member organizations and allies: Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Community Action Council and the Catholic Action Center, COOL (Community Organizers of Lexington) and Central Kentucky Move to Amend.



Rikka Wallin

People staffed tables in order to answer inquiries about the mission of each exhibitor and brochures and business cards were exchanged for future reference.

The Networking Fair is designed to give community peacemakers the opportunity make contact and learn how they can work together to achieve common goals for Lexington and central Kentucky.

Following over an hour of networking, CKCPJ members and guests continued to share inspiration during the dinner prepared by Joyce M. and Daughters' Catering.

Larry Johnson, director of Community

Collaborative Initiatives for LFUCG's Partners for Youth, gave the keynote address for the evening, giving the audience some alarming statistics about violence in Lexington, action that has been taken to address the problem and suggestions of ways to continue stemming the violence. Johnson told of the proposal he intends to present to Mayor Jim Gray in April about involving Lexington in Cities United, an initiative of the National League of Cities that believes that "violence among African-American men and boys is not a crisis, but an ongoing, pervasive, and chronic condition that must be treated like a health concern and not a crime to be punished."

The event also honored recipients of CKCPJ awards for 2014.

Ann and Chester Grundy received the Lifetime of Waging Peace Award for their dedication for over four decades of work for racial justice, of community education and empowerment, and of building racial pride. [See http://bit.ly/C-A_Grundy]

Rev. Willis Polk, pastor of Imani Baptist Church was recognized as Peacemaker of the Year for his launch of community Peace Walks that occurred on seven consecutive Sundays in 2013. More than 1,000 individuals joined Rev. Polk, creat-



Photo supplied by Kerby Neill

Yuriko Gonzalez and Alex Hernandez were honored as Youth Peacemakers of the Year.

ing conversation, reflection and thought about senseless violence in Lexington. About 31 churches supported the walks. [See <http://bit.ly/RevPolkPeacemaker>]

The Chuck Sohner Living Wage Award was given to the Kentucky Equal Justice Center, Richard J. Seckel, director. The

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Sign minimum wage petition on line

CKCPJ co-chair David Christiansen has created an on-line petition entitled, "Raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 in Lexington" and asks readers of *Peaceways* to add their names to the petition.

"This campaign means a lot to me and the more support we can get behind it, the better chance we have of succeeding," David says.

Readers can see more details and sign the petition at <http://bit.ly/M-Wage>.

David also asks that you share the petition via Facebook and Twitter.

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Rikka Wallin

Gina DeArth (center) explains the mission of the National Action Network.



Rikka Wallin

Alberta Hill sings "Nobody Knows the Trouble I've Seen."

Breach of Trust

Reviewed by T. Kerby Neill

Breach of Trust: How Americans Failed Their Soldiers and Their Country. *Bacevich, Andrew J. (2013). New York: Henry Holt.*

Andrew Bacevich, West Point grad and former Army colonel, is a sharp critic of American security policy and militarism. In *Betrayal of Trust*, he expresses serious fears for America's all 'volunteer' military, particularly the Army. Today's all-volunteer military includes many formerly excluded groups: African-Americans, Latinos, women, gays; and these groups are found in new roles—minorities in the service academies, women in virtual combat roles.

This illusion of inclusion, however, masks the fact that a vast majority of comfortable young Americans avoid shouldering any responsibility for national defense, a duty that Bacevich believes is basic to democratic citizenship. Bacevich acknowledges that President Nixon was accurately interpreting the "popular will" when he jettisoned the tradition of the citizen-soldier post-Vietnam. The new arrangement allows leaders to commit military forces with few questions since the general public, and especially elites, rest assured they are exposed to none of the risks, or, as Bacevich says, "they need neither change, pay, nor bleed."

Bacevich cites barely-questioned military commitments under the first president Bush and President Clinton. The second Iraq War offers the most striking affirmation of Bacevich's concerns. President George W. Bush declared, "We will rally the world to this cause by our efforts, by our courage," but few Americans were called to effort or courage. Rather taxes were cut, the general public was encouraged to shop and continue as normal, and the "we" called to sacrifice were those in the volunteer military. They suffered repeated deployments and high casualties. Even those who thought their enlistments were up faced stop-loss policies that kept them at risk and in the action.

For Bacevich, Iraq was a debacle like Vietnam, but only a narrow band of Americans experienced the consequences. The betrayed soldiers of the volunteer army, most of whom were committed to combat roles, were too short-handed to provide their own logistic support. They watched as these and other former military func-

tions were delegated to private contractors, many of whom indulged in an orgy of profiteering.

Bacevich fails, however, to give due weight to the degree this provoked and fueled the Iraqi insurgency. The grand Bush scheme to privatize the Iraqi economy, with no Iraqi involvement, placed American corporations in control of Iraqi assets. As Naomi Kline documents in *The Shock Doctrine*, these corporations often padded their profits by using cheap imported labor on shoddy or unfinished projects. Meanwhile many "liberated" Iraqis found themselves out of work and unable to feed their families. Driving these angry and desperate men into the insurgency cost our deployed soldiers dearly in lives, horrific wounds, and long-term trauma.

Disconnecting the citizen-soldier from serious involvement in war gives the

governing elites and those who profit from war and America's imperial reach, great latitude to misuse the military. While extolling the "all professional" army, political and military planners have broadened the scope of military adventurism to encompass a growing range of global "threats." The vaguely defined "war on terror" is just the first example of such easily applied rationales. Bacevich makes a powerful case for all citizens to once again shoulder the role of national defense but seriously doubts that a privileged, well-entertained populace will resume its former responsibilities. Bacevich echoes a passionate General George Marshall, army chief of staff during World War II, whom he quotes near the book's end:

"The enforcing power... must be maintained on a strictly democratic basis. There must not be a large standing army subject to the behest of a group of schemers. The citizen-soldier is the guarantee against such a misuse of power."

Kerby Neill is a veteran and Peace Studies faculty at the University of Kentucky.

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The Most Expendable Resource in America

by Penny Christian

Penny Christian, a native of New Orleans, has lived in Lexington for 19 years. She and her husband, Claude, have four daughters. This essay is a follow-up to her report on the September community meeting about the death of Trayvon Martin.

We surely knew Trayvon Martin was not going to be the last. Obviously he was not the first, but his murder was different. How? George Zimmerman had the law behind him. A "Stand Your Ground" law may as well be named the "Open Season" law. The law justifies an emotion that, at some point, a very large part of the American population has felt: fear of the black man.

Traditionally in the South, there seems to be a perception that all black males are primal animals that cannot control their violent urges. Years ago, someone as young as Emmitt Till was seen as a predator ready to attack when, at the age of 14, this black teenager was murdered after reportedly "flirting" with a white woman. Almost 60 years later, this perception is as effective as it was in 1955, and unfortunately, this tactic is working all too well.

Jordan Davis was a 17 year-old African American who was gunned down at a gas station in Florida. Unarmed, sitting in a car, listening to music with his friends, he was seen by Michael Dunn as a threat. Dunn, a white adult, approached their vehicle and asked them to turn down their music. When they refused, he opened fire. Why? He says he was afraid for his life. So

afraid, in fact, that when the young men attempted to drive away he chased them. Stand Your Ground indeed. Jordan is dead because the law told Michael Dunn it was Open Season. George Zimmerman would be proud.

Michael Dunn was convicted of attempted murder, but not of murder. Apparently the jury could not decide if he meant to kill Jordan when wildly firing a gun into a vehicle full of defenseless people—and they are people—or if it was self-defense.

So now we see another family's pain, anguish and confusion at the loss of a child. They get to witness first-hand just how little their son mattered in this country.

Michael Dunn says he is the victim, completely justified because until "these people start acting differently" it will happen again. But race was not a factor. It never is.

As we revisit Trayvon and what has happened since he was killed, I realize that the slippery slope we addressed then has been oiled a little more. Jordan Davis will not be the last.

The word "expendable" is defined as *easily replaced; not worth saving; meant to be used and thrown away*. Ladies and gentlemen, I give you the most expendable resource in America: the young African American male.

1964 March on Frankfort remembered with a second march

by Janet Tucker

Thousands of people converged on Frankfort on Wed., March 5, to commemorate a march, 50 years ago on that same day, where 10,000 Kentuckians rallied with Dr. Martin Luther King. On a cold day, in the sleet and snow, the cry went out for civil rights and for open access of public accommodations. The 2014 march and rally was not just a day for looking back but also a day looking forward. The central theme on the march this year was House Bill 70, for the restoration of voting rights for former felons.

Raoul Cunningham, president of Kentucky NAACP, presided over the program. He explained that the Allied Organization for Civil Rights, which organized this year's march and rally, consisted of 63 organizations from across the state. "We come to commemorate but also to advocate for civil rights and equal access to the ballot."

Georgia Powers, Kentucky's first black female state senator, attended the march

in '64 and spoke at this year's rally. "It's a pleasure for me to be able to celebrate 50 years of progress but our efforts are not complete," she told the crowd. She spoke in support of HB 70 and against the much weaker Senate substitute. "They messed up," she said. "They voted for a substitute that needs to be killed."

SB 70 passed overwhelmingly in the House but was amended in the Senate so as to be unrecognizable. The Senate added several amendments including a five-year waiting period and excludes anyone with more than one felony. Later that day, after the rally, the House voted down the Senate version.

Rep. Jessie Crenshaw (D-Lexington/District 77), who has championed HB 70 each year, told the crowd, "I want to say to you ladies and gentlemen, that the right to vote is a sacred right. It is not a privilege like driving a car. It is a sacred right!"

Frank X Walker, Kentucky poet laureate

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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.

Who is the Real Criminal?

(An Addendum to House Bill 70)

by Frank X Walker

"The right of citizens of the United States to vote shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of race, color, or previous condition of servitude."

15th Amendment to the Constitution

It's hard to believe that there was a time in America when a man could be sentenced to a chain gang for selling farm produce within the city limits.

That a black woman could be sentenced to hard labor for using abusive language towards a white man.

It makes no sense but there were no paying jobs after emancipation. And since it was a crime to be unemployed newly freed men and women or "vagrants" were arrested, fined, and sentenced to months and years of hard labor on chain gangs and prison farms to work off their fines, with additional time tacked on to pay for their own upkeep.

If we understand that the modern prison industrial complex was re-invented in the south

by capitalists, elitists, and unreconstructed southerners as a means to continue to provide uncompensated labor after the abolition of such then we understand that slavery as an institution and as an idea never really ended.

Redemption and forgiveness and the concept of paid in full should not be a privilege reserved for only the perfect few who never ever make mistakes.

If a man or woman commits a crime and then serves their time we should treat them like the returning citizen that they are not penalize them for their race, color or previous condition of servitude.

And if anyone would still insist on denying them that privilege a right guaranteed by the 15th Amendment then who is the real criminal?



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 May issue is April 10. Contact: 859-488-1448 or send an email to 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.

Thurs. Apr. 2

Humanist Forum of the UUCL, "The Humanist Stance on Euthanasia," Clay Maney. 7 pm, Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, 3564 Clays Mill Rd., Lexington. Humanist education for older children and child care for younger will be provided. For more information, contact humanist forum moderator Clay Maney, cmaney@pronettech.com. Note that the monthly meeting will be held on Thursdays.

Fri. Apr. 4

Community Game Night. 6 - 7:30pm. Sayre School, 194 N. Limestone. For all ages. Come out to play cooperative games led by graduates of Lexington-United's Spring Break Leadership Camp. Bring coins for the coin challenge: prizes for the group who brings the most coins! Food trucks and Better Bite snacks available.

Tues. Apr. 8

Nehemiah Action, BUILD. Porter Memorial Baptist Church, 4300 Nicholasville Road. Registration, 6:15 pm; program begins at 7. BUILD would like to gather 2,000 people at this action to do justice!

Tues. Apr. 8

PFLAG Lexington, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Drive, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Open discussion, no formal presentation, allowing ample time to talk about how our lives are going, to gain one another's perspective, to reflect on LGBT issues in our culture. Whether you want to talk or mostly listen, both new and old members find these meetings a useful time to get support and to get to know each other better. GLBTQs, family members, friends and allies are welcome.

Fri. Apr. 11

Gideon Alorwoye and the Afrikania Cultural Troupe of Ghana with opening act C the Beat. Lyric Theatre & Cultural Arts Center, 300 East Third St. \$10 plus processing fees. Come enjoy the authentic sounds of African drumming and dancing from master drummer Gideon Alorwoye! 859-280-2218. <http://bit.ly/11AprilLyric>

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.

Wed. Apr. 16

At-Large Candidates' Forum Hosted by Community Action Council. Learn more about candidates for Urban-County Council. 7 pm, 913 Georgetown St., Lexington.

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. The speaker will be Rev. Don Nunnley, Retired Minister, First Christian Church, Frankfort.

Your Event Here

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

Sat. May 10

Mothers' Day Festival, Valley Park, 2077 Cambridge Drive, 11 am to 3 pm. The event will include "locally grown" arts and crafts created by moms and students at Cardinal Valley Elementary School. Proceeds will be used to purchase art supplies for CVE classrooms.

There will be a Mother's Day Card contest among the CVE kids with the 1st place finishers getting a cash prize and the class with the most participation receiving a cash prize for class supplies AND a pizza party.

In addition to food, games and crafts, the festival will have information tables for local peace and justice organizations.

Sat. May 17

Artists Stand Against Poverty, ArtsPlace, 161 N. Mill St., Lexington. Enjoy cocktail, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment and a silent auction to raise funds to support Lexington Community Action Council. Tickets, \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. See www.endpovertyasap.com, contact cheryl.weiss@commaction.org or call (859) 244-2221.

Sat. May 17

Dunbar Memorial Garden Native Plant sale, Paul Laurence Dunbar High School, 1600 Man 'O War Blvd, 10am to 2pm. Co-sponsored by the Jesse Higginbotham Technology Trust and the Dunbar Beta Club. Perennial native plants will sell for \$2 to \$10 depending on size and species. All proceeds benefit the continued care and maintenance of the Paul Laurence Dunbar Memorial Garden.

Sat-Sun. Jul. 26-27

Muddy Cheer Challenge, Lexington. The challenge is a non-competitive run designed to bring families and communities together through the power of team bonding and having a muddy good time while providing a judgment-free zone and non-intimidating environment for all ages. Muddy Cheer is also a fundraising company, so any sports team, church, small charity, or group looking to raise funds is invited to participate. See muddycheerchallenge.com/

Artists Stand Against Poverty

by Charlie Lantner

Many people living in poverty play the slot machine of life. Do I buy food or medicine? Put gas in the car or pay the electric bill? Should I keep my job to keep child care assistance or do I continue working just to pay for that child care?

These are tough questions that many have to ask on a daily basis. With your help Community Action Council is building livable communities so no one has to ask these questions. CAC is a private, nonprofit organization, founded in 1965 and based in Lexington, that works to prevent, reduce and eliminate poverty in central Kentucky.

Community Action Council invites you to ArtsPlace, 161 N. Mill Street, Lexington, on Sat., May 17 at 6 pm for Artists Stand Against Poverty, a night to fight the causes and effects of poverty in Central Kentucky. Local artists are sharing their work for an evening of cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, entertainment, and a silent art auction to raise funds to support the

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National Action Network

The National Action Network (NAN) is one of the leading civil rights organizations in the world and is in the forefront of social justice in the United States. Founded in New York City in 1991 by Rev. Al Sharpton and a group of activists, NAN is committed to the principles of non-violent demonstration and civil disobedience as a direct outgrowth of the movement that was built and led by the Rev. Dr. Martin L. King, Jr.

The national headquarters of NAN shows support for its chapters and affiliates by bringing local issues to national attention. Such issues include racial profiling, police accountability, prisoners' rights, fair housing, educational and labor reform, voters' rights and protections, immigration reform, reducing gun violence, and health risks perpetuated by social and systemic crimes of racism and prejudice.

In 2013, NAN supported vigils for Trayvon Martin across the US. A vigil was organized in Lexington by activists intent on building a NAN Chapter in Lexington. This group also collaborated with NAN in marching in the 50th Anniversary of the March on Washington in August 2013. NAN's Lexington Affiliate partners with other activist groups to ensure there will be strength and unity.

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

CKCPJ Board Meetings 3rd Monday, 7 pm. 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 GLBTQQIA community for decades. More info, hours Pride Center is open and other links at: <http://www.glsso.org>.

Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky First Thursday, 7 pm, Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd, Lexington. 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 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.

National Action Network 3rd Thursday of each month, 7 pm to 8:30 pm at the Central Library, Lexington.

Want your group's meeting listed here?

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

Annual Dinner

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staff of this small but dedicated group has impacts legislation that assists the poor, protects consumers, and prevents the exploitation of workers. In the past year Kentucky Equal Justice played a major role in shaping legislation to prevent human trafficking and compensate victims of trafficking. [See <http://bit.ly/KEJC-2014Sohner>]

Finally, Yuriko Gonzalez and Alex Hernandez were honored as Youth Peacemakers of the Year. Since October of 2013 Yuriko has participated in the Winburn after-school tutoring/mentoring and homework help sessions. A senior at Bryan Station High School, Yuriko dreams of attending the University of Kentucky to become a pediatric nurse. She plans to continue educating and connecting with young people from disadvantaged communities.

Alex Hernandez was recognized as a role model for Hispanic/Latino students. Alex volunteered his time during the spring and summer of 2013, working with children in the Winburn Kids on the Move program and assisted in developing the Partners for Youth grant for the Winburn summer program. Alex is a graduate of Bryan Station High School. [See <http://bit.ly/YouthPeace>]

National Action Network

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In Lexington NAN is also focused on voter protection, criminal justice, jobs, ministers' initiative, and education. Membership in NAN is open to everyone, regardless of race, creed, religion, sexual orientation, or national origin. Local meetings are held the third Thursday of each month, 7 pm to 8:30 pm at the Central Library, Lexington. For more information regarding becoming a member, call Gina DeArth, 330- 978-0884.

Artists Stand Against Poverty

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council's essential programs and services.

Don't miss this opportunity to support Community Action Council and local artists, as the artists receive a portion of the proceeds from the sale of their work.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit www.endpovertyasap.com or contact Cheryl Weiss at (859) 244-2221 or cheryl.weiss@commaction.org.

Charlie Lanter is the director of Planning, Communications and Advancement for Lexington's Community Action Council.



Above, left: Tinka McIntosh, director of About Us Kids; center, Richard J. Seckel, director of the Kentucky Equal Justice Center; right, Rev. Willis Polk; left, Larry Johnson delivers the keynote address for the CKCPJ Annual Dinner. Photos by Rikka Wallin.

March on Frankfort

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and recipient of the NAACP Image Award, read a statement he wrote especially for the day, "If a man or a woman commits a crime, then serves their time, we should treat them like the returning citizens that they are, not penalize them for their, race, color, or previous condition of servitude. And if anyone would still insist on denying them the privilege, a right guaranteed by the Fifteenth Amendment then who is the

real criminal?" [See Walker's statement, page 3]

Pastor and former felon Michael Hiser, said, "All of us should all care about liberty. Any state that tells more than 180,000 of its citizens that they have no voice and no vote is not a state that embraces liberty. I remain hopeful the Senate will see a way forward to move Kentucky into the 21st century as an inclusive state."

The crowd heard from a number of other speakers including Governor Steve Beshear and Secretary of State Alison Lundergan Grimes.

It was clear that people see the issue of voting rights linked to many other issues in Kentucky. Marchers carried signs regarding a multitude of issue including increase of the minimum wage, immigration rights, marriage equality, and many more. They represented a justice agenda for Kentucky with voting rights the central focus.

"Gone are the laws of segregation," Senator Gerald Neal, (D-Louisville/ District 33) told the crowd. "Gone are the bullwhips of official oppression . . . you have a role. I am inviting you not just to write, not just to call; I'm inviting you today to come to the Senate."

Take this a marching order. Tell elected officials to pass HB 70 unamended. Let our people vote!

Janet Tucker is a member of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and an activist for restoration of voting rights for former felons.



Frank X Walker reads Who Is the Real Criminal? at the March 5 march on Frankfort that focused on House Bill 70.

They Can Build It — (If They Want)

By Billie Mallory

“They can build it—if they want” was the “take away” message of the report recently submitted by czb Corporation, the consultant commissioned by Mayor Jim Gray. The report was delivered to the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government council members and the public in late February.

The consultants said if the mayor and the city council want to do something about the issue of affordable housing in Lexington, they must start with understanding root causes, which are twofold. First, the *prosperity price of success* of the local economy has forced housing to become more expensive. Second, there is an accompanying *legacy problem* for those who are low-skilled, have stagnated wages or are in generational poverty. These factors put affordable housing out of reach for many.

The consultants estimate that 6,000 households are in substandard housing or that which exceeds 30 percent of the wage earners’ income. For Lexington to completely catch up with the affordable housing demand, it will cost about \$36 million to provide for those 6,000 household units. Lexington must then keep up by closing the wage gap for low-skilled workers.

Even if Lexington had the \$36 million needed to close the gap, it does not have the system capacity to implement such an increase in housing units. Therefore, there is a need for a two-tiered approach. First, the gap can be closed by approximately \$4 million a year by establishing an Affordable Housing Trust Fund with a dedicated funding source. Then, by maintaining that revenue until 2025, affordable units can be provided for all working families.

There is the need for further changes, including the establishment of an Office of Homelessness Intervention and Prevention; administration of the trust fund by the Division of Planning, Preservation and Development; and changes to current planning and zoning guidelines for land use and urban revitalization.

According to the report, changes should also include additional rental subsidy for low-income households; redevelopment of existing housing stock; new construction; and aggressive planning and zoning changes. More details are contained in the full report, *Lexington’s Affordable Housing Challenge and Potential Strategy*, that can be found at www.lexingtonky.gov. It goes on to say that although “the proposed

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CKCPJ is in the process of recruiting 900 applicants for the license plate pictured here. 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.

CKCPJ is also looking for places to set up sign-up tables, *i.e.*, at local social justice organization event or religious gatherings. 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 real and lasting victories are those of peace, and not of war.”
Ralph Waldo Emerson

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Issue #273 • April 2014

Moving? Please send us your new address in advance.

Chester and Ann Grundy recognized for a lifetime of peacemaking



Rikka Wallin

Chester accepts the award on behalf of Ann, who was visiting grandchildren the night of the banquet.

On behalf of my wife, Ann, and my entire family, I want to thank the members of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice for this recognition. Recognition is always nice but it is especially nice when it comes from an organization with whom we share such fundamental agreement on a whole range of things. And that’s certainly true of the high regard we have had for the work of this council over many, many years.

We are especially pleased to receive this award from you because it affirms to us that somebody gets it! And what I mean by that is that the kind of work that Ann and I have tried to do over these many years might, on a very superficial level, be written off as “just entertainment.” And the various events we’ve worked on—the concerts, the lectures, the theater productions, the film festivals, have been, at one level, certainly been entertaining.

But we have always been very clear and very conscious about our real motivation for trying to provide high quality cultural and educational programs to this community.

It is because, we know that a robust, high quality cultural life is absolutely criti-

cal to the healthy, progressive development of every community. And that is because the arts have always been the vehicle to connect us with the real depths of the meaning and the possibility of our humanity—what it really means to be a human being. The arts, in short, are us human beings at our best!

As Americans we suffer from a very serious identity crisis. Unfortunately, many of us still believe the arts to be some kind of dreamy, non-essential esoteric

fluff. That’s why the arts are always the first to be cut from the school budgets.

But if we are ever to realize what it means to be a true democracy, what it truly means to be an American, what the possibilities for a genuinely democratic America really are, it is crucial that this change happen not only on a political level but on a cultural level as well. Because what happens in the concert centers and theaters is just as important

as what happens in the classrooms and the voting booths.

And what Ann and I have learned over our 42 years of doing cultural work in this community—particularly our work with students and young people, including our own children—that this change that we are seeking really, really is possible. On behalf of the entire Grundy group, I thank you!



Rikka Wallin

Chester was introduced by CKCPJ board member Kerby Neill.

Affordable Housing

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endeavor will be very costly, the Lexington economy is fully capable of absorbing these costs—it is not an issue of whether Lexington can close the affordable housing gaps but whether it wants to badly enough.”

Affordable housing an issue that impacts the entire city, regardless of income level or housing choice. All concerned citizens can become better informed and actively engaged in the issue by attending Nehemiah Action of BUILD (Building a United Lexington Through Direct Action) on April 8 at Porter Memorial Baptist

Church, 4300 Nicholasville Rd., Lexington, participating in upcoming LFUCG candidate forums, voting in the elections for mayor, at-large and district council seats.

Express your voice by contacting Mayor Gray at mayor@lexingtonky.gov and all council members at councilmembers@lexingtonky.gov and exercise your right to vote in May elections.

On Mar. 17, LFUCG council approved Mayor Gray’s budget that includes \$3.5 million for the trust fund. Billie Mallory is an activist for people who are homeless or marginally housed.