

ALTERNATIVES SPRING/SUMMER 2015

From Our Director:



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Greetings Sister Karen Center Friends!

Our annual event in April—to commemorate Sister Karen's life and ministry and to raise funds to continue to keep her vision of a world without violence alive—is a highlight of my year as Director of the Center for Nonviolence. Feeling the energy of so many of our supporters in one room and being inspired together by a champion of nonviolence is a joyous occasion for me. This year's event with Sister Simone Campbell was no exception! Added to the excitement was a surprise visit from three dignitaries that you can read about on the following pages.

As we are gearing up for Camp Peaceprints 2015 "Unity in Community," I am reminded of an African proverb: "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." The Sister Karen Center's mission of eliminating violence in ourselves, in our society and in our world will not be fully accomplished in the foreseeable future. It is not work that can be done quickly by anyone alone. But how blessed we are to be in this ministry together! With your support we are going farther and farther every day!

*Tuko Pamoja
(We're in this together),*

Vivian

Vivian Ruth Waltz
Director



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“Compassionate Conviction: Creating Change and Building Peace” with Sister Simone Campbell, SSS



“Radical acceptance” and working side-by-side were the themes of Sister Simone Campbell’s presentation titled “Compassionate Conviction: Creating Change and Building Peace” at the eighth annual fundraising event for the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence. The event was held on a gorgeous spring day, Sunday, April 19th at St. Columba-Brigid Church in Buffalo. Over 200 people were in attendance.

As a tribute to Sister Simone’s “Nuns on the Bus” tours, participants entered the sanctuary doors through two sides of an artist’s rendering of a bus, complete with real tires! The mood was celebratory with brightly colored Easter flowers still gracing the chancel area. We were thrilled to welcome Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, U.S. Attorney Bill Hochul and NYS Senator Tim Kennedy who joined us for the afternoon. Lt. Governor Hochul and Senator Tim Kennedy addressed the audience, thanking the Sister Karen

Center for our dedication to the work of nonviolence in our community. Members of the Buffalo Peacemakers Gang Intervention and Outreach program were also recognized.

Sister Simone began her talk by asserting that the challenge of nonviolence is to fully live our lives making room for the “other” and being willing to engage in authentic dialogue where everyone’s feelings and values are respected. This is the “radical acceptance” we are called to embrace. Sister Simone admitted to thinking at one point in her life that certain people were “mistakes of God” (which elicited much laughter!). She confessed that her sin was being so certain that they were wrong.

Her relationship with Senator Paul Ryan of Wisconsin was the example Sister Simone shared. Since 2012 when Senator Ryan’s proposed budget included drastic cutbacks in the federal safety net for the poor and marginalized (which precipitated the “Nuns on the Bus” tour), Simone has been working to understand the senator through dialogue even though their political and social views are often in conflict. She reported that radical acceptance has changed the way she lobbies. It is essential to creating change and building peace.

A crucial insight shared by Sister Simone is that in order to create change, especially with those who are so different from us, rather than fighting *against* a problem, we need to stand side-by-side with each other and fight *for* a common vision. Sister Simone referred to Sister Karen in saying that, like her, we need to create alliances and look for “positive intersections” where we can work together.

Creating change and building peace through radical acceptance also means that we have to be willing to take in stories that break our hearts. Sister Simone used examples of people living in

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poverty in spite of the fact that they are working, even fulltime. She showed us a photograph of Margaret, a woman who died because she lost her healthcare along with her job. These tragedies are a form of violence. Sister Simone's conviction is that radical acceptance and working side-by-side for a vision kindle the fire of the Holy Spirit in our lives. She recalled the story of the burning bush where God is aware of the suffering of God's people and has come to the rescue.

We need to be part of the rescue effort! We need to call others to this work through such practices as being "grocery store missionaries" where we engage others in dialogue about our democracy and who is being left out. We need to present a vision for change that can draw people in, a vision of a nation and a world without violence.

The presentation by Sister Simone ended with her affirming that it is in Sister Karen's witness and faith as a servant that we find the seeds for nonviolence, creating change and building peace. As a reminder of the compassionate conviction of both Sister Simone and Sister Karen, audience members were given a packet of Forget-Me-Not seeds during the singing of "Peaceprints," the song written to honor Sister Karen's legacy.

For those who purchased it, Sister Simone autographed her book, *A Nun on the Bus: How All of Us Can Create Hope, Change, and Community*, during the reception held in the social hall. Delicious food and treats, along with vibrant conversation, were enjoyed by all. Our annual fundraising event was a success in every way!



Sister Jean Klimczak welcomes everyone aboard the bus!



Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul addresses Sr. Karen Center supporters



Senator Tim Kennedy, friend, Vivian Waltz, Lt. Governor Kathy and U.S. Attorney Bill Hochul



Members of the Buffalo Peacemakers Gang Intervention and Outreach Program

~More photos on pages 6 and 7~

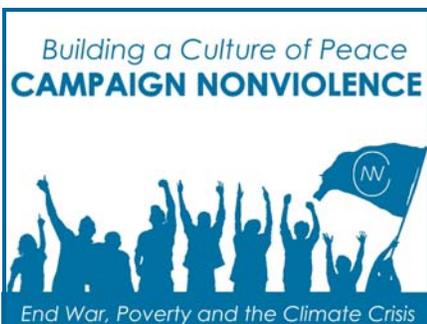
10th Annual High School Poetry Slam



For the third year in a row, Sister Karen Center Director Vivian Waltz was a judge at the annual Poetry Slam sponsored by the Buffalo Academy of Science Charter School at the downtown library. Students from Buffalo high schools were invited to write poetry inspired by the theme "Buffalo: My City, My Future." Ateang Deng from Hutchinson Central Technical writes in his poem:



*...We have a situation in our hands
 ...We see the evils unravel right before our eyes
 I witnessed my neighbor get shot
 in front of my very house
 As the trail of fresh blood ran out of his body I watched
 ...Or the time that little boy was seized by the cops
 He grew up and became the big boy
 in jail heartbroken and confused
 He never could come to the realization
 that change does exist.
 If only he knew.
 Help me to fill in the truth
 The future is not only in our hands
 It is engraved in our minds, embedded in our hearts,
 smothered in our souls
 This change will excite!
 Today's the day that we must start on our journey
 And do something we've never done before
 Pushing away that "if" and making it a "will"
 Cause Buffalo can be bigger, better, and stronger
 Fight the old and work for the new
 Permanent change, I believe
 Is a change that will start with me and you.*



The second annual Peace-Nonviolence Festival

will take place on Labor Day, September 7th from 10 am to 5 pm on the east side of Martin Luther King, Jr. Park (the MLK statue side), across from the wading pool in the picnic shelter area. Activities will include a cook-out, music, children's activities, a walk of peace, and tabling by nonviolence organizations.

We are grateful to the following Sisters of St. Joseph who so generously gave of their time to help with our last mailing:

Sisters: Mary Ann Butler, Philip Marie Cirincione, Phyllis Connors, Dorothy DeMaria, Cecile Ferland, Mary Glose, Ruth Haselbauer, Judy Justinger, Rita Kane, Marie Kerwin, Monica Krupinski, Meg Norris, Barbara Stafford, Joan Wagner, Alice Williams, Sue Williams, Marion Zimmer, and Laurenita Zogby.





Interview with Tracy Cooley & Marilyn Gibson Co-Founders of Women Against Violence Everywhere *By Vivian Waltz*

We are excited about collaborating with WAVE for Camp Peaceprints 2015. Our theme this year is "Unity in Community." How does WAVE work for unity in the community?

Tracy: WAVE Buffalo Inc. is a 501c3 nonprofit organization whose mission is to decrease youth violence by way of providing mentoring programs, events, and activities that focus on ethical decision making, conflict resolution, and self-esteem. Our organization focuses on offering the tools and supports young people need to become successful contributing members of society. Within our programs, young people learn how to build relationships and gain an understanding that it is easier to accomplish goals working together rather than working divided. This is how we create unity.

Marilyn: We collaborate with many community stakeholders in an effort to bring communities together. One event is our Hot Dogs and Huggies tour, which tours the cities hot blocks, giving out grilled hotdogs, and cold huggies. We engage the community and hear their concerns in hopes of pointing them in the right direction for resources.

Our daily themes for Camp Peaceprints are Trust, Communication, Nonviolence, and Activism and Social Change. How can WAVE help campers to understand these concepts?

Tracy: Trust is a key component of WAVE Buffalo Inc., be it amongst each other, or trust we build within our young people. Relationships are built on trust. Without trust it becomes very difficult to succeed at changing thought processes, which is fundamentally what we are trying to do. One has to believe that who they share their story and their lives with is consistent, dependable, and supportive. WAVE understands the concept of trust because we are a group of women from all walks of life who have had to build relationships with each other that we could then translate into teaching others how to build relationships. When I look at each one of these components its clear that each one is extremely important as we strive for Peace. But trust..trust building must come first to succeed at the others.

Marilyn: WAVE can help campers to understand Trust and Nonviolence through team-building activities and workshops on how to peacefully resolve conflict through restorative justice practices and other alternatives to violence.

Overall, what would you like campers to take away from their time with WAVE at Camp Peaceprints?

Marilyn: WAVE would like for campers to walk away with skills that would help them to trust, communicate and resolve conflict peacefully in addition to increasing love of self and the love of others as themselves. If these foundational pieces are met, we believe we will begin to see a change in our homes, schools and communities.

Tracy: Yes, I would like to see the campers walk away with a renewed sense of self, that they are a valuable being on this earth with something to offer. That it is ok to look towards the future, that life is bigger than this moment now...

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**Compassionate Conviction:
Creating Change and
Building Peace with
Simone Campbell, SSS**



We thank Nancy Orsini, SSJ Associate, for her professional photographs.



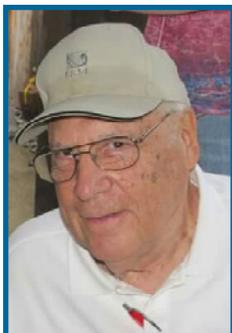
Opposite page, clockwise from top left: Sr. Simone's presentation; Canisius College women; Sr. Janet DiPasquale and Marilyn Peterson; Linda Martin sings "Peaceprints"; Sr. Michele Beiter with the Hochuls and Sr. Simone; Senator Tim Kennedy and Vivian Waltz; Cathy and Terry Gress with Sr. Rosalind Rosolowski

This page, clockwise from top left: Jim and Audrey Mang; Sr. Simone and Sr. Jean Marie Zirnheld; Mary Lynch and Kathy Glaser, Sr. Mary Jo Colucci, Anthony Colucci and Eileen Charleton; Rev. John Long and Rev. Bill Russell at reception buffet, Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, Sr. Simone and Vivian; Mary Ann Logue, Evelyn Brady, Kathy Fonte and Msgr. Fred Leising; Sr. Bette DiCesare and Rev. John Long

Alternatives to Violence Project News



The mission of the Alternatives to Violence Project is to empower people to lead nonviolent lives through affirmation, respect for all, community building, cooperation, and trust. Founded in and developed from the real life experiences of prisoners and others, and building on a spiritual base, AVP encourages every person's innate power to positively transform themselves and the world.



Talented
Tino Bellanca

The Sister Karen Center deeply mourns the loss of "Talented Tino," a.k.a. Horace Bellanca, who passed away in April. Tino and Bill Marx have carried the AVP program at Wende Prison for the past several years. The two were best of friends and were known as "The Sunshine Boys" by the men at Wende. One of them wrote the following about Tino:

...A confused heart and a confused mind, war of good and bad confined in time...Then a man came and offered his heart, gave light to a soul that was locked in the dark...A smile, a hug and kind words and vision, seen me as a person not just a man in prison... How much we love and respect Talented Tino for every time he rapped a song just to get in touch with who he was trying to help...A man that gave so much of himself...he is and will forever be a part of me for his Love, Life and Loyalty to AVP. R.I.P. "Talented T"
--Titanic Tubbs

AVP at Compass House Resource Center

AVP facilitators BaBa Eng and Vivian Waltz brought a six-week Basic AVP workshop to eleven youth at the Compass House Resource Center in March and April. The Resource Center provides non-residential support to youth ages 14-24 years old who are homeless or at risk of being homeless. AVP was a part of a program that Compass House runs with Erie County Youth Services for youth on probation.

The workshop was lively and fun for participants as they explored the causes of violence, the roots of nonviolence and how to resolve conflict in a positive manner. Activities included paper plate feeling faces to get in touch with emotions, group art projects to learn communication skills, piecing together broken squares requiring cooperation with teammates, and an exercise on Win/Win solutions where candy kisses were enjoyed!

The fundamental AVP principle of Transforming Power was embraced by the youth. Transforming Power is the power we have to change ourselves and to move a potentially violent situation in a positive direction. In reflecting on the workshop, Joyful Jonathan remarked, "Now I know ways to stay calm and think before I do something I might regret. This workshop really helped me learn new ways of handling conflicts."



Vibrant Vivian and Bettering
BaBa with Amazing Amari
and Nice Natasha

AVP Community Workshop by Audrey Mang



"This is not what I expected. It's been good for me."
 "I have better insight now about how to clear up a disagreement."
 "How nice to meet such great people who, hours ago, were strangers!"

It was early May and our Alternatives to Violence Project team was working at St. Michael's Church in downtown Buffalo. Thanks to seeds planted by Tino Bellanca, parishioner and long-time AVP facilitator, a Level I workshop was offering participants a safe space to:

- explore their ideas about violence and nonviolence,
- gain a deeper understanding of why good listening is so important, and
- learn some useful tools for resolving conflict.

Oh—and there was time, too, to have fun together!

A Level II AVP workshop will be scheduled soon so that anyone who has taken a Level I can learn even more ...



AVP and the Bible Tells Me So by Bill Marx

'Lord, when did we see you hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or ill or in prison, and not minister to your needs?' Matthew 25:44

The Alternatives to Violence Project (AVP), administered by the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center For Nonviolence has responded to the Gospel message over the years by conducting workshops at parishes, community organizations, summer youth programs and NY State Correctional Facilities. The prison workshops speak directly to our call from God to minister to those who are incarcerated.

Our current focus is serving Albion and Wende facilities while recognizing the need to expand to include those in other facilities as well. Anyone can be a part of this ministry by their support of the Sr. Karen Center and by helping to organize AVP workshops with groups with whom you are affiliated. Rev. Vivian Waltz and her team of volunteers would welcome an opportunity to help make that happen.

Since last Fall, thirty-six inmates at Wende CF completed a Basic workshop in March and twenty-five completed their Advanced experience in April. In July, several of these and others from previous Advanced workshops will devote three full days training to become facilitators in the workshops scheduled in August, October and November.

Our continuing goal is to replicate this process in the community so that we, our families, schools and institutions can become a culture of nonviolence.

A big THANK YOU goes out to our volunteer AVP facilitators for the last series of workshops: Tino Bellanca, BaBa Eng, Kathy Essek, Audrey Mang, and Bill Marx.

***** Save the Center's resources for the work of nonviolence! *****
Request our newsletter in full color via email.
Send request to vivian@sisterkarencenter.org



Carol Zinn

Sister of St. Joseph

Visit from Sister Carol Zinn, SSJ

Internationally recognized justice and peace advocate Sr. Carol Zinn, SSJ, visited Buffalo from May 15th to 17th. Sister Carol is the immediate past president of the Leadership Conference of Women Religious and she represented over 15,000 Sisters of St. Joseph as an accredited NGO representative to the United Nations Economic and Social Council. Brought here by the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates in Buffalo, Sister Carol spent her time working with the Sisters and Associates on increasing their understanding of justice as integral to their charism.

While she was here, Sister Carol visited the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence for a luncheon where she learned about our work to eliminate violence in our community and world. That night Sister Carol gave a presentation titled "Global Justice for All, Local Justice for Each" at Villa Maria College. Highlights of her talk included a new vocabulary word: "glocal" which means taking a global justice issue and making it meaningful to people at the local level. Everything we do "where our feet are planted" affects the earth and our society as a whole.

Sister Carol also quoted the theologian Walter Brueggemann who defined justice as the work of finding out what belongs to whom and giving it back. She affirmed, "What belongs to the earth is its life, what belongs to humans is their capacity for joy, what belongs to women is their equality, what belongs to children is their childhood, what belongs to youth is their dreams, what belongs to the elderly is dignity, what belongs to persons of color is their humanity." Our justice work must involve restoring what God intended for the earth and all of God's children.

Peace Education Project – Celebration and Planning Session

The Peace Education Project works with children and youth, in schools and the community, and has done so for five years, with excellent results and many requests for services. If you are interested in getting more involved, please join us for our Celebration and Planning Session at the United Way of Buffalo & Erie County, 742 Delaware Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14209, on June 25 (Thurs) at 5:30-7:30 pm.

This gathering is an exciting chance for people who are inspired to serve youth to help create a culture of peace, justice, and nonviolence through peaceful conflict resolution programs, outreach, workshops (including Alternatives to Violence Project), and mentoring. The collaboration includes the Interfaith Peace Network, Sr. Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence, Stop The Violence Coalition, WAVE (Women Against Violence Everywhere), WNY Peace Center. Finger food welcome. For more info, please contact Vicki Ross (716-884-0582; victoryross9@gmail.com). Hope to see you there!!

Interview with WAVE of Buffalo Inc. continued from page 5

...That challenges will continuously arise throughout their life, but sticking to ethical decision making and working with others towards a common goal will bring consistent rewards throughout their life. Like Marilyn said, if they can learn to value themselves, they can learn to value others.

Is there anything else you would like to add?

Tracy: If anyone is interested in becoming a WAVE Buffalo Inc. mentor, or has a child that needs mentorship, please contact Marilyn Gibson at 716-848-0515 or Stephanie Peete at 716-861-8006.

SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence
Interfaith Peace Network of Western New York
Western New York Peace Center
Women Against Violence Everywhere (WAVE)

CAMP PEACEPRINTS

Alternative Summer Camp for Youth 8 - 13 years old

"Unity in Community"

LEARN ABOUT

Nonviolence
Activism
Community
Social Change



GET TO DO

Fieldtrips
The Arts
Swimming
and much more!

Monday-Friday, 10 am-3 pm

July 13 - July 17, 2015

July 20 - July 24, 2015

St. Mary's School for the Deaf
2253 Main Street in Buffalo
\$125/week sliding scale and
scholarships available

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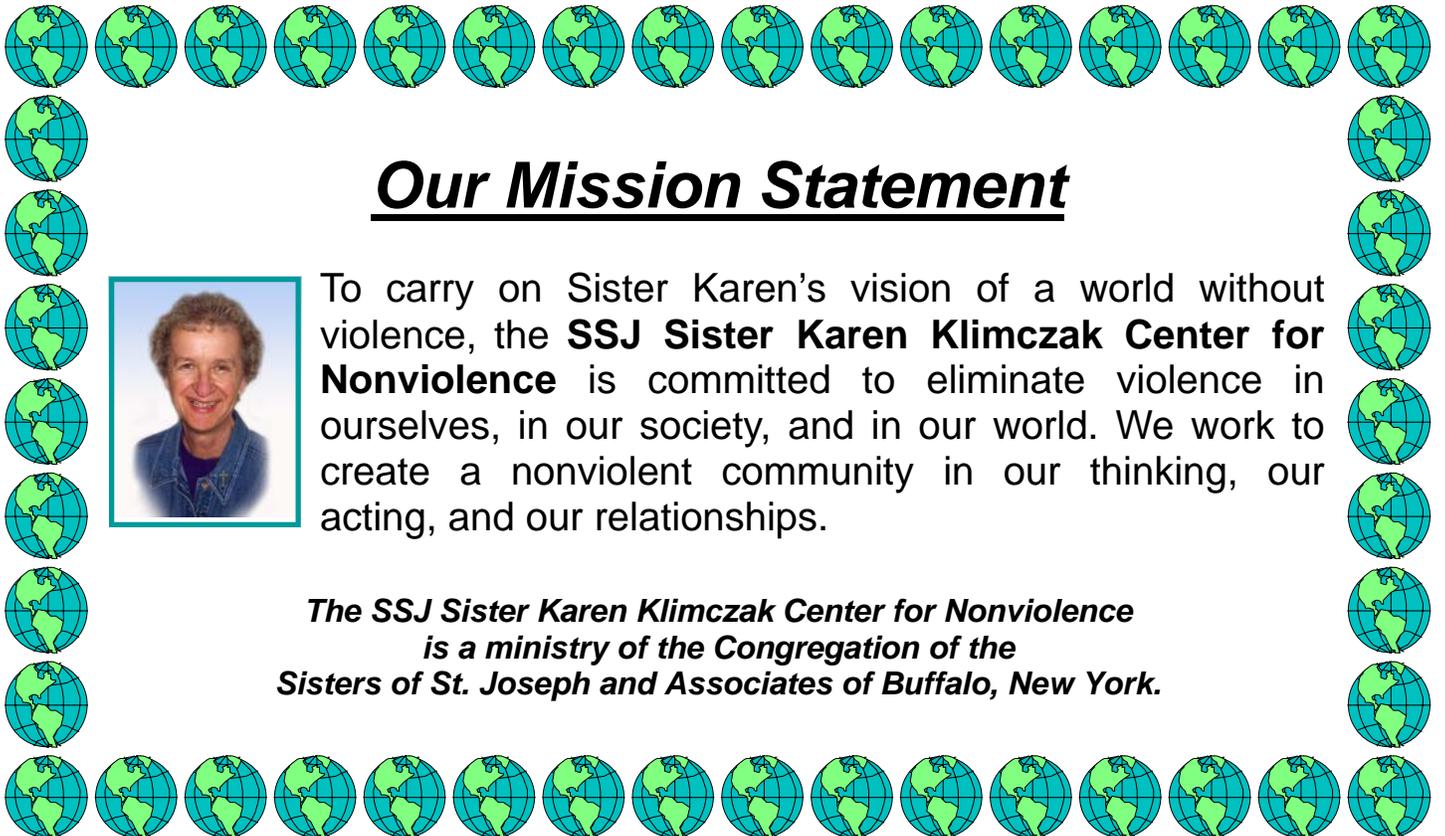
Sister Karen Center
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WNY Peace Center; WAVE
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Seeking Adult Volunteers

For information and forms: sisterkarencenter.org

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Our Mission Statement



To carry on Sister Karen's vision of a world without violence, the **SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence** is committed to eliminate violence in ourselves, in our society, and in our world. We work to create a nonviolent community in our thinking, our acting, and our relationships.

***The SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence
is a ministry of the Congregation of the
Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates of Buffalo, New York.***