



Satya  
truthful in  
thought, speech, and action

## Yes! We Can Peace Builders Newsletter - September/October 2022

*Yes We Can Peacebuilders is dedicated to promoting and teaching nonviolence, inspiring and engaging people to create a nonviolent community, nation and world.*

*“The whole idea of compassion is based on a keen awareness of the interdependence of all these living beings, which are all part of one another, and all involved in one another.”*  
--Thomas Merton

### We Do It For the Kiddos!



The kids all clamored around me and Moobert on the day we visited at Kid's Club, an afternoon day care center in Morro Bay, California. I'd arranged with Parks and Recreation Director, Amanda Hall for me to come and bring along my large stuffed animal cow I call Moobert to tell the story of International Peace Day to children ages five to eight. With the United Nations

International Peace Day theme “End Racism-Build Peace” in mind I let Moobert tell how cows come in different colors and are from different countries and how this is the same with people. “Cows don’t care what color another cow is,” Moobert explained, “we just like to hang out together in the fields and eat grass.”

I was surprised and thrilled to see the diversity in this group of kids. Morro Bay, as well as much of this area of the Central Coast of California, is populated mostly by white people. For many years there were no black children attending our schools. Things have changed and it was great to see Kid’s Club with children from all different races.

While Moobert and I told the story of how the United Nations International Peace Day came about, the kids’ hands shot up with many questions. They wanted to know about the Peace Bell, having a bit of a hard time distinguishing it from the Liberty Bell, and they surprised me by identifying the peace sign that Yes We Can Peacebuilders uses in its logo as “the Hippie sign.” We talked about racial differences and how it is important for everyone to feel loved and accepted in our community and at school.

Using some special drawings from a peace coloring book for kids, the group of 42 children settled down at tables to color the drawings that contained their popular Hippie sign along with peace doves and rainbows and the words “World Day of Peace,” “Together,” and “Peace Day.” Introducing the word nonviolence was another important part of the time with the Kid’s Club and they offered many thoughts about types of violence, bullying being the primary one. We spoke about how to deal with that problem in a peaceful, nonviolent manner.

Even kids this young are aware of what is going on in the world. They brought up the war in Ukraine and I did my best to explain that without increasing anymore fear than might already exist for them.

These kids were thrilled to be asked to be part of a peace celebration. It made me realize how much we might have been excluding children in this age group from projects that help them cope with the violence they know exists but feel helpless about.

A few days later I made my way 30 miles north to the City of Paso Robles and the Paso Robles Youth Arts Center. Here for two days and four sessions, I met with up to 48 children from the ages of 5 through 17 to tell them the story of International Peace Day and ask them to create art drawings illustrating their ideas of peace and nonviolence. For the youngest kids Moobert and I did our routine and invited them to ask questions and then color line drawings. These youngest kids are already budding artists and many of them drew their own images based on the different peace symbols in the line drawings. They created colorful bookmarks they will use as gifts or to mark places in the books they are reading.

Once again, the subject of bullying came up and it was good to try and help these youngsters cope with these incidents. Making sure they knew to tell their teachers and their parents if they were accosted by a classmate was first and foremost. Then I explained how often a person bullies another because of difficult things that are going on their lives and that we might need to be understanding and forgiving. The art teacher for these classes told me afterward that topics and discussions like this had never occurred before bringing the topic of peace and nonviolence to the class.

On the second day I met with youth ages 11 to 17 and found much more subdued groups. However, the artistry and awareness of present-day issues was obvious in their creations. It was noticeable to me in their artwork that some kids naturally bring a positive attitude to nonviolence and others grapple with the dark side of violence. Bringing the concepts of positive peacebuilding and how nonviolence can bring about a peaceful world was most gratifying for me and my crew of helpers. Young people today need us to help them through life’s difficulties in the most positive way we can. When asked why I chose to do programs with youth on this International Peace Day, I answered with what I am hearing more and more from my associates working in the field of nonviolence - we do it for the kiddos!

*By Ruth Ann Angus*



## Peace Action Days



Morro Bay, California celebrated its sixth International Peace Day with a community gathering around the Peace Pole at the Estero Bay United Methodist Church. Morro Bay Mayor, John Heading read "A Proclamation of Peace from the City Council of Morro Bay" and rededicated the City of Morro Bay to the principles of nonviolence wherein the city as a whole rejects war, poverty, injustice, and environmental degradation and endeavors to foster a culture of peace through education and sustainable economic and social development.

The group also read excerpts from Jane Goodall's book "A Prayer for World Peace." Goodall wrote a universal message of hope and serenity for all of Earth's inhabitants. Goodall asks us to rise above our dogmas, to bring a spirit of generosity to the living world around us, to pray for justice and for those who are suffering.

## Peace Tea Group



Yes We Can Peacebuilders offers Peace Tea and Talk Around the Table every month on the fourth Thursday at 2 PM at the Estero Bay Methodist Church hall, 3000 Hemlock Avenue, Morro Bay, CA.

Once a month this group gathers to discuss peace and nonviolence and how we see

our world today. Our next discussion group will meet October 27th and will look into how nonviolence is a solution to conflicts and discuss various ways to establish this in our day to day lives.

We invite anyone local or visitors to the Central Coast of California to join us for a lively discussion that might surprise you as we talk around the table.

For more information email: [yeswecanpeacebuilders1@gmail.com](mailto:yeswecanpeacebuilders1@gmail.com)



## Links to Good Stuff

In this section we offer you links to articles, blogs, and podcasts that you may find interesting and informative.

### **People of Faith for Justice Presents Podcast "I Do it For the Kids" with San Luis Obispo Teacher of the Year Geoffrey Land**

People of Faith for Justice guest is Geoffrey Land, a Social Studies teacher at Paso Robles High School who has been named the San Luis Obispo County Teacher of the Year, with two of his students, Israel Perez and Ana Lopez, both seniors at Paso High.

A teacher and his students? What could be more ordinary, right? Not so...what makes this podcast special is the fact that Geoffrey Land is no ordinary teacher, and Ana and Israel are no ordinary high school seniors. Mr. Land has been busy teaching justice-making and activism at Paso Robles High School, and Israel and Ana have both been applying his lessons to real life as they ready themselves for a world that needs much more justice and many more activists. Listen in as we find out how Geoffrey Land teaches students to stand up for justice, and how Ana and Israel have rallied for representation and inclusivity in an environment that has not always been supportive of these goals.

Click here:

[People of Faith for Justice](https://pfjpodcast.libsyn.com/i-do-it-for-the-kids-geoffrey-land-slo-county-teacher-of-the-year-022)

<https://pfjpodcast.libsyn.com/i-do-it-for-the-kids-geoffrey-land-slo-county-teacher-of-the-year-022>

### **New Thought Musicians Showcase**

It's upbeat and positive peaceful music brought to you via You Tube by Jane Thornton's "New Thought Musicians Showcase."

This "Season for Nonviolence Playlist" is provided by Jane Thornton and "New Thought Musicians Showcase" compiled by EmPOWER M/A the licensing agent. Songs cannot be purchased through this link, except if a user would want to join EmPower as a member, which is free. You merely have to register.

<https://www.empowerma.com/nonviolence-playlist/>

ESSENTIAL LINKS - New Thought Musicians Showcase™

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SHOW ARCHIVE

New Thought Musicians Showcase™ - Host Jane Thornton

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDFGOPgg_Qc&list=PLyPQgFnwl6KdCBNwdcDyU9GNF2N7xmHmo)

[v=pDFGOPgg\\_Qc&list=PLyPQgFnwl6KdCBNwdcDyU9GNF2N7xmHmo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDFGOPgg_Qc&list=PLyPQgFnwl6KdCBNwdcDyU9GNF2N7xmHmo)

ALL PLAYLISTS

All NT Artist Fan/Tribute Pages:

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*"Nonviolence means avoiding injury to anything on earth in thought, word or deed." -- Mohandas Gandhi*

On September 11, 2018, Yes We Can Peacebuilders accepted a proclamation of peace and nonviolence from the mayor and city council of Morro Bay, California establishing Morro Bay as a Nonviolent City.

The Nonviolent City Project is a grassroots movement that organizes strategy for activists to work for the transformation of their community into a peaceful, nonviolent city. This is a shift in consciousness to work holistically with every sector of the city to establish a culture of peace.

**Yes We Can Peacebuilders offers workshops and training for adults and youth on ways nonviolence is fostered, defining nonviolence to aid in the development of nonviolent communication and strategies for change within ourselves and our community. You can learn more at:**

**[www.yeswecanpeacebuilders.org](http://www.yeswecanpeacebuilders.org) or email us at [yeswecanpeacebuilders1@gmail.com](mailto:yeswecanpeacebuilders1@gmail.com).**



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