

Peaceways

CENTRAL KENTUCKY COUNCIL FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

February 2018

National Peacemaker to Visit Lexington

by T. Kerby Neill

Jonathan Granoff, president of the Global Security Institute and a 2014 nominee for the Nobel Peace Prize, will speak at 7 p.m. Feb. 27 at the Kincaid Auditorium in the Gatton College of Business at the University of Kentucky.

Granoff's talk is titled "Framing Security for the 21st Century: Successfully Addressing the Most Salient Existential Threats to Our Nation and Our World." As North Korea continues to develop nuclear

weapons, Cold War-type tensions re-emerge between Russia and the United States, and the Middle East remains highly volatile, Mr. Granoff's topic could hardly be more timely.

The Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice (CKCPJ) hopes to have parking available to the general public at the UK lots off South Limestone. Look for details in a coming flyer or on the CKCPJ website.

Granoff will also speak at the University of Kentucky College of Law and at the Patterson School for Diplomacy and International Business.

Granoff is an international lawyer and former professor of international law. He serves as a senior advisor and special representative to the United Nations for the Permanent Secretariat of the World Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates. He is the chair of the Task Force on Nuclear Nonproliferation of the International Law Section of the American Bar Association, and Ambassador for Peace and Security of the Parliament of the World's Religions. He focuses his advocacy efforts on the legal, moral, political and spiritual dimensions of peace with a particular emphasis on the rule of law and the elimination of nuclear weapons. Granoff serves on numerous advisory and governing boards such as

the NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security at the UN; Lawyers Committee on Nuclear Policy; Middle Powers Initiative; Parliamentarians for Nuclear Nonproliferation and Disarmament; and the Jane Goodall Institute.

Granoff is also the award-winning screenwriter of "The Constitution: The Document that Created a Nation," and has articles in more than 50 publications and books including: The Sovereignty Revolution; Toward a Nuclear Weapons Free World; Imagining Tomorrow; Toward a World In Balance; Analyzing Moral Issues; Perspectives on 911; Reverence for Life Revisited; and Hold Hope, Wage Peace.

Granoff was tentatively scheduled to visit Kentucky last in late 2017 but was rescheduled after receiving an invitation to present at the Vatican's conference on nuclear disarmament.

The CKCPJ is the primary sponsor for Granoff's visit. The UK College of Law, the Patterson School for Diplomacy and International Business and UK's Peace Studies Program in the Political Science Department are also providing support.

Contact Kerby Neill (859) 396-6811 or kerbyneill@yahoo.com with questions.

Kerby chairs the CKCPJ Peace Action committee.

CKCPJ Committees

The **Steering Committee** will meet on Feb. 20.

The **Peace Action Committee** meets on Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. to continue work on non-violence curricula for middle and high schools in Fayette and surrounding counties and to finalize details of Jonathan's Granoff's visit to Lexington on Feb. 27. See detail's of Granoff's visit above.

The initial meeting of the **Health Security Action Team** will be held on Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. As the committee's work unfolds, it will focus on what can be done to preserve the Affordable Care Act and

how to promote the concept of a single-payer health care system to legislators. Richard Mitchell currently chairs the committee.

The **Lexington Advocacy Team** will also meet in February. Although it is not a CKCPJ committee, many of its members and goals overlap with the commission. Watch the CKCPJ website for more information.

All meetings take place at 7 p.m. at the Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. You are invited to join any committee, or all committees.



Gun Violence In America as of 1-30-18

(excluding suicide)

2018 (year to date)

Killed 1,190
Wounded 2,178

2017 (annual figure)

Killed 15,587
Wounded 31,178

20th Annual One World Film Festival

by Annette Mayer

The 20th annual One World Films (OWF) Festival opens its 2018 series Sunday, Feb. 4 at 2 p.m., in the Pavilion A Auditorium at University of Kentucky Chandler Medical Center, with a showing of the documentary *Life Animated*. The film is a coming-of-age story about a boy who is autistic and his family, who overcame great challenges by turning Disney animated movies into a language to express love, loss, kinship, and brotherhood. The film was written by Ron Suskind, based on his book of the same title. The young man featured in the film is Suskind's son.

The OWF continues for the next five Thursday nights (7 p.m.) and five Saturday mornings (10 a.m.) in the Kentucky Theater, 214 East Main St. All One World Films showing are free and open to the public.

On Thursday, Feb. 8, the festival film will be *Before the Flood*, a documentary about climate change. A film-making team spent three years visiting the world to document the impact of climate change.

On Sat., Feb. 10, the Saturday morning films open with *Queen of Katwe*. This film is the true story of a young girl who sells corn on the streets of rural Uganda whose world rapidly changes when she is introduced to the game of chess.

On Thursday night, Feb. 15, the festival will screen *Music of Strangers*. This film is the extraordinary story of The Silk Road Ensemble, an international musical collective created by legendary cellist Yo-Yo Ma. The film follows a diverse group of instrumentalists, vocalists, composers, and storytellers as they explore the power of music to preserve tradition, shape cultural evolution, and inspire hope.

The Sat., Feb. 17, film will be *Kedi*, the story of the street cat population in Istanbul. It is a powerful film showing kindness in its purest form.

Thurs., Feb. 22, OWF will screen an almost unbelievable film, *Under the Sun*. After years of negotiation, Russian film director Vitaly Mansky was invited by the North Korean government to make a film about one girl and her family in the year she prepares to join the Children's Union, on the Day of the Shining Star (Kim

Jong-Il's birthday)

The following Saturday morning, Feb. 24, see the heartwarming Japanese film, *Our Little Sister* by Japanese director, Hirokazu Kore-eda. The film focuses on three adult sisters who choose to adopt their teenage stepsister. The film encourages viewers to slow down and take stock of their lives' defining little moments.

On Thursday, March 1 the film will be *Lipstick Under My Burkha*. This film opened the 2017 Indian Film Festival in New York. Trapped in their own worlds, four women claim their desires through secret acts of rebellion in rural India.

On Sat., March 3, the film will be *I Am Evidence*, produced by Mariska Hargitay. The film takes an intimate look at the widespread problem of the thousands of rape kits containing DNA evidence that are left untested by police around the country. Currently, only eight states, including Kentucky, have passed laws requiring that rape kits be tested by police.

The final Thursday film of the series will screen on March 8. *The Women's Balcony*. A New York Times "Critic's Pick," the film, in Hebrew with English subtitles, is a good-hearted comedy of an accident during a bar mitzvah that leads to a rift between the men and women in a devout community in Jerusalem. The film is a portrait of a modern community struggling to balance protocol with practical, progressive values.

The final film in the 2018 series, Saturday, March 10, is *If You're Not in the Obit, Eat Breakfast*. In this documentary, Carl Reiner and his friends talk about a longer life span. The film shows there is still plenty of life left in "the older population." Is 90 the new 65?

For more information, see the OWF website, lexfilm.org.

Annette Mayer is the chair of the OWF Festival.



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, 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 March. Deadline for calendar items is February 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.

Tues., Feb. 6

CKCPJ Peace Action committee, 7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Ongoing discussion of non-violence training sessions in Lexington and Central Kentucky. Discussion of the final details for Jonathan Granoff's upcoming visit.

Thurs., Feb. 8

Chautauqua Series 10 a.m. - noon, Lyric Theatre, 300 E. Third Street, Lexington. *William Wells Brown: How I Got My Name.* Portrayal by Virgil Covington. Open to the public, public, private and home schools.

Thurs., Feb. 8

Lexington Advocacy Team 6 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Lobbying efforts to continue to prevent war (especially nuclear) with North Korea.

Thurs., Feb. 8

One World Film Festival, 7 p.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street, Lexington. *Before the Flood.* Documentary about climate change.

Thurs., Feb. 8

Black Lens Winter Film Series, 7 p.m., Lyric Theatre, 300 E. Third Street, Lexington. *Marshall.* This 2017 film directed by Reginald Hudlin focuses on Thurgood Marshall, the first African-American Supreme Court Justice and the first cases of his career.

Sat., Feb. 10

One World Film Festival, 7 p.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street, Lexington. *Queen of Katwe.* True story of a young vendor in Uganda whose world changes when she is introduced to the game of chess.

Tues., Jan. 13

PFLAG Central Kentucky, 6:30-8:30 p.m. St. Michael's Episcopal Church, 2025 Bellefonte Dr., Lexington. Ellie Harman, owner of High on ART and Coffee, a life-long activist and ally of the LGBTQ community. Ellie's talk will be followed by confidential support group meeting. Visit info@pflagcentralky.org or call (859) 338-4393.

Tues., Feb. 13

CKCPJ single-payer health care committee, 7 p.m. Quaker Meeting House, 649 Price Ave., Lexington. Discussion will include promotion of the single-payer health care concept, how it will benefit citizens and how it can be promoted to lawmakers.

Thurs., Feb. 15

Black Lens Winter Film Series, 7 p.m., Lyric Theatre, 300 E. Third Street, Lexington. *School Daze.* This 1988 musical comedy, written and directed by Spike Lee, is based on Lee's college experiences.

Thurs., Feb. 15

One World Film Festival, 7 p.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street, Lexington. *Music of Strangers.* Story of the international music collective created by Yo-Yo Ma and the power of music

Sat., Feb. 17

Fayette County Neighborhood Council, 9 a.m. - noon., Unitarian Universalist Church, 3564 Clay's Mill Road, Lexington. Free workshop on planning, zoning, ordinance process. The council serves as an advocate for all neighborhood councils in Lexington.

Sat., Feb. 17

One World Film Festival, 7 p.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street, Lexington. *Kedi.* Story of the street cat population in Istanbul.

Tues., Feb. 20

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

Thurs., Feb. 22

One World Film Festival, 7 p.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street, Lexington. *Under the Sun.* A year in the life of a North Korean girl and her family, as she prepares to join the Children's Union.

Thurs., Feb. 22

Black Lens Winter Film Series, 7 p.m., Lyric Theatre, 300 E. Third Street, Lexington. *Lady Sings the Blues.* Diana Ross portrays legendary jazz singer Billie Holiday. Beginning with Holiday's traumatic youth and rise to stardom, the film examines her relationship with boyfriend/manager Louis McKay and her struggle with drug addiction. A powerful film that won several Golden Globe and NAACP Image awards in 1972 and 1973.

Sat., Feb. 24

One World Film Festival, 7 p.m., Kentucky Theatre, 214 East Main Street, Lexington. *Our Little Sister.* A Japanese film that tells the story of three adult sisters who adopt their teenage stepsister.

Tues., Feb. 27

CKCPJ Peace Action committee, 7 p.m. Memorial Hall, University of Kentucky. Jonathan Granoff will be the speaker. For more information about Granoff and his visit to Lexington, see story, Page 1.

Tues.-Sun. Mar. 6-11

Catholic Committee of Appalachia Cherokee Spirituality Retreat, Cherokee North Carolina. Participants will experience the spirituality of the Cherokee people with Native American presenters. Through legends, ceremonies, history, culture and food, the depth of Cherokee spirituality offers a background for participants to reflect on their own journey. Partial scholarships available. For more information, contact Mary Herr, 828-497-9498, maryherr@dnet.

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Submissions to *Peaceways*

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

Articles of varying lengths are encouraged. Short essays reflecting an individual's experience of peace- and justice-related events and community action or activism are encouraged, as well.

Feature articles should be no longer than 500 words, unless you are willing to have the piece cut to fit one page of *Peaceways* text. Pieces will be edited for clarity.

Please include references in the text for all quotations, statistics, and unusual facts. End- or footnotes are not used. Please query submissions to peacewayseditor@gmail.com before writing a feature article intended solely for *Peaceways*.

For all submissions, the author's name, address, and phone number should appear on the body of the submitted text. If you submit material that has been published or which you are also submitting to other publishers, be sure to indicate this. Also include information about your relationship to any organization or issue mentioned in the article for inclusion in a biographical reference at the end of the story. Submissions should be made in Word format *via* email. Book reviews are usually solicited by the editor but we welcome inquiries from potential reviewers.

Submission deadline is the 10th of each month. *Peaceways* is published monthly except January.

MONTHLY MEETINGS

CKCPJ Steering Committee Meetings, third Tuesday, 7 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.

FIRE AND FURY: Inside the Trump White House

by Michael Wolff.

Jan. 5, 2018. 320 pages. Published by Henry Holt & Co.

Reviewed by Jim Trammel

Like a finely detailed chiaroscuro oil painting of Spongebob Squarepants, or a 64-piece symphonic arrangement of the theme from “The Andy Griffith Show,” Michael Wolff’s sensational, multi-million-selling exposé of the Trump White House’s disorganized first few months provides just too much detail.

If you like hearing the people who run this country call each other morons, and sulking and scheming when one faction gets the whip hand over the other two, read on – and try not to notice that you’re being as shallow as the 35-percent Trump partisan crowd, or the people who watch “Springer” or “Real Housewives.”

Three main players pull an indecisive Trump three ways during his early going. Trump son-in-law Jared Kushner and his wife, Presidential daughter Ivanka

Trump (“Jarvanka”) are one single-minded entity. Their influence is largely on social issues, often with the attitude of New York Democrats. Steve Bannon, far-right-wing political anomaly and “chief strategist,” pulls Trump toward his America-first, alt-right new-world isolationism and a poisonous variant on populism; and Reince Priebus, a forlorn chief of staff atop a non-existent org chart, represents fundamental Republicanism as we formerly knew it (boy howdy, was he ever doomed).

Spoiler alert: Jarvanka wins.

One point of solace for pro-Trumpers: If events are truly recounted (more on that below), the major Trump administration players surely did not collude with the Russians. As presented here, they are far too disorganized even to communicate well with one another, let alone throw in with a hostile foreign power.

An email quoted and shakily attributed to economics adviser Gary

Cohn sums up the staff dynamics pretty well: “It’s worse than you imagine. An idiot surrounded by clowns. Trump won’t read anything He gets up halfway through meetings with world leaders because he is bored. And his staff is no better. Kushner is an entitled baby who knows nothing. Bannon is an arrogant [redacted]

who thinks he is smarter than he is. I hate the work, but feel I need to stay here because I’m the only person there with a clue what he’s doing I am in a constant state of shock and horror.”

The book chronicles the day before the 2016 election (when everyone, including the candidate, was looking forward to a Trump loss), through the mid-August 2017 resignation of Bannon from the White House staff. The crises are covered in separate chapters, which is not how White

House dramas unfold in real-time of course. You already know the outlines of what happened; here you get some of the why’s and details of the struggles.

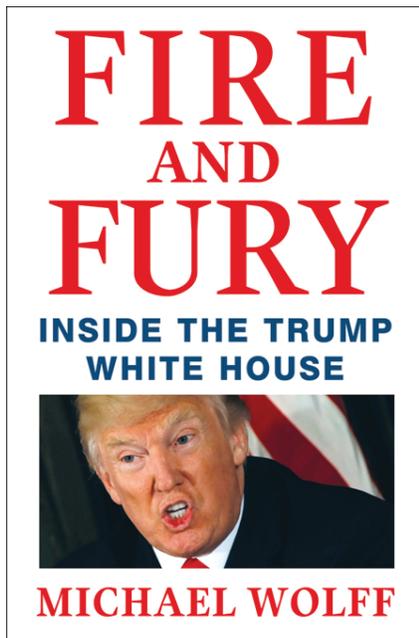
But is the effort sound journalism? Wolff had amazing access, wandering around and sitting on couches, having and overhearing conversations. (Wonder why they let that happen? He already had done a hatchet job on Rupert Murdoch.) Wolff’s primary source seems to be Bannon, quoted most extensively. In other places, Wolff admits persons A and B have told him second-hand what person C said, and in this subjective environment objective truth might have suffered.

Overall I think Wolff’s credibility holds up, mostly because his accounts conform to the facts we already knew. There’s not much new here, and fresh outrages happen every day.

I note with some satisfaction that at crucial points, the team suffers because they don’t have a writer on staff capable of articulating a policy or writing a speech (not that DJT would have stayed on script anyway, of course). Writing is a vital skill in communicating. I thought everyone knew that.

Do you want to read this? Millions already have. Knowing all the details left me feeling kind of yucky. I always wanted to think we have the best and brightest leaders, at least on staff if not in the big chair. I didn’t much feel that way before, and don’t at all now.

Reviewer Jim Trammel can’t decide if he’s relieved or uneasy that he has more on the ball than the President of the United States. Who left this bar here on the ground?



*Afflict the
comfortable;
comfort
the afflicted.*

“Get in the van, I’ll take you around”

by Father John Rausch

When the youth group of St. Paul’s Church in Lexington wanted an experience of Appalachia, they called me. I regularly conduct pilgrimages to the holy land of Appalachia.

The nine teens and two adults live within an hour’s drive of the mountains, but in their world of technology, they seldom raise their eyes from I-Phones and texting. I had an opportunity one Saturday to drive them to a land with “no-bars-on-cellphones,” so they could appreciate a walk through God’s Garden.

A short drive outside Hazard two reclaimed strip-mined sites sit side by side, one reclaimed 30 years before, the other just five years before. No real difference. The discussion by the side of the cars focused on topsoil, biodiversity, invasive species, orphan lands, and greed.

To finish the tour we traveled to a remote area near the Red River Gorge in Wolfe County, where my friends Russ and Reenie have lived off the grid for over 35 years. Their rows of meticulously-tended vegetables with frisky pets running freely signaled a satisfying lifestyle of simplicity amidst God’s creation.

To the kids and chaperons the contrast acted like shock therapy: destruction on one mountain, harmony on another. The discussions evoked questions about how to live materially, what to want and at what cost.

For me that Saturday epitomized how a pilgrimage can open eyes and teach critical thinking. Who would have thought 50 years ago that rural ministry could mean teens unplugging from electronic devices to take a walk in the woods?

Encounter the World

A strong theme of Pope Francis is the notion of “encounter.” He sees encounter as an ability given by God to appreciate the world as Christ appreciated the world, both human and non-human. It becomes a stance of inclusiveness of everything and everyone that exists.

In *Laudato Si* he wrote that St. Francis of Assisi “shows us just how inseparable the bond is between concern for nature, justice for the poor, commitment to society, and interior peace.” (L.S. par.

#10.) St. Francis was a person who encountered the world in its totality.

As a Glenmary priest, I’ve lived over 40 years in Appalachia. I’ve found that the best way to understand social justice issues concerning the area and mountain folks demands real-life experiences that can lead to an encounter. For me, a pilgrimage takes us there.

Stereotypical images of shoeless kids with dirty faces and torn T-shirts live beyond the pages of *Life* magazine from a half century ago. Outsiders ask why low-income folks don’t move from an economically depressed region, or why they spend their small income on cigarettes. Others observe fewer trainloads of coal chugging out of the mountains and wonder why the Environmental Protection Agency can’t relax more rules to boost employment.

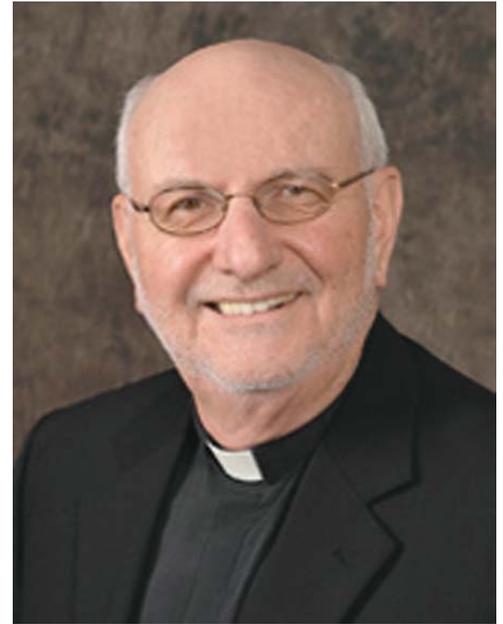
The story of Appalachia defies a single photo or a quick telling. For those serious about encountering the spirit of the mountains, I simply tell them, “Get in the van and I’ll take you around.”

Two Visitors from Wall Street

In 2010 two investment brokers from Wall Street asked for a tour to assess the prospects of the Affordable Care Act that would take full effect in 2014. They wanted to know about rural health needs.

After three days of touring, one spoke bluntly. He originally thought we would meet with state health officials, heads of hospitals and county agents. Instead, we went to free clinics, drug counselors and homes of Medicaid recipients. We talked about bad roads and unreliable transportation to meet doctors’ appointments. We discussed the trade-offs between getting medications versus buying food, and we discovered the lack of coordination between health professionals for a patient’s well-being.

“Meeting an elderly woman who was on 13 medicines, many of which are not appropriate for her...is ridiculous,” lamented one broker reflecting on the uncoordinated prescriptions from her three doctors. “All the people involved still feed off her coming for visits, getting prescriptions, and staying sick.”



Father John Rausch

His a-ha moment allowed him to realize how predatory the health care system has become. My reflection? Wall Street crunches numbers; a pilgrimage occasions an encounter.

Return Home Changed

I’ve conducted pilgrimages since 1994. Nearly every participant returns home with a fuller perspective of the world, but there are exceptions. Those few exceptions bring their own ideas or straightjacket ideology for judging people and fixing things. They get on the van, but miss the encounter.

The true pilgrims unplug from their electronic devices and preconceived notions to listen and observe, be filled with awe and compassion, and appreciation of a deeper sense of reverence for all life and creation. Through a pilgrimage, folks really experience a true encounter.

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If you are a member of a group that would like to schedule a pilgrimage with Father John Rausch. Contact him at jsrausch@bellsouth.net.

PEACEWAYS



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

Issue #309 • February 2018

*“I have decided to stick with love.
Hate is too great a burden to bear.”*

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Compassionate Care Van responds to brutal weather

by Margaret Gabriel

During the weekly community service meeting at the Catholic Action Center (CAC) on Sun., Jan. 14, CAC co-founder Ginny Ramsey received word that Cynthia Harrison had died of hypothermia the previous night.

Cynthia and her husband, Charles Bowers, were both occasional CAC residents, “part of our family,” Ginny said. “She is why we do what we do.”

“What we do” is dispatch the Compassion Care Van from the Catholic Action Center on Industry Road during times of extreme weather, to invite people who are experiencing homelessness to access the services they need. Those services include transportation to shelter and warm clothing and blankets.

The van and cars usually run from 6 p.m. to 11 p.m., but on the coldest nights have been known to stay out until dawn.

Volunteers are grouped into teams of two or more and each team is given a route to travel, driving personal cars. Teams search for people who are outdoors, therefore in grave physical danger in sub-freezing temperatures. The volunteers give people warm clothing, blankets and hand warmers and encourage them to take shelter at the Catholic Action Center, the Hope Center or Salvation Army. During weather emergencies, LexTran buses transport people to shelters at no charge.

The number of volunteers varies from night to night, with people coming according to their availability. When the temperatures are too cold even for warm-hearted volunteers, the CAC van is driven by Brother Thomas Caudill who is accompanied by CAC residents, many of whom are familiar with the various locations where people in need of shelter can be found.

“A lot of our residents knew Cynthia, and [her death] convinced others to come in out of the cold,” Ginny said.

The CAC provides beds for 130 men and women each night, and those beds are all reserved almost every night. In order to reserve a bed, residents register for four hours of community service every week. When the Compassion Care Van is in operation, though, the center allows people who do not have beds to sit through the night in its large gathering room. On one of the coldest nights between Dec. 23 and Jan. 8, the CAC housed 201 men and women.

The Hope Center houses men. Its policy is never to turn anyone away. During extreme weather it can provide shelter for as many as 250 people, according to its website.

The Salvation Army provides accommodations for women and children, and during extreme weather no one is turned away.

Over the years, CAC workers have learned where people go when they have no home — locations that include the library, courthouse, and parks in downtown Lexington, as well as camps throughout Lexington. “People tell us about places all over town,” Kelly Duffy a CAC worker, said. “Some of the camps are very well set up. They have tents and campfires and equipment.” Volunteers also go to local hospitals to find discharged patients with nowhere to go.

The Compassionate Care Van might transport as few as 10 or 12 people on any given night, but one night, the van, volunteers who drove their own cars and LexTran brought in 63 people who needed shelter.

Despite the availability of shelter, there

are a variety of reasons that people live on the streets or in the camps. “There’s often a degree of mental illness,” said Kelly said. “Sometimes there’s drug and alcohol addiction, or people would just rather take their chances in the camps than move to a place, even temporarily, with 200 other people.”

The bad weather season of 2018 is the first year CAC residents have worked as Compassion Care Van volunteers, Ginny said, and it’s been one of the most valuable additions to the project. “Our residents know where people stay and they go to help convince their friends to come to shelter. We give people what they need in terms of warm clothing, but we really want to establish a relationship of trust so people will get the help they need. Some of our residents go out every night the van runs.”

Ginny watches weather reports closely. When it appears that the Compassion Care Van needs to be active, Kelly creates the Facebook post alerting volunteers that they are needed, and publicizes the number of the “Cold Line,” (859) 913-0038. The phone number is in place for people who need the services — either transportation or warm clothing — and is also used by people who want to report the location of people who might be in need of services. The phone is not always answered, but callers are asked to leave a message or to send a text message.

“Cynthia’s death has had a huge impact on our community,” Ginny said. “We had a small service for her right after we heard the news and Charles spoke. It was very moving, very sad.”

Margaret Gabriel is editor of Peaceways.