

# Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE October 2014

## Voices 2014 Events Enlighten Central Kentucky

by Randolph Hollingsworth

As part of the CKCPJ's continuing efforts to educate the community and ourselves on the longstanding history and roots of racism locally, in the U.S. and across the globe, a multi-racial group of activists came together to host a series of events featuring Dr. Ezra Greenspan, a faculty member of Southern Methodist University. An English professor long interested in the African-American author William Wells Brown, Dr. Greenspan arrived in Lexington with his wife Riki on September 16 and had dinner with two CKCPJ members: Billie Mallory and Howard Myers.

Dr. Greenspan's arrival in Lexington was part of a national tour to promote his forthcoming book, *William Wells Brown: An African American Life* (see review, page seven).

His visit included meeting with people of all ages. In every instance he emphasized that William Wells Brown would—if

he were alive—see Lexington as a model of diversity which was one of his greatest aspirations. Dr. Greenspan's schedule of visits included a talk at the W.T. Young Library on the campus of the University of Kentucky, sponsored by the departments of History, English, and African American and Africana Studies; appearances at Fayette County public schools (STEAM Academy, Lexington Traditional Middle School, William Wells Brown Elementary), a talk and book-signing at Third Street Stuff and a William Wells Brown Neighborhood Association community presentation at the Lyric Theatre. On Friday, Sept. 19, Dr. Greenspan's day included a visit to Sayre School.

In each talk, Dr. Greenspan emphasized that William Wells Brown would have been proud of what Lexington has become over the years since its slaveholding past. Brown believed that the most authentic communities are inclusive.



Billie Mallory, right, spearheaded planning for the visit of Dr. Ezra Greenspan, left.

## Iraq: On the Precipice?

By Bill Miller

The catastrophic events in Iraq that are unfolding daily are more significant than at any point in recent memory. Catastrophes often make for unforeseen alliances and dramatic geopolitical policy shifts.

The Islamic State of Iraq and Syria (ISIS), which is now calling itself the Islamic State (IS), steamrolled out of Syria into Iraq and appeared to be unstoppable in its march to Baghdad. The Iraqi military, which was far larger and better armed, was either unable or unwilling to confront this ragtag, but determined, force of about 10,000 fighters. ISIS racked up major gains in mostly Sunni-controlled areas of the country, yet still threatens the Kurdish and Shia controlled areas.

Along with its acquisition of land, estimated to be about 35,000 square miles, or the size of Jordan, ISIS began to

persecute minority Christians and Yazidi religious communities.

The United Nations is providing food, shelter, and medical care to tens of thousands of these displaced people. The UN has declared a 'Level 3 Emergency' that will generate additional financial and material resources to assist those in need.

The United Nations, in one of its largest humanitarian relief efforts, announced a four-day airlift of tents and emergency aid supplies to help meet the needs of the half million people in northern Iraq who have fled the violence of ISIS.

Even in the chaos, there is a glimmer of hope, given that the Kurdish Peshmerga, and the Iraqi Army—backed by US airstrikes—were able to re-capture the Mosul Dam, as well as turn back ISIS so that thousands of Yazidis could escape

from Mt. Sinjar.

Several suggestions have been proffered as to what should be done in Iraq to confront the ISIS threat. Pope Francis sanctioned intervening in Iraq to stop Islamist militants from persecuting religious minority groups. His caveat was that the strategy must be discussed by the international community, possibly at the UN, so this would not be perceived as "a true war of conquest." It would also not be decided by one country—a direct reference to the US's successful and controversial aerial support of the Kurds and Iraqi forces as

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# Remembrances

by Janet Tucker

People in Lexington have been outraged about the police murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, Mo. On Aug. 14, the people of Lexington, along with people in cities across the nation, participated in a moment of silence held to protest Brown's killing. Since then meetings have been held and more protests have happened. A number of people from Lexington went to Ferguson to stand alongside the people there.

This is not a protest about just one murdered young man, but instead it addresses all of the young people, particularly people of color, who have lost their lives to police violence.

For example, on Aug. 24 people from the East End and others gathered to remember Tony Sullivan, killed by police 20 years ago in Lexington, and to talk about ongoing police violence in the East End.

Through ongoing meetings, a group called Stop Mass Incarceration Network Kentucky has been formed. A number of activities are planned including a hip hop event planned for Al's Bar. Other events in the works are a symposium and movie nights with panel discussions.

The more long-term goal is a police civilian review board and school-to-prison pipeline focused on a mentoring/tutoring program. Members are also part of a national effort for a mass mobilization in Ferguson in October. For more information contact Janet Tucker, jlynjenks@gmail.com, 859-389-8575.

Janet Tucker is a co-chair of CKCPJ and an active member of Kentuckians for the Commonwealth.



People in Lexington gather on Aug. 24 to remember Tony Sullivan who was killed 20 years ago. The assembly discussed police violence.

## Call for Papers: Is the idea of peace relevant for the age of asymmetrical warfare?

*A special Issue of Theoria: A Journal of Social and Political Theory*  
Nir Eisikovits, Suffolk University, Guest Editor

Since the end of World War II, most military conflict has been asymmetrical in nature (that is between a state actor on the one hand and a non-state entity or network of such entities on the other). Examples range from the Algerian War of Independence against the French to the recent American engagements in Iraq and Afghanistan.

When this is the face of war, is the idea of peace (with its classic cosmopolitan features regarding finality of claims, mutual recognition, the creation of lasting legal arrangements to enforce agreements

and cooperation between former enemies) still relevant? Does it make sense to talk about a conflict with the Taliban or Al Qaeda terminating in a state of peace?

If our idea of peace needs to be revised, how should we revise it? Does it need to be supplemented by other ideas? Which ideas? Can the concept of peace still serve as a useful regulative ideal even when it becomes further and further removed from how wars actually wind down?

Please submit papers of no more than 9,000 words responding to these questions to theoriasa@gmail.com on or before April 30, 2015. Queries can be directed to the managing editor, Sherran Clarence, at this address. Papers should be formatted for blind review and should follow Theoria's House formatting rules. These are available here: [http://journals.berghahn-books.com/\\_uploads/th/th\\_style\\_guide.pdf](http://journals.berghahn-books.com/_uploads/th/th_style_guide.pdf).

# Move To Amend Coalition

by Joy Arnold

Formed in September 2009, Move to Amend is a coalition of hundreds of organizations and hundreds of thousands of individuals committed to social and economic justice, ending corporate rule, and building a vibrant democracy that is genuinely accountable to the people, not corporate interests.

MTA is calling for an amendment to the US Constitution to unequivocally state that inalienable rights belong to human beings only, and that money is not a form of protected free speech under the First Amendment and can be regulated in political campaigns.

Move to Amend is a broad coalition of organizations and individuals who share common values, working together to end

corporate personhood and demand real democracy. We welcome all organizations and individuals who embrace these values to join us:

- Accountability and responsibility, both personally and organizationally;
- Transparency;
- Community;
- Movement building;
- Dedication to Move to Amend mission, goals and tactics;
- Commitment to anti-oppression within ourselves, communities, work places, policies, and representation.

For more information see [movetoamend.org/ky-lexington](http://movetoamend.org/ky-lexington).

Joy Arnold is the local contact person for Move to Amend.

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## Essay Contest

The annual League of Women Voters essay contest is examining the recent surge of unaccompanied children entering the U.S. without proper documentation. The essay contest is open to students in grades 9-12 who attend a Fayette County school. The first place essay will receive \$250; second, \$150; third, \$100. Honors will be presented to the teachers/sponsors of each of the top three writers.

Writers are to demonstrate knowledge of the topic, analytical skill, and are asked to offer a solution. For more information, see [www.lwvlexington.com](http://www.lwvlexington.com)



# Where is the Justice?

by Billie Mallory

Where is the justice? Certainly not at the house of justice, otherwise known as the Courthouse Plaza in downtown Lexington. Dozens of people who are homeless sleep on the sidewalks during hot and muggy summer nights, under blankets, looking like corpses strewn about.

Rejected from the mainstream of life, they seek a good night's rest at the feet of Lady Justice. Rejected by family, friends and much of proper society, many are banned from shelters, public places and from human dignity. Dejected from the curses and mistreatment and beaten down by life, they are forced to streets and park benches to seek kindred spirits. They are the walking wounded, moving like zombies in the dark of night to find rest for their tired bodies and lost souls.

Justice is not only blind, it can also be deaf, mute and very cruel when it involves the human condition and lack of caring for our brothers, sisters, mothers, fathers, sons, daughters, elderly, youth,

veterans--the castaways of our society. We blame them for their poor choice of lifestyle, barely realizing that those "choices" may be the result of addiction, mental illness or some other human scourge that could lead to criminal behavior. We need to stop the blame game and address the real issues like lack of jobs, lack of affordable housing, lack of ability to cope with life or just the "lack of lack of."

Can somebody please tell me where the justice is? Better yet, where is the human compassion that allows people who are homeless to sleep in the heart of this Great American City? Our city and its leaders should weep for these walking wounded, these rejected citizens with dejected spirits and loss of all hope. Better yet, our city leaders should lead with greater compassion, holding themselves accountable to and for all citizens and as they lead the rest of us to care for our most vulnerable and least capable citizens and human spirits.

Billie Mallory, MSW, is a local activist.

## *Inequality for All* screened at the library

As part of *Voices 2014* CKCPJ hosted a screening of *Inequality for All* at the Lexington Public Library on September 15. The documentary by director Jacob Kornbluth examines the widening income inequality in the United States from the perspective of economist, author and professor Robert Reich.

The film was introduced by CKCPJ co-chair Janet Tucker who encouraged the nearly 50 people who attended to join the effort to increase the minimum wage to a living wage.

The documentary intersperses the hard reality of the United States economy with Reich's stories about his experiences

working in the Ford and Carter administrations, as well as a story about his first encounter with Bill Clinton when both were students at Oxford. Later, Reich served as Secretary of Labor under Clinton.

Several scenes of the film were recorded in classes Reich taught at the University of California-Berkeley; students later remarked that they found their professor inspirational. Despite the grim description of the economy, the overall tenor of the film is hopeful and upbeat; numerous statistics, charts and graphs are easily understood and interpreted.

Following the screening, Janet moderated a brief discussion among members of the audience that addressed several topics, including excessive military spending and the need to increase spending on education. It was pointed out that "the people this impacts the most have a tendency to vote the least." Janet discussed the important link between voter registration and economic justice.

The film was purchased by Movement to Amend for general screening and education. Movement to Amend is a grassroots effort to amend the Constitution to remove personhood from corporation. See story, page two.

## The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

*Board of Directors:* Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto, David Christiansen (co-chair), Bilal El-Amin, Mary Ann Ghosal (secretary), Marion Gibson, Heather Hadi, Randolph Hollingsworth, Rahul Karanth, Steven Lee Katz (treasurer), Susan Lamb, Richard Mitchell, Bruce Mundy, Howard Myers, Kerby Neill, Steve Pavey, Nadia Rasheed, Alexandria Sehon, Rabbi Uri Smith, Teddi Smith-Robillard, Janet Tucker (co-chair), Craig Wilkie. *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 CKCPJ.

*Member Organizations:* ACLU-Central Kentucky Chapter; Ahava Center for Spiritual Living; Amnesty International, UK Chapter; Bahá'ís of Lexington; Berea Friends Meeting; Bluegrass Central Labor Council, AFL-CIO; Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program; Bluegrass United Church of Christ; Catholic Action Center; Central Christian Church; Commission for Peace and Justice, Catholic Diocese of Lexington; Gay and Lesbian Services Organization; Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky; Hunter Presbyterian Church; Islamic Society of Central Kentucky; Jewish Federation of the Bluegrass; Kentuckians for the Commonwealth; Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty, Central Kentucky Chapter; Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights; 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; Lexington Socialist Student Union; 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); Peacecraft; The Plantory; Progress (student group at Transylvania University); Second Presbyterian Church; Shambhala Center; Sustainable Communities Network; Union Church at Berea; Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington; United Nations Association, Bluegrass Chapter.



*Peaceways* is published ten times a year by the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, 201 West Sixth St., Lexington KY 40508. Deadline for calendar items for the November issue is Oct.10. Contact 859-488-1448 or email [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com).

Have you ordered  
your license plate?

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

Join them, won't you?

[www.peaceandjusticeky.org](http://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. 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 pm. The book has sparked a national discussion of the poverty crisis in the United States.

**Thurs. Oct. 2**

**Nuns On The Bus**, Courthouse Square, Lexington, Noon - 2 pm. Free food, music, Voices for Justice. The rally will focus on the living wage movement, and voter registration. The event is sponsored by the Street Voices Council, Catholic Action Center, KFTC, CKCPJ, People's Voice of Lexington and Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative.

**Thurs. Oct. 2**

**Humanist Forum**, Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, 3534 Clay's Mill Road. The monthly discussion will be led by moderator Clay Maney. For more information contact President Staci Maney, [staci@olliegee.com](mailto:staci@olliegee.com). At the same time, in the Green Room, in the "Philosophy for Kids" series, under the tutelage of vice-president Kimberly Marshall, children 5-12 years old will answer the question, "Are you a just person?" For more information contact Kim, [kimberlynicolemarshall@yahoo.com](mailto:kimberlynicolemarshall@yahoo.com). Childcare is provided for children 4 years old and under.

**Tuesdays during Oct-Nov.**

**Lectures on the Middle East** Various topics, events and locations on the campus of the University of Kentucky. For more information, see <https://middle-east.as.uky.edu/>. The series will continue through the academic year.

**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. The group welcomes members of the LGBTQ community and their families.

**Thurs. Oct. 16**

**Community Stand Down**, Central Christian Church, 205 East Short St., Lexington. 9 am - 2 pm. Veterans, individuals and families experiencing homelessness or who are at risk for experiencing homelessness are invited to this event that will provide health screenings, legal consultation, job readiness training and employment assistance, dental services and information on public and VA benefits, housing assistance, substance abuse recovery services and other area social services as an effort to help individuals find pathways to housing services and to meet the needs of individuals experiencing homelessness or who are marginally housed. Persons attending will receive free comfort kits.

**Sat. Oct. 18**

**Religion Reporting in the Secular Media**, Hunter Presbyterian Church, 109 Rosemont Garden, Lexington. 10 am - noon. The panel will include Dia Davidson, news anchor for WLEX-TV; Dr. Ginny Whitehouse, associate professor of journalism with an extensive background in media ethics; Stu Johnson, producer-reporter for WEKU in Richmond.

**Sun. Oct. 19**

**Harvest Fest for Humanists**, 1 pm, Evans Orchard, 180 Stone Road, Georgetown. Participants will meet near the Apple Dumpling play area. There is no general admission to enter the farm, but there is a fee to enter the play area/barnyard. Child admission is \$8 each, while those under 2 years old and adults are free with a paid admission. There are picnic tables and benches nearby where parents/caregivers and individuals can relax and visit while watching the children play.

**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. To reserve seats online, go to TIABG Annual Meeting on Facebook or send a check to TIABG, 530 East High Street, Lexington, KY 40502 with name, address, phone number and email address. Seating is limited, reserve by Oct. 17

**Sun. Oct. 26**

**Tribute to Pete Seeger**, Bellarmine University, 2001 Newburg Rd., Louisville, 11 am - 4 pm, Frazier Hall. In partnership with Bellarmine, the Faculty for Social Innovation, Kentucky Alliance Against Racism and Political Repression, and the Bluegrass Bioneers will host a day of activism in tribute to the legendary folk musician and activist. Events include: "Teach-Ins" on the topics of civil rights, labor rights, peacemaking, and environmental justice; an activism fair with participating organizations from across the region; a screening of the speakers at the National Bioneers Summit Conference; a Pete Seeger tribute concert featuring local musicians.

**Fri. Oct. 31**

**Deadline, League of Women Voters Lexington Essay Contest.**

Topic: the recent surge in unaccompanied children entering the U.S. without proper immigration documents  
Explain your understanding of the increase of unaccompanied children entering the U.S. without proper immigration documents and propose a solution. Information on the contest, including a cover sheet that can be printed, can be found at [www.lwvlexington.com](http://www.lwvlexington.com).

**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/children\\_at\\_the\\_border](http://act.credoaction.com/sign/children_at_the_border)

**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](http://kftc.org).

# Nuns On The Bus in Lexington

Nuns On The Bus, a group of Roman Catholic women religious who give voice to the church's long-standing commitment to social justice, will hold a rally in Lexington on Oct. 2 from noon to 3 pm on the Courthouse Square. The group is sponsored by NETWORK, a social justice lobby in Washington, D.C.

Nuns On The Bus held its first tour in 2012; this year the nuns are focusing on the importance of voter registration and the mid-term elections.

"We the People, We the Voters," must:

- 1) **Vote.** Strong voter turnout overpowers the influence of big money in politics. Dollars can't vote, you can;
- 2) **Encourage others to vote.** When we encourage people to vote, we make sure that the voices of the 100 percent are heard. Urge and help others to vote;
- 3) **Hold candidates responsible.** When we demand that candidates commit to policies that benefit 100 percent of the people we can hold them accountable when they are elected. When the people vote, politicians listen.

Their rally in Lexington, which will also include voter registration, is sponsored by the Street Voices Council, the Catholic Action Center, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, CKCPJ, People's Voice of Lexington and the Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative.

Tayna Fogle will moderate the local portion of the program which will begin at noon and will feature local candidates who will speak about the importance of voting. Following a roundtable discussion at the Community Inn on Winchester Road, Nuns On The Bus will arrive at the Courthouse Square and will participate in a program that will be emceed by Glenmary Father John Rausch. It will begin with a welcome from NETWORK Executive Director Sister Simone Campbell; comments from Kentucky Secretary of State Alison Lundebran Grimes, Rep. Andy Barr and/or candidate Elisabeth Jensen (the importance of voting), Kentucky AFL-CIO President Bill Londrigan (the need for an increase in the minimum wage), and a closing commission from Sister Simone.

CKCPJ encourages all *Peaceways* readers to attend this event and to encourage voting and voter registration. Nuns On The Bus will be in Louisville on Oct. 1.

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

**CKCPJ Board Meetings** 3rd Monday, 7 pm. More info: 859-488-1448 or [peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com). All are welcome!

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

**Kentucky Migrant Network** 1st Monday Noon-1:30 pm, Cardinal Valley Center, 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington. Contact Isabel Gereda Taylor, [itaylor@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:itaylor@lexingtonky.gov), 859-258-3824.

**PFLAG: Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, Bisexuals and Transgendered** 2nd Tuesday 6:30-8:30 pm. Support Group Meeting. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr. Lexington (Go to the end of the parking lot, and then in the side door). Info: [www.pflaglex.org](http://www.pflaglex.org) or email [president@pflaglex.org](mailto:president@pflaglex.org) or call 859-338-4393. Programs are followed by a question and answer session, support group discussion, refreshments. Family members, allies, and GLBT individuals of all ages are welcome.

**Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky** 2nd Tuesday 7:30 pm, Lexington Public Central Library, 140 E. Main St, Lexington. Contact Craig Cammack, Chair, 859-951-8565 or [info@lexfair.org](mailto:info@lexfair.org).

**Wed Night GLSO discussion group** 7 pm at the Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave, Lexington. GLSO operates Kentucky's only Pride Center, where they've been quietly providing services to the 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](mailto:staci@olliegee.com) or 859-797-2662.

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

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

**Christian-Muslim Dialogue 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](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com) or 859-488-1448.**



# Repairing One Small Part of the World

by Gail Koehler, Leader Trainer, Lexington United

“Times of social anxiety and distress are precisely the times when one has to make a point to be seen as welcoming,” says Lori Lippitz, in a story written by award-winning Chicago Tribune columnist Mary Schmich (you can access that full article at <http://bit.ly/ChoosePeace>). Lippitz was part of a welcoming committee of parents and former teachers to a new school in a building “they once thought of as theirs.” They were welcoming into that building Muslim teachers and students. Lippitz organized the group, bearing gifts and a card that read “We wish for you and your children many years of love, learning and laughter in the home that is now yours,” after something she read in an online comment from a Skokie resident responding to the change that struck her as “unwelcoming and a little xenophobic.”

The Jewish school had closed as demographics shifted and enrollment declined. Lippitz sent the principal of the school a Facebook message, and he accepted her suggestion.

Schmich writes: “In the long history of Muslims and Jews, peace and politics have been perpetually troubled partners. But what went on at the school on Gross Point Road on Monday was beyond politics.”

She quotes a former teacher, Nancy Shapiro-Pikelnny, who said “It was a school I know, filled with children...To see this parking lot filled with cars, children playing in the playground where our children played, I felt a sense of relief.”

Schmich ends the report by noting the timing of the visit: during the week of Rosh Hashanah, the beginning of the Jewish new year.

“There’s something in Jewish mysticism that plays an important part in the new year,” Lippitz is quoted as saying: “It’s called repairing the world. Tikkun olam. That is the job we are tasked with every year, individually and as a community. We ask ourselves: How have we repaired the world? How have we not done so?”

A little bit of repair happened this week in that old school.

Online, this story has been embraced in



*A single person can meaningfully affect what some consider to be an uncaring world.*

**Sandra Day O’Connor**

the generous spirit of the gracious reception lead by principal Habeeb Quadri and the warm mutual welcome. I am drawing attention to it here in *Peaceways* because while I don’t live in Chicago, and am neither Muslim nor Jewish, I found in the reading of the story that I can still participate in the healing of this example. Lippitz also expressed gratitude to Schmich for seeing a story worth writing about for the newspaper, appreciating that Schmich saw “The news is not just about those who sow strife.”

*Special thanks to Lisa Satin for drawing our attention to the original article.*



## Kentucky Foster/Adoptive Care Association on Bullying

By Don Pratt

Our nation and state have seen the reports concerning bullying. These reports include stories of violence toward victims, sometimes by kids bullied by their peers. Sometimes, however, bullying comes from adults—administrators, coaches and teachers—due to ignorance, neglect or inaction.

Reasons for bullying are often racist, sexist or homophobic, or stem from religious prejudices, disabilities and/or deeply personal reasons toward the victim(s). The Kentucky Foster/Adoptive Care Association (KFACA) seeks support for anti-bullying legislation to address the needs in Kentucky, particularly within the school systems, to be aware of and stop bullying.

Foster kids, especially those who struggle with poor self-esteem, are particularly sensitive to bullying. Bullying is often experienced during school transportation and during school hours. The acts are sometimes worsened by administrators or teachers with such statements as “Kids will be kids” or they might say directly to the child: “You need to stand up for yourself!”

No positive action, or terribly limited

action, shows a lack of understanding, the depth of fear and the damage done to childhood victims. This also shows no understanding of victim’s histories and emotional needs. Dangers obviously exist with poor reaction both for the victims and the perpetrators.

We need to stop bullying! We need to address the needs of the victims, and of the bully or bullies. We need to understand and support our children, their histories and emotional needs to stop bullying and abuse. It is important to note that perpetrators most likely are victims themselves.

The state legislature and administrators of Kentucky should lead this effort to stop bullying now.

For more information or to become involved in the KFACA anti-bullying campaign, contact Terry Gray, KFACA President, [grayt013@gmail.com](mailto:grayt013@gmail.com), 859-570-5897 and 502-382-0457; Shirley Hedges, co-chair of the Legislative Committee or Don Pratt, co-chair of the Legislative Committee [dbp91044@gmail.com](mailto:dbp91044@gmail.com) or 859-552-2235.

### Receive *Peaceways* Electronically

We cannot put a price on Mother Earth or on your support, but we can strive to be good stewards of the planet and of your contributions. In order to reduce its carbon footprint, production costs, and resource usage, CKCPJ is going digital. Starting August 1, the default delivery method of *Peaceways* became electronic (through e-mail and social media outlets). The annual cost to create, print and mail one annual subscription using both delivery methods is approximately \$15 per year. CKCPJ appreciates contributions to offset mail delivery expenses. If you have contributed to us financially, you will continue to mail you a paper copy of this newsletter. If you have not mailed us a check, you MUST opt-in to receive *Peaceways* in the mail either by using [bit.ly/PWdelivery](http://bit.ly/PWdelivery) or by calling 859-488-1448. If you are not receiving e-mail notifications, but would like to, register/update your profile information through [bit.ly/](http://bit.ly/)

# William Wells Brown, a Lexington treasure

review by Jim Trammel

William Wells Brown is noted in several fields but not credited sufficiently in many. An escaped slave whose narratives have the ring of truth (but not always the accurate detail because of the perils of the runaway slave ever subject to recapture and return), Brown escaped servitude in Kentucky and St. Louis, educated himself

historian in trying to sort the person from the persona. Author Greenspan, a professor at Southern Methodist University, was in Lexington this month to hold discussions on this forthcoming biography.

The book succeeds better than many in tackling its multi-faceted subject – not only the hard-to-obtain details of Brown’s biography but the social context of the rapidly changing America of the mid-19th century that saw such upheaval in racial mores and social attitudes.

We follow as Brown grows to teenhood in slavery initially in Kentucky and then St. Louis, escapes in a “leap to freedom” in Cincinnati he would later chronicle, sort of, in his *Narrative*; and becomes a public abolitionist figure here and in Europe, telling his tale with unique authenticity.

It might be that Brown’s long-term reputation suffered because he was not as radical or colorful as his contemporary and later rival Frederick Douglass. It might be that some of his later efforts diverted down the temperance road—Brown saw alcohol as an enslaving force.

Or it might be that Brown bestrode categories literary historians would find convenient to box him into.

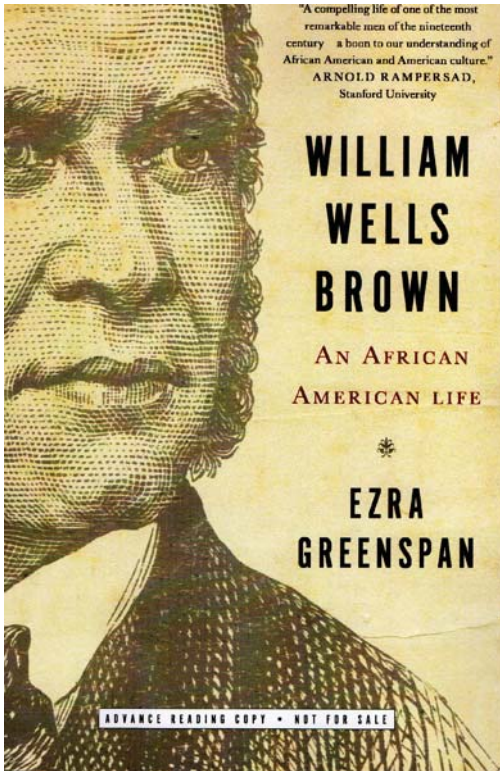
He was a writer as well as lecturer, publishing a novel, a play, a travel book, a book-length historical account of the Civil War, a military study, and a

study of African-American sociology. His novel *Clotel* is now recognized as the first novel by an African-American. It was first published in London during a sabbatical brought about by the fugitive slave laws of the 1850s, under which he could have been taken into custody from the lecture-hall stage and returned as a slave.

Or it could be that his embellishment of his authentic life experiences with recognizable details and themes of other slave odysseys made an assessment of his talents impossible to the literary critics who finally failed to assign him the worth that his novel, play, *Narrative*, and other works might otherwise have earned.

Nevertheless, Greenspan’s voluminous narrative manages to tell a compelling and biographically complete story without resorting (as Brown did and as “based on a true story” popular entertainments do today) to simplified explanations or revised details that add drama. It is a satisfying summation of the complicated times of a complicated person viewed through a hard-to-penetrate historical haze.

*Reviewer Jim Trammel salutes Dr. Ezra Greenspan, agreeing with WWB’s assessment that “Any fool can find fault with a book, but a dozen cannot write one.” William Wells Brown: An African American Life is due for release on October 6 and is available at bookstores in Lexington.*



with the help of his first wife, worked the riverboats and achieved life experience, and developed noteworthy oratorical skills which enhanced the authenticity of his story.

Today, denied a more permanent place in the American 19th century literary pantheon, he is the namesake of a school in Lexington. To illustrate the shifting nature of facts Brown wrote about, Brown was most likely born not in Lexington but in Mount Sterling, but he changed that fact because of the uncertainties of his tenuous freedom should someone recognize who he had been.

Ezra Greenspan has crafted a meticulously researched biography of this figure whose facts are hard to pin down. Though Wells’ *Narrative* presentation told a detailed story, enough people and place names have been changed, and events borrowed from other accounts, to frustrate the

## 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](mailto: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.



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—Melodie Beattie*

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*Continued from page one*

they attempt to reverse the ISIS military gains.

Shortly thereafter, French President Francois Hollande called for an international conference to discuss ways of confronting the Islamic State insurgents who have seized control of territory in Iraq and Syria. He indicated that a global strategy would be necessary.

Both suggestions tie directly into President Barack Obama's presiding over a meeting of the United Nations Security Council during his attendance at the UN's annual General Assembly meeting in September. Specifically, Obama's agenda will focus upon counterterrorism and the threat of foreign fighters traveling to conflict zones and joining terrorist organizations. It is estimated that over 12,000 foreign terrorist fighters have joined the conflicts in Syria and Iraq. Each month the presidency of the UN Security Council rotates among the 15-member body, thus giving each country the opportunity to set the agenda and lead meetings of the most powerful of the six UN organs.

Arguably, there are potential pitfalls. For example, if some of the key heads of the other permanent members—UK, Russia, China and France—did not attend, or if someone on the Security Council or in the General Assembly equates Israel's recent action in Gaza to terrorism or a war crime. Regardless, the UN is the logical and legal venue to broach this international challenge that must have a broad international coalition and wide support if the violence in Iraq is to be curtailed.

Additionally, all major players in the region, even ones that have had a traditional animosity to one another such as Iran vs. Saudi Arabia and the US, must be at the table. Regardless of previous slights

and negative perceptions, they all must participate in the deliberations and sign onto the mutually-agreed upon strategy to de-fang ISIS and return stability to the region.

It is critical to remember that a major reason for the disasters occurring in many areas of the Middle East is the misguided and illegal 2003 invasion of Iraq by former President George W. Bush. Allegedly, the US went to Iraq to disarm Saddam of weapons of mass destruction, which did not exist. When the bogus WMD argument collapsed, the rationale quickly moved to regime change and then to establishing democracy in the Arab world. The real reasons were to control the oil fields and re-do that area so it could be manipulated by Western interests. In reality, the legacy of the biggest US foreign blunder in history left Iran as the powerhouse in the region, converted Iraq into a powder keg for conflict among the Sunnis and Shias, got 200,000 Iraqis and over 4,000 American military killed, and gave the American taxpayer a bill for \$2 trillion, a figure that will continue to rise because of the thousands of troops that will need medical and psychological assistance, as well as Iraq requesting financial, military and technical assistance in the future.

Tragically, some media outlets, such as Fox News and many right-wing talk radio stations, are putting the same purveyors of misinformation, disinformation and lies back on the air to argue that the Iraq War was a glowing success. According to many of these revisionists, all the US needs to do is re-engage in Iraq and Syria by sending in ground troops. These arguments are ludicrous and false.

In a democracy it is critical to have a

cross-section of ideas stimulating debate on Iraq and other issues. It is questionable and foolish to heed the advice of a group that adheres to the nonsensical tenets that if only the US had stayed longer, left more troops or invested more blood and treasure in that region, there would have been a positive outcome.

Neither the Iraqis nor the Iranians wanted the US to stay, and the American public was turning against a failed war. Couple that with the fact that former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki did everything in his power to isolate the Sunnis from any power-sharing or involvement in the political, financial and cultural facets of Iraq. That was a recipe for a civil war.

From the despicable beheading of freelance photographer James Foley to the imposition of draconian Sharia law that violates human and civil rights, the challenges in Iraq are multiplying daily. Probably no one in the world knows this better than UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon who said recently, “.. I can bring world leaders to the river, but I cannot force them to drink.”

The situation, especially in Iraq and the Middle East, has reached crisis proportions. When the leaders of the world meet in September at the UN, it is time for them to “drink the water” for everyone's benefit.

*Bill Miller is the accredited Washington International journalist covering the UN and is the Producer/Moderator of “Global Connections Television.”*

*Global Connections Television (GCTV), the only talk show of its type in the world, has featured a wide range of guests ranging from leaders at the UN to the private sector to academics to non-governmental organizations. See <http://globalconnectionstelevision.com/kk>*

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