
SATYA - TRUTHFUL IN THOUGHT, SPEECH & ACTION

**.We Celebrate Peace with Estero Bay Alliance for Care
Sunday, September 19, 2021
2 - 4 PM
City Park, Morro Bay, CA**

Yes We Can Peacebuilders celebrates International Peace Day honoring those who have served the needy in Morro Bay and on the Central Coast and who have contributed to conquering violence in our communities. Join us for a nice Sunday afternoon in the park. We will meditate and then enjoy the music of the Pacific Horizon Chorus. Bring your own lawn chair and drink and we will supply some food. Please RSVP to yeswecanpeacebuilders1@gmail.com.

We will observe Covid 19 distancing and hope that all who attend have been vaccinated!

Joining us to celebrate peace are the folks from Lumina Alliance-Close To Home who are working for a violence free community with education on domestic and sexual violence for area school children and adults.



Yes! We Can Peace Builders is part of Pace e Bene/Campaign Nonviolence www.paceebene.org,
and supports <https://beatitudescenter.org>.

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In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers,
yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress.

Booker T. Washington

Common Denominators

Paula Hulet

In 2017 TV2 Denmark ran a program called "All That We Share." I know that I will not do a good job of describing the youtube videos. "All That We Share" can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jD8tjhVO1Tc>. The companion videos are also worth exploring.

The program begins with reminding us that we tend to put people in boxes. As a diverse group of people enter a large room, they step into various spaces on the floor, each marked as a box. Medical people stand in one box, the well to do in another, those who are struggling to make ends meet in another. There is a box for bikers and those with heavy tattoos, for gamers, for those who have lived in Denmark for generations, one for those who have recently come to Denmark, and more.

The group is then asked a series of questions such as: Who has seen a UFO? Who was the class clown? Who believes in life after death? Who is a stepparent? Who has been bullied? Who has bullied others? Who feels lonely? Who is in love? Who is broken hearted? Who likes to dance?

With each question, those who can answer yes to the question, move to the far side of the room. As they look around, as they move across the room, they soon discover how much they have in common with "those other people," the ones they thought they had nothing in common.

As I think about the series, I find myself pondering exactly what do we have in common? Scientists tell us that our species, homo sapiens, originated in Africa around 300,000 years ago. They can also trace a genetic connection with pre homo sapiens dating back 6 million years. The genetics group *23 and Me* even traces if you have any Neanderthal variants in your DNA. The Neanderthals roamed this earth from 400,000-40,000 years ago.

With all that evolving over time, we homo sapiens, even though we may not look alike, talk alike or even think alike, we have 99.9% of our DNA, our genetic material, in common with one another. We are one race.

Even though we are nearly identical genetically, we humans have difficulty finding common ground with those who are different from us. We separate people based on skin color, language, dress, and traditions. These days we have trouble seeing what we have in common with folks who have a different view of the world, whose politics conflict with our own, and whose faith tradition, if any, is different than our own.

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Rather than thinking about “what we have in common with a stranger,” we judge others based on their looks, based on the way they smell, and based on the way they talk and walk. Now the ability to judge another has stood us humans well over the centuries, enabling us to take steps to get out of harms ways. Such ability has enabled humans to move out of Africa to all parts of the globe. But there comes a time when we need to think about why we keep putting people in boxes.

And there are a lot of boxes being built these days, just look at the news. Afghanistan and Texas, each in their own way, are taking control of women’s lives and bodies, separating women from men, placing them in their own box. Clashes over religious differences, tribal and political differences have resulted in “us versus them” boxes being built across the globe, including India, Ethiopia, Yemen, Bosnia, and Serbia. In this country we have built boxes based on ethnicity, language, employment, voting access, covid-19, sexuality and gender, politics, and more.

Until we move beyond box building, we will never learn how to get along with those who live life differently than we do. We will never take the time to listen to each other. We will never accept the reality that we have so much more in common with one another than we don’t. For we all want to feel safe. We all want to have our children grow up to be healthy and happy and to succeed to the best of their abilities in life. We all have health concerns and financial concerns. We all have hopes and dreams. We all want to live in peace. To live in peace, to find a true and lasting peace, we need to tear down the boxes that separate us and acknowledge, embrace and rejoice that even though we have our differences, we are all one.

Shalom



We are the same. There is no difference anywhere in the world. People are people. They laugh, cry, feel, and love, and music seems to be the common denomination that brings us all together. Music cuts through all boundaries and goes right to the soul.

Willie Nelson

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