Volunteers & Continuing Support Needed!

KIPCOR works in part because of generous assistance from volunteers, many of whom have now retired from their volunteering days (thanks to every one of you!). So we are calling all volunteers! The gift of your time or a referral to others who might help is most welcome!

FOOD: KIPCOR is known for the quality of food provided during our trainings & events. Do you enjoy cooking and baking? Volunteer to help and we’ll contact you to see if it would be convenient for you to provide baked goods, or perhaps a full meal (cooking duties can be shared with another volunteer).

MAILINGS: We have a large mailing list and our mass mailings (newletters, for instance) need many hands to help with folding, sealing, and labeling. Volunteer and we will add your name to the contact list so you will know when we need help.

ROLE-PLAYERS: KIPCOR trains student mediators throughout the year, and part of that training can include rigorous role-play practice...which requires help from volunteer thespians. Do you long for the stage every now and then? Volunteer and play the part of a parent fighting for more parenting time, a landlord or tenant, a consumer or business owner, or an unhappy neighbor.

FINANCIAL SUPPORT: We are associated with Bethel College, but almost entirely self-funded. Since money does NOT grow on trees, we need to find it somewhere else. Without the generous support of friends and corporate/foundation sponsors, our work simply cannot continue.

If you can help us in our mission of peacemaking, please contact our Office Manager, Doug Lengel, at: 316-284-5217 or dlengel@bethelks.edu. He will be happy to explain the volunteer process to you.

We’re on the Web www.kipcor.org and on www.facebook.com/kipcorks

KIPCOR May Lose a Tradition

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KIPCOR Transitions

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Education and Training Calendar

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Aziza Hassan recognized

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The Last of the Mohicans

The Boondocks of Mars

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Winter's Bone

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Fall 2015

Local Courts and Community Mediation Center Launch Trailblazing Initiative

By Dan Wassink

Domestic mediation is a powerful tool. It creates a collaborative environment that encourages divorced and separated parents to forge their own agreements, outside of the courtroom, focused on the best interests of their child(ren).

“The new triage program is the result of years of planning by local court officials and the Community Mediation Center.”

However, mediation is not for everyone. Some domestic cases are too complex, or the conflict between parents is too high, for mediation to work effectively. That is the impetus behind the first-of-its-kind-in-Kansas Dispute Resolution Triage Program. Effective on July 1 of this year, the pilot program aims to match divorced and separated parents in the Ninth Judicial District (Harvey and McPherson counties) with the dispute resolution service that best fits their needs and holds the most promise for reaching a collaborative agreement. Court personnel around the state are taking notice and, if the pilot is successful, it could serve as a model for judicial districts to follow.

The new triage program is the result of years of planning by local court officials and KIPCOR’s Community Mediation Center (CMC). At its core is a research-based assessment tool that poses a series of questions to parents designed to measure the complexity of issues and level of conflict in each case sent by the courts to

BC’s Jacob Miller Places Third in National Peace Oration Contest

Jacob Miller, Bethel College sophomore from Westmoreland, Kansas, placed first in Bethel’s local C Henry Smith Peace Oration contest with his presentation, “For the sake of peace, please remember that not all terrorists are Muslim.” He then placed third overall in the Biennial National (Canada and United States) contest hosted by the Mennonite Central Committee. Miller expands on his presentation.

“I was inspired to write the oration after reading about Kamyar, Muslims, and the complexity of issues and level of conflict in the Ira nian-American conflict. This kind of disparity – of those with white Christian privilege marginalizing “the other” – Miller says, carries over to our criminal justice system and the rest of our society, and is countered to a social-justice understanding of the words of Jesus, Paul and the Confession of Faith in a Mennonite Perspective.

“Peaceful discourse on an individual level is the only way to ensure change for our national dialogue,” Miller says. “Otherwise, this contemporary issue will morph into a chronic one, and as Christians, as pacifists, as decent humans, we cannot let that happen.

“My Uncle Kamyar shouldn’t be threatened because of his heritage. Kamyar, Muslims, and all Americans deserve better.”

To see Jacob’s presentation, visit KIPCOR’s web page at kipcor.org/students/peace/oration

(continued on page 3)

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(continued on page 3)
KIPCOR marks 15th year with Ulster Project
by Dan Wassink, KIPCOR Senior Mediator & Facilitator

This past July, dozens of teenagers from the Northern Ireland community of Portadown again filled the homes and churches of Hutchinson and McPherson. They traveled across the Atlantic Ocean to take part in the long-standing Ulster Project, a month-long opportunity for Northern Irish and American teens from Protestant and Catholic backgrounds to learn about one another’s culture and develop leadership skills that recognize and appreciate diversity in religious beliefs and practices. This marked the 15th year of KIPCOR’s involvement with the nationwide project.

I knew very little about the Ulster Project when Gary Flory, KIPCOR Director, approached me to help him facilitate the Project’s weekly Time of Discovery sessions in Hutchinson. However, I am now grateful for the opportunity. Whether watching the teens learn collaborative skills by avoiding the clutches of a deadly “anaconda,” or sharing poignant memories of “beautiful objects” brought from home, I marveled at how quickly these leaders-of-tomorrow bonded and formed what will hopefully be lifelong ties despite their different backgrounds.

In this day and age when polarizing comments and intolerance too often dominate in society, I wish we could all somehow take a lesson from these teens who refuse to let artificial boundaries define them or their friendships.

New Faces at KIPCOR

Dorothy Nickel Friesen
Senior Associate for Congregational Ministries

In July Dorothy Nickel Friesen joined KIPCOR as a Senior Associate for Congregational Ministries. Dorothy is a graduate of Bethel College (KS) with a BA in English; a MA in Religion and Education from the University of Kansas; a M.Div. from St. Paul School of Theology, Kansas City, MO. In addition she studied at the Anabaptist Mennonite Biblical Seminary (AMBS), Elkhart, IN. Professio
ty, she taught high school English and edited a magazine before entering the pastorate. She served on staff at Rainbow Mennonite Church, Kansas City, KS; as solo pastor at Manhattan Mennonite Church (KS); as Assistant Dean with AMBS, Elkhart, IN; as senior pastor of First Mennonite Church, Bluffton, OH; and as Conference Minister for Western District Conference, Mennonite Church USA. Dorothy was also Interim Director for AMBS-Great Plains Extension 2013-2014. In “retirement,” she continues to serve as a consultant for WDC in pastoral reviews, strategic planning, and conflict resolution, as well as interim pastor at our local Bethel College Mennonite Church. Dorothy is married to Richard Friesen and they are members of Bethel College Mennonite Church. They have two adult daughters and two grandchildren.

Without YOUR Help, KIPCOR May Lose a Fine Tradition

We like to think KIPCOR is well known for having high quality trainings – and that is true! But KIPCOR is also known for having wonderful food at training events. This is not accidental. Humans are the only mammal that eats together as a social function. Food matters in our lives and in our relationships, as those of you who have attended church pot lucks know.

For many years we have had a loyal group of volunteers who cooked noon meals at KIPCOR for training groups, or who brought home-baked pastries from home for breaks. Because age takes a toll on all of us, we no longer have a sufficient pool of volunteers – especially for the lunches. And we are desperate. Without additional volunteer cooks, we will be forced to begin phasing out this fine tradition.

So this is a plea to any volunteers (or Sunday School classes?) who are willing to help cook meals or bake goodies for KIPCOR events. We are not expecting volunteers to always be available on a regular basis – only to help out on occasion. Please call Doug at (316) 284-5217 to find out more what this would entail.

Thank you! Let’s keep this wonderful tradition going!

2015-2016 Film Series continues

“Chasing Ice” November 8, 2015, “Chasing Ice” humanizes an enormous and incomprehensible geological phenomenon with time-lapse images, putting unusually rapid geological change on breathtaking display.” - New York Observer

“Groundswell Rising” February 21, 2016 “Groundswell Rising” gives voice to ordinary folks engaged in a David and Goliath struggle against Big Oil and Gas. We meet parents, scientists, doctors, farmers and individuals across the political spectrum decrying the energy extraction process known as fracking that puts profits over people.

“The Waiting Room” May 1, 2016 A character-driven documentary film that uses extraordinary access to go behind the doors of an American public hospital struggling to care for a community of largely uninsured patients. The film offers a raw, intimate, and even uplifting look at how patients, staff and caregivers each cope with disease, bureaucracy and hard choices.

All films shown at 3:00 PM in Krehbiel Auditorium in the Luyken Fine Arts Center. Each film is followed by a 20-30 minute Q&A/Discussion period.
KIPCOR film tackles the question: ‘When Did Slavery Really End?’

Ask most people that question, and they will probably answer, “with the Emancipation Proclamation of 1863” or “with the Thirteenth Amendment of 1865.” However, Slavery by Another Name, the latest in KIPCOR’s film series, challenged that assumption. During the period stretching from the end of the Civil War until WW II, thousands of individuals – primarily African-Americans – were forced into involuntary servitude to pay off debts or to atone for real or manufactured “crimes.” The conditions of their labor were often worse those faced by slaves because they were deemed expendable, whereas slave owners typically protected their “investment.”

Close to 150 people attended the September 13 screening of Slavery by Another Name, which makes extensive use of archival photographs, re-enactments, and interviews with the descendants of both the victims and perpetrators of enslavement. Most audience members remained after the film for a lively and thoughtful discussion led by Dr. Galyn Vesey, project director for Research on Black Wichita. Vesey is a Wichita native, a retired professor, and served as both an adjunct professor and consultant to the President at Bethel College. Dr. Vesey also participated in the Dockum Drugstore sit-ins in Wichita in 1958. KIPCOR is grateful to Dr. Vesey for his participation and for bringing so many of his fellow Wichitans to the film screening.

Slavery by Another Name is based on the 2009 Pulitzer Prize-winning book, Slavery by Another Name: The Re-enslavement of Black Americans from the Civil War to World War II by Douglas A. Blackmon. The film is part of the Created Equal film series, funded by the Bridging Cultures initiative of the National Endowment for the Humanities, in partnership with the Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History.

Local partners are Bethel College, Kauffman Museum, KIPCOR, the Mennonite Library and Archives, and the Newton Public Library.

Donating to KIPCOR online is REALLY easy, and SECURE.

STEP 1: Go to the KIPCOR website at www.kipcor.org.

STEP 2: Click on the word “Donate” at the top right.

STEP 3: Read the information on the Donate page; pay particular attention to “Donation Instructions”.

STEP 4: Click on the “Donate Online Today!” button.

STEP 5: Fill out all of the information required. At the bottom, just before entering your credit card data, is the “Gift Destination” selection. The box says “Select One” and has a downward facing arrow at the right. Click anywhere in this box, and a box will appear with choices. Click on “Other.” When you do that, a second box will appear just to the right of this box. In that box, type the word “KIPCOR.” Fill out your credit card information, and click on “Submit Form.” That’s all there is to it!

STEP 6: (Optional) If it’s not too much trouble, let Doug (dliegei@bethelks.edu) or 316-284-5217) or Gary (gfloy@bethelks.edu) in the KIPCOR office know that you’ve made an online donation so we can watch for the receipt from the development office, and give you a proper THANK YOU!!!

Thanks for your continued support!
At the discretion of Glen Guyton with Mennonite Church USA (MCUSA), KIPCOR organized a team of conversation coaches to help people communicate more constructively at the 2015 Convention in Kansas City. Leading this endeavor were KIPCOR Senior Associate for Congregational Health, Dorothy Friedrichs Nieslen and Kirsten Zerger, KIPCOR’s Director of Education and Training. Additional volunteers were Susan Jansz, Ron Moyo, Tonya Ramer Wenger, and Kathy Neufeld Dunn.

While the original inquiry was about providing “roaming mediators” it quickly became apparent in the planning process that “mediating solutions” was probably not going to happen at the Convention. People needed assistance in being able to talk and listen to other persons with whom they had had significant differences. As Dorothy Friedrichs Nieslen noted, “It was an extremely heavy Convention in terms of topics: Israel/Palestine, sexuality/membership issues, sexual abuse, and endless war.” In settings fraught with anxiety, people needed to be able to listen with an open mind, speak without passing judgment, and generally be able to communicate without the convention becoming angry or ugly.

KIPCOR Transitions

On February 1, 2016 Kirsten Zerger will transition from KIPCOR’s Director of Education & Training to KIPCOR Senior Associate. For many years Kirsten has been an integral part of the KIPCOR team – always ready with pertinent advice and support, and always providing an extraordinarily good product, be it teaching, written manual preparation, or intervention for those situations where the conventional means have failed. As KIPCOR Director Gary Flory noted, “I cannot imagine a more competent and valuable member of the KIPCOR team than Kirsten has proven to be.” Her presence will be greatly missed by KIPCOR staff as well as the wider diocese resolution community in Kansas and beyond.

As Kirsten makes this transition, it is important to hear her own reflections about her work and time at KIPCOR:

“Working at KIPCOR has been a remarkable privilege. Since starting here in 1995, I’ve worn many hats – KIPCOR Director, CMC Manager, Senior Associate, Director of Education & Training, Bethel College Social Science Department Chair, and Coordinator of the Bethel/KIPCOR Conflict Resolution Certificate program. What opportunities these have been for well-prepared colleagues supported me as together we practiced peacemaking in astonishingly varied settings. Breaking through moments of grace and revelation nourished me. But my years at KIPCOR have also been intense and exhausting. The needs we serve are great, the work endless, funds short. It’s time to make way for new blood while I recharge my batteries. I hope to find a more suitable venue for the important work.

I will miss you.

When the soul lies down in that grass the world is too full to talk about.

Rumi

KIPCOR Calendar
More information & registration is available at www.kipcor.org/Calendar

December 4, 2015
9:00am - 1:00pm
Bethel College Autumn Retreat
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

January 8 & 9, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Implementing Conflict Resolution
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

January 15 & 16, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Conflict Resolution for Leaders
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

January 22 & 23, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Managing Intercultural Con-
flits
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

February 5, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Conflict Resolution for Leaders
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

February 12, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Implementing Conflict Resolution
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

March 5 & 6, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Implementing Conflict Resolution
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

March 7, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Conflict Resolution for Leaders
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

March 19 & 20, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Implementing Conflict Resolution
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

March 26 & 27, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Managing Intercultural Con-
flits
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

April 2, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Conflict Resolution for Leaders
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

April 9 & 10, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Implementing Conflict Resolution
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

April 16, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Conflict Resolution for Leaders
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

April 23 & 24, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Implementing Conflict Resolution
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

April 30, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Conflict Resolution for Leaders
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

May 7, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Conflict Resolution for Leaders
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

May 14, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Implementing Conflict Resolution
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

May 21, 2016
9:00am - 1:00pm
Conflict Resolution for Leaders
Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.
North Newton, KS 67117

Donations June 2015–July 2016 (including Gifts-In-Kind)

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<th>Name</th>
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Breaking News: The White House Office of the Press Secretary announced today (Sept. 24) that Aziza Hasan has been appointed by President Obama to the President’s Third Advisory Council on Faith-Based and Neighborhood Partnerships. To go to KIPCOR’s Facebook page to see Aziza’s bio as released by the White House. Congratulations, Aziza!! You will do a great job!