

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE April 2015

“We share a passion for peace and justice”

by Margaret Gabriel, *Peaceways* Editor

Supporters of efforts for peace and justice in central Kentucky gathered at Imani Baptist Church on Sunday, March 15, to network, share a meal and celebrate the work of the recipients of the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice annual awards.

The evening began with a networking fair featuring nearly 20 groups that work in such areas as legal counseling, education, mediation and voters' rights. Long-time participants such as Lexington United, PFLAG and the Maxwell Street Legal Clinic networked with newcomers Obiora Embry, a speaker, gardener and eco-conscious consultant; and the Curtis Pike Community, an intentional community in Richmond.

As participants took their seats in the banquet hall, Rev. Willis Polk, pastor of Imani Baptist Church, welcomed them. Rev. Carol Ruthven, pastor of St. Andrew Episcopal Church, gave a message of encouragement for the work toward peace and justice in our community. She noted that despite different backgrounds and traditions, all are bound by shared com-



The Young Family Singers of Lexington provide praise music at the CKCPJ Annual Dinner.

mitment to and compassion for justice.

The Young Family Singers provided music before and after the dinner. Keynote remarks were provided by people working on CKCPJ focus issues. April Taylor, an activist who organizes activities for Black Lives Matter and Stop Mass Incarceration KY, passionately declared that black people deserve to be treated with dignity and, with Quentin Savage, recited a song, “Black Rage” set to the melody of Richard Rogers’ “My Favorite Things.”

Gail Koehler described the work of Lexington United, a peace education and community-building group. She offered insight about the importance of peace education and mediation and described the journey she and her colleagues are taking to offer programs in community building. They hope to create a pilot program for Fayette County Public Schools, focusing on middle-school students. In 2015 Lexington United’s summer camp will be a joint project with the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning, Gail reported.

CKCPJ co-chair David Christiansen spoke about the work of the Lexington Working Families Campaign, which he co-chairs with Janet Tucker. In 1990, David said, 87 percent of the rental property

in Lexington was affordable to people who earned minimum wage. Today, that percentage is 17 percent, illustrating the need for an increase in the minimum wage in Lexington. He described efforts to increase the minimum wage in Lexington and asked his listeners to express support to their council representatives.

Before the recognition of the 2015 CKCPJ award recipients, Janet Tucker offered a memorial for April Browning, a CKCPJ member who died in 2014. “I remember April with a megaphone in her hand, leading chants,” Janet said. “We’re

continued on page 8



April Taylor, CKCPJ Peacemaker of 2015 and Quentin Savage share the stage at the Annual Dinner.

An easy way to provide financial support

CKCPJ has registered with the Kroger Community Rewards program. If you shop at Kroger, we encourage you to register at krogercommunity-rewards.com using number 16439 so Kroger will donate a percentage of your grocery bill to CKCPJ at no cost to you. The website will walk you through the process. Have your Kroger Plus card handy and link your card to CKCPJ. If you use your phone number at the register, call 800-576-4377 and select option 4 to get your Kroger Plus card number. This is a simple way to financially support CKCPJ by just buying groceries!

From Selma to Frankfort: The Struggle for Voting Rights Continues

By Jordan E. Mazurek and Greg Capillo

While the nation rejoiced at the 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday, we Kentuckians were not able to join them.

Fifty years ago our brothers and sisters marched arm-in-arm, attempting to cross that bridge in Selma to stand against racial injustice and demand voting rights protections. For this effort these brave men and women, dedicated to the principles of nonviolence, were beaten and bloodied by waves of state troopers and police. But their gaze was staid. Their nonviolent civil disobedience tactics brought violence and oppression into sharp relief, igniting the moral outrage of a nation. Thousands descended on Selma in the weeks following Bloody Sunday and, arm-in-arm, passed over that fateful bridge and marched towards Montgomery. Marched on, towards the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

The right to vote, the most fundamental of rights for a thriving democracy, is systematically denied to a quarter-million members of this commonwealth. Kentucky is one of only three states that does not restore the voting rights of citizens returning from incarceration, citizens who have paid their debt to society and are attempting to rebuild their lives.

This was no accident. Passed in Kentucky in the decades following the Civil War, the laws disenfranchising former felons from their right to vote were part-and-parcel with other Jim Crow-era measures specifically designed to subjugate and oppress our black brothers and sisters. And to these ends, expanded by the devil's embrace of the New Jim Crow—mass incarceration—they have been devastatingly effective. Over one-fifth of our black brothers and sisters, fellow Kentuckians, cannot vote due to this form of institutionalized racism. They have been abandoned on that bridge in Selma.

Courageous individuals have been working over the past decade to right this grave injustice. By attempting to bring a constitutional amendment to a vote of the people, they have hoped to give every Kentuckian a means by which to step back onto that bridge, to embrace with loving arms those we've abandoned, and to walk together towards Montgomery once again.

Year after year, however, these val-

iant efforts are systematically blocked in the Kentucky state senate and local government committee. The egos of the exceptionally few, and the passivity of the startling many, have allowed this Jim Crow-era injustice to continue into the 21st century. Injustice prevails when good senators remain silent.

It is morally outrageous that we both, are still able to exercise our voting rights while so many of our friends cannot. It is for this reason that we locked arms before the last senate committee meeting of this legislative cycle and attempted to respectfully call on the moral sensibilities of the senators to pass HB70, before being dragged, singing, by state troopers from the room.

As that old civil rights anthem, sung on that fateful bridge so long ago, escaped our lungs we could only think of our friends.

"Hold on..."

Mantell Stevens, works himself weary, 80 hours a week, trying to make ends meet. Active in his community, giving back in so many positive ways, he doesn't have the right to vote.

"Hold on..."

April Browning's only wish was to show her son what it meant to be a good

citizen by voting. April suddenly, tragically, passed away last year before ever getting that chance.

"Keep your eyes on the prize, hold on."

For April, for Mantell, for hundreds of thousands, we have held on too long. We will NOT allow our brothers and sisters to be stranded on that bridge any longer. Civil disobedience is not a tactic of choice, it is one of necessity. When all the "official" avenues are closed to us, when the passive powers are too timid to stand for what is right, then the only option we have is to take extraordinary measures.

What Selma, the civil rights movement, and every great struggle for dignity and justice have taught us is that we don't have to stand alone against injustice. Indeed, if we are to succeed, we must lock arms and work together. Five decades later, the members of the Kentucky Senate—and all Kentuckians—face a choice. Will we honor the legacy of that brave struggle for freedom and democracy by passing the constitutional amendment next legislative session? Or will we continue to stand on the wrong side of history?

This is a call to action.

Jordan and Greg are activists and students at Eastern Kentucky University.

Update: DACA and DAPA

by Heather Hadi

On February 16, 2014, US District Court Judge Andrew Hanen issued a preliminary injunction in the lawsuit filed by Texas and other states that targets the expansion of Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Action for Parents of Americans (DAPA). The two directives would provide protection from deportation for millions of undocumented immigrants and temporary work eligibility.

On March 12 the US Department of Homeland Security filed an emergency motion requesting that the US Court of Appeals Fifth Circuit block the injunction in order for the expanded DACA and DAPA directives to be released on time. Expanded DACA was set to be released on February 19, however, due to the injunction, such release was put on hold.

The effect of this injunction means pressing the pause button on these two facets of the November 20 reform. How-

ever the hundreds of thousands of undocumented individuals who would have been eligible for Expanded DACA are left in limbo as they await the outcome of DHS's motion to block the injunction. DAPA was not set to be released until late May; the bulk of undocumented individuals affected by the reform are not seeing the disadvantages of this injunction yet.

The legal uncertainty leaves millions awaiting whether the play button will be pressed and the applications released on time. A negative ruling on this stay request could mean an indefinite waiting period as both parties battle it out in court.

Please contact your US representatives and express your support for DACA and DAPA and post the information on your social media in order to expand awareness.

Heather is an immigration attorney and a member of the CKCPJ board of directors.

April Taylor

CKCPJ 2015 Peacemaker of the Year

April Taylor was born and raised in Lexington. The mother of three, April is a leader of Stop Mass Incarceration Network—Kentucky, the local chapter of the Black Lives Matter movement. Twice April has traveled to Ferguson, Mo., to protest the murder of unarmed black teenager Michael Brown in August 2014.

In Lexington, April has led a number of successful marches, rallies and events protesting police brutality and police murders of young people of color. Nationally, a young person of color is killed once every 28 hours. April was also active in Lexing-

ton's Occupy Movement in 2011 and is active in the local food justice movement.

In addition to her local activism, April is active on the national stage as well. She is a successful blogger, social justice activist, and motivational speaker for *Your Black World*. She is a frequent speaker on radio programs around the county, inspiring us in central Kentucky and around the country, as well. The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice is honored to recognize her as the 2015 Peacemaker of the Year.

Tiny houses come to Lexington

by Candice Rider

Hygge Homes, a group of tiny-house enthusiasts in central Kentucky, hosted a free event at the Lyric Theatre on Thurs., March 12. The event provided information from a variety of perspectives related to "tiny houses" in Fayette County. Presenters spoke about LFUCG zoning and ordinance considerations, construction and efficiency, homelessness, affordability, learning through hands-on experiences, and the realities of living small.

Tom Martin, AICP, senior planner for development review at the LFUCG Division of Planning, spoke about LFUCG zoning considerations and noted local exceptions to traditional "work-arounds" (e.g., building an RV on a trailer and lot size requirements). Overall, the city seemed open to proposals but is positioned to adjust plans to current laws/codes rather than provide direction or advice.

Two speakers were skilled tiny-home builders: Danny Yahini of Yahini Homes in Athens, Ohio, and Jeff Loeper of Valley View Tiny House Company in Mount Juliet, Tennessee. Danny highlighted his years of building experience and adaptive "pods," which allow for additions. Jeff presented a plethora of options for living "off the grid" and discussed environmental impacts.

The presentation also featured a panel discussion on homelessness in Lexington. Charlie Lanter, director of the Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention; Susan Delph, a woman who has experienced homelessness; and Ondine Quinn, a housing service coordinator for

AIDS Volunteers (AVOL) shared the panel. They highlighted challenges and needs of Lexington's most vulnerable populations.

Peter Carew, project manager at Lexington Habitat for Humanity, spoke about potential lot density issues, the benefits of Habitat's housing model, and the "Cabins for Vets" program, spearheaded by the Kentucky state affiliate.

Finally, Martin Mudd, founder of Adventure Unschool, discussed the advantages of learning through direct and unconventional, hands-on experience.

Hygge Homes defines a "tiny home" as any dwelling less than 600 square feet. Co-founders Candice Rider and Christine Smith won—by popular vote—a \$500 grant at the 2014 Unconference, hosted by ProgressLex. The intent of the grant was to "build momentum around tiny houses." As advocates for micro-living in Fayette County, they seek to include diverse voices and listen to wide-ranging opinions along the way.

Pronounced (hue-gah) (HU-guh) or (hooga), "hygge" is central to the Danish and Scandinavian culture but has no direct translation to English. In short, it is "the art of creating intimacy," though it often parallels ideas of "warm" and "cozy" environments.

If you have an opinion on micro-living in Lexington, send Hygge Homes your feedback at bit.ly/tinylex.

Candice is a co-founder of Hygge Homes and a member of CKCPJ.

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 (Asociación 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 May issue is April 10. Contact 859-488-1448 or email 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., 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.

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 through mid-April. For more information or to apply, call the CAP volunteer program at 800-755-5322 or see www.christianapp.org.

Fri-Sat., April 10-11

Lexington League of Women Voters State 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.

Tues., April 14

PFLAG Central Kentucky 6:30 to 8:30 pm, St Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte, Lexington. The meeting will be an open forum. Share questions, answers, perspectives, frustrations. Discussion will include a follow-up on the March question: What conversation do you wish you could have with your family members, friends and others in the community? For more information, go to www.pflagcentralky.org.

Sat., April 18

Lexington League of Women Voters Annual Meeting Faith Lutheran Church, 1000 Bates Creek Road, Lexington. Featured speaker for the event will be Linda Gorton, recently retired vice-mayor of Lexington. The morning will begin with brunch at 9 a.m. (There is a \$10 charge for the brunch.) Business meeting will follow. Reservations can be made by calling the LWV at 859-494-3203. Deadline is Wednesday, April 15.

Thurs., April 23

Achieving the Dream Scholarship Celebration Migrant Network Coalition, Central Christian Church Fellowship Hall, 205 E. Short Street, Lexington, 5:30-7 pm. Purchase tickets at <http://mnclex.org>. Click the "Buy Now" button at the bottom of the page. Receive a discount for purchasing tickets in advance.

The celebration will honor this year's scholarship recipients. In addition to a buffet dinner and a performance by the Casa de la Cultura Hispana Dancers, the evening will include a silent auction.

Sat., May 2

First Annual Peace Heroes Walk, RiverScape Metro Park, Dayton, Ohio, 9 am - noon. Participants from throughout the greater Miami Valley will honor peacemakers whose lives have inspired others to "Be the change you wish to see in the world." You can get started today by choosing your Peace Hero, signing up to be a team captain and asking your family and friends to join up with you. HONORARY WALK CHAIRS: Neal Gittleman, Conductor, Dayton Philharmonic and Robert Walker, President, Board of Education, Dayton Public Schools. For more information see daytonpeacemuseum.org.

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.

Thurs., May 7

Humanist Forum, 7-8:30 pm, the Great Hall of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lexington, 3564 Clay's 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.

Sat-Sun., May 30-June 7

Mountain Justice Summer Convergence 2015 Kanawha State Forest just south of Charleston, West Virginia (about three 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 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

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 attend free and events are family friendly. There will be speakers, live music and dancing every night. The cost is low, tent camping, dinner and breakfast provided. For more information contact Dave Cooper, davecooper928@yahoo.com or see www.whippoorwillfest.com.

Rev. Willis Polk

When Imani Baptist Church hosted a community forum on Saturday, August 10, 2013, to facilitate a community dialogue around issues faced by the Lexington community, Rev. Willis Polk called on the people to join him in a walk to demonstrate concern for the increased violence in the community. The following day, Sun., Aug. 11, he led a Peace Walk which then continued on seven consecutive Sundays, through September 22. Each week, more than 1,000 people gathered at Imani to join him in a 3.4 mile walk to the end of Georgetown Street and back to Imani, naming the event The Walk 3.4.

Rev. Polk is familiar with issues around peace and justice, and has served on the Lexington Drug Court Advisory Committee; the Lexington Project Parent Steering Committee; the New Century Lexington - Quality of Life Leadership Team; the Lexington Citizens' Summit Executive Committee; the Communities that Care Steering Committee, the Partners for Youth Executive Board; and the Woodford County Planning and Zoning Commission. He organized the University of Kentucky's Black Campus Ministry, served as a board member for the Bluegrass Community Action Agency, is the past president

continued on page 6

Jason Bailey

Jason Bailey is the recipient of the CKCPJ's 2015 Chuck Sohner Workers' Advocate Award. Jason has worked in Kentucky on economic justice issues since 1998. In the late 1990s, Jason assisted the CKCPJ co-sponsored Lexington Living Wage Campaign, providing difference-making data on the work-related injury history of solid waste workers. Jason's statistics helped gain an early retirement program for Lexington solid waste workers who had suffered injuries on the job.

Jason has played a similar role in recent years. In 2011, he became the director of the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy, which provides analyses of the effects of budget and tax policies on the well-being of Kentuckians. He has provided data on the number and identity of low-wage workers who would be affected by proposed minimum wage ordinances in Louisville and Lexington. His work helped make the case for the minimum wage bill that passed Louisville's Metro Council

continued on page 7

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 Central Kentucky 2nd Tuesday 6:30-8:30 pm. LGBTQ individuals of all ages, family member, friends and allies are welcome. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. info@pflagcentralky.org or 859-338-4393. Speakers followed by confidential support group meeting.

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 GLBTQQA 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 call 859-488-1448.

But, they take our jobs!

by Jim Trammel

This review is being written the day after Texas Senator Ted Cruz announced his candidacy for President, drawing lusty cheers from the crowd at Liberty University (the late unlamented Jerry Falwell's temple of right-wing knowledge) as Cruz vowed to get tough on immigration.

With the current President and Congress still circling each other warily over the immigration issue, both knowing action is needed but unsure what to do or unwilling to get it done, the time is right for you and everyone to read Aviva Chomsky's deconstruction of immigration "facts" but are provably untrue.

Chomsky is the director of Latin American studies at Salem State University in Massachusetts. She is a former research assistant at Harvard, and the daughter of famous linguist Noam Chomsky. In short, she knows how to separate dispassionate fact from crazed ideology.

They Take Our Jobs! is a handy factual point-by-point reference anyone should read to face a hysterical anti-immigration zealot and running logical rings around him. (It usually is a him.)

The book is broken down into sections dealing with immigration's effect on the economy, the law, race relations, and immigration policy.

Space doesn't allow me to identify all 21 of the myths, but these are some you will likely encounter in conversation with your average small-minded reactionary, along with summaries of Chomsky's refutations.

1) Immigrants take American jobs.

Equally to blame are corporations moving jobs out of the country—and in the world economy there are few truly American jobs any more. Besides, immigration levels and unemployment rates can be shown to move independently of each other.

2) Immigrants compete with low-skilled workers and drive down wages.

The relationship is not that clear-cut. It can be argued that increasing wealth disparity is fueled by immigration, as available cheaper labor makes increased business profits possible. Also: immigrants choose low wage jobs in their early days in the U.S. Because their American wage dollars have much more purchasing power when they send them home, they're initially content with low-wage jobs. And, we have

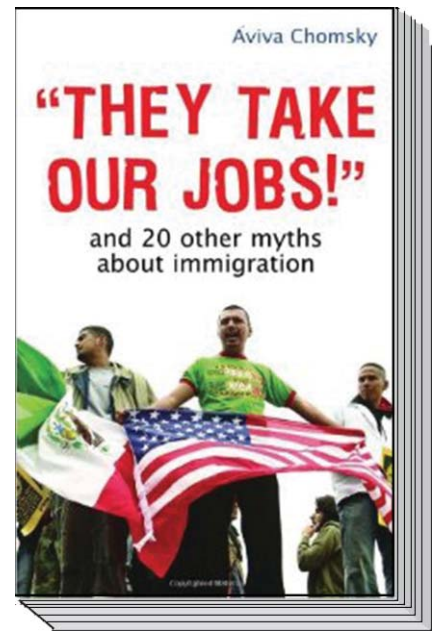
a shameful economic history of continually creating new underclasses to fill the "secondary" labor market (jobs that are low-skilled, low-wage and dangerous, and are a social liability to perform), as society gradually extends basic rights to more groups. Today's undocumented Mexican was yesterday's poor black worker, and before that, Europeans and Asians took their turns in the underclass before that. This exclusionary definition of citizenship allows businesses to continually access cheap laborers who don't possess enforceable rights.

3) Immigrants don't pay taxes. They do pay sales and gasoline taxes. Others they don't pay, but in those categories (Social Security, payroll, health insurance, sick leave, vacation time, safety regulations) non-participation has benefits for employers, who sometimes wink at enforcement (especially lately in the textile and apparel industries). The only ones who lose anything using a false Social Security number are the workers themselves. Taxes are still withheld from the paychecks of undocumented workers, who have to forgo the benefits—estimated by *The New York Times* at \$7 billion per year.

4) Immigrants are a drain on the economy, using more in services than they pay in taxes. Most are of prime working age, therefore they put more into the system than they require from it. Studies conducted in the southwest and southeast U.S. prove this. Exceptions: (a) Food stamps, WIC and free/reduced lunches—but these are usually used not by the undocumented workers, but by their U.S. citizen children. Not considered: (b) Mandated services such as emergency medical care, prisons, police and public schools, which must by law be provided to everyone. (c) In most cases where cost of services exceeds taxes paid, it's because the taxpayer's wages are so low that tax income is minimal.

5) The country is being overrun with illegal immigrants. First, say "undocumented" or "unauthorized." Many have documents, just outdated or somehow incorrect. Some, perhaps as many as half, have overstayed visas that were valid at one time.

6) The rules apply to everyone, so new immigrants need to do what the older ones did. Oops, careful how you apply



this one, considering white Europeans weren't the first ones here. There were no laws against immigration until 1924, so white Europeans weren't breaking the law.

Chomsky continues with laser-like logical precision. You'll leave your opponents sputtering; fun at parties, amaze your friends, confound your adversaries. (They might turn out to be the same person.)

The book also provides valuable timelines of milestone moments in immigration laws and policy and an illuminating treatise on when and why to say Latino vs. Hispanic, taking into account the razor-thin but significant linguistic differences in meaning and implication.

This is an important factual resource you need on your shelf because it is going to become ever more relevant in the months to come—especially if you ever find yourself facing off with Ted Cruz.

Reviewer Jim Trammel likes to "debate" (read "argue") at cocktail parties.

•••••
Rev. Polk

continued from page 5
of the Woodford County chapter NAACP, and serves on the Kentucky Access to Justice Commission.

Rev. Polk's work has created much-needed conversation, reflection and thought about senseless violence in our community. "If any of that is the result of our efforts, then The Walk 3.4 achieved much of its purpose," said Rev. Polk. At least 31 churches supported The Walk, and provided publicity about the response to the violence.

Minimum wage increase supporters gather

by David Christiansen

On March 17, the Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee (BFED) of the LFUCG City Council discussed, for the first time, an ordinance establishing a local minimum wage in Lexington. The proposal would raise the minimum wage to \$10.10 per hour over a period of three years, and index it to inflation thereafter.

There was widespread interest in this measure and the room was filled to capacity. Council member Jennifer Mossotti opened the discussion with a well-documented presentation (assisted by Jason Bailey from the Kentucky Center for Economic Policy), ultimately asking the committee to move the ordinance on to the full council for consideration.

Public comments were allowed, but not all those wanting to speak were able to do so as the two-hour time allotted for the meeting ran out. The committee voted to continue the discussion at the next BFED meeting (which is not until June 23) rather than send it to the full council.

The Lexington Working Families Campaign, an effort spearheaded by CKCPJ and other local organizations, was well represented at the meeting. More than half were there to support the measure, and many had the opportunity to speak of the need for an increase in the minimum wage.

The business community was also well represented, as Commerce Lexington issued a call to action in opposition to the measure. Most of those representing the business community, but not all, were opposed to the measure. Some stated that jobs would be lost, a claim refuted by extensive research, according to Jason. Others commented that wage levels should not be dictated by government and that business profitability would suffer if the measure became law.

CKCPJ has made the establishment of a local minimum wage a top priority as wages have been stagnant or declining for most households for decades (except for those at the top of the income scale). Minimum wage has lost a third of its purchasing power since the late '60s. Federal and state legislation to increase the minimum wage is repeatedly blocked as corporate and moneyed interests increasingly dominate politics.

It is becoming more evident than ever that low wages are threatening the founda-

tions of civil society. Families struggle to survive in an environment of shrinking wages that simply do not provide enough income for the basics of living such as food and housing. The economy is becoming more divided. The fastest growing job categories are at the bottom or the top of the wage scale and the middle class shrinks. Those at the bottom are offered fewer opportunities to escape impoverishment under circumstances that can rightly be described as economic slavery.

When the United States outlawed slavery, the country did not fret about the plantation owner's ability to operate profitably. *We outlawed slavery because we understood it to be immoral.* At some point we need to recognize that economic slavery is also wrong. We need to understand what it means to be a full member of society and the wages it takes to allow that.

Those who believe any government-determined wage is arbitrary often indignantly suggest, "Why not set the rate

at \$25, or \$50 or something even higher?" These folks miss the point. This is not an effort to dictate wage levels. The principle of a minimum wage is to establish a floor below which employers cannot go if we are to consider ourselves moral persons. And that floor ought to be at least high enough to lift workers out of poverty when they work full-time.

Perhaps President Franklin D. Roosevelt said it best. In 1933, after signing the National Industrial Recovery Act into law, FDR said, "No business which depends for its existence on paying less than living wages to its workers has any right to continue in this country. By 'business' I mean the whole of commerce as well as the whole of industry. By 'workers' I mean all workers, the white-collar class as well as the men in overalls. By 'living wages' I mean more than a bare subsistence level — I mean the wages of decent living." *If you would like to be involved in the campaign to establish a Lexington minimum wage, email David Christiansen, david@ccky.org*



Jason Bailey

continued from page 5

last December.

Chuck Sohner was a lifelong advocate for civil and workers' rights. In the 1950s he was a civil rights organizer in the Jim Crow-era American South. Later he organized staff and faculty unions in California's public colleges. After moving to Kentucky, he founded and served as a co-chair of Lexington's Living Wage

Campaign. He also served for many years as a Director of the CKCPJ. Because of his integrity and long experience, young activists looked to Chuck as a mentor. His resonant voice, knowledge of social justice issues, and gift for finding the right phrase made Chuck a frequent spokesperson for the living wage campaign. The Chuck Sohner Workers' Advocate Award was the first award established by the CKCPJ and has been awarded annually since 2004, a year after Chuck's untimely death in 2003.



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. 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.



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

"An activist is someone who cannot help but fight for something. That person is not usually motivated by a need for power or money or fame, but in fact is driven slightly mad by some injustice, some cruelty, some unfairness, so much so that he or she is compelled by some internal moral engine to act to make it better."

Jody Williams

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Issue #283 • April 2015

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

Views from Lexington United, CKCPJ's peace education initiative

Equity Bake Sale Fri. April 3

Come check out the Equity Bake Sale at the Fri. April 3 Lexington Night Market! The Bake Sale is held by the Lexington chapter of the Harry Potter alliance, Lexpecto Patronum.

What is the Harry Potter Alliance (HPA), you ask? The mission of the nonprofit is to "turn fans into heroes." On their website, they say: "We're changing the world by making activism accessible through the power of story. Since 2005, we've engaged millions of fans through our work for equality, human rights, and literacy."

In fact, they've been the subject of multiple academic studies on fan activism and civic engagement among youth, drawing attention for the fierce devotion of their chapters. In the U.S., their focus has been on immigration reform, economic justice, gay rights, sexism, labor rights, mental

health, body image, and climate change.

The Lexington Harry Potter Alliance chapter is called Lexpecto Patronum. A new HPA chapter, they've been active for the past several months, and Fri. April 3 they're holding an "Equity Bake Sale" at the Lexington Night Market (<http://bit.ly/3AprilNightMarket2015>).

At an "Equity Bake Sale," patrons determine how much they pay for baked goods by referring to federal wage data (you can see the sources they'll be using at <http://bit.ly/PayGapEquityNeeded>) to draw attention to the need for equity in pay scales.

They welcome your interest and contributions. The best way to keep up with their events is through their Facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/LexpectoPatronum/>.

Annual Dinner

continued from page one

hand, leading chants," Janet said. "We're all better people for having known her."

Kerby Neill presented Freddy Peralta with the Lifetime of Waging Peace Award (see Kerby's remarks about Freddy's work in the March issue of *Peaceways*).

Marion Gibson presented Imani Baptist Church pastor Rev. Willis Polk with the award as Peacemaker of 2014 (see page 6); Janet Tucker recognized April Taylor as the Peacemaker of 2015 (see page 3).

Bereans for Michael Brown were recognized as the Youth Peacemakers of the Year for their work in support of the protests in Ferguson, Mo., following the police shooting of Michael Brown, an unarmed teenager. Quentin Savage accepted the award on behalf of the group, calling Berea College a great ally in their efforts. A profile of the group appeared in the March issue of *Peaceways*.

The Chuck Sohner Living Wage Award was presented to Jason Bailey on March 17 when CKCPJ supporters were gathered for the LFUCG Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee discussion of the proposal to increase minimum wage in Lexington.

Alternatives to Violence Workshop Fri. April 10 - Sat. 12 Berea, Ky.

This is a tremendous opportunity to experience the Basic Workshop in the powerful Alternatives to Violence Program (AVP). The AVP mission is "to empower people to lead nonviolent lives through affirmation, respect for all, community building, cooperation, and trust." The workshop is held at the Berea Friends Meetinghouse (Quakers) at 300 Harrison Rd. Berea. The cost is "pay what you can"—the amount of \$20 is suggested, which will help cover lunches and travel expenses for volunteer facilitators.

Organizers say "Space is limited so register soon to avoid disappointment!" To register for this workshop – or if you just

have questions please email berea.avp@gmail.com.

More on AVP: dedicated to teaching the same non-violent skills and techniques that were used by Mohandas Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., AVP began as a prison project in the 1970s, utilizing facilitators from within prison populations and outside, trained volunteers. Today, AVP workshops are present in 35 States and over 40 countries.

AVP workshops can help you as a participant to:

- understand why conflict happens;
- be true to yourself while respecting

.....

- other people;
- deal more effectively with risk and danger;
- manage strong feelings such as anger and fear;
- build good relationships with other people;
- communicate well in difficult situations;
- recognize the skills you already have.

Peaceways is printed by Timprint, 859-223-7373