

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE March 2016

CKCPJ to honor peacemakers

George Ella Lyon, poet laureate of Kentucky and longtime advocate for justice and peace, will be the keynote speaker at the 2016 Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice Annual Dinner. The dinner will be held at 6 p.m. Sun., March 6 at Imani Missionary Baptist Church, 1555 Russell Cave Road, Lexington.

The dinner will be a vegetarian buffet catered by The Curry House Indian Restaurant. Vegan selections will be available. Tickets are available on a sliding scale from \$15 to \$50, according to your ability to pay. Those who can afford it are urged to help us make the dinner affordable for all. Tickets for students and low-income persons are \$10 per person.

Reservations can be made at the CKCPJ

website, peaceandjusticeky.org, or by calling (859) 488-1448. Leave your name, phone number and the number of reservations you want. We will call you back.

The dinner will be preceded at 5 p.m. by CKCPJ's Networking Fair, featuring people and organizations who work for progressive change in Kentucky.

A highlight of the evening will be the presentation of CKCPJ annual awards: The Chuck Sohner Workers' Advocate Award, Peacemaker of the Year Award, the Andres Soto, Jr. Award (formerly known as the Young Peacemaker of the Year), and Lifetime Peacemaker Award.

Help us celebrate the CKCPJ's 33rd anniversary. Join us at the 2016 Annual Dinner.

Marilyn Daniel named Lifetime Peacemaker

Marilyn Daniel has been named the CKCPJ Lifetime Peacemaker.

Marilyn began her professional life with a commitment to education, teaching high-school math in both New Jersey and Kentucky. After 10 years as a teacher she shifted to the practice of law, graduating from the University of Kentucky College of Law in 1976. Following a clerkship for the Chief U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Kentucky, Marilyn served for four years as Assistant U.S. Attorney for that district.

She spent the next 18 years in the corporate world, rising to Senior Vice President and Counsel for Mason and Hanger. Marilyn was also active with the Kentucky Bar Association as Director of Kentucky Bar Association for Women and a member of the Ethics Commission. She has been recognized with numerous service awards by the Bar Association, including for her pro bono work, and in 2009 was inducted into the Kentucky College of Law Hall of

Fame.

Beyond her legal practice, Marilyn was active at the Maxwell Street Presbyterian Church and as director of the West Gardenside Neighborhood Association. Still in the thrall of her interest in and love of education, in 1982 Marilyn joined the Fayette County Community Committee for Education, an affiliate of Kentucky's Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence..

This led to a major leap in her community involvement when she ran for and won a seat on the Fayette County Board of Education where she served from 1985 to 1988. In that critical time when Fayette County schools were emerging from a long period of unchanging administration; wise leadership such as Marilyn provided was essential to finding new direction.

In Marilyn's retirement, however, she truly unleashed her talent and compassion on community. She warmed up working as a reading tutor when she

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Youth award honors Andres Soto, Jr.

In the early hours of December 6, 2015, near Lexington's Oxford Circle, a gunshot, probably intended for another youth, fatally wounded Andres Soto, Jr.

The [Lexington] *Herald Leader* noted the shooting was Lexington's 17th homicide of 2015. They failed to report that Andres was an amazing young man. For much of his youth he lived with his father and brothers. He didn't get a head start in English; they spoke Spanish at home. By middle school he didn't fit easily into his school setting and was on the fringe of gang involvement. Still he retained his curiosity and an excitement about learning. More importantly Andres had a big heart with a generous, compassionate outgoing personality. By the eighth grade Andres was attending The Learning Center, an alternate school for disadvantaged youth with promise. There is something magical about The Learning Center. Staff members share a special commitment to the students and are open to creative options to engage and support them. They generously acknowledged Andres' heart as

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Gun Violence In America as of 2-15-16 (excluding suicide)

	2015	
Killed	13,293	
Wounded	26,826	
2016		
Killed	1,533	
Wounded	2,995	

Source: <http://www.gunviolencearchive.org>

Parting Words

by Peter Berres

We sat in silence, ostensibly watching planes landing at D.C. National Airport. I, a newly-minted army private, wearing an unadorned uniform, pondering an uncertain future. Dad, the seasoned colonel, sans his distinguished uniform, collecting his thoughts and choosing his final words.

As I was summoned to board my plane, we rose, ambled an anxious few steps. Leaning in, the colonel whispered, "Pete, you'll face moments of moral ambiguity this year; when that happens, keep your faith — trust God's law over man's commands." Then, with father-and-son awkwardness, we fumbled into a hug. The first I remembered. One firm handshake and I strode through the gate, to Vietnam, armed with those words.

It was February 1968, a historic turning point in the war, my life, and my relationship with Dad. In truth, ours hadn't been much of a relationship. Shaped by his times and military calling, he was often absent physically, more so emotionally. He himself had returned weeks earlier from a year in Vietnam — his third war and third set of medals for combat-valor. Dad was an unpretentious war hero. I respectfully filed his parting words for reflection during the long flight to Southeast Asia.

Boarding this flight, my mind was on Mom, who, contrary to plan, had not accompanied us to the airport. When it'd been time to leave the house, I jumped into the back seat, and Dad got in to drive.

"Pete, up front."

"Nah...Mom can have it."

"She's not coming, let's go."

"Not coming?! What? I have to say goodbye..."

"No, she's already said goodbye."

"But Dad..."

"Up front, Pete!" Dad's command-voice ended our conversation. I stumbled out baffled, dropped into the front and, dismayed, waved to a closed door. I relished our heartfelt morning of tender-chatter, but mom had designated 'our goodbye' for the airport.

Mom had always been the military wife paragon of strength. As a young woman, she'd seen her fiancé off to D-Day. As army wife, she had solo-parented three and then seven kids, during wars in Korea and Vietnam.

Though bewildered, I stopped questioning. Leaving our neighborhood, we navigated the roundabout at Mount Vernon and straightened due north onto the George Washington Parkway. Dad's grinding jaw signaled a serious lecture or sermon forthcoming. I prepared myself, forehead to window, gazing outward, feigning contemplation.

"Pete... in war, soldiers...can lose their faith...compromise their morals."

So, this would be a sermon. I initiated my normal response: say little and run what I wanted to say in my head. Mesmerized by the rhythmic cadence of expansion joints, I found this sermon bearable, even entertaining. I just had to smile, as Dad tiptoed into his priority topic — my moral salvation: "Pete, war makes women available...(Dad, I'm counting on it!)...sell themselves for survival...(I'm 18, I might die)...mothers...young girls...stay strong."

"Okay, Dad."

"More than morals, Pete, it's dangerous..." (Sex is more dangerous than war?)

"Diseases...ambush...spies."

"Got it, Dad."

(That settled it; I wasn't old enough to vote, but enough to kill...hmm, yeah...sex.)

"Thanks, Dad!"

"We're here, Pete, final thing: listen and observe intently, and... keep your head and butt down!"

Checking the time, I chuckled. My dad: 43 minutes on preserving my virginity and two minutes on saving my life!

During the ensuing 30-hour flight, with 200 other teen-soldiers uncharacteristically silent in thought, my thoughts turned to Dad's words and stories he'd shared recently, now imminently relevant.

Dad was normally reticent about war experiences and often sermonized via morality lessons. Educated at Notre Dame, he'd entered WWII fortified with well-deliberated-ethics guiding his thinking and informing his decisions—particularly on the battlefield. When a soldier takes combat-command, by army tradition that soldier addresses his or her troops. Dad had recently shared with me his "taking-command" speech delivered as squad leader in France, company commander in Korea and battalion commander in Vietnam. "You can commit murder on the battlefield, but, you will not — under my command."

This demarcation became foundational for my ethical evolution and the essential standard for my behavior. I also believed it was America's standard. Within months, I mimicked his ardent speech, persuading others to avert tragically bad decisions, succeeding twice, failing once.

Midway through his Vietnam tour, Dad returned home for his mother's funeral. After observing for days, I inquired, "Dad, why haven't you cried? Your mom has died...I haven't seen tears...or any emotion."

"I'm cried out, Pete. I flew 30 hours from Pleikeu on a cargo plane, a crew up front, myself with 200 body bags in the back...changes your perspective."

Indeed.

From Vietnam, while I suffered basic training, Dad unburdened himself, writing: "I excused myself from General Peers' invitation to a 'Victory Party' tonight. Instead I'm in my tent; writing six letters to parents whose sons died in my command this week. There's no victory in that."

But mostly, I endured that flight thinking about mom. Remembering warmly how she often implored me to befriend the kid without friends, dance with the girl who never got asked, walk away from bullies when I was the victim but to intervene when I wasn't. Appreciating how her boundless empathy had profoundly honed my character gave me peace with our imperfect goodbye.

Contemplating my parent's example bolstered my moral courage immediately. Later, through the "fog of war" in Vietnam, their example guided my interpretations, decisions, and actions.

Deplaning into Saigon's diesel-saturated 106 degrees, I felt prepared physically and emotionally. But, I wasn't prepared for ideological disillusionment or betrayal of my patriotic conviction that America fought only for national security or to protect others' freedoms. Feeling privileged to represent the highest ideals and values a nation could hold, I had never questioned my country. My loyalty was blind, my obedience automatic, and the war's 'justness' presumed.

That didn't last long. Immediately I began witnessing 'realities' I could never have imagined: illegal strategies, inhumane weapons, brutal tactics and widespread gratuitous cruelty toward civilians. I debated with three scared, clueless 'newbies' whether to kill villagers (who we'd learned were 'just gooks') for violating 6 a.m. curfew by three minutes while doing chores. Dad's murder-on-the-battlefield speech prevented an atrocity that morning. By month three, I concluded our war was inhumane, illegal and immoral — contrary to everything I believed. Fortuitously wounded, I was reassigned to complete my tour working in the Intelligence Center. There I became privy to information documenting the destruction of entire villages, pervasive atrocities, and ecological destruction beyond what seemed defensible.

Analyzing combat intelligence reports, my assignment was to censor "anything embarrassing or compromising to the American war effort," such as bombing neighboring countries, or American-committed barbarities. We incinerated hundreds of incriminating reports daily, prior to analysis or recording in the official history of our involvement. I became as disheartened by this destruction of truth as by the brutality with which we conducted our war.

From sobering realities in the field to my eagle's perch as a censor, my quest to comprehend drew sustenance and perspective

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Young Peacemaker Dequorian Coulter

Dequorian Larenz Coulter is a sophomore and an "A" student at Lexington's Bryan Station High School where he excels in science. He is on schedule to graduate from Bryan Station in three years, while taking a number of advanced placement (AP) courses. Dequorian's passion is learning, and he has been the target of a lot of teasing by peers for being such a bookish and serious student. He handles the teasing without retaliation or discouragement and often stands ready when some of the teasers

come to him for help with their studies. He loves science, science-fiction novels and history.

The middle of seven children, Dequorian is the oldest child at home. His father is not in the home, and Dequorian makes an effort to help his mother. Last year Dequorian worked with the free lunch project for summer youth programs; his supervisors described him as a great asset to the project. Staff became aware that Dequorian

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Marilyn Daniel

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encountered the needs of Lexington's growing immigrant community, a story she recounted as "Finding My Vocation" in the September 2015 issue of Bench and Bar, the magazine of the Kentucky Bar Association.

Reflecting her commitment to social justice and the gaps in resources available to many in our society, Marilyn developed a group at the Maxwell St. Presbyterian Church named "Repairers of the Breach."

Working with this group, Marilyn was instrumental in development of the 7th Street Kids Café in Lexington's East End.

She became co-founder and essential leader of the Maxwell Street Legal Clinic. The Clinic has made possible the

provision of vital legal services addressing an amazing range of problems among Central Kentucky's immigrant community from victims of human trafficking, to families disconnected by lethal political oppression, to so many undocumented youth who entered the United States as children and are now able to find new opportunities through the Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals program. Initially oriented to the community's growing Latino Community the clinic has served immigrants and refugees from multiple countries and cultures speaking a broad array of languages.

Marilyn continues to volunteer her legal skills in the clinic, now operated under the auspices of the Kentucky Equal Justice organization.

Youth Peacemaker award honors Andres Soto, *continued from page 1*

much as his brain. Within a week of beginning her class, one teacher remembers Andres partnering with a youth other kids shunned because he was so different. Willing to read books that others didn't consider cool, Andres arranged for the school librarian to wrap them in plain covers when he checked them out. It wasn't until his junior year that Andres signed up for a "real" card at the public library. He was amazed at the collection of books. He chose a book of poetry by Tupac Shakur and insisted his teacher check out *My Bloody Life*, the story of Reymundo Sanchez's participation and exit from a brutal Latino gang.

Andres regularly shared ideas about how teachers might be more effective in reaching youth on the margins of society. The current Learning Center principal said teachers wanted to spend time with Andres because, "you knew you were going to become a better

teacher." He presented at teachers' conferences at Eastern Kentucky University and met with Fayette County School superintendent Dr. Tom Shelton.

A school volunteer recruited Andres to learn techniques of nonviolence to combine with his "street savvy" and share with other youth. Andres aspired to become a social worker and work with youth, but he was unsure if he could handle that much traditional schooling.

He was also pleased with the new financial freedom he found with his father spraying insulation on metal supports in construction projects. His social work dream, however, remained alive.

It is bitterly ironic that Andres was probably shot by a troubled young man like those youth to whom Andres hoped to devote his life's work. Andres leaves a family, a special girlfriend, and many friends in deep mourning. His heart, however, will continue to beat in the many people he touched and inspired.

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.

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 April issue is Mar. 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., Mar. 3

One World Films, Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street, Lexington, 10 a.m., *Poverty, Inc.* Fighting poverty is big business but who profits the most? Free.

Sat., Mar. 5

One World Films, Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street, Lexington, 10 a.m., *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*. The 2011 American documentary directed by David Gelb follows Jiro Ono, an 85-year-old sushi master and his continuing quest to master the art of sushi. Free.

Sun., March 6

CKCPJ Annual Dinner and Networking Fair, Imani Baptist Church, 1555 Georgetown Rd., Lexington. Program will include recognition of the people and groups in Central Kentucky who work for peace and justice.

Tues-Sun., March 8-13

Cherokee Spirituality Seminar/Retreat, Cherokee, N.C. Sponsored by the Catholic Committee of Appalachia and Appalachian Resources Education Resource Center. See ccappal.org

Tues., Mar. 8

PFLAG, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. We will share a 2014 video of Southern Baptist pastor Danny Cortez whose deep reflection and research led him to change his stance regarding same-sex relationships. A compassionate and enlightening presentation for those who are looking to understand or reconcile church teachings. Our presentation and Q & A takes place the first hour, followed by our confidential support group meeting.

Wed., Mar. 9

CKCPJ Social Justice Committee, 7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion topics will include various housing justice matters.

Your Event Here

Send information about your event to peacewayseditor@gmail.com. Send notification about April events by Mar. 10.

Thurs., Mar. 10

One World Films, Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street, Lexington, 7 p.m., *I Am Eleven*. An award-winning film about 11-year-olds from around the world by Genevieve Bailey. Free.

Tues., Mar. 15

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

Wed., Mar. 16

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

Mon., Mar. 21

CKCPJ steering committee meeting, 7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include planning for upcoming committee meetings.

Mon., Apr. 4

Newman Foundation, Athletic Association Auditorium, William T. Young Library, Lexington, 7 p.m. Dr. Gary Agee will share the life of Daniel A. Rudd, a black, Catholic journalist and activist who looked to the Catholic Church as his inspiration for what he termed the "New Civilization." Rudd believed that the Catholic Church would lead the way in creating a community of equality where African Americans would enjoy the same rights and opportunities as whites. His insight might yet be of service to a church struggling to welcome diverse peoples from all walks of life. More information available at www.newmanfnd.org

Tues., Apr. 12

BUILD, Nehemiah Action, Heritage Hall, 7 p.m., 430 Vine Street, Lexington. The goal of the Nehemiah Action is to gather 2,000 people through Lexington to ask people to ask Lexington city leaders to take specific actions to resolve issues of concern in Lexington. If you are interested in attending, leave a message at (859) 608-2946.

Tues., Apr. 12

PFLAG, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington, 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. ABCs from Gender Expansive to Sexual Fluidity. Students from UK Spectrums will broaden our understanding of diversity in sexual orientation and gender identity and expression. Get up-to-date thinking as these issues continue to evolve. More information at www.pflagcentralky.org or call (859) 338-4393.

*Afflict the comfortable,
Comfort the afflicted*

Letter to the Editor

I have traveled to or through over 86 of 120 Kentucky counties in the last few years, delivering free used luggage to foster/adoptive kids.

Everywhere I see something needing to be addressed.

The tossing of cigarette butts on sidewalks, streets and yards, or dumping entire ash trays from cars, is a disgusting action we should address!

I do not want to deprive smokers of their right to smoke. I simply want a return of cigarette butts to stop the litter.

Don't quit smoking if it's your choice, but a deposit added for each cigarette butt will give you a reason to save each one for purchase of your next pack, or for other people to pick up to trade in for cash.

While many can explain the toxic nature of cigarette butts in the materials used, decomposition is also an issue. Depending on the source, breakdown is said to be somewhere between 8 months and 12 years, or more.

Butts end up in our water and food supply, particularly in fish. This is simple. Manufacturers don't care about this trashing of Kentucky, but they should!

Our legislators can act!

Deposits on cigarette butts NOW!

*Don Pratt
Lexington*

KFTC Recognized as Peacemaker of the Year

*Tanya Fogle
to accept award*

by Janet Tucker, CKCPJ Co-Chair

In 2004 KFTC and CKCPJ came together along with others and formed Central Kentucky Voters '04 to register voters and work to pass a local referendum to fund Lextran. The group targeted communities with low registration, low voter turnout, low income and communities of color. The group learned that a large number of people could not vote because of a felony conviction.

They learned for the first time that people convicted of a felony lost voting rights for life in Kentucky unless they got a pardon from the governor. The governor at the time, Ernie Fletcher, had added a cumbersome process: requiring applicants to write essays about why they should get their rights back, provide character references, and pay a fee. Fletcher had never granted even one of the 696 applications he had received.

In August 2004 KFTC convened the first restoration of voting rights coalition, inviting CKCPJ, Central Kentucky Civil Liberties Union, League of Woman Voters, Democracy Resource Center, and others. The next year Jessie Crenshaw introduced HB 70 which would allow the citizens of Kentucky to vote on the issue, necessary because the stipulation is included in the Kentucky Constitution.

Since then, KFTC members and allies have gone to Frankfort annually working for HB70. Each year the bill has passed by a large margin in the House but is stonewalled in the Senate. The past two years KFTC held weekly prayer vigils in the waiting area of the Senate offices. At the last committee meeting (where this bill was finally buried) two men engaged in civil disobedience. They sat on the floor, and were dragged out of the hearing room by security forces.

Before leaving office, Governor Beshear signed an executive action restoring voting rights for many. A month later newly-elected Governor Matt Bevin reversed the order. It was a short-lived victory but a victory nonetheless.

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MONTHLY MEETINGS

CKCPJ Steering Committee Meetings, third Monday, 7 p.m. More info: (859) 488-1448 or peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com. All are welcome!

Interfaith Prayer Vigil for Peace, every Thursday, 5:30-6 p.m. at Triangle Park (corner of Broadway and Main Street) in downtown Lexington. Contact Richard Mitchell, (859) 327-6277.

Migrant Network Coalition, first Monday, noon-1:15 p.m., GLOBAL LEX, 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington. Contact Lindsay Mattingly, lmattingly@lexpublib.org, (859) 231-5514.

PFLAG Central Kentucky, second Tuesday, 6:30-8:30 p.m. LGBTQ individuals of all ages, family members, 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, second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Lexington Public Central Library, 140 E. Main St., Lexington. Contact Craig Cammack, chair, (859) 951-8565 or info@lexfair.org.

Wednesday Night GLSO "Heart to Heart" discussion group, 7 p.m. 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.

Humanist Forum of Central Kentucky, first Thursday, 7 p.m., 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, third Thursday, 7 p.m., 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 p.m. Participation Station, 869 Sparta Court, Lexington. Call (859) 272-7891 or visit www.namilex.org.

Christian-Muslim Dialogue Program, fourth Saturday, 10 a.m. - 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, the program promotes personal and collective responsibility to build a more just and peaceful world.

Dance Jam, every Tuesday, 5:30-7 p.m., 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 Pamla, info@motionmatters.org, (859) 351-3142.

Movies with Spirit, second Friday of every month. Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clay's Mill Road, Lexington. Potluck at 6 p.m., film at 7.

National Action Network, third Thursday each month, 7-8:30 p.m. at the Central Library, Lexington.

To include a regular meeting of your organization in this space, contact Margaret Gabriel, peacewayseditor@gmail.com.

Fears and fun as a young adult; adventure finds Mandy in the hollers

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

George Ella Lyon makes Kentucky proud as the Commonwealth's current poet laureate. She is an expert and experienced communicator and storyteller, active in several different venues — children's and young adult books, plays, poetry, and editing anthologies such as *A Kentucky Christmas*. Note and remember that book — it's a perfect holiday gift for far-away friends to whom you want to communicate Kentucky's specialness.

But she has written novels also, to which she brings a sharply focused eye for nostalgic detail. But she never lets it overwhelm the primary task of telling an engaging story with memorable characters and surprising turns of plot.

Such talent is evident in her first novel, 1988's *Borrowed Children*. She had been writing poetry and short works for five years when this came out (the University of Kentucky edition is a 1999 republication).

The story begins with a sharply focused description of daily family life in Goose Rock, the mining town (perhaps near Lyon's native Hazard) inspired by places smaller and more remotely eastern.

Had the narrative merely drawn this portrait, the story would be engaging enough; but plot twists I won't reveal send our young heroine Mandy into a discovery of new worlds internal as well as external.

This is not just a young-adult book, as that genre has come to be called (derisively by some); the truths Mandy encounters will resonate with a younger reader who realizes, with a start up, that her mother had a life before parenthood. Things might have turned out differently indeed had they not come along.

Mandy's first jolt comes with what could be called apprentice motherhood; her mom falls critically ill after giving birth to a younger brother, and Mandy must give up the

school attendance she treasures to take over running the household and tending the new baby, while her father works elsewhere all week cutting timber and Mom recuperates.

After that, I won't divulge what happens or the details of the twists in the road ahead for Mandy. Young readers who are just figuring out the laundry doesn't fold itself and the dishes don't wash themselves and leap back into the cupboard, will be keenly interested in how she turns out.

If I have one mild criticism, it's that colorful characters stand around waiting for narrative action that we wish would come their way. Mandy's two brothers raise some initial mischief but then step back; an inspiring teacher loses the chance to make much difference for Mandy as the narrative flows away from his direction.

Since we discover the complexity of relationships only as Mandy does and to the limited extent she does (which spares us having to hear some harsh details sometimes, as the grownups shield Mandy from realities that are too raw), we don't learn the heart of some doubtless interesting backstories.

But that was Lyon's choice, of course, showing things through Mandy's eyes and let us share the joys and pains of discovering new truths about life, family, and place.

You know you are in the hands of a good storyteller with a discerning eye for the telling detail, and a knack for plot construction that will keep you turning pages, and that's enough.

As well as a good springboard for discussion with your pre-teen readers, you'll be interested in Mandy's story for what it reminds you about yourself, wherever you are on life's road.

Reviewer Jim Trammel was once young and foolish, and maintains the latter.



Kentucky's Poet Laureate wants to read your poem

During her term as custodian of Kentucky's poetic tradition, George Ella Lyon wants to collect "Where I'm From" poems representing all 120 Kentucky counties. "Where I'm From" doesn't necessarily mean a place; it's where you are as a person, where you find your center — which could be a place, or an event, a relationship, an activity, anything.

Find out more, and read example "Where I'm From" poems, at the Kentucky Arts Council's website, <http://artscouncil.ky.gov/KentuckyArt/WhereFromAbout.htm>.

KFTC honored

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Tayna Fogle has been a leader in KFTC and spokesperson for the campaign. On the day of Gov. Beshear's announcement, she called the statement "the result of a decade of work of organizations and political leaders who came together in unity. It took a lot of labor, education, outreach, fundraising, and grass roots efforts by Kentuckians of the Commonwealth and other groups. This is about making sure that everyone in our communities has a say in the decisions affecting their lives."

We are back in Frankfort this year around HB 70. It passed the House 82-9 and is now in the Senate. We encourage everyone to give support as they can.

Parting Words

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from my upbringing (one completely void of dehumanizing language or national disrespect) and the worldview I inherited. In fact, Dad's historical analysis translated into a respect for North Vietnam's distinguished military history and recognition of Vietnamese 'communists'



Dequorian Coulter

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was spending none of his summer earnings, preferring to save to help cover his fall school and clothing expenses so his mother would not need to cover them.

For a number of years Dequorian has participated in the youth outreach programs directed by Aaron Mosley, a former felon who works to steer youth in the right direction, finding support for his work through Crossroads Christian Church and several other groups. Aaron first encountered Dequorian seven years ago.

Three afternoons a week, under Aaron's supervision, Dequorian joins a cluster of youth very different from himself to assist in RARE, an inner-city outreach effort of Crossroads Christian Church. The ministry offers high school students after-school computer learning and catch-up at Martin Luther King, Jr., Academy. Most program participants have struggled in school with both academic and behavior problems. This is not a crowd that a youth who has been subject to teasing would easily enter, but Dequorian is there to help, and the other students have come to seek and respect his assistance. When he is not helping other students, he simply models what has worked for him — he does his homework.

Each Thursday Dequorian joins three other advanced students in pursuing his special passion, neurology. The students meet with a faculty member at the University of Kentucky medical school who mentors their learning. Dequorian was clear about what he would enjoy for Christmas. He reports that his wish was granted when he got eight books related to neurology — some scientific, some clinical, and two biographies of people who have confronted challenging neurological disorders.

Dequorian is clear about his plans for his future: to complete college and go on to medical school, specializing in neurology. He is also clear about his purpose—to help people facing unusual challenges. In this respect he is off to an early start.

as a worthy and fully human enemy.

Conversely, the operational "American military worldview," corrupted by racism and arrogance set the stage for the indiscriminate and disproportionate physical and human destruction of Vietnam.

So tainted official policies dishonored our principles, undercut our cause, and doomed the war.

Culturally rooted and explicitly sharpened in basic training, racial arrogance played the defining role in formulating a soldier's worldview. Central to this was the linguistic degradation "gook."

As the worldview of government/military planners, the dehumanization of "gooks" perverted system-wide perceptions and created a veritable license for personal misconduct. For "gooks," dehumanization was calamitous — casualties were several million more among civilians than among Vietnamese combatants. It was likewise catastrophic for American veterans. The inevitable cost of dehumanizing your enemy, I came to realize, was a dehumanized self, an impetus toward atrocities and the foundation for post-traumatic stress.

Tragically, racial disrespect triggered underestimation of our enemies' capabilities — especially their willpower. This often left us unprepared and error prone, producing the darkest irony — needlessly lost American lives. After my consciousness-exploding stint

as censor I, fortunately, spent my remaining months working on documents for the Paris Peace Talks. That assignment saved my soul.


Nonetheless, I returned home disillusioned and convinced that patriotism mandates critical scrutiny of America, and citizenship demands speaking truth to power.

But not to Dad; his ethics were individual-based. He would not allow that the war itself equaled "murder on the battlefield" — villages, cities and jungles. Our relationship turned contentious for years: heated arguments, ruined dinners, and periods of estrangement. This became a debate I wouldn't quit, and he couldn't win. I adopted his ethics to discredit the war.

Decades after retiring, and moments after a big Scrabble win, Dad, out of the blue, without lifting his eyes, muttered: "Peter, you were right about Vietnam; I couldn't see it, feeling you were attacking my country, my profession and me personally. I was wrong. It was wrong."

Moved, I confided to no wartime sex, "not to save my soul, Dad, I came to see it as further degradation of Vietnamese women and culture." Looking up, he smiled. Our relationship amended to enjoy years of respectfully-spirited dialogue and regular and easy hugs.

Retired from UK, Peter has taken student groups on study tours of Vietnam and is a member of Veterans for Peace.



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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 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 but we welcome inquiries from potential reviewers.

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

PEACEWAYS



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*“Peace is not only better than war,
but infinitely more arduous.”
George Bernard Shaw*

Jennifer Mossotti receives CKCPJ Chuck Sohner award

Recognizing that nearly two-thirds of minimum wage earners are women and the typical worker earning the minimum wage is not a teenager and is not male but rather is an adult woman, Lexington Urban County Council-member Jennifer Mossotti introduced legislation in Lexington in early 2015 to increase the minimum wage in Lexington to \$10.10 per hour over a period of three years.

She was advised early on not to bring up the issue as it would most likely divide the council and the community and that such legislation had little chance of being passed by the council.

Councilmember Mossotti persevered, however, championing the effort along with Vice Mayor Steve Kay and Councilmember Susan Lamb, in part, as she understood that adult women are the single largest demographic among minimum wage workers, far outnumbering teenagers of both genders and men of all ages. She also understood that raising the minimum wage is especially important for women because women in the workforce are more highly concentrated in low-wage sectors such as personal care and healthcare support occupations. It was her belief that women and minimum wage earners as a whole in Lexington were struggling to pay for basic essentials such as rent, utilities, groceries, transportation, and child care.

Over a period of months, Lexington’s Urban County Council discussed and debated the contentious proposal to raise the minimum wage, and heard

from hundreds of constituents in the community, both passionately for and against the proposal. Jennifer continued to push forward in her unwavering effort to pass the legislation, noting again and again, “It’s the right thing to do.”

After nine months of debate, Lexington’s Urban County Council ultimately passed the minimum wage ordinance in November of 2015 and the minimum wage will now increase in Lexington beginning in July of this year and reach \$10.10 per hour in 2018. A Kentucky Center for Economic Policy (KCEP) analysis of Census data shows that an increase to \$10.10 an hour will now directly lift the wages of an estimated 20 percent of those who work in Lexington/Fayette County (31,300 workers).

As a Lexington-Fayette Urban County Councilmember and community leader, and current Chair of the Council’s Planning and Public Safety Committee, and as a successful commercial real estate agent with one of Lexington’s premier real estate firms for more than 15 years, Jennifer Mossotti has routinely demonstrated strong leadership abilities and has been awarded the prestigious Finis E. Davis Fellow for Dedicated Humanitarian Services award, and the YMCA of Lexington’s “Woman of Achievement” award. In addition, Jennifer Mossotti has a well-earned reputation for being a strong voice for her constituents and has also been awarded the Fayette County Neighborhood Council’s “Neighborhood Hero Award.” She is a tireless public servant and a relentless advocate for good public policy.

Jennifer Mossotti is presently an Executive Board Member for GreenHouse17 (formerly Kentucky Domestic Violence Program), serving 2004-2008 and 2011-present; a member of the Lexington Bluegrass Lions Club, 2002-present; served on the Board of Directors for the Fayette County Neighborhood Council 2004-2008; currently serves as Chair of Lexington’s Urban County Council’s Planning & Public Safety Committee; is currently a member of Lexington’s Urban County Council’s Budget, Finance and Economic Development Committee; served as Council Liaison for the Fayette County Neighborhood Council, 1997-2004; has served as Advisory Member for the Lexington Downtown Development Authority; and served as Chair of the Women’s Sports Foundation, 1997-1999.

At an early age, Jennifer Mossotti was inspired by her own mother to work hard and give back, and her remarkable personal and professional success and life-long record of community service demonstrates that she has indeed followed that invaluable and simple advice, shaping herself into a worthy role model for women and girls everywhere and it has enabled her to make an extraordinary impact on Lexington.

She is married to Ron Mossotti, president of Hammond Communications Group in Lexington, and has three children and three grandchildren. Jennifer enjoys gardening and horseback riding in her free time.