

From Our Director:



These days, we find ourselves in a time of superfluous violence and antagonism—in our government, in our country, on our borders, and even in our community. An uptick in homicides always seems to occur in the summer in Buffalo as uncontrolled rage seems to rise with the temperature. The work of the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence is now more vital than ever! We are especially grateful for your support of all we are doing to keep Sister Karen's legacy of peace alive.

Since our last newsletter, we were blessed by seeing so many of you at our annual event, "A Journey of Justice and Mercy" with William Hochul, Jr. Read about the four practical ideas he imparted to us in the following pages. Continue on to our first annual "Nonviolence Begins with Me!" awards given to Bill Marx and the Buffalo Peacemakers. Our Alternatives to Violence Project workshops continue in the prison and in the community, with adults and youth.

We are excited to report that the SSJ Sister Karen Center has been chosen by the social activist group "Unite by Night" for one year of community service. I know you'll enjoy reading about them and their plans to support us in our mission.

Stay cool—calm and collected too!

Vivian

Vivian Ruth Waltz



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Our Advisory Board

Sr. Janet DiPasquale, SSJ
Sr. Jean Klimczak, OSF
Judy Major, SSJ Associate
James Mang, SSJ Associate
William F. Marx
Marilyn Peterson
Maureen Satchell, SSJ Associate
Sr. Elizabeth Savage, SSJ
Kali Williams
Sr. Jean Marie Zirnheld, SSJ



“A Journey of Justice and Mercy” with William J. Hochul, Jr.

A nasty ice storm and unseasonably cold weather on April 15th could not stop the enthusiasm of almost 200 attendees of “A Journey of Justice and Mercy” with William J. Hochul, Jr. at SS. Columba-Brigid Church in Buffalo. As if in defiance, colorful Easter flowers graced the altar as participants filled the sanctuary in anticipation of an engaging presentation by Bill Hochul, as well as “Nonviolence Begins with Me!” awards to be bestowed on Bill Marx and the Buffalo Peacemakers.

After a welcome by Father Jud Weiksnar, SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence Director Vivian Waltz recognized Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul in the audience as well as Dr. Khalid Qazi, founder of the Muslim Public Affairs Council. She then offered an opening prayer thanking God for the witness of Sister Karen. An uplifting praise song by the SS. Columba-Brigid Choir brought a joyful spirit to the gathering.

Sister Michele Beiter introduced Bill Hochul, including highlights of his prestigious career as an attorney. Bill then took the podium and thanked Vivian and the SSJ Sister Karen Center for the invitation to speak. He began his presentation by describing the difficulty of balancing his call to seek justice as the former U.S. Attorney for the Western District of New York, a position he held from 2010 to 2016, and his obligation as a person of faith to show mercy.

Bill explained how many of the people he prosecuted were not the criminals at the top of the pyramid who were actually calling the shots, but those with lesser “status” who were being controlled from above. Bill had compassion for these offenders. He spoke of the basic dignity of each person regardless of the crime they had committed, saying “we are all cut from the same human cloth.”

Throughout his tenure as U.S. Attorney, Bill saw many lawbreakers turn away from violence, and knew that we, as a community, have a vested interest in their rehabilitation. Citing numerous biblical references, he talked about the community of faith being called to support those in the criminal justice system by recognizing that we all are in need of forgiveness.

This kind of support was the first of four recommendations Mr. Hochul gave his listeners in our quest to work for both justice and mercy. He encouraged us to offer opportunity to those who have committed an offense - to give them a listening ear, to provide training and education, and to demonstrate that even though they may have crossed the line, and been judged guilty, they are “still important and they still can contribute value and they still can help make this world a better place.” He went on, “In many ways, who better than someone who has fallen down to testify and be a witness to forgiveness and mercy and potential?” Bill shared that some of the most influential community leaders he knows are people who were at one time incarcerated.

The second thing Bill advised us to do to promote justice and mercy is to applaud the success of law enforcement, both police and prosecutors. Although there are well-publicized episodes where police

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crossed the line, Bill cautioned against using the mistakes of some to tarnish the institution of all. He encouraged us to recognize the efforts of agencies as they contribute to the reduction in crime and the increased vitality of the community. He used the example of white supremacists who “look at you as *sheeple* – because you’re not part of their terrorist group.” We must support law enforcement as they are vigilant against those who would do us harm.

While applauding success, the third thing Bill counseled us to do is to “measure it.” We need to hold police and prosecutors accountable. He exhorted us to write, to protest, to use social media, in summary to be engaged! He cited the credibility that we all have by virtue of Sister Karen’s work, and the work of the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence. But don’t expect perfection of either police, prosecutors, or judges. According to Bill, they are “only human.” He went on, “In my faith, there was only one perfect human and we killed him.”

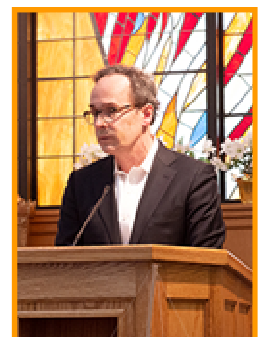
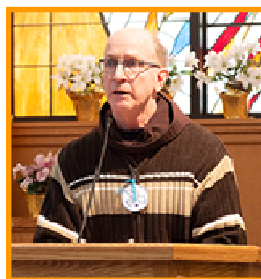
The final and most important thing we can do is to continue to exemplify the right way to live. Bill believes that our lives need to testify to the importance of both Justice and Mercy, both Truth and Forgiveness. He explained that we need to be particularly careful as people of faith. He challenged us with a quote from the theologian Reinhold Niebuhr who wrote in the aftermath of Nazi Germany: “The Christian utopians think they can dispense with all structures and rules of justice simply by fulfilling the law of love ... They do not recognize to what degree justice is actually maintained by a tension of competitive forces ... without which there would be only the despotic peace of the subordination of the will of the weak to the will of the strong.” Bill’s point is that “we must be real.” We must value both justice and mercy.

In conclusion, Bill’s final word was CARE. He cares about law enforcement, but he acknowledged that those of us in the audience care about those less fortunate who are suffering under the criminal justice system. He stated that we are “truly living the command of the gospel, the prophets and of those who have thought deeply about the right thing to do in humanity.” His closing charge, “By working together, law enforcement and community can move towards justice and mercy. I believe all of our collective journey will be toward that promised land, and most importantly I believe we will live the highest ideal in the Christian faith of leaving this world better than we found it.” Amen to that!



***We are grateful to
Errol Daniels for his
professional photography.***

More photos! Pages 6-7



2018 “Nonviolence Begins with Me!” Awards



Vivian Waltz and Bill Marx



Buffalo Peacemakers

After the presentation of “A Journey of Justice and Mercy” by Bill Hochul on April 15th, SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence Director Vivian Waltz presented the 2018 “Nonviolence Begins with Me!” awards.

The first award was given to William F. (Bill) Marx. Vivian shared that in the 1990s Bill had an epiphany when he saw a bumper sticker that read, “Why do we kill people who kill people to prove that killing people is wrong?” That day he felt called to a new life in Christ. He got involved in Pax Christi (Latin for the Peace of Christ), an international peace movement within the Catholic Church, and eventually started a chapter in Western New York.

As a member of the Interfaith Peace Network, Bill participated in Alternatives to Violence Project workshops, eventually becoming a facilitator. Bill has led workshops in the community, with Christ the King seminarians, at local churches, at a Charter high school in Philadelphia, and even with Iraqi refugees in Amman, Jordan.

Bill’s primary commitment to AVP is as coordinator of the program at Wende Correctional Facility. The value of Bill’s ministry is confirmed in what he has heard from inmates over the years, “If I knew before what I’ve learned through AVP in this place, I wouldn’t be in here.” Bill has transformed countless lives.

Vivian shared part of a Prayer of Transformation that is a favorite of Bill’s: “Lead me, guide me, and show me, what it is you are calling me to; then fill me with the courage and grace to do it.” For having the courage and the grace to answer God’s call to new life, Bill was presented with a 2018 “Nonviolence Begins with Me!” Award, and given a commemorative plaque.

The second “Nonviolence Begins with Me!” Award was presented to the Buffalo Peacemakers, a violence and gang intervention program that will mark its fifth anniversary this August. The SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence has been involved in the work of the Peacemakers since its creation. Director Vivian Waltz currently sits on the Advisory Board of the Peacemakers.

Vivian shared the history of the birth of the Peacemakers, which brought together six existing peace-making groups: Back to Basics Outreach Ministries, Buffalo United Front, F.A.T.H.E.R.S., MAD DADS, No More Tears, and the Stop the Violence Coalition. Supported primarily by the City of Buffalo, these separate groups came together to coordinate their outreach and enlarge their impact, to work more closely with law enforcement, and to offer training in nonviolent conflict resolution. Their common mission is to intervene in potentially violent situations with youth in, or at risk of joining, gangs and to mentor and redirect youth into healthy lifestyles.

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After almost five years, with a limited paid staff, supplemented by a cadre of volunteers, the program has touched the lives of thousands of youth, their families, and their neighbors. Peacemakers have regular meetings with gang members, assure safe passage to hundreds of youth on their way home from school, comfort the families of the victims of violence, hold prayer vigils at the site of homicides, ensure that funerals are not disrupted, speak in school assemblies, mentor youth in detention rooms, and keep the peace at large public events.

At the close of the award presentation, Vivian stated that God has placed the Peacemakers among us to fulfill the beatitude, "Blessed are the Peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." Each Peacemaker was presented with a certificate that read: "2018 'NONVIOLENCE BEGINS WITH ME!' AWARD Presented To BUFFALO PEACEMAKERS In Honor of the Fifth Anniversary of Your Courageous and Vigilant Presence on the Streets of Buffalo, New York, and Your Inspiration as Role Models for the Youth of Our Community." In addition, "Nonviolence Begins with Me!" signs were given to each Peacemaker present.



The program ended as it does every year, with a rousing rendition of the "Peaceprints" song led by Linda Martin, choir director at SS. Columba-Brigid Church. A reception with lively conversation, laughter, and delicious food prepared by the Sisters of St. Joseph Food Service department was enjoyed by all. "A Journey of Justice and Mercy" was successful in every way – in fact, financially it was the SSJ Sister Karen Center's best fundraising event ever! A big thank you goes out to all who helped make it such a special day.

Send a Kid to Camp Peaceprints!

This summer is the eleventh annual Camp Peaceprints brought to you by the Interfaith Peace Network, the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence, and the WNY Peace Center. Our theme is "The Language of Peace." The camp, for youth ages 8 to 13, provides exposure to a diverse community while exploring communication, social justice issues, and peaceful conflict resolution. This year we are learning American Sign Language from students at St. Mary's School for the Deaf where camp is held.

We are receiving many requests for camp scholarships. To contribute to the Jim and Audrey Mang Camp Peaceprints Scholarship Fund, mail a check made payable to Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph to 80 Durham Avenue, Buffalo, 14215. You can also go online to sisterkarencenter.org and click on the PayPal Donate button and designate the scholarship fund in the special instructions. The cost of Camp Peaceprints is \$125 for one week of camp for one camper, \$250 for both weeks of camp for one camper.

Thank you for your generosity! Look for news of Camp Peaceprints 2018 in our upcoming newsletter.





***Top row: SS. Columba-Brigid youth volunteers, Bill Marx and grandson, Fr. Jud Weiksnar and Bill Hochul
Second row: Tracey Mullen & Capt. Steve Nichols, SS. Columba-Brigid youth, Paula Hunt & Maureen Satchell
Third row: Bill Hochul, Vivian Waltz and Bill Marx, Supervising Peacemaker Pastor James Giles
Fourth row: Linda Martin, Evelyn Brady, Gary Lofton and Sisters of St. Joseph, SS. Columba-Brigid Choir***



***Top row: Evelyn Brady & Linda Martin, Kathy Hochul & Peacemaker Lenny Lane, Kate Mang & Sr. Eileen O'Connor
Second row: Sr. Jean Klimczak & Sr. Roz Rosolowski with Peacemakers Murray Holman and Lenny Lane,
Vivian and Fr. Roy Herberger, Evelyn Brady and Dr. Khalid Qazi,
Third Row: Vivian with Jim and Audrey Mang, Vivian, Pianist Brian and Linda Martin
Fourth Row: Sr. Liz Savage, SSJ, Lucille Gervase, Sr. Jean Marie Zirnheld, SSJ and Vivian,
Sr. Janet DiPasquale, SSJ, Vivian, Sr. Mary Jo Colucci, SSJ and Sr. Jean Klimczak, OSF***

Alternatives to Violence Project News

AVP at Orchard Park Friends Meeting

Knowing that Quakers were instrumental in developing the Alternatives to Violence Project with incarcerated men in 1975, members of the Orchard Park Friends Meeting requested a Basic AVP workshop, which took place on April 28th-29th at their meeting house. The fifteen participants included Friends as well as others, even the former AVP International President from Australia! Feedback from the participants was that they were impressed, found it useful, and enjoyed getting to know new people. We expect some to return for our Advanced workshop in the fall.

AVP at Wende Correctional Facility

"I was in prison, and you visited me." (Matthew 25:37)

In St. Matthew's Gospel, we see that in meeting the needs of the hungry, sick, and imprisoned, we are ministering directly to Jesus, who considers the poor, sick, and the imprisoned to be his brothers and sisters. Theology must be applied in the concrete reality of our everyday existence. By giving our lives unto others in the love of God, we see the face of Jesus our Lord. ~Adam Horstman

In Sister Karen Klimczak's memory, our Alternatives to Violence Project in area prisons speaks to our gospel call to serve one another. This year at Wende we have trained nine new inside facilitators who were on the teams for Basic and Advanced workshops, which were well attended. The calendar includes three more workshops in 2018: Training for Facilitators, and Basic and Advanced workshops. The AVP population at Wende continues to expand! If you are interested in volunteering for AVP in Wende or other correctional facilities, you can participate in workshops inside the prison. Contact the SSJ Sister Karen Center for more information.



AVP at Compass House

Our AVP program at Compass House Resource Center in Buffalo is going strong! Compass House provides safe shelter and services for runaway, homeless and street youth. In addition to Compass House clients, AVP workshops include youth who have become involved in the juvenile justice system. We thank facilitators for the Basic and Advanced workshops that ran from March 6th to May 8th: Kind Kali Williams and Learning Lynn Rudnicki. AVP exercises are chosen to help youth experience community, build trust, learn communication skills, identify feelings, explore the causes of violence in their own lives and learn how to respond with creative, nonviolent solutions. Participants consistently evaluate our AVP workshops as positive and valuable experiences. We are thankful that Compass House continues to have faith in AVP!

“May Peace Prevail on Earth”

Blessing of the Sisters of St. Joseph Peace Pole

SSJ Sister Karen Center Director Vivian Waltz was asked to speak at the blessing of the Peace Pole installed at the Sisters of St. Joseph Clarence Residence on July 4th. The Peace Pole movement started in Japan in 1975 and has spread around the world. The pole at the Sisters' Residence proclaims “May Peace Prevail on Earth” in Arabic, Burmese, English, French, Nepali, Seneca, Spanish and Swahili. It also contains a Braille plaque with that peace message as well as pictures of finger spelling, appropriate for the community that has taught the deaf since coming to Buffalo. After the words were spoken or signed by speakers of each language, Vivian shared the following reflection:

I'd like to thank the Justice, Peace, and Integrity of Creation Committee of the Sisters of St. Joseph and Associates of Buffalo for asking me to speak at this important occasion. As Director of the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence, I am charged with continuing the peacemaking that defined Sister Karen's life. I believe that we can learn a lot about how peace prevails from Sister Karen's witness.

Sister Karen embodied love and acceptance for all people. In this time of turmoil, in this time of fear and revulsion of those who are different, Sister Karen's legacy of love and nonviolence is more important than ever. To her, no one was beyond the possibility of redemption; all were included in her embrace and in God's embrace through her. She saw each person as a sister or brother in the family of God. We need to follow in her peaceprints by searching for the common humanity we share with each person we meet.

Discovering what we have in common with one another is the beginning of peace. But in order for peace to prevail on earth we must go beyond what we have in common and search for what is unique in each person we encounter. Here we can follow Sister Karen's lead as well. She worked to understand and celebrate the rich dimensions of diversity expressed in each person, particularly men in the criminal justice system whose life experience was so different from her own as a Sister of St. Joseph.

Diversity is foundational to many faiths, and is certainly foundational to those of us who are Christian. In his first letter to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul tells us “Now there are varieties of gifts, but the same Spirit; and there are varieties of services, but the same Lord; and there are varieties of activities, but it is the same God who activates all of them in everyone. To each is given the manifestation of the Spirit for the common good.”

Diversity is given so that we might come together to make a unified whole. The image for those of us who are Christian is the Body of Christ, but I believe that all faiths understand that each person is needed to be a part of a greater spiritual reality. Like pieces of a puzzle, we need each other in order to know the fullest expression of God and God's wonderful world. I believe this is the divine design that requires us as people of faith to embrace both diversity and inclusivity.

We need every language to hear the richness of God's Word to us. We need all nations; we need all people. It is only in our diversity that we can find true unity. There can be no outsiders. Everyone in the world must be included in order for Peace to Prevail on Earth.





“Unite by Night” Chooses SSJ Sister Karen Center for Yearlong Service



The Advisory Board of the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence is delighted to announce a new partnership with the social activist startup Unite By Night. Unite By Night was created by four young professionals to dedicate one year of community service each year to local nonprofits that align with what the group values and believes in. They value:

- * The beauty of diversity
- * Open dialogue and frank but respectful conversations about important and timely issues in society
 - * Working to address racism, bias and discrimination in our community and beyond
 - Helping our citizens connect and collaborate to create greater good

Two of the founding members, Emily Perryman and Samantha Sowah, joined the Advisory Board at our June 18th meeting. They shared that Unite by Night is already at work on behalf of the SSJ Sister Karen Center. Members of the group will volunteer at Camp Peaceprints with an activity and craft highlighting how clothing is an expression of identity and diversity, communicating our camp theme “The Language of Peace.” They will also accompany us on our field trips to the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center and the Falls, as well as our trip downtown to meet Mayor Brown and to explore Tifft Nature Preserve.

We are so grateful that Unite by Night has chosen the SSJ Sister Karen Center and look forward to a year of successful collaboration for the good of our community!



Come on out to celebrate diversity and to fight against discrimination!

Unite by Night

Help Unite by Night “shine the light” on the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence

~ LOOKING AHEAD ~



West Side Peacemakers

The Peacemakers of Buffalo work primarily on the east side. A meeting was convened by NYS Assemblyman Sean Ryan at West Side Community Services on June 29th to explore developing a West Side Peacemakers corps. Various stakeholders were present, including staff of the community center, community police officers, members of the West Side Business and Taxpayers' Association, representatives from Buffalo State College, the Commissioner of Community Services for the City of Buffalo, Supervising Peacemaker

Pastor James Giles, and members of the Peacemakers Advisory Committee (including SSJ Sister Karen Center Director Vivian Waltz). The response was very positive, with all involved willing to provide services to ensure that West Side Peacemakers program becomes a reality. They will begin with six volunteers to patrol the Grant Street corridor to expose and address the criminal element as well as to mentor youth into healthy lifestyles. They hope to be up and running by mid-August.



SAVE THE DATE!

Thursday, September 20th

Stand together for peace, justice and nonviolence
the day before the International Day of Peace

**WNY Coalition of
Peace, Justice & Nonviolence Advocates**
**Go to sisterkarencenter.org
for details in the coming weeks.**

AVP Training

Basic Level I Workshop: September 2018
Location TBA

Advanced Level II Workshop: October 2018
Orchard Park Friends Meeting

Check for updates at 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 eliminating 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.*

