

# Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE October 2015

## Lexington Peace Fair 2015

by Margaret Gabriel, Editor

On Sunday, Sept. 20, the day before the International Day of Peace, Bluegrass Community and Technical College's Students for Peace and Earth Justice hosted the ninth Lexington Peace Fair on the BCTC Lawn. Co-sponsors of the fair included BCTC's Peace Studies Program, CKCPJ and Community Montessori/Montessori Middle School of Kentucky. The day was designed as one to remember that peace is beautiful and it is possible.

The poster for the Peace Fair describes peace as a means of building social equality and justice, economic equity, ecological balance, protecting citizens from attack, meeting basic human needs, having the means to settle differences non-violently; eliminating structural violence; practicing conflict resolution as a foundation for building relationships; and supporting

international law, diplomacy and nonviolent resolution of disputes.

The BCTC Lawn featured live music and dance, displays by a wide variety of social justice organizations, lots of good information, student-baked treats and family fun.

The International Day of Peace, celebrated annually on Sept. 21, is dedicated to world peace, and specifically the absence of war and violence. The day begins with the ringing of the United Nations Peace Bell which is inscribed with "Long live absolute world peace."



Soreyda Begley and her son, William, display the wares of the workers of Lexington Sews, a sustainable training facility in Lexington.



Among the justice organizations sharing information were (upper left) the League of Women Voters, registering voters (left to right: Cindy Heine, Barbara Sterrett, Erin Kidder); the Peace Corps Volunteers (left to right) Jack Wilson, Angene Wilson, Charlene McGrath; and (above) Carolyn Halcomb, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, which will give presentations about children and firearms safety to requesting groups. Moms Demand Action is planning a counter-rally on May 21 during the national convention of the National Rifle Association in Louisville. For more information, contact Carolyn, [chalcombKY@gmail.com](mailto:chalcombKY@gmail.com). Photos by Margaret Gabriel.

# LWFC calls for original wage proposal

by David Christianson and Janet Tucker, CKCPJ co-chairs

It is said that when you go to the movies you should allow for some “suspension of disbelief” to better enjoy the experience. This is particularly true if you enjoy fantasy or science-fiction films.

But “suspension of disbelief” should not be required at a Lexington-Fayette Urban County Council meeting. These meetings should not be a fictional or fantasy experience.

Unfortunately, suspension of clear, critical thinking was needed in abundance to endure the Committee of the Whole meeting on September 10 when the minimum wage ordinance proposed for Lexington was discussed.

Do we really need to hear ridiculous excuses to justify opposition? For example, we heard that supporting a minimum wage of \$10.10 in the year 2019 will disqualify working people from receiving public benefits (like food stamps) so we can't pay any more than \$9.00 per hour in three years.

Really? How can we possibly predict such an impact in 2019 when eligibility for these benefits is calculated by family size, revised annually, and depends on the hours a person is allowed to work by their employer? Not to mention the fact that working people don't want public benefits to survive. They want decent wages.

We also heard that we should not pass any law if it might negatively impact even one citizen. Really? Was there ever a piece of legislation that could survive this test?

The truth is that establishing a higher minimum wage in Lexington is opposed by some in the business community. The effort to restrict this ordinance is driven primarily by that opposition.

During the council discussion other business interests (beyond reducing the wage) were advanced. There was no debate on a higher wage for tipped workers. It was just assumed that these workers would remain second class workers, making \$2.13 per hour. There was no discussion of including a strong enforcement component despite the fact that, according to the Kentucky Labor Cabinet, there is widespread abuse of low wage workers with violations of current labor laws including wage theft.

There is yet another delay in the proposed starting date. The assumed target date for the first increase is now July 1,

2016, a year later than originally proposed. Those pitching the \$9 rate suggested it should match the rate in Louisville. However, the first wage hike there occurred on July 1, 2015. So when Louisville reaches \$9 per hour on July 1, 2018, Lexington will already be a year behind. Since both measures will then be adjusted to the Consumer Price Index, Lexington will remain permanently behind.

The only way to match Louisville would be to set a 2019 rate higher than \$9. Approximately \$9.40 per hour would be needed to adjust for starting later, if just matching Louisville is important. Is it?

We praise council members Jennifer Mossotti, Steve Kay, Jake Gibbs, Shevawn Akers and James Brown who actively support an increase to \$10.10. But some on the council shrink from the responsibility to increase wages. They yield

to pressure from those employers who seek to pay the lowest wage allowed.

A broader view of our economy provides another alternative. Economists speak positively of something they call the “virtuous business cycle.” Since our economy is primarily driven by consumers, higher wages stimulate more spending which, in turn, stimulates demand for goods and services which then stimulates business activity (and profits) which then requires more employees and higher wages and so on. This cycle is a win-win where both workers and businesses thrive.

Efforts by business to slash wages may increase profits in the short term but inevitably undermine the economy. Wages for most workers in America have stagnated or declined for decades. Business interests, particularly those of multinational corporations, have come to dominate our politics. This dominance has focused on undermining workers, their wages, their

*continued on page 6*

## Gun Sense in America

Among the groups at the 2015 Peace Fair on Sept. 20 was Moms Demand Action which uses #WhateverItTakes to disseminate its message about gun violence. The handouts at the Peace Fair stated, “Dear Congress: We feel disgusted by your continued inaction on gun violence” and asked for people to call on lawmakers to take action to prevent further gun violence. They asked people to demand legislation to reduce the gun violence that kills 88 Americans and injures hundreds

more every day.

Moms Demand Action is asking people to:

- Tell Congress how YOU feel about gun violence. Text "Feel" to 877-877 to call Congress;
- Online: Fill out a, “Dear \_\_\_\_\_, I feel \_\_\_\_\_” note and share online at [everytown.org/whatever-it-takes](http://everytown.org/whatever-it-takes).
- At home: Join your local Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America Chapter [www.everytown.org/join-moms](http://www.everytown.org/join-moms).

### Kroger Community Rewards support CKCPJ

In a recent letter from Kroger, CKCPJ was assured that the company, including the Community Rewards Program, is committed to its policy of never sharing a customer's personal information. Such privacy is key to its ability to support such local organizations as CKCPJ.

The letter also informed us that four households are directing contributions from the Kroger purchases to CKCPJ. To these folks, we say THANK YOU! If you are a Kroger shopper and would like participate, please grab your Kroger Plus Card and sign in to [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com). You will be prompted to link your card to a non-profit in the region and if you would like to support CKCPJ, please use the registration number 16439.

We don't need much, but we do need a little bit to make sure that we are able to both keep the organization solvent and to underwrite the requests for funds that we receive from peace and justice groups in central Kentucky. We received \$63.43 in the last quarter from just four households. The more households that participate, the more CKCPJ will receive.

If you have not yet taken the opportunity to support CKCPJ in this way, now would be a great time to register. Thanks!



# Ta-Nehisi Coates and the Brawl With History and Tomorrow

## *Between the World and Me*

by Ta-Nehisi Coates

Spiegel & Grau: New York. July 2015. 176 pages

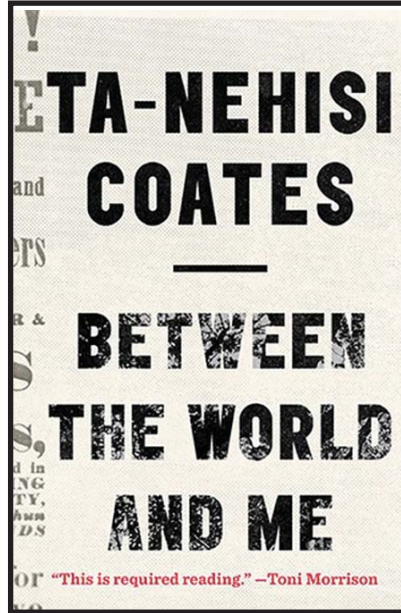
Reviewed by Gail Koehler

Rushed to release after the Charleston mass shooting in June 2015, Ta-Nehisi Coates's best-selling second book, *Between the World and Me* was one of the most talked-about books of the summer. It has also served as a kind of Rorschach test: what readers see in the book illuminates what they bring to the issues Coates examines. Cast in the literary tradition of the open letter—in this case to his teenaged son, concerning the dilemma of growing to black manhood in America—Coates's work also echoes James Baldwin's 1963 message to his nephew, *The Fire Next Time*. On the front of the dust jacket for the hardcover edition of Coates's book is printed the last part of an endorsement by no less a literary lion than Toni Morrison: "This is required reading."

My own lengthy appreciation of many voices responding to this "required reading" can be found online at CKCPJ's Peace Leaders blog (<http://bit.ly/BrawlingwithTomorrow>). While not an exhaustive summary of multitudes of responses to Coates's work, the online forum allows space to explore several feminist critiques, Coates's atheism, the mistaken claim by *New York Times* writer David Brooks that Coates has his history distorted, and Coates' *Democracy Now* interview, for example.

In the space allotted in this newsletter, I'd like to highlight my own experience of reading the book by starting with its title and evocation of the Richard Wright poem "Between the World and Me," referenced both through book's title and the first three lines of poem as an introduction.

I start here because, unfortunately, I suspect many readers of Coates are not familiar with Wright's stunning poem. The poem presents the profound price paid by the black male body, in its depiction of a brutal lynching and burning after the flames are cold and only ashes, bones, and skull of the victim remain. In imagining what that man suffered, the narrator then takes on the agony inflicted in the act of torture. My reading of Coates's work,



then, was accompanied by the specter of Wright's graphic images such as when: *darkness screamed with thirsty voices; and the witnesses rose and lived: The dry bones stirred, rattled, lifted, melting themselves into my bones. The grey ashes formed flesh firm and black, entering into my flesh.*

I heard echoes, in Wright's lines, of what Bryan Stevenson has called "racial terror lynchings." I refer to the historic lynching report issued in February 2015 by the organization Stevenson founded, the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Ala.

Contrary to some claims, Stevenson says that "these brutal deaths were not about administering popular justice, but terrorizing a community." That the Wright narrator imaginatively takes on the physical pain of the victim he knows only by bone, skull, and "A vacant shoe, an empty tie, a ripped shirt, a lonely hat, and a pair of trousers stiff with black blood," speaks to that terrorizing function the torture serves.

In a compelling profile by Benjamin Wallace-Wells, for *New York Magazine* ("The Hard Truths of Ta-Nehisi Coates"), Wallace-Wells says that one of Coates's

*continued on page 6*

## 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), Richard Mitchell, Bruce Mundy, Steve Pavey, Nadia Ra-sheed, 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:* Brandy 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 November issue is Oct. 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.

**Tues., Oct. 6**

**Voices 2015, The Ethics and Morality of Immigration**, 7 - 9 pm, Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Church, 601 Hill 'n Dale Drive, Lexington. Bishop John Stowe. Following his comments, Bishop John will take questions about his experience in ministry to immigrants.

**Tues., Oct. 13**

**PFLAG Central Kentucky**, 6:30 - 8:30 pm, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte, Lexington. *The Face of Fairness in the Military*. Counselors from the Veterans Administration will show and discuss the 40-minute documentary "The Camouflage Closet," in which nine LGBT veterans share stories of trauma and recovery.

**Tues., Oct. 13**

**Central Kentucky Showing up for Racial Justice**, 6:30 pm, Lexington Downtown Library, Room B 140 E. Main Street. The chapter meeting will discuss white privilege. Through community organizing, mobilizing and education, SUFJ invites white people to act as part of a multi-racial/ethnic majority for justice with passion and accountability. For more information, email [ckysurj@gmail.com](mailto:ckysurj@gmail.com).

**Wed., Oct. 14**

**CKCJ Social Justice Committee** 7 pm, Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion topics will include various housing justice matters.

**Thurs., Oct. 15**

**Homeless Stand Down**, 9 am - 2 pm Central Christian Church, 205 E. Short Street, Lexington. Resource event for veterans, individuals and families experiencing homelessness or who are at risk for homelessness. The event is a collaboration among federal, state, community service agencies and volunteers.

**Thurs., Oct. 15**

**Voices 2015 Closing the Opportunity Gap in our Public Schools**, 7-9 pm, Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Panel discussion members: Shambra Mulder, Dr. Greg Ross, Melanie Trowel, and Dr. Roger Cleveland; Moderator: Rev. Jim Thurman.

**Tues., Oct. 20**

**Lexington Working Families Campaign** 7 pm, Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. The meeting will focus on the on-going discussion of the proposed increase of the minimum wage in Lexington.

**Wed., Oct. 21**

**CKCJ Peace Action Committee** 7 pm, Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion topics will include health care reform and climate change.

**Thurs., Oct. 22**

**Voices 2015 Upholding Human Dignity and Opposing Criminalization of Immigrants** 7-9 pm, First Presbyterian Church, 174 N. Mill Street, Lexington. Speaker: Steve Pavey.

**Fri., Oct. 23**

**Gen Silent**, 7 pm, Thomas Hunt Morgan House, 201 N. Mill Street, Lexington. A documentary film screening followed by a panel discussion with seasoned LGBT Kentuckians. Free. The screening will open the Growing Older, Growing Bolder Conference sponsored by Lexington Fairness' Senior Pride Initiative [www.seniorprideinitiative.com/2015-conference.html](http://www.seniorprideinitiative.com/2015-conference.html)

**Fri., Sat., Sun. Oct. 23-25**

**I Dedicate This Ride**, a play by Frank X Walker about the life of jockey Isaac Burns Murphy, Lyric Theatre, 300 E. Third Street, Lexington. On Friday, there will be a reception, 5-6:30 pm in the Lyric Theatre community room honoring Pel-lom McDaniels (author of *The Prince of Jockeys: The Life of Isaac Burns Murphy*), Frank X Walker, Patsi Trollinger (author of *Perfect Timing*, a children's book about Murphy), and Patrick Mitchell, Director of Message Theatre. Performances on Friday and Saturday, 7 pm. On Sunday, 3 pm, there will be a pay-what-you-can matinee. For tickets, call 859 280-2218 or purchase on line at [www.lexingtonlyric.com](http://www.lexingtonlyric.com)

**Your Event Here**

Send information about your event to [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com). Send notification about November events by Oct. 10.

**Thurs., Oct. 29**

**Voices 2015 Imperialism, American Style**, 7-9 pm, Lexington Downtown Library, Room A (downstairs), 140 Main Street, Lexington. Speaker: Jeffery Freyman.

**Wed., Nov. 4**

**Voices 2015** 7 pm, University of Kentucky Marksbury Building, 329 Rose Street. Mohammad Aret Dstyar and Sofia Ramyar Abdul Hakim, Young Afghan Peacemakers, will discuss their work in Afghanistan. The evening is co-sponsored by CKCJ and the University of Kentucky Peace Studies.

**Thurs., Nov. 5**

**Voices 2015 Trade Simulation Game**, 7 pm, The Plantory, 501 W. Sixth Street, Lexington. An interactive popular education resource to learn about international trade agreements—how they work, who they impact and how to work for change. The game is appropriate for people over age 12. It is a great resource for those with limited or no knowledge of trade agreements and for advocates who want a new, fun way to discuss the issues of trade.

**Fri., Nov. 6**

**Strikes for Students: A fundraiser for the Achieving Dreams Scholarship Fund**, Migrant Network Coalition, 6 pm - 8 pm, Collins Bowling Center, 205 Southland Drive. Join the coalition for a night of bowling to raise funds for scholarship recipients. \$20 for two games and shoes. To pledge and purchase tickets, [www.mnclx.org](http://www.mnclx.org).

**Oct. 1 - Dec. 11**

**Display: The Prince of Jockeys**, Tues.-Fri. 11 am - 5 pm, Sat. 1-5 pm. Lyric Theatre, 300 E. Third Street, Lexington. Colorful panels tell the story of the life and career of Isaac Burns Murphy, one of America's greatest jockeys, and his contribution to horse racing. For more information see [www.lexingtonlyric.com](http://www.lexingtonlyric.com)

# Homeless Stand Down

by Billie Mallory

Central Christian Church  
205 E. Short St.  
(corner of MLK Blvd.  
and Short St.)  
Lexington  
Thurs., Oct. 15  
9 am - 2 pm

The 2015 Lexington Homeless Stand Down, Lexington's community resource event for veterans, individuals and families experiencing homelessness, or who are at risk of experiencing homelessness, will take place at Central Christian Church, 205 E. Short Street, Lexington, on October 15.

The event is a collaboration among federal, state, local community service agencies and volunteers.

The stand down provides essential services to individuals experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness, such as health screenings, legal consultation, job-readiness training and employment assistance, dental services, information on public and VA benefits, on-site housing assistance, substance abuse recovery services and other area social services.

The one-day annual event is designed to help individuals find pathways to housing and to provide services meeting the needs of individuals who are experiencing homelessness or are marginally housed. In addition to accessing a variety of social services, persons who attend will receive free items, a meal, and positive contacts with a wide variety of service providers, including the Veterans' Administration Medical Center.

In past years, Homeless Stand Down has been an excellent collaborative effort between local social service agencies and charitable organizations. It has resulted in stronger professional relationships, and improved abilities to perform jobs and missions.

The Homeless Stand Down is a community-based intervention program designed to reduce homelessness among veterans, individuals and families and provide on-site assistance via community resources.

If your organization would like to participate by offering services, please contact Eleisha Kiefer, LCSW, Co-chair Community Stand-Down, 859-559-3116 or 859-233-4511 ext. 3258.

Billie is a local activist.

## 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 Street) in downtown Lexington. Contact Richard Mitchell 859-327-6277.

**Migrant Network Coalition** 1st Monday Noon-1:15 pm, GLOBAL LEX, 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington. Contact Lindsay Mattingly, [lmatingly@lexpublib.org](mailto:lmatingly@lexpublib.org), 859-231-5514.

**PFLAG Central Kentucky** 2nd Tuesday 6:30-8:30 pm. LGBTQ individuals of all ages, family members, friends and allies are welcome. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. [info@pflagcentralky.org](mailto: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](mailto:info@lexfair.org).

**Wed Night GLSO "Heart to Heart" 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: [www.glso.org](http://www.glso.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.

**Dance Jam** Every Tuesday, 5:30 pm - 7 pm, Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave. Move to the extent you are able. Sponsored by Motion Matters, \$7 per session, to cover space rental. Contact Pamela, [info@motionmatters.org](mailto:info@motionmatters.org), 859-351-3142.

**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.

To include a regular meeting of your organization in this space, contact Margaret Gabriel, [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com)



achievements is that he can “express very deeply the dimensions of fear.” Coates writes of his own fear growing up and his fear for his son. Fear permeates the book. For readers who do not know that fear firsthand, the book cannot be read without acknowledging the reclamation of history that projects such as the Equal Justice Initiative provide.

That Coates is a major voice for us now is underscored by the fact that the conversation *Between the World and Me* has engendered to this point is to be continued as the country takes in the cover article of the October 2015 issue of *The Atlantic*, where Coates is a staff writer. The article, “The Black Family in the Age of Mass Incarcer-

ation” may well be one of the most talked-about pieces of writing this fall just as the book has been this summer. The *Atlantic* piece begins with an extensive examination of the history that brought America to this point. “Fifty years after Daniel Patrick Moynihan’s report ‘The Negro Family’ tragically helped create this system, it’s time to reclaim his original intent,” says the tag line for the online article. The statistics have become familiar to so many since Michelle Alexander’s *The New Jim Crow*. In its Criminal Justice Fact sheet, the NAACP summarizes:

- From 1980 to 2008, the number of people incarcerated in America quadrupled from roughly 500,000 to 2.3 million people;
- Today, the U.S. is 5 percent of the

world population and has 25 percent of world prisoners;

- Combining the number of people in prison and jail with those under parole or probation supervision, 1 in every 31 adults, or 3.2 percent of the population is under some form of correctional control.

We are in a unique political moment, where politicians from across the spectrum “are now eager to disown a failed criminal-justice system.” Most casual observers could not have predicted this.

Coates’s most recent contributions to the discussion are both essential and intentionally discomfiting. There will be no easy fix to the mess, Coates says. The sound of all the voices responding to the challenge he’s laid before us reminds me of the “brawl of ancestors” he met in the books he studied while a student at Howard University.

Our efforts to figure out how to right the wrongs of mass incarceration will engage us in another kind of verbal brawl, I imagine. But for this reviewer, following Coates’s latest contribution to our public discussion is going to be at least as important in this next election season as the “horse race” coverage of political candidates’.

*Gail is the lead trainer for Lexington United.*

# Peace is Possible

CKCPJ continues the sale of its artistic specialty Kentucky license plate that proclaims “Peace is Possible.”

The lovely artwork for the license plate was created by local artist Jaqui Linder and features a flock of sandhill cranes. The crane is a centuries-old, cross-cultural symbol for wisdom, peace and longevity.

Locally, the ancient sandhill crane is recognized as a multi-cultural ambassador of peace. The sandhill migration is a wonderful sign, familiar to many Kentuckians.

In Japan, the crane is especially revered and thought to bring good fortune. It is believed that crafting 1,000 origami cranes grants the creator a single wish.

After World War II, author Eleanor Coerr published a moving children’s book, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, a tale of a young girl’s failed attempt to fold 1,000 origami cranes before her prema-

ture death due to radiation exposure from the atomic bomb blast over Hiroshima. Folded origami cranes took on a powerful meaning after the book’s publication in 1977 and came to symbolize peace through the title character’s unforgettable perseverance.

“I envisioned several cranes in flight to communicate movement upward and outward toward hope,” Jacqui said.

The lavender-purple on the plate represents transformation while the dramatic oranges, which blend to soft yellows, symbolize strength and light.

CKCPJ is one-third of the way toward the 900 reservations required for the license plate to be produced. To reserve a license plate, at a cost of \$25, please go to the CKCPJ website, [www.peaceandjusticeky.org](http://www.peaceandjusticeky.org).



## Have you ordered your license plate?

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

Won't you join them?

[www.peaceandjusticeky.org](http://www.peaceandjusticeky.org)

## **Wage Increase** *continued from page 2*

capacity to bargain collectively and their rights as employees.

We need to return to the social contract that guided business practices in the decades following WW II when increases in worker productivity were broadly shared with workers instead of just fattening corporate profits and executive salaries, as is the case now. Those three decades (1945-1975) created the most successful and dynamic economy in human history while it expanded an American middle class that was the envy of the world.

There are many things that need to be done to restore the American economy we once enjoyed; increasing the minimum wage is one of these. State and federal politics is gridlocked by short-sighted corporate interests. It is up to local government to do this, and do it right.

# GLOBAL LEX opens office in Lexington

by Isabel Gereda Taylor

The city of Lexington has opening an international center in response to the extraordinary growth and diversity of international immigrants who now live here. The immigrant community of the greater Lexington area increased by 244 percent. Many of these immigrants are isolated and experience barriers to cultural and economic growth. Their international expertise is lost to the community.

## Isaac Murphy: A Lexington Hero

While Isaac Burns Murphy (1861-1896) and his success as a jockey has been long-raised from the depths of obscurity, his significance as a barometer for measuring white America's tolerance of African American achievement in the latter part of the 19th century has been overlooked. In fact, when we examine the time period of Reconstruction (1865-1877) in Kentucky, we can find hundreds of examples of former slaves and their families working, striving and succeeding in making the transition from human chattels to free persons of color. Yet, even as these men, women and children worked to remake themselves into contributing members of society, the strongest rebuttals came from those who could not reconcile the myths associated with blackness, and the reality of the resilience and resourcefulness of those making a way out of no way. This, no doubt, was traumatic for those wedded to the notion of a fixed racial hierarchy. Like Murphy, African Americans in the late 19th century became the targets of jealous and resentful whites unwilling to let go of the lie at the foundation of their identities: blacks were inherently inferior. Indeed, the unyielding commitments to maintaining the status quo, led to a century of organized terror against African Americans waged through public and private rituals of annihilation, and government orchestrated legislation to protect the interests of the majority. What we see playing out today is a direct result of centuries of race based bias, inequality, and violence, which will continue to linger as long as myth making and misinformation are used to support a narrow view of American history.

Pellom McDaniels III, Ph.D.  
Author of *The Prince of Jockeys: The Life of Isaac Burns Murphy*

GLOBAL LEX is a multilingual catalyst, an international center where the 52,000-plus foreign-born individuals

(who speak over 130 languages) and local-born Lexingtonians can support each other, individually and collectively, to thrive in today's global environment through encouragement of civic engagement, mutual understanding, and economic and artistic diversity.

Mayor Jim Gray opened GLOBAL LEX (Lexington Global Engagement Center) at 1306 Versailles Road, Suite 110 on August 28.

The goals of GLOBAL LEX are:

- To become a central location and repository for information and networking on global and international issues, a place to find information on our growing international communities and organizations, and a place where networking and outreach are facilitated;
- To become a location where local residents and the growing foreign-born population celebrate cultural events, share an art gallery, befriend and learn about one another;
- To act as a multilingual, multidisci-

## 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.

We accept articles of varying lengths. 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



plinary center where local students can gain global competence through experiential learning in internships assisting business, academic research, social and health care agencies, emergency management and workforce development. Students participate in outreach or programs and learn cross cultural communication skills so important in today's global environment.

With international and local leaders, GLOBAL LEX can initiate strategic partnerships to meet individual and community needs from literacy to international business assistance and relations. GLOBAL LEX hopes to become a venue where cross-cultural communication, local laws, driver's education, job skills, health education, academic and entrepreneurial opportunities are supported.

GLOBAL LEX welcomes volunteers. Call 859-246-4333.

Isabel is the multicultural affairs coordinator for LFUCG.

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.



The Central Kentucky Council  
for Peace and Justice  
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Lexington, KY 40508

*“What you leave behind is not what is engraved in stone monuments, but what is woven into the lives of others.”*

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# Showing up for racial justice in central Kentucky

*by Meta Mendel-Reyes and Janet Tucker*

On Saturday Sept. 19, a small group of committed Berea College students entered the grounds of the Spoonbread Festival, an annual event hosted by the city of Berea. The students, with Berea College professor and community resident Meta Mendel-Reyes and her partner, Judith Faulkner, were there to challenge the sale of Confederate flag merchandise and paraphernalia at the festival. As people call for the removal of the flag all over the South, the region is coming to recognize that the Confederate “heritage” means hate and intimidation to African Americans and their white allies.

As they walked, students carried signs that read “A heritage of hate is still hate,” “Black Lives Matter,” and “Say her name,” a reference to the black women and black transgender people who have been murdered by the police. The group walked through the festival, past kettle corn vendors, hotdogs and, of course, spoonbread, stopping to stand silently in front of booths that sold offensive t-shirts and license plates. People stared, but it was a peaceful act of protest, and, perhaps, the first time many had seen people standing up for racial justice. After the silent protests, the students engaged marchers and spectators at the festival parade.

Despite some hostile looks and harsh words, protesters brought the concept that “Black Lives Matter” to people who may have thought it had nothing to do with this sleepy college town. According to

student Quentin Savage, “Our purpose was to make sure that black families didn’t have to avert their eyes, hide their faces, or plan separate routes through a festival that benefits the city they call home.”

This effort came out of a newly formed organization: Berea United for Racial Justice. The new organization brought together students from “Bereans for Michael Brown,” as well as community members and members of a newly formed Central Kentucky chapter of Showing Up for Racial Justice (SURJ). The Central KY SURJ chapter had its founding meeting in August. SURJ ([www.showingupforracialjustice.org](http://www.showingupforracialjustice.org)) is a national network of groups and individuals organizing white people for racial justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability.

CKY SURJ also had tables at Peace Fairs that were held on Sunday, Sept. 20 in both Berea and Lexington, giving the



*The Central Kentucky Chapter of Showing up for Racial Justice participates in the 9th Lexington Peace Fair on the BTC Lawn on Sept. 20.*

group the opportunity to talk to many people about the importance of fighting for racial justice and what can be done locally. People were asked to post “Black Lives Matter” signs in their yards.

CKY SURJ will hold its next meeting and discussion on white privilege on Tues., Oct. 13 at 6:30 in Room B of the Lexington Public Library, 140 E. Main Street. For more information or to get a Black Lives Matter sign, contact [ckysurj@gmail.com](mailto:ckysurj@gmail.com) or call Janet Tucker, 859-389-8575. SURJ is asking for donation of \$7 to cover the cost of the sign, but will give them to anyone willing to display them.

*Janet is CKCPJ's co-chair; Meta is member of SURJ.*

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