

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE May 2019

BUILD to host Action on May 7

by Margaret Gabriel

Building a United Lexington through Direct Action—BUILD—rallied in preparation for the May 7 Nehemiah Action at Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary Church in Lexington on April 9. Nearly 400 people from 22 congregations in Lexington committed to attend the action at Heritage Hall in Lexington and to bring three people with them in order to bring about changes in the areas of mental health, gun violence, drug abuse and education.

BUILD's vision is to have the average number of people who worship in Lexington every week attend the action. The number of people attending has grown from year to year; in 2019 organizers hope to have 2,250 people to address the reality that many people see two separate Lexingtons.

BUILD identifies community problems every year and researches solutions to the problems. City leaders are invited to the Nehemiah Action and asked to take action on the recommended solutions. Past successes include Lexington's affordable housing trust fund and a drug treatment program in the women's jail.

In 2019 dozens of house meetings

identified mental health care, gun violence, drug treatment and education as problems that need attention in Lexington.

BUILD will promote specific, achievable solutions to the problems and at the Nehemiah Action will ask city officials to take action on those solutions.

Mary Queen pastor Father Dan Noll told the congregation that *U.S. News and World Report* recently named Lexington one of the best places to live in the United States, "But that's not everyone's Lexington," he said. "There are areas of Lexington where the schools are ignored. There are neighborhoods where people can't sit on their front porches. There were four people buried from this church this year who died from violent crime."

Father Noll encouraged those in attendance to commit to attending the Nehemiah Action and said BUILD would continue to increase attendance through the years. "One day we'll have 15,000 people and Lexington will no longer be a tale of two cities."

After statements about each of the identified problems and stories from BUILD members about how those problems have affected them, Rev. Joseph Owens, pastor of Shiloh Baptist Church, told the congregation to prepare for the inevitable tension that will arise at the Nehemiah Action.

Drawing a parallel from a message of Dr. Martin Luther King, Rev. Owens said, "We are not creators of



BUILD's ultimate goal is to have the number of people at its Nehemiah Action that attend services at every church in Lexington on any given Sunday. This year, 27 churches are working to have 2250 people at the May 7 action.

tension; we bring it to the forefront."

He challenged members to "brave the tension and the parking issues at Rupp Arena and come to the Nehemiah Action on May 7. It's a mistake to think we can be silent in the face of injustice. We must speak truth into the broken systems of our city. We must keep on building that power so we can correct everything that stands against love."

Following the rally BUILD members continued to prepare for May 7 by reaching out to government officials who can make positive responses to the requests of the community. Kabby Akers, a BUILD co-chair, reports that Mental Health Court is adequately funded for the coming year but that Mayor Linda Gorton will not attend the action and probably will not send anyone to stand in for her. "The BUILD leaders will strategize going forward," Kabby said. "But thing one is, for sure. We need to pack out Heritage Hall on May 7!"

For more information about BUILD's Nehemiah Action at 7 p.m. on May 7 in Heritage Hall, Lexington, contact peacewayseditor@gmail.com.

Gun Violence In America as of 4-28-19 (excluding suicide)

2019 (year to date)

Killed	4,416
Wounded	8,222

2018 (annual)

Killed	13,321
Wounded	25,734

Source: www.gunviolencearchive.org

Green New Deal Tour plans a stop in Kentucky

The Sunrise Movement, a movement of young people uniting to stop the climate crisis, and Sunrise Kentucky, with local partners Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition, are hosting a tour stop on the Road to a Green New Deal on Saturday, May 11 in Frankfort, Ky. The Kentucky stop is one of eight locations, including Boston, Detroit, New Orleans, and Washington, DC. The stop will explore what the pain of the climate crisis looks like for Kentucky and the nation, and what the promise of the Green New Deal will look like, too. Participants will hear from political champions, and community and movement leaders, using multimedia presentations and conversations.

The roadmap will be set from 2021 and beyond, discovering what the Green New Deal means for each Kentuckian, as well as people throughout the United States. Participants will also receive information about the action needed to bring the Green New Deal to the public—and what action will be taken to make it happen.

This event is sponsored by the Sunrise Movement and Sunrise Kentucky, with local partners Kentuckians for the Commonwealth (KFTC), Service Employees International Union, Local 32BJ, and Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition (KSEC).

Speakers for the Kentucky tour stop will include:

- Varshini Prakash, Executive Director of Sunrise Movement;

- Rep. Attica Scott, from Kentucky's 41st state House district, and former organizer with Kentucky Jobs with Justice

- Kevin Short, high school environmental organizer and former President of the Kentucky High School Democrats;

- Scott Shoupe, a fourth generation coal miner who is currently working for a just transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

The tour stop in Kentucky will also



include a Seat At The Table, a dinner that will be served at 5:30 pm in the Ballroom on the 4th floor of the Carl M. Hill Student Center on the campus of Kentucky State University. Guests are encouraged to arrive between 5 and 5:30 pm. This dinner is an opportunity to meet and engage with diverse people from across Kentucky who are working to build a powerful movement for a Just Transition and a Green New Deal. Come enjoy a good meal, fellowship, and conversation before the Green New Deal Tour event starts at 7 pm in the building next door.

Tickets are required for both the tour event and the dinner, but they are available at no cost. Find the link at the CKCPJ Facebook page or Google "Kentucky Green New Deal."

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

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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 June. Deadline for calendar items is May 10. Contact (859) 488-1448 or email peacewayseditor@gmail.com.

*Afflict the
comfortable;
give comfort
to 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., May 4

Catholic Committee of Appalachia,
Wild Flower Walk, Red River Gorge, Powell Co.
The event will include prayer and reflection on care for the earth. For information email Fr. John Rausch, jsrausch@bellsouth.net.

Tues., May 7

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., May 7

BUILD, Nehemiah Action, Heritage Hall, 7 p.m., 430 Vine Street, Lexington. The goal of the Nehemiah Action is to gather 2,250 people from throughout Lexington to ask Lexington city leaders to take specific actions to resolve issues of concern in Lexington. If you are interested in attending, leave a message at (859) 608-2946.

Sat., May 11

Sunrise Kentucky, Green New Deal Tour, 7 p.m., Bradford Hall, 400 E. Main St., Frankfort. Frankfort is one of eight stops (and the smallest city serving as a host) that are intended to energize supporters of the Green New Deal. The event is co-sponsored by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and the Kentucky Student Environmental Coalition.

Tues., May 14

PFLAG Central Kentucky, 6:30-8:30 p.m., St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. The evening will include a discussion of *This Is How It Always Is*, a book about a loving, hilarious, complex family trying to do right by one another when their youngest child comes out as transgender. This discussion will be followed by a confidential support group meeting. All are welcome – LGBTQ+ youth and adults, family members, friends, allies, and those who wish to learn more about LGBTQ+ issues.

Tues., May 14

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

Mon., May 20

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., May 21

Election Day, 6 a.m. - 6 p.m. To identify your polling place and to see a sample ballot, go to vrsws.sos.ky.gov. The site will ask for your name and the last four digits of your Social Security number and will take you to a page where you will see your polling place and your legislative districts. The site can also tell you how to find a ride to the polls.

Tues., June 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., June 11

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

Tues., June 11

PFLAG Central Kentucky, 6:30-8:30 p.m., St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. The speaker will be Petty Poussey, one of Lexington's premier drag performers, who will talk about drag from a personal and social perspective. This discussion will be followed by a confidential support group meeting. All are welcome – LGBTQ+ youth and adults, family members, friends, allies, and those who wish to learn more about LGBTQ+ issues.

Mon., June 17

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.

The League of Women Voters of Lexington and the Lexington Public Library co-sponsored candidate forums for Circuit Court Judge, 22nd Circuit, 4th Division and Republican candidates for governor.

The events were videotaped and available on YouTube

PFLAG convention in Kansas City Oct. 25-27

The 2019 PFLAG National Convention is scheduled for Oct. 25-27 in Kansas City.

The last two years have been challenging for the LGBTQ+ and other marginalized communities but members of PFLAG are making a difference, providing support where it's needed, education where it's required, and advocacy of all kinds, on all fronts. Members realize that the public needs to hear about their needs, challenges and triumphs.

The convention gives an opportunity to gather, strategize, plan, bolster, and prepare for critical fights.

The national convention will provide major opportunities for networking, while offering workshops, panel discussions, and nationally renowned speakers. Participants will have an opportunity to meet and speak with PFLAG's new executive

director, Brian Bond, whose personal story and professional experience as a national leader will inspire members to keep pressing forward.

In between sessions, you'll have free time to enjoy all that Kansas City has to offer. PFLAG national staffer Brooke Smith plans to share information about her favorite spots.

The registration fee for the convention is \$275, \$350 for non-members. The two-day event will include learning, relationship building, and honoring those who are making the PFLAG difference in the community. Participants will gain a sense of PFLAG Pride, resources that will help them continue to be the changes in their own community. Register and/or become a member at the PFLAG website.

Venezuela's failure: Not "socialism's" fault

CRUDE NATION: How Oil Riches Ruined Venezuela. By Raul Gallegos. Copyright 2016 Potomac Books (University of Nebraska Press). 226 pages.

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

I've begun seeing conservative memes that evil old Socialism is what sank Venezuela. Zealots who used to manipulate the gullible by hating on Obama or pining for coal jobs now are instead trying to scare you into not voting Democratic for this new reason. They don't really care, you understand, they're just looking for a bludgeon.

Venezuela was ruined by the nation's inability to plan for the future and channel their indescribable oil wealth into anything besides a binge economy.

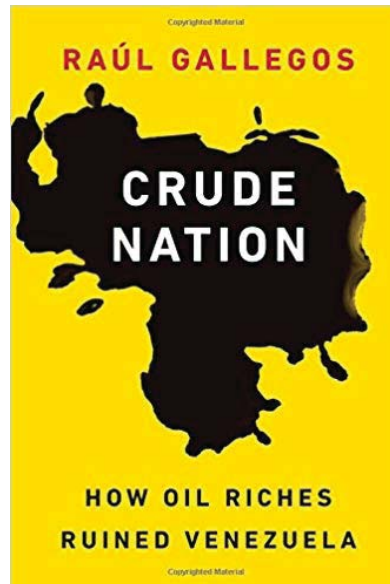
Late president Hugo Chavez sincerely wanted to make things better for his poor, but he went about it ignorantly.

For example, he froze prices at unrealistically low levels so companies couldn't recoup their costs. Some companies got lots of state help; others have closed or have been taken over directly by the government. The nation now has very little of the basics: toilet paper (except their currency, *ha ha*), steel for coffins, flour for the *arepas* that are to Venezuelans as cheeseburgers are to Americans. Government inefficiency is legend: When the government takes over a business, usually its payroll triples while production falls 50 percent.

When Venezuela discovered its oil back around World War One, they let their agricultural and manufacturing industries go to seed, so they have to import food and goods. Home-based companies are often hamstrung because the government controls the conversion of Monopoly-money bolivars to American dollars to pay for imported raw materials.

The bolivar's rate of exchange is fixed by the government, so a black market in dollars thrives where bolivars go for much more than the government allows. Smuggling of groceries bought off the shelves at the low rate is common; the goods are hoarded and re-sold at a large profit. It's crazy to think you can control prices without stimulating a black market.

The well-written half-treatise, half-travelogue is an easy read. Every chapter that deals with abstruse economics is followed by one on, for example, why



there isn't enough toilet paper. A complete 20th century history of all the selfish and wrongheaded decisions is here for the reading, but you get the gist way before you finish.

I was struck by some lessons Venezuela can teach us, however, and you should bring these up whenever some redcap tries to scare you about socialism.

- Gasoline is insanely cheap — \$2 US fills the tank of a Hummer. The state-run oil industry loses money on it. Everyone knows gasoline is too cheap; but talk of raising the price to cover the cost of production invariably turns to how to spend the extra money. They forget you can't cover production costs and then also spend the extra revenue on something else.
- This reminds me of our President promoting his tax cuts (hang on, now) by saying they would cause growth that would offset the deficit the cuts would cause, and then promised that same growth would make the budget balance. No. You can't spend gains twice. It was a two-trillion-dollar error.
- Corrupt, selfish politicians reward themselves and their cronies while professing to care for the citizenry. I don't have the space to spell out the parallels here, but think of departing Trump Cabinet officials.

Prices double every 19 days in Venezuela this year. Inflation is forecast to hit TEN MILLION PERCENT for 2019. A series of short-sighted management decisions made during a time of plenty is to blame, not anything as vague as the "socialism" so feared by the conservatives.

- Gallegos cites a famous incident in which a woman threw a mango (with an aid request) at current president Maduro. It wasn't aggression; it was a plea for an apartment. She got one, finally. Good shot. The author calls this "mango management" — dealing with whatever problem falls immediately to hand haphazardly, without overall planning. Sounds familiar, doesn't it, when you remember buyouts hastily offered to affected soybean farmers (which never quite materialized), vague promises to coal miners to get eastern Kentucky votes (wonder if they've wised up yet?) and more other parallel examples than I can list.

I'm concerned that you guard yourself against believing that Venezuela's example means you shouldn't vote Democratic. Vote as you will, but broad-brush anti-socialism is a scare tactic.

The US is slightly socialist already, with our social security, social safety net, and socially conscious tax policies; but we will never produce anything like the hell unfolding in Venezuela — at least, as long as rationality exists somewhere in our political system.

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Meanwhile, on the state level, reviewer Jim Trammel urges you to vote in the May 21 primary election for the candidate you believe is more sincere, concerned, and empathetic.

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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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 GLBTQQA 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.



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

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*If you're out, trying to work you can
leave and when you come back,
your home's gone.*

~ Charles Bowers

CAC residents advocating for camps in Lexington

The Catholic Action Center celebrated its second anniversary at 1055 Industry Road in late April. The facility, which residents refer to not as a shelter but a community, provides both long- and short-term housing for people who are experiencing homelessness.

CAC is one of several housing options in Lexington for such people but some people prefer—for a variety of reasons including mental illness and PTSD—to live in camps that are set up in areas throughout the city.

On Tues, April 16, the CAC community presented a letter and a video to the General Government

and Social Services committee of the LFUCG and to Mayor Linda Gorton and Chief Lawrence Weathers asking for Lexington to take an “aggressively compassionate response” to the city’s practice of dissembling the camps that some people call home.

“It’s a real problem,” said Charles Bower in the video that was created for the city officials. He, Donny and Missy Clinton told of the disruption they experience following the practice of dismantling camps when people are away working or looking for work. “We come home and we don’t have a home, even in the woods,” Charles said.

“They take our clothes and blankets and we have to spend the next morning looking for more clothes,” Missy said.

“We’re trying to open people’s eyes,” Charles said. “There are more homeless people than the shelters can hold.”

The video accompanied a letter that requested an ordinance creating protections for the camps, including a 21-day notice of intention to remove a camp; no evictions from November through March; and notification to the CAC’s Compassionate Care Van in order to assist campers with their belongings. The CAC has pledged to provide 30-day storage for people who are displaced from a camp.

Ginny Ramsey, CAC director, said camps are dissembled by Code Enforcement, the police department, the department of sanitation and parks and recreation. “And often there is no communication between those departments.”

The requests included in the ordinance are supported by Kentuckians for the Commonwealth and the Poor People’s Campaign.

The LFUCG committee made no decisions at their April meeting but will revisit the situation on May 14.

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Follow CKCPJ on Facebook

April posts on CKCPJ’s Facebook page included an interesting variety of local, national and international topics including Wendall Berry’s commentary about the mural at the University of Kentucky; the high cost of rent; support for Lexington sanitation workers; the link between Kentucky’s poor health rankings to low employment rankings.

On Tuesdays, the CKCPJ Facebook page will post

testimonials from Campaign for Non-Violence supporters. The April 16 post featured an essay by Tom Hastings of the Oregon Peace Institute.

A post on April 18 included the video featuring Charles Bowers, Don and Missy Clinton, members of the Catholic Action Center community, who supplied information to the LFUCG about the need for the ordinance concerning homeless camps in Lexington (see page 6).

Thanks to Richard Mitchell for overseeing the page.



The Compassionate Care Van is part of the plan for helping people living in camps in Lexington to protect their belongings if a camp is dissembled. CAC residents are asking for an ordinance that gives advanced warning of the intent to dismantle a camp.