

# Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

## First Potluck introduces issues

by Margaret Gabriel, Editor

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice held its first Potluck Supper at the Quaker Meeting House on Wednesday, June 1. The potluck was intended to assemble CKCPJ members and people who are involved in justice issues to share social time and ideas for action and activities that will make Lexington and Central Kentucky an area devoted to justice.

In addition to CKCPJ members, individuals representing Move to Amend, the One World Film Festival and Moms Demand Action shared fresh produce and fresh ideas.

The featured speaker for the evening was Carolyn Halcomb, who made a presentation designed by Moms Demand

Action, a group whose mission is to educate the public about the need to secure guns kept in homes in an effort to prevent violence, particularly in homes.

Moms Demand Action does not focus on the political aspects of gun safety, preferring to direct its efforts on educating the public about the steps that can be taken to assure that gun accidents can be eliminated. Carolyn told CKCPJ about the points of the Be SMART campaign. SMART is an acronym that stands for Secure guns, Model responsible behavior, Ask questions about unsecured guns, Recognize the risks of teen suicide, and Tell your friends and peers to be smart, as well.

Carolyn had never been involved with actions, political or otherwise, until she heard the news of the shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Conn., on Dec. 14, 2012.

“The children who were shot were the same age as my grandchildren,” Carolyn said. The violence spurred her to join Moms Demand Action and make herself available to make the 20-minute Be SMART presentation to any assembly.

Young people in the United States, Carolyn said, are 11 times more likely to

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*This beautiful afghan was created and donated to CKCPJ by a group of knitters who belong to the Lexington Friends. It will be the winning item at a silent auction that will be part of the CKCPJ September Potluck.*

die from gun violence than kids in other countries, she said. Moms Demand Action developed the Be SMART campaign to halt and reverse that statistic.

The evening included reports from CKCPJ’s standing committees: the Peace Action Council, which is planning the “Safe Summer Lexington” campaign; the Living Wage Family Campaign and its focus on the implementation of the increase of Lexington’s minimum wage; and the Housing Justice Project and the promotion of licensed landlords in Fayette County. For more information about the actions of those committees, see page 3.

Discussion of other issues that might be addressed by CKCPJ included food security and the achievement gap in public schools.

The CKCPJ steering committee will investigate assembling an email list of justice-oriented groups in Lexington and Central Kentucky that could be made available for common dissemination of information in the community.

The next CKCPJ Potluck is planned for early September. See the July issue of *Peaceways* for the date, and please plan to attend. CKCPJ needs your voice!

To schedule a Be SMART presentation, contact CKCPJ or Peaceways.



Jim Trammell

Gun Violence In America as of 6-5-16 (excluding suicide)	
	<b>2015</b>
Killed	13,293
Wounded	26,826
	<b>2016</b>
Killed	5,597
Wounded	11,530

Source: [www.gunviolencearchive.org](http://www.gunviolencearchive.org)

# The Case for Public Housing

by Kenny Stancil

“The market can’t solve the nation’s housing crisis — the gap between costs and incomes is just too large. The challenge is ... to bridge the gap between stagnant wages and the high cost of quality housing,” according to Matthew Gordon Lasner, Associate Professor of Urban Studies and Planning at Hunter College in New York. For decades local, state and federal programs, including tax credits, low-interest loans, land trusts, zoning changes and other land-use regulations have been attempted to lower the cost of housing for rent-burdened individuals and families. Despite all of these service and subsidy offerings, the only large-scale remedy is deep subsidies for construction and/or operation of buildings, known as public housing.

Affordable housing emerged in the late 1800s with the country’s first subsidized apartment complex. The apartments in New York, modeling tenements on a low-profit basis, offered wage earners quality apartments at below-market rate. Known as Home Buildings, they were modeled after the United Kingdom. Some complexes were developed and managed by non-profit organizations, others by investor cooperatives. They were supported

by state and local governments that used property tax abatements and long-term, low-interest construction loans.

After the Great Depression, the country adequately addressed the need for low-income housing through HUD and other federal subsidy programs. These housing projects (as they came to be known) initially served a mixture of families, including white and black, poor and working class. As wage earners became upwardly mobile with massive suburbs created as an alternative, those who could afford to do so left the inner cities. Congress then forced cities to economize on such public-subsidized restrictions further compounded by careless and ruthless management and policies to serve only the most desperate of low-income households. This was a disaster without support for social services and a path to self-sufficiency.

Since a moratorium on public housing development in the early 1970s (Nixon administration), cities and community activists have attempted to creatively fill the gaps by seizing and transforming abandoned housing, adding below-market units with minimal cash subsidies or sweat equity.

In the 1980-90s, new subsidies such as the Low-Income Housing Tax Credits

have been utilized to provide below-market-value housing through community land trusts, housing trust funds, block grants or community development corporations as private affordable-housing providers. However, this non-profit model has been unable to consistently deliver enough affordable and sustainable housing over a long period of time. Many of those development’s subsidies have expired and the complexes been converted to market-rate complexes forcing lower-income families to substandard housing or to homelessness.

Lasner’s main point states: “The largest problem is also the oldest: the system cannot close the cost gap” with the rising cost of construction and maintenance leveraged against stagnant poverty wages. One proposed solution is “inclusionary zoning,” that requires all developments of a certain size to include a comparable share of below-market, subsidized units — but only if this program could provide the volume and depth of subsidies that cities need.

However, this author believes that such “stopgap” measures are still not adequate to alleviate housing inequality. He proposes that deep government subsidies are still needed—building subsidized housing on a smaller scale with community input, accessibility to basic needs, public transportation, and other amenities. Such developments would include mixed-use and mixed-income for sustainability. Private developers could be offered subsidies adjusted to a given market to assure some below-market housing activists and grassroots groups would need to pressure federal and state lawmakers to suspend the moratorium on deep housing subsidies; not dissimilar to middle- and upper-class tax breaks to offset the costs of mortgage interest and property taxes. To realize this vision, Lasner believes that every other wealthy country well understands that “housing subsidies are essential to the well being of any city” and that without quality housing for working and low-income families—we are all impoverished.

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*See Lasner’s article at [www.thenation.com/article/the-case-for-public-housing](http://www.thenation.com/article/the-case-for-public-housing)*

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## If you shop at Kroger, you can support CKCPJ

The number of supporters who have linked their Kroger purchases to CKCPJ almost doubled in the first quarter of 2016 from four to seven. Thanks to everyone who took those few minutes to connect their Kroger Plus card to the Community Rewards program.

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, and please note that CKCPJ

changed its address several months ago to 1588 Leestown Rd. Ste. 130-138, Lexington KY 40511.

We have also been assured by Kroger that the company, including the Community Rewards Program, is committed to its policy of never sharing a customer’s personal information. The privacy policy is key to Kroger’s ability to support local organizations like CKCPJ.

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. The more households that participate, the more financial support the organization will receive from Kroger.

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

**Support CKCPJ by linking your Kroger Plus card to #16439 at [krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)**

# CKCPJ Committee Reports

## Housing Justice Project

Based on recent meetings with key people working on low-income housing issues, the committee decided on the following three-pronged approach, which may be supplemented by an additional effort aimed at "gentrification" or the problems experienced by low-income neighborhoods undergoing rapid economic and demographic changes.

- A full-blown housing court may be desirable, but it is a long way off. The community should start by trying to help bring about a more articulated, effective system of mediation, education and tenant support to make the pre-eviction process less traumatic and minimize the number of eviction cases that actually go to court. Rick Clewett will try to bring together some of the people with whom he has already met and other appropriate people to start this conversation.

- David Christiansen will spearhead the effort to get an ordinance requiring licensing for landlords and their properties.

- The full Housing Justice Project group will concentrate during the next several months on trying to educate itself and others on the various aspects of the growing affordable housing shortfall — its causes, extent, and consequences, with the high eviction rate being one of these. The committee will develop the outlines of a coordinated public education plan that may include op-eds in the [Lexington] *Herald-Leader*; letters to the editor; public meetings; informational sessions at churches, community groups and brief comments at CKCPJ meetings.

## LWFC

At the May 17 meeting of the Lexington Working Families Campaign, final plans were reviewed for the May 23 workshop on Wage Theft. McKenzie Cantrell, a labor law attorney with the Kentucky Equal Justice Center, was the lead presenter, providing background information on what wage theft is and how it can be prevented. Ray Sexton, Executive Director of Lexington's Human Rights Commission, followed with details about their plans to monitor compliance with the newly established minimum wage in Lexington.

The Community Action Council discussed their outreach efforts targeted to employees who suspect their labor rights

have been violated.

Further discussion at the meeting was devoted to long-term efforts initiated by the committee toward enhancing the benefits of work for those struggling with low wages and difficult working environments in Lexington.

## The Peace Action Council

Discussion at the Wed., May 18 meeting of the Peace Action Council focused on ideas for "Safe Summer Lexington," a major campaign intended to promote non-violent activities and mediation for young people in Lexington during the summer of 2016.

During the month of June, the committee will contact as many groups as possible to become involved with the campaign. They hope to involve as many young people as possible from all over the city, emphasizing that the problem of violence affects the entire community and is not centralized on the north side of Lexington.

A subsequent meeting on May 25 included members of the Islamic and Hispanic communities and began to address details for activities.

The committee plans to submit an application for "Safe Summer Lexington" to march as a unit in Lexington's Fourth of July Parade and will encourage as groups to march under their own banners as participants in "Safe Summer Lexington."

As part of the "Safe Summer Lexington" campaign, the committee plans to launch "Save a Friend," an initiative that will give young people an avenue to promote safety to their friends, getting past the "snitch code," and encouraging young people to look out for each other.

The next meeting of the Peace Action Council is Wed., June 15. Discussion will continue to finalize plans for the Fourth of July Parade. Everyone is invited to attend.

*Afflict the  
comfortable;  
give comfort  
to the afflicted*

## The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

*Board of Directors:* Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto, Karen Conley (co-chair), David Christiansen (co-chair), Bilal El-Amin, Mary Ann Ghosal (secretary), Heather Hadi, Randolph Hollingsworth, Rahul Karanth, Steven Lee Katz (treasurer), Richard Mitchell, Bruce Mundy, Steve Pavey, Nadia Rasheed, Rabbi Uri Smith, Teddi Smith-Robillard, 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 July issue is June 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.*

**Wed., June 8**

## **CKCPJ Housing Justice Project,**

7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Committee members will report on their ongoing efforts to gather information and support from members of LFUCG, other elected officials, non-profit groups that work in the housing sector, and other groups that work for and support fair housing.

**Mon., June 13**

## **Safe Summer Lexington,**

6:30 p.m., Bethel Church, 436 Fairman Rd., Lexington. Finalization of plans for the 4th of July Parade participation. All local groups, churches and interested parties are encouraged to attend. For more information contact Kerby Neill, [tkneill@earthlink.net](mailto:tkneill@earthlink.net).

**Tues., June 14**

**PFLAG,** St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington, 6:30-8:30 p.m. "What Parents Need to Know." A community conversation including parent educators, sex educators, social workers and our own PFLAGers and allies. We welcome LGBTQ persons, family members, friends and allies, wherever you are in your journey or family struggle. Presentation, questions and answers in the first hour, followed by our confidential support group meeting. More information at [www.pflag-centralky.org](http://www.pflag-centralky.org) or call (859) 338-4393.

**Wed., June 15**

## **CKCPJ Peace Action Council,**

7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion topics will include "Safe Summer Lexington," non-violence training, possible decorative peace plates, and other peace-related topics.

**Mon., June 20**

## **CKCPJ steering committee meeting,**

7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include planning for the upcoming committee meetings, re-cap of the June 1 Potluck and initial planning for the September Potluck.

**Tues., June 21**

## **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, including the need for enforcement of the upcoming increase and monitoring and reporting wage theft.

**Thurs.-Sun., June 23-26**

## **National Organization for Women,**

National Conference, Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill. The event will begin with NOW's Intrepid Awards on June 23. For more information or to register, see [now.org](http://now.org).

**Sat., June 25**

**Christian Muslim Dialogue,** Locations vary monthly. For more information about the June gathering, call (859) 277-5126

**Sat. June 25**

**Lexington Pride Festival,** Court House Plaza, 120 N. Limestone, Lexington. 11 a.m. The eighth annual family-friendly event will include a parade, vendor booths, food and festive environment.

**Your Event Here**

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

**Fri., July 1**

**Community Action Council,** Summer Soirée, part of the LexEnd Poverty Movement, 7 p.m. - midnight, 21C Museum Hotel, 167 West Main Street, Lexington. Kick off your Fourth of July weekend with a night of dancing to ENCORE of Lexington and D.J. Warren Peace. The night will include live arts, a silent auction, heavy hors d'oeuvres and an open bar until 10 p.m. Reservations at [eventbrite.com/e/a-summer-soiree-part-of-the-lexendpoverty-movement-tickets-24268487700](http://eventbrite.com/e/a-summer-soiree-part-of-the-lexendpoverty-movement-tickets-24268487700)>

**Mon., July 4**

**Safe Summer Lexington,** an initiative of the CKCPJ Peace Action Council. The council is inviting groups from all over Lexington to march as a unit in the Fourth of July Parade. The initiative will give young people an avenue to promote safety to their friends and encourage young people to look out for each other.

**Thurs-Sat., July 7-10**

**Whippoorwill Festival,** sponsored by Kentucky Heartwood, at Lago Linda Hideaways, near Beattyville. The festival will include over 75 earth-friendly workshops that seek to preserve and honor old-time and Appalachian living traditions. The festival is family-friendly and use of alcohol is discouraged. For more information and registration, visit [www.whippoorwillfest.com](http://www.whippoorwillfest.com).

Are you interested in becoming more involved with  
**Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice?**

Find out how that interest can be fulfilled  
by attending a CKCPJ committee meeting in June.

Any and all meetings are open  
to new and returning folks.

If you're not sure about which committee,  
or aren't sure about the time you can commit,  
feel free to come and listen.

Quaker Meeting House,  
649 Price Avenue, Lexington.

# Whippoorwill Festival celebrates time-honored traditions

The Sixth Annual Whippoorwill Festival: Skills for Earth-Friendly Living will take place Thursday-Sunday July 7-10 near the Red River Gorge in eastern Kentucky.

Approximately 500 people are expected to attend the festival, which will feature over 75 earth-friendly workshops that seek to preserve and honor old-time and Appalachian living traditions. This is a family-friendly festival and alcohol use is discouraged.

The new location for the 2016 festival is Lago Linda Hideaways, near Beattyville, Ky., close to the hiking and rock-climbing mecca, Red River Gorge. Lago Linda features a swimming lake, a campground with some indoor spaces, and plenty of room for wooded tent camping. RV sites and lakeside rental cabins are available at an additional cost.

Featured evening music at the Whippoorwill Festival includes the Restless Leg String Band, The Local Honeys, The Coteries, Laura Thurston and mountain ballads with Saro Lynch. Evening fires, crafts, food vendors, breakfast and dinner are provided.

The 2016 festival is headed by a new organizing crew after festival founder Dave Cooper turned ownership of the event to the community in 2015, so there are lots of new ideas for this year, and lots of enthusiastic energy.

*For more information about the 2016 Whippoorwill Festival, visit [www.whippoorwillfest.com](http://www.whippoorwillfest.com).*

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

**CKCPJ Steering Committee Meetings**, third Monday, 7 p.m. 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 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](mailto: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. Visit [info@pflagcentralky.org](http://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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:staci@olliegee.com) or (859) 797-2662.

**Kentuckians for the Commonwealth**, third Thursday, 7 p.m., Episcopal Diocese Mission House at Fourth 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](http://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 Pamela, [info@motionmatters.org](mailto:info@motionmatters.org), (859) 351-3142.

**Movies with Spirit**, second Friday of every month. Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clays 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](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com).

# The Prince of Jockeys

by Pellom McDaniels

Reviewed by Penny Christian

“An elegant specimen of manhood.” Pellom McDaniels has woven an intricate and compelling biography in *The Prince of Jockeys: The Life Of Isaac Burns Murphy*. While horse aficionados may have an appreciation for his story, even they would have to admit there were some gaps in their knowledge. McDaniels makes it very clear that Isaac Burns Murphy is so much more than an African American jockey in Kentucky. To be sure, this book chronicles the life of a boy born into slavery, embracing his journey and dying too young to see his influence on an entire generation.

On the first page of the introduction, McDaniels immediately debunks the notion that Isaac Murphy is—as all people of color were, apparently—merely a gifted athlete. He states, “To most Americans, athleticism is an inherent feature of blackness, directly linked to the mythology of race promoted by the founding fathers in the U.S. Constitution.” Can't get more in your face than that, right?

The body of the book is divided into three sections: *Roots*, *Rise*, and *Revelations*. In the first section, McDaniels briefly chronicles Kentucky's history prior to slavery; here we begin to see how mindsets and paradigm shifts are set in place for what is about to come.

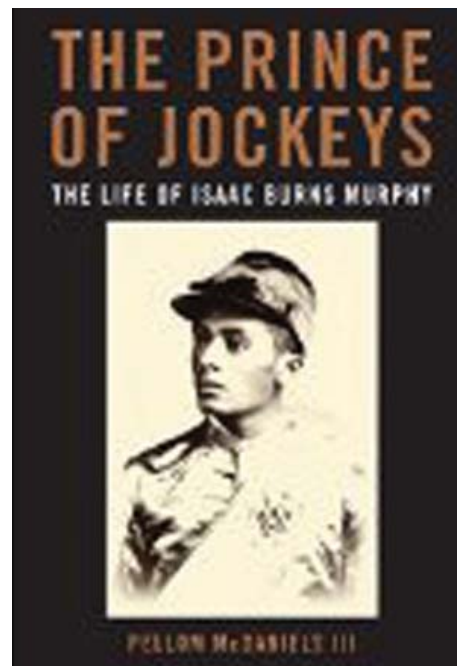
Further, in chapter two, we are introduced to Isaac Murphy, born to his mother

America Murphy, on January 6, 1861. Since enslaved persons were not granted birth certificates, this is an area where McDaniels and his research benefit us. His dogged determination in finding these gaps in time begin to paint as good a picture as it can. Here we also see a good bit of speculation, however. Jerry Skillman, Isaac's father for example, was probably not in his son's life, but we cannot be sure due to a lack of records.

In *Rise* we begin to see the shift from slavery to Jim Crow. Isaac is now a young boy learning to maneuver (survive) this change, and Pellom paints a very successful picture for us. He gives a lot of detail here about how divided Kentuckians were when it came to slavery and its aftermath. In an anecdote from a female slave, we see just how painful it was to take sides: “When my husband was killed my master whipped me severely saying my husband had gone into the army to fight against white folks...and he hoped that the last one of the nigger soldiers would be killed.”

These stories are used to explain the difficulties Isaac and his mother faced on a daily basis. It is also here that we see the emergence of a strong Isaac, who will set an unforgettable path.

Section three, *Revelations*, describes the jockey, activist and mentor that Isaac Murphy becomes. From stable apprentice



in 1874 to his first mount in 1875, McDaniels says “No one could have imagined that the little boy from Lexington would become the greatest representative of horse racing the state—maybe even the country—would ever produce.”

As an African American author, it is obvious how much Isaac Burns Murphy means to Pellom McDaniels. Not because of his success as a jockey, but because of what Murphy meant to a people.

This book is so much more than a homage to Isaac Burns Murphy. Read it for yourself and you will see why.

Penny is a member of CKCPJ's newsletter committee.

trees, poles or other public structures.

Anyone can submit a complaint or service request on-line at [code\\_enforcement@lexingtonky.gov](mailto:code_enforcement@lexingtonky.gov), or contact 425-2255 between the hours of 7 a.m.-5 p.m. The current director is Ken Armstrong.

Building/property, nuisance and sidewalk violations impact the community indirectly by contributing to unattractive or unsafe conditions, higher crime and undesirable activities or creating blighted neighborhoods and reduced property values.

Compliance to a universal standard creates a better and safer community for all.

*This is the first in a series of articles related to affordable housing and what LFUCG and partner agencies are doing to address the issue of affordable housing.*

## What's code?

by Billie Mallory, MSW, East End Community Development Corporation

The Division of Code Enforcement is the city's unit in its Planning, Preservation and Development Division which deals with property owners, ensuring that minimum maintenance and repair standards are met for all existing structures, residential, commercial and outbuildings.

Inspections are largely “complaint driven” by tenants, neighbors, police or concerned parties that result in inspections of the properties that may generate a violation.

Letters are sent to property owners notifying them of the required repairs and time limits for repairs to be made. Properties are reinspected for compliance, and if repairs are not properly completed in

timely manner, the city can charge civil penalties and or prosecute to “abate” the property. If violations are serious and pose a danger to the public, the structure may be demolished at the cost of the owner. An owner may appeal a complaint if he or she does not agree with the violation.

Nuisance violations might include bushes or trees that obstruct sidewalks or right of way, junked vehicles, litter or overgrown grass or weeds. Damaged sidewalks can be cited with similar penalties or even a lien placed against a property.

Another violation that falls under Code Enforcement are signs placed or obstructing the right of way, including temporary signs placed in medians or corners, on

## Call for Artists Latino Arts BLEND 2016

Latino Arts BLEND request submissions of original art (bi-dimensional and tri-dimensional) for the Annual LAB Exhibit 2016 at LexArts' Gallery "Arts Place." The exhibit promotes and showcases the art of Hispanic artists who are from or have a direct connection to countries in Latin America.

The Latino Art BLEND began in 2011, rising from the need of the Hispanic artistic community in Lexington and the surrounding areas to have the opportunity and space to showcase their work and creations. Every year, the Latino Art BLEND (LAB) invites artists of Hispanic origins to participate and promote their cultural and artistic values to the community. The exhibit demonstrates that the Hispanic culture has a very important presence in Lexington and, by means of artistic diversity, shows the quality and capacity of Latin-American people and culture.

This exhibition is open to any artists who were born in or have ties to Hispanic countries. Art must be original pieces and ready to hang or display on pedestals (pedestal provided by BLEND).

- A maximum of four entries per artist are permitted.
- Two dimensional works must be a maximum of 36 inches in any direction.
- Application deadline is July 30, 2016 at 11:59 p.m.
- Drop off of selected pieces will be Aug. 27 from 10 a.m.–noon.
- Exhibit opens September 9.
- Artist presentation cocktail reception will be Sept. 26.
- Artwork pickup will be Oct. 29 from 10 a.m.–noon.
- Artists will be notified of the results of their submission by Aug. 12, after the panel's decision regarding their submission(s).
- All pieces selected for the exhibit will be insured during the exhibit and until the selected day for pickup. Neither LexArts nor BLEND will be responsible for pieces after the designated pickup day.



## Evictions common in Lexington

by Rick Clewett

Reprinted with permission  
from the Lexington Herald-Leader

Several years ago, the Urban County Government created both the Affordable Housing Fund and the Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention.

Under Rick McQuady and Charlie Lanter, respectively, these programs have been doing important work and point in a positive direction for Lexington's future. So, too, does the government's decision last fall to raise the minimum wage in Fayette County over the next three years.

But we face a shortage of affordable rental housing that will only worsen over the next five years unless we take decisive steps to reverse it.

According to the Lexington Public Housing website, 10,560 of Fayette County's 54,225 renter households (almost 20 percent) live at or below the official poverty line. And only 36 percent of those renters receive any form of assistance with rent.

Since Lexington created the Office for Affordable Housing, that program has financed 164 new units as well as the rehab of another 269 existing units. The program hopes to rehabilitate and create an additional 300 to 500 units in the coming year.

However, this doesn't begin to fill the affordable rental housing gap.

According to a 2014 study cited in the *Herald-Leader*, Lexington is losing about 400 affordable rental units each year to higher rents. And since the 2014 report, the number of affordable housing units has continued to decline.

This continuing net loss in the affordable rental units is projected to intensify for at least the next five years, as large complexes that were built with subsidies from federal programs "age out" of the period during which they were required to offer sub-market rental rates.

For historical context, consider another comparison included in the *Herald-Leader*: In 1990 "there were 35, 017 apartments that someone making a minimum wage could afford, about 88 percent of all apartments and rental units. In 2010 minimum wage employees could afford only 17 percent of apartments and rental units."

This shortage of affordable rental housing and rental subsidies carries a tragic

*continued on page 8*

## 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 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 at [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com) before writing a 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

The Central Kentucky Council  
for Peace and Justice  
1588 Leestown Rd Ste 130-138,  
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*“There is a higher court  
than courts of justice,  
and that is the  
court of conscience.  
It supersedes all other courts.”*

– Mahatma Gandhi

human cost. According to data from the Lexington Fair Housing Council, there were nearly 6,000 eviction notices issued last year in Fayette County and the vast majority of these resulted in evictions.

In recent years, about 10 percent of Lexington’s renter households have faced eviction proceedings. That is more renters than are assisted by all forms of housing aid administered by the Lexington Public Housing Authority, whose programs benefit about 4,700 residents of Fayette County.

Also alarming is the fact that only about one percent of those issued eviction notices are represented by any sort of legal counsel, clearly an important reason the vast majority of those cases end in eviction, often with a family’s possessions being thrown out on the curb.

Matthew Desmond’s opinion piece, “The Eviction Economy” in the March 5 *New York Times*, based on his book

*Evicted*, gives a vivid sense of what many people in our community also face.

“Take Lorraine,” Desmond writes, “Even though she lived in a mobile home park with so many code violations that city inspectors called it an ‘environmental biohazard,’ she kept a tidy trailer and used a hand steamer on the curtains. But Lorraine spent more than 70 percent of her income on housing—just as one in four of all renting families who live below the poverty line do. After paying the rent, she was left with \$5 a day. Under conditions like these, evictions have become routine.”

For the sake of our less fortunate neighbors and the future well-being of Lexington as a whole, let’s ramp up our efforts to provide housing all Lexingtonians can afford.

*Rick chairs the CKCPJ’s Housing Justice Project. Evicted will be reviewed in the July issue of Peaceways.*



CKCPJ member Richard Mitchell asks a question about the statistics of gun violence in the Moms Demand Action Be SMART presentation.



Kerby Neill gives the report of CKCPJ’s Peace Action Council at the June Potluck.



Annette Mayer, One World Film Festival, and Joy Arnold, Move to Amend, at the CKCPJ Potluck.