

# Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE November 2015

## Voices 2015: Closing the Gaps Minorities and poor trapped in public school gaps

by T. Kerby Neill

Pointed questions, thoughtful comments, and lively panel discussion highlighted CKCPJ's *Voices 2015* event that addressed "Closing the Gaps in Our Public Schools" at Shiloh Baptist Church on Oct. 15. Rev. Jim Thurman, Shiloh assistant pastor and former chair of Lexington's NAACP, served as moderator. Panelists were Dr. Shambra Mulder, Robyn Oatley, Dr. Roger Cleveland and Melanie Trowel.

Dr. Roger Cleveland, Associate Professor of Educational Leadership at Eastern

Kentucky University, said the achievement gap reflected the historical and continuing gap in school achievement by underserved and minority populations, typically black and Hispanic youth but also many poor white youth. Cleveland expressed concern for community apathy and said, "The culture of any community is shaped by the worst behavior any leader there will tolerate." A toxic culture exists in schools where people don't believe all kids can learn. More detailed analyses



(L-R) Dr. Roger Cleveland, Melanie Trowel, Dr. Shambra Mulder, and Robyn Oatley made up a panel discussing achievement gaps in Fayette County public schools.

of school performance data in Fayette County show that gender, ethnicity, and poverty impact youth school performance. Poor black males seemed most vulnerable to low performance,

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## Peaceways delivery

In an effort to curb expenses and preserve resources, CKCPJ's steering committee has decided to publish only an electronic copy of *Peaceways* beginning with the December 2015 issue (the next issue). If you are able to utilize an electronic delivery method, please go to the CKCPJ website, [peaceandjusticeky.org](http://peaceandjusticeky.org), click on the *Peaceways* tab on the left side of the screen and you will be walked through the process to receive *Peaceways* via your computer. If you are unable to access *Peaceways* with this method, please contact Richard Mitchell, 859-327-6277. This will be the last issue of *Peaceways* you will receive through the mail unless we hear from you. Thanks!



Bishop John Stowe addresses gaps in immigration reform as part of *Voices 2015*.

## Bishop Stowe addresses ethics of immigration

by Margaret Gabriel, Editor

Bishop John Stowe addressed "The Ethics and Morality of Immigration" at Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Church in Lexington on Oct. 6 as part of CKCPJ's *Voices 2015*.

Bishop Stowe, a relative newcomer to Lexington, served for 15 years in the Diocese of El Paso, Texas, focusing largely on ministry with Hispanic people and during those years he often dealt with the issues surrounding their migration. He began his remarks for *Voices 2015* by commenting on Pope Francis's recent trip to the United States and the focus that was placed on

immigration. Bishop Stowe said Pope Francis spotlighted an area that needs our attention.

"Immigration is a situation that doesn't get enough attention until [presidential hopeful] Donald Trump gave the wrong kind of attention," Bishop Stowe said.

Alternately speaking in Spanish and English, Bishop Stowe addressed the question of what the church would like to see in immigration reform and what the faithful should do in the meantime.

Bishop Stowe said that when he met

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# Student studies disproportionality

by Taryn Howell

If you knew me when I was growing up in a middle-class family in Louisville and driving a pickup truck, you would never think to find me in Richmond earning a Criminal Justice and Safety degree from Eastern Kentucky University.

I grew up an only child and always seemed to care more for others than myself. Ever since I was a little girl, I knew I wanted a career that would enable me to help and give back to my community. I got involved in my first externship in Lexington with the Children's Law Center through one of my professors. I was excited to work closely with the lawyers at CLC in helping the children in Fayette and surrounding counties.

After my first couple of days working at the CLC, I was asked to prepare a presentation on behalf of the Race, Community, and Child Welfare committee about racial disproportionality in Fayette County. "What is this?" I thought. "I don't know anything about racial disproportionality or RCCW. How am I supposed to create a PowerPoint presentation on this information when I know nothing about it?" It was overwhelming, and I struggled to understand what I was asked to do. After talking with several members of the community, I finally started to understand the issue at hand: African-American and bi-racial youth are disproportionately and often overrepresented within the child welfare, juvenile justice, and public welfare system compared to the child population.

The Race, Community and Child Welfare Project is a collaborative effort among community partners in Fayette County and the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services to decrease racial disproportionality and disparate outcomes for African-American youth and families within the child welfare system. The RCCW also works closely with Strengthening Kentucky Families. SKY Families uses a strengths-based, community partner approach to strengthen and enhance existing parenting skills. They work with the faith-based Imani Family Life Center, Inc., the Fayette County Family Court and the Kentucky Cabinet for Health and Family Services to teach parenting skills that are designed to improve the quality of parents' relationships with their children, thereby improving the quality of life for families and the community.

I began to realize that racial disproportionality is a crucial issue right now and has been for a while. I believe that everyone can see that this issue is going on, but no one talks about it. According to the Racial Disproportionality Quarterly Report for Fayette County (September 2015), African-American and bi-racial children are overrepresented by 18 percent compared to their proportion of the population in reports to the Kentucky Department for Community Based Services (DCBS) on abuse and/or neglect. In comparison to statewide data, African-American and bi-racial children are overrepresented by 5.9 percent in reports to DCBS.

Not only that, but from 2012 to 2015, referrals of African-American and bi-racial children increased 4.1 percent while those for white children *decreased* 6.6 percent. There seems to be a problem here. Shouldn't all youth have the opportunity to build strong relationships with their family, school, and community? By

building these relationships, children are able to achieve positive outcomes and can successfully transition into adulthood. Unfortunately, African-American and bi-racial youth are too often cut short of these opportunities.

I didn't understand why there was such a big overrepresentation of African-American and bi-racial youth, and most importantly, I didn't understand why this has been an issue for so long. I think a big reason is community awareness. When the community is unaware of the issue, how are things supposed to change and improve? They can't. Once the community becomes aware of this issue, people can take action, maybe by becoming a part of the Fayette County RCCW Initiative, and by helping the cabinet work on ways to achieve equitable outcomes for all of our children and families throughout the state of Kentucky.

*Taryn is completing an externship at the Children's Law Center in Lexington.*

## ***BUILD to address health care issues***

BUILD (Building a United Interfaith Lexington Through Direct Action) held its annual Community Problems Assembly on Oct. 26 at Consolidated Baptist Church.

For months prior to the meeting, members of BUILD's Justice Ministry Networks conducted house meetings to listen to concerns about problems in Lexington.

At the Oct. 26 meeting, about 350

people representing 27 faith communities in Lexington listened to descriptions of problems, including those surrounding youth and education; jobs and wages; and health care and mental health care.

By a narrow margin, the assembly voted to address the problems of health care and mental health care in the coming months.

## **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 to 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!

## ***Church World Services urges administration to welcome more refugees***

In September the Obama administration announced that they plan to resettle 10,000 Syrian refugees in 2016. While some have lauded this as a meaningful increase, in fact it is not. In the face of today's global refugee crisis, with over 60 million people displaced including 11 million Syrians, Church World Service (CWS) believes that this announcement is a gross underreaction. CWS and partners are urging the administration to show real leadership by resettling at least 100,000 Syrian refugees this coming year, in addition to 100,000 refugees from all over the world.

"President Obama must have forgotten to add a zero at the end of this number, as he should be committing the United States to resettle 100,000 Syrians refugees, not this meager figure of 10,000," said the Rev. John L. McCullough, CWS President and CEO. "The heartbreaking images coming from Europe, Turkey, Syria and neighboring countries clearly show the desperate need for leadership from the global community to welcome those displaced by violence and conflict. We can and must do better."

As countries around the world scramble to provide resources and asylum to Syrian refugees, CWS has pushed the United States to accept 200,000 refugees, including at least 100,000 Syrians. The U.S. government had previously signaled a willingness to resettle 6,000 to 8,000 Syrian refugees in 2016, making this recent announcement mild in terms of the U.S. response to the crisis.

"The world is facing the largest refugee crisis since World War II. Our allies in the international community have committed to accepting hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees, with Germany alone

accepting 35,000 Syrian refugees through humanitarian admissions and individual sponsorships, as well as 800,000 Syrian asylum seekers," stated Erol Kekic, Executive Director of the CWS Immigration and Refugee Program. "In proportion to each country's population, this would be akin to the United States accepting more than three million Syrian refugees. For the United States to accept only 10,000 Syrian refugees is an almost meaningless drop in the bucket. Now is the time for the United States and the administration to act by meaningfully increasing overall resettlement numbers to 200,000 refugees, including 100,000 Syrians, in order to show true leadership in the global community."

"President Obama should follow in the steps of Presidents Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter, who showed moral leadership after the fall of Saigon. In response to public outcry about individuals losing their lives as they fled for safety, the U.S. airlifted more than 200,000 refugees in 1980 alone and welcomed a total of 759,482 Vietnamese refugees," said Rev. McCullough. "These individuals are now our friends, neighbors, family and community members. History shows that where there's a will, there's a way. We now demand real leadership from this administration."

Since 1946, Church World Service has supported refugees and others displaced individuals, in addition to providing sustainable relief and development solutions to communities that wrestle with hunger and poverty.

For more information about Church World Services and its positions concerning immigration and refugees, see [cwsglobal.org](http://cwsglobal.org).

*Reprinted from the CWS website.*

## **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 Rasheed, Rabbi Uri Smith, Teddi Smith-Robillard, Janet Tucker (co-chair), Craig Wilkie. *Peaceways Staff:* Margaret Gabriel (editor), Penny Christian, Gail Koehler, Betsy Neale, Jim Trammel (proofreaders). The views expressed in *Peaceways* are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of CKCPJ. *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, 1588 Leestown Rd Ste 130-138, Lexington KY 40511. Deadline for calendar items for the December issue is Nov. 10. Contact (859) 488-1448 or email [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com).

***Afflict the comfortable,  
Comfort the afflicted***

# 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., Nov. 3**

**Election Day** Polls open from 6 am to 6 pm. You will be allowed to vote if you are on line by 6 pm. Familiarize yourself with the candidates and the issues and get to the polls.

**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 CKCPJ 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 - 8 p.m., 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).

**Sat., Nov. 7**

**Pipelines, Fracking and Kentucky's Future Beyond Fossil Fuels** 8:30 am - 5:30 pm, Locust Trace Agriscience Center, 3591 Leestown Road, Lexington. A free summit to educate Kentuckians about natural gas liquids, landowner rights and local options for communities seeking a sustainable future. For more information, including sponsorship, and to preregister, see [www.nobluegrasspipeline.com](http://www.nobluegrasspipeline.com).

**Tues., Nov. 10**

**Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense** 7 p.m., Central Library, 140 E. Main St., Room B, Lexington. The meeting will introduce Moms Demand Action and its goals to reduce gun violence. Discussion will include ways to become involved locally.

**Tues., Nov. 10**

**PFLAG**, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m., St Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte, Lexington, *The Face of Fairness in the Workplace*. Representatives from LexMark will provide information about their policies, support initiatives and advocacy regarding gay, lesbian and transgender employees and the LGBT community as a whole. The presentation, questions and answers during the first hour, followed by a confidential support group meeting.

**Thurs., Nov. 12**

**ACLU of Kentucky** 60th Anniversary Bill of Rights Celebration Dinner. Cocktails at 5:30 p.m., dinner and program at 7 p.m., The Olmsted, 3701 Frankfort Avenue, Louisville. Order event tickets at [aclu-ky.org](http://aclu-ky.org). Recognition will be given to marriage equality attorneys and plaintiffs, the Reproductive Freedom Project Founders Committee, attorney John Rosenberg for his lifetime of work leading Appalred, and Emi Ramirez for her efforts in lifting immigrants' rights to a priority level within the ACLU-KY. The Hogan Award will be presented to Don Sands for his service on the ACLU-KY Board and his leadership of the Central Kentucky chapter.

**Tues., Nov. 17**

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

**Wed., Nov. 18**

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

**Sat., Nov. 21**

**Christian-Muslim Dialogue**, Masjid Bilal Mosque, 1545 Russell Cave Road, 10 a.m. - noon. "Islam 101" How familiar are you with Islam and its basic tenets? According to some estimates, Islam is the fastest growing religion in the world. A Muslim speaker will share the basics of Islam and answer the questions you always wanted to ask. Traditional Thanksgiving lunch follows the program.

**Oct. 1 - Dec. 11**

**Display: The Prince of Jockeys**, Tues.-Fri. 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat. 1-5 p.m. Lyric Theatre, 300 E. Third St., 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)

**Tues., Apr. 12**

**Nehemiah Action**, Heritage Hall, Lexington. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and the program starts at 7:00 p.m. The event will be the culmination of the work of BUILD, Building a United Interfaith Lexington Through Direct Action. The assembly will ask public officials to take action on community problems that BUILD will identify and study from November until April.

**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 for the December issue by the Nov. 10.*

## LWV Updates Contact List

The Lexington League of Women Voters has updated its Bluesheet, a list of contact information for all national, state, and local government representatives. Copies are sent to media members, libraries, and other public display locations. If you would like a copy, please call the League phone (859) 494-3203, or email the Lexington League of Women Voters at [lexingtonlwv@gmail.com](mailto:lexingtonlwv@gmail.com).

## Public Schools,

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but minority males generally performed more poorly than females, and poverty was related to lower performance for all groups.

Panelists acknowledged audience concerns about the scant presence of black male teachers, but panel members from the Fayette County Schools—Robyn Oatley, administrator for special projects and Melanie Trowel, a teacher at Carter G. Woodson Academy—expressed concerns that teacher expectations were more critical than the identity of the teacher. There are still teachers who assume poor and minority children are less capable than they are. Displaying her passion for teaching, Trowel gave compelling examples of ways to connect with student's interests and discover what motivates them. She believes teachers must question their own assumptions and challenge students to question theirs—teachers must be culturally proficient.

Dr. Shambra Mulder, a school psychologist and chair of an NAACP group concerned with education, spoke of the need to address mental health problems that can interfere with children's learning. Mulder is a regular at school board meetings and invited those at the meeting to join her at board meetings to advocate for school improvements. There was discussion of teacher education with suggestions that preparation could be both stronger and less time-consuming to attract more talented persons to the profession. The importance of parents as "first teachers" was discussed. Schools often think parents are not capable or interested and may not respect what critical information parents can contribute about their children. Schools need to help parents become allies and partners by changing the paradigm of what parent concern looks like. There was also discussion of the need to hold parents accountable for student achievement.

The panelists stressed that all the people in the community pay taxes for the schools and that education is a task for the whole community. Adults need to be involved in helping and ensuring good schools whether they have children in school or not.

*Kerby is a retired child psychologist and a former member of CKCPJ's board of directors.*

## 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 GLBTQQIA community for decades. More info, hours Pride Center is open and other links at: [www.glsso.org](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.

**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)

# Mr. Smith Goes to Prison: *What My Year Behind Bars Taught Me About America's Prison Crisis*

St. Martin's Press (Sept. 1, 2015). 288 pages.

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

In your nightmare, you're being shown to your Federal prison cell. You've had the most demeaning day of your life being processed in, told at one point to open your "prison wallet" (and you either already know what that means or you DON'T want me to tell you).

But at the end of this hellish day is one sweet spot: a candy bar on your pillow. How nice! In this place where budgets are strapped and convicts earn only a few dollars a month, someone has gone to the expense of this little touch to console you. You unwrap and savor the day's one tiny bit of sweetness.

Congratulations. Eating the candy bar is the signal you're available for intimate assault. Welcome to your new life.

Jeff Smith was a Missouri state senator and rising political star until he was convicted in 2009 for lying to Federal investigators about a minor indiscretion in his previous unsuccessful campaign. He wound up in the Federal minimum-security prison in Manchester, Ky., for a year and a day, and he scribbled this book on scraps.

There's a titillation in learning prison insider slang and customs without the inconveniences of thin mattresses, bad food, and physical danger. Smith doesn't disappoint here. The book is full of insights and compelling personality sketches. Personally, I can't wait to threaten a co-worker with a "buck-fifty" the next time we cross swords, so he'll have to go look up that I'm proposing a facial slash that takes 150 stitches to close. Sounds so street.

It's also fascinating to have our cherished prison clichés debunked:

- Manchester's inmates wear green, not orange.
- The two most prized prison currencies are stamps and mackerel – the fish is a high-protein source for body builders. Bodybuilding is a frequent obsession of prisoners, and the required protein-rich diet is hard to accomplish with normal prison food.
- Not everybody in prison proclaims their innocence, though many think of their situation as a "case" they caught, like the flu, rather than something they did or were responsible for.

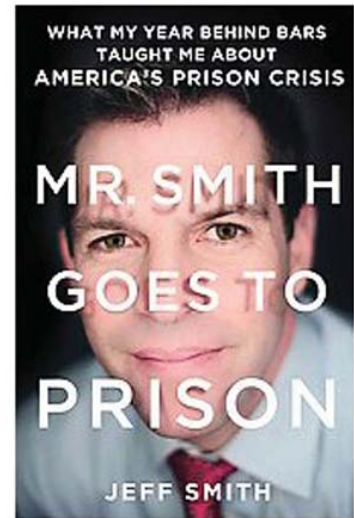
Such shallow treats, however, are not the thrust of this hard-earned account. The takeaway of this work is that prisons as currently administered are a scandalous waste of human potential. This waste is symbolized in Ph.D. Smith's case when they assign him to warehouse work instead of giving him the chance to tutor prisoners. Nobody in the prison administration gives a rip for improving any inmate's chances for a better, non-criminal life.

A computer class is offered, but the instructor appears for the first five minutes of the first session, then disappears forever. Scandalous. This also indicates that any proposed reforms must have buy-in on the lowest administrative level to keep from being anything besides a feel-good charade.

For Kentuckians, the supporting player of most interest is the highly unflattering portrayal of FCI Manchester. It is in Clay County, identified by *The New York Times* last year as the most miserable county in the U.S.\* FCI Manchester is a place where, Smith charges:

- All administrators and corrections officers are white, and many openly racist.
- There's a higher potential for violence at Manchester than most minimum-security facilities. Inmates who have never been to prison and are ignorant of the behavior code, conflict with veteran cons newly relocated to Manchester from higher-security prisons.
- Nearly everyone is there serving time for dealing drugs, serving 5-to-10-year minimum sentences, often plus five years for the gun involved. And, no surprise, the system is rigged against non-whites: Crack (powdered cocaine, black-favored), draws more time than rock cocaine more favored by whites.
- The administration disdains education, and they also make little attempt to prepare long-term prisoners nearing release to the outside. One course is offered – illogically, it's about how to grow hydroponic tomatoes. (The instructor takes home the fruits.)

I hope this book advances a dialog in government halls on how to lessen this



utter waste of human potential. It would seem an enlightened St. Louis politician with Smith's experience (and his Ph.D. in black studies) should run for office again to help bridge the racial divide dramatized by such as the Ferguson mess. But he now knows politics is a dirty game with shallow players, and he wants to spend his time focused on his true friends. Our loss.

Therefore, our nation's other leaders must act on the shortcomings in our prison system – and one of the first steps should be a shakeup at FCI Manchester.

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*Jeff Smith of St. Louis served in the Missouri State Senate from 2007 until 2009, served his one-year sentence, and today is an assistant professor at the New School's Milano School of International Affairs, Management, and Urban Planning. He lives with his wife and their two young children in Hoboken, N.J.*

\* - Clay County was ranked as America's most miserable on six indices (educational attainment, household income, jobless rate, disability rate, life expectancy, and obesity rate). See *The New York Times Magazine*, June 26, 2014. [www.nytimes.com/2014/06/29/magazine/whats-the-matter-with-eastern-kentucky.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2014/06/29/magazine/whats-the-matter-with-eastern-kentucky.html?_r=0)

*Reviewer Jim Trammel doesn't want Smith nearby, considering that Hurricane Irene hit Smith's new home the day after he moved to Jersey. The guy is obviously walking bad luck.*

## Bishop Stowe,

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with American bishops during the course of his visit, Pope Francis praised them for their acceptance of immigrants. “The history of the United States is a history of immigrants,” Bishop Stowe said. “The church’s network of schools, hospitals and universities responded to immigrants.”

The current wave of anti-immigration, based largely on the desire for security, was addressed by Pope Francis when he told the United States Congress, “If we want security, we have to give security. The yardstick we use for others will be used for us.”

Through the teachings of popes, beginning with Pope Pius XII and continuing with Pope John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI and Pope Francis, the Catholic Church establishes that nations have the right to control their borders, but human rights are equally, if not more, important. Pope Benedict XVI also addressed the rights of families to remain intact, which is difficult when one or more members of a family must leave their country in order to support the family.

The church, Bishop Stowe said, advocates comprehensive immigration reform. “We’re not saying there should be no laws, but we need laws that provide a pathway to citizenship, reform employment-based quotas, and reduce the waiting time for families. Currently, there is no legal way to come to this country unless you have no material need to come.”

Countries of origin must address the root causes of migration and create better economic systems in homelands.


Immigration enforcement, Bishop Stowe said, has become a high-tech cat-and-mouse game. “We catch people, they are deported, and then they return, this time with a coyote, someone who smuggles human beings. Two million people have been deported from the United States since 2009. The church says that the best way to enforce immigration is to create fair and reasonable regulation reform.”

Often, Bishop Stowe said, one will hear the comment, “My ancestors came here, but they came legally.” He challenged the group of about 50 at Mary Queen to research records at Ellis Island where they would likely find slipshod documentation or other issues that occurred because of the vast number of immigrants who were



Margaret Gehring

Following his talk and a period of questions, Bishop Stowe talks with John Mitchell (right) and Dago Mosquera.



**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)

## 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

..... processed in a relatively brief time.

The issue of immigration is not as black and white as it is often portrayed, Bishop Stowe said, and encouraged people to access factual information and a common sense approach at [justiceforimmigrants.org](http://justiceforimmigrants.org).

“There’s a need to build political good will toward immigration reform,” he said.

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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for Peace and Justice  
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*Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.*  
~Desmond Tutu

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## Author tours Lexington, educating students about hometown jockey

by Billie Mallory

We walk on history every day without even realizing it, but sometimes history comes alive. That was the case for many people during the week of Oct. 19-24, which was recognized as "Celebrating Isaac Murphy Week" in Lexington, prior

to the Breeders' Cup on Oct. 30-31. As the community celebrated Isaac Burns Murphy, it welcomed Dr. Pellom McDaniels III, author of *The Prince of Jockeys: The Life of Isaac Burns Murphy*, the most renowned jockey of his time.

Born into slavery, Isaac's mother, America, moved to Lexington where he could be formally educated and cultured like other black children in the early black churches and trained as a jockey at an early age. He later married Lucy Carr and built a beautiful estate that overlooked the Kentucky Association Race Track, forerunner of Keeneland. The location is now the Isaac Murphy Memorial Art Garden (IMMAG) in Lexington's East End, at the corner of East Third Street and Nelson Ave. The William Wells Brown Elementary School, Community Center and new housing development now occupy the original footprint of the Kentucky Association Race Track, "sacred ground," where children and residents walk on history every day.

Throughout "Celebrate Isaac Murphy Week," Dr. McDaniels presented Talking Tours of lithographic panels that he created to tell the story of Isaac, Lucy and Lexington's early racing history.

*The week before Lexington hosted the Breeders' Cup, it had a visit from Dr. Pellom McDaniels III, author of The Prince of Jockeys: The Life of Isaac Burns Murphy. Murphy was the most renowned jockey of his time and a native of Lexington*

He visited a number of local after-school programs and shared stories of Murphy's life and career with more than 600 FCPS students.

Dr. McDaniels made several presentations, including the rededication of Isaac Murphy's headstone at the Kentucky Horse Park; placing a memorial marker at Lucy's burial site in the AA Cemetery #2; dedication of his interpretive panels, and a reception at the opening night at the Lyric Theatre of "I Dedicate This Ride," a play written by Frank X Walker and directed by Patrick Mitchell. The play tells the story of Isaac's young life from childhood to early adulthood (Murphy died at age 35).

McDaniels met city and community leaders during his visit, making connections for continued relationships, as a screenplay and feature-length movie is scheduled for production in early 2016. Pellom received Kentucky Colonel recognition from Gov. Steve Brashear, presented by Sen. Reginald Thomas. He was presented the key to the city to assure that he returns to walk on history in the near future.

To learn more about Isaac Murphy, look for *The Prince of Jockeys* at Morris or Wildfig bookstores or order from Amazon.com.

To learn more about Dr. McDaniels, see [www.PellomMcDaniels.com](http://www.PellomMcDaniels.com) or his entry in Wikipedia. The Isaac Murphy exhibit remains at the Lyric until early December. Call (859) 280-2201 for a free tour.

*Billie is a social worker and an activist.*

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Billie Mallory