

Volunteers & Continuing Support Needed!

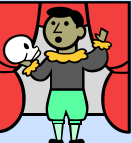
KIPCOR works in part because of generous assistance from volunteers, many of whom have now retired from their volunteering days (thanks to every one of you!). ***So we are calling all volunteers! The gift of your time or a referral to others who might help is most welcome!***



**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 (newsletters, 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](mailto:dlengel@bethelks.edu). He will be happy to explain the volunteer process to you.***

We're on the Web [www.kipcor.org](http://www.kipcor.org) and on  [www.facebook.com/kipcorks](https://www.facebook.com/kipcorks)

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The Aging Process and Decision-Making: Companionship Families and Parents through Difficult Conversations By Dr. Joy Hooper

Life is full of change and loss, both great and small, both impactful and less

identifying choices, making difficult decisions, and conveying wishes are an important part of the aging journey for the individual and family.

I remember vividly having discussions with my siblings about our aging father – the changes each of us observed in him, his decision-making and physical abilities, medical and psychological issues – especially when these factors became more pronounced after he was in an accident. We ultimately decided, with the assistance of our family attorney, that it was unsafe for our father to continue to drive a vehicle. His keys, vehicle and some level of independence would be taken from him. Although our discussions and conclusions were not really what stripped him of these items, it still was a heavy burden of responsibility we all felt.



***"It's paradoxical that the idea of living a long life appeals to everyone, but the idea of getting old doesn't appeal to anyone."***  
— Andy Rooney

noticeable. We all cope with loss differently and it is hard to really know how we will deal with loss until it is staring us in the face. This is clear in my work with the elderly and in observing my own parents age. End-of-life issues including

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Happy Anniversary to US!

As the saying goes, "Time flies when you're having fun!"

KIPCOR has been having fun now for more than 30 years and we figured this was a good time to stop, look back, and celebrate all that we have accomplished; as well as look forward to all we still hope to do.



In case you don't know our history, the short story is KIPCOR was founded in 1985 with a

very generous pledge of \$500,000 from Bethel College alum and real estate developer Ken Good. After humble beginnings as an organization staffed only by a half-time Director, and lean financial times that put the future of KIPCOR in

doubt, a 1996 Needs Assessment by Kirsten Zerger gave the Institute a renewed purpose and help set the stage for expansion. That expansion accelerated in 1998 when current Director Gary Flory was hired on a full-time basis.

Today KIPCOR is one of the oldest regional peace institutes in the country. Our services have greatly expanded to include courses for Bethel College students and the general public on topics like managing interpersonal conflict and negotiation; Kansas Supreme Court-approved mediation training; dispute resolution services for divorcing/separating parents; congregational health and conflict services; statewide training for educators on restorative practices in schools; assistance for government agencies and other groups trying to reach consensus on contentious issues of public policy; and a film series featuring provocative and socially-

relevant films. Just to name a few!

To celebrate our first 30 years, and thank our many supporters, KIPCOR held a dinner in Memorial Hall on the Bethel College campus on November 13.

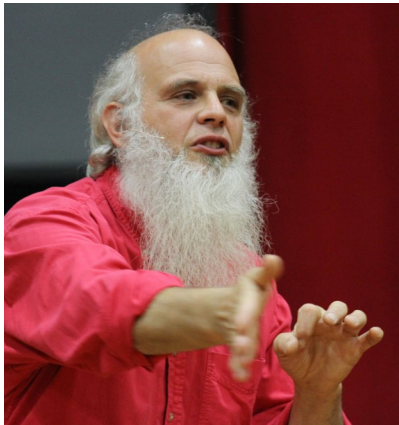
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## Happy Anniversary to US!

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Leroy Hershberger by Vada Snider

More than 120 people enjoyed an entertaining performance by local storyteller Leroy Hershberger; and music by Arthur Marks, a renowned singer, Broadway performer, Bethel College alum, and longtime supporter of KIPCOR's Community Mediation Center. Our thanks go to Ozzie and Elaine Goering, whose estate graciously provided funding for the November 13 event.

*The Celebration is just getting started!!*

## New Faces at KIPCOR

## Sharon Kniss, KIPCOR Director of Education ~ By Emily Kondziola, KIPCOR Student Assistant

Sharon Kniss is the new Director of Education and Training at KIPCOR. She started at the end of May, and came to Kansas all the way from South Bend, Indiana. In Indiana, Kniss worked as an independent consultant focusing on community peacebuilding.

In her new position, Kniss is in charge of the training and education department at KIPCOR overseeing any workshops or classes that are offered. Kniss also assists with mediations and interventions KIPCOR is asked to do.

One of the new projects Kniss has taken on is responding to SB-367 which was passed by the Kansas legislature to support initiatives focused on reducing the incarceration of youth. A key component of this is creating restorative practices in schools, an area KIPCOR is known for. Kniss sees her work as connecting the needs of the

schools to respond to behavior issues with restorative justice values and principles.

In addition to this, Kniss is also coordinating a student committee to plan the Intercollegiate Peace Fellowship conference, which is scheduled to happen in the spring. The conference, which hasn't been hosted by Bethel College since 2005, brings together Mennonite colleges on issues of peace and justice. Currently, the team which consists of six students and two members of faculty and staff are lining up speakers and figuring logistics.

Kniss finds KIPCOR to be a good fit for her because it incorporates many things Kniss has done in the past, including restorative justice, mediation, facilitation with groups and even teaching at the college. Kniss finds KIPCOR reflects her passions, and provides space for innovation and creativity.

during the past 30 years and we would never have made it this far without you. We also welcome your ideas and suggestions as we chart a course for the future. The work of KIPCOR has never been more important, and we ask for your continued support and participation as we journey into the next 30 years.



Arthur Marks by Vada Snider

During her time at KIPCOR, Kniss hopes to extend the work of peace-making into local communities, and continue to further KIPCOR's reputation as a regional peace hub.



## Donating to KIPCOR online is REALLY easy, and SECURE.

**STEP 1:** Go to the KIPCOR website at [www.kipcor.org](http://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.

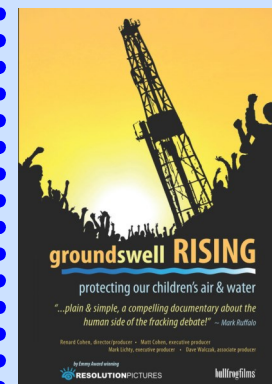
**STEP 5:** Fill out all of the information required. At the bottom, just before entering your credit card data, is the "**Gift Destination**" selection. The box says "**Select One**" and has a downward facing arrow at the right. Click anywhere in this box, and a box will appear with choices. Click on "**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 ([dlengel@bethelks.edu](mailto:dlengel@bethelks.edu) or 316-284-5217) or Gary ([gflory@bethelks.edu](mailto:gflory@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!**

## 2016-2017 Film Series

## KIPCOR Film Series: A look back and a sneak preview



KIPCOR has been bringing provocative, socially-relevant films to the Bethel College campus for many years and the 2015-16 film series was no exception. Perhaps the star attraction was "**Groundswell Rising**", a film about the hydraulic fracturing process – better known as "fracking" – which the oil industry uses to release trapped oil and gas. The large quantities of toxic water produced by fracking are then injected into underground wells and that, many studies have shown, has caused many earthquakes that continue to be felt right here in southern Kansas.

KIPCOR was fortunate to have the director of "**Groundswell Rising**", Renard Cohen – also an accomplished singer-songwriter - appear at the film screening, as well as at a pre-screening event in Wichita and a post-screening musical reception at the KIPCOR office. Mr. Cohen

was joined at the post-film "audience talkback" session by an environmental activist, local environmental scientists, and an operations manager for a regional oil and gas production company. As always, audience members asked insightful questions and the discussion among panel members was lively, educational and, above all, respectful.

As many of you already know, the 2016-17 KIPCOR film series has begun. On September 18 we screened "**On the Bride's Side**", a look at the Syrian refugee crisis through the experience of a group of refugees trying to reach safe haven in Sweden. The highlight of the screening was a post-film discussion involving a Syrian refugee (and her rambunctious son!) living in Wichita and struggling to make a new life for her family.

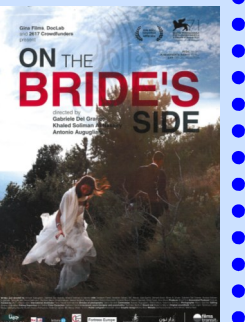


For 2017, please be sure to mark **February 19 and April 23** on your calendars. On one of those dates, we will offer a double-feature: Chief Oren Lyons will briefly discuss by video the "**Doctrine of Discovery**", a philosophical and legal structure dating to the 15<sup>th</sup> century that gave Christian governments the "right" to claim the lands of Indigenous Peoples. That will be followed by a short film, "**Reserve 107**", that shows the modern-day impact of the Doctrine as residents of a Saskatchewan community grapple with past injustices.

As for our other films in 2017 – stay tuned! We hope to see you soon at our Krehbiel Auditorium "movie theater," but leave the popcorn at home!

**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.**



## After the Election – Skills Needed

At KIPCOR, we know our work is valuable. We see transformation, reconciliation, and workable agreements come after times of division, contention, and disagreement. In the days since the election, the importance of our work is made even clearer as we witness the division tearing the nation apart. We remain dedicated to offering the skills this country needs to repair and rebuild relationships and structures that support healthy communities and healthy disagreement.

Two opportunities for this are around the corner. On **January 3-6** we offer a skills course in working with conflict and disagreement, our core mediation class, **“Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict.”** This four-

day, intensive class offers a variety of tools to help you work WITH others to overcome conflict and turn it into creative energy to work toward your common goals. You can find the flyer for this class, with additional information, at <http://kipcor.org/Registration/SSC460-2017/>

On **January 25 and 26** we offer a two-day class designed specifically for leaders (lay or ordained) in faith communities. In **“Managing Differences Within Faith Communities,”** you will learn skills for how to deal with division, and see opportunities to transform conflict into spiritual and community renewal. For more information, go to <http://kipcor.org/Registration/Faith-Communities-2017/> for a flyer for the class.

### KIPCOR Calendar

More information & registration is available at [www.kipcor.org/Calendar/](http://www.kipcor.org/Calendar/)

**December 2, 2016**

[CME–CEU Shorts](#)

**8:30am - 4:30pm**

Krehbiel Auditorium, Bethel College  
North Newton KS 67117

**December 9, 2016**

[Parenting Plan Training](#)

**8:30am - 4:30pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**January 3-6, 2017**

[Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict](#)

**8:30am - 5:00pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**January 9-20, 2017**

[Negotiation Theory and Practice](#)

**8:30 am - 12:30pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**January 25-26, 2017**

[Managing Differences Within Faith Communities](#)

**8:30am–5:00pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**February 9-12, 2016**

[Intercollegiate Peace Fellowship conference](#)

**All day**

Bethel College  
North Newton KS 67117

**May 26-26, 2017**

[Practical Skills for Managing Interpersonal Conflict—Health Care Emphasis](#)

**8:30am - 4:30pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

**June 6-9, 2017**

[Summer Institute](#)

**8:30am - 4:30pm**

Kaufman House 2515 College Ave.  
North Newton KS 67117

## The Aging Process and Decision-Making - Hooper (Continued from Pg. 1)

The aging process for our father and our family is unique to him and to our circumstances. Nevertheless, millions of adult children and elderly parents walk through a similar experience each day. A survey conducted by Home Instead Senior Care networks showed approximately one-half of adult children described their

thinking show a normal decline as we age, while other areas change little over time. The most consistent change over decades of life is that of cognitive and motor slowing. There are also a number of situational or life factors that can affect our skills in each of these areas and change the efficiency with which we pro-



### Decisions that families often face include:

- Living choices or home adaptations to include appropriate levels of care
- Financial choices including insurance and resources to maintain quality care
- Estate-planning and appropriate disbursement of property/belongings in line with the parent's wishes
- Health choices including planning and paying for long- and short-term costs of medication and medical care
- Whether or not it is safe for a parent to drive and under what conditions
- Other end-of-life wishes including where one prefers to die and living wills

critical conversations with parents as difficult, uncomfortable, emotional, and sometimes unsuccessful. The needed conversations regarding end-of-life issues rarely take place with the elderly parent. When they do, it is often without the guidance of professionals who are sensitive to the comprehensive needs of the elderly person and the complexity of family systems. Unfortunately, families will wait until there is a health crisis or other emergency, before making decisions. Waiting often leads to rushed decisions, full of emotion and a sense of urgency, which can create the potential for the process to be combative and wounding rather than collaborative and healing.



There are multiple things to take into consideration about the journey of aging. As individuals age, mental abilities change and affect functioning. Research has demonstrated that certain areas of

process information as we age. For example: medications can impact our alertness and mental sharpness; loss in hearing and other senses can impede our ability to process information or make decisions; pain, fatigue and hormone changes from medical conditions can diminish the ability to integrate information and slows the speed in which information is processed; depression, anxiety, and other mental health issues can affect concentration and ability to make fully-informed decisions. All of these factors should be considered as one assists an elderly parent make decisions regarding their own aging journey. Decisions that families often face include:

***Being able to turn to trusted professionals who have the education, training, and understanding to compassionately assist a family in making collaborative decisions with an aging parent is invaluable.***

**The Community Mediation Center's (CMC's) Eldercare Problem-Solving Project** is a resource that allows families to walk alongside their elderly parent in making decisions for the safety, health and overall well-being of that individual. It is a problem-solving and negotiation process developed to allow each family member to have a voice in communicating more effectively their views

and desires for their elderly family member, with the goal of outlining a plan that has their best interest at heart. Being able to turn to trusted professionals that have the education, training and understanding to compassionately assist a family in making collaborative decisions with an aging parent is invaluable.

Our family felt we could have done a better job planning for these decisions, rather than reacting in the midst of a crisis. The Eldercare Problem-Solving Project is one that I wish our family would have utilized when we companioned our father through his final life stage. My wish is that anyone who has the privilege to walk alongside a parent in the aging process with all the emotion, loss and change that it brings, will choose to access resources that support making it a compassionate and healing journey for all involved. I believe the Eldercare Problem-Solving Project is such a resource.



Joy Hooper is a licensed clinical psychologist and private practitioner in Newton, Kansas. She graduated from Wichita State University with a doctorate in Community/Clinical Psychology. For over ten years she has provided mental health services to youth, adults, and families in private, residential, college, and community settings, providing consultation and coordinating care with teams of multiple professionals.

Leland Brown III Wins KIPCOR’s C. Henry Smith Peace Oration Contest

KIPCOR is pleased to announce to all of our friends that we held a very successful C Henry Smith Peace Oratory contest in the Spring of 2016. We had three fine finalists; long-time watchers agreed that overall it was the strongest group of presenters anyone remembered.

Our local winner was Leland Brown III, for his presentation titled **"#BlackLivesMatter: an Examination of Painful Silence Within the Christian Community"**

In his powerful presentation, Mr. Brown says, ***"If Christians wanted something to change it would be done in the blink of an eye. However, a religion that was founded on the values of an isolated man seems to isolate people the most, which is truly contradictory. This isolation begets violence, violence begets***

***fear, and fear turns an advocating soul silent. This silence almost serves as validation for the black bodies being constantly burned at the stake.***  
***This silence makes those in power believe that the oppression is somehow warranted by you, as Christians. Silence is not faith. Because faith without works is nothing. Yes, although we as Christians do pray, we must actively seek and be the change we want to see in the world. We must be the agents of change by voicing our opinions and forcing the system to listen. Because if we don't then are we truly following Christ?"***

We are proud of Leland, and of the other two contestants, Jacob Miller and Emily Kondziola; our local judges have never had a more difficult decision. And although Leland did not place in the bi-

national contest, we do know that he got many excellent reviews from the judges.

Congratulations, Leland, and keep on thinking and sharing!

You can find Leland’s entire presentation here:

<http://kipcor.org/Students/PeaceOratory.php>



When Northern Irish Come to America

Our first goal when we meet with Protestant and Catholic Northern Irish and American teens in “Time of Discovery” (TOD) sessions is to begin to understand our own worldview – how important our own perceptions and assumptions are to how we understand ourselves in the world.

KIPCOR first developed a curriculum for TOD in 2001, and for the past 15 years has spent 4-5 hours per week during the month of July working with the Ulster Project in Hutchinson. More recently, we have also worked with an Ulster Project in McPherson.

In addition to understanding our own assumptions and worldview we focus our time with the teens on

- concepts of prejudice and stereotyping and how these develop from our assumptions
- a better understanding of how divided societies spring from our prejudices, and
- how teens take what they have learned from the Ulster Project back home.

Northern Irish teens come to Hutchinson and McPherson during the month of July each year – the “marching season” in Northern Ireland. The Ulster Project started initially as a way to get teens out of Northern Ireland during that time of year when recruitment to paramilitary groups is most active.



We often hear from teens and counselors that the Ulster Project, and specifically the Time of Discovery sessions, are life-changing. A poem written at the end of the project by a Northern Irish teen states it well:

***This project shows us how we can  
Live together without judgment, in calm.  
Forgetting our differences we can let the world see,  
That there aren’t any divisions, just you and me.***

KIPCOR Receives Major Donations

KIPCOR thrives on annual donations that can be used to support our daily operations. We provide important services to persons and organizations that are not able to pay for our time and overhead. The subsistence work we do is important and we are grateful that many of you support this effort to be true to our mission.

It is also extremely gratifying when we receive significant and unexpected larger gifts. We received two such gifts since our last newsletter was published.

Richard and Lois Reimer, who recently retired in North Newton from Ohio, made a significant gift which will be placed in KIPCOR’s socially responsible endowment account. In making the gift the Reimers stated that “For many years we

have appreciated the work that KIPCOR has been doing. We decided that it was important to support KIPCOR in its work in education and its efforts to bring about peaceful solutions in areas of conflict.”

A second substantial gift was received from the Lanoy and Mary Loganbill estate. This gift was undesignated, and we have been visiting with Lanoy and Mary’s children about a use for the gift that they feel would fit their parents’ interests.

These special contributions provide the underlying support necessary for KIPCOR to assure its sustainability and continued growth and impact in the community. Thank you so much for your support!

Thanks to those of you who have so generously contributed to KIPCOR in response to our October fundraising appeal. With your help, and those of the other supporters, ***we have already raised over \$3,000.00*** Thank you!!!

***If you would like to make an electronic donation, see page 7 for detailed instructions.***

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

Christopher and Susan Anderson *	Faith Mennonite Church **	Alison and Harvey Hiebert	Berneil and Ted Mueller ***	Jerry and Leann Toews ***
Carl and Rosalind Andreas **	Marlene Faul	Ruth Rustchman Holliday	Phil and Suzanne Osborn	Elva Unruh
Anonymous ****	Elsie M. Flaming	Gordon and Jeanne Houser *	Vernon and Janice Pauls	Helen Unruh
David and Kristina Reimer	Elaine Fleenor **	Gary and Jean Isaac	Karen and Larry Penner	Paul H. and Lois Unruh **
Balzer *	Barbara and Lowell Flory **	Helen Jantz	Don and Carolyn Penner *	Myron & Mildred Voran
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Justina D. Neufeld and Floyd Bartel	Dennis and Mabel Friesen	Mary Ann and Walter Jost	Elizabeth Raid	Marvin R Voth
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Bethel College Menn. Church **	Dorothy Nickel Friesen **	Joanne Katz	Richard & Lois Reimer *****	John and Bonnie Ward
Bethel College Women's Association	Duane and Elizabeth Friesen	Melvin Klaassen ****	Amanda and Clarence Rempel	Martin and Carol Ward
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			Art Thompson	

Thank you for your partnership with KIPCOR in all that has been accomplished. We have tried to list all of our contributors, but it is possible that we have accidentally missed someone. If you find an error in our list, please let us know so that we can recognize our supporters. We want to recognize all of you for your generous support of our important work.