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Langhorne, PA 19047-2820

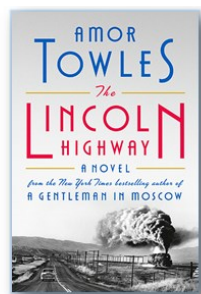
Change Service Requested

One Book - One Bucks

Start your
summer reading now!

Discussion tentatively
planned for September.

More details coming soon.



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The Peace Center

Langhorne, PA

Summer 2022

Truman High School INVESTs in Students

When Harry S. Truman High School in Bristol sought alternatives to detentions and in-school suspension (ISS), and creative approaches to restoring and maintaining peace, they reached out to The Peace Center (TPC). What began as a simple conversation between Gayle Evans, TPC Director of Community Programming at the time, and Audrey Flojo of Bristol Township School District, turned into the creation of a brand-new program in an effort to transform students' lives and strengthen their future.

INVEST (investing in our students' futures) encourages students to develop their strengths, helps them to navigate classroom environments, and offers them the chance to regain hope to succeed in their academic pursuits. Gayle Evans, INVEST Program Leader, notes that many students "lose interest in school between 5th and 8th grade". TPC is committing both time and talent to provide students the skills that will keep them engaged in class instead of in detention hall or suspension. INVEST's primary goal is to give students the necessary tools and strategies to build positive relationships with their peers, teachers, school staff and most importantly, themselves.

Detentions and ISS are prevalent in grades 9 through 12 and most often result from chronic lateness, deviations from school rules, and conflict with peers. Punitive measures from administration and teachers are the traditional "go to" methods to curb these negative behaviors. (Continued on page 4)



Harry S. Truman High School, Bristol Township

The Peace Center Is Spreading L.O.V.E

The L.O.V.E. Is The Answer movement (LITA), created in 2012 with the mission to improve police-community relations, now has a broader goal: Teach people how to love themselves and others. As strategic partners with LITA, The Peace Center (TPC) is working with district attorneys' offices, police departments, community leaders, nonprofits, school administrators, and students to spread L.O.V.E. throughout Bucks County, the state of Pennsylvania, and beyond.

L.O.V.E. is an acronym for **L**earn about others, **O**pen your heart to their needs, **V**olunteer to be a part of the solution in their life, and **E**mpower others to do the same. (Continued on page 5)



L.O.V.E. Is The Answer Mural in Morrisville, PA.

Peace Center Programs Make A Difference In Our Schools!

89% of students said they felt more confident and 82% reported kinder classmates after CMCY.

After STAR, 92% of students said they get along better with classmates and 81% said they are better at calming themselves.

95% of girls felt their friendships improved after Girls Unlimited.

75% of THRIVE students felt it was a valuable high school program.

The Peace Center
102 W. Maple Ave.
Langhorne, PA 19047
215-750-7220
www.thepeacecenter.org

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From Danny's Desk

When the pandemic hit, The Peace Center (TPC), had to reassess and develop new strategies to function in the ever-changing new world. Instead of a biennial newsletter, we sent weekly updates and monthly announcements about virtual programs to deepen your understanding of social justice and racial parity. Your children, your grandchildren, and your neighbors' children joined online programs to learn how to be upstanders, how to get along at home, and how to survive peacefully when school and social dynamics changed.

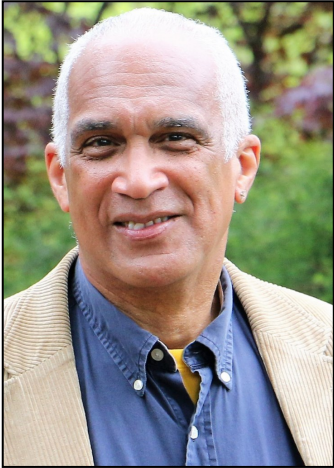
With the pandemic mostly behind us, TPC is strengthening its resolve to help our neighbors be better educated and informed about how to live together. We are continuing much of our prior programming, as we also add new tools and skills to help us move into our still uncertain future (has it ever *really* been certain?).

As we move into this future, TPC continues to evolve to accommodate staffing changes and community needs. Kate Whitman Kamara will lead all of our educational programs as Director of Educational Programming. Karin Kasdin, who created the highly successful Girls Unlimited program and several other programs, has retired to spend more time with family and explore the world. Read more from Karin and Kate on page 3.

Gayle Evans, who has partnered with many of you as the Director of Community Programming, launched a new venture for TPC, piloting a program at Harry S. Truman High School 3 days each week to help transform the system that usually ends in student suspension without restorative practices. You can read more about Gayle's INVEST program on page 1. Tayna Longino, a facilitator of many TPC programs, including Democracy Circles, is stepping into the role of Director of Community Programming. See more about Tayna on page 4.

Marge Greenspan is our Bridges to Peace Coordinator, managing the one-hour point-of-entry events for people new to TPC to learn about our programs and our mission. If you have a group of friends with whom you'd like to share TPC, let Marge know. She is working closely with Lisa Litovsky, who for years has helped shape and grow the auction and gala fundraising events to the level that they now generate almost 20% of our annual budget. Lisa is now coordinating all of TPC's fundraising efforts.

So Friends, there's been a lot going on. At our Annual Meeting on June 9, we kicked off our 40th year of building peace. The Board of Directors and members voted to affirm new board members (see new slate below). Keep your eyes, ears and hearts open to help TPC shape and lead in our community for the next 40 years.



Danny L. Thomas

Board of Directors, starting July 1, 2022

Malcolm Burgess, President
Corey Tendler, Secretary

Nichole Farrior, Vice President
Warren Levy, Treasurer

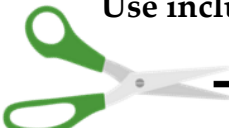
Delicia Hallman
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Here's my gift to make a difference!

Use included envelope to mail your gift or donate online at www.thepeacecenter.org.



☐ \$5,000 ☐ \$2,500 ☐ \$1,500 ☐ \$1,000 ☐ \$750 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$125

☐ Other _____

☐ Monthly Recurring Gift of \$ _____

Make check payable to "The Peace Center"
or charge to Visa / MasterCard / American Express (circle one)

Name on Card _____

CC# _____

Expiration _____

Email _____ Phone _____

Or, use your smartphone to scan QR code.



The Peace Center is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. The official registration and financial information of The Peace Center may be obtained from the Pennsylvania Department of State by calling toll-free, within Pennsylvania, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

Your Donation Dollars At Work



- For as little as \$50 per month, you can provide monthly mentoring opportunities for a young person to learn and break cycles of bias and hatred.
- A single donation of \$300 supports a facilitated community conversation.
- A \$500 gift can help bridge the funding gap for the Bullying Prevention Resource Center and stem the rise of bullying and cyberbullying.
- For \$750, your generosity will help to build relationships between police officers and the communities they serve through the *L.O.V.E. Is The Answer* movement.
- \$1,000 will equip an entire classroom with tools to build students' self-esteem while learning to respect others.

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Karin Kasdin Retires

(Continued from page 3)

The father who went through the TeenWork program adds, “Also, the fact that he knows I am trying to learn how to better connect with him has affected the way he responds toward me. ”

I am delighted to report that the incomparable Kate Whitman Kamara, Director of Educational Programming and the Bullying Prevention Resource Center, will now be at the helm of these three programs. As most readers know, Kate is supremely talented, has educational qualifications of the highest order, and is fiercely committed to the welfare of our youth. I couldn’t leave these programs in better hands.

This is a bittersweet transition for me, but now is the time to begin a new chapter of my life. My husband, Harold (who is also retiring), and I have decided to spend the next few years pursuing our lifelong passion for travel, beginning with a three-month stay in Italy. Our goal is to get a small taste of what it is like to live in each country we visit. To that end, we have been studying Italian... not an easy feat for people in our age demographic! Fortunately, we have mastered the words *gelato*, *linguini*, and *cappuccino*.

I am not severing ties. The Peace Center will always be a part of me. So, this is not goodbye, but a heartfelt arrivederci! Until we meet again!



Karin Kasdin with Girls Unlimited participants

My TPC Story - Kate Whitman Kamara



Kate Whitman Kamara representing The Peace Center at Arcadia University

(Continued from page 3)

That interview was almost 9 years ago. Initially, I coordinated two programs – Respecting Me, Respecting You and Peer Mediation – but over the years, my role has grown. In collaboration with our amazing Peace Center team, I’ve stewarded the creation of several new programs: Celebrating Me, Celebrating You (CMCY), SPEAK, and Little Lessons for Big Hearts. I have also been fortunate to run our Bullying Prevention Resource Center. I was so inspired by The Peace Center’s work that I returned to school to earn a Master’s degree in International Peace and Conflict Resolution from Arcadia University.

Now, almost a decade after Karin called me to ask if I would facilitate Girls Unlimited, I am honored to step into another new phase of my time at The Peace Center: as the Director of all educational programs, including those that were lovingly created by Karin. I still remember facilitating one of my first restorative circles in a school alongside Karin, amazed by the miracle that happens when we bring people in conflict together to safe, shared listening space. Although Karin is retiring as Peace Center staff, her lessons and legacy at The Peace Center live on!

To our Peace Center community - the current and former staff, our supporters, the schools and organizations we partner with, and the many giants of peace who have mentored me along the way - thank you for your continued trust in me to represent the educational branch of The Peace Center. I am grateful that I’ve had the opportunity to build and hone the exact skills, knowledge and abilities that my new responsibilities at The Peace Center will require, and I look forward to everything that is to come. Bringing peace to our young people is truly the honor of a lifetime, and I am ready and excited for this next part of the journey!

Karin Kasdin Retires

My Peace Center “peeps” have been family to me for the last twelve years, and it has been the privilege of my lifetime to do work I deem as crucial for humanity, with dedicated people who share my goals and values. So, it is after months of agonizing rumination and with a torrent of emotions that I announce my retirement.

I will forever think of Girls Unlimited (GU), the first program I created for The Peace Center, as my “baby.” I shed many a tear while creating a curriculum that sprung from memories of being bullied to within an inch of my life in middle school. Giving birth to GU helped me come to terms with those sad experiences of long ago. I hope it has done the same for the nearly 13,000 girls who have thus far participated.

I developed THRIVE, a co-ed program for high school students, three years ago in response to horrifying statistics about the precipitous increase in anxiety, depression, and suicide in our youth. We were living in turbulent times prior to the COVID-19 pandemic. The past two years have made matters exponentially more worrisome. According to our survey results, the 250 students who have experienced THRIVE this year found it to be a safe space for sharing their emotions, learning to make sound decisions, and developing empathy for themselves and their classmates.

Recently, I created TeenWork, a program for parents experiencing challenges with their teenagers. One father shared his feelings with me in a letter: “Joe and I are in a much better place since I took your TeenWork classes. I believe that understanding how his teenage brain is working and my having a better approach to dealing with him has been very beneficial.” (Continued on page 6)



Karin Kasdin

My TPC Story - Kate Whitman Kamara



Kate Whitman Kamara, third from left in back row, with Peace Camp counselors

My guess is that there are very few people who have a photograph of themselves at 15 years old in their office, but I am fortunate enough to be one of those few! In the picture, I’m standing with a group of fellow volunteer Peace Camp counselors. So many of the activities we did in camp are activities that I continue to facilitate and coordinate to this day as The Peace Center’s Director of Educational Programming.

My first entry to The Peace Center (TPC) happened even before that photo was taken. Shortly after 9/11, my mother saw an article in the local newspaper about a Youth Empowerment Program (YEP), and thought it might interest me as an eighth grader concerned about peace and justice, but without a peer community. I still remember sitting in the

downstairs space of the Richardson House every week, dialoguing with other teens and feeling like I finally found a second home!

Years later, after I graduated college and earned my teaching certification, I became a Peace Educator, delivering TPC’s Respecting Me, Respecting You (now known as STAR) program to elementary-aged students. Shortly after, Karin Kasdin asked me to become trained in a program she had recently developed called Girls Unlimited.

I loved facilitating both programs, and took any opportunity to work with students through The Peace Center. Later that summer, I interviewed for the position of Program Coordinator, and eagerly accepted when I was offered the job! (Continued on page 6)

Truman High School INVESTs in Students

(Continued from page 1)

Research has shown that ISS does not reduce student infractions, but rather only serves to make kids feel less connected to school and therefore hinders academic performance.

School leaders across the country are seeking novel approaches to break the cycle of disconnection and suspension. INVEST's focus on helping every student to recognize their own potential fosters a sense of hope that is the key to their success.

Gayle leads targeted workshops several days a week with small groups of students. Topics for these workshops include violence prevention, leadership development, conflict resolution, emotional management, and decision-making. Gayle is directing this new effort because of her vast and diverse experiences within TPC and the community. She is best able to match the students' needs to programs and workshops TPC already has available.

TPC is excited to embark on this new initiative in collaboration with Truman High School Principal, Jon Craig, to encourage building respect for self and others, thoughtful decision-making, and to enhance student engagement. The Peace Center is grateful for the opportunity to support schools and youth in their efforts to build better and stronger communities. Thank you to Truman High School for the courage to forge a path for more high schools to invest in a brighter future for all students.



Gayle Evans

Tayna Longino - Director Of Community Programming



Tayna Longino

While the title of Director of Community Programming is a new one for Tayna Longino, her relationship with The Peace Center (TPC) goes back many years. After three years of a consulting relationship with TPC, she was awarded The Peace Center's 2018 Peacemaker Award. She has facilitated numerous TPC programs and currently works closely with Gayle Evans in creating and leading community workshops and monthly Democracy Circles.

Tayna is President and founder of a human resources consulting firm and her HR career spans several industries and specialties. As a racial equity consultant, facilitator, and community/institutional organizer, Tayna's work focuses on the impacts of race and racism on systems, institutions, organizations, and individuals. In her training and consulting, she examines the impact of race in systemic outcomes, including the broader environmental and social determinants of well-being and opportunity. She has managed, coached, trained, and interviewed hundreds of professionals from entry

through executive levels.

While Tayna credits her corporate work with giving her tools necessary for success, she readily recognizes her work with non-profit organizations like the YWCA, Jack and Jill of America, The Links Incorporated, and The Urban League. Every engagement has offered practical experience, which she brings to TPC. She has developed and provided training on a variety of topics including Diversity and Inclusion, Racial Equity, Leadership Styles, Conflict Resolution, Organizational Effectiveness, and Workforce Training and Development.

Tayna is passionate about serving the community, and making a difference is her goal every day. TPC looks forward to her passion in her new role.

Bridges to Peace Storytelling Program

Hear about the positive impact we make in schools and communities across Bucks County!

Learn how you can help expand our bullying prevention & social justice work.



Wednesday, July 13 7:00 - 8:00 pm

To RSVP, scan QR code, go to www.thepeacecenter.org, or call us at (215) 750-7220.

The Peace Center Is Spreading L.O.V.E.

(Continued from page 1)

There are three steps to put L.O.V.E. into action: Watch the film. Read the book. Do the work.

Watch the film. Since TPC began its partnership with the Bucks County District Attorney's office in January of 2020, it has hosted and facilitated more than 35 screenings followed by discussions of the award-winning documentary film, *WALKING WHILE BLACK: L.O.V.E. Is The Answer*, by A.J. Ali. These programs bring police officers and community members together to start the conversation about how to improve relationships.

Read the book. In January of 2021, TPC re-launched its quarterly "One Book-One Bucks" book discussions with A.J. Ali leading the conversation about his book, *L.O.V.E. Is the Answer: How You Can Put Principles of Love Into Action to Build a Stronger Police-Community Marriage*, a perfect study guide to the film.

Do the work. In September of 2021, Morrisville hosted a L.O.V.E. Is the Answer Day mural-painting event. Community members, police officers, students, local leaders, and state representatives rolled up their sleeves and painted a mural (designed by a Harry S. Truman High School senior) depicting the L.O.V.E. Is The Answer pledge.



L.O.V.E. Is The Answer mural being painted by volunteers in Morrisville, PA

The Peace Center is excited to announce our upcoming in-person screenings and discussions of "WALKING WHILE BLACK: L.O.V.E. Is The Answer"

Sunday, September 18 2:30 - 5:00 pm
hosted by George School

Sunday, October 16 6:30 - 9:00 pm
hosted by Yardley Friends Meeting

Tuesday, November 15 6:00 - 8:30 pm
hosted by Pennsbury High School

More information to follow.

