

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

December 2018

Rev. Barber electrifies Poor People's Campaign in Lexington

by Tayna Fogle

As a member of the planning committee and a member of Total Grace Church, I was honored to be one of the hosts for Rev. William Barber and the national team of the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival to the Poor People's Hearing in Kentucky on November 2. It was an amazing night with people from many different parts of the state gathering to listen to one of the most powerful speakers since Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as others who testified to their own experiences of injustice.

Earlier in the year, the national team of the Poor People's Campaign had selected Kentucky for a rally four days before the mid-term elections to tell people running for office about issues of voter suppression, immigration, mass incarceration, and other matters of importance for voters. We received word from Rep. Andy Barr and Senators Mitch McConnell and Rand Paul that they would not attend, but many state and local politicians joined us that night, and we had a visit from people from Democratic Congressional candidate Amy McGrath's campaign early in the day to tell us she had been unable to work the event into her schedule. We were blessed with the presence of clergy of many denominations.

A large, comfortable chair sat center stage at Total Grace Church but it was empty, showing in no uncertain terms that Gov. Matt Bevin — who had denied access to the state capitol to Kentucky voters only weeks earlier — would not be there to listen to the concerns of the people who had elected him.

The Poor People's Campaign has generated interest from people who do not favor our views and positions and for that reason, Rev. Barber receives death threats almost every day. Thankfully we had no violent incidents or protesters in Lexington, but we had a plan in place for moving Rev. Barber in and out of the church safely. I'm proud to report that the national group said we had the rally well organized.

Although we received little or no media attention, I believe we accomplished what we set out to do: to prick the hearts of people who have the power to make a difference in the lives of 140 million people in the United States who live in poverty in the richest country in the world.

We heard from José, who told the story of an immigrant trying to make a better way for his family in the United

States, away from the violence of his homeland. We heard a poem from a young woman who grew up in Eastern Kentucky experiencing poverty and ecological devastation. Shelton McElroy shone a light on the injustice of mass incarceration that is the norm in the United States. I was able to share with the 800 people in the congregation the story of my struggle to regain my right to vote after a felony conviction.

It was a huge football weekend in Lexington and there was an NAACP dinner going on the same night, but I think we got our point across as people from eastern and western as well as central Kentucky gathered with folks from Tennessee, Ohio, and Indiana to make their voices heard. The speaking was inspired and the air was electric well into the night. I say again: I think we got our point across.

After hours and hours of planning, all the committee could do that night in November was smile, tell the truth and let the evening unfold.

Tayna is an organizer for Kentuckians for the Commonwealth

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Local activists participate in peace training

by Kerby Neill

The Safe Summer Lexington Coalition currently has 20 local leaders committed to complete the *Pace e Bene* Engage nonviolence study program. Participants include teachers, agency representatives (including the police department), and community activists.

The Engage program will be completed between November 2018 and the end of February 2019. In March 2019, *Pace e Bene*, a national organization which promotes nonviolence and prepares and certifies nonviolence trainers, will send a training team to Lexington for an

intensive three-day workshop for all those who have completed the Engage program.

Those who complete the three-day workshop will become certified nonviolence trainers. The coalition believes that the presence of a group of trained and dedicated nonviolence trainers will be a significant asset in the efforts to reduce violence and confront injustice in Central Kentucky.

Kerby chairs CKCPJ's Peace Action committee.

Gun Violence In America as of 11-30-18

(excluding suicide)

2018 (year to date)

Killed 13,321
Wounded 25,734

2017 (annual)

Killed 15,612
Wounded 31,217

Source: www.gunviolencearchive.org

One World Films 2019

by Annette Mayer

As part of the city's celebration of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday on Monday, Jan. 21, One World Films will show the film *Loving* at 2:30 p.m. in the Kentucky Theater, 214 E. Main St. The free screening tells the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, a couple whose arrest for interracial marriage in 1960s Virginia began a legal battle that ended with the Supreme Court's historic 1967 decision that struck down segregation laws.

One World Films opens its 2019 free film festival series on Sunday, Feb. 10, at 2 p.m. in the Michael and Ellen Karpf Auditorium in UK's Health Care Hospital on Rose Street, with *The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks*, the true story of an African-American woman who becomes an unwitting pioneer for medical breakthrough in the early 1950s when her cells are used to create the first immortal human cell line.

The OWF series continues for the next five Thursday evenings and five Saturday mornings in the Kentucky Theater. All screenings are free and open to the public. Thursday screenings start at 7 p.m. and Saturday screenings are at 10 a.m.

On Thursday, Feb. 14, OWF will show *Dealt*, the story of Richard Turner, one of the most renowned card magicians of all times. He astounds audiences around the world. What audiences may not know is that he has been totally blind since his youth. Through determination and force of will, he overcame seemingly insurmountable obstacles to rise to the top of his profession.

Saturday Feb. 16, OWF will show *I Am Evidence*, a documentary that explores the problem of the thousands of rape kits in the country that have not been tested by police for DNA evidence.

On Thursday Feb. 21, *Wondrous Oblivion* will be shown. The film is the story of David, an 11-year-old who loves to play cricket, but is not very good at the sport. A Jamaican family moves next door to his family and builds a cricket net in their back garden. David is in "seventh heaven," but this is Britain in the 1960s, and other neighbors make life difficult for the new arrivals. David's family must choose between fitting in or standing up for new friends.

On Sat. Feb. 23, *RBG* will be screened. At the age of 84, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg has developed a breath-taking legal legacy while becoming an unexpected pop culture icon. The documentary explores

Ginsburg's exceptional life and career.

The Thursday, Feb. 28 film is the 2017 Best Picture Academy Award winner, *Moonlight*. The film follows the life of a black gay youth growing up in a rough neighborhood in Miami. Mahershala Ali won an Oscar for best actor in a supporting role.

Wonder, the story of a ten-year old boy with a facial deformity who attends school for the first time when he begins the fifth grade, will be shown Saturday, March 2. With the support of his mother and father, he learns how to make friends and adjust to his new environment. Those around him learn not to judge a book by its cover.

On March 7, the festival will feature *Wind River*, which takes viewers into the heart of Native American reservation life and the harsh reality faced by many tribal families. The film touches on traditional cultural values and the intrusive and sometimes destructive ones that have moved into the fiber of indigenous communities. The film also confronts the failure of federal law to protect Native women who suffer abuse and assault.

The Saturday, March 9 film will be *Dolores*, the story of Dolores Huerta, rebel, activist, feminist, and mother, who worked with Cesar Chavez to co-found the first farm workers unions. Now 87 and the mother of 11, the film reveals the personal stakes involved in committing one's life to social change.

Shoplifters, by the famed Japanese director, Hirokazu Kore-eda, will be shown on Thurs. March 14. The film is the story of a poor family that obtains food by shoplifting. One day a member of the family finds a young girl, alone in a grocery store, who has clearly been abused. He takes her home to his family, and they adopt her. The film was awarded the Palme d'Or at this year's Cannes Film Festival.

The 2019 One World Film Festival series ends on Saturday, March 16, with *A Man Called Ove*. An irritable, elderly man spends his days making his neighbors miserable, but his crabbiness hides a deep grief for his deceased wife, whom he hopes to soon join. His clumsy attempts at suicide bring him into contact with the Persian family next door, and his growing friendship with them helps him reconnect with life.

One World Films is proud of the 2019 festival and hopes many people will enjoy this series of entertaining and thought-provoking films.

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

Board of Directors: Rebecca Ballard DiLoreto, 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, Mary Ann Ghosal, 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 10 times a year by the Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice, 1588 Leestown Rd., Ste. 130-138, Lexington KY 40511. The next issue of *Peaceways* will appear in February. Deadline for calendar items is Jan. 10. Contact (859) 488-1448 or email peacewayseditor@gmail.com.

Calendar for Peace & Justice

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

Mon. Dec. 3, Tues. Dec. 4

Newman Foundation, Religious Freedom At Home and Abroad, Father Thomas Reese. The Monday event is at the Cathedral of Christ the King, 299 Colony Blvd, Lexington. On Tuesday, the event is at Kentucky State University, Carroll Academic Services Building, University Drive, Frankfort. Both evenings begin at 7 p.m.

Tues., Dec. 4

CKCPJ Peace Action committee, 5:30 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Ongoing discussions of nonviolence training for trainers of nonviolence, nonviolence efforts in schools, youth summer jobs program, and other peace-related activities.

Tues., Dec. 11

CKCPJ Single-payer health care committee, 5:30 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington.

Mon., Dec. 17

CKCPJ steering committee meeting, 5:00 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include planning for the upcoming committee meetings, proposals for new initiatives, and continuing action.

Tues.-Thurs., Dec. 18-20

Faith and Community Christmas Store, 8 a.m. - 8 p.m. each day, Southland Christian Church, 2349 Richmond Road (old Lexington Mall). The store provides free, gently used toys to children, and gifts to people of all ages. No registration needed to shop for gifts. To register for one or more volunteer shifts or to make donations, see www.godsnet.info.

Thurs., Dec. 20

William Wells Brown Neighborhood Association meeting, 6 p.m. William Wells Brown Community Center.

Tues., Jan. 8

PFLAG Central Kentucky, 6:30-8:30 p.m., St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. By popular request, PFLAGers will tell their own family coming-out stories. The stories and Q-and-A session will be followed by a confidential support group meeting.

Tues., Jan. 8

CKCPJ Peace Action committee, 5:30 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Ongoing discussions of nonviolence training for trainers of nonviolence, nonviolence efforts in schools, youth summer jobs program, and other peace-related activities.

Tues., Jan. 15

CKCPJ Single-payer health care committee, 5:30 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington.

Mon., Jan. 21

One World Film Festival, 2:30 p.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 E. Main Street. As part of Lexington's celebration of Martin Luther King Day, OWF will screen *Loving*. The biographical film is set in the mid-1950s and tells the story of Richard and Mildred Loving, an inter-racial couple who were banned from the state of Virginia, where they settled and began raising their family. Free.

Tues., Jan. 22

CKCPJ steering committee meeting, 5:00 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include planning for the upcoming committee meetings, proposals for new initiatives and continuing action. Please note that the meeting will take place on Tuesday instead of Monday because of the M. L. King holiday.

Tues., Feb. 5

CKCPJ Peace Action committee, 5:30 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Ongoing discussions of nonviolence training for trainers of nonviolence, nonviolence efforts in schools, youth summer jobs program, and other peace-related activities.

Tues., Feb. 12

CKCPJ Single-payer health care committee, 5:30 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington.

Mon., Feb. 18

CKCPJ steering committee meeting, 5:00 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include planning for the upcoming committee meetings, proposals for new initiatives and continuing action.

The wise seek peace

Enjoy the blessings of the holiday season

Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

A Reflection on Veterans' Day

by Peter Berres

Veterans Day 1968 was just another uncelebrated day in Vietnam. My concept of that day arose from my childhood on military bases, where, in classroom and church, we celebrated Nov. 11 as a Day of World Peace.

We considered it Armistice Day, recognizing the end of World War I on Nov. 11, 1918. It was a somber, sacred remembrance of the horror of The Great War. Intellectually and spiritually, war was renounced, and peace was held as possible.

History teaches:

- 1919 President Woodrow Wilson declares Armistice Day.
- 1926 Congress resolves that 11/11 "should be commemorated and designed to perpetuate Peace through good will and mutual understanding ... with all other peoples."
- 1938 Congress declares Armistice Day a legal holiday dedicated to the cause of world peace.
- 1954 Armistice Day is rebranded as Veterans Day and still celebrated as a day of peace.

But since Vietnam, Veterans Day has morphed into flag waving, military parading and lip-service veneration of those in military service. Ever-after celebrating not peace, but warriors, independent of any justification of wars.

This shift in focus from peace to warriors makes sense in a culture where wars are no longer Great, but commonplace. Today the wish for peace is found on holiday cards and far less in foreign policy ... peace on earth, good will to men.

With Veterans Day increasingly part of the militarization of American culture, it's critical to understand basic reasons for war. I'll let the generals speak.

In his farewell speech, President Dwight Eisenhower warned of a growing military-industrial complex, where interests of the military and defense industry intertwine and become our national interest. The retired general counseled citizen vigilance to monitor this complex and civilian-controlled tempering of war machinery with peaceful methods and goals.

Major Gen. Smedley Butler, twice recipient of the Medal of Honor who died the most decorated Marine in history, dedicated his life after the military to peace. His 1954 self-assessment: "I spent 33 years ... in the Corps ... during that period, I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle-man for big business, for Wall Street and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism."

Gen. Douglas MacArthur connected the "military-industrial complex" to political culture, identifying a "pattern of misguided policy ... geared to an arms economy ... bred in an artificially induced psychosis of war hysteria ... nurtured upon an incessant propaganda of fear."

MacArthur's critique has never been more poignant. "Induced psychosis" has crescendoed under our (avoid-his-own-call-to-duty) commander-in-chief who now peddles "good guy/bad guy" oversimplification to whip up fear and blind support. A population stifled with fear demands neither accountability nor honesty from its leaders — generals or presidents.

This fear creates excessive adulation of military as moral leaders, as experts on whether a war is justified, how it will be fought and for how long. "That balm of military dictatorships," retired Col. William Astore asserts, "should be poison to the military of a democracy." Precisely why the Constitution placed elected representatives over the military, deciding when, if and even how we go to war.

Historian Howard Zinn observed that our leaders "want us to forget what we learned at the Vietnam War's end: that our leaders cannot be trusted, that modern war is inevitably a war against civilians and particularly children, that only a determined citizenry can stop the government when it embarks on mass murder."

We need to move beyond the mythology that war is inevitable, effective or noble.

The 2018 mid-terms are over, and the turnout was high, the sign of an awakening, more vigilant, newly

determined citizenry.

On Veterans Day, return the focus to peace. Reclaim the spirit of Armistice Day. Take two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. to remind ourselves and our representatives that peace is possible, and that we expect them to act on our behalf to ensure it.

Every Nov. 11 let's resolve to celebrate and cultivate values of peace: moral courage, integrity, cooperation, compassion, and empathy. Let's renew our dedication to striving after the antidotes to war: economic equity, social justice, and individual rights and freedoms, anchored by checks and balances and monitored by alert and knowledgeable citizens.

And let's remember that it is not incongruent to honor veterans while promoting peace.

To those who speak truth to power and oppose senseless military adventures; who work for peace on any scale, and expose war's ineffective, ignoble and inglorious nature; who decry civilian deaths; attend to suffering veterans, or challenge foreign policies that undermine our national principles and undercut security, I say: Thank you for your service.

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Peter Berres is a CKCPJ member. This column is reprinted from the Lexington Herald Leader.

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A few facts and figures from the East End Development Corporation:

- There have been 300 properties sold in Lexington's East End over the past four years.
- In 2018 120 homes were sold; 18 of them were in Equestrian View.
- Of those property sales, 54 percent are rentals, 30 percent are owner-occupied and 8 percent are vacant.

Submissions to Peaceways

Articles submitted to *Peaceways* should show an awareness of and sensitivity to the CKCPJ's mission and concerns.

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-notes 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 monthly except January.

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krogercommunityrewards.com

MONTHLY MEETINGS

CKCPJ Steering Committee Meetings, third Monday, 5 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave. 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 GLBTQQIA community for decades. More info, Pride Center hours. and other links at 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. 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 Beth Howard, (859) 276-0563.

NAMI Lexington Support Groups, every Sunday, 2:30 - 4 p.m. Participation Station, 869 Sparta Ct., Lexington. Call (859) 272-7891 or visit www.namilex.org.

Christian-Muslim Dialogue Program, fourth Saturday, 10 a.m. - noon. All are welcome. Locations vary, call (859) 277-5126. The Christian-Muslim dialogue promotes understanding and mutual respect between Christians and Muslims. By exploring moral, cultural and political factors shaping the current context, the program promotes personal and collective responsibility to build a more just and peaceful world.

Dance Jam, every Tuesday, 5:30 - 7 p.m., Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave. Move to the extent you are able. Sponsored by Motion Matters, \$7 per session to cover space rental. Contact 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.

Showing Up for Racial Justice, second Tuesday of the month, 5:30-7:30 p.m., Wild Fig Coffee and Books, 726 N. Limestone, Lexington.

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

PEACEWAYS



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

Issue #317 • December 2018

*Be the change you wish
to see in the world.*

~ Gandhi

A Kentucky Christmas anthology evokes memories

A Kentucky Christmas. George Ella Lyon, editor. University Press of Kentucky, 2003. 337 pages.

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

For the approaching gift-giving season, I diverge from my usual political-social-anthropological reviewing to recommend a holiday anthology gift compiled with Kentucky pride. Send it to your friends who care about Kentucky reading. Amazon has it for \$24, and you can search a little and find it for even less elsewhere.

Seventy Kentucky-connected contributors portray hopes and humanity in a sampler stitched by award-winning Lexington author **George Ella Lyon** into an ideal gift for the out-of-staters on your Christmas list who might be surprised to find Kentucky nurtures such levels of the verbal arts.

Many Kentucky literary giants are included, along with rising stars. Some writers so far unsung demonstrate that future reputations await. Lyon's admirable editing job (rightly including a brief but sparkling gem of her own) gives the anthology the overall flow of a novel.

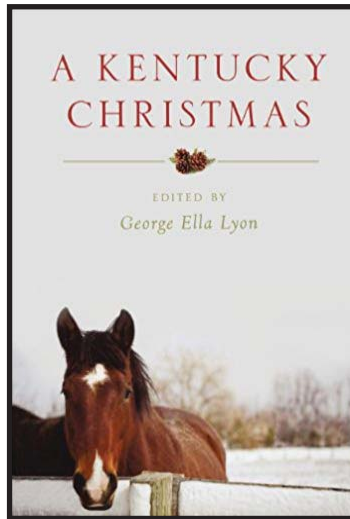
This is a rich sampler, a literary ten-pound box of chocolates to which our fingers keep pleasantly wandering. Some pieces surprise; we bite expecting one flavor and a different tang pleasures or startles.

But this box also features some dark chocolates; there's more here than warmth and family love around the impressively bountiful holiday table. Our assembled Christmas celebrants want to celebrate, but first often must deal with drugs, alcohol, family discord, child abandonment, disappointment in romance, impossible relatives, auto accidents, falls in the snow, missed travel connections, and even the occasional death.

In this respect, watch out especially for "Bread," by **Kim Edwards**, now of Lexington by way of New York and Texas. A single sentence of hers can start out friendly and conversational, then suddenly turn sinister and cost us a supporting character.

Some other highlights:

- **Linda Scott Derosier's** first-person excerpt has the most heart, out of her autobiographical social novel *Creekers*. She writes that true Kentuckians properly celebrate Christmas only at home – by "keeping the creek in Christmas" – a truth illustrated by her own life, Pike County to Harvard.
- **Harry Caudill** spins a lawyerin' story in the relaxed, confident tone he would have used with courthouse disciples over coffee at the downtown diner. A masterful storytelling voice.
- **Silas House** draws two striking character portraits, and more than earns his spot next to **Wendell Berry**, **James Still**, and **Jesse Stuart**, among the powerful, effective writers brought on late in the book.
- Successful novelist **Bobbie Ann Mason** of Mayfield demonstrates her sharp eye for ironic key details, here describing the prospect of new blood at a hectic family Christmas already swirling with emotional undertow. In the passage, adult daughter Carolyn plans to present her new love to skeptical parents and siblings, but the cad, traveling separately, doesn't show. The present she thoughtfully prepared in order to include him in the gift-giving goes untouched as she broods: "Carolyn refused to tell them what was in the lone package left under the tree. It was the most extravagantly wrapped of all the presents, with an immense ribbon, not a stick-on bow. An icicle had dropped on it, and it reminded Carolyn of an abandoned float, like something from a parade." You may cry, as I did.
- **Chris Holbrook** of Alice Lloyd College writes of a father dragging his family on a dangerous and



frustrating winter auto trip toward a Knott County holiday gathering. It's the chilliest description of icy mountain driving I've read since the beginning of Silas House's *Clay's Quilt*. It touches a clammy memory of my own drive on curvy hillside-hugging Jackson County roads about to freeze over, as I tried not to look down over the cliffside road shoulder at the treetops far below, wondering whether they would break my plunge, my disquieting view unobstructed by completely absent guard rails.

- **Jane Olmsted** of Western Kentucky University chronicles a family split by drugs and secret tragedy in "Letters from the Karst," in which a woman whose drug-laced abuse of her nearest opens a Mammoth Cave-size chasm between them. ("Karst" is an ecologically fragile series of limestone caverns, as those in the cave country know.)

One can't like every chocolate in a ten-pound box equally, so a section of food writing complete with recipes clunks as literature for me, except for a piece about snow cream I salivated over.

Also, the poetry selected is not as remarkable as the prose, I think because the verse stays with relatively conventional holiday themes.

One effective exception: "Winteriese," by Bellarmine College's **Frederick Smock**, in which unexpected personal intimacy asserts itself during a Manhattan panhandle.

Familiar memories will likely key your responses, as they did mine; I was moved by each piece to the precise degree it nudged a personal Christmas memory.

Outsiders frequently are surprised at Kentucky's richness in literary art, so gift this to anyone you can.

Jim Trammel will wear clothes under his nightgown tonight because these pre-Christmas Kentucky winter evenings are getting miserably chilly.