

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

September 2014

Intersection of the law and the people

Every day CKCPJ board member and attorney Heather Hadi deals directly and personally with the immigration crisis in the United States. Politicians often address the issue by discussing the need for more effective fences and ways to send “illegals” back to their home countries. Heather sees children and families in desperate situations, having fled danger and violence. She submits this reflection to Peaceways.

As they shuffle into my office I notice the look of hopelessness emanating from their faces. A mother with her two young daughters sits down in front of me and holds out a packet of documents. These documents pertain to their deportation proceedings. They are from Honduras and crossed the U.S. border from Mexico illegally.

These documents are black and white with words that a born native-born U.S. citizen would find intimidating. The mother speaks to me in rapid Spanish, asking me to explain what is happening, what she has signed, if the “police” would send her back to her country. Before I can speak she bursts into tears, begging me to

help her and her children.

She hugs her children tightly to her chest and begins to tell me her story. Her tale is one I’ve heard many times over but never gets easier to hear. The crime, the violence, the pure terror that the cartels and gangs inflict upon the citizens of Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico are beyond understanding. She tells me of her long journey on foot, with her two young children. She paints a picture of despair and fear as she travelled through cities where young children fleeing from their home countries are known to be grabbed and subjected to unimaginable tortures.

As she speaks, her children look up at their mother, wide-eyed. They are unaware that they are deemed “illegal aliens.” They are unaware of the laws and the politics surrounding their arrival.

It is difficult to explain that unless an individual qualifies for the limited types of relief allowed by U.S. immigration laws, they cannot gain legal status and thus are undocumented. Many immigrants crossing the border in this influx are fleeing from gang violence. Gang violence, however,

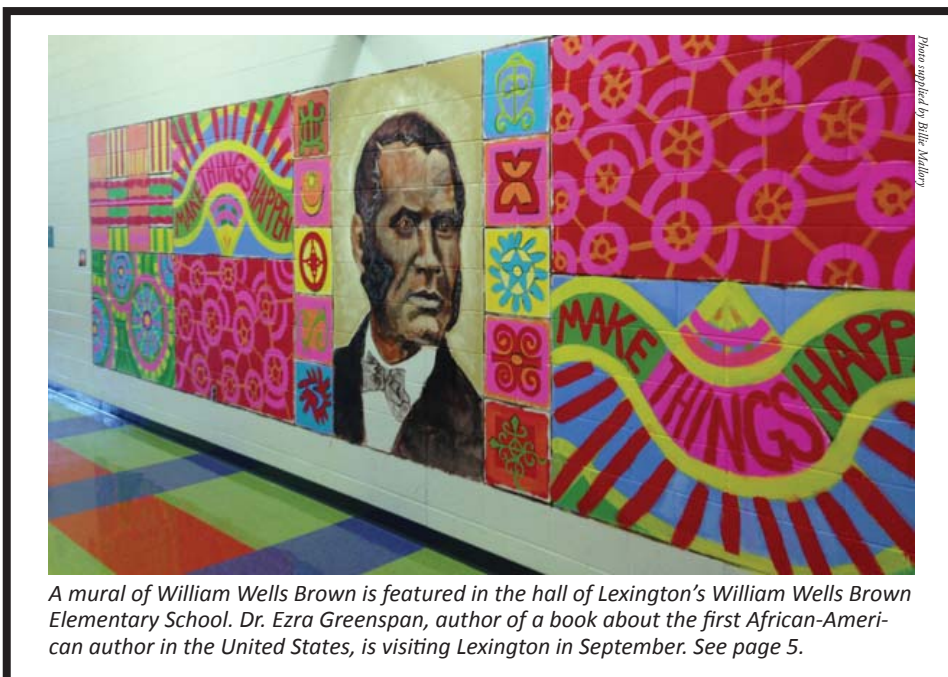
Child refugees

Urge President Obama and Secretary of Homeland Security Jeh Johnson to treat Central American children who have crossed the U.S. border to escape violence as refugees, not criminals, and to give them all available protections under international and domestic law by signing the petition at http://act.credoaction.com/sign/border_crisis_refugees/?sp_

traditionally does not qualify an immigrant for relief, such as asylum. In order to qualify for asylum, one must be fleeing from persecution based on one’s race, religion, nationality, social group or political opinion. Not only that, but the persecution must be instigated by a group that the government cannot or will not control.

Another option is the using Convention Against Torture, but the convention has its own stringent set of rules governing who may qualify. In order to determine whether someone qualifies for immigration relief, it is best to seek legal advice, so families come to me for help. But without immigration reform soon, these families will most likely be sent back to their home countries and into awful conditions.

My voice trembles as I tell this mother that I cannot help her family. I try to explain that based on our current laws she simply does not qualify for immigration relief. I tell her that she may be deported back to her home country. I realize that I will relive this moment every day, the same situation with different faces. Faces filled with hopelessness.



A mural of William Wells Brown is featured in the hall of Lexington's William Wells Brown Elementary School. Dr. Ezra Greenspan, author of a book about the first African-American author in the United States, is visiting Lexington in September. See page 5.

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BEYOND BARS: Rejoining Society After Prison

Jeffrey Ian Ross, Ph.D., and Stephen C. Richards, Ph.D.

(2009). Alpha Books (Penguin Group). 224 pages.

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

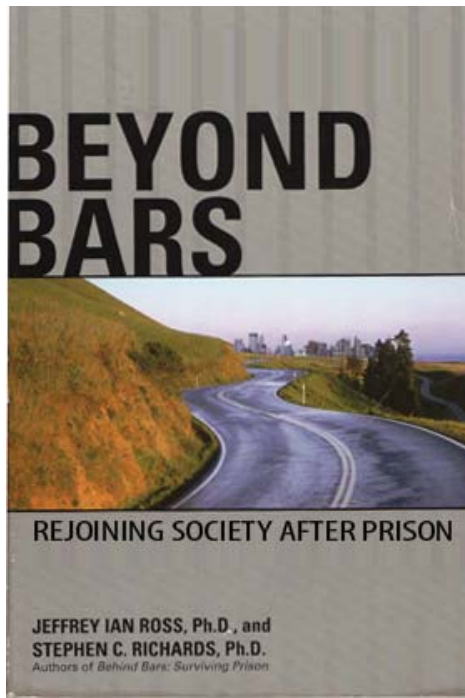
Beyond Bars is written to the prisoner facing release, equal parts how to reintegrate into society and a discouraging list of all that can go wrong. If every prisoner due for release bought this book before getting out (after having read the one about surviving while in prison), it would be a long-time bestseller. About two million of our population is in prison now; three million more live on the outside controlled by the prison system (parole, home incarceration, various degrees of supervised release).

Over 600,000 prisoners are released every year, but the odds for their success are not good; 50 percent of them return to custody within a year, 70 percent within three years. One-third of the female prisoners are pregnant at some point during their imprisonment. Multiply these figures by the \$20,000 (minimum security) to \$80,000 (supermax security facility) that it costs annually to confine a prisoner, and you see the enormous monetary stake society has in successful rehabilitation.

The book takes a “face the music” tone, addressing the would-be parolee in the middle chapters, offering common-sense but realistically bleak advice on the difficulties of finding a job, getting the rest of an education, repairing family ties, and achieving new intimacy. Most of the book concerns the step-by-step process of rejoining society – release, maybe a time in a halfway house, getting a job, going back to school, and avoiding the pitfalls.

Wrong turns don’t have to be anything as dramatic as rejoining your old gang or falling back into your illegal habits (which after all is often just “illegal work”). One sad case involves the long-term prisoner who takes a Greyhound bus to freedom, only to be almost immediately returned to custody for smoking in the bus restroom. He hadn’t been in society for the past 20 years, so how was he to know how attitudes have toughened toward public smoking?

Many of the middle chapters go over the sad but usually true aspects of post-



prison life that ex-cons (and “conettes,” the authors’ clanging term for females) will encounter. They will find life has not stood still for them. Spouses have moved on (probably serving the papers a few years into the prisoner’s term), children have grown, parents may be deceased or unwelcoming, job skills have atrophied, and re-entering honest society will definitely be difficult and might be completely impossible. The prisoner has suffered “civil death” in prison, so pre-prison assets may be gone as well.

Affiliations in prison (usually gangs for men and artificial families for women) might be difficult to leave behind. On this sensitive topic, the authors devote only four lines to coming to grips with the new chapter prison often writes in a person’s sexual history. And those few lines are unaccountably tucked away in the chapter on special problems for women, as if men never face that issue.

The public often distrusts the ex-con trying to make it in the limited workplace. (Here’s an exercise: One of the two authors did nine years in federal prison. Does it make any difference to you which

one?) Those with a record are usually not even briefly considered for work where money is handled or children are present. Personal economics are tough, because the con already may owe court costs and restitution plus rent to a halfway house. If he or she has work at all, a minimum wage burger-flipping job may (or may not) cover groceries and part of rent.

The advice isn’t very groundbreaking in the sections on parole officers, education prospects, or avoiding the past companions and habits that first got the prisoner in trouble. There are a couple of imaginative business suggestions, though – produce gardening might be profitable for the more rural ex-con who might wrangle permission to work a garden. The arts are dangled as a possibility without elaboration, even though several ex-cons have gone on to major careers in writing or art (sometimes leading to celebrity).

After reading the book, I returned to the cover photo and saw its metaphor: a slick, curvy road twists toward a city in the far distance. It’s not clear whether the road goes all the way there, but if it does, it will be a long haul. But also, a dark patch looms, hiding in deep shadow another road descending into darkness, away from the city, downward into who-knows-what. The con or conette for whom this book is primarily intended faces just this journey, down either of the roads, to an unpredictable end.

The copy that fell to my hand to review is inscribed by Rabbi H. D. Uriel Smith “In the hope that in Kentucky, voting rights will be restored to people who have paid for their sins and wish to rejoin the larger society.” It seemed as if that were about to happen in this last legislative session, but it didn’t quite. It’s still on the social agenda, though. After reading this book, I realize that although voting is probably the former felon’s 99th problem, granting voting rights does seem the very least we can do.

Reviewer Jim Trammel can only imagine.

A personal reflection on capital punishment

by Judge Richard FitzGerald

I went on the bench in 1975 and retired after 25 years.

During my first year as judge and for the next five years, if a juvenile committed a serious violent offense we had the discretion to decide if a child should remain in juvenile court or could be tried under ordinary law. Children were not eligible for the death penalty. Kentucky then changed the law removing judicial discretion and allowed juveniles to qualify for the death penalty.

In one of the death-qualified cases I sent to the grand jury, neither the juvenile court nor the trial court was informed of the horrific abuse the defendant witnessed as a child. Years later, the U.S. Supreme Court found this was unconstitutional. Great work by Kentucky attorneys Gail Robinson and Kevin McNally brought attention to this anomaly of law.

In 1982, my wife's parents were murdered in LaPorte, Ind. My father-in-law was the mayor; they were attacked by a disgruntled city employee. I witnessed the grief and pain their slayings brought to my wife and her six siblings. Personally, I had problems saying the Lord's Prayer in church.

The prosecutor allowed the family to make a decision whether to seek the death penalty. After prayerful consideration, the family decided not to seek death in part for some form of finality and a belief in the sanctity of life.

After their murders, I no longer tried criminal cases and stayed in juvenile and family court. I could not trust myself while still struggling with grief and anger.



In a civilized society, we give up our right for vengeance to the state with the expectation that a fair trial with due process will determine guilt or innocence. It is important that victims get a sense of finality. Life without parole or determinate sentencing gives finality where victims can process their grief. It also saves them from being subjected to numerous and costly court procedures.

For more personal reflections on capital punishment, see the website for the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty (KCADP).

Like the KCADP Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/KCADPKY>, follow on Twitter: @kcadp, sign up for eNews, <http://bit.ly/KCADPNews>, and donate at <http://bit.ly/PPgiver>

Judge FitzGerald's reflection is reprinted with permission from the website of the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty.

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

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Have you ordered your license plate?

269 people have committed to carrying a message of peace on their cars.

Join them, won't you?

www.peaceandjusticeky.org

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. Sept. 4

Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky, Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, 3564 Clay's Mill Road. Ebony Nava will lead a discussion on the state of race relations in the United States today.

At the same time, Humanist young people will participate in a discussion on "What is Sex?" led by Leslie Kingseed. Why it is important to think and learn about sex and at what age is it appropriate to begin these natural discussions? Youth will engage in an open dialogue on the role of sexual mores in our society, religion, and politics.

Childcare provided for younger children.

Fri.Sun. Sept. 5-7

Roots and Heritage Festival, Downtown Lexington. The celebration of diversity includes a parade at 11 am beginning at the corner of Fourth Street and Elm Tree Lane. The festival will also include music, fine arts, entertainment and a worship service on Sunday, 1 pm, at the Lyric Theatre, 300 East Third Street. The festival is one of the top 20 events in the southeast, according to the Southeast Tourism Society.

Tues. Sept. 9

PFLAG, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Rd., Lexington. A representative from the Fayette County Schools will address LGBTQ issues and services within the public school system.

The program will be followed by discussion of the PFLAG support group. The group welcomes members of the LGBTQ community and their families.

Sun. Sept. 14

Central Kentucky Move to Amend, Tates Creek Library, 3628 Walden Dr., Lexington, 2 pm-4 pm. Discussion will focus on bird-dogging candidates prior to the election, asking each if she or he will sign a petition in favor of a Constitutional amendment ending corporate personhood, clarifying that money is not speech and can, therefore, be regulated. People interested in becoming involved in the democracy movement are welcome to attend. For more information, email joytotheworld1@windstream.net

Mon. Sept. 15

Inequality for All, Farish Theatre, Lexington Public Library, 140 East Main Street, 6:30 pm. The documentary by director Jacob Kornbluth examines the widening income equality in the United States. The film, presented by American economist, author and professor Robert Reich, U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Achievement in Filmmaking at the 2013 Sundance Film Festival. "Inequality for All" is part of CKCPJ's *Voices 2014*, which is focusing on economic justice. The screening will be followed by a discussion that will include a panel of low-wage workers in central Kentucky.

Thurs. Sept. 18

At-Large Council Debate, Fayette County Public School Support Services Center, 701 East Main St., Lexington, 7 pm. Individuals running for at-large positions in the Lexington-Fayette County Urban County Government will address issues of importance to Lexington and Fayette County. The debate will include input from Fayette County high school students.

Thurs. Sept. 18

Dr. Ezra Greenspan, a professor of English at Southern Methodist University, will visit Lexington to promote his newly-released book, *William Wells Brown: An African-American Life*. William Wells Brown, a freed slave born in Kentucky, worked on the Underground RR and is recognized as America's first African-American author and lecturer. Dr. Greenspan will speak at four area public schools and the University of Kentucky and will make a community presentation. He will sign books at Third Street Stuff, 257 North Limestone from 4 pm to 5 pm.

Sat. Sept. 20

Social Justice Advocacy and the changing landscape of politics and the church, 9 am-noon, Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church, 180 East Maxwell, Lexington. Featured speaker will be the Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Director of the Presbyterian Church, USA, Office of Public Witness, Washington, D.C. Sponsored by the Mission Ministry unit of the Presbytery of Transylvania (Presbyterian Church, USA). Contact Rev. Mike Ward at 859-263-5304, obxward@windstream.net.

Sun. Sept. 21

Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky, Humanist Families and Friends will meet at Pleasant Ridge Park for a Brighton Trail Bike and Hike. For more information contact Kim Marshall, kimberlynicholemarshall@yahoo.com.

Sat. Sept 27

LexEnd Poverty: A Night to Build Livable Communities, Lyric Theatre, 300 East Third Street, Lexington. Dr. Cornel West will be the keynote speaker for an evening that will include dancing, drinks, hors d'ouvres and a silent auction. Tickets \$50; VIP \$100 (includes a drink ticket and exclusive reception and meet-and-greet with Dr. West) Tickets at the door, \$60, \$125. Scholarship opportunities available. Call 859-244-2221.

Thurs. Oct. 2

The Rich and the Rest of Us: The Poverty Manifesto, a facilitated discussion of the 2012 book by Dr. Cornel West and Tavis Smiley. Wild Fig Bookstore, 1439 Leestown Road, Lexington, 6:30. The book has sparked a national discussion of the poverty crisis in the United States.

Tues. Oct. 14

PFLAG, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Rd., Lexington. A couple shares their journey in loving, respecting and supporting their gay son.

The program will be followed by discussion of the PFLAG support group.

Tues. Oct. 21

Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass annual dinner, 6 pm, Central Christian Church, 205 East Short St. Program will focus on youth violence.

Attention

Kentuckians For The Commonwealth is accepting applications for electoral organizers and data entry specialists to work until November 8. Positions will be for 10-40 hours per week, at numerous locations around the commonwealth. Hourly rate is \$13.20. Learn more about the positions available and how to apply by visiting the KFTC website, kftc.org.

William Wells Brown Comes Alive

by Billie Mallory

William Wells Brown was the first known African-American writer, lecturer and author. He reported that he was born into slavery in Lexington in November of 1814, and known as William. He was stolen from his family to work as a field slave on a farm in Mt. Sterling. He later escaped to Ohio and became a freedman through the help of a Quaker named Wells Brown. William took his friend's name, became self-educated and worked on a steamboat, later transporting other slaves to freedom on the Underground Railroad. One of his books was *Clotel*, the story of Sally Hemming, illegitimate daughter of Thomas Jefferson and one of his slaves. William traveled all over the northern U.S. and Europe writing and lecturing and was known worldwide for his work in the abolition of slavery.

Nearly 200 years later, Dr. Ezra Greenspan, professor of Humanities at Dedman College/Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Texas, wrote a biography of William Wells Brown, *William Wells Brown: An African American Life*, which will be released on Oct. 6. In researching the book, Dr. Greenspan traveled extensively across the U.S., visiting every site related to William Wells Brown, including Lexington.

Dr. Greenspan will be returning to Lexington in mid-September to promote this book and share the life of William Wells Brown with our community. On Thursday, September 18, he will visit four local schools (STEAM Academy, Lexington Traditional Magnet School, William Wells Brown Elementary School and Sayre School) to walk students through the history of slavery, the flight to freedom and the Underground Railroad. At 4 p.m. he will do a book talk and signing, sponsored by CKCPJ, at 3rd Street Stuff (257 North Limestone). At 6:30 p.m. he will give a free presentation to the general public, sponsored by the William Wells Brown Neighborhood Association, at the Lyric (Third Street and Elm Tree Lane). Please join one of these free programs as history comes alive in Lexington. Books will be for sale \$29.95.

Billie Mallory is a local activist.

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 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.

Restorative Juvenile Justice

by Margaret Gabriel, Peaceways Editor

Juvenile restorative justice addresses issues beneath the surface of conflict and demonstrates to young people how their inappropriate behavior hinders success.

In Lexington, Juvenile Restorative Justice serves Fayette County middle and high schools, the Court Designated Worker office, family court and district court for public offenses and young people who have been deemed beyond-control-of-parent.

Victim-offender mediation, restorative justice circles, family group conferencing, crisis intervention and parent education services are offered. Volunteer workers present themselves in a non-authoritarian role, outside the court or school system.

Victim-offender mediation, restorative justice circles and family group conferencing build communication skills among family members; build empathy between those involved; solve problems by focusing on solutions; approach situations in a holistic manner; assess and plan for crisis intervention; and make appropriate referrals.

In victim-offender mediation the youth who was harmed meets with the youth who did the harm, along with the parent or guardian and volunteer co-mediators.

The issues addressed can be minor or serious and can include harassment, assault, bullying, theft and beyond-the-control-of-school.

A family group conference brings together the juvenile, the parent or guardian, a representative from the school, a mental health provider, church members, relatives and others who have a stake in assisting the young person to become successful. A family mediation can be held for a smaller number of people such as parent, child, and therapist.

Finally, restorative justice circles serve Fayette County middle and high schools are divided by gender and are led by teams of volunteers and college social work interns. Guided by interns and volunteers who serve as “circle keepers,” restorative justice circles offer an opportunity for the young people to share, listen, and learn from each other.

There are two types of youth circles. The first is the resolution circle, which usually involves a conflict involving a larger number of students. A one-time pre-mediation interview is conducted before the parties are brought together.

The ROCK (Restorative Opportunities for Connecting Kids) circle offers students

a place to develop trust, empowerment and positive connections. Five to eight students meet for eight weekly sessions at specific schools. Students who are referred to ROCK circles may have been involved in truancy or risky behavior and have proved effective for youth who are socially isolated.

Other circles are arranged for parents or guardians and can provide support, stress management, parenting skills and education.

Juvenile Restorative Justice in Lexington is staffed by volunteer Linda Harvey who is responsible to an advisory board of representatives from schools, courts, families, colleges and the community.

If you are interested in volunteering or learning more about juvenile restorative justice in Lexington email lexjuvenile.rj@gmail.com.



Social Justice and Advocacy

A workshop titled “Social Justice and Advocacy and the Changing Landscape of Politics and the Church” will be held Sat., Sept. 20, 9 am – noon at Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church. Featured speaker will be Rev. Dr. J. Herbert Nelson, Director of the Presbyterian Church, USA, Office of Public Witness (Washington, DC). Panelists and dialogue leaders representing state, regional, and local organizations will offer responses to Dr. Nelson’s address and lead small group conversations.

Dr. Nelson has a history of social justice advocacy and activism including service as pastor of Liberation Community Church in Memphis. While in Memphis, Dr. Nelson served as Associate Director of the Benjamin L. Hooks Institute for Social Change at the University of Memphis.

Read more by and about Dr. Nelson at www.officeofpublicwitness.blogspot.com.

Among the panelists and dialogue leaders will be Rev. Dr. Marian McClure Taylor, Executive Director of the Kentucky Council of Churches. A significant part of Dr. Taylor’s work is advocacy in Frankfort and around the Commonwealth regarding issues of social justice.

Doors open at 8am for registration and refreshments, program begins at 9 am.

For more information contact Rev. Mike Ward, 859-263-5304 or obxward@windstream.net.

Say ‘Yes’ to \$15!

by Janet Tucker

On August 6, the CKCPJ Human Rights and Economic Justice Committee hosted the first coalition meeting targeted to raising the minimum wage in Lexington. “Yes to \$15” became the name of the campaign. Following what has been done in other cities, we call on the Lexington Fayette Urban County Council to raise the minimum wage in Lexington to a living wage.

According to the MIT “Living Wage Calculator,” the living wage for Fayette County for one adult with one child is \$17.60 an hour. For two adults with no children, it is \$13.44/hour, and for two adults with two children, it is \$18.02/hour. A minimum wage of \$15 is just the right thing to do.

People are having a hard time in Lexington. Let’s look at the cost of rental housing. In 1990, 87 percent of all rental units in Lexington were affordable to those working at minimum wage jobs.

According to the latest available statistics (2012), only 17 percent of rental housing units in Lexington are affordable for those with minimum wage jobs. Nearly one in five families in Lexington cannot afford to pay their rent. And rent is just one of many economic challenges low income families face.

As Lexington struggles to come back from the great recession, most of the jobs created here are low wage jobs. Economist Paul Coomes speaking to the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce earlier this year, said, “the general nature of recovery in Kentucky is not adding jobs in the highest sector but in the lower pay, lower skill sector. Temporary agencies are the number-one fastest growth industry sector in Kentucky.” In areas such as Lexington’s East End and Georgetown Street, there are pockets of unemployment and underemployment of 20 percent or

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CKCPJ's Voices 2014 Events: Become Informed, Then Take Action!

Mon. Sept. 15 at 6:30 pm in the Farish Theatre at the Lexington's Central Library (140 E. Main St.) *Inequality for All* film screening and discussion.

This film is important because you might not know that the U.S. ranks a lowly 64th on the inequality scale among the world's nations—only slightly better than the Ivory Coast and Cameroon. The film includes Robert Reich's revelation that our richest 400 residents have more wealth than half the U.S. population combined. This isn't just bad for the economy, he argues, but damaging to the very core of our democratic system.

The filmmakers say: "At the heart of the film is a simple proposition: what is a good society, and what role does the widening income gap play in the deterioration of our nation's economic health? We are endeavoring for [our film], *Inequality For All*, to be a paradigm-shifting, eye-opening experience for the American public. We want to accurately show, through a non-

.....
Yes to \$15

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greater. Lexington residents are struggling and hurting, and our elected officials need to take notice.

During *Voices 2014*, CKCPJ has several events scheduled to highlight these issues. On August 21 CKCPJ held an Open House to celebrate its move to the new Plantory in the Bread Box, 501 West Sixth St. On September 15 at 6:30 pm *Voices 2014* will feature a screening of the film *Inequality For All* in the Farish Theater at the downtown public library. On October 2 at 6:30 pm CKCPJ will host a discussion at Wild Fig Bookstore on *The Rich and the Rest of Us*, *The Poverty Manifesto*, by Cornel West and Travis Smiley.

The first "Yes to \$15" meeting drew participants from CKCPJ, Kentuckians For The Commonwealth, Missing Magazine, Kentucky Workers League, and community members. CKCPJ seeks to build broader support and add many more members to this coalition effort. If you are interested in "Yes to \$15," please come to one of our events and sign up, or contact one of CKCPJ's co-chairs, Janet Tucker (jlynjenks@gmail.com, 859-389-8575) or David Christensen (davidccky@gmail.com).

partisan perspective, why extreme income inequality is such an important topic for our citizens today and for the future of America."

Come join us for this important event, and for the facilitated discussion afterwards. Let's talk about actions we can take to address these facts.

Thurs. Sept. 18 at 7 pm at the Norse-worthy Auditorium, Fayette County Public School offices, 701, East Main St., At-Large Council Debate.

This session will be facilitated by CKCPJ board member Heather Hadi. Candidates for at-large positions in the Lexington-Fayette County Urban County Candidates will be asked questions that address a number of key issues; they will receive the questions before the forum to enable them to prepare their responses. Those questions have been developed by the CKCPJ board and FCPS students and will include opportunities for candidates to express their positions on a minimum wage in Lexington, and will ask them to respond to the growing apprehension among both high school and college students about their prospects for employment.

They'll also be asked about the uneven distribution of resources and services across our community. Come out to hear

what these candidates, candidates who want your vote, have to say about these and many other issues.

Thurs. Oct. 2 at 6:30 pm *The Rich and the Rest of Us: The Poverty Manifesto* by Dr. Cornel West and Tavis Smiley, a book discussion at Wild Fig Bookstore, 1439 Leestown Road.

This facilitated discussion will aim to capture the momentum of Dr. Cornel West's appearance in Lexington as part of the Community Action Council's "LexEnd Poverty: Let's Build Livable Communities" event Sat. Sept. 27 (see page 4). *The Rich and the Rest of Us* is a 2012 book that is a product of Smiley and West's Poverty Tour: A Call to Conscience. The tour traveled across the country to listen to stories and "call the nation's conscience to the plight of the poor in America." They say that their "goal was to put a human face on poverty so that the persistent poor, near poor, and new poor will not be ignored or rendered invisible..."

If you would like to make a contribution in support of *Voices 2014*, please send a check to Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, 501 West Sixth Street, Lexington, KY 40508. To donate on-line, go to www.peaceandjusticeky.org and follow the link marked "Donate Now."

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Submissions to Peaceways

Articles submitted to *Peaceways* should show an awareness of and sensitivity to the CKCPJ's mission and concerns. Articles submitted by non-Council members are encouraged and will be edited for clarity and charity. CKCPJ is open to publishing views that it does not necessarily endorse, but views *Peaceways* as a forum to explore all aspects of a topic.

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.

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. Please include references in the text for all quotations, statistics, and unusual facts. 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.



The Central Kentucky Council
for Peace and Justice
501 West Sixth Street
Lexington, KY 40508

*"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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Listening, diversifying your media, and finding local ways to act

by Gail Koehler, Lead Trainer, Lexington United

In the weeks after the death by gunshot of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo., many people want to work for racial justice. One of the best guides for such work is from *The Root* by Janee Woods: "12 Ways to Be a White Ally to Black People: Because Ferguson is happening right now, but systemic racism happens every day."

Woods emphasizes the need to learn from the experiences of people of color, urging us to diversify our media, saying: "Be intentional about looking for and paying close attention to diverse voices of color on television, on radio, online and in print to help shape your awareness, understanding and thinking about political, economic and social issues." (see http://bit.ly/TheRoot_allies).

If you have other sources, let Lexington United know at lexingtoncommunitybuilding@gmail.com.

For information and timely news updates:

- *The Root* (www.theroot.com) was launched in 2008. Its coverage of events in Ferguson is timely and frequently shared on social media sites.
- *Colorlines* (<http://colorlines.com>) is a daily news site. Its reporting and investigation has won many awards. The site is published by Race Forward (formerly Applied Research Center, founded in 1981), a national organization that advances racial justice through research, media and practice. Race Forward hosts the national conference, Facing Race, (<https://facin-grace.raceforward.org>) held this year in Dallas, Texas, on November 13-15.

Documentary videos for background and analysis:

- *Race: The Power of an Illusion*, by California Newsreel, a three-hour documentary from 2003 (<http://bit.ly/Power-illusion>). Short clips are available on Youtube, and the site is supported by companion online resources.
- *Cracking the Codes: The System of Racial Inequality* is by racial justice educator and filmmaker Shakti Butler, and is available through World Trust Educational Services. A number of clips are available on Youtube and have been shared widely through social media. In particular a four-minute clip, featuring author and educator Joy DeGruy sharing how her

sister-in-law used her white privilege to stand up to systemic racial inequity, has been seen by well over a million viewers. For more, see http://bit.ly/Butler_codes; each World Trust film has discussion guides. Butler describes her approach as one that emphasizes experiences that are "not only thought-provoking but transformational."

Locally:

The organizers of Lexington's Moment of Silence event marking the need for change continue to meet. CKCPJ co-chair Janet Tucker is active in this group—email her at jlynjenks@gmail.com for updates and news on the next meeting.



On August 13, 40 central Kentuckians participated in a national moment of silence, marking the shooting of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. Organizers say "Too many young black men have been shot by law enforcement. If you ask African American central Kentuckians, you'll hear stories of selective enforcement and disrespect. We need better training and, when incidents happen, accountability." Thoughts were offered by CKCPJ co-chair Janet Tucker, Reverend Anthony Everett, Enchantia Jackson and CKCPJ board member Steve Pavey who reminded those gathered about the similar experience of Hispanic Americans.

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