

# Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

September 2016

## *CKCPJ plans Fall Potluck*

*Presentation to kick off Voices 2016*

The successful June Potluck hosted by CKCPJ will be followed by a Fall Potluck on Wed., Sept. 14, at the Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Road in Lexington at 6:30 p.m.

The Fall Potluck is the kick-off for Voices 2016. The theme this year is *Building Community: Resisting Polarization*. The keynote speaker after dinner will be Steve Pavey, who will display his photographs and describe of his pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine.

CKCPJ co-chair and executive director of the Central

### **CKCPJ Fall Potluck**

**Wednesday, Sept. 14**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Quaker Meeting House**

**649 Price Avenue**

**Lexington**

*Bring your favorite dish to share!*

*The Potluck Committee would also like to enable recipe sharing. If you would like to participate, please bring a copy of your recipe.*

*Needless to say, we'll honor the secrecy of family recipes that aren't shared!*

### **Gun Violence In America as of 8-23-16** (excluding suicide)

|         | 2015   |  |
|---------|--------|--|
| Killed  | 13,293 |  |
| Wounded | 26,826 |  |
|         | 2016   |  |
| Killed  | 9,177  |  |
| Wounded | 19,127 |  |

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

and places.

In addition to Steve's presentation, the Potluck evening will include presentations by CKCPJ standing committees: Lexington Working Families Campaign, the Peace Action Council, and the Housing Justice Group.

The event will also include a silent auction of the afghan pictured here. It was created by members of the Lexington Friends and donated to CKCPJ.

No RSVP is necessary for the Fall Potluck, but we're sure that the evening will feature interesting people and excellent food. We hope you'll join us!

**Support CKCPJ by linking  
your Kroger Plus card  
to #16439 at**

**[krogercommunityrewards.com](http://krogercommunityrewards.com)**

**More information on page 2.**



Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative David Christiansen will present "Tale of Two Cities: Lexington's Housing Gap," on Oct. 19 at 7 p.m. at the Quaker Meeting House.

Events in the planning stages include a discussion of new and on-going directions for "Safe Summer Lexington," an initiative of community organizations that worked together during the summer of 2016 to assure safety for Lexington's teens, and Black Lives Matter. More information about other events will be available at the Potluck. Watch your email and the CKCPJ website for information about times, dates

# Grassroots efforts needed to stop Trans-Pacific Partnership

by E. Joy Arnold, reprinted with permission from the [Lexington] Herald-Leader

All due respect to volunteers recruited to work this season, election campaigns are the parties of democracy. The much-longer and hard work of movement-building is what it takes to have a functioning democracy. Hard work, yes, but vital if it is democracy we want, rather than the illusion we live under.

The election of candidates is not a gift to them to do with as they please; it is an assignment to them to do what constituents tell them to do for the common good. In a functioning democracy the voters must assume the role of the strict teacher, with a pointer.

We elect people to represent us. Yet we've learned that most of them represent corporations and people of wealth who contribute millions to their campaigns.

The Trans-Pacific Partnership is the epitome of the corporate oligarchy we actually live in. It is the trade agreement negotiated in secret and drafted by corporate representatives, without involvement by our elected representatives.

Now before Congress, it can receive only an up or down vote — no debate, no amendment, thanks to last year's passage

of the "fast track" process.

Treaty supporters hope to get a vote on the agreement during the lame-duck session of Congress, right after the election, when those not re-elected can leave us with this damaging treaty and not be held accountable.

In order to obtain trade provisions with 11 Pacific Rim counties, our representatives will be voting away our sovereignty in favor of an investor-state dispute resolution process, enhanced even beyond the one in NAFTA.

Under the treaty, in place of a democratic judicial system, a tribunal of attorneys who represent the interests of corporations will decide disputes when laws or regulations interfere with corporations' ability to increase their profits.

Corporations will be able to evade our laws on environmental protection, climate change, worker safety, buy-American preferences, and prescription-drug costs.

Now is the time to do the real work of a democracy. Not only can we ill afford to sit this election out, we cannot let our work stop when the votes are in. If, indeed, we want a revolution—and we

do need one—it must begin with us. The first step must be to insist candidates for federal office oppose a lame-duck session vote on TPP and that the new Congress votes it down.

This history of our country can be told by a study of movements to enlarge the number of people covered by the democracy. Now is the time to advance the movement against the non-person — the corporation.

We must educate ourselves — not to the level of experts, just in the basics. Sadly, we cannot rely on what the administration says about the TPP. One of the most reliable sources is Public Citizen. Second, we must talk about it, get the subject out there. insist that they media tell us more about it, to help others learn.

Use your social media, but don't think any movement can succeed in front of a computer. We have to talk to the voters and make this the issue on Nov. 8. And then we must remind those elected of their assignment until trade agreements are negotiated for the good of their people, not in the interest of increasing corporate profit.

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*Joy is the chair of Central Kentucky Move to Amend.*

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## Kroger Community Rewards

September 1, 2016, marks the new year for people who are enrolled in the Kroger Community Rewards Program. If you re-enrolled in the program before August 31, linking four percent of your Kroger purchases to the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, THANKS!

If you let the day slip past, no worries, you can easily re-enroll (or enroll for the first time) at Kroger.com and look for the link to Community Rewards.

The CKCPJ number is 16439, which you connect to the number on your Kroger Plus card, so grab your card before you register.

This is a quick and easy way to make a financial contribution to CKCPJ. We appreciate your support!

## Housing needs of Lexington's East End

by Margaret Gabriel

In order to educate the public about the housing needs of people of Lexington's 1st District, community organizer and founder of the East End Community Development Corporation Billie Mallory has distributed information about the demographics and other information about Lexington's East End.

The 1st District has the greatest amount of subsidized/public housing and bears an inequitable burden of low-income housing. That housing has a negative impact on economic development, employment opportunities, quality of schools, and stability of local businesses and services.

The median household income in the 1st District (2013 statistics) is \$17,900, which is \$30,000 lower than the rest of Fayette County. Over 11 percent of the residents are unemployed, as compared to six percent in other places in Lexington. The per-

centage of families living in poverty is 22 percent higher.

Lexington's East End is designated as a food desert, meaning that it lacks grocery stores and access to healthy food choices and fresh produce. The availability of junk/fatty foods results in an over consumption of these foods, creating a high obesity rate and high incidence of diabetes, heart disease and other diet-related illnesses

The neighborhood has a low rate of car ownership. It is not walkable because of the perception of being unsafe due to a high crime rate, drug and alcohol abuse and aging infrastructure. It is also characterized by teen pregnancy and the early onset of smoking and drug use.

Residents lack personal computers, and there is little functional public Wi-Fi. There is a lack of adequate park and recreational facilities with full-service, year 'round programming.

*Afflict the comfortable; give comfort to the afflicted*

# Committee Reports

## Housing Justice

The group is making progress gathering information concerning the affordable housing situation here in Lexington and assembling a coalition to promote public discussion of affordable and humane housing issues and advocating for needed policies.

Billie Mallory has presented accumulated data on code violations and abandoned properties in the East End, including various demographic overlays. These make it clear that a large majority of code violations and abandoned properties can be traced to a few landlords who do not live in the East End and may reasonably be called "absentee landlords." David Christiansen is going to discuss ways of dealing with this phenomenon with Ken Armstrong the head of LFUCG's Code Enforcement Department.

Rick Clewett is close to concluding his initial round of discussions with key people both inside city government and in the social justice and affordable housing advocacy sectors. We hope to have a widely-based affordable housing advocacy coalition formed and its agenda established by the end of September or shortly thereafter. The main target, at least early on, will be to at least double the amount the city puts into its Affordable Housing Trust Fund annually. Currently, the sum is \$2 million, but the original proposed ordinance in 2010 called for \$4 million annually, and a study commissioned to vet that proposal found that that amount was needed and could be spent well. Since then, the problem has worsened, as it will continue to do over the next five years. (See [kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article80406787.html](http://kentucky.com/opinion/op-ed/article80406787.html))

We will also be exploring the possibility of advocating for an ordinance that would expand non-discrimination in housing to include source of payment/income. This would be designed to prevent landlords from refusing to rent to tenants whose rent payment was going to include Section 8 or other similar subsidies.

## Safe Summer Lexington

The planning group for Safe Summer Lexington met at Imani Baptist Church on Aug. 3.

The group discussed target populations for its continuing efforts, specifically, youth in the juvenile justice system, young adults leaving incarceration,

middle/high school youth with behavioral problems, and others. Larry Johnson described current initiatives for youth in the court system and difficulties getting those youth to accept available services. There are also new city efforts to develop job training and improve recreation resources for youth, although there are fewer resources for Hispanic youth.

After much discussion, there was a consensus that part-time and summer jobs (the top priority in the 2012 youth survey) were still the greatest local need. The city has increased its summer jobs program to 300 youth. When the city had more summer jobs the program was supported by federal money. Rev. Polk said years ago First Baptist Church shifted funds from a TV ministry to youth employment.

The group decided Safe Summer Lexington would concentrate on increasing part-time and summer employment opportunities for youth and will explore the infrastructure that might be necessary to develop such job opportunities (administration, insurance, etc), and strategies for developing funds and job opportunities across the public, private, and nonprofit sectors, and let Safe Summer Lexington partners know about this focus.

There were questions regarding the proposed nonviolence training. What might be the community goals for young leaders trained in nonviolence? Would they intervene in potentially violent situations, or lead non-violent movements? Some group members wanted to see a possible curriculum. What might we be able to teach locally? How would necessary funds be secured to train a whole team?

Next steps will include participants of the meeting and the focus going forward: obtaining more details regarding the nature of the nonviolence training; looking at City's youth employment program as a model for expanded local youth employment; developing a strategy for moving ahead with a plan for expanded youth employment; asking the organizing committee for the annual MLK event to consider having tables where attendees could learn about and sign up with local organizations working for a more just and peaceful community. The MLK committee is open to that plan and hopes the CKCPJ group will work with them to notify agencies.

## The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

*Board of Directors:* Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto, Karen Conley, 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 October issue is Sept. 10. (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.*

**Fri-Sat., Sept. 9-11**

## **Roots and Heritage Festival,**

The colorful pageantry of the festival, combined with its high-quality offerings of cultural and educational programs, has earned it recognition as one of the Top Twenty Events in the Southeast by the Southeast Tourism Society and one of the top ten festivals in Kentucky. For the schedule of events, see [rootsfestky.com](http://rootsfestky.com).

**Fri-Sat., Sept. 9-11**

## **Catholic Committee of Appalachia,**

Annual Gathering, Aldersgate Camp and Retreat Center near Ravenna, Ky. The gathering will feature a panel discussion of noted economist Glenmary Father John Rausch and Dr. Ron Eller, author of *Uneven Ground: Appalachia Since 1945*. For information about registration see [ccappal.org](http://ccappal.org).

**Tues., Sept. 13**

**PFLAG,** St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Ross Ewing, family law attorney, will discuss LGBT related issues including marriage, custody and adoption. Our presentation and Q & A session takes place during the first hour, followed by our confidential support group meeting. More information at [www.pflagcentralky.org](http://www.pflagcentralky.org) or 859-338-4393.

**Wed., Sept. 14**

**CKCPJ,** Board meeting and potluck supper, 6:30 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. The potluck is the kick-off for Voices 2016 and will feature a presentation by Steve Pavey about his pilgrimage to Israel and Palestine. Participants are encouraged to bring a dish to share. The meeting house has a microwave oven and outlets that can accommodate crock pots, but there is no stove top available. All of the events and presentations that are currently in the planning stages for Voices 2016 will be available at that time. Please submit items you would like to take under discussion to David Christiansen, [davidccky@gmail.com](mailto:davidccky@gmail.com). The public is invited.

**Mon., Sept. 19**

**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 Sept. 14 Potluck, planning for Voices 2016, and proposals for new initiatives.

**Tues., Sept. 20**

**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.

**Wed., Sept. 21**

**CKCPJ Peace Action Council,** 7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion topics will include "Safe Summer Lexington," non-violence training, sale of decorative peace plates, and other peace-related topics.

**Your Event Here**

*Send information about your event to [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com). Send notification about October events by Sept. 10. We do not publish in January.*

**Thurs., Sept. 22**

**Kentuckians for the Commonwealth,** 7 p.m., Episcopal Diocese of Lexington Mission House, 203 East Fourth Street, Lexington.

**Mon., Oct. 17**

**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 Voices 2016, proposals for new initiatives, and initial planning for the annual meeting in March.

**Wed., Oct. 19**

**Voices 2016, Tale of Two Cities: The Housing Gap,** 7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. CKCPJ co-chair and executive director of Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative David Christiansen will present information and insight into the current housing situation in Lexington and Central Kentucky.

**Tues., Nov. 8**

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

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 September.

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.

## Girl Scouts of Kentucky and Voter Awareness

The League of Women Voters is helping the Girl Scouts of Kentucky with their Voter Awareness and Promise to Vote non-partisan service project. In Lexington LWV members have already helped the Wilderness Road Council obtain permission from various stores for the girls to host informational booths at their locations Fri.-Sun., Sept. 23-25 and Sat., Nov. 5.

The September dates will focus on raising voter awareness and the November date is an opportunity to actually ask people to promise to vote on Tues., Nov. 8.

There will be Scout leaders and members of the LWV with the girls at their locations. If you see Scouts or volunteers, please congratulate them for their participation in the democratic process!

**See your ballot at  
[www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org)**

League of Women Voters is encouraging people to see [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org) which allows citizens to login and see races on their ballots, compare candidates' positions side-by-side and print out a "ballot" reminder to take to the polls on Election Day. The Louisville and Lexington Leagues are working to make the project useful for voters in their areas.

The site provides information for all election races Lexington/Fayette County voters will be considering, including President, U.S. Senate, Congressional District 6, Kentucky House, Lexington/Fayette Urban County Council, Soil and Water Conservation District Supervisors, and Fayette County School Board.

Call up [www.VOTE411.org](http://www.VOTE411.org), fill out the boxes with your identifying information, and you will be offered a link to candidate information related to U.S. Senator (Kentucky) and Kentucky Congressional Representative District 6. Information is not yet complete, but mark your calendar to see the completed process after October 3.

The Lexington chapter of LWV is working to encourage younger citizens who get their news and information online. The VOTE411 guide has them in mind with several questions covering issues of importance to younger voters.

### 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).

# One World Films

One World Films needs financial help to cover the expenses for the 2016 film series. “To be honest, the donation jar wasn’t as ‘stuffed’ as we needed,” said Annette Mayer, the One World Films chair.

One World Films is a 501c3 non-profit organization formed in 1998 to establish an annual film festival in Lexington.

One World Films believes film can present issues of culture, society, ethnicity, gender and politics, surrounding them in ways that increase understanding and encourage creative thinking about complex social situations. OWF challenges the increasingly diverse population of Lexington and Central Kentucky on these issues through its festival: a festival with

speakers worth hearing, discussions worth having and — most importantly — current films worth seeing.

Since 1998, the One World Film Festival has shown over 130 films to over 18,000 festival attendees. Films have been shown at a variety of venues including the historic Kentucky Theater, the Lexington Public Library Theater, the University of Kentucky, and Transylvania University. Some screenings are followed with discussions about the issues brought up in the films. Festival highlights have included film participants and directors discussing their work with audiences and panelists who are expert on the issues raised in the films. All festival screenings are free and

open to the public.

All of the bills have been paid for the 2016 festival, with the exception of the rental fees for the use of the Kentucky Theater, \$2,000.

OWF would appreciate any amount you can contribute to retire the cost of these rental fees.

You can donate via PayPal by clicking the link at the bottom of the OWF website, [lexfilm.org](http://lexfilm.org) or send a check to One World Films, c/o Diana Rast, 3512 Winding Dr., Lexington, KY 40517.

OWF is a 501c(3) non-profit organization, so all contributions are tax deductible. If you have any questions, please call Annette at 859-266-6073. She reports that OWF is screening films for 2017 and hopes for continued support.



## Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Appalachia

by Margaret Gabriel, Editor

Father John Rausch conducted a “Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Appalachia” on July 13-14, traveling with four people to an urban farm in Berea, to a mountaintop removal site and to visit a couple who have lived “off the grid” for 35 years.

“The urban farm doesn’t just grow food, it grows community,” John said. “The farm helps people understand that every area can be a food production area.”

On 1.4 acres, the organizers have parceled off areas that individuals can purchase for \$100 to create a raised garden. In addition to the land, purchase includes the wood needed to create the garden and the needed topsoil.

The Berea Urban Farm also includes bee hives, an orchard, and areas where local people can come for training, John said.

John has been friends with Russ and Reeny Powell for years, and he frequently leads pilgrims to their home in Wolfe County. Russ served his guests zwiebelkuchen (German onion pie), prepared on a wood stove. John pronounced it delicious and Russ said, “Thanks. I used your recipe.”

John cooks frequently and with expertise using a gas stove. Russ’ point, he said, was that conventional recipes can be created “off the grid,” meaning without electricity or other utilities that many of us take for granted.

The next day, the group visited a

mountaintop removal site and Robinson Forest, which features stands of old timber as well as new trees that have been planted.

Each day of the pilgrimage concluded with a theological reflection, giving participants the opportunity to share insights about the day and “the way we’re living our lives,” John said. The conversations

in the van as the group traveled and the evening reflections are the reasons people participate in pilgrimages. “People are able to talk about things they’ve seen in person, not just read about,” John said.

For more information about an upcoming “Pilgrimage to the Holy Land of Appalachia,” contact John at [jrausch@glenmary.org](mailto:jrausch@glenmary.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 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.



# Shame on Alabama!

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

*Just Mercy* By Bryan Stevenson. 2014. Spiegel and Grau, publishers. 316 pages.

The headline is my takeaway from *Just Mercy*, but the newsletter hasn't space to write it large enough. Walter McMillian's case would have made those "Making a Murderer" cable shows. Might still.

And to think it happened in Mon-roeville, Alabama, hometown of Harper Lee, author of — well, you know what she wrote, and what happened in it. And here, as the Mockingbird Community Players proudly present their annual pageant honoring Lee's fictional events that put the town on the map—it happened for real.

Like Lee's Tom Robinson, Walter was known as a gentle guy. A local business owner, he had a measure of respect not accorded others. But he struck up a relationship with a white woman, which was remembered when the law, pressured to solve another woman's murder, believed an unhinged jailbird's lies about Walter.

Enter author Stevenson, a confused and rudderless law school graduate who dreamt of a legal social justice corporation funded by donations and grants. He takes over McMillian's case, impressed by the defendant's sincere pleas of innocence.

There's a Kentucky connection to Stevenson's early career: He was mentored by Stephen B. Bright, farm kid from Danville, leading light for decades fighting for life in the Death Belt. Here he is the early shelter-giver for newbie attorney Stevenson, who takes a miserably-paying, incredibly-challenging task as traveling defender of those on Southern Death Rows, a job that didn't even pay enough to rent an apartment.

You've read the dismal stories before, dreading the endings as you devour the details. Racist deputies, willfully blind judges and jailers, lying witnesses, and winked-at circumventions of legal safeguards — they're all here.



"Yellow Mama"

The stink of corrupt Southern justice is pungent; legal efforts flawlessly played by Stevenson and his

assistants see every motion denied, every maneuver foiled, every hope dashed, until it looks inescapably as if "Yellow Mama," Alabama's electric chair, will seat yet another. (Alabama executes by injection now, but what's the difference.)

People want many things, but hope is the only thing we truly need, said Yaclev Havel, playwright and former Czech president. Stevenson infuses McMillian's story with enough hope to keep us reading through the setbacks, wanting to push on despite the discouragement.

This, and other Death Row cliffhangers from Stevenson's lengthy career with the Equal Justice Initiative, proves what he told the Alabama Court of Appeals: "We have serious problems and important work that must be done in this state."

In all states there's work to be done, Kentucky prominent among them — but the nationally-coveted Silver Shackles of Insensitivity are awarded by this judge to Alabama (pending Texas's protest to the Rules Committee).

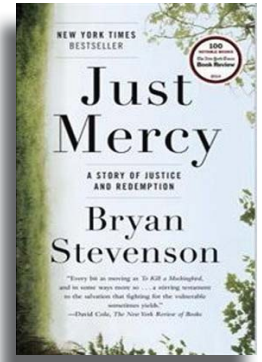
Alabama is one of the few states in which a judge can inflate a jury's life sentence into a death penalty on his own. This happened to McMillian.

Florida had those rules too, until the U.S. Supreme Court specifically banned Florida's judicial override system in January. Did the ruling apply to Alabama

too? In Alabama, prisoner Vernon Madison's execution had been set for spring by another rogue judge, using Alabama's version of the Florida rules. Despite the constitutional questions,

Alabama almost went ahead with killing Madison anyway. If Antonin Scalia had been able to stay around to break the Supreme Court deadlock that allowed Madison's stay of execution to stand, he wouldn't have seen the summer. (Another guy Scalia condemned, in his last judicial action before going on permanent recess, wasn't so lucky. I hope those two had a fun conversation in the hereafter.)

Lots of work to do, for sure, Alabama. You can start by ending judicial override. Then do something about your state's Supreme embarrassment, Roy Moore.



Reviewer Jim Trammel got really panicked and called for his Ambassador during his last trip to Traffic Court.

## ..... *Standing Up for Racial Justice*

SURJ, Standing Up for Racial Justice is a national network of groups and individuals organizing white people for racial justice. Through community organizing, mobilizing, and education, SURJ moves white people to act as part of a multi-racial majority for justice with passion and accountability. The SURJ website says, "We work to connect people across the country while supporting and collaborating with local and national racial justice organizing efforts. SURJ provides a space to build relationships, skills and political analysis to act for change."

People of Central Kentucky who also belong to such organizations as CKCPJ, Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Black Lives Matter and Lexington-Fayette Urban

County Government have established a local chapter, call CKY SURJ.

CKY SURJ has been given the opportunity to host a monthly radio show that will give its audience more information about the group, events in the planning stages and ways people can get involved. The program is intended to spotlight organizations of color in the central Kentucky community.

The pre-recorded program on Lexington community radio, WLXL 95.7 will be on the air on the fourth Tuesday of the month, with the time to be determined.

If you are interested in more information about CKY SURJ and would like to attend a meeting, please email [ckysurj@gmail.com](mailto:ckysurj@gmail.com)

# PEACEWAYS



The Central Kentucky Council  
for Peace and Justice  
1588 Leestown Rd Ste 130-138,  
Lexington KY 40511

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*“It isn’t enough to talk about peace.  
One must believe in it. And it isn’t enough  
to believe in it. One must work at it.”*

*~ Eleanor Roosevelt*

## The “Peace is Possible” License Plate Project

It’s been five years since the peace plate project was launched. After going through the somewhat tedious process of getting it approved by the Kentucky Department of Transportation, we had four years in which to get 900 reservations for the plate. Once the 900 goal was realized, the peace plate would have gone into production and have been available throughout the state.

Unfortunately, 900 reservations did not materialize and the peace plate will not become a reality. For the several hundred of you who did reserve a plate, we are offering three choices for the use of your \$25/plate investment:

1. A front plate (see the photo). This aluminum front plate is made locally, the colors have been approved by the artist, and it is very durable (three plates have been installed for several months now, to check the plate’s durability). If the price/plate is less than \$25, the rest will be donated to CKCPJ.
2. Donation to Lexington United. The organization’s mission is “To enthusiastically equip community members with the skills needed to navigate conflict in a positive manner and create spaces where differences can be transcended and relationships strengthened. Engage our services to develop skills for dealing with interpersonal disagree-

ments in ways that reduce conflict and bias while celebrating diversity and expression.”

3. Refund of your money. If you reserved a peace plate, please email your choice to Rebecca Glasscock ([rebecca.glasscock@kctcs.edu](mailto:rebecca.glasscock@kctcs.edu)) by Sept. 30. If your choice is either #1 or #3, please include your mailing address in the body of the email.

If you did not reserve a license plate but would like to have a front plate, please email Rebecca Glasscock and give her your mailing address. Then send your check or money order for \$25 to CKCPJ, 1588 Leestown Rd., Ste 130-138, Lexington, KY 40511.

