



From Our Director

*Shared by poet and
faithful supporter of the Center
Evelyn Brady*

Because

by Rosemerry Wahtola Trommer

So I can't save the world—
can't save even myself,
can't wrap my arms around
every frightened child, can't
foster peace among nations,
can't bring love to all who
feel unlovable.

So I practice opening my heart
right here in this room
and being gentle

with my insufficiency. I practice
walking down the street heart felt.
And if it is insufficient to share love,

I will practice loving anyway.

I want to converse about truth,
about trust. I want to invite compassion
into every interaction.

One willing heart can't stop a war.
One willing heart can't feed all the hungry.
And sometimes, daunted by a task too big,
I tell myself what's the use of trying?

But today, the invitation is clear:
to be ridiculously courageous in love.

To open the heart like a lilac in May,
knowing freeze is possible
and opening anyway.

To take love seriously.

To give love wildly.

To race up to the world
*as if I were a puppy,
adoring and unjaded,*

stumbling on my own exuberance.

To feel the shock of indifference,
of anger, of cruelty, of fear,
and stay open. To love as if it matters,
as if the world depends on it.

~~~

May it be so for each of us.

*Vivian*

Vivian Ruth Waltz

**SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak  
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### Our Advisory Board

*Sr. Michele Beiter, SSJ  
Barbara Diebold, SSJ Associate  
Antionette (Tracy) Craig  
Sr. Janet DiPasquale, SSJ  
(SSJ Leadership Team liaison)  
Bishop Frederick A. Gelsey  
Marilyn Peterson  
Sr. Kristen Schmitz, SSJ  
Marcia Uebbing, SSJ Associate  
Billie Webster*

*In loving memory of  
James Mang  
(Member 2007-2021)*



## ***Herstory: The Cost of Nonviolence*** **Annual Event with Cariol Horne**



The unseasonably hot temperature outside during our annual event on April 24th was matched by the fiery dancing and rapping of YO! New York youth with the blazing stained-glass window as a backdrop in the sanctuary at SS. Columba-Brigid Church. After an opening prayer by Father Roy Herberger, the teenagers took the floor in a lively routine that started "Herstory: The Cost of Nonviolence" with a burst of enthusiasm and energy!



Sister Karen Center Director Vivian Ruth Waltz then spoke to those gathered about the activities of the Center since our opening in 2007, commemorating 15 years of fulfilling our mission to eliminate violence in ourselves, in our society, and in our world. Referencing a Quinceañera, a Latina girl's 15<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration, Vivian mused that perhaps this anniversary is a time to mark the Sister Karen Center's development from infancy to maturity.

Although interrupted by the pandemic, our Alternatives to Violence Project program in the community has been successful with such diverse groups as homeless youth, Catholic seminarians, trauma therapists and gang interventionists. The AVP program at Wende Correctional Facility is well-established, awaiting the return of volunteers to the prison. This July will mark our 15<sup>th</sup> year of Camp Peaceprints, our alternative day camp designed to introduce youth to social justice, while providing them with peaceful conflict resolution skills and exposure to a broader community.



Following the celebration of the work of the Sister Karen Center, Audrey Mang (who, along with her husband Jim, was an interim director of the Center when we opened) came forward to present the "Nonviolence Begins with Me" Award to Margaret Honora McAloon, M.D. A close friend of Sister Karen in her work and ministry, Maggie felt called to continue Sister Karen's mission when she was so tragically taken from us. Maggie gave a large inaugural gift that helped establish the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence in 2007 on sound financial footing. Tears were flowing as she accepted the award with gratitude and expressed how proud she is to be associated with the Center.

It was time for Sister Karen Center board member Tracy Craig to introduce our featured speaker Cariol Horne. Tracy recounted that Cariol's motivation for becoming a police officer was to influence children to become good citizens. She welcomed Cariol to the podium by affirming that it is a privilege for the Sister Karen Center to be part of sharing Cariol's story.

To begin her talk, Cariol told us that as a young person she attended church daily and that her parents strived to "instill Christ within us" to be forgiving, loving, and caring. She said that in her life she has sacrificed a lot for other people and especially for her children.

After asking for a show of hands of those who are aware of police brutality in our country and in our community, Cariol stressed that we have to acknowledge that it is happening. As a Buffalo police officer in 2006, Cariol acted to protect a handcuffed arrestee from a fellow police officer who had him in a chokehold. "I did what people want officers to do – to intervene when they are being abusive."



*(continued on next page)*

**Herstory Annual Event (continued)**

Cariol's intervention resulted in termination from the Buffalo Police Department and a loss of benefits just months before she was eligible for retirement. She asked us rhetorically, "Who am I going to go to? Who am I going to tell? Some of the officers who were abusive were supervisors." Cariol believes she had PTSD long before she was fired from watching what was going on and not being able to do anything about it. "Just because someone has been arrested, it doesn't mean they deserve to be abused," she declared.



Cariol started thinking of a way she could help other officers who wanted to protect citizens from police using excessive force. In 2016 with the help of legal advisors, she drafted a Duty-to-Intervene Law which became known as Cariol's Law. In addition to legislating the duty to intervene if an officer poses an imminent threat to a citizen, the law includes accountability for officers neglecting to intervene, protection of officers who do intervene and accountability for falsifying reports (which happened in her case). Also included is a policy regarding termination, and a mandate to use restorative justice practices for retaliation against a "whistleblower."

After the death of George Floyd in May of 2020, Cariol's story went national. She made us chuckle by saying, "At that point, I raised holy ... water!" She and other activists hit the streets of Buffalo to protest George Floyd's murder as well as her treatment by the BPD. A team of local supporters - activists, advocates, lawyers, teachers, and artists from all different walks of life - pressed the City of Buffalo to pass Cariol's Law. The law was passed by the Buffalo Common Council in September 2020.

Working with a social justice organization in Chicago which partnered with Harvard Law School, Cariol filed a lawsuit and her termination was overturned. Her pension was reinstated, though she shared that she hasn't seen one penny of it yet. In rendering his opinion, the presiding judge quoted Martin Luther King, Jr., "The time is always ripe to do what is right."

Cariol then talked about her call to influence children and youth. She shared about her son and how his interest in music helped to keep him and his friends out of trouble. Although she did her best to teach them about peer pressure and to stand firm if someone was trying to pull them in a dangerous direction, Cariol's son tragically ended up as a witness to a murder. At the time of our event he was in the East Ferry Youth Detention Center. The SNUG anti-violence program he had participated in was paused during the pandemic and Cariol said that without this program he was vulnerable. Cariol hopes to resume her pre-pandemic work with youth soon. She feels this is her mission in life. She urged us, "We have to come together to help our kids because they are our future."



Following was a Question and Answer time where Cariol asked those in the audience to advocate for her Duty-to-Intervene Law to become a federal statute. Then, as is our custom at the end of every annual event, we joined in singing "Peaceprints." This year we were thrilled to have the composer, David Granville, on the piano to joyfully lead us. We committed once again to answer Sister Karen's call to Leave Peaceprints in our community and in our world.



Delicious mini-sandwiches prepared by the Sisters of St. Joseph food service were enjoyed at the reception following the program, along with lively conversation and much laughter. We are grateful to all our sponsors and to everyone who joined us for this special day to make our annual event a success!

(more photos on pg. 6-7)



## Response to the May 14, 2022 *TOPS* Massacre



(AP Photos/Andrew Harnik)

### 5.18.22 Statement by Vivian Ruth Waltz:

*As Director of the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence, I feel the need to respond to the horrific violence that has befallen our community. We have been present at numerous prayer vigils, clergy and coalition meetings, and press conferences since Saturday. We placed many "I Leave Peaceprints" doves and "Nonviolence Begins with Me" signs in the ground around the Tops site. They have been seen on local, regional, national, and international media platforms, including in the photos above with President Joseph and Dr. Jill Biden.*

*Sister Jean Klimczak and Maggie McAloon (who just received the 2022 "Nonviolence Begins with Me" Award at our annual event last month) quickly constructed memorials as they have done for many years when a homicide occurs in Buffalo. Today, quarterback Josh Allen and the Buffalo Bills, Sabres, and Bandits placed flowers on the ground before the 10 wooden doves which have Peace, the name of each victim, and 5-14-22 written on them. For videos of the sports teams at the site, go to our Facebook page.*

*The toxic ideology that the murderous shooter espouses is dangerous and pervasive in our country. I could not capture the essence of the present moment better than the Rev. Denise O. Walden-Glenn, who is Executive Director of VOICE-Buffalo, our close coalition partner in the work of peace and justice in our city. Her public statement follows:*

**"We lost ten of our neighbors to white supremacist violence.** This kind of hate is not created in a vacuum. It is the product of unexamined and unfiltered extremism, propagated by centuries-old systems of racism that undergird this country. Ten of our siblings were murdered because this country refuses to meaningfully confront systemic racism -- because this country refuses to invest in proven solutions to end gun violence ...

**"Black and Brown communities are in a state of emergency.** For anyone who is serious about ending racism in this country, it's time to put in the work to dismantle machineries of hate and invest in systems that will actually keep us safe."

*May it be so. May we each find a way to be part of the work of dismantling hate. May we keep Sister Karen's vision of a world without violence as a beacon before us, inspiring us with strength and an unflinching commitment to work for peace and justice as she did each moment of her life on this earth. I have no doubt that God and Sister Karen are with us.*





*Vivian Ruth Waltz when  
the doves were placed*



*Josh Allen places flowers.  
(Kent Nishimura / Los Angeles Times)*



*Recent photo of the site  
(Brayton J. Wilson - WBEN)*

June 30, 2022

SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence  
Rev. Vivian Ruth Waltz, Center Director  
80 Durham Avenue  
Buffalo, NY 14215

Dear Vivian,

We, the Justice Team of the Congregation of St. Joseph [Cleveland], remember you and our Joseph Family in Buffalo, praying for those who have faced the heartbreaking loss of beloved family, friends and neighbors through the horrific act of racism and violence. We pray for healing in your community and in our country.

We are a nation that seems unable to stop the epidemic of hate and violence that has overwhelmed us. We recognize the need to work for an end to racism and violence in all its forms and to stand with our dear neighbors, upholding the God-given dignity of all life. At the heart of this work is affirming and working toward a culture of nonviolence.

We are very grateful for our affiliation with the Sisters of St. Joseph of Buffalo and Audrey and the late Jim Mang, through the U.S. Federation JPIC [Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation] Ministry, over many years. We have come to know the exceptional work of SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence and your mission of developing a world without violence.

We are thankful that our Congregation provided a financial gift on behalf of our Sisters and Associates in support of your work. As a tribute to your on-going efforts, we would like to provide an additional gift on behalf of the Congregation Justice Team. Our Sisters and Associates hold the people of Buffalo in prayer and in our commitment to action on behalf of peace through justice, always.

In a spirit of hope and prayer,

Marilyn Nickol CSJ, on behalf of Carmella Campione CSJ,  
Mary Ellen Gondeck CSJ and Mary Ellen Loch CSJ

*"The right to bear arms will never  
be more important than HUMAN LIFE."  
Cardinal Cupich of Chicago*



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www.bromickeymcgrath.com

# Annual Event Reception

We are a social bunch!



2



Our thanks go out to  
Wendy Evenden for her  
excellent photography!





## Annual Event Reception

### Smiles galore!



### We are grateful for our event sponsors!

The Adamucci Family  
 Buffalo Teachers Federation  
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# AVP\* Training

**Conflict and violence exist.**

***How we & others deal with it involves us.***

It's Time to Learn for ourselves ... It's Time to Teach others ...  
... to reduce and resolve conflict  
... to learn and use skills with confidence  
... to create safer and stronger families, workplaces & communities!

**\*Alternatives to Violence Project offers...**

## **Level I BASIC AVP Workshop**

**Friday, September 23, 5:30 - 9:30 pm and  
Saturday, September 24, 9:00 am - 6:00 pm**

**SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence  
80 Durham Avenue, Buffalo**

**Contact Vivian@sisterkarencenter.org / 716.893.0808  
Or register at sisterkarencenter.org**

***Transform Fear, Tension & Conflict  
to Confidence, Respect & Cooperation!***

~~~~~

Wende Correctional Facility

Lynn Rudnicki and Vivian Waltz have been re-oriented to volunteer in the AVP program at Wende Correctional Facility. We are awaiting word that programs are starting up again. We can't wait to reconnect with "our guys" on the inside. We haven't seen them since February 2020!

Communicating about People Involved in the Carceral System

We are still waiting for the AVP program at Wende Correctional Facility to resume post-pandemic. Valuable Vivian Waltz and Learning Lynn Rudnicki have been re-oriented as volunteers in anticipation of our return. In that session, we were instructed to refer to the men on the inside as "incarcerated individuals." A language guide written by formerly incarcerated and system-impacted academics who identify as the Underground Scholars Initiative at the University of California, helps us to understand this change. Following are excerpts from their Language Guide:*

Increasing attention is being given to the language people use when discussing individual or group identities and experiences. In large part, marginalized people must demand the respect to create and amplify language that they consider more **humanizing** than the negative narratives imposed on us by dominant society. Language is not merely descriptive, it is creative. For too long we have borne the burden of having to recreate our humanity in the eyes of those who would have us permanently defined by a system that grew directly out of the institution of American slavery, an institution that depended on the dehumanization of the people it enslaved. It is in this spirit that we call on the media, students, and public to utilize the following terminology when discussing our population. This is not about euphemisms or glossing over people's actions, rather it is about reclaiming our identity as **people** first.

- **Incarcerated Person** refers to anyone currently incarcerated. It makes no claim about guilt or innocence (contrary to words like "convict"), nor does it attach a permanent identity to an often temporary status (like "prisoner" etc.).
- **Formerly Incarcerated Person** refers to anyone who has been in a carceral setting and is now released. Prison, immigration detention centers, local jails, juvenile detention centers, etc., are included under this umbrella term. Attaching the prefix ex- to anything (ex-convict, ex-felon, etc.) is a clear indication that it, and the root word itself, are unacceptable.
- **System Impacted** includes those who have been incarcerated, those with arrests/convictions but no incarceration and those who have been directly impacted by a loved one being incarcerated. While those close to us, as well as the broader society are negatively impacted by our incarceration, it is often our partners, parents, children and/or siblings who face the most significant disadvantages behind our absence and thus, categorically merit this designation.
- **Carceral System** is far more accurate than the ubiquitous term "Criminal Justice System." Not all who violate the law (commit a crime) are exposed to this system and justice is a relative term that most people in this country do not positively associate with our current model.
- **Person on Parole / Probation** instead of "parolee" or "probationer." Again, it is about articulating the person first, not whatever temporary or circumstantial qualifiers may be perceived. Be mindful to preserve the privacy of those who may be on probation or parole.

* Michael Cerda-Jara, Steven Czifra, Abel Galindo, Joshua Mason, Christina Ricks, Azadeh Zohrabi. *Language Guide for Communicating About Those Involved In The Carceral System*. Berkeley, CA: Underground Scholars Initiative, UC Berkeley, 2019.



SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence
Western New York Peace Center

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Monday - Friday

July 18 - July 22, 2022

July 25 - July 29, 2022

SS. Columba-Brigid Church
75 Hickory Street, Buffalo

Seeking youth assistants and adult volunteers

Contact:

Sister Karen Center

716.893.0808

info@sisterkarencenter.org

WNY Peace Center

716.603.0015

director@wnypeace.org

Go to Camp Peaceprints page at sisterkarencenter.org
for more info and online registration form.

Working in Coalition ...

One of the four primary goals of the SSJ Sister Karen Klimczak Center for Nonviolence is to *Build Relationships by Working in Coalition with Community Groups which Promote Nonviolence*. Featured below is the work of just three of our coalition partners: Back to Basics Ministries, Buffalo F.A.T.H.E.R.S (Fathers Armed Together to Help Educate, Restore and Save Lives), and WNY Peacemakers.



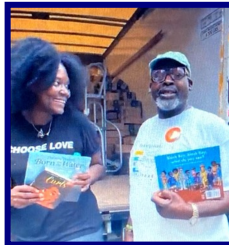
Pastor James Giles,
Mayor Byron Brown,
Congressman Brian Higgins

- For National Gun Violence Awareness Day we stood in solidarity, wearing orange in remembrance of the victims that lost their life to gun violence in our community and around the nation. On behalf of Back to Basics Ministries, Pastor James Giles was honored to receive the proclamation declaring June 3rd National Gun Violence Awareness Day in the City of Buffalo. The Sister Karen Center was also a sponsor of the Buffalo March for Our Lives, a satellite of the national march for gun control legislation on June 11th.

- Back to Basics Ministries, Buffalo FATHERS, and WNY Peacemakers sponsored a Toy Gun Exchange from June 27th-30th across from TOPS on Jefferson Avenue. The exchange included sessions to educate youth about gun violence. BB guns, squirt guns, and nerf guns were surrendered and the children received nonviolent toys in their place: skateboards, bikes, basketballs, baseball gloves, board games and remote cars and trucks.



- Zeneta Everhart and her son Tops employee who survived book drive. They called it was to collect children's books history and culture. The drive Volunteers with the Buffalo to Villa Maria College, where college will house the book community centers.

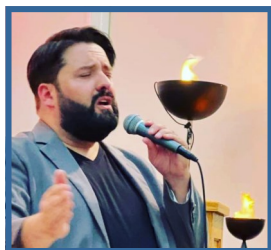


Zeneta Everhart
and Peacemaker
George Johnson

- Zaire Goodman, a the mass shooting May 14th, started a "Zeneta and Zaire's Book Club." Their goal that address racism, as well as Black has collected almost 10,000 books so far! Peacemakers helped transport the books Everhart and her son both attended. The club and will help distribute to schools and

"Blessed are the peacemakers,

for they will be called children of God."
Jesus in the Gospel of Matthew 5:9



A Heartwarming Night ... A Heartfelt Thank You

The exquisite beauty of Cory Gallagher's tenor voice and the stirring words of his sister Amy's poetry combined for an *Evening of Healing: Uniting in Love* concert on June 4th. We came together as one people in faith and love to honor the impact that the Jefferson Avenue 10 had on our community. Cory testifies, "The Spirit of God was upon everybody gathered ... it was deeply moving ... it truly was our best concert yet!" The Gallaghers graciously designated the Sister Karen Center as the beneficiary of the offering taken at the concert which totaled an incredibly generous \$650! We are so grateful for your financial gift, Cory and Amy. Yet even more powerful is the gift of your divinely inspired music and poetry! We can't thank you enough!



To purchase a professional DVD of the event call or text Cory at 716.868.2047.

Sisters of St. Joseph
Sister Karen Klimczak
Center for Nonviolence
80 Durham Avenue
Buffalo, NY 14215

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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.***