

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE February 2017

CKCPJ Update: Help re-set the organization

As we enter 2017, the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice is more than ever an essential central Kentucky organization. Tea Party-dominated administrations in Frankfort and Washington are adopting policies that threaten justice and peace in our state, country and the world and particularly threaten vulnerable individuals and groups, including women, African-Americans, immigrants, and religious minorities. We have been and will be active in resisting the policies through protest, education about alternative policies, and advocacy for alternative policies.

Unfortunately, just as the need for CKCPJ is at its highest, our ability to do everything we want and need to do has been reduced by losses of steering committee members. To be nearer their families, two co-chairs have moved out of the area. Another member has been ill and one may be leaving the area this spring. We are very short handed.

The organization needs a re-set which must include re-thinking and re-prioritizing what we do. It must also include recruiting new volunteers to

staff our steering committee, the group that makes the organization work, and action teams, the groups that work directly for justice and peace. In short, we need help. We will be looking for volunteers of any age, but feel a particular need for younger volunteers who can take the CKCPJ into the 21st century. We invite *Peaceways* readers to a CKCPJ Re-Set Supper to learn

...we pledge to continue our work on minimum wages, affordable housing and lessening the risk of youth violence.

about volunteering with the council. The supper will be 6:30–8:30 p.m. on Wed., March 1 at the Quaker Meetinghouse, 649 Price Avenue in Lexington. A light supper will be served at no charge and is open to all. Please come and bring a friend! To reserve a place at the supper, email peaceandjusticeky@gmail.com or phone us at (859) 488-1448.

Although we are short handed, we pledge to continue our work on minimum wages, affordable housing and lessening the risk of youth violence. We also pledge to continue to work, as stated in the first paragraph, on resisting the administrations in Frankfort and Washington through protest, education, and advocacy.

That said, because we are short handed, we have decided NOT to do some of the activities that we have done annually for most of the past 34 years. In particular, we will not hold our Annual Peace and Justice Dinner and Networking Fair this spring. We have decided to convert the dinner to a potluck supper at which we will present our annual Peace and Justice Awards. The Peace and Justice Awards Potluck is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 7. See the March *Peaceways* for details. The Networking Fair will be held in the fall, with more details in future issues of *Peaceways* until the fall of this year.

There is much to do. With your help, CKCPJ will become a stronger organization, one that is more capable than ever of making a difference.

Gun Violence In America as of 1-25-17 (excluding suicide)

2017

Killed	1,003
Wounded	3,849

2016

Killed	13,218
Wounded	27,241

Source: www.gunviolencearchive.org

**Provide financial support
to CKCPJ by using
the Kroger Community
Rewards program.**

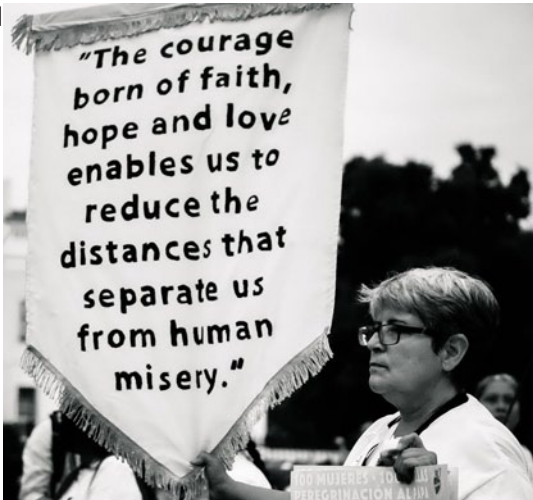
**Link your Kroger Plus card to #16439 at
krogercommunityrewards.com**

Coming: Voices 2017

The CKCPJ steering committee and the Voices 2017 planning committee were pleased with the events that took place in the fall of 2016. Uniting under the theme *Building Community, Resisting Polarization*, we know now that the issues we addressed are more pertinent than ever following the shift in both federal and state politics.

Voices 2016 was launched with a presentation on September 14 by CKCPJ supporter and photographer Steve Pavey, who told the assembled group that, for him, walking with people on the margins of society led him to truth. As he traveled through Israel and Palestine, he said, he felt honored to be invited into the lives of people who suffer. “I was always welcomed with hospitality,” Steve said. “A lot of great love led me to my true self; they taught me how to love.”

On October 26 CKCPJ co-chair David Christiansen gave a presentation he entitled “A Tale of Two Cities,” which explored the factors that led to a decrease in affordable housing in Lexington. Among those factors, David said, is the stagnation of wages. David was an active part of the movement that campaigned for a higher minimum wage in Lexington,



which was passed by the Lexington-Fayette Urban County Government. Since that time, though, the Kentucky Supreme Court has ruled that individual municipalities do not have the authority to set minimum wage for their communities. The ruling makes the picture of affordable housing in Lexington even murkier. David’s presentation included suggestions for ways that affordable housing in Lexington can reach the level that is needed.

On November 2, about 30 people heard Kerby Neill’s presentation about the efforts of Safe Summer Lexington to reduce youth violence in Lexington.

Kerby told of statistics that have motivated faith communities to join together in combatting violence, and described the efforts of volunteers working in schools with low achievement levels, saying such levels are often indicators that boys will become involved in violent behavior as they age.

Voices is an annual series taking place in the fall, with planning beginning during the summer months. If you are interested in participating in planning for Voices 2017, email peacewayseditor@gmail.com



Josa Harl was one of thousands of protesters in Lexington, which was among the hundreds of women’s marches around the world on January 21.

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

Board of Directors: Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto, David Christiansen (co-chair), Rick Clewett, 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’is 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 March issue is Feb. 10. We do not publish in January. Contact (859) 488-1448 or email peacewayseditor@gmail.com.

Book Review

Appalachia, hitch up those boosters, says Breathitt native in hillbilly best-seller

Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of a Family and Culture in Crisis, by J.D. Vance

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

Riding the top 10 of the *New York Times* Best Seller List since its publication last summer and its recommendation by the online punditry as The Explanation for the Trump Phenomenon is *Hillbilly Elegy*, which does not deliver on that unfair supposition.

The book is a memoir of the against-the-very-long-odds journey of author J.D. Vance from his tumultuous Breathitt County upbringing to his adulthood as a 31-year-old *summa* (“straight-A’s,” to those back home) Yale Law School graduate. Along the way Vance shares an unsparing portrait of his family: pistol-packing, Jesus-loving, tougher-than-a-drill-sergeant, stereotypical hillbilly Memaw; his well-intentioned but drug-addled and weak mother; and older relatives of varying degrees of support and enablement. They star in a continuous he-shot-him, she-beat-her, he-abandoned-them narrative that is too familiar to everyone who knows Appalachian lore, though it’s likely compelling to people reading for the first time about this sometimes-terrifying family circus.

In the later chapters, after J.D. has gone through manshaping courtesy of Marine basic training at Parris Island and duty in Iraq, he discovers that he holds the reins to his future, and, with fortuitous timely advice from various mentors, he makes his way through Ohio State and Yale Law School.

The broader point Vance is going for is that Appalachia’s main problem is the widespread despair that has replaced a hopeful work ethic and has eroded their faith that their choices could make a difference.

Vance does passingly mention credit-card addiction that gets them deeper in the financial hole (and has a word of defense for payday lenders, seen by some as more of a problem), and doesn’t mention at all predatory mortgage lenders or rapacious coal companies that have played their role in driving Appalachia into despair.

This all happens from Chapter 11 on. The first 10 chapters are his family memoir, colorful in the telling but not especially diagnostic of the wider

problems. If you have the awareness of Appalachia that readers of this newsletter do on average, you’ve read variations on chapters 1-10 before. (*Fact check:* It was called “Bloody Breathitt” County not because of zealous WWI volunteers, as Vance claims, but because of a series of deadly skirmishes between 1870 and 1912.)

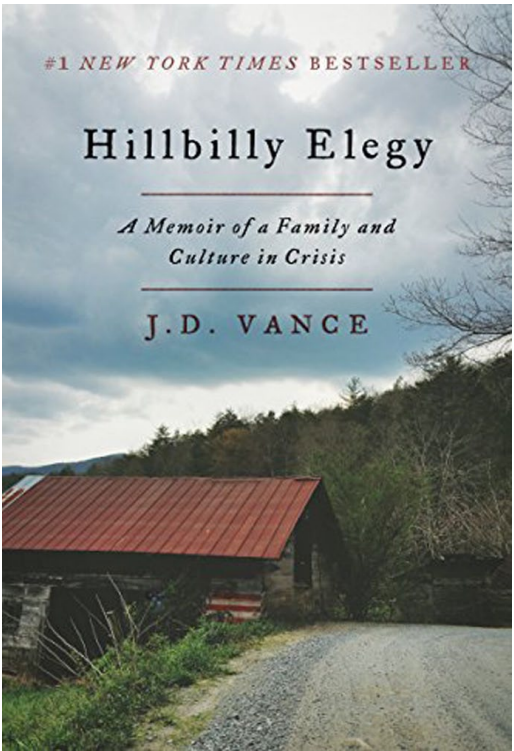
In interviews and articles since the book’s publication, Vance has speculated on what role the white economic disillusionment in Appalachia and elsewhere meant in the election of President Donald Trump. It seems both liberal and conservative sides have drawn perhaps flawed lessons from generalizing about Vance’s issues.

For his part, Vance told National Public Radio last summer that he personally planned to vote third-party in November, or to hold his nose and vote for Hillary Clinton if it seemed that Trump was going to win. It’s certain that economic disillusionment, generally of the white working class as well as the poor Appalachians of which Vance writes, shifted their allegiances and helped tip the balance toward the Republicans.

Vance also predicted for NPR that Trump perhaps will function only as a “pain reliever” for the mountains, and the protest voters who went Republican will be disillusioned to learn over time that their vote didn’t solve the problems that population faces. Trade deals won’t translate into economic benefits. And most thinking people know nothing will ever restore coal to vibrant economic life or bring back mining jobs.

Vance’s thesis that Appalachians must revive themselves is optimistic but depressing because he doesn’t go into any helpful detail. That leaves the mountain memoir of the first 10 chapters as the only reason to peruse this slim volume, and, as I say, you’ve likely heard it all before.

Reviewer Jim Trammel grew up in likewise colorful family circumstances in a border-Appalachian Tennessee county, but was far too short-sighted to dream there would be a bestseller in it.



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. Please query submissions to 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.

Calendar for Peace & Justice

The council seeks to promote dialogue as a path to peace and justice. Consequently, we announce events that we do not necessarily endorse.

Thurs., Feb. 9

One World Film Festival, 9 p.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street, Lexington. *Where to Invade Next*. Documentary filmmaker Michael Moore looks at the cultures of several European countries, playfully “invading” them to see how they compare to American culture. Free.

Tues., Feb. 14

PFLAG, 6:30-8:30 p.m., St. Michael Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Drive, Lexington. Creating Change by Telling Your Story. How do we do this in small and large ways? What is it like to take that risk? How can we be most effective? PFLAG welcomes LGBTQ persons, family members, friends and allies. Come to learn. Come for support. Come to stand with us. We are stronger together. Our presentation and Q&A takes place the first hour, followed by our confidential support group meeting. There is no charge. For more information see www.pflagcentralky.org or call 859-338-4393.

Wed., Feb. 15

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

Thurs., Feb. 16

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

Sat., Feb. 18

One World Film Festival, 10 a.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street, Lexington. *The Hunting Ground*. A documentary of the incidents of sexual assault on college campuses in the United States, and what the filmmakers say is a failure of college administrations to deal with it adequately.

For the dates of the TBD meetings, see peaceandjustice.org.

Tues., Feb. 21

CKCPJ steering committee meeting, 7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include planning for the upcoming committee meetings, proposals for new initiatives, continuing action and discussion concerning reorganization, and planning for the April potluck.

Wed., Mar. 1

CKCPJ Re-Set Supper, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Free and open to the public. Discussion will include volunteer recruitment and re-set plans.

Sat., Mar. 4

One World Film Festival, 10 a.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street, Lexington. *Diplomat*. A 2015 biographical documentary of former U.S. Ambassador Richard Holbrooke, whose five-decade career began as a Foreign Service Officer in Vietnam during the war.

March, TBA

Housing Justice, 7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include Rick Clewett’s report on his meeting with Mayor Jim Gray and six others concerning affordable housing.

Are you interested in becoming more involved with
Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice?
Find out how that interest can be fulfilled this year
by attending a CKCPJ committee meeting.
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.

Tues-Sun., March 7-12

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

Fri-Sat., March 31, April 1

The State of Appalachia Cherokee, N.C. A conference on the condition of the region’s economy and environment. Pipestem State Park, Pipestem, W. Va. Sponsored by the West Virginia Council of Churches, Christian Appalachian Ministries, Catholic Committee of Appalachia, and Creation Justice Ministries. For more information and to register visit: stateofappalachia.org

Wed., April 7

CKCPJ Annual Dinner and Peace Awards, Location and other details to be announced in the March issue of *Peaceways*.

Your Event Here

Send information about your event to peacewayseditor@gmail.com. Send notice of March events by Feb. 10, 2017. We do not publish in January or August.

One World Film Festival sets schedule

One World Films opens its 2017 film festival series on Sun., Feb. 5 at 2 p.m. in UK Chandler Medical Center Auditorium with the film *Concussion*. The film stars Will Smith as forensic neuropathologist Dr. Bennet Omalu, an African-American immigrant, who made the first discovery of chronic traumatic encephalopathy, a football-related brain injury, in a former pro player, and fought for the truth to be known. Omalu’s quest puts him at odds with one of the most powerful institutions in the world, the National Football League. Free parking is available in the Medical Center Parking Garage across from the building.

The remaining 10 films in the 2017 series, all at the Kentucky Theater, are:

- **Where to Invade Next**
Thursday, Feb. 9, 7 p.m.
- **Learning to Drive**
Saturday, Feb. 11, 10 a.m.
- **After the Storm**
Thursday, Feb. 16, 7 p.m.
- **The Hunting Ground**
Saturday, Feb. 18, 10 a.m.
- **Rosenwald**
Thursday, Feb. 23, 7 p.m.
- **After Coal**
Saturday, Feb. 25, 10 a.m.
- **Journey Into Europe**
Thursday, March 2, 7 p.m.
- **Diplomat**
Saturday, March 4, 10 a.m.
- **Dough**
Thursday, March 9, 7 p.m.
- **The Danish Girl**
Saturday, March 11, 10 a.m.

All of these films are free and open to the public.

For more information about the festival, see lexfilm.org.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

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

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

Migrant Network Coalition, first Monday, noon - 1:15 p.m., GLOBAL LEX, 1306 Versailles Road, Lexington. Contact Lindsay Mattingly, 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 or (859) 338-4393. Speakers followed by confidential support group meeting.

Bluegrass Fairness of Central Kentucky, second Tuesday, 7:30 p.m., Lexington Public Central Library, 140 E. Main St., Lexington. Contact Craig Cammack, chair, (859) 951-8565 or info@lexfair.org.

Wednesday Night GLSO “Heart to Heart” discussion group, 7 p.m., Pride Center, 389 Waller Ave., Lexington. GLSO operates Kentucky’s only Pride Center, where they have quietly provided services to the GLBTQQA community for decades. More info, Pride Center hours. and other links at 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. Child care is provided. Contact President Staci Maney, staci@olliegee.com or (859) 797-2662.

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, third Thursday, 7 p.m., Episcopal Diocese Mission House at 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 namilex.org.

Christian-Muslim Dialogue Program, fourth Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon. All are welcome. Locations vary, For more info, visit cmdlex.org. 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, (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.



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

Issue #301 • February 2017

An Open Letter Of Apology To Those Who Have Come Before Me

by Penny Christian

I have no idea where to begin. I am sorry. Sincerely, exhaustingly sorry. I have forgotten the face of my father. My pride has caused me to ignore and neglect your sacrifices. Your power. Your courage. You are so much more than footnotes in history; YOU ARE MY PATH. I am so sorry. I am so selfish. The unmitigated gall of me

to reach such a level of complacency that I actually believed the fight was over. That I had arrived. How very wrong I was. For now I know, first hand, why you did what you did. What fueled you. I am so sorry. All of you understood the fierce urgency of now; you also understood the importance of not depending on anyone else to fight for you. I feel that need now, and I look to you for guidance and strength.

As I remember the bloodshed, the hoses and dog attacks, I pray that I can have a fraction of the courage you had.

In my mind's eye, I can see all of the strange fruit hanging from so many trees. How many of you disappeared, never to be heard from again, just because you wanted to vote. I have done nothing to deserve your sacrifice.

I now know the fear mothers and wives had every day, wondering if the men in your lives would come home. God help me, I am so sorry. The fight is anew; you are the blueprint I must follow as I warn my child that people will boldly call her nigger.

This America says it's okay, that I have no right to protest the injustice in a country that doesn't care if I live or die. I get it now. But it is clear to me you had the answers all along. I see it now. To all those who came before me — so many of you I cannot name — I am ready. I know your fervent prayer for us was that since you fought, I would not have to, but because YOU DID I know what to do. I will never take you for granted again. I. AM. SO. SORRY.

•
Penny is a member of the Peaceways committee.

Peace is Possible

Because it was unable to secure the needed number of reservations for a specialty license plate, CKCPJ decided to re-design a front plate. If you reserved a plate but have not been in touch with Rebecca Glasscock, please contact her at rebecca.glasscock@ktcs.edu to learn of your choices for the use of your investment.

CKCPJ continues the sale of its artistic specialty Kentucky license plate that proclaims "Peace is Possible."

The lovely artwork for the license plate was created by local artist Jaqui Linder and features a flock of sandhill cranes. The crane is a centuries-old, cross-cultural symbol for wisdom, peace and longevity.

Locally, the ancient sandhill crane is recognized as a multi-cultural ambassador of peace. The sandhill migration is a wonderful sign, familiar to many Kentuckians.

In Japan, the crane is especially revered and thought to bring good fortune. It is believed that crafting 1,000 origami cranes grants the creator a single wish.

After World War II, author Eleanor Coerr published a moving children's book, *Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes*, a tale of a young girl's failed attempt to fold 1,000 origami cranes before her premature death due to radiation exposure from the atomic bomb blast over Hiroshima. Folded origami cranes took on a powerful meaning after the book's publication in 1977 and came to symbolize peace through the title character's unforgettable perseverance.

"I envisioned several cranes in flight to communicate movement upward and outward toward hope," Jacqui said.

The lavender-purple on the plate represents transformation while the dramatic oranges, which blend to soft yellows, symbolize strength and light.

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



"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."

~ Margaret Mead