

# Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE November 2014

## Nuns On The Bus Hold Rally In Lexington

by Father John S. Rausch

The Nuns On The Bus (NOTB) drove through Kentucky and stopped in Lexington on Oct. 2 with a non-partisan message to expand voting rights and raise the minimum wage.

“Friends don’t let friends vote alone—they bring family and friends!” Sr. Simone Campbell, the organizer of NOTB, told a noontime rally of 300 at the Robert F. Stephens Courthouse Square in downtown Lexington. Later, using an inclusive “We the People” in contrast to the political power of the One Percent, she said, “It’s not just the nuns on the bus—it’s the one hundred percent on the bus.”

NOTB is a project of Network, a national Catholic social justice lobby, to educate voters about moral and ethical principles for public policies to include those outside the system and promote the common good. In this mid-term election year, NOTB is touring ten states that have tight Senatorial races: Iowa, Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, West Virginia, North Carolina, Louisiana, Georgia, Colorado and Kentucky. While

Sr. Simone is riding the bus for the entire trip, sisters along the way climb aboard during the bus’ visit to their state.

In addition to the rally, NOTB hosted a labor roundtable at Lexington’s Community Inn, a homeless shelter. The nuns heard from union representatives about the conditions of workers in Kentucky. Essentially, the social contract that says both management and workers should benefit from increased productivity and profits has broken down. Workers’ wages have remained flat for over 30 years.

While Kentucky is currently not a “Right to Work” state, many worry that a Republican statehouse would pass a bill that allows “free riders”—workers who directly benefit from union contract negotiations without having to pay for them. Some rephrased “Right to Work,” (a description that sounds positive for workers), to “Right to Work for Less,” and “No Rights at Work.” The workers present agreed that since the Reagan administration, groups like the Business Roundtable

and the Chamber of Commerce have stridently struggled to diminish the power of labor.

At the rally speakers questioned why people who work full-time must live in poverty. Councilwoman Attica Scott of Louisville said, “This is a moral issue!”

After active candidates for office, including Alison Lundergan Grimes and Elizabeth Jensen, encouraged people to vote, Sr. Simone thanked the participants who had gathered under a clear blue sky: “We the People came out and stood in the sunshine, because in the sunshine the political process works.”

John Rausch is a Glenmary priest who lives in Stanton, Ky. He is the director of Catholic Committee of Appalachia.

## Vote — It’s Your Hard-Earned Right

by Penny Christian

I voted for the first time in 1984. I remember being so excited about going into that booth—just me and my one vote—and being a part of the democratic process. Perhaps it was because my mom always brought me with her when she voted; she never missed an election. What is even more interesting to me, now that I am an adult, is the realization that I never saw my grandmother vote. Moreover, given what I am seeing now in the current generation, I think I know why.

My grandmother was born in 1901, separated from slavery by less than 40 years. Although the Fifteenth Amendment gave African Americans the right to vote, that didn't mean certain groups would make it easy. Jim Crow was alive and well

and voting literacy tests were prevalent. One generation from slavery. My grandmother, with no more than an elementary school education, in the Deep South, didn't know how to fight.

The point I am trying to make here is that the current generation does not NEED to fight, yet many will not vote. Sadly, there is a disconnect between them and the history of African Americans voting in this country. It's time they learned a little history.

I held a voter registration drive at my church, Bracktown Baptist, several weeks ago. Rather than just sitting demurely at a table with a clipboard and a pen, I decided to take a more direct approach. I showed

continued on page seven



Penny Christian used this poster of three civil rights workers murdered in Mississippi for registering African Americans to vote in 1964 as she educated young people at Bracktown Baptist Church about the sacrifices that were made to secure African American's right to vote.

# West-Smiley book prompts lively discussion

by Randolph Hollingsworth

On October 2 Dr. Melynda Price, Robert E. Harding, Jr., Associate Professor of Law and Director of the African American and Africana Studies at UK, led a discussion at the Wild Fig Bookstore about *The Rich and the Rest of Us: A Poverty Manifesto* co-authored by Dr. Cornell West and Tavis Smiley (<http://www.therichandtherestofus.com/>). [See review, page seven]. The book discussion was the final event for CKCPJ's *Voices 2014*, "Let's Make the Minimum Wage a Living Wage."

*The Rich and the Rest of Us* seeks to inspire all of us to bring poverty in America to an end. The authors challenge us to re-examine our assumptions about poverty in America — what it really is and how to eliminate it now. To start off the conversation, Dr. Price asked the attendees to think about their own personal manifesto, and it was a wonderful way to get the group to introduce themselves to each other. A favorite one for the group came from CKCPJ Board member Mary Ann Ghosal: "A tolerance for complexity."

We then were asked to explore what a world that does not include poverty would look like. While discussing this within the context of the book, Dr. Price suggested we might see how we address poverty in the US with Detroit as a test case. We should think more deeply about the decisions made there. While there are many collaborations across racial groups in urban centers like Detroit (and here in Kentucky, as well) we often ignore

these in our public discourses on poverty. Dr. Price reminded us about Grace Lee Boggs who teaches us much about why the underclass steers clear often of white progressives. Kentuckians continue to rely on representatives who have, for decades, continued to keep us in poverty: Dr. Price called this phenomenon a result of "aspirational voting" - those still seeking the American Dream.

Poverty is a moral issue. We have perhaps lost ourselves in a rampant individualism and an overweening push for materialism and so have lost sight of how these larger issues of poverty affect us all. One

out of every two people living in the U.S. are now classified as poor, new poor or near poor. As the middle class disappears and the safety net is shredded, Smiley and West compel us to confront our fear and complacency with 12 poverty-changing ideas. These ideas rest on a foundation of "fundamental fairness" that could change what we see when we hear various solutions for income inequality. The book is well worth its purchase, especially for having so much wide-ranging statistical information all in one place for ready use.

•  
*Randolph Hollingsworth was co-chair for Voice 2014 and is a member of the CKCPJ board of directors.*



Photo provided by Janet Tucker

Members of CKY KFTC, Delta Sigma Theta, and the Lexington chapter of the NAACP, and CKCPJ canvassed the East End of Lexington to register voters, to encourage them to vote on November 4, and to build power in our communities to make needed changes. Everyone is encouraged to vote on November 4. Find candidate information at <http://kentuckyelection.org/>, which is compiled by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth.

# Eastern Kentucky University to offer social justice studies

by Dr. Preston Elrod

Forget the common "What do you want to do as a career?" quandary.

A newly approved bachelor's degree program in Social Justice Studies (SJS) asks instead, "Who do you want to be and what role do you want to play in developing a more humane world?"

The interdisciplinary program will critically examine the cultural, economic and political dynamics of societal conflict and struggles for social justice among and between various groups and institutions.

Housed in the School of Justice Studies in the University's College of Justice and Safety, the SJS degree will serve as a complement to the existing programs

on criminal justice. It will draw upon a variety of academic disciplines such as American studies, anthropology, cultural and political geography, sociology, political economy and cultural studies; and will piece together diverse perspectives and viewpoints with the hope of developing a more robust understanding of justice and injustice and strategies by which problems can be overcome.

The Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education, which formally approved the program on Sept. 16, has emphasized the importance of preparing students capable of advancing the social, cultural and environmental health of the state. The

SJS major at EKU will engage students in rigorous academic study of pressing social problems and facilitate their civic engagement as it prepares them for careers in public, private, non-profit and community-based sectors of employment, including activism, alternative media, community organizing, conflict resolution, domestic non-profit and social services, environmental advocacy, human relations, political campaigns and public policy analysis.

For more information about the program, contact Dr. Preston Elrod, Professor and Division Chair, Undergraduate Studies in the School of Justice Studies, at [preston.elrod@eku.edu](mailto:preston.elrod@eku.edu) or 859-622-1160.

# Save the Date—White Privilege Conference scheduled for March 11-14

Now in its 16th year, the annual White Privilege Conference (WPC) is scheduled for Mar. 11-14 at The Galt House in Louisville. The WPC was founded by Dr. Eddie Moore, Jr., who currently serves as director of diversity at The Bush School (www.bush.edu) in Seattle, and serves as the director of the WPC.

In the past 16 years, the conference has drawn almost 2,000 participants from all sectors of the nation: students, activists, musicians, artists, and members of the faith community. WPC surveys indicate that “more than 90 percent of conference participants report that they return home with new information, resources, and strategies for addressing issues of privilege and oppression... more than 90 percent of conference participants plan to attend future conferences and recommend it to others.”

From the website, www.whiteprivilegeconference.com we learn that: WPC is a conference that examines challenging concepts of privilege and oppression and offers solutions and team building strategies to work toward a more equitable world; it is not a conference designed to attack, degrade or beat up on white folks; it is not a conference designed to rally white supremacist groups; WPC is a conference designed to examine issues of privilege beyond skin color. WPC is open to everyone and invites diverse perspectives to provide a comprehensive look at issues of privilege including race, gender, sexuality, class, disability — the ways we all experience some form of privilege, and how we’re all affected by that privilege.

WPC attracts students, professionals, activists, parents, and community leaders/

*continued on page six*

## Central Kentucky Move to Amend to host Clements book tour

Central Kentucky Move to Amend, in conjunction with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, will host Jeffery Clements on his book tour for the new edition of *Corporations Are Not People: Reclaiming Democracy from Big Money & Global Corporations*.

Join us at the church, 3564 Clays Mill Road at 7 pm on Thursday, Nov. 13. The public is welcome to the free event. There will be door prizes and the first 30 people will receive Move to Amend pins.

Clements is the co-founder and chair of the board of Free Speech for People, a national non-partisan campaign to overturn *Citizens United v FEC*, challenge excessive corporate power, and strengthen Ameri-

can democracy and republican self-government. He co-founded Free Speech for People in 2010, after representing several public interest organizations with a Supreme Court amicus brief in the Citizens United case.

Jeff has served as Assistant Attorney General and Chief of the Public Protection Bureau in the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office. In private practice Jeff has been a partner at Mintz Levin in Boston and had his own firm.

In 2012, Jeff co-founded Whaleback Partners, LLC, which provides cost-effective capital to farmers and businesses engaged in local, sustainable agriculture.

## 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, 501 West Sixth St., Lexington KY 40508. Deadline for calendar items for the December issue is Nov.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.*

**Fri. Oct. 31**

## **Due Date, 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).

**Tues. Nov. 4**

**Election Day** In Chicago they used to say "Vote early, vote often," but CKCPJ encourages members and readers of *Peaceways* to not only vote, but to encourage friends and neighbors to vote, too. Does your neighbor need a ride? Does your niece know her polling place? What can you do to get out the vote?

**Thurs. Nov. 6**

**Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky** offers a monthly children's education program during its first Thursday's meeting in the Green Room of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, 3564 Clay's Mill Road. The program this month will be "Humanism, What's That?" with Kim Marshall, M.Ed., a child's-eye view to exploring secular humanism using literary works by Helen Bennett and P.D. Jacob. The program is offered to children ages 5-12 years old for the duration of the adult forum from 7-8:30 pm. Please register each attending child via the sign-in sheet upon point of drop-off. Childcare is also provided for children 4 years old and under in the nursery of the UUCL. Rachael Middle engages toddlers in free play, stories, and games for the duration of the Humanist Forum. Parents/guardians are requested to supply any necessary items their child requires for care.

**Fri. Nov. 7**

**Kick-Off Party, Good Giving Campaign.** 6 pm, Carrick House, Limestone and Third Street, Lexington. Join supporters of the Bluegrass Community Foundation for the beginning of the 2014 Good Giving Campaign. Learn how you can be a part of this great Lexington effort.

**Thurs. Nov. 13**

**Book Tour, *Corporations Are Not People*, Jeffery Clements,** 7 pm, Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, 3564 Clays Mill Road. Door prizes will be given and the first 30 people will be given Move To Amend pins. For more information about Move to Amend, see page three.

**Wed. Nov. 19**

## **CKCPJ Peace Action Committee**

7 pm - 9 pm, Quaker Meetinghouse, 649 Price Avenue. The committee advocates peaceful resolution of conflicts around the world; educates central Kentuckians about conflicts around the world; and educates central Kentuckians about non-violent conflict resolution.

**Sat-Sun. Nov. 22-23**

## **Humanist Families and Friends Campout at Newton's Attic**

3 pm Sat., to 10 am Sunday. An evening of fun science activities and camping at Newton's Attic, 4974 Old Versailles Rd., Lexington. Admission is \$15 per person or \$50 per family, and includes two hours of hands-on activities such as launching pumpkins with a ballista, making and shooting rubber band crossbows, riding the Device (small roller coaster), and playing with the shooting gallery. After the activities, we'll have a bonfire and tent camping. Directions can be located at [www.newtonsattic.com](http://www.newtonsattic.com). For additional details or to RSVP, please visit the HFCK group Facebook event or email [leannamc-cormick@gmail.com](mailto:leannamc-cormick@gmail.com).

**Tuesdays during 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.

**Your Event Here**

*Do you have an event that you would like to promote in Peaceways? Send information to [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com). Please send notification by the 10th of the previous month.*

**Wed-Fri. Dec. 17-19**

**Faith and Community Christmas Store** 8 am - 5 pm each day, Southland Christian Church, 2349 Richmond Road (old Lexington Mall location). The store provides gently used toys for children of all ages. Many volunteers needed for a variety of tasks. To register for one or more shifts, see [www.godsnet.info](http://www.godsnet.info). You will also see information about making donations.

**Fri-Sun. Mar. 11-14**

**White Privilege Conference** Louisville, The Galt House, 140 N. 4th Street.

The WPC's mission statement says the conference "provides a challenging, collaborative and comprehensive experience. We strive to empower and equip individuals to work for equity and justice through self and social transformation."

Full registration information is available at the website, [www.whiteprivilegeconference.com](http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com).

Early registration discounts apply until February 13, 2015. NOTE: If you belong to a national group that works on diversity, anti-racism, or inclusion initiatives, you may be eligible for a group discount. Contact your national representative to be certain.

**Peace Award Nominations**

## **CKCPJ Annual Peace Networking and Dinner**

Peace Award nominations will be accepted from now through February. For more information, see the CKCPJ website. For more information or to ask questions, contact [peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com). Recipients of the 2014 CKCPJ awards will be recognized at the annual dinner.

## **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. Signing the petition at [http://act.credoaction.com/sign/border\\_crisis\\_refugees/?sp\\_](http://act.credoaction.com/sign/border_crisis_refugees/?sp_)

# Goodgiving Launches November 3

by Susan Lamb

The 2014 Goodgiving Challenge begins Mon., Nov. 3, and CKCPJ is calling all donors! The Goodgiving Challenge runs for six weeks, and there will be four match challenges that will allow each organization to raise additional money based on donations during the specific challenge. CKCPJ will participate again this year and hopes to surpass its 2013 contributions of \$4,741. The council received contributions from 76 individuals and wants to double that number.

CKCPJ has always been a unique coalition that builds collaborations and connections between groups and individuals who labor on the full fabric of peace and justice concerns. The council thinks globally and works locally in Central Kentucky for a world that is more just, free from the scourge of war and more sustainable. It operates on a very small annual budget so the money raised through the Goodgiving Challenge is crucial to the CKCPJ's effort to bring together small groups of local people to work on broad issues of peace and justice.

CKCPJ will use email, Facebook and Twitter to let you know about upcoming match challenges and hopes that you will always forward our email, Facebook posts and Tweets to your friends and ask them to spread the word as well.

There will be a Goodgiving Challenge kick-off party on Fri., Nov. 7 at the Carrick House.

The council will have a different theme each week of the challenge so that everyone can continue to learn about new issues or receive updates on such issues such as affordable housing, immigration, the living wage campaign, reinstating voting rights of former felons and homelessness.

CKCPJ has set a goal to raise \$6,000 for 2014, a healthy increase over the good amount in 2013. Join the council in spreading the word between now and Nov. 3 about the 2014 Goodgiving Challenge. Yes, you too can help make a difference!

*Susan Lamb is a member of the CKCPJ Board of Directors and chairs the fundraising committee.*

## 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.**

# State needs improved parenting education

by Don Pratt

We, the state's Kentucky Foster Adoptive Care Association, KFACA, call upon our state legislature, our governor and all bodies of our state to make parenting education a priority of our educational system.

Our experience as foster parents has shown us that the lack of real and effective parenting education has resulted in an ever increasing need for more foster/adoptive services with even more difficult, damaged children.

Abused and neglected children are far too common in Kentucky and throughout the nation. This an overwhelming failure of our people, state and nation.

We, the KFACA, want real and effective parenting education in order to reverse this trend.

Experiential parenting is not capable enough to protect children from being abuse or to enable them to live good lives as children, adults and later as parents.

Parenting is the state's number one job (24 hours a day, seven days a week, legally for 18 years-plus) but seldom is acknowledged as such.

KFACA seeks the establishment of a Parenting Education model for our state that can become a model for the nation.

That model can use resources from around the state and nation to establish

- classes;
- provide skilled educators;
- access videos;
- provide information about educational CDs and DVDs.

Talented parents, foster and adoptive parents, psychologists, teachers/educators, social workers and legal experts can develop best practices.

Foster parents can help with the development of school classes on parenting, skilled spokespeople, videos, CDs, DVDs, even create a book titled "Parenting in Kentucky for Dummies."

Foster/adoptive parents can provide Kentucky's parenting education program the real and effective parenting education

needed to begin an effort to make parenting a true success for tomorrow.

At this same time, we call upon our government bodies, businesses (including media) and individuals to join in this effort, even advise us, to improve and help our state's future for our children and to educate better parents for the future.

We foster and adoptive parents certainly want to be better parents, too!

This educational program effort is sought to help see children properly raised and most importantly prevent abuse and neglect.

In particular, the greatest goal and benefit, as a foster/adoptive care organization, and us as parents, will be to see a reduction in childhood damages due to abuse and neglect while giving all of our kids, and ourselves, a better life.

Contact Terry Gray, KFACA president 502-570-5897grayt013@gmail.com; Shirley Hedges, co-chair, KFACA legislative committee; Don Pratt, co-chair KFACA legislative committee, 859-552-2235, dbp91044@gmail.com

CKCPJ is currently taking applications for an administrative manager. The manager will provide CKCPJ with administrative support in a number of areas, including:

- Podio coordinator (Podio is an on-line task management software program);
- Provide the initial contact point for phone calls, mail, and email;
- Maintain an organized workspace at the Plantory;
- Coordinate Peaceways distribution electronically and physically to individuals and organizations around town (organization's newsletter);
- Maintain an annual tasks calendar;
- Provide support assistance for volunteers with tabling and other outreach efforts;
- Update the website administrator with relevant content;
- Work with volunteers on social media outreach (using Mail Chimp, Facebook and other social media);
- Attend Board and Steering Committee meetings monthly, provide administrative updates, and record supplemental minutes.

This position answers directly to the board co-chairs. Please direct resumes with a cover letter to [peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com](mailto:peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com) by Dec. 1, 2014.

## White Privilege Conference

*continued from page three*

members from diverse perspectives. WPC welcomes folks with varying levels of experience addressing issues of diversity, cultural competency, and multiculturalism.

The WPC's mission statement says the conference "provides a challenging, collaborative and comprehensive experience. We strive to empower and equip individuals to work for equity and justice through self and social transformation."

Full registration information is available at the website. Early registration discounts apply until February 13, 2015. NOTE: If you belong to a national group that works on diversity, anti-racism, or inclusion initiatives, you may be eligible for a group discount. Contact your national representative to be certain. If you cannot attend but would like to support others who can,

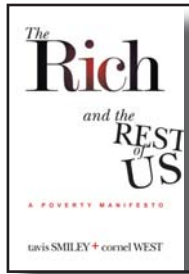
the conference accepts donations. In 2014, with the support of corporate and individual donors, the WPC awarded more than \$15,000 in scholarships.

Contacts: For groups larger than 50 please contact Eddie Moore, Jr. at [eddieknowsmoore@yahoo.com](mailto:eddieknowsmoore@yahoo.com). Contact Marqita Jones at [wpcinfo@theprivilegeinstitute.com](mailto:wpcinfo@theprivilegeinstitute.com) or 303-486-6890 for more information.

The webpage has numerous links under "testimonials," from participants in past WPC events. Race is a subject we are still learning to talk about. Particularly moving is the testimonial from Nicole R. Crosby, which can be accessed at ([www.whiteprivilegeconference.com/testimonials.html](http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com/testimonials.html))

## Book Review / Has anyone seen the middle class? They were here just a while ago ...

**The Rich and the Rest of Us** (April, 2012). Tavis Smiley and Cornel West. Smileybooks, publisher.



Reviewed by Jim Trammel

Manifestos too often run long on statements of principle and recitation of grievances, and too rarely include practical calls to action.

Tavis Smiley and Cornel West's 2012 summation of the previous four years, chronicling the disappearance of the American Middle Class since 2008 leaving only *The Rich and the Rest of Us*, may have some historical value as a marker of attitude shifts in that period and a summary of the earlier 20 years or so of negative attitudes toward the poor in the halls of government and business.

The rest of it we all know already, have intuited well, or maybe sadly have experienced it ourselves with our families, and Smiley and West have the destination in mind but no reliable map to get there.

.....

### Vote

*continued from page one*

them photos of Freedom Riders, James Chaney, Andrew Goodman and Michael Schwerner who were murdered in Mississippi on June 21, 1964, because they were helping African Americans register to vote. I showed them the FBI posters that circulated during the search for these young men; they read the details of how these men were beaten, shot, and set on fire. Because they dared to encourage us to vote.

While I was pleased that I was able to register these kids, I was also somewhat disappointed. Why? Because they should have already known. Why don't they know that our right to vote is rooted in the protests in Alabama and Mississippi?

These are the very reasons we should be first in line at the polls. Blood was shed, young people, for you, and it is your responsibility to uphold the integrity of the fight. So, my charge to the first-time voters and college-bound: register to vote. Be heard. Remember how you got here.

•

*Penny Christian is a local activist and the mother of four daughters, all of whom will be at the polls on Nov. 4.*

Smiley and West spin ain't-it-awful recitations of the extinction of the middle class following George W. Bush's expensive wars and the real-estate and financial-sector crash of 2008, which came close to taking down the entire economy. In the aftermath (don't call it a recovery, at all), the middle class is odd-group-out, victim of the resistance of the not-poor to imagine themselves in those holey shoes.

The fate of the middle class is the only thing new post-2008. The poor have been getting it in the neck for 50 years and more. These "old poor" are now joined by the "working poor" (a class long known at God's Pantry Food Bank) and the "new poor." These formerly middle-class workers lost their jobs in 2008, got in trouble within a couple of years, unable to meet their mortgage payments, and were evicted by Wall Street barons, who bought the contracts – well, you've heard it all by now.

Smiley and West's most promising solution is being done by "Take Back the Land, Madison," a Wisconsin group stealthily taking back and re-populating foreclosed and abandoned homes and resisting re-eviction. In Chicago, a similar group re-populates empty apartment towers (they stand in Chi by the city block) and takes pledges from the surrounding neighborhood to help resist court-ordered police evictions. I hope, if I ever find myself in that position, I will get the TV cameras around and declare, "I'll leave here when the banker who put me out goes to jail." That should sign my lease for a while.

A sensible solution, to re-finance such homes at their newly lowered values, will

be brokered by the parties in these cases, is my completely unofficial prediction. Repopulated houses have some chance to maintain value; empty deteriorating ones will stand and rot until worthless. Why wouldn't a bank want there to be at least some value? An economist friend of mine told me banks wouldn't like such a move much, but his reasoning had to do completely with balance sheet entries, write-downs, and write-offs. Numbers at a bank mean nothing when families freeze in a Northern winter like last year's. Surely some kind of perk could be found to make it feasible.

Smiley and West summarize possible plans for various relief, but are short on how to set them up without a national turnaround in imagination and a rebirth of compassion, or at least a committed two-thirds majority of both legislative houses.

Post-2008 eye-opening reveals that poverty is not a character flaw. Neither is it a condition linked to race, despite the history (Ronald Reagan's fictive "welfare queen" and Newt Gingrich calling Obama a "food stamp President"), both dog-whistles sounded to cynically pander to resentful white voters.

Perhaps, however, this book has done its part to serve, as the Occupy Wall Street movement (and Mitt Romney's famous 47-percent jab) did to make the question of income inequality at least a topic of discussion that won't be a political third rail.

*Reviewer Jim Trammel urges everyone to vote Nov. 4 as if their jobs and income depended on it. Because guess what ... ?*

## ..... 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.



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

*Nobody will ever deprive the American people of the  
right to vote except the American people themselves  
and the only way they could do this is by not voting.*

*Franklin Delano Roosevelt*

Non Profit Org.  
US Postage  
PAID  
Lexington, KY  
Permit No. 850

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Issue #278 • November 2014

Moving or changing your email? Please send us your new information.

## The Other America: Anne Braden, Patriot, Subversive, Anti-racism Advocate

*by Gail Koehler, Lead Trainer, Lexington United*

The life and work of anti-racist activist Anne Braden (1924–2006) stands as a testament to the possibility of breaking out of the way we are raised, and of the ability to imagine and work toward what Braden called the Other America.

She and her husband, Carl, are most famously known for their challenge of segregated housing in Louisville. In 1954, a home they bought for the Wade family, a black family, was dynamited. No one was hurt. They purchased the house at the time of the Supreme Court case *Brown v. Board of Education*. The Supreme Court ruling outlawed school segregation. The Anti-communism of the era's McCarthyism affected the political climate, and the Bradens and five other whites were arrested on charges of sedition, on the grounds that their actions incited unrest. Those responsible for the home's destruction were never found. Carl served eight months of a 15-year sentence before his sentence was overturned. Anne's case did not come to trial. Carl died in 1975. Anne remained committed to civil rights work until her death in 2006.

Cate Fosl's excellent biography of Anne, *Southern Subversive*, and the Appalshop documentary *Anne Braden: Southern Patriot*, by Anne Lewis and Mimi Pickering provide a fuller account of Anne Braden's work and life.

Briefly, Anne was born in Louisville, but raised in the even more racially segregated city of Anniston, Alabama. In college she began questioning the teaching of her family: that as a descendant of the "First Settlers," she was a member of a superior class of people. Working as a reporter, she saw that blacks were not

given equal protection under the law. She recounts a case she covered when she was 22 years old, at the Birmingham, Alabama, courthouse:

*a young man was being tried—not for rape, but something called 'assault with intent to ravish.' A young white woman testified that he passed her on the opposite side of a country road and looked at her in an 'insulting' way. He was sentenced to 20 years.*

Anne Braden, "Free

Thomas Wansley: A Letter to White Southern Women" (1972) <http://bit.ly/BradenLtr>

Her analysis of what she called "the prison of racism" included the conviction that the southern tradition of "protecting" white women by killing blacks must stop. Fosl writes that Braden "vehemently rejected racial defense of southern white women."

Anne Braden's first arrest occurred in 1951 when she travelled to Mississippi. She was one of only three white women in a delegation of the Civil Rights Congress (CRC) that protested the execution of Willie McGee. She served as spokeswoman for the group, and stated "We are here because we are determined that no more

innocent men shall die in the name of southern white women."

Anne was a powerful speaker and masterful writer. This profile closes, then, with her own words.

"An older, African American leader that I respected highly told me I had to make a choice: be a part of the world of the lynchers or join the Other America—of people from the very beginning of this country who opposed injustice, and especially opposed racism and slavery. [He told me] I could be a part of that—that it existed today and offered me a home to live in.

"I felt like, well, that's what I wanna be a part of. And so it was a very real concept to me all my life and still is. It is the present incarnation of the movement for social change in my time, but it's also the connection with a past and a future. [It's] like you're part of a long chain of struggle that was here long before you were here, and it's gonna be here long after you're gone. And that gives life a meaning."



*Ann Braden and Rosa Parks*

*Peaceways is printed by Timprint, 859-223-7373*