

# Peaceways

---

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE MArch 2019

## Why Poor People Stay Poor

by Linda Tirado

*Reprinted with permission, from Hand to Mouth: Living in Bootstrap America, P.G. Putnam's Son, publisher*

I once lost a whole truck over a few hundred bucks. It had been towed, and when I called the company they told me they'd need a few hundred dollars for the fee. I didn't have a few hundred dollars. So I told them when I got paid next and that I'd call back then.

It was a huge pain in the ass for those days. It was the rainy season, and I wound up walking to work, adding another six miles or so a day to my imaginary pedometer. It was my own fault that I'd been towed, really, and I spent more than a couple hours ruing myself. I finally made it to payday, and when I went to get the truck, they told me that I now owed over a thousand dollars, nearly triple my paycheck. They charged a couple hundred dollars a day in storage fees. I explained that I didn't have that kind of money, couldn't even get it. They told me that I had some few months to get it together, including the storage for however long it took me to get it back, or that they'd simply sell it. They would, of course, give me any money above and beyond their fees if they recovered that much.

I was working two jobs at the time. Both were part time. Neither paid a hundred bucks a day, much less two.

I wound up losing my jobs. So did my husband. We couldn't get from point A to point B quickly enough, and we showed up to work, late, either soaked to the skin or sweating like pigs one too many times. And with no work, we wound up losing our apartment.

It's amazing what things that are absolute crises for me are simple annoyances for people with money. Anything can make you lose your apartment, because any unexpected problem that pops up, like they do, can set off that Rube Goldberg device.

One time I lost an apartment because my roommate got a horrible flu that we suspected was maybe something worse because it stayed forever — she missed work, and I couldn't cover her rent. Once it was because my car broke down and I missed work. Once it was because I got a

week's unpaid leave when the company wanted to cut payroll for the rest of the month. Once my fridge broke and I couldn't get the landlord to fix it, so I just left. Same goes for the time that the gas bill wasn't paid in a utilities-included apartment for a week, resulting in frigid showers and no stove. That's why we move so much. Stuff like that happens.

Because our lives seem so unstable, poor people are often seen as being basically incompetent at managing their lives. That is, it's assumed that we're not unstable because we're poor, we're poor because we're unstable. So let's just talk about how impossible it is to keep your life from spiraling out of control when you have no financial cushion whatsoever. And let's also talk about the ways in which money advice is geared only toward people who actually have money in the first place.

I once read a book for people in poverty, written by someone in the middle class, containing real-life tips for saving pennies and such. It's all fantastic advice: buy in bulk, buy a lot when there's a sale on, hand-wash everything you can, make sure you keep up on vehicle and indoor filter maintenance.

Of course, very little of it was actually practicable. Bulk buying in general is cheaper, but you have to have a lot of money to spend on stuff you don't actually need yet. Hand-washing saves on the utilities, but nobody actually has time for that. If I could afford to replace stuff before it was worn out, vehicle maintenance wouldn't be much of an issue, but you really can't rinse the cheap filters and, again, quality costs money up front. In the long term, it makes way more sense to buy a good toaster. But if the good toaster is 30 bucks right now, and the crappiest toaster of them all is 10, it doesn't matter how many times I have to replace it. Ten bucks it is, because I don't have any extra tens.

It actually costs money to save money.

It is impossible to be good with money when you don't have any. Full stop. If

I'm saving my spare five bucks a week, in the best-case scenario I will have saved \$260 a year. For those of you that think in quarters: \$65 per quarter in savings. If you deny yourself even small luxuries, that's the fortune you'll amass. Of course you will never manage to actually save it; you'll get sick at least one day and miss work and dip into it for rent. Gas will spike and you'll need it to get to work. You'll get a tear in your work pants that you can't patch. Something, I guarantee you, will happen in three months.

When I have a few extra dollars to spend, I can't afford to think about next month — my present day situation is generally too tight to allow me that luxury. I've got kids who are interested in their quality of life right now, not 10 years from now.

Here's the thing: We know the value of money. We work for ours. If we're at 10 bucks an hour, we earn 83 cents, before taxes, every five minutes. We know exactly what a dollar's worth; it's counted in how many more times you have to duck and bend sideways out the drive-through window. Or how many floors you can vacuum, or how many boxes you can fill.

It's impossible to win, unless you are very lucky. For you to start to do better, something has to go right, and stay that way for long enough for you to get on your feet. I've done well in years that I had a job I didn't mind terribly and that paid me well enough to get into an apartment that met all the basic standards. I've done less well in years where I didn't have steady work. The trouble's been that my luck simply hasn't held out for long enough; it seems like just when I've caught up, something happens to set me back again. I've been fortunate enough that it's rarely compounded, and I've stayed at under sea level for short periods instead of long-term. But I've stared long-term in the face long enough to have accepted it as a real possibility. It's only an accident and a period of unemployment away.

# Seedleaf educates Lexington gardeners

Seedleaf is a local gardening and composting organization working to alleviate the problem some areas of Lexington have in accessing fresh food. In addition to its education programs, Seedleaf picks up compost at 35 area restaurants and kitchens partnering with the LFUCG's Division of Waste Management. Much of that food waste is composted at or near the organization's community gardens.

Seedleaf is holding several spring events that will encourage and train people in the art of gardening.

## New Gardener Basics

*Lexington Public Library, 140 Main St., Saturday, March 9, 10-11 a.m.*

If you have the interest but not the confidence, this is the workshop for you. Seedleaf is partnering with the Lexington Public Library, 140 Main Street, to share information about growing a great garden. All are welcome for this interactive discussion.

## Civic Gardener Training

*Plantory, 501 W. Sixth St., Lexington, Wednesdays, March 13-April 24, 6-8 p.m.*

This six-week training is for anyone interested in learning more about the how and why of gardening and composting in community. Participants will learn about home scale composting, soil nutrition, pest management, and other important issues for new gardeners. Experts will share training, experience and passion,

leaving time for questions and discussion. Cost is \$85 for six weeks; enrollment is limited and scholarships are available. Email [ryan@seedleaf.org](mailto:ryan@seedleaf.org) to learn more or to enroll. Cash or check will be accepted at the first meeting.

## Let's Plan Your Summer Garden

*Lexington Public Library, 140 Main St., Saturday, April 20, 10-11 a.m.; or Jessamine Public Library, 600 S. Main Street, Nicholasville, 2-3 p.m.*

Join Seedleaf for tips from experienced growers. Learn which plants and varieties work well, how to select seeds and transplants, and anything else you may be wondering about.

## Compost 101 and Vermicompost

*Lexington Public Library, 140 Main St., Saturday, April 20, 3-4 p.m.*

Recent studies estimate that 40 percent of the food grown in the US is never eaten and often ends up in our landfills. Recent waste audits in Fayette County show that nearly a third of our landfill-bound solid waste is organic and could be composted. Seedleaf is partnering with the Jessamine County Public Library to help share information on ways area residents can take care of home food waste, by composting or using worms to assist with that breakdown (vermicomposting). Come with your questions for this interactive discussion of the process of food breakdown, and what area gardeners can do with the finished product.

## 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 April. Deadline for calendar items is March 10. Contact (859) 488-1448 or email [peacewayseditor@gmail.com](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com).

# Training to be completed in March

The CKCPJ sponsored *Pace e Bene's* Engage non-violence training program beginning in January. Engage completed its first phase in February with groups continuing to focus on summer youth jobs and civilian oversight of the Lexington Police Department.

On March 1-3, the group of 20 to 22 people will participate in a three-day workshop that will complete their training to train others in the the practice of non-violence.

Peace Action committee chair Kerby Neill reports that he has been asked what the participants will do after their training is complete. He said they have looked at two threads: non-violence as personal survival and tool of social change. A core

group of trainees has started to think of themselves as a group that will continue to meet after their training is complete.

They will be available to train others in Lexington in the techniques of non-violence. The trainers will be invited to become a subcommittee of CKCPJ. "There is plenty to do, Kerby said. "The problem will be not to spread ourselves too thin."

*Afflict the comfortable;  
comfort the afflicted.*

# 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.

**Sat., March 2**

**One World Film Festival**, 10 a.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 E. Main St. *Wonder*, the story of August Pullman who was born with facial differences that prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Auggie becomes the most unlikely of heroes when he enters the local fifth grade. His extraordinary journey unites his family, classmates and the community and proves you can't blend in when you were born to stand out. Free

**Tues., March 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.

**Thurs., March 7**

**One World Film Festival**, 7 p.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 E. Main Street. *Wind River*. On the Wind River Indian Reservation, game tracker Cory Lambert discovers the frozen body of a young Native American, Natalie. As this is a federal crime, the FBI dispatches an inexperienced but courageous Banner to lead the investigation, but the unprepared outsider will soon team up with Cory to unravel the mystery of Natalie's murder. Cory faces his own past, while thirsting to see justice done. Free.

**Sat., March 9**

**Seedleaf**, 10 a.m. New Gardener Basics, Lexington Public Library, 140 Main Street, If you have interest but not confidence, this is the workshop for you. Gain information about growing a great garden.

**Sat., March 9**

**One World Film Festival**, 10 a.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 E. Main Street. *Delores*. A 2017 American documentary that centers on Dolores Huerta's work to organize California farm workers to form the UFW, in alliance with the Chicano, civil rights, women's and LGBTQ movements. Includes recent and historical interviews with Huerta and her family members, as well as historic film footage from the farm worker strikes and marches in Delano, California and New York City. Free.

**Tues., March 12**

**PFLAG Central Kentucky**, 6:30-8:30 p.m., St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. Discussion will focus on talking about LGBTQ issues with extended family, friends and others in the community. The discussion will be followed by a confidential support group meeting.

**Tues., March 12**

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

**Wednesdays, March 13-April 24**

**Seedleaf**, 10 a.m. Civic Gardener Training, Plantory, 501 W. 6th Street, Lexington, Participants will learn about home scale composting, soil nutrition, pest management, and other important issues for new gardeners. Experts will share training, experience and passion, leaving time for questions and discussion. Cost is \$85 for six weeks; enrollment is limited and scholarships are available. Email [ryan@seedleaf.org](mailto:ryan@seedleaf.org) to learn more or to enroll. Cash or check will be accepted at the first meeting.

**Thurs., March 14**

**One World Film Festival**, 7 p.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 E. Main Street. *Shoplifters*. After one of their shoplifting sessions, Osamu and his son come across a little girl in the freezing cold. At first reluctant to shelter the girl, Osamu's wife agrees to take care of her after learning of the hardships she faces. Although the family is poor, they seem to live happily together until an unforeseen incident tests the bonds that unite them.

**Sat., March 16**

**One World Film Festival**, 10 a.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 E. Main Street. *A Man Called Ove*. Ove is the block's grumpy man who several years earlier was deposed as president of the condominium association, but he could not give a damn about being deposed and therefore keeps looking over the neighborhood with an iron fist. When Parvaneh and her family moves into the terraced house opposite and accidentally backs into Ove's mailbox it turns out to be an unexpected friendship. Free.

**Mon., March 18**

**CKCPJ steering committee meeting**, 5 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.-Sun., March 19-24**

**Catholic Committee of Appalachia**, Cherokee Spirituality: *Walking Our Spiritual Paths*. *Black Panther*. An introduction to the spirituality of Cherokee People. Arrive for a gathering at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, depart after church services on Sunday morning. Contact Father John Rausch, 606-663-0823 or Mary Herr, 828-497-9498. Partial scholarships available.

**Fri. March 22**

**Appalachia Cooperates**, 9:30 a.m.-3 p.m. West Virginia State University, Economic Development Center, 1506 Kanawha Blvd, Charleston, West Virginia. Join discussions about growing co-ops in our region and creating the Appalachia Cooperates Initiative. Learn about worker-owned co-ops across the globe with a lunchtime showing of the film *Shift Change*.

**Fri., March 29**

**PFLAG** Deadline for early registration for the national convention. We Are The Change Oct. 25 - 27 in Kansas City, Missouri. #wearethechange19 Go to [pflag.salsalabs.org/2019NationalConvention](http://pflag.salsalabs.org/2019NationalConvention) to register. Early-bird rates are \$185 for members and \$270 until March 29.

**Sat., April 20**

**Seedleaf**, 10 a.m. Let's Plan Your Summer Garden, Lexington Public Library, 140 Main St., Lexington, Jessamine Public Library, 600 S. Main Street, Nicholasville, 2 p.m. Join Seedleaf for tips from experienced grower. Learn which plants and varieties work well, how to select seeds and transplants, and anything else you may be wondering about.

# A viper, yet somehow proud



**TEAM OF VIPERS: My 500 Extraordinary Days in the Trump White House.** By Cliff Sims. Published Jan. 29, 2019 by Thomas Dunne Books, New York. 384 pages.

*Reviewed by Jim Trammel*

It's sad, sad! that Cliff Sims learned so little from his unique sojourn from Alabama journalist to right-hand gofer to Donald Trump.

Sims chronicles the snippy infighting, office-politics maneuvers, and general malfeasance of the lesser evil figures surrounding Trump, while leaving the real baddies, notably senior advisor Stephen Miller and national security advisor John Bolton, pretty much alone.

Sims walked into Trump campaign headquarters and got to the Oval Office by virtue of Lord-knows-what, just luckily being there and temporarily having the protective ear of The Big Man, I guess. The Boss's aura kept him safe for a long while, until it turned into cause for others' resentment.

Remember the old pro wrestling event called a battle royal? 20 wrestlers in the ring, all at the same time, randomly colliding. Get thrown out of the ring and you're out. Bodies fly, and finally there is only one left.

Sims skulks around the edges of the White House Press Office battle royal like a lightweight wrestler trying to stay out of the grapple with the obvious heavyweights. He managed for almost two years, staying under the radar as long as he could, but finally he made one enemy too many.

He writes that he learned that character is more important than reputation, which is the reverse of what he should have learned from that snakepit, in which many good people got unjustly canned.

After promising last year that I wouldn't, I waded back into the cesspool of Trump-insider tell-alls by choosing this effort. I chose wrong. I was seduced by advance stories of the crowd around this strange Chief Executive that I hoped would be illuminating. I didn't learn much that wasn't already available, as I would have from Bob Woodward or Andrew McCabe.

Useful, however, were the insights Sims provides, sometimes unwittingly, into the character of the Oval Office occupant.

• Trump approaches situations where he should be collecting information with pre-conceived notions already in place. He tells a trade policy strategy session, "I want tariffs – tariffs! Can anyone in this room of geniuses bring me some tariffs?" He has assembled his advisers and, instead of listening to their recommendations, disdains their expertise and seeks the conclusion he wants to hear. We see him now doing the same thing today in his temper tantrums over his beside-the-point Great Wall.

- Trump is a "hedgehog" who knows only one thing that shapes all his other thoughts – that he is the only person who can bring change. Sims does not view these blinders as a failing. (Hillary was a "fox" who knew too many various things, so lost singularity of purpose.)
- Trump values "killers" on his staff, by which Sims means those who regularly take ill-advised reckless action. An example is loose-cannon Steve Bannon, described by Sims with wide-eyed gee-whiz amazement as "The Dark Lord."
- Trump believes everything is a zero-sum negotiation, and he cannot truly win unless someone else loses;
- He values personal relationships over everything else in carrying out these negotiations;
- Trump creates chaos deliberately, because he believes he rides the storm better than anyone else.

These are valuable explanatory insights for us, but Sims doesn't gain from them. The book will anger readers who want Trump savaged, but they shouldn't have expected an Alabama evangelical to achieve anything near a critical vision of the boss he adored.

The useful insights are not enough for me to recommend this book. You'll just get churned at how haphazardly things are run in the West Wing.



*Reviewer Jim Trammel guzzles Diet Coke, as does Trump. I'm switching.*

## ..... *Follow CKCPJ on Facebook*

February's posts on the group's CKCPJ Facebook page focused on CKCPJ non-violence training; the closing of coal-fired power plants; Kentucky's open-carry law; racist imagery; children's books recommended for Black History Month that explore black activists, innovators and scholars; strategies for ending food insecurity in Lexington;

and the nursing home record of Sen. Ralph Alvarado, Republican candidate for lieutenant governor.

For some really interesting posts, visit the CKCPJ Facebook page often, and like the pages you see.

Thanks to Richard Mitchell for overseeing the posts.

# 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](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 monthly except January.

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

**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](mailto:peacewayseditor@gmail.com).

# Cooperation Lexington makes demands of LPD

by April Taylor

Nearly a week after an off-duty Lexington Police Department officer was captured on cell phone video during an incident in Fayette Mall repeatedly punching a teenager who has autism, many groups and community members are calling for resolution in a letter of concerns and demands being circulated throughout the community.

Donovan Stewart, listed as Lexington Police Department Chaplain, was in uniform but operating in an off-duty role on Feb. 2 when, according to LPD spokesperson Breanna Angel, mall security asked Stewart and another off-duty officer to respond to a complaint of disorderly teenagers. The cell phone video captured by the teenager's father has been distributed widely on social media. It shows Stewart punching, with a closed fist, the 16-year old black teenager's head and upper torso. The teen is lying on his stomach on the ground. The first several blows are out of the view of the camera but the final blow occurs in view of the camera. Officer Stewart, LPD Chaplain and senior pastor at The Mission church, Lexington, landed a final closed fist blow to the back of the teenager's head. At this point a bystander approaches Stewart and removes his hands from the child.

Initial media reports stated "Police say it began as a verbal altercation that turned physical. We're told the officer received an injury to the face and was treated on scene."

After the video of the incident was shared several hundred times on social media, local media reported "the officer suffered an injury to his face that did not require medical treatment."

Due to department regulations not requiring Stewart, as LPD chaplain, to wear a body camera and the apparent failure of the additional officers' body camera to record, the police department issued a call for anyone who witnessed the incident or has video to come forward to assist the investigation. Police spokespersons have stated that there was more to the story and that the teen assaulted and injured Stewart prior to the recording of the video being circulated.

With these facts in mind local activists have taken note and among other forms of protest that include contacting local public officials, and halting traffic in front of the downtown police headquarters on

the evening of Tuesday, Feb. 12.

Winter Sherman, co-leader of Autistics United Kentucky, shares the following statement:

"Autistics United Kentucky denounces the Lexington Police Department for Donovan Stewart's actions and the department's refusal to acknowledge any wrongdoing. We do not accept the LPD's narrative, for which they have no evidence, and we unconditionally support the autistic teenager who was brutally assaulted last week. As an organization of autistic people, it is never easy to see these videos of our people being attacked, and we see them far too often. We need big changes in our society, and that process must begin with justice."

Sarah Williams, co-founder of Cooperation Lexington, said, "The violence that results from a white imperialist/racist mindset has historically found rationalization and justification through westernized Christianity. Officer/Chaplain Donovan Stewart's position as spiritual leader of LPD and a local church implies the utmost standards of love and respect for all humankind. His actions, as recorded by the father of the autistic teen he assaulted, show a man full of anger and rage. As a spiritual leader, Stewart should have been able to de-escalate the situation with the autistic teen. Instead, he physically assaulted the teen until a bystander removed his hands from attacking further.

"Our children deserve to live in a city where they are safe, loved, and protected by those sworn to serve and protect, and especially by a spiritual leader in our community. To ensure this, Stewart must be removed from his position with LPD and the following demands must be met."

Cooperation Lexington distributed the following list of demands to Lexington city and public officials, including the police department, City Council members, Mayor Linda Gorton and her administration:

1. Publicly acknowledge the names and positions of the officers involved.
2. Release all body camera footage and mall security footage related to the incident.
3. Donovan Stewart must resign or be terminated from his position as chaplain of the Lexington Police Department.

4. All agents and/or officers of the Lexington Police Department, whether in uniform and/or interacting within the community, whether on duty or off duty, must wear a body camera to record their public interactions, failure to do so will be *per se* negligence.
  5. Body camera equipment and policy must be changed to ensure that no officer can ever escape accountability by the body camera "malfunctioning" or not being worn.
  6. Civilian oversight of police disciplinary actions. City council is the only input outside the department regarding police disciplinary action and LPD gets to decide which disciplinary actions are heard by the city council. Therefore, it is requested that local law/policy mandate a civilian, who has never been an officer, be in charge of Internal Affairs.
  7. Mandatory crisis intervention training for all officers, whether administrative or patrol.
  8. Community evaluation of diversity and sensitivity training with follow through on community recommendations for changes.
  9. All policy and procedures regarding the apprehension and detaining of a minor must be made easily accessible to the community and, if punching is allowed per policy, this policy must be changed to ensure the safety and humanity of children encountering LPD.
- More actions are planned by several community groups and individuals, and will continue until these demands are acknowledged and met.

If you are disturbed by an officer and senior pastor brutally assaulting an autistic teenager, join Cooperation Lexington in demonstrating to Chaplain/Pastor Donovan Stewart what community, love, and justice look like.

For more information, reference the contact information above or follow Cooperation Lexington on Facebook.

## Gun Violence In America as of 2-19-19

(excluding suicide)

**2019** (year to date)

Killed	1,878
Wounded	3,222

**2018** (annual)

Killed	13,321
Wounded	25,734

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

# PEACEWAYS



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

Issue #319 • March 2019

*Justice cannot be for one side alone,  
but must be for both.*

*~ Eleanor Roosevelt*

## Quantrell Subaru, Lexington, shares the love

*by Margaret Gabriel*

Lexington's Quantrell Subaru participated in the 2018 Subaru Share the Love Event from November 15, 2018, to January 2, 2019. The long-time national program donates \$250 for every car sold or leased to one of four national charities and in addition to the national donations, the Lexington dealer made a donation of \$200 to the Catholic Action Center for every car sold.

The CAC provides services to men and women experiencing homelessness, including meals, laundry services and showers. Open 24-hours a day, seven days a week, the CAC also connects its residents to mental health services, drug and alcohol treatment programs, long-term housing and employment opportunities. During January's "polar

vortex" the CAC opened its large gathering area to people who might have otherwise had to stay outside during life-threatening weather.

It is that type of community outreach that the local car dealer chose to "Share the Love."

"We chose the Catholic Action Center because they provide services with no government funding," said Beth Pickrell, Quantrell Auto Group Marketing Director. "They offer life-changing services right here in Lexington."

Encouraging their customers to be "part of the solution," Subaru provides not only monetary donations to CAC, but educates its customers about the work of the CAC with printed materials and a video that played continuously in their showroom

through the weeks of the Share the Love Event. "People in Lexington are compassionate and want a way to help," Pickrell said.

"Subaru loves something all year, activities that line up with our national charities," Pickrell said. There are recycling containers in the dealership on New Circle Road and they helped build a garden at Cassidy Elementary School and donated science books to elementary schools. They donate blankets to cancer patients and supplies to pet shelters like the Woodford Humane Society.

The amount of the donation to the Catholic Action Center is still to be finalized but Pickrell hopes that the amount will be over \$50,000. The total donation will be finalized in March 2019.

"That's phenomenal," said Ginny Ramsey, director of the Catholic Action Center. The donation will enable the center to make needed improvements on the building at 1055 Industry Road, including energy-saving updates on the HVAC system.

"They've created great community awareness," Ramsey said. "And they've been nominated for a national award for their work. The benefit to us has been a gift from heaven."

Subaru of America is one of dozens of companies that matches gifts that employees make to non-profit organizations. To learn if your employer is one of these companies Google "Matching Gifts—Lexington, Ky." You will find companies that provide matching gifts as well as local non-profit organizations that encourage such donations.



Margaret Gabriel

*The Catholic Action Center choir participates in a 2018 immigration rally in Lexington.*