

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE June 2019

Leaders needed on good days and bad

by Billie Mallory

A recent [Lexington] Herald-Leader op-ed addressed a “spate of murders” in the East End of Lexington. The “spate” included three people killed in less than 30 days in the same location on Race St.

As a community activist, I spoke out in support of police and called for city leaders to “show up” when such things happen. That recommendation was met with considerable pushback from some East End residents. They perceived the suggestion as shedding a negative light on the East End and its complex issues of poverty and crime, and viewed it as criticism of our city leaders.

I firmly believe that denial of such problems breeds complacency, perhaps even complicity. The current rate of violent crime must be addressed by all levels of leadership. It cannot just be the police responding once to a crime.

Law enforcement, indeed, has been very responsive to East End neighborhood crime. But many of our residents live in fear and anxiety even in their own homes.

Elderly residents tell me they arrange their furniture away from windows or live in the back part of their house so they’re injured by bullets flying through their walls or windows. Many people have showed me bullet holes in their houses.

I contend that no one should live like this. Safewise.com states that Lexington is the third safest city in the nation, but is it safe everywhere and for everyone?

To the credit of 1st District Council member James Brown, police and sheriff departments and One Lexington (an initiative designed to combat violent crime), there was a Public Safety Forum that addressed some of these issues.

More meetings are needed and residents need to see more council members and other elected officials in their neighborhoods. Residents need to hear from the council chambers about the efforts being made.

Crime is a public safety issue that needs to be addressed. It is also an economic development issue for the East End as it continues its revitalization.

I often reflect on the irony that several businesses have relocated in the East End and new homes are currently built less than a half-block from the location of the latest murders.

For decades the East End has been neglected and allowed to decline, but now that land is at a premium for development the East End is considered “downtown.” Many vacant properties have been purchased by developers. Much-needed upgrades to infrastructure and basic amenities have been added.

Residents are indeed grateful for that attention and reinvestment, but are concerned about displacement of elderly people and young families who are living in poverty. They have little choice but to live elsewhere where it might be safer. This is clearly a social justice issue that

needs to be addressed with greater equity and support across all systems that impact this historic area north of downtown.

We don’t need elected leaders to show up only on a good day when groundbreaking are taking place for the media. We also need them to show up on our worst days, when lives have been lost, assuring residents that they matter.

Let us shed light in the darkness and allow all of our neighborhoods to shine and thrive.

Billie is the executive director of the East End Community Development Corporation. Her statistical report appears on page 6.

BUILD’s Nehemiah Action



BUILD held its annual Nehemiah Action on May 7 at Heritage Hall. Over 1,700 people from 27 churches received promises from city officials.

Gun Violence In America as of 5-28-19 (excluding suicide)

2019 (year to date)

Killed	5,621
Wounded	10,747

2018 (annual)

Killed	13,321
Wounded	25,734

Source: www.gunviolencearchive.org

A practical guide to civics issues

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT POLITICS ... BUT DON'T: A Nonpartisan Guide To the Issues That Matter. By Jessamyn Conrad. Arcade Publishing, New York. Kindle edition

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

I watched Gov. Matt Bevin's online acceptance of his party's nomination for re-election (barely) on May 21, but my attention went to the Facebook Live watchers, many of whom thought he was already elected. No, we decide that in November.

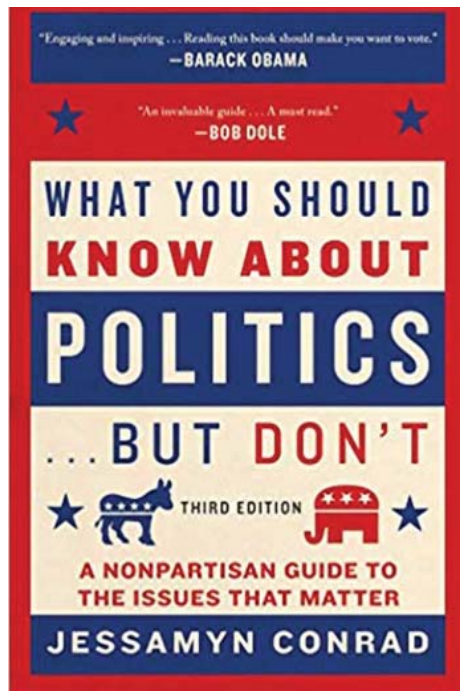
Since they quit teaching civics in high school (wonder why?), our national political intelligence levels have been dropping. This book would help.

It's a CliffsNotes version of current events, a non-partisan summation of where the two major parties stand on the issues: the economy, health care, foreign policy, the military, the environment, civil liberties, gay marriage, abortion, guns.

The author does not choose sides (both Barack Obama and Bob Dole endorse the book). It's maddening to some reviewers that she doesn't, but I respect that choice. Some sections are out of date since the last revision in 2016, but that's okay — we need some time to see what stays broken and what gets rebuilt after Trump.

The basic 1-2-3 level of instruction might irritate some, but even savvy readers will find nuggets. Here are some things I didn't know:

- After the 2000 election mess between Bush and Gore, both sides proposed new rules, under each set of which the other candidate would have won.
- The Federal Reserve does not set interest rates. It can only nudge the market in the desired direction, by buying and selling Treasury bills.
- The right to vote is not guaranteed in the Constitution.
- During the recession of 2008, the Federal Reserve lent over \$1.2 trillion to banks, and extended \$10 trillion more in debt — almost 70 percent of the total U.S. economy.
- The payroll tax holiday of 2009 to 2012 cost the Social Security system money, since that tax supports it.
- Over half of all Americans own stocks and bonds.
- An MRI machine costs \$1 million to buy, and over \$1 million per year to operate.



- Apple's iPads are made in China, but people who live in China cannot buy them. (Discussing iPads might indicate how dated some information is in this edition.)
- U.S. Operation Desert Fox in the mid-1990s frightened Saddam Hussein into destroying his weapons of mass destruction, but we had no way to know how weakened Iraq really was.
- Health insurance benefits of Detroit automaker employees adds \$1,400 to the cost of every American auto.
- The U.S. buys more oil from Canada than any other country.
- According to Conrad, the world will run out of oil in 2035, but more important is when production starts to decline.
- All three recessions of the past 30 years were preceded by a shortage of oil.
- The first court fight over making school children recite the Pledge of Allegiance was brought by a religious group opposed to its being required.

This is a level-headed, if basic, objective summation that we can only hope our leaders and wannabe-leaders can cite.

Reviewer Jim Trammel is (a) *mistrustful of impassioned amateurs who think they naturally acquired the brains and talent to be political leaders*, and (b) *disgusted by politicians who, once elected, feel they don't have to keep learning*.

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice

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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.

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., June 1

Southland Street Fair, 3 - 8 p.m., Southland Drive, Lexington. Enjoy entertainment, local vendors, food trucks and tents, family-friendly activities and more. Visit SouthlandStreetFair.com for the entertainment schedule.

Mon-Fri., June 3-7

LFUCG, Senior Intern Program. This is a free program that offers participants the opportunity to learn about their city government by talking to key decision makers, participating in class activities and visiting several government facilities. To be a part of the program you must be a Fayette County resident age 50 or older, and you must pre-register. For more information and to participate, contact Kristy Stambaugh at 859-278-6072 or kstambaugh@lexingtonky.gov.

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.

Sat., June 8

Lexington Humane Society, Mutt Strut. Keeneland, 4201 Versailles, Rd., Lexington. Chip-timed 5K begins at 9 a.m., the Fun Walk follows shortly. Local vendors will be there before and after the run/walk. For the safety of your pet, retractable leashes will not be permitted. Registration: \$25 adults, \$20 children.

Mon., June 10

BUILD, Celebration, 7 p.m. Mary Queen of the Holy Rosary gym, 605 Hill 'n' Dale Road, Lexington. Members of the 27 congregations that make up BUILD will celebrate the progress that was made at the Nehemiah Action concerning justice in Lexington.

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.

Sat., July 13

LFUCG, Free trash disposal for non-hazardous household waste, 6 a.m.-1 p.m., Bluegrass Regional Transfer Station, 1505 Old Frankfort Pike. Construction and demolition debris as well any items larger than the curbside cart will not be accepted free of charge, but can be dropped off at the regular gate rate during the event. Participants must present a valid Fayette County driver's license.

*Afflict the comfortable;
give comfort to the afflicted.*

Mon., June 24

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. Please note that the steering committee will meet the fourth Monday rather than the third/ this month only.

Sat., July 27

LFUCG, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Kentucky River Clean Sweep, Clay's Ferry Boat Dock, 9079 Old Richmond Road. For more information see lexingtonky.gov.

Fri-Sun., Aug 2-4

Kentuckians for the Commonwealth, Annual Meeting. Berea College, 101 Chestnut St., Berea, Ky. Registration begins at 4 p.m. on Friday; the meeting finishes with a closing session at 11:45 a.m. Sunday. Activities include workshops and a tour of Sustainable Berea's urban farm. Keynote address by Ashlee Woodard Henderson, Executive Director of Highlander Research and Education Center at 6:45 p.m. on Saturday. For more information contact Carissa Lenfert, (502) 208-1696, carissa@kftc.org

PFLAG convention in Kansas City Oct. 25-27

The 2019 PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays) 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 is needed, education where it is 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 will 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, and resources that will help them continue to be the changes in their own community. Register and/or become a member at the PFLAG website.

United in Blood – Lexington Faith Communities come together

by Margaret Gabriel, Editor

Lexington UNITED Interfaith Encounters hosted people from multiple faith traditions for “United in Blood” at St. Paul Church, Lexington, on May 6. The congregation was welcomed by founder JR Zerkowski and encouraged to be witnesses for unity, diversity and justice.

“We stand with victims and mourn with our sisters and brothers who have been killed, because we believe we are united in blood,” Zerkowski said. “We must dialog and work for sensible gun control and to eradicate gun violence from our beautiful city.”

Christian, Jewish and Islamic clergy, as well as city officials and members of Moms Demand Action, began the service by proceeding down the center aisle to a bell tolling for victims of gun violence.

Father Richard Watson of the Catholic Diocese of Lexington, and Ursuline Sister Clara Fehringer, St. Paul pastoral associate, draped the presider’s chair with a Tallit (prayer shawl) stained with wine representing the blood of victims.

The congregation joined in singing “For All the Children,” becoming louder and more confident with each verse that ended with “Join us hand in hand, as against all hate we stand.”

The Rev. Mark Johnson, senior pastor, Central Baptist Church, called the congregation to prayer with a call to holiness and wholeness and was followed by a prayer from the Rev. Marsha Moors-Charles, senior pastor, Bluegrass United Church of Christ.

Sister Waheedah Amatullah Muhammad, CAIR, Masjid Bilal, read from the Sacred Quran, and Father Watson from the Gospel according to St. Matthew. Anita Rowe Franklin told the story of the death of her son, Antonio Franklin, who died from a gunshot wound he received in Lexington’s Duncan Park in 2014.

Franklin said his friends described Antonio as a peacekeeper, and she cherishes the words her daughter spoke when they were consoling each other immediately following Antonio’s death: “God has a purpose for us all.”

Afterward, she introduced five women who told of losing their sons to gun violence, “We need to pray for each other and stop this gun violence,” Franklin said.

The Rev. Carol Ruthven, the Episcopal Diocese of Lexington, said she attended because she believes the community owes it to high school students like Antonio to be visible publicly in voicing concern, especially to elected officials.

“As an Episcopalian, in our baptismal vows, we pledge to respect the dignity of every human being and to work for peace and justice. Those are core values for me; I’m concerned that what should be shocking has become normalized because of its frequency. To be silent almost makes us complicit,” she said.

Students from Lexington Catholic attended following the recommendation of their religion teacher, Esther Breeding.

Nina Jazdzekski, a member of Christ the King, said she is now motivated to promote marches and peace rallies and to spread the word about Interfaith Encounters.

Katie Ramirez, a member of St. Paul, said she has a responsibility to participate in events that bring the violence to the forefront, although Lexington Catholic is an elite school and “We don’t know what it’s like to live in a neighborhood where we don’t feel safe.”

The congregation was commissioned to action by Rabbi David Wirtschafter, Temple Adath Israel, who said, “Justice has been delayed for too long. Places of worship have been compromised by easy access to firearms, but we’re not just here for prayer. Go forth with a commitment.”

Rabbi Wirtschafter rhythmically intoned the places that have experienced the horror of gun violence. “Littleton, Columbine, Pittsburgh, Duncan Park, Virginia Tech, Chicago. We value thoughts and prayers but we cannot lift our hands in prayer if we are not willing to lift our hands to work. May our work prove capable of fulfilling our prayers. Do not take leave of this place until you have resolved to do something. Take a stand. Take a stand. Take a stand.”

Mary Thompson, a member of Calvary Baptist Church, was invited by a friend who knew that she would enjoy the service. “I thought it was wonderful,” Thompson said. Although she feels motivated to become involved with the mission of Interfaith Encounters, she admits to feeling a bit useless in the face of things that can actually be done. “I’ll encourage friends to give blood, but it’s unreal what the NRA has done,” Thompson said.

Following a blessing by Rabbi Uriel Smith, Rabbi Emeritus, Ohavay Zion Synagogue, the congregation joined the St. Peter Claver Gospel Choir in “We Shall Overcome,” holding hands and swaying to the rhythm of the hymn.



Rabbi Uriel Smith, Rabbi Emeritus, Ohavay Zion Synagogue offers the final blessing for “United in Blood.”

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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your Kroger Plus card
to #16439 at
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 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

Issue #321 • May 2019

*I have always found that
mercy bears richer fruits
than strict justice.*

~ Abraham Lincoln

Homicides in Lexington, 2010-2019

These numbers/percentages represent the number of homicides in Lexington over the past 10 years (2010-2019-partial year), including a tally of those occurring in the 1st district, and more specifically the East End neighborhood.

Year	TOTAL in Lex	Total in 1st D/Percentage of Lex	Total in East End/Percentage of 1st D
2019 (4 mos)	10	9/90%	3/33%
2018	22	10/45%	4/40%
2017	28	14/50%	6/43%
2016	25	6/24%	0/0%
2015	16	8/50%	0/0% (Council member J Brown served April 2015-April-2019)
2014	18	14/78%	7/50%
2013	20	15/75%	0/0%
2012	12	6/50%	0/0%
2011	16	6/38%	2/33%
2010	19	11/58%	1/9% (Council member C Ford served 2010-March of 2015)
TOTALS	186	99/53%	23/23%

* NOTE: Data obtained from lexingtonky.gov/homicides in Lexington (number of murders) and Fayette Co PVA (locations/district)

A total of 186 murders have occurred over the past 10 years (including only the first 4 months of 2019). The highest number of murders in Lexington have occurred over the past four years, including the first four months of 2019: ten murders to date.

The greatest number occurred in 2017 with of total of 28 and a slight decrease in 2018 with a total of 22.

In comparison, the 1st District has experienced 99 of the murders in Lexington (53 percent), including 50 percent or more of the total murders in seven of the past 10 years. In just the first four months of 2019, there have already been 10 murders with 90 percent of those occurring in the 1st District alone.

Within the 1st District, the East End has experienced 23 percent of those murders, accounting for more that 33 percent or a third of the murders in five of the past 10 years committed in the 1st District. In just the first four months 2019, the East End has 33 percent of the murders occurring in the 1st District, all of which occurred in the 200 block of Race Street.

The East End has had a CLEAR unit during the past 10 years that includes a community liaison and an extra

number of assigned patrol officers, as well as ready access to the horse and bike units because of its close proximity to downtown. The East End has had a neighborhood association that has been active for 40-plus years, and a community development corporation for over four years.

A small-area plan was adopted in 2009. The East End also experienced significant redevelopment in 2009-2014 that added new affordable, rental housing and new homes for ownership, as well as a new elementary school that brought a

significant number of new residents to this transitioning neighborhood.

With an economic downturn during the past five years, little re-development continued and many long-time residents moved out, leaving approximately 30 percent of the properties in the neighborhood vacant. However, in 2018 and 2019 several new small businesses relocated to the East End, and new housing has been built in the lower East End. Other mixed-use re-development is happening now in Midland Triangle.

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Follow CKCPJ on Facebook

Engagement on the CKCPJ Facebook page dropped during the end of April and the first part of May, although the posts remained varied between local, national and international issues.

Topics included Dwight Billing's criticism of *Hillbilly Elegy* (an interesting and brutally honest reflection on the bestseller); neglected cemeteries; violence in Lexington's East End (see page 1); Lexington's efforts to end homelessness for veterans; op-ed by DACA immigrant Omar Salinas Chacon; the grant received

by UK to fight opioid deaths in Kentucky; Medicare for All; Rep. Thomas Massie's ignorance about higher education.

The Tuesday, May 21 post from Peace Action was the group's May commentary entitled, "The U.S. is Spending \$1.25 Trillion Annually on War."

There is also a post from kentucky.com from Lexington activist Thomas Tolliver encouraging residents of the East End to become engaged in the revitalization of the area as a way of stemming violence.