



# Fertile Ground

Journal of Peace House, the Kalamazoo Quaker/Catholic Worker

Issue 11

May 2014

## Peace House News

By Jerry Berrigan

Last fall, Dr. Cornel West spoke at the Catholic Worker in New York, giving words of appreciation for the life and witness of Catholic Worker cofounder Dorothy Day. You can watch the whole speech on You Tube (I recommend it highly)—type in “Cornel West at the Catholic Worker.”

Dr. West suggests that Dorothy, through surviving the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 at the age of eight, became acquainted with what he calls “the catastrophic.” The quake was a natural catastrophe, he observes, but having lived through it and witnessing the aftermath of this great tragedy

Dorothy was henceforth “able to see social catastrophe, economic catastrophe, political catastrophe, ecological catastrophe.” Distinguishing between the catastrophic and the “problematic,” West continues: “The problematic are those who are obsessed with the mainstream and the straight-line, usually obsessed with trying to gain access to it, and ending up well-adjusted to injustice and well-adapted to indifference. [Dorothy] knew that indifference to evil is more evil than evil itself. It becomes a way of life, a hardening of the heart and a coarsening of the conscience, a chilling of the soul and a turning away from the vulnerable, the despised, and the weak. . . . When you think of Dorothy Day, you think of love overflowing [but this love is] rooted and grounded in the catastrophic.”

As I report on our last half-year at Peace House, I will try to hold in tension the deep joy and gratitude we all feel to be here together doing this work, on the one hand, while admitting the burden of concern we carry for those victimized by catastrophe, on the other hand. I will mention our upcoming work in opposition to drone warfare (political catastrophe), report on our opposition to frack-sand mining (ecological catastrophe), and report on our daily contact with children who live in a context of economic and social collapse.

With that by way of preamble, here is my report on our last two seasons.

The number of children coming to Peace House went way up last summer and never really went back down. Coming into fall, we had to devise new ways to structure our program so that everyone has access. We began limiting students to two days per week, and tightened up our paperwork, an effort long time in coming. We see 20 kids per day, more or less. We could not do this without our many, fantastic volunteers, who give themselves away to the children of our neighborhood every week. THANK YOU ALL!

This hospitality brings us into contact with the catastrophic. An increasing fraction of the children who come to Peace House exhibit signs of desperate hardship in the home. Despite our relative comfort, we join our neighbors in a sense of powerlessness. We cannot “fix” anyone’s problems, any more that we can repair the great social ills which cause them. Nevertheless we are in relationship, and we are consistent. It is no small matter for the kids who come here to know that Peace House will be open at regular hours, that there will be good food, interesting reading, serious play and of course help with homework.

The winter was harsh. From January well into March, we had snow and cold and more snow and more cold. Early in the season, most Kalamazoo residents stopped shoveling their sidewalks, creating treacherous passage for pedestrians. Children heading to bus stops pushed through waist-deep snow, or walked in the streets. Certain commentators maintain that this “polar vortex” was a product of much global warming, and that might be

so. While I like snow, I worry about extreme weather patterns.

We hunkered down and kept at it. Monday through Thursday, 4-6 pm, snacks, homework, board games, and outdoor play. We played hard in the snow; the sleds were out most days. The dogwood in our front yard became the anchor of choice in the game of kid-sled-slingshot. (It survived all right.) Many thanks to everyone who donated hats and mittens — we gave them all away.

In February, with the blessing of Molly, Jen and Mike, who graciously took on my share of the work, I stood trial with 25 other Catholic Workers for our April 29, 2013

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Janessa, aglow with the Christmas spirit, at the Peace House Holiday Party in December.

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protest against frack-sand mining in Winona, Minnesota. Last year, Wendell Berry wrote the following in support of our witness: *“Most of our politicians and their corporate employers are measuring their work by the standards of profitability and mechanical efficiency. Those standards are wrong. There is one standard that is right: the health of living creatures and the living earth.”*

The trial was a powerful experience of solidarity and community with other members of our Catholic Worker tribe. Every evening this group of friends old and new convened after dinner for a legal strategy meeting, characterized by a remarkably positive and efficient consensus process. My charges were dropped when my arresting officer failed to appear.

January and February are the quiet months in our year, with life steadily gaining speed beginning in March. With May approaching, we got deep into the planning the second annual Peace House Stomp! Square dance benefit, a great celebration and a successful fundraiser. Special thanks to Angela Mabus, Kirsten Jennings, Deacon Pat Hall, Mike Clark and the Celery City Sodbusters.

We have also been active this spring working with Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Kalamazoo Non-Violent Opponents of War, and other groups planning a 163-mile walk from Chicago to Battle Creek in opposition to drone warfare. The walk will begin June 3 and end June 14 at the Battle Creek Air National Guard Base, passing through Kalamazoo Thursday, June 12. For more information on drone war, check out the article reprinted on page seven. See the poster on page six and please consider supporting this walk in some way.

As I write, following warm sun and rain, the grass and dandelions are explosively green and yellow, and it looks like our transplanted redbuds, white pines and Japanese maples might make it. Jen and Mike have six new hen chicks in their basement, who soon will join the rest of the flock. Spring is abound, which also brings our yearly challenge of growing new grass on our heavily used lawn.

The five children who live at Peace House continue to grow and thrive, each in their own way. Each is a work in progress, of course, but then again, so are we. Amos, Jonah, and Clara are all in soccer season. Amos played through the winter too, and Peace House sponsored our neighbors Jaylen and Artez, both of whom dove into it, appearing on our doorstep early Saturday mornings for their game. Alice and Clara are doing gymnastics right now, and Leah, the youngest, knows that superheroes are cooler than princesses.

Currently we are in the middle of organizing Peace House Summer 2014. As we know from years past, the summer program is the most high-octane, sleep-deprived, seat-of-your-pants, awesome, intense thing we do. We put it all on the line. This season, we will be open 14 or so hours per week for eight weeks. For the middle six weeks, we will run offsite camps

based on a variety of themes (nature education, bike repair, art and jewelry, hair and beauty) open to nine students at a time. Onsite programming will continue in close resemblance of last summer as the camps come and go. Basketball practice will take place Monday evenings at Mayors’ Riverfront Park, and this year again, we are looking for coaches.

If you live in town, please give us a call. We could help you brainstorm ways to turn your favorite hobby or unique talent into an unforgettable gift that might forever change the life of a child, and change your life too. “The future will be different if we make the present different,” said Dorothy Day’s cohort Peter Maurin. We have the opportunity to do something good in this life. Let’s do it together.



March 31, 2014: We cannot wait any longer to play basketball, even if it means moving this snow pile by hand (with success!)



Mary helping Daevonte with his homework.



To the left: Jojuan and DQ try out their cowboy look at the "Wild West" photo booth.



Above: Our Second Annual Peace House Stomp was another huge success! People from all circles and walks of life joined together for a fun evening of dance.

# Peace House Stomp 2014

Below: The night would not be complete without a couple of fancy ladies in mustaches!



To the right: Caller Mike Clark and the Celery City Sodbusters once again led the way with great music and fun dances for adults and kids of all ages and abilities.



Peace House is excited to announce our new website:  
**[www.peacehousekzoo.org](http://www.peacehousekzoo.org)**  
and email address:  
**[peacehouse@peacehousekzoo.org](mailto:peacehouse@peacehousekzoo.org)**  
At the website, you can sign up for our monthly e-mail newsletter by clicking on "Stay in Touch" at the top. Fill out the form and click "Join our mailing list." Within a few minutes, you will receive a confirmation e-mail from us. Click on the link inside and you'll be signed up. Easy as falling off a log, right?

This spring, we transplanted 10 new trees on the Peace House property!



# Leave Tar Sands in the Ground

By Jessica Clark

*Jessica Clark, Co-Director of the Kalamazoo Peace Center at Western Michigan University and a friend of Peace House, was arrested last August and again in September in LaPorte, Indiana for a tree sit to protest the construction of Enbridge's oil pipeline 6B. Both tree-sits opposed Enbridge's expansion activities on the same pipeline which burst in July 2010, spilling 900 thousand gallons of diluted bitumen into Talmadge Creek, eventually contaminating over 40 miles of the Kalamazoo River. To date, the spill has not been properly cleaned up, and Enbridge continues to prioritize the pipeline's expansion over cleaning up the mess. Although she was offered one year probation, Jessica choose 26 days of jail time as a witness against environmental destruction. These were her words to the court.*

I grew up a mile from Lake Michigan. I rode my bicycle there many mornings to watch the sunrise. BP just spilled 1,638 gallons of oil, probably tar sands into Lake Michigan. This is the inevitability of the tar sands industry - it is sloppy and poorly regulated. There are unreported spills every hour, but it is well funded, and easy for companies like Enbridge to pay off governmental agencies to influence them to make statements like No long-term health effects expected from 2010 Kalamazoo River oil spill.

I climbed that tree in September to highlight the injustice of tar sands, and to halt expansion of Enbridge pipeline 6B. As a resident of the greater Kalamazoo River basin, I am conscious of the ways in which corporations such as Enbridge, Marathon and BP turn ecosystems and communities into sacrifice zones in the name of profit.

The people of Marshall and surrounding communities that endured the spill have been dealing with intense health implications such as kidney and liver failure, and cancer. July 27, 2010 when Enbridge spilled around a million gallons of tar sands into the Kalamazoo River, should have been the end of the line. Tar sands should no longer be pumping through the great lakes bio region. We have to leave tar sands in the ground. The governmental agencies need to stop valuing profit over health and safety of communities.

Tar sands from Canada are actively killing indigenous people in the boreal forest as their water and land are polluted by around 39 companies that are active there. The concept of "infinite growth" that underlines

capitalism is not at all logical on a planet with finite resources. Enbridge, Marathon and BP, these "corporate people", and the attitude of entitlement are actively enabling the apocalypse. Climate change is another main reason I climbed the tree- all reputable organizations of scientists endorse the statement "Most of the global warming in recent decades can be attributed to human activities." Our species will not continue this way. The jury is no longer out, there are things we can do about this fact. Halting the problem at the root is a viable solution. The green house gas emissions must stop. Carbon emissions must stop. Stomping on the rights of indigenous people must stop.

I am calling for a revolution of values. As a society, we need to re-consider what happiness actually is. Happiness is not a comfortable middle class lifestyle at the cost of ecosystems, water and health, and comfort of others. Happiness is not getting so drunk or zonked out on television that you forget about the smog cloud of guilt in your gut for polluting neighborhoods and ecosystems. Happiness is not living next to a refinery, or downstream

from tar sands strip mine.

It is not living next to a rare earth mineral mine. Happiness is building resilient communities, growing food in our own

neighborhoods and fostering independence from global capitalism.

It is essential that we come together and organize ourselves in the

spirit of resilience. We cannot live on a dead planet. We cannot drink their money. We need each other to stop these industries from threatening our livelihoods. It is essential we resist harsh extraction and the attitude of human entitlement, colonialism and patriarchy that enable the earth to be commodified. We need to grow organic, bio-dynamic food in our own communities to become independent, to soften the collapse that climate change will incur. We need to stop the movement of tar sands once and for all. Leave the tar sands in the ground.

Enbridge 6B Replacement Project



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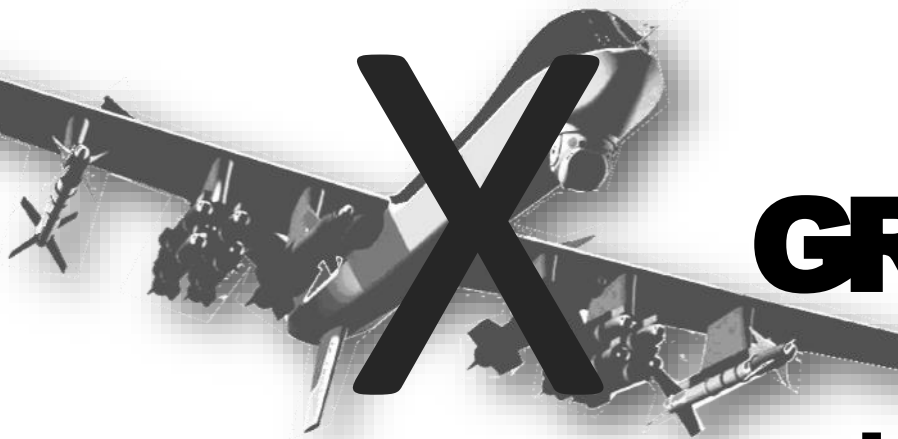
# Peace House Summer 2014

Don't miss out on the fun! Listed below are a variety of ways YOU can be a part of our summer.

- **Provide a snack** — the kids love fresh fruit, yogurt, cheese, sandwiches, cookies, granola bars — be creative!
- **Join us as a regular volunteer once a week.** We'll plug you into an activity that works for you.
- **Bring your special talents and abilities here to share as a one-time activity.** Art projects, music, beading, cooking, building, you name it! The kids want to experience it all.
- Do you have a green thumb? **We always need garden help.** Kids can join you or not — your preference.
- **Reading Porch volunteer.** Kids read to an adult, earn prizes and don't even realize they're preparing for school in the fall.
- Basketball, soccer, kickball, volleyball — **we need sports lovers of all sizes and abilities** to run sports games and keep it fun and safe. High on that list are basketball players who can teach skills and good sportsmanship.
- Can you fix bikes? **Join our Open ROADS bike repair sessions** to help kids ride safe and functional bikes this summer.
- **We are running a series of “mini-camps” this summer** to get kids off-site and more deeply involved in an activity they really enjoy. Our weekly camps include: Open ROADS bike camp, art camp, salon camp, building camp, nature camp, and 100 mile market camp. If you have expertise in any of these areas or are interested in helping out during one of these weeks, please let us know.

**Whether it's one time or every day, we invite you to be a part of our summer. Our programming is free of charge for all the kids who participate, and we depend on volunteers to help make it happen.**

**Please join us — email or call us today!**



# ON THE ROAD TO GROUND THE DRONES

June 3-14, 2014

## ***Why We Walk***

- **Reliance upon drone warfare** allows President Obama and future administrations to **expand** failed Bush-era “War on Terror” policies to everywhere on the globe, where **the world becomes a battlefield** and a missile strike can happen anywhere and at any time. Constant surveillance and strikes from drones terrorize local populations, fueling hatred and creating additional enemies.
- In at least **1600 drone attacks** in 4 countries, approximately **4,700 people** have now been killed, including 4 American citizens. These are absolute **minimum** figures compiled from reports by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, *The Nation*, *The Washington Post*, and de-classified data from the U.S. Air Force, which announced that starting May 2013 it would stop making its drone strike data public.
- These drone strikes are **neither “surgical” nor precise**. The number of “high-level targets” killed in drone strikes makes up **only 2%** of the total number of casualties thus far. Bystanders, including women and children, are killed alongside often misidentified and completely innocent targets. The Obama administration arrogantly asserts that all adult males killed were “militants” by definition unless proven otherwise – drone cameras and operators **cannot tell the difference**.
- Pres. Obama and the CIA have **severely weakened the rule of both domestic and international law** by claiming a right to kill anyone on a secret “kill list.” The US government admits it now engages in “signature strikes” where the **names and affiliations of those being targeted are unknown** even to those ordering the strikes.

**The world is not a battlefield. We must reclaim our humanity and democracy by stopping these indiscriminate weapons of war!**

Walking together the 163 miles from **Boeing Headquarters in Chicago**, where drone components are designed, to the **Air National Guard Base in Battle Creek, Michigan**, the new home for drone-piloting facilities, to expose the truth about drones and to call for an end to killing by remote control.

We gladly welcome your participation! Please contact us if you would like to **join us for any portion of the walk**. If you would like to support the walkers by helping with **meals or overnight accommodations**, we would be very grateful for that as well. Contact **Peace House**:

PEACEHOUSE@PEACEHOUSEKZOO.ORG  
(269)492-1206

*This event is being coordinated by:*

**VOICES FOR CREATIVE NONVIOLENCE**

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**k** kalamazoo  
non-violent  
opponents  
of **War**

# Living Under Drones

## Executive Summary and Recommendations

*This article is the summary of a report entitled “Living Under Drones” published by the International Human Rights and Conflict Resolution Clinic of Stanford Law School (Stanford Clinic) and the Global Justice Clinic at New York University School of Law (NYU Clinic). The report is the result of nine months of research done in 2011-12. To view the complete report, go to <[www.livingunderdrones.org](http://www.livingunderdrones.org)>.*

In the United States, the dominant narrative about the use of drones in Pakistan is of a surgically precise and effective tool that makes the US safer by enabling “targeted killing” of terrorists, with minimal downsides or collateral impacts.<sup>[1]</sup>

This narrative is false.

Following nine months of intensive research—including two investigations in Pakistan, more than 130 interviews with victims, witnesses, and experts, and review of thousands of pages of documentation and media reporting—this report presents evidence of the damaging and counterproductive effects of current US drone strike policies. Based on extensive interviews with Pakistanis living in the regions directly affected, as well as humanitarian and medical workers, this report provides new and firsthand testimony about the negative impacts US policies are having on the civilians living under drones.

Real threats to US security and to Pakistani civilians exist in the Pakistani border areas now targeted by drones. It is crucial that the US be able to protect itself from terrorist threats, and that the great harm caused by terrorists to Pakistani civilians be addressed. However, in light of significant evidence of harmful impacts to Pakistani civilians and to US interests, current policies to address terrorism through targeted killings and drone strikes must be carefully re-evaluated.

It is essential that public debate about US policies take the negative effects of current policies into account.

**First, while civilian casualties are rarely acknowledged by the US government, there is significant evidence that US drone strikes have injured and killed**

**civilians.** In public statements, the US states that there have been “no” or “single digit” civilian casualties.”<sup>[2]</sup> It is difficult to obtain data on strike casualties because of US efforts to shield the drone program from democratic accountability, compounded by the obstacles to independent investigation of strikes in North Waziristan. The best currently available public aggregate data on drone strikes

are provided by *The Bureau of Investigative Journalism (TBIJ)*, an independent journalist organization. *TBIJ* reports that from June 2004 through mid-September 2012, available data indicate that drone strikes killed 2,562-3,325 people in Pakistan, of whom 474-881 were civilians, including 176 children.<sup>[3]</sup> *TBIJ* reports that these strikes also injured an additional 1,228-1,362 individuals. Where media accounts do report civilian casualties, rarely is any information provided about the victims or the communities they leave behind. This report includes the harrowing narratives of many survivors, witnesses, and family members who provided evidence of civilian injuries and deaths in drone strikes to our research team. It also presents detailed accounts of three separate strikes, for which there is evidence of civilian deaths and injuries, including a March 2011 strike on a meeting of tribal elders that killed some 40 individuals.

**Second, US drone strike policies cause considerable and under-accounted-for harm to the daily lives of ordinary civilians, beyond death and physical injury.** Drones hover twenty-four hours a day over communities in northwest Pakistan, striking homes, vehicles, and public spaces without warning. Their presence terrorizes men, women, and children, giving rise to anxiety and psychological trauma among civilian communities. Those living under drones have to face the constant worry that a deadly strike may be fired at any moment, and the knowledge that they



Nabila Rehman, left, 9, watches as her brother Zubair, 13, reads a statement about the day their grandmother was killed by a U.S. drone strike in Pakistan at a hearing in Washington, October 2013. In his statement, Zubair said, “*I no longer love blue skies. In fact, I now prefer grey skies. The drones do not fly when the skies are grey.*”

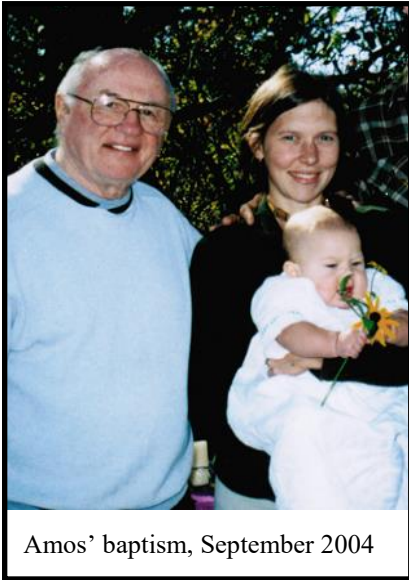
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# In Gratitude For Two Lives Well Lived

By Molly Mechtenberg

This spring, the Kalamazoo peace community lost two great souls – Joe Gump and Father John Grathwohl. Both of these mentors, friends and elders died after long illnesses – Joe from congestive heart failure in March at the age of 86 and John after a long struggle with Alzheimer's in April at the age of 84.

My earliest memories of these men take me back to my time at Kalamazoo College. John was the pastor of the church I attended – St. Thomas More Student Parish. Joe Gump, along with his wife Jean, spoke in my freshman seminar entitled “Nonviolence in a Violent World.” Both of these men, in their gentle, loving ways, helped to shake my foundation as a Catholic and as a young person coming of age. They were both warm and welcoming, strong and resilient, and dedicated to peace and justice. While my time with other young, emblazoned campus radicals was a very important part of my path to nonviolence, the lives of a grandfather and a priest showed me that peace work was lifelong and critically important work.



Amos' baptism, September 2004

John was the first approachable priest I ever met. In fact, he always insisted on being called John rather than Father John. He cared about people, that was clear. Every person, everywhere. How's that for a radical idea? His family grew up in Niles, Michigan not far from my mother's family, the Durms. The two families went through school together and still remain friends. In 1994 John accompanied a group of K-College students, including myself, on a spring break trip out east to Jonah House, the community where Jerry grew up. Imagine that! My first time meeting my future in-laws.

Fast forward a few years – John participates in our wedding and two years later drives up to Luck, Wisconsin to baptize our first son Amos. He longs for a Catholic Worker in Kalamazoo and encourages us to establish ourselves here. He is a primary supporter as we move to town and shortly thereafter baptizes our second son, Jonah. And then he starts to fumble, forget, fail. I have a very fond memory of him on one of his last visits here standing out on the play structure in the back with kids running all around, a smile on his face in seeing what has been accomplished.

In contrast to John's gentle, persistent message of nonviolence, as an 18 year-old Joe and Jean's story really knocked my socks off. Twelve kids? Plowshares? Years in prison? Really? They were so sweet and loving, with all their gray hairs and warm smiles. Their story said “wake up” loud and clear. That was just the beginning of a long relationship with Jean and Joe.

There's an old saying that goes, “Justice is important but dinner is essential.” If you ever got to enjoy one of Jean and Joe's home-cooked Sunday dinners, consider yourself lucky. But on Monday it's time to put away the china and go back to protesting the U.S. war machine. Joe was always ready to stand the line with great conviction. Jerry was able to bid farewell to Joe the day before he died, and we were all blessed to meet many of the Gump family members at the memorial service and experience one final “Oom pah pah.”

I love the Catholic Worker tradition of calling out the names of those who have gone before us, who inspired us, moved us, pushed us beyond ourselves. Our cloud of witnesses, we call them. The term comes from Hebrews: *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”* The race is clearly marked out for us. John and Joe have led the way with their compassion, their steadfast spirits and perseverance. They have passed the baton to us. We at Peace House will always be grateful for their presence in our lives and the witness they offered. Joe and John, Presente!



Jean and Joe Gump sporting their Kalamazoo Nonviolent Opponents of War T-shirts.



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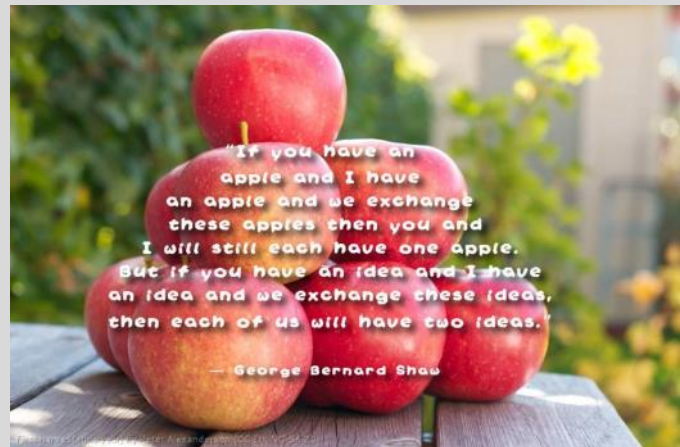
## Community Highlight: Prairie Wolf Collective, Elkhart, Indiana

*Peace House is one of many intentional communities in the Midwest. We have had the good fortune to get to know members of the Prairie Wolf Collective over the past two years. We'd like to share a few words and ideas from their work, and invite you to check them out if you're interested.*

Our work and vision as the Prairie Wolf Collective, has grown out of a strong belief that when common people come together with shared passion, we begin to create the future we desire. We plan to live more simply and more relationally, working less for income and more for love – allowing more time for work of transformation, for being in relationships with self, neighbors and the earth in a way that is deeply sustainable for all.

### We believe in...

- investing in relationships that enrich our lives and strengthen our neighborhood;
- transforming our urban scape into bountiful spaces for growing food;
- creating expanded space for meetings of the Elkhart Quaker Worship Group;
- learning skills and wisdom from our neighbors, sharing it through teach-ins, conversation, collective projects and community actions.



We are convinced that our future and well-being is bound up with that of our neighbors; when we face them alone, these forces are overwhelming; so we seek to join together in facing them.

If you are interested in hearing more, please be in touch. We love visitors and welcome all levels of interest and involvement, whether it be during a renovation work day, a community event, as a housemate, supporting our renovation fund or otherwise.

1721 Prairie Street, Elkhart, IN 46514; [prairiewolfcollective@gmail.com](mailto:prairiewolfcollective@gmail.com); 574-312-9261

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are powerless to protect themselves. These fears have affected behavior. The US practice of striking one area multiple times, and evidence that it has killed rescuers, makes both community members and humanitarian workers afraid or unwilling to assist injured victims. Some community members shy away from gathering in groups, including important tribal dispute-resolution bodies, out of fear that they may attract the attention of drone operators. Some parents choose to keep their children home, and children injured or traumatized by strikes have dropped out of school. Waziris told our researchers that the strikes have undermined cultural and religious practices related to burial, and made family members afraid to attend funerals. In addition, families who lost loved ones or their homes in drone strikes now struggle to support themselves.

**Third, publicly available evidence that the strikes have made the US safer overall is ambiguous at best.**

The strikes have certainly killed alleged combatants and disrupted armed actor networks. However, serious concerns about the efficacy and counter-productive nature of drone strikes have been raised. The number of “high-level” targets killed as a percentage of total casualties is extremely low—estimated at just 2%. [4] Furthermore, evidence suggests that US strikes have facilitated recruitment to violent non-state armed groups, and motivated further violent attacks.

As the *New York Times* has reported, “drones have replaced Guantánamo as the recruiting tool of choice for militants.”[5] Drone strikes have also soured many Pakistanis on cooperation with the US and undermined US-Pakistani relations. One major study shows that 74% of Pakistanis now consider the US an enemy.[6]

**Fourth, current US targeted killings and drone strike practices undermine respect for the rule of law and international legal protections and may set dangerous precedents.** This report casts doubt on the legality of strikes on individuals or groups not linked to the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, and who do not pose imminent threats to the US. The US government’s failure to ensure basic transparency and accountability in its targeted killing policies, to provide necessary details about its targeted killing program, or adequately to set out the legal factors involved in decisions to strike hinders necessary democratic debate about a key aspect of US foreign and national security policy. US practices may also facilitate recourse to

lethal force around the globe by establishing dangerous precedents for other governments. As drone manufacturers and officials successfully reduce export control barriers, and as more countries develop lethal drone technologies, these risks increase.

**In light of these concerns, this report recommends that the US conduct a fundamental re-evaluation of current targeted killing practices, taking into account all available evidence, the concerns of various stakeholders, and the short and long-term costs and benefits.** A significant rethinking of current US targeted killing and drone strike policies is long overdue. US policy-makers, and the American public, cannot continue to ignore evidence of the civilian harm and counter-productive impacts of US targeted killings and drone strikes in Pakistan.

This report also supports and reiterates the calls consistently made by rights groups and others for legality, accountability, and transparency in US drone strike policies:

**The US should fulfill its international obligations with respect to accountability and transparency, and ensure proper democratic debate about key policies. The US should:**  
**Release the US Department of Justice memoranda** outlining the legal basis for US targeted killing in Pakistan;

**Make public critical information concerning US drone strike**

**policies, including as previously and repeatedly requested by various groups and officials:**

[7] **the targeting criteria for so-called “signature” strikes; the mechanisms in place to ensure that targeting complies with international law; which laws are being applied; the nature of investigations into civilian death and injury; and mechanisms in place to track, analyze and publicly recognize civilian casualties;**[8]

**Ensure independent investigations** into drone strike deaths, consistent with the call made by Ben Emmerson, UN Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism in August 2012;[9]

**In conjunction with robust investigations and, where appropriate, prosecutions, establish compensation programs** for civilians

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## Clarification of Thought Series

Peace House hosts monthly presentations on critical issues led by invited speakers. These lectures and discussions have the goal of creating a better shared understanding of the issues we face as peacemakers and the course we can take to address them. All events are held at 7:30 at either 313 or 321 Phelps unless otherwise noted.

Light refreshments will be served.

### Sept. 15: Jerry Berrigan “The Aims and Means of the Principalities and Powers”

This presentation is intended as the first in a series of discussions on the theological insights of William Stringfellow, especially his seminal work on the principalities and powers. Stringfellow’s work offers a prophetic biblical critique of America and analyzes the purposes and techniques of institutions and large groups with remarkable precision. Advance reading of Stringfellow’s 1974 *An Ethic for Christians and Other Aliens in a Strange Land* is highly recommended. Peace House has purchased five copies; call to reserve.

### Oct. 15: Jay Maddock “Why Equality in Michigan Matters”

Jay is the program director for the Kalamazoo Gay and Lesbian Resource Center. The Resource Center has sought to inform and entertain members of our community and their allies and to educate the public of the realities of what it means to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgender at this time and place. Jay will update us on the struggle to legalize gay marriage in Michigan.

### Nov. 13: Chris Knestrick “Witness Against Torture”

Chris, of the Cleveland Catholic Worker, has been active for many years with the group Witness Against Torture. He will share that group’s work to organize for the closure of Guantanamo prison and an end of US practices of torture and indefinite detention.

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harmed by US strikes in Pakistan.

**The US should fulfill its international humanitarian and human rights law obligations with respect to the use of force**, including by not using lethal force against individuals who are not members of armed groups with whom the US is in an armed conflict, or otherwise against individuals not posing an imminent threat to life. This includes not double-striking targets as first responders arrive.

**Journalists and media outlets should cease the common practice of referring simply to “militant” deaths, without further explanation.** All reporting of government accounts of “militant” deaths should include acknowledgment that the US government counts all adult males killed by strikes as “militants,” absent exonerating evidence. Media accounts relying on anonymous government sources should also highlight the fact of their single-source information and of the past record of false government reports.

[1] The US publicly describes its drone program in terms of its unprecedented ability to “distinguish ... effectively between an al Qaeda terrorist and innocent civilians,” and touts its missile-armed drones as capable of conducting strikes with “astonishing” and “surgical” precision. *See, e.g.*, John O. Brennan, Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Counterterrorism, The Efficacy and Ethics of U.S. Counterterrorism Strategy, Remarks at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars (Apr. 30, 2012), available at <http://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/the-efficacy-and-ethics-us-counterterrorism-strategy>.

[2] *See Obama Administration Counterterrorism Strategy* (C-Span television broadcast June 29, 2011), <http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/AdministrationCo>; *see also* Strategic Considerations, *infra* Chapter 5: Strategic Considerations; Contradictions Chart, *infra* Appendix C.

[3] *Covert War on Terror*, The Bureau of Investigative Journalism, <http://www.thebureauinvestigates.com/category/projects/drones/> (last visited Sept. 12, 2012).

[4] Peter Bergen & Megan Braun, *Drone is Obama’s Weapon of Choice*, CNN (Sept. 6, 2012), <http://www.cnn.com/2012/09/05/opinion/bergen-obama-drone/index.html>.

[5] Jo Becker & Scott Shane, *Secret ‘Kill List’ Proves a Test of Obama’s Principles and Will*, N.Y. Times (May 29, 2012), <http://www.nytimes.com/2012/05/29/world/obamas-leadership-in-war-on-al-qaeda.html?pagewanted=all>.

[6] Pew Research Center, Pakistani Public Opinion Ever More Critical of U.S.: 74% Call America an Enemy (2012), available at <http://www.pewglobal.org/files/2012/06/Pew-Global-Attitudes-Project-Pakistan-Report-FINAL-Wednesday-June-27-2012.pdf>.

[7] *See, e.g.*, Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, *Study on Targeted Killings*, Human Rights Council, UN Doc. A/HRC/14/24/Add.6 (May 28, 2010) (by Philip Alston), available at <http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/docs/14session/A.HRC.14.24.Add6.pdf>; *US: Transfer CIA Drone Strikes to Military*, Human Rights Watch (Apr. 20, 2012), <http://www.hrw.org/news/2012/04/20/us-transfer-cia-drone-strikes-military>; Letter from Amnesty International et al. to Barack Obama, President of the United States (May 31, 2012), available at <http://www.justforeignpolicy.org/node/1242>.

[8] Letter from Amnesty International et al., *supra* note 7.

[9] Terri Judd, *UN ‘Should Hand Over Footage of Drone Strikes or Face UN Inquiry’*, Independent (Aug. 20, 2012), <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/us-should-hand-over-footage-of-drone-strikes-or-face-un-inquiry-8061504.html>.



# Peace House

321 Phelps Ave.  
Kalamazoo, MI 49048

*Fertile Ground* is sent twice a year to friends and supporters of Peace House. If you would rather not receive this newsletter, please return this page with a note to that effect. If you would like to receive periodic electronic updates from us (no more than twice a month), please send an e-mail to [peacehouse@peacehousekzoo.org](mailto:peacehouse@peacehousekzoo.org)

*"The greatest challenge of the day is: how to bring about a revolution of the heart, a revolution which has to start with each one of us." —Dorothy Day*

## Who we are.....

Peace House, a community in the Catholic Worker movement, is dedicated to fostering peace, justice and relationship in the Eastside neighborhood of Kalamazoo. We believe that the good of each person is bound to the well-being of society as a whole; therefore we advocate taking personal responsibility for creating, in the words of Catholic Worker co-founder Peter Maurin, "a new society within the shell of the old...a place where it is easier for people to be good." We are here to be a resource for our neighbors. We rely on the involvement of a loving, dedicated extended community to do this work. We welcome new friends from all backgrounds. Please feel free to visit, call or send an e-mail.

**Jen and Mike DeWaele**  
**Clara and Alice**  
**Jerry and Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan**  
**Amos, Jonah and Leah**  
**313 and 321 Phelps Avenue**  
**Kalamazoo, MI 49048**  
**(269) 492-1206**  
**[peacehouse@peacehousekzoo.org](mailto:peacehouse@peacehousekzoo.org)**

## How you can be a part.....

### Summer Hours at Peace House June 23—August 15

Monday: 2—4:30, 7— 8 pm  
Tuesday: 2—4:30  
Wednesday: 2—4:30, 7-8 pm  
Thursday: 2—4:30

#### Special events:

- Wednesday evening basketball at Mayors' Riverfront Park
- July 31st barbeque and talent show
- August 15th back-to-school party and backpack giveaway

There are many ways to plug into our Peace House Summer Program! Please see page 5 for more details.