

# Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE March 2015

## CKCPJ Honors 2015 Peacemakers The 2015 Lifetime Peacemaker Award

by Kerby Neill

Freddy Peralta was born and educated in the Dominican Republic. He and his wife, Maria, came to the United States in 1985 and Freddy enrolled in graduate school at the University of Kentucky. Freddy began his computer sales and repair business in 1989 which currently thrives as Kentucky Trade on Virginia Avenue. I assumed his UK degree was in computer science, but recently discovered his master's degree is in economics and his computer skills are self-taught. This

### ..... **Young Peacemakers 2015**

by Maryann Ghosal

Bereans for Michael Brown is a group founded by two Berea College students, Anna Loveless and Quentin Savage, in early fall 2014 in response to and solidarity with demonstrations in Ferguson, Mo., that protested Michael Brown's shooting death by police officer Darren Wilson. After an initial trip to Ferguson in early September, Quentin returned to Berea and began organizing a student caravan to St. Louis for the Weekend of Resistance (October 10-13). Eight Bereans, (Erin Gibbons, Molefi Hopkin-Peters, Monica Jones, Anna Loveless, Quentin Savage, Logan Smith, Alicestyne Turley, and Olivia Welch) made the trip. Three (Molefi Hopkin-Peters, Quentin Savage and Logan Smith) were arrested for engaging in a sit-in at a Quik Trip gas station on October 12.

After returning from St. Louis, the group continued to raise awareness and recruit additional students on campus by

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hints at Freddy's enthusiasm, energy, and intelligence, but it doesn't capture the trait that most defines him, and which his other skills serve so well—his compassion. Kentucky, especially its Latino community, has been the fortunate recipient of Freddy's compassion.

Through the 1980s, Latino refugees fled murderous oppression in El Salvador and Guatemala to the southern border of the United States.

### ..... **Dinner re-scheduled for Sun., March 15**

Because of February's inclement weather, the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice Annual Dinner and Networking Fair has been rescheduled for Sun., March 15. As before, the event will be held at Imani Baptist Church, 1555 Georgetown Road. The networking fair begins at 5 p.m.; dinner will follow at 6 p.m.

The reservations made in February will be honored; if you haven't yet made a reservation, please see go the CKCPJ online registration form at <http://goo.gl/O7PpKR>. If you prefer, you can make a reservation by calling (859) 488-1448. Please give your first and last name, the number of reservations, the number of reservations for children 12 and under (who eat for free), and the total cost of the reservations you are making. The suggested price is \$25 per person (the breakeven price for the event). Students and low income persons are asked to pay \$10 per person; you can also set the price of your reservations on a sliding scale from \$10 to \$50 per person, depending on your ability to pay. We try not to turn away anyone because of inability to pay—help out by contributing a bit extra, if you can, or consider reserving

Central Kentucky was not a destination for many of these refugees, but that was not the case with the wave of migration triggered by the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) of 1994. The importation of cheap American corn and the end of traditional communal land ownership deprived thousands of Mexican subsistence farmers of their livelihoods. As NAFTA continued to play out, factories that initially flourished in Northern Mexico proved unable to compete with cheaper Asian labor. Many closed

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a table (eight seats) for your organization.

The highlight of the evening will be a performance by the Kentucky State University Chorus. CKCPJ will present its annual awards: Peacemaker of the Year, Lifetime Peacemaker, Young Peacemaker, and the Chuck Sohner Workers' Advocate Award. Finally, board members will share brief updates on activism of CKCPJ and its allies, including the Fayette County minimum wage campaign, protests of police killings of African American males, the homelessness initiative, restoration of voting rights, the LexingtonUnited peace education initiative, and continuing work to protest our nation's endless wars.

The meal will be catered by Lexington's Oasis Restaurant, (Middle Eastern cuisine) and will be vegetarian.

Space is still available for organizations that would like to participate in the Networking Fair. The fair is a good way to spread the word about your organization to a group of people who are working to change the world. Reservations are not essential, but will help CKCPJ to plan for the amount of food needed.

# The Greatest Tools for Change

by Gail Koehler

*Waking Up White: And Finding Myself In the Story of Race* by Debby Irving (Elephant Room Press) 2014, Cambridge MA. 273 pages.

*“We have a choice to make: resist change and keep alive antiquated beliefs about skin color, or outgrow those beliefs and make real the equality we envision. Self-examination and the courage to admit to bias and unhelpful inherited behaviors may be our greatest tools for change. I believe the most loving thing a person, or a group of people, can do for another is to examine the ways in which their own insecurities and assumptions interfere with others’ inability to thrive.”*

Debby Irving (page 249)

In this book, Debby Irving uses her own life as a lens to examine culture-wide beliefs that perpetuate racial inequality but remain invisible to too many of us. Her waking up occurred during a graduate course on Racial and Cultural Identities. Irving weaves the story of her growing awareness with a good serving of specific examples, reference to research, data, history and verifiable facts. Each of the book’s chapters ends with a query that prompts readers to examine their own assumptions and the origin of the beliefs they may have been carrying around all their lives. These queries invite reflection, journaling, and when possible, sharing.

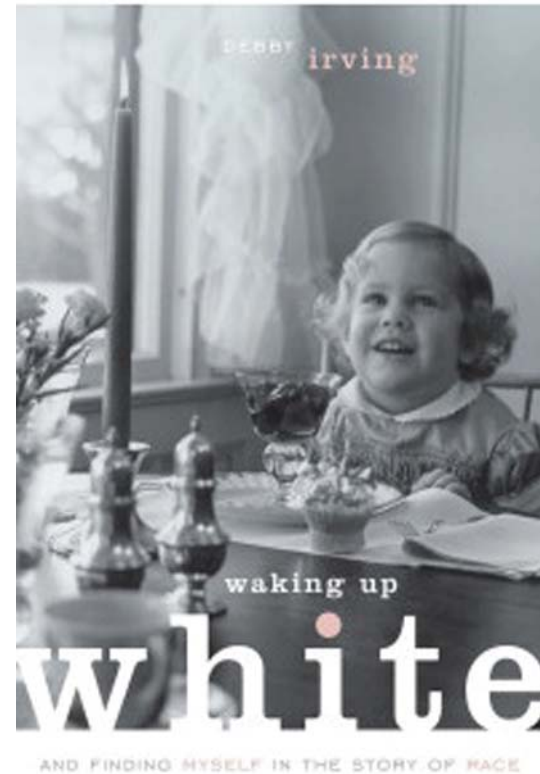
A group of us in Lexington are reading the book together, building companionship through surprises and astonishments, chagrin and the facing up to sometimes painful truths. The interaction of our individual stories helps us see the depth of racism’s malignant corrosiveness. One participant in our group, an immigrant from Africa, told us “I was not black until I came to the United States.” I’ve read that America is uniquely obsessed by classifying people racially, but having a friend relate his own experience brings that truth sharply into focus. Reading this book in a group of friends makes startlingly clear Irving’s insight: “Racism is, and always has been, the way America has sorted and ranked its people in a bitterly divisive, humanity-robbing system.”

As she comes to terms with the way this system has robbed people of their humanity, Irving shares examples of her own emotional struggles. The night she learned about the unfair hand racism dealt generations of African Americans through real estate and lending redlining and block-busting, she needed to drive around for a while to process the information. When she returned home and her husband asked her “What’s up?” she described the process of systematic discrimination that shut out African American home buyers from “good” homes in neighborhoods where their investments would increase dramatically in value. At first, he doesn’t believe her: but a ten minute internet search convinces him. “How could we not know this?” is a refrain through this part of the book. She says she feels “duped” that the results of these policies are not far better known. When she sets down the results of those policies in summary, the facts almost take my breath away:

“Between 1934 and 1962 the federal government underwrote \$120 billion in new housing, less than two percent of which went to people of color. America’s largest single investment in its people, through an intertwined structure of housing and banking systems, gave whites a lifestyle and financial boost that would accrue in the decades to come while driving blacks and other minority populations into a downward spiral.” (page 35)

Later chapters take readers through strategies to begin changing themselves and negotiating ways to connect with others on the journey to both understanding racism and working towards healing its harms. She describes inner work and outer work and warns that tackling racism is not a one-time accomplishment but instead a commitment to ongoing growth and change in often surprising ways.

Avoiding the work has a price. I was chilled by her story of the deep depression and regret that seemed to come over her father at the end of his life, when she lacked the skill to invite a deeper understanding between them. Though she grew up in a family committed to being good people and doing the right things, she recalls childhood vignettes that hint at times



when he may have been in a position to stand up against the racist practices he found around him and yet could not bring himself to do so. She writes:

“My guess is that in the world of corporate law, country clubs, and Boston institutions, going against the status quo must have felt too threatening to a man providing for a wife and five children living a high-class white life, especially when his own mother had invested so much in his social climb. His love for fellow human beings he may have wanted to use his privilege to reach out to was outweighed by his fear of losing his privilege by doing so.” (p. 248)

Irving ends this book with encouragement and a warning: “The good news is that everyone can do something to loosen racism’s hold on America. The bad news is that unless you set yourself up for success, trying to do something helpful can actually perpetuate racism. Take time to learn and engage with the problem in order to lower the chances of making the same mistakes I did.” (p. 251)

Gail Koehler is a trainer with Lexington United: Building Community Cooperatively

# Freddy Peralta

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and more displaced Mexican workers gathered up their families to migrate to the U.S.

As early migrants found work and opportunity in Lexington, other Latinos began to join them. By 2000, Lexington had a significant Latino community. Many were proud of Lexington's welcoming response to these new members of the community. Then-Mayor Pam Miller even sent a number of Lexington police and firemen to Mexico for intensive training. Still, like their immigrant forebearers, Kentucky's new Latino community faced many adjustment problems, problems seriously compounded by their undocumented status. Living in fear of deportation, they were often victims of exploitation, and tended to avoid authorities and what limited services were available in Spanish. They sorely needed advocates and Lexington provided a number of them, but few like Freddy Peralta.

We lack time and space to recount all Freddy's efforts, but we must mention several. Freddy founded the Kentucky Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights (KCIRR) bringing together concerned citizens of Central Kentucky and members of the immigrant community. Through KCIRR, he labored to educate service providers, to organize and educate the immigrant community, and to confront the backlash that saw the Latino community only as a threat and to be denied and deported. Freddy wisely cast the problems of the immigrant community in broader terms than only Latinos. He organized rallies, picnics and conferences to advance

the cause of the immigrant community. In collaboration with the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, KCIRR produced a policy paper detailing the problems of Latino immigrants and providing data to debunk rumors and negative stereotypes alive in the anti-immigrant movement. The paper was presented to a committee of the U.S. House of Representatives that was considering an extreme deportation bill.

When a young Latino woman committed suicide while languishing without counsel or support in a Franklin County jail, Freddy organized challenges to jail and deportation practices. When new opportunities became available for Latino youth who entered the United States as children, Freddy helped organize Lexington's Office of Immigrant Solidarity and Information on Alexandria Drive where the Latino community learned of changes in immigration regulations and what was necessary to allow youth to pursue their lives and educational goals free of the threatening cloud of deportation.

For this work and more, and for the promise of his continuing passion for justice, the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice is honored to award Freddy Peralta its 2015 Lifetime Peacemaker Award. While there might be a small voice inside Freddy's wife, Maria, that says, "Don't encourage him!" we also know that, in fact, she has been his ally, co-worker, and partner throughout this endeavor. We cannot honor Freddy without also saluting Maria.

*Kerby Neill is a member of the CKCPJ*

## 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, which also allows readers to see the photographs in the issue in color. The 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, we 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/Signup4peaceways](http://bit.ly/Signup4peaceways). Thank you!

## 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, 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 (proof-readers). The views expressed in *Peaceways* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of CKCPJ. *Administrative Manager:* Brandi Davis

*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 April issue is Mar. 10. Contact 859-488-1448 or email [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com).



# Calendar for Peace & Justice

*The council seeks to promote dialogue as a path to peace and justice. Consequently, we announce events that we do not necessarily endorse.*

## Thurs. Mar. 5

**Humanist Forum**, 7-8:30 pm, the Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, 3564 Clays Mill Road. Reamy Jansen will lead a discussion of the French philosopher and 18th century radical, Denis Diderot (1713-84). Reamy Jansen was a Professor of English and Humanities at Rockland Community College for 40 years. He is a contributing editor to the Bloomsbury Review of Books and a contributing editor of the Hamilton Stone Review. At the same time there will be Humanist Education for children aged 5-12 in the Green Classroom of the RE wing. Childcare provided for children four years old and younger.

## Tues. Mar. 10

**PFLAG Central Kentucky**, St Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington, 6:30 to 8:30, Derek Penwell of Faith Leaders for Fairness, a minister, teacher and writer from Louisville, will talk about how he came to be an activist for the LGBT community, and the role of Faith Leaders for Fairness in our state. The meeting will also include questions and answers and a confidential support group meeting. LGBTQs, friends, families and allies are welcome. For more information, see [www.pflagcentralky.org](http://www.pflagcentralky.org)

## 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](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.

## Tues.-Sun. Mar. 10-15

**Cherokee Spirituality Retreat**, Cherokee, N.C. All presentations will be given by Native Americans living around Cherokee. 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—includes lodging, program fees and some meals. For more information contact Father John Rausch, 606-663-0823, [js-rausch@bellsouth.net](mailto:js-rausch@bellsouth.net) or Mary Herr, (828) 497-9498, [maryherr@dnet.net](mailto:maryherr@dnet.net)

## March-early April

**Home Repair Volunteers** The Christian Appalachian Project, with headquarters in Hagerhill, Ky. (Johnson County) has a need for skilled volunteer assistant crew leaders for Work Fest 2015. Individuals must be experienced in home repair and comfortable helping lead groups of unskilled students on the job site. A three week commitment is preferred with 1-2 week opportunities also available. Volunteers are needed during the month of March and early-mid April. For more information or to apply call the CAP volunteer program at 800-755-5322 or see [www.christianapp.org](http://www.christianapp.org).

## Thurs., April 2

**Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky**, 7 pm, Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clay's Mill Road, Lexington. Matt Reno will lead a discussion on Buddhism. Childcare is provided.

## 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.*

## Fri-Sat., April 10-11

**Lexington League of Women Voters Annual Meeting** Shaker Village of Pleasant Hill. \$40 registration includes breakfast and lunch. For Friday participants there is an additional dinner charge of \$25. Overnight accommodations are available for \$110; reserve now as the Village tends to fill up quickly with the usual tourist guests. Accommodations can be booked by calling 800-734-5611. Besides the usual business sessions, informative workshops and a legislative update will be offered. For more information, contact Cindy Heine, [cynthia.heine@gmail.com](mailto:cynthia.heine@gmail.com).

## Sat-Sun., May 30-June 7

**Mountain Justice Summer Convergence 2015** Kanawha State Forest just south of Charleston, West Virginia (about 3 hours from Lexington). Join over 100 environmental and community activists in a week-long event focused on mountaintop removal and stopping a proposed surface mine next to the beautiful Kanawha State Forest. This forest is a very popular hiking and mountain biking spot for Charleston residents, yet mining companies propose to blow up a mountain directly adjacent to the forest. Low cost, tent camping, all meals cooked on site. Workshop proposals are welcome and invited. For more information contact Dave Cooper, [davecooper928@yahoo.com](mailto:davecooper928@yahoo.com)

## Thurs.-Sun., Jul. 9-12

**The Whippoorwill Festival**, Skills for Earth-Friendly Living, HomeGrown HideAways near Berea, Ky. The fifth annual four-day outdoor festival includes workshops on primitive and old-time Appalachian living skills: backyard gardening, yoga, herbal remedies, fermentation, dutch oven cooking over the fire, making cheese, raising backyard chickens. Kids are free and events are family friendly. There will be speakers, live music and dancing every night. The cost is low, kids are free and tent camping, dinner and breakfast provided. For more information contact Dave Cooper, [davecooper928@yahoo.com](mailto:davecooper928@yahoo.com) or see [www.whippoorwillfest.com](http://www.whippoorwillfest.com)

*If you are neutral in a situation of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.*

*Bishop Desmond Tutu*

# White Privilege Conference

*by Betsy Neale*

This year the White Privilege Conference is in Louisville, Ky., on March 12-14, 2015. Preconference Institutes are also offered on March 11. The theme of this year's White Privilege Conference is Resistance, Action, Courage, and Equity: The South Leading the Way!

This conference provides a challenging, collaborative and comprehensive experience. It strives to empower and equip individuals to work for equity and justice through self and social transformation. It is an opportunity to increase consciousness of privilege and oppression in a challenging and supportive environment. Various forms of privilege are examined including race, gender, sexuality, class, and disability. People of varying levels of experience addressing issues of diversity, cultural competency and multiculturalism are welcome.

Participants who have attended call it a life-transforming experience.

The conference will draw almost 2000 attendees from 40 states and several countries. There will be sessions for youth as well as adults and people of all ethnic and racial backgrounds.

Registration is open and filling up fast at [www.whiteprivilegeconference.com](http://www.whiteprivilegeconference.com). At the website you can view descriptions of the institutes that are offered on March 11 and on March 15. You'll also find lots more information about the conference as well as rich resources on privilege.

Some non-profit groups have arranged for registration discounts. Contact the conference to see if you are eligible for any discount. Several people from Lexington Friends Meeting will be attending. We would be interested in hearing from other Lexingtonians planning to attend. Contact Betsy Neale [bneale@twc.com](mailto:bneale@twc.com)

## 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 call 859-488-1448.**

# Acts of Kindness Appreciated

by Billie Mallory, MSW

At a time when the national news makes it seem as though the whole world is out of control with shootings in the streets and public places, while others are killing family members, in Lexington there is hope! The weekend of Feb. 13-14 featured several events that demonstrated human compassion.

DanceBlue, a student-run philanthropy at the University of Kentucky, raised over \$1.6 million for UK's Childrens' Hospital

and students made over 1000 sandwiches to donate to homeless shelters—while they danced all night for a good cause.

Several other groups of caring people demonstrated simple acts of compassion with Love Bombs: leaving hats, scarves and gloves in Woodland and Thoroughbred Park for anyone who might need a touch of warmth.

Simple, perhaps, but a necessity for those in need of such in frigid tempera-

ture, including the homeless living on our streets; young children who walk to and from school in bitter cold and a young woman who is caring for her nieces and nephews. For them it was not so simple, but these gifts of warmth were much needed. Thanks to all who made a difference for caring about others by sharing the love in Lexington and thanks for giving the rest of us hope in the best of humanity.

*Billie is a Lexington activist.*

## Bereans for Michael Brown

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canvassing and sponsoring classroom walk-outs organized by different students (Candice King, Azizi Morris, Whitney Owens). The group also traveled to Lexington on several occasions to participate in rallies, marches, and die-ins organized by the Stop Mass Incarceration Network – KY group.

In early December Anna Loveless organized a 4.5-minute street blockade in front of Boone Tavern and Quentin Savage set up a 4.5-minute Die-In in the lobby of Boone Tavern to broaden the awareness that black lives matter with wealthy Tavern patrons. (These 4.5-minute periods commemorate the 4.5 hours that Mike Brown's body lay in the street after he was killed.) During the Spring 2015 semester they conducted a "Die-In" at the Black Lives Matter convocation (complete with compliments from the convo speaker).

Bereans for Michael Brown is currently unofficially recognized by Berea College, but the group is in the process of becoming

an official campus organization to continue its work when core members graduate. Plans are developing for a month-long campus campaign called "March Against Mass Incarceration" designed to inform and empower those at the college about the devastating joint impact of the war on drugs, mass incarceration, and the prison-industrial complex. The group hopes this program will be soon be adopted by ECU and UK to become a regional initiative.

Other members and entities who have worked with the group in different ways include: The Black Cultural Center at Berea, The Carter G Woodson Center at Berea, Professor Andrew Baskin, Chad Berry, Dr. Steve Gowler, Steven Hall, Becca Halpryn, Faith Jones, Dr. Meta Mendel-Reyes, and Will Mendoza. *Maryann Ghosal is the secretary of CKCPJ.*

*Profiles of the Peacemaker of the Year and the Chuck Sohner Workers' Advocate Award will appear in the April issue of Peaceways.*

## Raise Your Voice To Raise the Wage

The Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government City Council has voted to discuss establishing a higher minimum wage in Lexington, something recently done in Louisville. The matter has been referred to the Council's Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee. The next meeting of this committee is scheduled for March 17 at 1 pm. The meeting will be held in Council Chambers at 200 E. Main, in Lexington.

This will be an important opportunity for our community to express support for

higher wages in Lexington. It is important that we have a large turnout for this meeting. Please attend to make sure that your voice is heard!

The Lexington Working Families Campaign is coordinating efforts to encourage supporters to attend this meeting. If you are able to attend this meeting please send an email to David Christiansen at davidccky@gmail.com. You will be added to our attendees list and provided on-going updates on this important meeting.

## Lack of Equity FCPS

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice stands with the NAACP and other citizens concerned with the lack of equity in Fayette County Public Schools. The lack of appropriate diversity of teachers and administrators is of concern to all citizens. This must be corrected.

The achievement gap and excessive suspensions experienced by students of color, low income students, and students with disabilities demands immediate and ongoing attention. This is not a new concern. It has been raised repeatedly for many years. We understand that the staff position designed to deal with these problems has remained empty for two years. This is not acceptable.

These concerns need to be front and center when selecting a new superintendent. We support the NAACP request for a seat on the selection committee. Additional people of color must be on this committee.

CKCPJ calls on the Fayette County Public Schools and the School Board to give these issues a high priority.



# #Let us Vote

By Janet Tucker

Each year since 2006 supporters of House Bill 70 have traveled to the meeting of the Kentucky General Assembly to lobby for the restoration of voting rights for former felons in Kentucky. Each year it has passed through the Kentucky House of Representatives with overwhelming support only to be stonewalled in the Senate.

Supporters are holding weekly prayer vigils each Tuesday at noon in the Senate; the last vigil will be March 3.

Kentucky is one of only four states that takes away a person's right to vote for life if they are convicted of a felony. This affects 243,000 people in our state, including one of every four African-American men. This is a real affront to our democracy. People are encouraged to call the Senate leadership and other members of the Senate to request a change in this law. The lifetime removal of voting rights is a real case of "justice delayed is justice denied."

This change requires an amendment to the constitution. HB 70 will allow people to vote on this. So "#let us vote" is a call to allow the people of Kentucky to vote and to extend the vote to those who are unfairly shut out of the system.

Janet Tucker is co-chair of CKCPJ and national coordinator for Committees of Correspondence for Democracy and Socialism.

## Support Needed For Tax Reform

The call for tax reform has been a multi-year effort by Kentuckians For The Commonwealth and others, and calls for tax reform that is both fair for Kentuckians and adequate to meet the needs of the state. The effort for reform is on the agenda for the General Assembly again this year. HB 374 is sponsored by Rep. Jim Wayne and with Speaker Greg Stumbo as the primary co-sponsor and Rep. Rick Rand as chair of the Appropriations and Revenue committee. The bill closes corporate tax loopholes to raise \$66 million that goes to a 7.5 percent state EITC (Earned Income Tax Credit). As *Peaceways* goes to press this bill is still in flux. For more up to date information people can check [www.kftc.org/bill-tracker](http://www.kftc.org/bill-tracker).

# I Love Mountains Rally



Kentuckians for the Commonwealth sponsored the 10th anniversary of I Love Mountains Day on Feb. 12. Hundreds of activists gathered to protest mountaintop removal and other incidents of environmental injustice. Poet, novelist and essayist Wendell Berry was in attendance but said he does not expect much response from legislators.

## 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. Also include information about your relationship to any organization or issue mentioned in the article for inclusion in a biographical reference at the end of the story. Submissions should be made 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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# Carter Goodwin Woodson, Founder of Black History Month

*by Frank Chapman*

*Peaceways received the following submission too late for inclusion in February, Black History Month, but values the links to the local community and thanks CKCPJ co-chair Janet Tucker for its submission.*

In 1926, Carter G. Woodson pioneered the celebration of "Negro History Week," designated for the second week in February, to coincide with marking the birthdays of Abraham Lincoln and Frederick Douglass. The week of recognition became accepted and has been extended as the full month of February, now known as Black History Month.

Carter G. Woodson was born Dec. 19, 1875, two years before the decisive overthrow of Black Reconstruction in the South. He died April 3, 1950; two years before William L. Patterson and Paul Robeson filed the "We Charge Genocide" petition with the United Nations. Woodson was the son of enslaved Africans James and Eliza Riddle Woodson. When the Union army came south to put down the slave-holders rebellion James Woodson became an active supporter of the troops. After the Civil War he took his family to West Virginia because he had heard that Huntington was building a high school for African Americans. However, once they settled, Carter Woodson was not able to regularly attend school due to poverty and being part of a large family. Having had some earlier education, he managed to teach himself the fundamentals of reading, writing and arithmetic.

Later Carter came to Fayette County to earn a living and continue his education. He worked as a coal miner in the infamous

coal fields of West Virginia and at the age of 20 (1895) he entered Frederick Douglass High School. In less than two years he earned his diploma; and from 1897 to 1900 he taught at Winona in Fayette County. In 1900 he became the principal of Douglass High. For the next three years he took part time classes and received his bachelor's degree from Berea College in Kentucky.

Carter, the son of slaves and part of the emerging black proletariat of the South, pushed forward and became a school supervisor in the Philippines from 1903 to 1907. A short time later this extraordinary young man attended the University of Chicago but the school officials did not recognize his degree from Berea College so he had to earn another bachelor's degree before going for his master's. His master's thesis, completed in 1908, was a study of French diplomatic relations with Germany in the 18th century. Four years later he received his PhD in history from Harvard University. He was the first African American with slave parents to graduate from Harvard and after W.E.B. DuBois, the second African American to earn a doctorate.

Although he was clearly a dedicated scholar, Carter G. Woodson did not live in an ivory tower, separated from the struggle against the oppression of his people. He understood the relevance of the scientific study of the history and sociology of the African American people to their struggle for liberation from racist oppression. He once wrote: "If you control a man's thinking you don't have to worry about his ac-

tions...If you can make a man believe he is inferior, you don't have to compel him to seek an inferior status...you don't have to order him to the back door, he will go to the back door on his own and if there is no back door, the very nature of the man will demand that you build one."

These are the words of a man who clearly understands internalized racism. Driven by this understanding, Carter G. Woodson went on to establish the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, organized conferences and published *The Journal of Negro History*. His intent was to target all those responsible for the education of African American children.

Carter G. Woodson was active in all the various strands of the African American liberation movement. He worked with the NAACP and the Universal Negro Improvement Association founded by Marcus Garvey and he regularly corresponded with W.E.B. DuBois, Arturo Schomburg, Ida B. Wells, Hubert Harrison, T. Thomas Fortune and many others. Due to his tireless efforts we not only celebrate Black History in the month of February, we also have black studies departments in many institutions of higher learning.

Frederick Douglass, W.E.B. DuBois and others recognized the importance of the history and sociology of African Americans in the struggle for freedom but it was Carter G. Woodson who laid the scientific foundation.

*Frank Chapman is the education director for the Chicago Alliance Against Racism and Political Oppression.*

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