



Fertile Ground

Journal of Peace House, the Kalamazoo Quaker/Catholic Worker

Issue 17

June 2017

House Notes

By Mike DeWaele

The season doesn't want to make up its mind. I've been putting together the House Notes over the last few weeks and I've had to rewrite this paragraph four times. Three weeks ago, the sun still hadn't arrived, four days later it did, after a few more days, the sun came back, went away again, came back and is gone once more. I can only hope that this isn't a portend of our summer.

When we left off last time, we were about to celebrate our Holiday Dinner with our Peace House Community. It was, by every account, one of the best we ever had, in terms of attendance, joy of spirit, and deliciousness of the food. You can find some beautiful family portraits from the event inside.

We wrapped up a very good school year last week. Like the weather, the crowds have been up and down, but the spirit has been, overall, light and positive. We were sad to say goodbye to some of our dearest and most longstanding friends when they moved out of state. As usually happens, though, it wasn't long before several new young people began to make their way to our door. It's a strangely predictable ebb and flow. The Peace House crew always seems to maintain a numerical equilibrium.

What has been very consistent is the love and fidelity of our many volunteers. They continue to be the bedrock of this place. We can't say it enough—without them, none of this is possible. What might be most touching is how well they have gotten to know each of our young friends—what interests, what troubles them, what motivates them. They are so flexible and patient, to a person, and are able to flex and pivot according to the situation. This is particularly amazing because, even though we have

many professional educators on our team, even people with no prior experience teaching kids have mastered these skills. That is to say, if you ever thought being a Peace House volunteer was beyond you, you might be surprised by what you can do. Later in this newsletter you can read reflections from some of these volunteers.

To complement our formidable volunteers, we've been offering more opportunities to our young adults to be professional mentors and staff assistants on Peace House afternoons. Overall, we've been very pleased with their work and their growth. They have modeled Peace House values well, have served as leaders and mediators, and helped us to control the sometimes overwhelming traffic in and out of the houses and around the property. We look forward to more good things from them through the summer.

Since we are always trying to get better at what we do, we joined the Kalamazoo Youth Development Network (KYDNet) this year. KYDNet is a support consortium for organizations that work with kids and youth, offering tools for evaluation, training in best practices and ways to track improvement. It's a great resource for folks like us, who come to this work with a whole lot of passion, but little in the way of formal training. In just a few short months, we've already seen results. We (and our junior staff) have gone to a number of

trainings on a variety of topics, and we've formulated and carried out our first, be-it-ever-so-humble, improvement plan.

As part of that plan, we've added a new feature to our elementary school program: the Purple Folder. The Purple Folder is loaded with different games and activities designed to prompt conversation between each kid and their volunteer, to process the emotions the child is feeling that day. A child can choose a game, a drawing activity or a list of questions to go through, and they can also choose a sticker to wear that represents their mood to the rest of the world



Cousins!

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(Sometimes, a kid will choose several stickers—moods can be complicated!). So far, it seems that both the children and the volunteers have both gotten a lot out of checking in this way.

Our Wednesday teen group has had a good year, too. We've mixed in some basketball, a little homework, LOTS of field trips, and some life discussion. It's a changing mix of middle and high school students, but a good group with lots of energy. We've had some great discussions (and a few that have gone off the rails), but our teens have managed to form a robust community with each other on Wednesdays. We've finished the year with them strong—with teambuilding at the Nature Center's low ropes course last week, a trip to Bow in the Clouds Nature Preserve the week before, and a trip to the roller rink.

Meanwhile, because the times have demanded it, we have been engaging in our public witness in the name of peace and justice with new urgency. Though we are, as a rule, called to speak truth to any occupant of any seat of power in this country—including the former occupant of the White House—we have been particularly alarmed by the new executive regime and the forces emboldened by it. We are determined to stand up for the values that really make America great: love for one's neighbor, justice for the poor and the oppressed, care for our common home. To that end, we have gathered together with a group of friends, calling ourselves Kalamazoo Community of Resistance and Resilience. Our first act together was to hold a candlelight vigil



Jaleen, JQ, Antoinette and Pereshianna enjoying the low ropes course at the Kalamazoo Nature Center.

with 500 or so Kalamazooans on the day of inauguration. We followed that with a Valentine's Day witness at the office of our local US Representative, Fred Upton, reminding him of the

values we cherish and asking him to stand up for them (He hasn't—in fact, it was his amendment that made it possible for the AHCA to pass the House). On the first day of Spring, we celebrated hope and



If you drop a watermelon wearing a bike helmet, it does not break open. Take the bike helmet off and — guess what happens?

resistance in Bronson Park with music, prayer, letters of encouragement to organizations doing good work for justice. Our small group has been busy and is only one of many groups in Kalamazoo who are responding with passion to the new politics. We have been pleased to see a new outpouring of activism and the lifting of voices in our small town, as well as across the country and the world. This issue of our newsletter is a tribute to the positive energy pouring out of the Kalamazoo community and the important work being accomplished here.

With the school year behind us, we are now turning our eye to the summer program, which begins on June 28. Once again, we'll offer fun and adventure to kids of all ages four days a week for, on average, three hours per day. This year, we're feeling very on track with our planning. We've set up some excellent programming with the help of many community partners. The Kalamazoo Nature Center is going to take us adventuring through the woods, in canoes and into magical natural spaces. Open Roads Bike Program will be back with weekly repair workshops in our driveway, as well as two special trips to their workshop to repair bikes most in need. We are planning an actual basketball league, with professional coaching and preparing for a 3-on-3 tournament. Master cooks and bakers will teach us the tricks of their trade. We will explore expression photography, video, writing, and more, with expert help. We will meet and ride horses at Journey

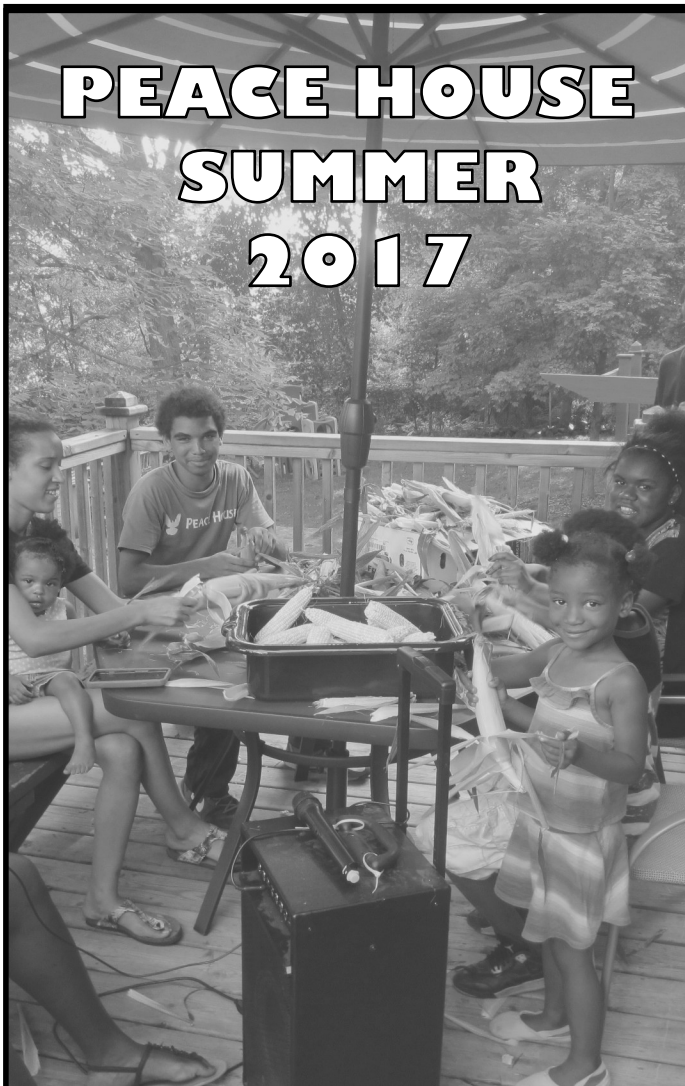
Farms. We'll have fun with reading and math. Tomme Maile will help us tend our garden and to enjoy the results of our work and patience. It's going to be an amazing eight weeks! If you'd like to be part of it, you can! Just contact us and we'll figure out how you can get involved.

In the meantime, all of us are well. I hold down the fort, stay on top of email and other communications, represent Peace House in the Eastside Network (ENet) and sit on the board of Habitat for Humanity. Jen and Molly are ending successful school years with Communities in Schools and Gryphon Place, respectively. Jerry keeps busy with his construction business, and has found time to make wonderful improvements to the blue house: new porches, front and back, a bathroom remodel well on its way; new paint coming soon. Amos, Jonah, Clara, Alice and Leah are all enjoying school and sports (LOTS of sports), and are looking forward to a summer packed with fun, both at Peace House and at camps and programs in the area.

And the last bit of news, certainly not the least,

is that we have welcomed a new member into our community, a three-month old puppy named Westley (named after a certain farm boy turned pirate in one of our favorite movies). He was bought by Jen and Mike as a surprise for the girls a couple weeks ago. He's a Cavachon, a small dog, adorable, spunky, loving and nondiscriminatory in his hobby of chewing. He's growing to be a very kind dog, who we hope will be a blessing not just to our family, but to the many children who come here who can use a good nuzzle with a safe animal. In the meantime, we're teaching him and he's teaching us what it takes to get along with each other.

Thanks, as always, to all of you who make this beautiful place a reality. We're so grateful that you stick with us—and with the kids of the Eastside. They deserve a kind world, one that loves and accepts them. As cruelty toward the marginalized and poor seeks ascendance every day, we're so happy that we can provide at least this one small pocket of love, acceptance and support.



2017 Summer Schedule June 28—August 16

Monday: 2—4:30, 7—8 pm
(Monday evening farm stand)

Tuesday: 2—4:30

Wednesday: 2—4:30, 7—8 pm

Thursday: 2—4:30

Special dates:

June 28: Kick-off Party

August 5: Basketball
Tournament in Comstock

August 10: Talent Show and
Barbeque

August 16: Back-to-School party

August 17: Cleanup Day at Peace
House

If you are interested in helping out this summer, please email or call us! We'd love to have you come once or every week — whatever works for you. There is something for everybody!

Volunteers are Love in Motion

I know we often mention how much we depend on volunteers to make Peace House happen, but it is something we cannot say enough. We have over 25 volunteers every week who come here to help with our afterschool program. They freely give their time and come with joy and hearts full of love, buoying our spirits and renewing our energy.

There are also volunteers who make meals for us, which is a tremendous help. Others help at our outdoor work parties, offer assistance during the summer, volunteer at special events, and are ready to help in any way when we make the call.

Thank you to the five people below who took some time to write about what Peace House means to them: Kathy Dickason, Marcia Schrader, Dan Salerno, Kathleen King and Joanie Carey.

A casual conversation with a friend wondering about my retirement goals led to a discussion of Peace House. I had hoped to work with Kalamazoo Promise children in some way to offer them an opportunity to prepare for further education. He put me in touch with Jen DeWaele and following a tour of Peace House and discussion of their goals and values I knew that we were a perfect fit. It has been seven years and I have never looked back.

I started right away in the summer program working on the reading porch. It is an opportunity to have the children retain their reading skills over the summer. The children read in 10 to 20 minute increments and earn points towards gifts. Our gift is in watching the children grow in their learning skills over the summer, their excitement in discovery of learning, and our joy as they relate the book to their own lives and start telling their own stories to us!

The afterschool program is a totally different challenge. The children come daily to do homework. Each child is an individual work in progress with his own special happiness, sadness, excitement, anger, energy, hunger or whatever has happened to them in that day. We explore, uncover, celebrate, set boundaries, and then get to work. At the end of the day it is beautiful to see what is accomplished with a bit of food, a lot of love, hungry children, and a few stamps and prizes to boot!

—Kathy Dickason

I love that Peace House is an amazing place filled with kids doing their homework, playing basketball, reading books, enjoying snacks and games, and learning to be kind to one another.

I love that volunteers from all walks of life arrive each day full of enthusiasm to work and play together with all of these wonderful children.

And I love that Peace House is a second home to the many neighborhood kids who come here to learn the importance of respect, responsibility, understanding, and peace in their lives.

It's a privilege for me to be a small part of this special place that Peace House shares with so many others everyday. They truly are stewards of peace in our community.

—Marcia Schrader

Peace House keeps me loving. It keeps me sharing. It keeps me plugged into what it means to be a human being. —Dan Salerno

The volunteer experience I've had at Peace House has been enormously fulfilling. The simple act of spending a couple of hours each week with the neighborhood kids; and with Jen, Mike, Jerry and Molly and their families, not to mention the other volunteers.

Greeting the kids when they rush through the front door. Sitting down to ask them, "How has your day been?" and listening to their answers. (Simone Weil had a lot to say about learning how to "pay attention" to each other.) Helping them do homework. Listening to them read. Watching them grow.

It's the fastest, most profound two hours of the week!

Peace House keeps me loving. It keeps me sharing. It keeps me plugged in to what it means to be a human being. Peace House is one of the most challenging and fun experiences I've ever had. No one who hangs around Peace House for any length of time stays the same.

—Dan Salerno

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We often think of the word peace as meaning a lack of violence. And, while I certainly support that idea, I'm drawn to the fuller meaning of the Hebrew word for peace, Shalom. In this understanding, peace is not merely a lack of war or violence, but a deep presence of wholeness, meaning that not only is violence banished, but that our fullest, truest selves are welcome. This more robust understanding of peace reminds me of Peace House.

I have joined student volunteers from the organization that employs me, United Campus Ministry, on many Thursday afternoons over the past few years. We often bring a snack for the group, and work with a variety of kids over the two hours we are there. Clearly, there is a lot of math, reading, educational games, and outside play happening, but what I am most struck by, over and over again, is the radical hospitality Jen, Mike, Molly, and Jerry provide to kids at Peace House. They don't offer hospitality to kids only when they are the best versions of themselves, or arrive perfectly prepared with homework in hand, or use their very finest manners. Rather, the radical hospitality offered means that the Peace House team welcomes and loves the kids on their best days, as well as the ones that are kind of hard. They care about them enough to figure out where negative behavior might be coming from, talk things out when there is palpable conflict, and send a kid home when their behavior suggests they might need a break.

So often I hear the message in American society that kids are valued, but then I look closer and see the ways that value comes with limits, and the responses to issues so often seems punitive. I think this may be because many times, our society values best versions of kids, but quickly gets aggravated when kids show any of their growing edges. Our community is so incredibly lucky to have a place like Peace House, where kids bring their whole selves and are welcomed with open arms. As a volunteer, that also means I always walk away from Peace House with renewed joy and a fresh portion of hope in my heart.

—Kathleen King

Peace is not merely a lack of war or violence, but a deep presence of wholeness, meaning that not only is violence banished, but that our fullest, truest selves are welcome. —Kathleen King

After retiring from teaching in June of 2010, I was searching for some volunteer activities which would still keep me involved with helping children. One weekend I was looking through our parish bulletin and I saw a notice about Peace House asking for people who might be interested in becoming involved. I decided to see what Peace House was all about and gave Molly a call. She said that I was welcome to visit to see if it would be something that I was interested in doing.

Seven years later I'm still there on Mondays, along with other volunteers, helping the Eastside neighborhood children with their homework, reading with them and playing games.

Each week when we arrive at Molly and Jerry's home it is like we are family. I know that those working at Jen and Mike's home feel the same way. We all share a love of the children and are so inspired by all that Peace House has done to create and establish a safe, vibrant, respectful environment for the children

to gather after school, as well as during the summer.

Respect, kindness, understanding and nonviolence are all expectations for the children taking part in what Peace House offers to the neighborhood. I'm so humbled to be part of this wonderful community. My life has been enriched in so many ways and I've had the opportunity to share in the mission of Peace House with such great, caring, and dedicated people.

—Joanie Carey



Faces From the

At our annual Holiday Party in December, friend and photographer Aaron Van Heest took family photos for our neighbors. We wanted to share some of these lovely photos with all of you along with some short reflections from the kids and staff.



Peace House is fun because of the volunteers and I get to be in charge of what I do here. —Javarrius



Peace House has been a part of our family's life since 2011. We have had a lot of joys and laughs throughout the years and we hope to have many more. —Antoinette



Neighborhood



We get to play basketball, ride bikes and eat snacks. We also get to play football and ride scooters. There are field trips and we get to use the computer.
—Ziquan



My favorite part about Peace House is playing board games. We get to clean up the area we used during tutoring. We can get extra snacks for working extra hard.
—Daevante



Grass Roots are Deep Roots

As Kelli Redman describes below, our reaction to the gut-punch of the November election followed Mother Jones: Don't mourn, organize! (Actually we have been doing a little bit of both.)

Please read Kelli's words on the genesis of, and check out captions telling stores of the public activities of, Kalamazoo CORR, the Community of Resilience and Resistance. The kinds of conversations we have had in our living rooms are the kinds of conversations that can happen in living rooms everywhere. This work is repeatable.

The Trump Administration's hold on power, and it's ability to direct the course of events effectively, is threadbare at best. 2017 has seen a groundswell of resistance — from governmental bureaucracies, from the courts, from the press, and from the streets.

May we all continue to do whatever we can to defend a future, worthy of the name, for our children's generation. —Jerry Berrigan

The night of the presidential election, I sat in Jerry and Molly's living room watching the results pour in through the television set. Our deepest fears were realized.

A man who spewed hatred and bigotry, praised cruelty and oppression, would assume the highest office in the country. I spent the first half of that

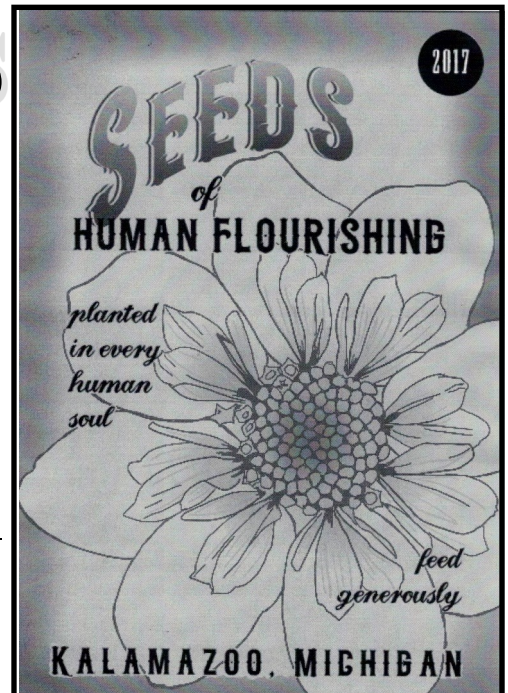


On the evening of the inauguration, over 500 gathered downtown, with candles, where our fears mixed with, and were for a time overcome by a powerful sense of common resolve. As happened in so many communities, we committed ourselves to the work of resistance about to commence.

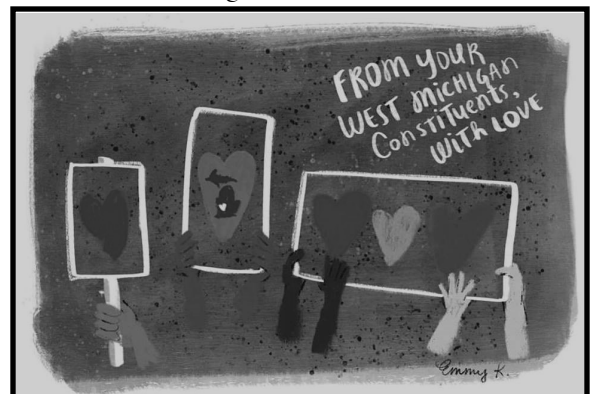
Wednesday in total shock and despair, paralyzed by disbelief and a fear that seemed too big to look in the face. But by 2 p.m. that same day, I'd had enough of paralysis. I called Jerry. "We have to get people together. I don't have a clue what the next big step is, but I know the next small step is sitting down together to grieve, process, and plan." Jerry had been having similar thoughts, so we sent out an email to the close friends who came to mind and we gathered soon after. That first step—the act of clawing our way out of the isolation we each felt to come together and name our fears—was the balm we needed. Through sharing in our despair, we together built a

patch of ground solid enough for us to rise up from our despair and stand again. I know that I could not have done that alone.

I am still scared; that has not gone away. But this community continues to pull my head above water when I feel myself going under. We engage in those most essential acts of resistance— finding hope in despair, speaking truth to power, looking for new life in the midst of death and destruction, grieving in the light of day, and sometimes daring to lean into joy. When the evil feels insurmountable, I look to these dear friends, and to the words of Dorothy Day, to guide me: "To a certain extent, by fighting for better conditions, by crying out unceasingly for the rights of the workers, of the poor, of the destitute, we can to a certain extent change the world; we can work for the oasis, the little cell of joy and peace in a harried world. We can throw our pebble in the pond and be confident that its ever-widening circle will reach around the world."



March 21, downtown Kalamazoo. Honoring ancient earth based spiritual practice, we gather to welcome the season of new life, growth and abundant diversity with drumming, dance and postcards featuring messages of gratitude to local justice-seeking community organizations. The postcards are stapled to seed packets, shown here, with local native seeds.



Valentine's Day, at the office of Rep. Fred Upton, we deliver over 650 postcards, designed by local artist Emily Kastner, with handwritten messages of love — of neighbor, the environment and human rights.

Community Organizing Leads to Environmental Victory

By Jen Strebs, Co-founder and Outreach Director of ProKzoo

On May 16th, the Kalamazoo County Board of Commissioners passed a resolution, 7-3, in support of closing Enbridge Line 5. A collaboration of Native people, grassroots activists, and organizations like ProKzoo and the Michigan League of Conservation Voters brought the community together to take a stand.

This was the second time the resolution came before the Kalamazoo County Commission. Weeks earlier, on April 18, the resolution was withdrawn when most commissioners did not support it. One commissioner expressed the resolution was “brow-beating” Enbridge, while two others said they were concerned “water would contaminate the oil” if Line 5 ruptured. That same night the commission voted to accept a \$45,000 grant from the Kalamazoo River Recreational Foundation – a non-profit funded by Enbridge as part of the settlement from the Kalamazoo River spill in 2010. Citizens spoke out for hours against Line 5.

Enbridge’s shameful safety record created the largest in-land oil spill in our nation’s history in the Kalamazoo River. In fact, since 1988 Line 5 operators have reported 15 incidents including one in 1999 near Crystal Falls in the Upper Peninsula, when 226,000 gallons of crude and natural gas spilled. A dangerous gas cloud

caused residents to evacuate when Enbridge ignited the vapor, creating a 36-hour fire which scorched eight acres of land.

Line 5 runs under the Straits of Mackinac and over another 645 miles in the Great Lakes basin. Enbridge asserts Line 5 is safe and will be remotely shut down quickly in an emergency.

Yet, when Line 6B spilled into the Kalamazoo River it took 17 hours for it to be discovered before action was taken. Enbridge’s own emergency states it will take 3-6 hours to respond at the Straits, unless the weather is bad, in which case there may be no response.

Without an engaged citizenry, the discussion might have ended after that first County Commission meeting, but the community stood up and spoke out. Activists set out to educate the commission and hold them accountable. When the measure was to be

reintroduced on May 16th and Enbridge was invited to present, activists and organizations rallied. A native tribe held a water ceremony, and citizens came up one-by-one speaking for over 2 ½ hours for a resolution to shut down Line 5. With 20% of the world’s fresh water supply on the line citizens took a stand and made a difference, leading to the 7-3 vote in support of closing Line 5. The resolution will be sent to the State of Michigan, which holds the authority to shut down Line 5.

**PROTECT the
GREAT LAKES**



Right Relationship Right Now

By Susan Reed, Managing Attorney at the Michigan Immigrant Rights Center

Many are seeking to help and walk alongside immigrants and refugees right now, but lots of folks don't exactly know what to do. There are lots of great ideas for work that communities can do to be in solidarity with immigrants! The Michigan Immigrant Rights Center and our Welcoming Michigan initiative have published lists, and lists are great. There are models for schools, churches, Welcoming Cities and Counties (like our own!), and more.

But every big idea isn't the right fit for every community or institution and every action has to be authentic to the community that's planning to take it. Actions become meaningful only in the context of relationship.

For communities that have immigrant, refugee, and undocumented members, externally-driven models are no substitute for internal attention to one another's needs. Here's an example: recently I was asked by a church that I know well has a high percentage of immigrant members, including many undocumented members. They wanted our legal and practical advice about whether or not

to call themselves a "sanctuary church." Their understanding was that being a sanctuary church meant they that would be available to shelter people facing deportation if an attorney or advocacy group made a referral of a family that wanted that kind of protection at some point in the future. They were worried about the legalities and worried that the conversation about whether to take on the title of sanctuary might be divisive.

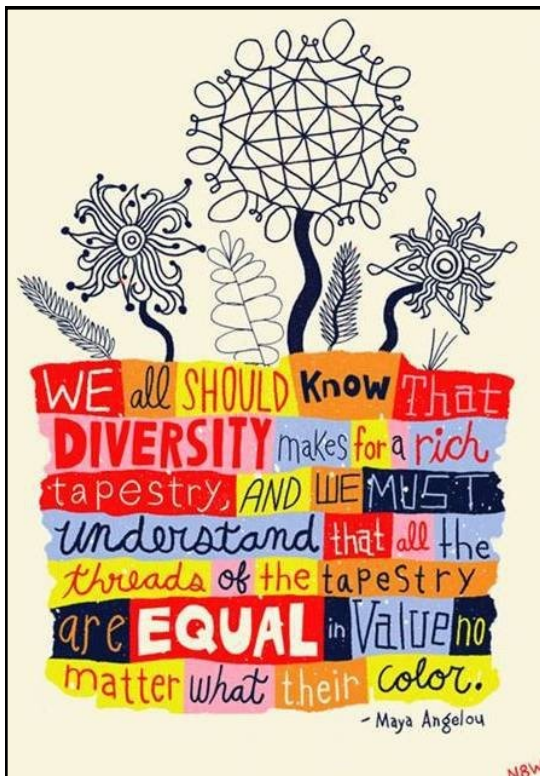
First of all, being silent as a faith community when so many of your own members are in crisis is already incredibly divisive; it's just that the division created by silence is invisible to those who are not affected. Having acknowledged that, maybe it's the case that this particular community isn't ready to do this kind of sanctuary as a community if they have these concerns. And, maybe physical sanctuary in the future at the church isn't what the immigrant members of the faith community want or need right now. There are almost certainly people in this particular community who have court hearings and immigration check-ins in Detroit who are struggling to get there.

Maybe the church could organize a ride-sharing program — maybe folks with reluctance about the politics but

willingness to help a neighbor in need would even be transformed (don't all of the best conversations happen on road trips?). Maybe this church needs to commit itself to more bilingual services and activities to be more integrated. Maybe they need to do those things before they can make a real commitment to sanctuary. Or maybe at the end of their internal conversation and process, they want to call themselves a sanctuary AND carry out a ministry of accompaniment to those struggling with the immigration process. The point is, it's about who they are now and who they might become together, not what list they're going to be on or what they're going to call themselves.

There are many other ideas that might be relevant and meaningful for any given community, but the answers don't begin online or in a training when you're talking about what most affects

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your own (and I say this as the leader of an organization that proudly provides useful content and training about immigrant rights and integration). Don't default to a toolkit and ignore the very people who are in the best position to articulate what's most helpful. It's awkward to ask what folks need when maybe you feel like you shouldn't have to. Let it be awkward. If you don't have anyone to ask, then forming genuine personal and institutional relationships is clearly the first step, no matter how slow it feels. And, be intentional about how those relationships will be mutually beneficial or you end up objectifying and making more work for those most affected. Learn from each other and then look for the resources that best help you implement the most relevant plan for your community.

Relationship is so much more difficult than downloading the solidarity manual, but it's also so much more meaningful. We're always here at MIRC and Welcoming Michigan to support affected community leaders struggling with these dynamics and support institutions and communities who are ready to take risks and move forward. We look forward to getting to know you or deepening our relationship.

To learn more about how you can be involved, check out welcomingmichigan.org or michiganimmigrant.org.

Cross the Sea

By Naomi Shihab Nye

A girl in Gaza
speaks into a table microphone:
Do you believe in infinity?
If so, what does it look like to you?
Not like a wall
Not like a soldier with a gun
Not like a ruined house
bombed out of being
Not like concrete wreckage
of a school's good hope
a clinic's best dream
In fact not like anything
imposed on you and your family
thus far
in your precious 13 years
My infinity would be
the never ending light
you deserve
every road opening up in front of you.
Soberly she nods her head.
In our time voices cross the sea
easily
but sense is still difficult to come by.
Next girl's question:
Were you ever shy?

From Immigration and Justice for Our Neighbors: An Anthology; Edited by Jennifer Clark and Miriam Downey

Public Witness to Ground the Drones

All vigils happen at the gates of the Michigan Air National Guard Base, 3357 Dickman Ave., Battle Creek.

Monthly vigils for peace will happen in 2017 the first Saturday of each month from 12 – 1 pm.
The dates are:

July 1

August 5

September 2

October 7

November 4

December 2



The Air National Guard in Battle Creek began flying remotely piloted aircraft missions beginning February of 2017.

The 110th Attack Wing in Battle Creek is one of 12 U.S. military bases to fly unmanned, drone aircraft anywhere in the world, using satellite and datalink technology.

We continue to vigil at the Air National Guard to witness that peace will not come through the work of "Predator" drones armed with "Hellfire" missiles.

Drones are not necessary and do not make us safe! Please join us in standing for peace.



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 visit peacehousekzoo.org and click on "Stay in Touch."

"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 cofounder 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. **Please feel free to visit, call or send an e-mail.**

Jen and Mike DeWaele

Clara and Alice

321 Phelps Ave.

Jerry and Molly Mechtenberg-Berrigan

Amos, Jonah and Leah

313 Phelps Ave.

Kalamazoo, MI 49048

(269) 492-1206

peacehouse@peacehousekzoo.org

How you can be a part

We welcome and celebrate ALL people, regardless of race, religion, political affiliation, nationality, class, gender identity, sexual orientation, age or ability.

- ◆ Please consider bringing a snack this summer! We enjoy healthy snacks like fresh fruit, crackers, cheese, granola bars, popcorn (please note that we are going peanut-free this summer due to allergies). We also love cookies, popsicles, and ice cream occasionally! Be prepared for 40 kids.
- ◆ We are in need of people who would be willing to drive and chaperone kids on field trips. Let us know if you're interested!
- ◆ We always need prizes (\$1–\$2) for our "prize box." These are small rewards that kids select after they have earned tickets through reading and positive behavior.
- ◆ Come to our events and vigils.
- ◆ Join our email list to get regular updates and discover other ways to participate. To do this, go to our website peacehousekzoo.org and click on "Stay in Touch" and then "Join our mailing list."
- ◆ Spread the word! If you know of someone who may be interested, please tell them about Peace House!