

## *Choose peace!*

In November, 2013, the Kentucky Department of Transportation (KDOT) approved the final design for a specialty license plate for peace! This beautiful design was created by local artist Jaqui Linder.

Before the plate will go into production, KDOT must have 900 reservations for the plate. It is very quick and easy to reserve a plate. Just go to <http://www.peaceandjusticeky.org/plate.htm>. You can either print out the form and mail it in, or reserve a plate online. The deposit is \$25.00.

The deposits will be held by Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice until the 900 reservations are received. At that point, the entire amount will be sent to KDOT.

The plate will go into production and postcards will be sent to those who've reserved plates. Whenever it is time for you to renew, you'll take your postcard to receive the \$25 credit on the plate. This specialty plate will be priced the same as many of the others (\$44). For those who have paid the \$25 deposit, \$19 (plus taxes on your vehicle) will be the balance due for the plate. To renew the following year, the price will be \$31 + taxes.

Of this \$44 (initial) and \$31 (renewal), \$10 will come to Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice for K-12 peace education. You do have the option of not contributing this \$10; in that case, your plate will be \$34 initially and \$21 for renewal.

KDOT's deadline for the 900 reservations is May, 2014. Should the reservations fall short of the required 900, everyone would be given the option of getting his/her money back or donating the \$25 to Central Kentucky Council for Peace and Justice.

**We must visualize peace as joyful, creative, just, engaging – and possible.**

**Please help get that message out across our state, and beyond.**

**Reserve your plate today!**



## *Is peace possible?*

Things become possible when we can imagine them.

**NEGATIVE PEACE** is the absence of direct violence.

**POSITIVE PEACE** is much more than the absence of direct violence. It means:

- ♥ building social equality and justice, economic equity, ecological balance; protecting citizens from attack, and meeting basic human needs;
- ♥ having the means necessary to settle differences nonviolently;
- ♥ eliminating structural violence (e.g., poverty and discrimination) that shorten people's lives, their choices, or their quality of life;
- ♥ practicing conflict resolution as a foundation for building peaceful interpersonal and institutional relationships;
- ♥ supporting international law, compliance with multilateral treaties, use of international courts, and nonviolent resolution of disputes.

“The concept of positive peace involves the elimination of the root causes of war, violence, and injustice and the conscious effort to build a society that reflects these commitments. Positive peace assumes an interconnectedness of all life.” (TeacherVision.com)

## *The significance of the crane:*

“For centuries, cranes have evoked strong emotional responses in people. Their size, behavior, social relations, unique calls, graceful movements, and stately appearance have inspired expression through human art, artifacts, mythology, and legend in cultures around the world. This appreciation of cranes was conveyed in prehistoric cave paintings in Africa, Australia, and Europe. In the western tradition, evidence of human appreciation of cranes dates to the ancient Egyptians, whose tombs are adorned with images of Demoiselle Cranes. In later Christian expressions, cranes came to signify watchfulness, steadiness, and mutual aid.

In the east, cranes have for millennia occupied a prominent place in mythology and religious tradition. In China, Korea, and Japan, the Red-crowned Crane symbolizes happiness, good luck, long life, and marital bliss, appearing regularly in paintings, tapestry, and other decorative arts.

In the New World, cranes begin to appear in pictographs, petroglyphs, and ceramics from what is now the American Southwest after the year 900 A.D. Crane clans developed among the Hopis and Zunis in the Southwest, while cranes served as totems for the Ojibwa and other tribal groups.

Cranes continue to be used in new symbolic ways around the world. Crowned Cranes are the national birds of Nigeria and Uganda, and Blue Cranes of South Africa. The coins and stamps of many countries have borne cranes. The emergence of the conservation movement, and in particular the near demise of the Whooping Crane, invested cranes with added symbolic value as emblems of humanity's changing relationship with nature. Perhaps the best known, and most poignant, example of the enduring symbolic significance of cranes emerged from the ashes of World War II. A young Japanese girl who had lived through the bombing of Hiroshima, but who was fatally stricken during its impact, resolved to fold a thousand paper cranes during her effort to recover. Although she was unable to complete the task, other children took up the task. Since then, children in Japan have annually prepared paper cranes **to symbolize the hope for peace.**” (from the USGS)