

PEACEWAYS

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

BUILD Nehemiah Action sees progress

by Margaret Gabriel, Peaceways editor

Participants at the April 8 Nehemiah Action of *Building a United Interfaith Lexington through Direct Action* (BUILD) celebrated progress on two social justice issues on which BUILD has been working for several years. These issues are the establishment of an affordable housing trust fund in Lexington and a state cap on fees for payday lending.

Kentucky Sen. Alice Forgy Kerr has agreed to sponsor a bill to cap payday lending in Kentucky, and Mayor Jim Gray has included \$3.5 million in Lexington's budget for the establishment of the trust fund. For six years, BUILD has advocated for a dedicated revenue stream to maintain the fund.

For three years, BUILD has asked elected officials to cap payday lending at 36 percent, the limit that has been established for military families, but no action has been taken against the allowed rate of 391 percent.

BUILD has been active in Lexington for eight years and has been instrumental in making such changes in Fayette County as more accessible public transportation, tracking suspension rates in public schools and drug treatment for women in jail.

In 2014, BUILD is asking public officials to make changes in three areas: payday lending, funds for an Affordable Housing Trust Fund and the establishment of drug court in Fayette County. An estimated 1700 people attended the April 8 action during which officials were asked if they would take the needed action to make the changes that BUILD sees necessary

CKCPJ solicits youth art

As part of the 8th Lexington Peace Fair, the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice encourages artistic entries from K - 12 students. Youth can write, paint, draw and/or sculpt their vision of a more peaceful world; the theme is "Peace is Possible." Submit artwork by mail or in person to 560 E. Third St. #105, Lexington, KY 40508. Certificates and four \$25 prizes will be awarded on Saturday, May 17th, 2014. Print entry forms - <http://lexington-peace.org/8th-lexington-peace-fair.html>

for the community.

It is often difficult for elected officials to attend BUILD's annual Nehemiah Action, said Kabby Akers, a member of the board. "We're beginning to get more respect," Kabby said. "We can feel a shift toward more credibility."

Because BUILD representatives ask for yes or no answers to such questions as "By July 1, 2014, will you bring a proposal to the council to create an affordable housing trust fund to build and renovate affordable housing?" elected officials are sometimes skittish about attending an action and having to give an answer that is in opposition to BUILD's efforts and goals.

This year, however, Mayor Jim Gray



BUILD estimates that attendance at its 2014 Nehemiah Action was nearly 1700. The action was held at Porter Memorial Church.

gave affirmative answers to questions about establishing the requested trust fund, only answering "Maybe" to whether he would attend an assembly on Oct. 27, 2014.

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Have you applied for your license plate?

CKCPJ continues to recruit applicants for the license plate pictured here. Streamlined checkout makes purchasing simple and hassle free. Thanks to the great folks at Square, the process is now cheaper and quicker.

The plate is listed through <http://bit.ly/KYpeaceplate>. We are down to the last few weeks of the campaign and need your support. Please share this information with your network.



You can also request a paper application and mail it back with your \$25 check to CKCPJ.

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.

When plate production begins, the funds raised will be used to help schools integrate peace education into secondary school curricula.

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The Colonel is worse than you think, if you think

by Donovan Norris

On November 13, 2013, this piece appeared in the Eastern Progress, the newspaper of Eastern Kentucky University. Donovan Norris was responding to a suggestion by retired Professor William Ellis that the school mascot, a “Colonel,” be replaced with a figure that is less racially charged. Although some members of the ECU community agreed with Professor Ellis, others, including an editorial by the paper, commented that the tradition of the mascot should remain unchanged.

In the editorial Oct.31, 2013, the Editor [of the Eastern Progress] presented a well-written article of propaganda which sounded a lot like someone who watches Fox News. There were words, phrases and manipulation which are hints to indicate the O’Reilly, Beck, Hannity and Rush mindset. The Editor used the phrase “politically incorrect” that is the code phrase used instead of saying something is offensive, hurtful or hateful toward a minority group.

However, the article never explored the issue of hurting and offending people who are your classmates at ECU. Instead, the article tried to garner sympathy for the billionaire owner of the Washington Redskins, “who’s repeatedly had to drag himself before microphones to reaffirm his support for his NFL team’s beleaguered mascot.” Really? Poor rich guy, being forced to “drag” himself to a mic, what he can’t walk? Are we to feel broken-hearted for the billionaire, yet, there is no compassion for those who have experienced the evils of racism and are offended and hurt by the continued support for the “tradition” of racism.

The editor contends that the majority of the paper’s staff is in favor of keeping the Colonel; of course, the majority of the staff is white and is not hurt or offended at all. It is like when I see someone else get punched in the stomach, I can say “oh, that didn’t hurt”, and even the person delivering the punch could say that, but the fact is only the person being punched knows the level of pain. There may some who see this and laugh, some who blame the victim for being hurt by ridiculing them as weak or can’t take a punch, then there are people like me who are concerned that someone is hurt and I may even want to help them, support them and in fact, I might stand up for them or fight to protect them. We can choose which type of person we want to be.

The article argues in favor of “tradition” but did not present the true history of ECU and the real tradition of the Colonel, who clearly does not represent any military colonel, what branch of the military ever wore a big white hat, bolo tie, white suit and mustache and beard. He is clearly representative of the old southern, confederate, plantation colonel and a symbol of the more polite racist, more polite than the KKK racist. Would we defend a white hooded, sheet covered mascot?

According to Dr. Ellis in “A History of Eastern Kentucky University,” the origins of ECU began just after the Civil War in 1873 as Central University. Ellis reported that the first Chancellor, the Reverend Beck, announced the University would appeal to the “southernness among a people homogeneous.” All college students should recognize the code words for all-white racists. The original Board of Curators included old confederate Colonels. ECU became known as and proud of being an all-white racist school. In the 1920s they marched in confederate uniforms in the Louisville Parade for the Confederate Reunion. The baseball team had a black man mascot, a clown-like, Step-n-Fetch-It character, which was funny to whites who were not offended, but it was humiliating and offensive to African-Americans. Ellis also reported that when African-Americans first applied for admission, ECU’s president told the Board of Regents that the blacks should go to Kentucky State, or UK or Berea, but not Eastern. Ellis also revealed that when the first teams with black players came to Eastern to compete, ECU students waved Confederate flags and they hooted racial slurs during the games. And then in 1963, the midst of the Civil Rights movement and the integration of schools, the President of ECU changed the University mascot from the Maroons to the iconic symbol of Southern racism; maybe a message, you think? The in-your-face symbol could offend and discourage black students from wanting to come to Eastern. And it may still be the reason for a lack of diversity even today.

In 1961 George Lee, the first and only black player on the ECU football team, was rejected at a movie theater while on a road trip to play for his school. The whole ECU football team stood with their teammate and walked out of the theater. That’s the tradition I want to keep!



[Now], we can choose the ECU tradition, the rebel flag-waving, hooting rednecks entertaining themselves by humiliating others, or we can choose the ECU tradition of the 1961 football team that stood up against racism to care about their teammate.

We need to send a message that we are moving forward not backwards. Yes, boot the ol’ Colonel out on his fiftieth birthday. We don’t have to feel any sympathy for him, he is not real, he is a symbol! He won’t feel a thing, he is a cartoon. But there are real people with real feelings who are hurt, offended and humiliated at ECU. They are your classmates! Have some empathy for them, not a racist cartoon character. Y’all need to get along now, old Colonel, ya hear?

To see comments about Donovan’s essay, see <http://www.easternprogress.com/2013/11/21/colonel-evokes-ekus-racist-past/>

Lanter named director of Homelessness Prevention

Mayor Jim Gray has named Charlie Lanter the city’s first director of the newly created Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention. Charlie, a long-time ally of CKCPJ, will take his position in May.

Charlie will focus on helping Lexington improve efforts to effectively address homelessness through increased coordination, innovation and data-driven decision-making, according to Mayor Gray.

The creation of the office was a recommendation made by the Mayor’s Commission on Homelessness in 2013. Charlie will administer a \$500,000 fund homelessness fund and will be involved in efforts to create affordable housing—a critical component of preventing homelessness.

Originally from Lexington, Charlie is a graduate of Tates Creek High School and Western Kentucky University with a double major in print journalism and government.

KEJC recognized by CKCPJ for justice efforts

At its annual dinner on Sunday, March 16, 2014, CKCPJ presented the 2014 Chuck Sohner award to the Kentucky Equal Justice Center (KEJC) in recognition of the work done by the staff of this small but dedicated group which has a distinguished role in impacting legislation that assists the poor, protects consumers, and prevents the exploitation of workers. In the past year Kentucky Equal Justice Center played a major role in shaping legislation to prevent human trafficking and compensate victims of trafficking.

Through their work in leading the Kentucky Worker's Rights Task Force, the Kentucky Equal Justice Center educates the public about injustice that impacts workers and legislation which may improve or negatively affect Kentucky workers.

CKCPJ board member Janet Tucker made the presentation, saying:

"I am honored to present the Chuck Sohner award tonight. Chuck was a member of our community who was very much loved and respected. He led the way for many of us. Among many other contributions, Chuck was one of the founders of the living wage campaign here in Lexington.

"This year's award goes to the Kentucky

Equal Justice Center. Some of their work includes the Maxwell Street Legal Clinic provides services to our brothers and sisters in the immigrant community. They work to provide services that the Dream Act would and should do on a broader scale. They help sign up young people for Deferred Action Childhood Arrivals (DACA).

"They have a new health outreach program that is helping to sign up children for healthcare.

"They worked with others to craft a new human trafficking measure assuring it had a wage theft provision."

As he accepted the award, Rich Seckel reflected that many people are familiar with the Maxwell Street Legal Clinic (one part of the Kentucky Equal Justice Center) and the work done there on behalf of migrant workers who receive assistance with their immigration status. Once that work is done, however, many not know that the next question of many workers is: "I worked for this place once, and I never got paid. Is there anything that can be done?" The workers' advocacy done by the staff of the KEJC is wide-ranging indeed.

Getting All Kentuckians Covered

The Kentucky Equal Justice Center has a long history of advocating for the rights of low-income Kentuckians. From helping over 100 young immigrants apply for the new Deferred Action status, to helping restore Medicaid long-term care to almost 3500 Kentuckians, KEJC keeps active in Kentucky policy and offers legal services to those who can't afford them elsewhere.

Most recently, KEJC received the CKJPC's Chuck Sohner Award for workers' advocacy in many areas. For example KEJC's employment law attorneys help many immigrants. Many immigrants fear taking legal action because they are undocumented. However, everyone has the right to be paid for the work they've done, regardless of immigration status.

KEJC works to make sure those rights are recognized through its free Wage Claim Clinics at the Maxwell Street Legal Clinic in Lexington, on the third Wednesday of each month, from 4 pm to 7 pm.

Getting the word out to people who may need these services calls for lots of community outreach. The organization's AmeriCorps member, Grace Mandry, travels throughout Kentucky giving "Know

Your Rights" presentations, sharing information about workers' rights, as well as changes in healthcare and immigration law.

Grace is usually accompanied by health outreach coordinators, Miranda Brown or Sylvia Stainback, who explain about KYNECT, Kentucky's new health insurance marketplace, and clarify eligibility rules for many Kentuckians who previously did not know they were eligible for free or low-cost health insurance through Medicaid or, for kids, KCHIP (Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program). Since October 2013, the three have made presentations or met with about 100 community organizations, churches, and schools, and continue to seek places to present, specifically to parents and to service providers who need these healthcare resources the most.

Anyone curious about how KEJC can provide free assistance, or interested in coordinating a "Know Your Rights" or Medicaid/KCHIP presentation, can contact Miranda Brown, 800-699-0805, mirandabrown@kyequaljustice.org.

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace & Justice

Board of Directors: 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 June issue is May 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. May 1

May Day Rally, Wildcat Alumni Plaza, Avenue of Champions, 6:30 pm-8 pm. Sponsored by the UK United Students Against Sweatshops and the Indiana Kentucky Ohio Regional Council of Carpenters and Allies. The rally will call for an end to wage-theft on UK dorm construction projects; a stop to the plan to outsource UK dining services and a commitment to keep Sodexo (an independent dining service operation) off campus. Prior to the 6:30 activities, there will be a 6 pm memorial for April Browning.

Sat. May 10

Mothers' Day Festival, Valley Park, 2077 Cambridge Drive, 11 am-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 receiving 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.

Tues. May 13

PFLAG meeting St Michael's Episcopal Church 2025 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington, 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Meet a gay couple just married after 17 years together. What have been the joys and challenges of their lives as gay men, in terms of family, community, careers? We welcome GLBTQ individuals, family members, friends and allies. More information about PFLAG at www.pflaglex.org.

Sat. May 17

Artists Stand Against Poverty, ArtsPlace, 161 N. Mill St., Lexington. Enjoy cocktails, 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, 10 am-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. May 17

Lexington Peace Fair, Central Kentuckians will gather at BCTC, Cooper Drive campus, from 11:30 a.m.-6 p.m. for the eighth annual event which will include live music, local food, and activities celebrating nonviolence. Special artwork honoring peace and created by K-12th grade students will be on display. A full schedule of performances is listed on <http://lexingtonpeace.org/home.html>

Tues. May 20

Election Day, Primary for the off-year election. Polls are open from 6 am to 6 pm. If you are unsure of your polling place, contact the Fayette County clerk, 859-253-3344.

Thurs. June 5

Megachurches, Megastores, Monopolies, and Monotheism, 7 pm, Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd., Lexington. Richard Meadows will lead a discussion that will explore how monotheism largely replaced polytheism by using one god to try to explain everything rather than having a god of thunder, a god of volcanoes, etc., even though this led to paradoxes like "If there's one omnipotent and omniscient god, why is there evil in the world?"

Fri. June 20

World Refugee Day Summit, Lexington's Bridge to the World 9 am- 2 pm, Central Library, 140 E. Main St., Lexington. Lexington has an ever-growing population of refugees. Did you know we have the third largest population of resettled Congolese immigrants in the country? Learn more about the advantages and challenges that come with welcoming refugees into our community. Register at <https://sites.google.com/site/lexington-refugeesummit/>

Sat. Jun. 21

Festival of the Streets, Court House Plaza, 120 N. Limestone, Lexington. 11 am-4 pm. Sponsored by the Street Voice Council and Divine Providence, Inc. The festival will include music, dancing and food prepared by people in a culinary training program. There will be displays of the writing of people who are or have experienced homelessness and the paintings and sculpture will be on sale.

Sat. Jun. 28

Lexington Pride Festival, Court House Plaza, 120 N. Limestone, Lexington. 11 am. The eighth annual family-friendly event will include a parade, vendor booths, food and an appearance by Erin Davies and the "Fagbug," which makes a statement about hate crimes.

Fri. July 4

Fourth of July Festival. Downtown Lexington, various locations. The day-long celebration will include the Bluegrass 10K, a street festival, a parade and fireworks. To apply for a parade entry, see downtownlex.com.

Thurs-Sun. July 10-13

Whippoorwill Festival 2014, Skills for Earth-Friendly Living. 1 pm Thursday to 11:30 pm Sunday. HomeGrown Hide-Aways, 500 Floyd Branch Road, Berea, Ky. See www.whippoorwillfest.com

Attention

Lexington activist Steven Burt puts out this call: "I am beginning a project that will end in a documentary on activism in Lexington. This will include involvement in mountain top removal, Occupy Lexington, Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, and any student organizations. If you want to help with it, or if you have things to contribute contact me at: Sburt00043@gmail.com."

Your Event Here

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

In Memory of April Browning

by Janet Tucker, CKCPJ board

The central Kentucky community lost a strong leader on April 7 with the passing of April Browning. Her strong voice for justice and equality could be heard on many fronts. April started nearly every speech with, "First and foremost, I'm a mom." She said in one interview, "My son Elijah makes every day worth living and special. That's the first and most important thing you need to know about me."

She went on to explain, "But after that, it's really important to me to take initiative to make my community a better place--for Elijah and everyone else."

April was a board member of CKCPJ. She was the inspiration for and one of the founders of Occupy Lexington in 2011. Her voice was heard at the rallies organized by Kentuckians Against the War On Women. She was a spokesperson for the restoration of voting rights for former felons in Kentucky.

April was born in Flint, Mich., but grew up in central Kentucky. She understood firsthand the struggle of low-income parents in Kentucky. She understood firsthand being denied voting rights as a former felon who had paid the price for a mistake long-past. She understood the struggle of the 99 percent against the one percent and worked and voiced her support for that struggle.

"I am politically active, and I feel that my voice as well as thousands of other Kentuckians' voices should be heard," April said. "I'm fighting for progress across the board, and this fight is personal."

We mourn the loss of April's leadership and activism, but her spirit will remain with us as the struggle continues.

Donations in April's memory can be directed to <http://bit.ly/ABMemorial> Gifts will help her family pay for her final expenses; any remainder will establish a trust fund for her son, Elijah.



April Browning

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 GLBTQQA 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 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.

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.

Book Review

Beyond Ideas of Wrongdoing and Rightdoing

by Gail Koehler

Nonviolent Communication a Language of Life by Marshall Rosenberg, Puddledancer Press, 2003.

Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing, and rightdoing, there is a field. I will meet you there.

--Rumi

(from the home page of the The Center for Nonviolent Communication (CNVC) website: www.cnvc.org)

What if most of the ideas, beliefs and language you carry about violence and conflict—the ideas that rattle around inside your head, the words you speak without even being aware of them—turned out to be what’s making you unhappy, unproductive, and mired in struggle?

Nonviolent communication (NVC) founder and author Marshall Rosenberg and the global community of nonviolent communication practitioners want you to know that NVC is a practice they’ve found effective from the nitty-gritty of personal relationships to large-scale, war-torn areas

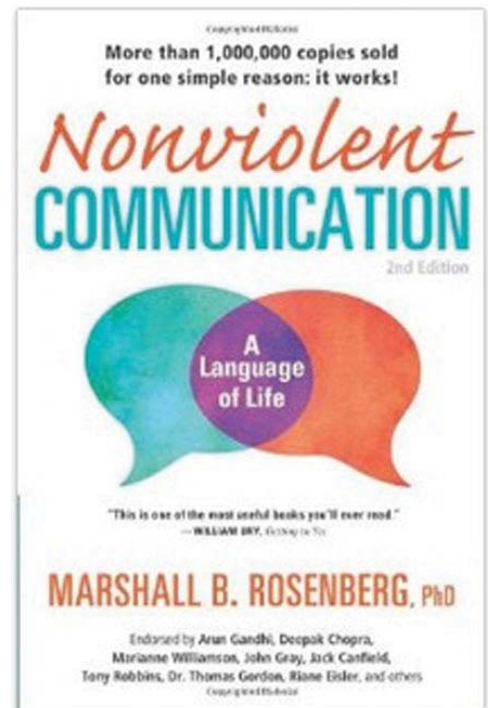
including Rwanda, Nigeria, Malaysia, the Middle East, Serbia, Croatia and Ireland.

To help spread the skills they believe can transform all kinds of conflicts, certified trainers around the globe provide weekend and weeklong sessions. A search of the Internet indicates that Kentucky does not currently have certified trainers registered and available. This title and its companion workbook can be an excellent introduction to NVC.

Together, the two books provide foundations and practical exercises to enable someone interested in learning about NVC to apply the skills immediately. For those who want more without committing to the travel and expense of attending training sessions, there are a multitude of online resources (at www.cnvc.org).

If you still want a book in your hands, these two volumes are an excellent resource.

The books outline the foundational insight of NVC: “Violence is a tragic expression of unmet needs.” The books provide step-by-step alternative practice to our learned, and all too frequently violent, everyday language, and many anecdotes



and testimonials to the transformative power of communicating with others—and ourselves—nonviolently.

More information about the Center for Nonviolent Communication in Albuquerque, New Mexico, is available at www.cnvc.org)

Gail Koehler is the lead trainer for Lexington United.

Nonviolent Communication – A Process of Noticing & Presence

De-mystify mind-stuff, ask yourself, "In this moment, what are my:"



The goal of nonviolent communication (NVC) is to reconnect us to the “language of life,” where human relationships are about joyful giving and receiving. The aim is to communicate with authenticity and to practice empathy, which is to be fully present to others.

Toward that end, NVC has a four-part process. Practitioners are trained to identify

- Observations without judgment
- Feelings, their own and others’
- Needs which are foundational to connection
- Requests, concrete actions we request others take

This is a tall order! NVC is seen as a practice that takes a lifetime to master. The workbook is designed both for individual and group practice. Many find learning NVC with others to be part of what makes this a transformative practice.

Gail asks for for NVC-trained people in central Kentucky who might be interested in connecting with those who would like to learn more. Please email Gail at gmkkentucky@gmail.com or call 859-813-2649.

Signatures sought for petition

There is a petition in circulation directed to Charles and David Koch, Chairman and CEO, and Executive Vice President, respectively, of Koch Industries which says: "We, citizens of the United States, denounce you, Charles and David Koch, for using your vast wealth—more than the combined wealth of the bottom 40 percent of Americans—to corrupt our democracy.

You are thereby undermining the most precious gift we possess, our democratic system of government. You deserve to be shamed and condemned by all Americans."

Will you sign this petition? Click: http://petitions.moveon.org/sign/we-denounce-the-koch?source=s.em.mt&r_by=10226992

Tues., May 20 is Election Day. Don't forget to exercise your right to vote!

The name of Rep. Jesse Crenshaw was misspelled in the April issue of Peaceways.

In Memory of Jack Burch

by Kerby Neill, CKCPJ board

CKCPJ suffered a second loss with the death of former Community Action Council CEO, Jack Burch. Jack's commitment to peace and justice spanned his lifetime. He devoted eight years to service in the Peace Corps, four years to outreach in southeastern Kentucky, and for over three decades he worked to bolster faltering anti-poverty programs at the multi-county Community Action Council. Jack poured himself into making every community in which he worked a better one. He transformed CAC into a vital resource for Lexington's disadvantaged, and with his leadership, it became nationally recognized. Renowned as an agency leader and an advocate for the poor, Jack was a savvy player in local politics—acutely aware that communities don't thrive without compassionate political leadership.

For several years Jack was a staunch partner in the CKCPJ's efforts to promote a living wage, especially for those employed by our taxes with the LFUCG. When council members needed advice on community projects, grant-writing, or the appropriate space for a neighborhood event or project, Jack was a ready and generous ally.

Shortly before he left the CAC Jack mused about his retirement plans—a respite from day-to-day challenges, opportunity to travel, and raising his glass-blowing hobby to a new level. I asked him what he was going to do when he found that he still needed to scratch his social-justice itch. He smiled and acknowledged that he knew it would not go away. After a few years he was sure he would turn his hand to justice projects again. I asked him not to forget the CKCPJ board as a venue for his talents. That is a CKCPJ dream denied by the premature quenching of Jack's star. His death is a profound loss to a grateful central Kentucky.



Jack Burch participates in the MLK Peace Walk.

National activist meets with Lexington council

by Kelly Duffy

Michael Stoops, director of community organizing for the National Coalition for the Homeless, spent several days in Lexington in April and described his meeting with the Street Voice Council (SVC) as the "best part of the trip."

Ginny Ramsey, co-director of the Catholic Action Center, introduced Michael who briefly described his work with the National Coalition for the Homeless. He described his recent effort on the issue of discrimination based on homeless status and asked if anyone in the room had ever been discriminated against based on their appearance. Virtually every hand in the room went up.

Michael said this discrimination is a growing trend nationally, and one that hits home in Lexington. He was surprised to see Lexington use the word "homeless" in its day shelter ordinance, a word he says he never sees explicitly used in city ordinances. He outlined a project he had discussed with SVC leaders during his trip to Lexington in December trip.

He encourages members of the SVC to

participate in a study and rating system for service providers in Lexington, similar to the Zagat rating scale used for restaurants. SVC members will use surveys and instruments that have been used by other cities and will publish their findings in a street guide. Instead of stars, ratings on a scale of 1 to 5 would be denoted by dumpsters. Top rated service organizations will receive a golden dumpster to display in front of their offices.

At the end of the meeting, backpacks filled with personal care items collected by the University of Kentucky football team were distributed to those in attendance. After the meeting, Michael talked one-on-one with SVC members and said he was thrilled to see so many people in attendance, a record of 125 folks. Overall, while there are many issues of homelessness and poverty facing Lexington, Michael sees a great deal of hope in folks like the SVC members. The homeless of our community must insist they have a voice!

Kelly Duffy is the lead volunteer for Lexington's Catholic Action Center.

BUILD

continued from page 1

BUILD has asked similar questions about the trust fund for six years; the group received a positive response about the fund for the first time in 2014.

In its eight years, BUILD has gathered members from 22 religious congregations and in doing so has taught congregations the difference between charity and justice.

While charity, Kabby said, is an action which assists individuals in need, addressing justice is an action which requires systemic change. "As we've gotten bigger, we've been able to take on bigger issues," she said. Creating an Affordable Housing Trust Fund is an action that cannot be ac-

complished in a short time, but over time, success is possible.

The same can be said for capping payday lending, an issue that has been on BUILD's agenda for three years. Working along side Citizens of Louisville Organized and United Together (CLOUT), BUILD is confident that there will be progress toward the cap because of Sen. Kerr's sponsorship of the bill in the Kentucky General Assembly.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the work of BUILD, contact lead organizer Kelly Doyle, 859-367-0152 Build_organizer@yahoo.com

Submissions to Peaceways

Articles submitted for publication in *Peaceways* should show an awareness of and sensitivity to the CKCPJ's mission and concerns. Articles submitted by non-Council members 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.



"If we could read the secret history of our enemies, we would find in each man's life sorrow and suffering enough to disarm all hostility."
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

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News from Lexington United, CKCPJ's peace education initiative

Lexington United sponsors camp during FCPS Spring Break



Lexington United teaches conflict reduction and cultural competency skills to Fayette County youth using a unique blend of cooperative games and interactive lessons. This program builds community using positive approaches to prejudice reduction and team building.

The organization also offers a range of training and skill building opportunities.

Lexington United hosts leadership camps during Fayette County schools' spring break and the summer months. At these fun camps youth learn leadership skills through experiences rather than lectures. After a recent week-long camp, participating youth brought together a diverse cross section of Lexington to play community building games at a game night held at Sayre School.

Information about upcoming events, camps, and trainings can be found at www.lexingtoncommunitybuilding.org or www.facebook.com/LexingtonUnited



Top right: Volunteers for Lexington United. Back row: Candice Rider, Will Anderson, Gail Koehler; middle row: Mae Marks, Sarabeth Brownrobie; front: Ebony Davis. Top left, workshop participants learn about the value of interactive games. Above, workshop participants learn to employ non-confrontational conversation.

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