

# Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE October 2016

## Voices 2016 kicks off with *Becoming Human*

by Margaret Gabriel

Voices 2016 kicked off on September 14 with a presentation by Steve Pavey entitled *Becoming Human: Accompanying the Struggle for Peace and Justice—From the U.S. to Palestine and Israel*. Steve created a circle of chairs for participants and placed a circle of photographs on the floor and invited people to not just look at the pictures, but to see the motivation behind the images. He described the measured walk he took in Israel and Palestine.

Steve told his audience that he sees himself as a contemplative. "I thought I knew about God, divinity and anthropology, but it took walking on the margins. The margins can lead us to truth." He gave example after example of people who worked in and with the margins, and moved the assembled group toward conversation about the things he learned during his trip.

During the six weeks he traveled, Steve heard painful stories of children and suffering, but at the same time, in every place he visited he saw children

playing. He felt honored, he said, to enter into the lives of those who are suffering. "I was always welcoming with hospitality. A lot of great love led me to my true self. They teach me how to love."

Steve encouraged his audience to ask themselves what they're seeing in the world. "Who are you walking with?" he asked.

He closed with a poem by Wendell Berry, "How to Be a Poet," saying that the poem helped him remind himself how to be a better writer and photographer.

Voices 2016 will continue on Oct. 26, CKCPJ co-chair David Christiansen



Steve Pavey

will describe the efforts of the Central Kentucky Housing and Homeless Initiative and the obstacles facing low-wage workers as they try to find housing they can afford.

On Oct.

### Gun Violence In America as of 9-23-16 (excluding suicide)

	2015	
Killed	13,293	
Wounded	26,826	
	2016	
Killed	10,055	
Wounded	21,960	

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



20, Janet Futrell will bring examples of teens creatively finding peaceful solutions to conflict.

On Nov. 2, Kerby Neill will tell about the interfaith efforts of Safe Summer Lexington and the ongoing discussion of its steering committee to reduce youth violence through employment, training and education.

For more information about upcoming events, see the CKCPJ Calendar on page 4.

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# A transition gone wrong

*An opinion perspective by Jordan Mazurek*

Gynnya McMillen — a child, a young black girl just 16 years old — died on January 11, 2016, alone, locked in a cell.

Like so many children growing up in families trying to survive systematic poverty and racism, Gynnya had a difficult and unsteady home life. She lived with her father and various family members before his unexpected death in 2014.

Starting in July 2015 Gynnya lived full-time at Maryhurst, a foster home in Louisville. Her relationship with her mother was rocky and fragile, but the two were undergoing counseling with the Maryhurst staff, and Gynnya was expected to move back in with her mother soon.

In preparation for the transition back home, Gynnya made a series of weekend visits to her mother 30 miles away in Shelbyville. The weekend of January 9 was one such visit, but during a late-night dispute Gynnya's mother called 911. After an officer arrived, both Gynnya and her mother declined to speak to him, at which point he decided to arrest Gynnya.

Instead of taking her the 30 miles back to Maryhurst, the officer needlessly drove 70 miles to the Lincoln Village Juvenile Detention Center in Elizabethtown. After after an extremely stressful night, in a strange environment, all alone, intake officers at Lincoln Village demanded Gynnya remove the one layer of comfort she might have had — her hoodie. When she refused, a martial arts restraint was used to pin her to the ground by four or five officers.

The Department of Juvenile Justice claims that all direct video of this incident “doesn't exist” due to a “faulty camera.”

After this, Gynnya was processed into Lincoln Village for the day. She went to bed that night and never woke up. The protocols at Lincoln Village designed allegedly to “protect” her systematically and catastrophically failed.

When the “trained” staff of Lincoln Village Juvenile Detention Center finally noticed that Gynnya wasn't breathing, it took them over 11 minutes event to attempt CPR. According to the Department of Juvenile Justice Policy Manual, all youth workers in juvenile detention center should be trained to respond within four minutes.

Permanent brain damage begins after

four minutes. Within 10 minutes they'll likely be dead. Yet staff waited 11 full minutes.

In the weeks and months following Gynnya's death, it was revealed that the ineptitude and negligence displayed by the staff at Lincoln Village was not a fluke but the norm. No less than six employees of Lincoln Village are currently under investigation, with two of them already indicted for misconduct and protocol violations in just the 28 hours that Gynnya was at Lincoln Village.

According to Justice and Public Safety Cabinet Secretary John Tilley, this misconduct includes failure to perform the required 15-minute bed-checks, falsification of documents, and “unprofessional behavior” (mainly referring to a staff member eating Gynnya's sandwich after she failed to respond).

That's what happens when you ask the powers-that-be to investigate their own wrongdoing. They focus on the micro-particulars, the individual actions and actors within a set situation, and ignore the youth's perspective and the actual victims.

Tamika Dozier is helping spearhead the Justice for Gynnya Campaign. Tamika was locked up at Lincoln Village for months at a time, when she was in her teens. Her experience was not the relatively rosy picture of “failed bed checks” and “falsified documents.”

Tamika's time at Lincoln Village involved weekly 23-hour lockdowns in which she was allowed outside her six-foot by eight-foot cell one hour a day. There was no talking to other youth prisoners during that hour. Twenty-three hour lockdown is a tactic pervasive in America's criminal justice system, despite the fact that the United Nations has classified it as a form of illegal psychological torture.

Even when they were not under lockdown the youth were forced to endure an authoritar-

ian, militaristic, and monotonous culture among the staff. As Tamika describes it, “You had to ask to do everything, you had to ask to scratch, you had to ask to sneeze, you had to ask to do everything. You had to raise your hand if you wanted to move at all. And when you were outside your cell you sat in a chair next to your cell. And you read and you sat there.”

It does not take an expert in child development to realize this type of constant arbitrary authoritarianism and an environment deprived of social contact is not a good place for youth.

The male staff at the facility routinely sexualized the bodies of the young women, displaying “unprofessional behavior” that I haven't seen the DJJ talk about anywhere. This included naked cavity searches by male staff on teenage girls, which Tamika endured. This included male staff bantering with local law enforcement entirely about the shape of Tamika's body. This included rumors of rape by staff members that ran throughout the facility.

When I asked Tamika how often sexualized comments and acts were made by staff she responded, “Every day. Every day ... every day. It was whether they were purposely asking you to do [things]. So that you have to bend over or bend down, or [the male staff would] come into your shower. Just anything. And they could, right? Because they've got the power and they could say whatever, and they could have you do whatever.

“They still use words like ‘colored’. That gives you an idea. And that was the worst thing. I hated that. They were like ‘Oh, you're such a pretty colored girl.’”

But the DJJ doesn't want to investigate those things. They want us to believe the “few bad apples” narrative, instead



*About 50 people memorialized Gynnya at a vigil in February 2016.*

of having us realize that the whole damn system is guilty as hell.

The DJJ doesn't question the macro-level injustice that is funneling young black men and women into incarceration. They don't question if the DJJ is fundamentally unjust.

Let us not mince words. Youth incarceration is brutality at the hands of the state. It robs children of the types of supportive, loving, and interactive environments they need and instead subjects them to authoritarian monotony and psychologically torturous conditions.

Youth incarceration is one more weapon with which white supremacy is enforced. According to a 2015 report by the Kentucky Bar Association, black youth are 2.5 times as likely as their white and Latino peers to be charged with a public offense, and are four times as likely to spend time in a secure juvenile detention facility.

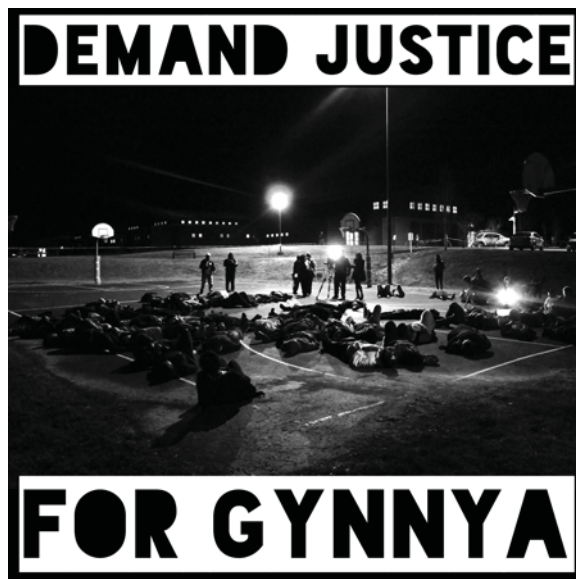
Women, including teens, are the fastest growing incarcerated population in the country. Kentucky incarcerates women at a higher rate than 46 other states, making Kentucky the third highest incarcerator of women in the country.

Incarceration is not justice. It is a form of colonized oppression that traces its lineage straight back to slavery. It is a weapon specifically designed to deal with black and brown people the only way the U.S. has ever known how; by robbing them of their agency, of their autonomy, of their community, and of their lives.

What, then, does true justice for Gynnya look like? What does justice for all incarcerated young black girls, boys, and kids more broadly look like?

In my opinion, it is a grassroots effort to end not only the conditions laid out here, but to end youth incarceration itself. It is creation of a state in which, instead of locking up youth, we provide them with the types of loving and supportive environments that ensures they grow into healthy, happy, strong adults.

Meanwhile, the DJJ claims that Gynnya died of an undiagnosed heart condition, thus absolving them of much responsibility. They don't even entertain the possibility that the stress she endured as a result of being needlessly locked up at Lincoln Vil-



lage and her restraint by four or five large guards could have aggravated that heart condition.

Releasing information in a piecemeal fashion for months now, the DJJ hopes to minimize the damage to its reputation; minimize the number of people paying attention; minimize efforts to organize against their injustices.

But organizers from Elizabethtown, Louisville, Lexington and across Kentucky aren't going to let that happen. We are going to keep fighting, and we want you to join us.

To these ends, as a start, we are calling for Lincoln Village to be shut down. We dropped 193,700 signatures on Governor Matt Bevin's desk on May 19, demanding this. But there's so much more to do.

If you want to help in the campaign to achieve Justice for Gynnya and all incarcerated youth, please reach out to me at [j.e.mazurek12@gmail.com](mailto:j.e.mazurek12@gmail.com)

We need people willing to help with organizing, legislative and policy work, research and interviewing, fundraising and direct actions.

Together I believe we will win.

*Jordan spent the last two years as an activist and organizer based out of Lexington. He is currently overseas pursuing a joint doctorate in Cultural and Global Criminology at the University of Kent and University of Hamburg.*

## 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), 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 November issue is Oct. 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.*

**Tues., Oct. 11**

**PFLAG**, St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington, 6:30-8:30 p.m. J'Lissabeth Faughan, transgender social justice educator, discusses the varieties of transgender identities, the challenges for families, and how to create safe and affirming environments in our homes and in society. The presentation and Q & A session takes place during the first hour, followed by our confidential support group meeting. More information at [www.pflagcentralky.or](http://www.pflagcentralky.or) or (859) 338-4393.

**Wed., Oct. 12**

**CKCPJ Housing Justice Group**, 7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include the proposal to Mayor Jim Gray and an ordinance which would make it illegal for landlords to discriminate against sources of rent money, and other housing justice issues.

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

**Tues., Oct. 18**

**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 July increase in the minimum wage and monitoring and reporting wage theft.

**Wed., Oct. 19**

**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.

**Thurs., Oct. 20**

**South East Medical Interpreters Association**, Downtown Arts Center, 141 E. Main St., 6-8 p.m. Tenth Anniversary celebration. This event will include an open bar and heavy hors d'oeuvres. For tickets or more information visit [www.semia.org](http://www.semia.org) or contact Floyd Obermeier, SEMIA AmeriCorps VISTA at [floydvista@gmail.com](mailto:floydvista@gmail.com).

**Thurs., Oct. 20**

**Voices 2016**, Teens Inventing Peaceful Solutions (TIPS) 7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Janet Futrell will present examples of teens from diverse backgrounds creatively finding peaceful solutions to conflict.

**Wed., Oct. 26**

**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.

**Your Event Here**

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

**Wed., Nov. 2**

**Voices 2016**, Youth Needs, Safe Summers, Reducing Local Violence, 7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Kerby Neill will discuss this summer's interfaith effort to reduce youth violence via summer jobs and training in non-violent methods to produce social change.

**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.

**Thurs.-Sun., Nov. 10-13**

**All the Way**, 7 p.m. Downtown Arts Center, 141 E. Main St., Lexington. Tony Award-winning play that chronicles the efforts of President Lyndon Johnson to pass Civil Rights legislation. Produced by Bluegrass Community and Technical College.

*Afflict the comfortable;  
give comfort  
to the afflicted*

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 October.

Any and all meetings are open  
to all. 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.

## League of Women Voters

Lexington

### Fall 2016

#### Candidate Forum Schedule

Lexington Public Library  
140 East Main Street

#### Saturday, October 1

**10:15 - 10:45 Council District 4**

Susan Lamb  
Barry Saturday

**11:00 - 11:30 Council District 12**

Russ Hensley  
Kathy Plomin

**1:00 - 1:30 House District 75**

Kelly M. Flood  
Gary McCollum

**1:45 - 2:15 House District 56**

Daniel A. Fister  
James Kay

**2:30 - 3:00 House District 79**

Ken Kearns  
Susan Westrom

**3:15 - 3:45 House District 45**

Stan Lee  
Pam Sigler

#### Sunday, October 2

**1:30 - 2:00**

**Kentucky Supreme Court**

Glenn Acree  
Larry VanMeter

**2:15 - 2:45**

**School Board District 1**

Melissa Bacon  
Samantha Rodarte

**3:00 - 3:30**

**School Board District 5**

Daryl K. Love  
Sharon Mofield-Boswell

Forums sponsored by League of Women Voters Education Fund and the Frankfort/Lexington (Ky.) Chapter of The Links, Incorporated.

All candidates have been invited. Forums for races will be canceled if only one candidate is available. Check [lwvlexington.org](http://lwvlexington.org) for final schedule.

### 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, [lmatingly@lexpublib.org](mailto:lmatingly@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., Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave., Lexington. GLSO operates Kentucky's only Pride Center, where they have quietly provided services to the GLBTQQIA community for decades. More info, Pride Center hours. and other links at [www.glsso.org](http://www.glsso.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).

# COMMITTEE REPORTS

## Housing Justice Project, Rick Clewett, Chair

The committee is in the process of assessing the viability of an ordinance making it illegal for landlords to discriminate against sources of rent. This would be intended to prevent landlords from turning away otherwise acceptable tenants because some of their rent payments would come from Section 8 vouchers or other government subsidies.

We are also beginning to collect signatures from organizations and individuals supporting the proposal we will present to Mayor Gray in November to (1) double the amount to \$4 million the LFUCG annual allocation to the city's affordable housing program; and (2) commission a study of the direct and indirect costs to LFUCG and the community more generally of not filling our increasingly large affordable housing gap.

If you would like to add your name to the list of those supporting this proposal, please email Rick Clewett at [clewetrick@gmail.com](mailto:clewetrick@gmail.com).

The letter reads:

Dear Mayor Gray and members of the Lexington/Fayette County Council;

1) Whereas, according to the CZB study commissioned by the city in 2014, our basic affordable housing shortage was about 6,000 units at that date while the study projected that Lexington would lose around 400 more units of affordable housing annually in the near future;

2) And whereas the Office of Affordable Housing, established by the city in 2014, is currently facilitating the building or rehabilitation of 400-500 affordable units a year;

3) And whereas that number of new or rehabbed affordable housing units brought on line annually only roughly equals the number lost annually and still leaves the city at least 6,000 affordable housing units short;

4) And whereas, according to an August 29 *Herald-Leader* article, the population of Lexington is expected to grow by more than 81,000 over the next 20 years, or 26 percent, a population increase that will put additional pressure on area housing prices and

affordable housing availability;

5) And whereas a number of large affordable rental complexes are scheduled to "age out" of their HUD subsidy restrictions and an appreciable percentage of these will be turned into market rate units and, thus, lost as affordable housing;

Therefore, the undersigned organizations and individuals strongly urge that you do two things:

We request doubling the amount of funding allocated to the city's Office of Affordable Housing to \$4 million annually.

This is the amount proposed for this fund in the original 2010 proposal and it is a sum validated by an inde-

pendent study commissioned by the city at that time.

As the 2014 CZB study made clear, increasing the allocation for the Office of Affordable Housing by \$2 million annually will not close the city's affordable housing gap; that would require a much larger commitment. However, it is a valuable step in that direction and a useful means of highlighting the continuing need for affordable housing creation.

Adopting these measures will continue the progress the city has made by establishing the Office of Affordable Housing and the Office of Homelessness Prevention and Intervention and by incrementally raising the minimum wage.

## Safe Summer Lexington, Kerby Neill, Chair

Since July, the steering group of Safe Summer Lexington has wrestled with the question of how we might best make our community safer going forward. We have reviewed a range of target populations where intervention might help reduce violence, including youth involved with the Juvenile Court, young unemployed adults, youth with behavioral problems in the schools, and more.

With the help of Larry Johnson, Violence prevention specialist from Lexington's Department of Social Services, we reviewed current and planned responses to the needs of various groups, giving priority to increasing summer and part-time jobs for youth. This was the number one priority of Lexington youth in a 2012 survey and, in spite of an increase in city funding, still a critical need.

We also met with Mattie Morton, director of Lexington's Youth Employment program (YEP). She provided details on the current and planned organization of the YEP. In a separate meeting, Social Services Commissioner Chris Ford expressed his hope to improve and significantly enlarge the program. He was excited about the synergy that could develop between Safe Summer Lexington and the city's efforts. The committee considered

steps we might take as a community partner. We could recruit businesses to provide youth employment; raise funds for youth salaries; provide space for youth job training; provide paid job opportunities; assist in training youth; recruit youth; help with day-care for teen mothers; mentor youth in their first work experience; help with transportation; and help with the application process.

In looking for community members who will help in these efforts we will want to reach out to persons touched by violence, and continue our work to provide local non-violence training.

It was suggested that we change our name to better reflect our mission. Suggestions included: Safer Lexington; Lexington Safer Initiative; Lexington Thriving; LexThrive; Lex Be Safe.

The steering group also discussed how we might organize to best pursue our mission. A proposed next step was to invite those who participated in our previous meetings and the parade (as well as other key persons) to a lunch meeting. We might update community members on our efforts and Commissioner Ford might outline his hopes for improved YEP.



# The Loneliness of the Black Republican: *Pragmatic Politics and the Pursuit of Power*

By Leah Wright Rigueur

2015: Princeton University Press. 310 Pages.

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

Comedian Margaret Cho's old-world Korean mother asked Cho about her homosexual friend, "Is he the gay?" Cho replied, "I don't know if he is THE gay ... poor guy, has to carry the banner in the parade all by himself."

I thought of that when author Leah Wright Rigueur was interviewed on NPR about her book about the struggle of her race for political power through the Republican establishment.

What little progress has been made since 1964 in bringing blacks into the big Republican tent. Isn't Donald Trump polling an immovable two percent among black voters, if that? The 2012 GOP autopsy report following the re-election of President Barack Obama (which surprised the victory-expectant Romney camp) called for active outreach and efforts to include black voters and viewpoints.

That was the report; the follow-up hasn't happened. In fact, quite the opposite. Donald Trump spouted his birther nonsense for five years after President Obama produced his birth certificate in 2011. He also won't even own the lie; he falsely claims that Hillary Clinton started the birther business when she and Obama faced off in the 2012 primaries. True Trumpkins don't even realize the racism involved. They say "What's racist about questioning Obama's birthplace?" Oh, active efforts to undermine America's first black President — racist, much?

Just to trace the turnaround for anyone confused: The Republicans, in the 19th and early 20th centuries, was in fact the party of Lincoln and racial justice. But that changed beginning with the outreach of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt in the 1930s, through the turbulent 1960s that saw President Lyndon Johnson spearhead enactment of civil rights and voting rights legislation. Since the 1960s, the Democrats are the party of social justice. That history is useful today; anybody who calls today's Republicans "the party of Lincoln" is trying to deceive.

(A digression: Concerning 1964, all progressives be sure to attend the November production of "All the Way" by Robert Schenkkan, performed by Bluegrass Community and Technical

College. You might also have seen it recently on HBO. The Tony award-winning play dramatizes the struggles of President Lyndon Johnson in achieving landmark 1964 civil rights legislation.)

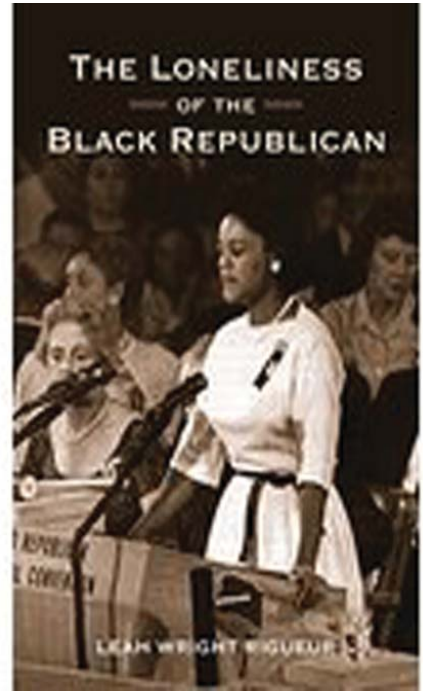
The book examines the "what" and "when" flawlessly. It's less successful in explaining why Republicanism appeals to black voters. It recites the sad litany of broken promises, token successes used to excuse overall neglect, and hopeful glimmers becoming will-o-the-wisps.

Phantoms of progress included efforts such as President Richard Nixon's "black cabinet" convened to advise how to make his poisonous actions more palatable. (Separate but equal?) Gerald Ford knew things had to advance, but Ronald Reagan took more than two steps backward in his eight years.

Republican attitudes have been bleaker since then, underscored by relative progress under Presidents Bill Clinton and Barack Obama that inflamed Republican resentments. Republicans just can't recruit black voters in significant numbers when their leadership is predominantly birthers and one-termers.

The book often returns to the basic fallacy in Republican thinking about bringing back black voters: They have to prove themselves before appealing for support.

I respect those who write about problems more if they also offer solutions. The solution Rigueur offers is reasonable, and



is also key to the strategies of any other subgroups — the Tea Party, the Bernie socialists, and religious fundamentalists: Build to national influence from the local level.

Black voters are not irretrievably lost to the Republican party, Rigueur promises, but their support is linked to support of individual politicians who will respond to black needs. And, Donald, that means more than mentioning black voters in speeches to suburban white audiences.

Reviewer Jim Trammel is in the supporting cast of "All the Way," though unfortunately he portrays two redneck politicians and a war criminal. (Lots better actors play the nobler roles.) It opens right after the November elections; be sure to see it.

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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 of varying lengths are encouraged. 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,  
Lexington KY 40511

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

— Pericles

## 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 illustration).

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 inter-personal

disagreements 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.

