

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE December 2014

Jason Bailey addresses minimum wage question

by Richard Mitchell

If minimum wage had kept up with increases in the average worker's wages over the last 35 years, it would not be \$7.25 per hour (the current minimum), but \$10.65 per hour. Many knew that the minimum wage was too low, but Jason Bailey's data demonstrated that it is worse than we thought. Forty concerned Lexingtonians gathered on Nov. 12 at Lexington's Quaker meetinghouse to hear Bailey, Director of the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, speak about "Increasing Lexington's Minimum Wage—What the Data Show." (For more about the KCEP go to kypolicy.org.)

Bailey elaborated further "if the minimum wage had kept up with increases in worker productivity, it would be \$18.30." Such data have fueled attempts to increase Kentucky's minimum wage (during last year's legislative session a bill to gradually increase the wage to \$10.10 per hour passed the Kentucky House, but failed in the Republican-controlled Senate).

Louisville's Metro Council is considering a proposal to raise the minimum to \$10.10 over three years.

Bailey calculates that in Lexington a \$10.10 minimum wage would benefit 18 percent of Lexington's workforce directly (31,000 workers) and push up the wages of an additional 9,000 workers who make between \$10.10 and \$11.50 per hour.

Opponents argue that increases in minimum wages primarily help teen workers, most of whom are not raising families. In Lexington, however, 92 percent of those who will benefit are over 20 years old. Further, 54 percent of those who will benefit are women, 74 percent are white, and 13 percent are black. The workers most affected work in restaurants (18%), retail sales (14%), and healthcare (12%).

Data also contradict another claim of critics: Increases in the minimum wage cause loss of jobs. Bailey described a study comparing employment along 288 bordering counties in New Jersey and Pennsylvania when New Jersey increased its minimum wage and Pennsylvania did not. There was no statistically significant change in employment in New Jersey compared with Pennsylvania. Analysts postulate that the cost of increasing wages

is made up by savings in training costs due to lower worker turnover.

Bailey emphasized that families in which the wage earner is paid the minimum wage are still in poverty. According to MIT's Poverty Wage Calculator, in Fayette County a single parent with one child must earn \$21.93 per hour to be out of poverty. The widely discussed \$10.10 wage is not even near a living wage.

The audience at Bailey's presentation included four members of Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council: returning incumbents Shevawn Acres, and Steve Kay (incoming vice-mayor) and incoming members Susan Lamb and Jake Gibbs.

Bailey's talk was sponsored by the Lexington Working Families Campaign, which is building a coalition to advocate for increases in Lexington's minimum wage to begin to close the gap between a minimum wage and a living wage. If you or your organization would like to be part of the Working Families Campaign, or if you would like to work on a CKCPJ committee call or email (859) 488-1448 / peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com.

Richard Mitchell, a Quaker peace activist, has served on the CKCPJ board and waged peace in central Kentucky for over 35 years.



2014 Faith and Freedom Award recipients Betsy Neale and Richard Mitchell. Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass member Zina Merkin (left) made the presentation. Story, page two.

CKCPJ Annual Dinner Scheduled for Feb. 22

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice Annual Dinner and Networking Fair is scheduled for Sun., Feb. 22, at Imani Baptist Church. Local groups that address social justice issues will have information booths set up from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.; dinner will follow the networking session at 6 p.m. Following dinner, CKCPJ will give its annual awards: Youth Peacemaker of the Year Award, Lifetime of Waging Peace Award, Peacemaker of the Year Award, and the Chuck Sohner Living Wage Award. The evening will address

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Courageous Conversations about Race

by Betsy Neale

Carol Taylor is the Social Justice Educator at the Violence Intervention and Prevention Center of the University of Kentucky. Carol is a black woman who has a strong concern about racial issues and is interested in helping all of us understand them better so we can work together on bringing about social justice. I first met Carol when she came to a discussion on race with members of Lexington Friends Meeting (Quakers). Recently we talked about race and what white folks like me need to understand about race. A longer note of our conversation can be found at <http://bit.ly/Taylor-Neale>.

A central point Carol Taylor stresses is that race is a social construct. For example, President Barack Obama is biracial—he is as much white as he is black. But due to his skin color, he can't be seen as anything but black. This shows that our view of race is not based in reality but is a socially-created concept. The artificial construct of race affects all people and permeates all aspects of our lives. We all pay a price, but the ways it plays out in

the lives of whites and those of people of color are different.

In order to make progress on racial understanding, Carol advocates that people of color and white people have conversations in which we speak openly about our experiences and perceptions. If we can listen without defensiveness, we can get to know each other and heal.

The artificial construct of race confers on white people a privilege they often don't realize they have. It's challenging for white people to think about race differently and to see race through the eyes of people of color. Carol says that while it's not necessary for white people to understand what it's like to be a person of color, it is necessary for white people to understand that the world works differently for different people based on race.

Carol shared some examples. People of color are more likely to be arrested than are whites. Carol feels she has to perform at a very high level at her job in order to be seen as equal to an average white employee. White people can ignore race if they choose, but that is not an option for

people of color.

When white folks recognize that they have a level of privilege that people of color do not, it opens the way for honest, long-lasting relationships and move on to important issues: ending poverty, homelessness, or interpersonal violence. These social problems affect people of all races.

Carol hopes that we will get beyond seeing skin color as significant and all the societal ills that reinforce a racial bias. "Progress has been made, but there is still so much more to do. We have to do it as a collective, though. It's not the role of people of color to right the ship. It's everybody's role to right the ship. It's a collective thing, and I hope we can get to the point of seeing that. We should not expect everyone to have the same thoughts about it. You don't have to have consensus, but people working together in partnership, on a shared goal, that is a beautiful thing."

Betsy Neale was active in CKCPJ during its early years. In recent years she has served on the editorial committee of Peaceways.

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**TIABG recognizes
Lexington activists**

At its annual dinner at Central Christian Church on Oct. 21, The Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass (TIABG) presented the husband and wife team of social activists Betsy Neale and Richard Mitchell the 2014 Faith and Freedom Award. TIABG noted that this couple "has contributed consistently over the last three decades to a variety of social justice and humanitarian causes. Betsy was a co-founder and the first executive director of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice (CKCPJ), and is now a sexuality educator. Richard has been active not only in CKCPJ, but as moderator of the Justicelist listserv, as organizer and participant in countless peace rallies and vigils, and as a member of the Kentucky Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. Both have served terms on the board of the Interfaith Alliance of the Blue Grass."

The Interfaith Alliance of the Bluegrass is an organization of adults and youth which fosters relationships among a diversity of religious traditions and organizations, in order to discover and celebrate shared values in an atmosphere of mutual respect. For more information, email TIABG.info@gmail.com.

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To Care For and Cultivate the Garden

by Fr. John S. Rausch

Last August during our 2014 Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Appalachia, I asked Dr. Tom Barnes, a naturalist with the University of Kentucky's Department of Forestry, to show our group some Kentucky waterfalls and talk about the region. Near Wrigley, Ky., at a waterfall that had only a trickle in its dry season, Tom sat on a flat rock wearing his wide-brim hat, holding a walking stick in hand, and discussed climate change. The Appalachian region, he said, the most diverse deciduous hardwood forest in North America, was warming, and southern pines and soft woods were creeping into the area. The harder woods were moving north together with other flora and fauna.

In retrospect, the image of Tom seated on a rock, worn from illness, yet teaching with staff in hand, evoked an image of Moses, or some other prophet, instructing God's people before his death. For almost 30 years, Tom had walked the forests of Kentucky, and he observed firsthand how the climate of the mountains was changing. His talk, given two months before he

died, incorporated not simply scientific knowledge, but wisdom. Humanity is contributing to global warming, he said, and we must change our ways.

We count "care of creation" as one of the seven social teachings of the Catholic Church, yet its importance for many rests solely with its relationship to people. Pollution causes cancer, foul air increases asthma. However, theologian Sr. Elizabeth A. Johnson looks at Matthew 25 with its admonition to feed the hungry and clothe the naked, and concludes the teaching focuses on the least among us—the poor and vulnerable. She then asks, considering how we treat the earth, whether creation is not the "new poor" and similarly the most vulnerable among us.

A trek through the forest with Tom was like entering a cathedral. Reverent steps, moments of silence, unrushed gazing and looking filled the experience. Tom introduced me to wild flowers, one time identifying 33 varieties in less than a mile along Indian Creek near the Red River

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The Divide:

American Injustice in the Age of the Wealth Gap

By Matt Taibbi. 2014. 412 pages. Published by Random House

Review by Jim Trammel

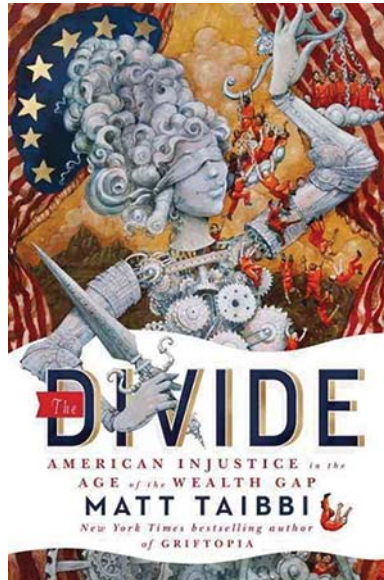
I want every law enforcement officer who reads this review to find and read this book and vow they will never be the unfair, racist, selective enforcers of trumped-up violations against non-whites that reporter Matt Taibbi documents in *The Divide*.

Taibbi is equaled only by Malcolm Gladwell in his ability to infuse narrative interest into nonfiction events. Taibbi starts with the premise "Why has incarceration gone up since the crash of 2008 when violent crime has declined steadily?"

The answer is the rise in "stop-and-frisk" police policies that allow police to scoop up people they believe are offenders, process them all through a class-biased justice system, squeeze them for fines, fees and administrative costs, and throw back whoever they think might be innocent.

Taibbi takes us through some heart-breaking case histories in which:

- A working man in Brooklyn's Bedford-Stuyvestant section, walking within 50 feet of his apartment, is seized, thrown to the sidewalk, cuffed, and arrested because he "fits the description" (to which he replies, "Everybody in my neighborhood fits the description"), giving him a police record and wrecking his attempts to rebuild his life with a family;
- A single mother in San Diego applying for public assistance must endure a midnight inspection by a bureaucrat intent on proving she's a fraud. During the inspection, he lifts frilly panties out of her underwear drawer with a pencil eraser-end and asks, if she doesn't have a



boyfriend as she claimed, why she needs sexy underwear.

- A Gainesville, Ga., man is the victim of a traffic stop which puts him into an inhuman deportation system and sends him on a nightmare odyssey through Mexico on the whim of a closed, self-administered system that isn't even part of the criminal justice system.
- A white musician born south of Lexington is pounced on by undercover police, framed on drug charges, and put through months of hassle, after which, although nothing permanent came of it, his outgoing sensitive nature is forever tampered.

Middle-class people can't imagine this kind of thing ever happens. If that happened to me, they say, *I'd have lawyers on them like white on rice*. But these victims don't have any extra money to pay their fines and fees, and have no voice in these

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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 February issue is Jan. 10. Contact 859-488-1448 or email 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



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. Dec. 4

Crafting winter and holiday cards

6:30 pm, Fellowship Hall, Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays Mill Rd., Lexington, will take place during the annual potluck dinner with Kim Marshall, children's program director. Children of all ages (even adults!) are welcome to make cards for family, friends, fellow humanists or residents of GreenHouse 17. No admission charged.

Thurs. Dec. 11

Potluck Supper 6 pm. Join the members of Stop Mass Incarceration Kentucky for an evening of sharing concerning the efforts of this group to address police brutality, mass incarceration and criminalization on the national and local level. Location TBA; for more information contact Janet Tucker, jlynjenks@gmail.com.

Fri. Dec. 12

GoodGiving Challenge, the fundraising effort of the Bluegrass Community Foundation and Smiley Pete Publishing, concludes today. At press time, GGC has raised \$909,371 for local non-profits, including CKCPJ. If you have not yet made your contribution, please don't let this opportunity pass you by!

Tues. Dec. 16

Lexington Working Families

Campaign will meet at 7 pm, Plantory, 501 West Sixth Street, Lexington, to plan strategies for action to establish a local minimum wage for Lexington. With both state and federal efforts gridlocked, a local minimum wage with a meaningful increase is needed. For more information contact David Christiansen, davidccky@gmail.com

Your Event Here

Do you have an event that you would like to promote in Peaceways? Send information to 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 to children of all ages. Volunteers needed for a variety of tasks. To register for one or more shifts, see www.godsnet.info. You will also see information about making donations.

Sun. Dec. 21

The Great Ice Skate Date 1 pm, Triangle Park, Lexington. Join HF&F in welcoming the winter season with an outing to the Triangle Park Ice Rink. Imagine the giggles when you combine our families with ice! Come out to skate or for mere entertainment. The fee to skate is \$10 per person per ninety minutes. You may bring your own skates, but skates are available from the ice rink at no additional charge. If you have specific questions about the ice rink, call 859-269-5681.

Mon. Jan. 19

One World Films, as part of Lexington's celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day holiday, will show the film, Red Tails, at 2:30 p.m. at the Kentucky Theater, 214 E. Main Street. The film showing is free and open to the public.

The film is the story of a squadron of black pilots, known as the Tuskegee Airmen, who fought racism as they were growing up and continued to do so in their World War II assignments as fighter pilots, while fighting the Nazis. Cuba Gooding, Jr., stars in the film.

Ron Spriggs, a local historian and an aficionado of Tuskegee Airmen history, will introduce the film. Mr. Spriggs is state president of the national organization of the Tuskegee Airmen Association.

For more information about One World Films, contact Annette Mayers, annette@the-mayers.com.

Mon. Jan. 19

Martin Luther King Day March

Join CKCPJ members and friends for the annual march in downtown Lexington. Call 859-488-1448.

Wed.-Sat. 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.

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.

Tues.-Sun. Mar. 10-15

Cherokee Spirituality Retreat

Cherokee, N.C., All the presentations will be given by Native Americans living around Cherokee; topics will include Cherokee history, myths, religious beliefs, and cultural expressions. One session will address "Historic Grief and Intergenerational Trauma," outlining how Native Americans lost their sense of identity through government policies of forced assimilation into the dominant culture. Cost is \$350 for a shared room; \$500 for a private room and includes lodging, program fees and some meals. For more information contact Father John Rausch, 606-663-0823, js-rausch@bellsouth.net or Mary Herr, (828) 497-9498, maryherr@dnet.net

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 Recipients of the 2014 CKCPJ awards will be recognized at the annual dinner.

Curtis Pike Intentional Community *An Invitation*

by Mary Ann Ghosal and Thyne Rutrough

The Curtis Pike Intentional Community is a small residential community outside of Richmond, Kentucky. About ten years ago three families came together to live a common life of prayer, sustainability, justice, and hospitality in a rural setting. We meet for prayer twice a day. We have used a variety of resources during these 20-minute periods and we continue to be open to new practices. Life together has its challenges in an individualistic society; we've found it's much easier to deal with conflict constructively when we pray together regularly.

We anticipate that one of our families will be leaving the community in the next few months, freeing one 4-bedroom house for rental to someone wanting to explore our common life. We also have approval for two building lots.

We've made a serious commitment to being environmentally sustainable. We live in two, 4-bedroom, solar-tempered homes that incorporate solar water heating, rainwater catchment, composting toilets, wood-burning stoves, and gray-water, permaculture gardens. We also share a community house with a prayer room, washing machine, computer facilities, art room, meeting space, and a guest room. Part of the electricity for this house is supplied by a solar array. We reforested part of our land, drive a veggie-oil car, and try to plan travel carefully to gasoline usage. We are careful about our use of water and electricity and we compost food waste, and recycle and re-purpose whatever we can.

We are also committed to working for justice and practicing hospitality. We have worked on anti-war issues, supported many CKCPJ activities, participated in Occupy Lexington and payday lending reform. Hospitality efforts have included work parties, soup suppers, and short-term residential hosting.

For more information, see our website <http://curtispikecommunity.weebly.com>, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/curtispikeintentionalcommunity?ref=bookmarks>, or contact Andy Rutrough at (859) 314-1945 or andythyne_rutrough@hotmail.com.

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.

HF sponsors winter drives

The Humanist Forum is continuing its tradition of supporting not-for-profit organizations and will sponsor two charity drives this winter: a book drive for the "Free Book Library" and a donation drive for GreenHouse17. Fellow humanists may donate items most convenient/most passionate to them on behalf of HFCK. Collection boxes will be available at upcoming Humanist Forum events.

The "Free Book Library" is a small, grassroots movement making books available to everyone. It is located at 557 N. Limestone St., Lexington, near low-income housing, where many participants have never owned a book. Year-round book donations of all reading levels, all genres in usable condition are accepted. BrokenFork Design of Lexington is the founder and sponsor promoting this open literacy project. See www.brokenforkdesign.com.

GreenHouse17 is formerly the Bluegrass Domestic Violence Program. This agency advocates ending intimate partner abuse in families and the community. Their trained crisis counselors are available to help people harmed by intimate partner abuse any time of the day, every day of the year. The main facility is situated on a scenic 40-acre property in rural Fayette County. For a list of their needs, see www.greenhouse17.org

Dr. Tom Barnes

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Gorge. Along a trail he would move a heart-shaped clover leaf with his walking stick, and voila!—the reddish brown flower of wild ginger. I've seen him prostrate himself with his camera, practically eating dirt, to catch the correct angle of the sun striking a rare flower. He authored six books on Kentucky wildflowers and its beautiful undisturbed natural places. He knew where the threatened "blue monkshood" grew, and where secret patches of orchids flourished.

Because of our wild flower tours, I began thinking about the billions, no trillions, of flowers no human eye will ever behold, yet their beauty continually shouts praise to God. "Consider the lilies of the field...even Solomon in all his glory was not clothed like one of these" (Matt. 6:28, 29.)

Theologians refer to two sources of

Annual Dinner

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the theme "Strategies for Overcoming Injustice in our Community," with presentations by CKCPJ leaders sharing their wisdom on how to impact change and overcome injustice. Suggested donation for attendance is \$25

per dinner; those living on a reduced income are asked to pay \$10. Please make reservations by calling 859-488-1448 or email peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com

Book Review

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convoluted systems of perverted justice.

Another perversion described is the justice not served – a history of the Wall Street frauds, collusions, double-deals and general financial criminality that caused and deepened the crash of 2008.

This section taxes Taibbi's storytelling skills more than the human narratives, because he has to broaden his scope to explain some dense financial concepts. He does this at least well enough that you can continue to follow. (I couldn't get through the financial thrillers *Liar's Poker* or *Barbarians at the Gate*, and only stayed interested in *The Wolf of Wall Street* because of the fascinating depictions of excess.)

The rationale of forgiving Wall Street misdeeds because the banks were "too big to fail" had its origins in a legal memo written by outgoing Attorney General Eric Holder when he was a U.S. attorney and underling in the Clinton White House. Holder made the reasonable-sounding

revelation about God. Augustine sees creation as God's first revelation written in our hearts. The Scriptures contained in the Bible represent the second revelation written in words. To desecrate a Bible would be sacrilege, but to blow up a mountain, pollute a river or excessively burn fossil fuel is considered economic development.

A respected scientist, Tom remained a man of faith marveling at the beauty of God's garden, delighting that he could share it with people. He saw creation, not for what it can give to us, but as God's gift. Going to the woods, companions with him could breathe in and absorb the revelation of God. He wrote: "I find it hard not to believe in God who would make such a wonderful place for us to enjoy, because you know, we all think we should please God, but we never seem to consider that He is also trying to please us."

John Rausch is the director of Catholic Committee of Appalachia.

proposition that, when considering legal action against corporations, justice officials should consider "collateral consequences" – how many innocent people's jobs would be lost, the impact on a shaky economy, and the option of a large fine settlement rather than a costly trial.

This sounded reasonable but would later furnish the rationale by which no financier involved in the crash of 2008 was punished for the questionable sales of financial institutions to other institutions, sometimes with billions of dollars of value disappearing in the transition.

I was all set to blame Republicans for this coziness with Wall Street, but surprise: It was the Bush administration, remember, that prosecuted and brought down Enron and Arthur Andersen auditors. Would that have happened under Holder? At one point, even President Obama makes comments that seem to mitigate the Wall Street offenses. Remember, most of this happened post-2008, on the Obama watch.

Taibbi wants to link these two sets of scenarios, but the connection is tenuous: Yes, it's ironic that big criminals aren't prosecuted and little fish are hounded to the extent of their resources and livelihoods, but the two sets of miscarriages of justice have different causes, different casts of characters, different culpable politicians, and no real connection except through irony.

Still, this book will make you mad, in one phase or the other if not both, and it will give law enforcement officers and elected officials a lot to acknowledge and think about.

I sincerely hope this kind of thing doesn't happen here. I can't say for sure that it doesn't. After reading this I want some reassurance from those we have elected to guard our equal rights. Find it, read it, and raise your voice as well.

Reviewer Jim Trammel is just now re-attaining normal blood pressure.

Death penalty exoneree speaks at BCTC

by Rebecca Glasscock

On Mon., Nov. 10, Kirk Bloodsworth spoke at Bluegrass Community and Technical College. He authored *Bloodsworth: The True Story of One Man's Triumph over Injustice* and is the subject of the upcoming documentary "Bloodsworth: An Innocent Man." As a 23-year-old ex-Marine, Kirk was charged and convicted of killing a nine-year-old girl in Rosedale, Md. But he was innocent. After nearly ten years, some of which was spent on death row, he was exonerated via DNA evidence.

Kirk told such a chilling story that his audience of about 80 reacted on several occasions with collective gasps. His experience was a most awful example of being in the wrong place at the wrong time. The little girl, Dawn, was murdered at the same time that Kirk, a stranger, had come to town. The townspeople were, of course, horrified by the murder and wanted the vile person caught immediately. Two little boys had been with Dawn and had seen a man looking down the hill, telling Dawn that he would help her find her friends.

The boys were understandably scared and were coached on their composite drawing. The television reports riled people up even more. Witnesses who couldn't have possibly seen the crime came forward. The police developed an absurdly weak criminal profile saying that the perpetrator had a love of water (because he was seen around a pond) and was living with a domineering mother or wife. There was no physical evidence against Kirk whatsoever. Yet, with an inept court-appointed lawyer, he was found guilty. When the death penalty was handed down, the people in the courtroom erupted in applause.

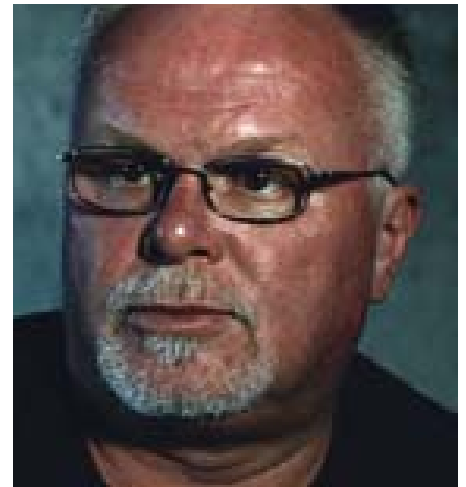
He told several stories about his prison experience. Other prisoners, he said, thinking that he was a child killer, filled detergent bottles with urine and feces and sprayed it into his cell. Roaches and bugs infested his cell. Such was his life.

Eventually, Kirk was assigned work in the library where he started researching his options. He learned about DNA testing, which was new at the time. He also made friends with a lifetime prisoner nicknamed Blue. Blue was a smart guy, and they had good conversations as they played chess. One day Blue told Kirk that he wasn't

going to see this place anymore. Kirk said, "Wow, how did you manage that?" Blue didn't say, but kept on neatly folding his mom's letters and other things and putting them into a box. When he was finished and in clean clothes, he sat down on the bed, picked up two pencils, and poked out his eyes.

Kirk was tried a second time, again with an inept lawyer, and again was found guilty. Then in 1992, his dad found a good lawyer for Kirk. The lawyer learned that the DNA evidence, which they had been told had been destroyed, wasn't. It was in the judge's closet. It took a year, but the DNA test came back – Kirk was not the man who killed Dawn. The real killer was Kimberly Shay Ruffner, a man who had been in a prison cell on the tier below Kirk for five years.

In 1993, Kirk was released from prison. In the 20 years since, he has been passionately speaking out against the death



Kirk Bloodsworth

penalty. Already 147 people who were on death row have been exonerated. Freddie Lee Pitts, a Florida exoneree, summed it up: "You can release an innocent man from prison, but you can't release him from the grave."

Rebecca Glasscock is the faculty advisor for Students for Peace and Earth Justice at BCTC.

Peaceways delivery

If you receive *Peaceways* via USPS or if you obtain a pick-up copy, we encourage you to arrange to receive the publication via email. In order to reduce its carbon footprint, production costs, and resource usage, CKCPJ has gone digital, therefore the default delivery method of *Peaceways* is now electronic. The annual cost to create, print and mail one annual subscription using both delivery methods is approximately \$15 per year. CKCPJ appreciates contribu-

tions 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 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/Signup4peaceways. Thank you!

Submissions to Peaceways

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

Articles of varying lengths are encouraged. News items (50-250 words) are welcome; announcements or reports of council-sponsored events (or events of council member groups) are likely to receive priority. Short personal essays reflecting an individual's experience of peace and justice-related events and community action or activism are encouraged, as well.

Feature articles should be no longer than 500 words, unless you are willing to have the piece cut to fit one page of *Peaceways* text. Pieces will be edited for clarity. Please include references in the text for all

quotations, statistics, and unusual facts. End- or footnotes are not used. We encourage submissions to be queried to the editor at peacewayseditor@gmail.com before writing a unique feature article intended solely for *Peaceways*.

For all submissions, the author's name, address, and phone number should appear on the body of the submitted text. If you submit material that has been published or which you are also submitting to other publishers, be sure to indicate this. Please make submissions in Word format via email. Book reviews are usually solicited by the editor; we welcome inquiries from potential reviewers.

Submission deadline is the 10th of each month. *Peaceways* is published 10 times a year.



"Gratitude makes sense of our past, brings peace for today and creates a vision for tomorrow."

— Melodie Beattie

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Views from Lexington United, CKCPI's peace education initiative

Welcome Scrutiny: *Examining Arrest Rate Disparities Throughout the U.S.*

by Gail Koehler

"When the media and so-called experts say that a staggering racial disparity is 'complicated' or 'confusing,' it's usually not either of those things. 'Complicated' and 'confusing' is code language for 'we can't face this ugly racial reality.' And the ugly racial reality here is that our nation has divested from education and job creation in poor communities of color and massively invested in a penal system unprecedented in world history--a system which includes, as one of its main features, constant police surveillance, harassment and abuse of poor people of color, especially black men. That's what's happening here. It's not rocket science."

--Michelle Alexander, author of *The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness*.

Professor Michelle Alexander made the above comment while linking to a Nov. 19 *USA Today* article titled "Racial gap in U.S. arrest rates: 'Staggering disparity'" (<http://bit.ly/USATdisparity> by Brad Heath).

The *USA Today* analysis of arrest records show that "at least 1,581 other police departments across the USA arrest black people at rates even more skewed than in Ferguson [Mo.]." Writer Brad Heath takes pains to say that while the rates "could be a reflection of biased policing; they could just as easily be a byproduct of the vast economic and educational gaps that persist across much of the USA — factors closely tied to crime rates." He concludes, "Whatever the reasons, the re-

sults are the same: Blacks are far more likely to be arrested than any other racial group in the USA. In some places, dramatically so."

This scrutiny of arrest records is important for those of us who watch events in Ferguson as though they are not relevant to our community. The online version of the *USA Today* article includes an interactive map that allows readers to search arrest records throughout the nation. According to the data, the arrest rate in Lexington for 1000 residents is black = 94.1; non black = 34.1.

Elsewhere in Kentucky *The [Louisville] Courier-Journal* published local data and summarized the *USA Today* analysis, pointing out that "The analysis shows that disparities across the nation fall on a wide spectrum. Some towns show no signs of racial disparity, while in others—such as Livingston, N.J.—blacks are 43 times more likely to be arrested than non-blacks" (Nov. 20 article available at: <http://bit.ly/LvilleMG>, by Matthew Glowicki). In Louisville "blacks were 2.6 times more likely to be arrested by Louisville Metro Police and 6.6 times more likely to be arrested by St. Matthews police, the highest ratio in the state."

These arrest rate disparity numbers are evidence of the "ugly racial reality" that Michelle Alexander describes (above)—one that will not change without concert-



ed, long-term commitment and effort.

What can you do? In Lexington, a group called Stop Mass Incarceration Kentucky is "dedicated to ending mass incarceration, police brutality, and criminalization." You can contact them by sending an email to: stopmassincarcerationnetworkKY@gmail.com

They say: "We are initiating an effort to accelerate the movement to stop the injustice of mass incarceration and police brutality; and the racially biased policies and practices of the police, the courts and the U.S. legal system; and to support prisoners' human rights, and of the formerly incarcerated. We call on all to join us."

To stay abreast of the activity of Stop Mass Incarceration Kentucky, contact Janet Tucker, jlynjenks@gmail.com

You can contact Gail with questions or comments at gmkkentucky@gmail.com.

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