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# SATYA - TRUTHFUL IN THOUGHT, SPEECH & ACTION

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## What's New with Yes We Can Peacebuilders

Like everyone else Peacebuilders has been affected by the restrictions with Covid 19 for more than a year. What is missed most is the ability to gather together for discussion and to hold workshops on living the nonviolent life. For some years people have been primarily concerned with the words and actions of ex-president Donald Trump. While Peacebuilders often addressed those concerns, it has been our belief that the problems that affect our society have little to do with a bad president and more to do with the values, thinking, words, and actions of each of us as we try to live in harmony in our communities.



**To** that end we joined the national Nonviolent Cities Project with Campaign Nonviolence in Morro Bay in 2016 and have worked to establish a good rapport with our city government, police, civic organizations, humanitarian organizations, and community member at large. Much good has generated from this collaboration not the least of which is the establishment of September as the month of peace in Morro Bay. During the week surrounding September 21<sup>st</sup> United Nations International Peace Day we hold events promoting peace

and nonviolence. While 2020 saw us unable to hold any peace celebration or vigil we did produce eight videos that are still available for viewing on You Tube via our website under SATYA for October 2020. This year, as more and more of us get vaccinated and restrictions ease up, we plan to return to an outdoor Celebration of Peace on Sunday afternoon September 19<sup>th</sup> at City Park. We are now in the forming stages for this and more will be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

**Peacebuilders** is honored to be recognized by Pace e Bene/Campaign Nonviolence as one of the most successful peace organizations participating in The Nonviolent Cities Project. Peacebuilders Director Ruth Ann Angus will join with Campaign Nonviolence trainer Rivera Sun to participate in a two-hour online webinar entitled "Nonviolent Cities 101" on Monday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM Pacific Time. Angus will present two topics, "How to Start to Get to Know Your People" for new organizers and "The Burning Issue – Defining Violence in Your City," for new and ongoing organizers. Go to [www.paceebene.org](http://www.paceebene.org) to sign up.

**Yes** We Can Peacebuilders joins with Pace e Bene to co-sponsor "For Goodness Sake: Music for the Nonviolent Future," a free concert with musicians from around the world promoting nonviolent change. This music festival will air on Pace e Bene's You Tube Channel premiering on Saturday, August 21 with these confirmed musicians so far: Eliza Gilkyson,

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

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Radney Foster, Kate Taylor, Victoria Wolff, Ray Benson, David Pulkingham, Danny Schmidt, Carrie Elkin, and Erin Walter and her Band Parker Woodland. You can learn more about “For Goodness Sake” at [www.paceebene.org/for-goodness-sake](http://www.paceebene.org/for-goodness-sake).

**For** the spiritually minded individuals who want to broaden their understanding of nonviolence as followed by Jesus, Gandhi, Merton, and King we recommend you look at the online seminars offered by peace activist John

Dear at [www.beatitudescenter.org](http://www.beatitudescenter.org). Four-day retreats to be held at the Inn at Morro Bay will commence beginning in May of 2022.

**Also** don’t forget to tune in to The Rock, 97.3 FM and 107.9 FM the first Saturday of every month for “Peace Rocks” the program of discussions on issues of the day and how to live the nonviolent life with Ruth Ann Angus and her guests – also streaming at [www.central-coastradio.org](http://www.central-coastradio.org)



**Forming a New Nation**

**By: Ruth Ann Angus**

I am reading the Pulitzer Prizewinning book “John Adams” by David Mc Cullough that chronicles the life of a patriot who was one of the most important people involved in the forming of the United States of America. Mc Cullough’s research using actual correspondence written by John Adams and historical records surrounding the creation of the US Constitution are eye opening for me in that much of this is never taught in our grammar school and secondary school institutions.

To say that Adams was a patriot is an understatement and gives me pause to consider what is a patriot? Today patriotism is strained, misunderstood, denied, and denounced by many as we view our country’s flag flown by individuals who espouse to violence to achieve their purpose. Adams, I am sure, would never fly the American flag at night in the dark as I see so many of the residents of my town do today.

Here is the protocol for flying the flag according to the American Legion:  
“The **Flag** Code states it is the universal custom to display the **flag** only from sunrise to sunset on buildings and on stationary **flag** staffs in the open. However, when a patriotic effect is desired, the **flag** may be displayed 24 hours a day **if properly illuminated** during the hours of darkness.”

The idea behind this is boldly stated in the “Star Spangled Banner” – “the rockets’ red glare, the bombs bursting in air gave proof through the night that our flag was still there.” The fact that our flag was always visible strengthened the resolve of our Continental Army and emphasized to England’s Redcoats that we would not fail in establishing our freedom. Our national anthem stresses that we never forget what the people of this country suffered to establish a free, democratic nation and the flag of our country should never be in the dark.

However, we are suffering through dark days and as I read of the actions that men like John Adams had to go through to establish what they called a “free nation” I can see where much misunderstanding is rampant with many citizens of this country today.

It seems the trouble began back then as patriotic men met to create a new nation. Before the Declaration of Independence was written, the colonists were already engaged in a war with Great Britain. Just writing and establishing the Declaration did not bring about a free and democratic country. War, which never produces peace, raged on for years while men like John Adams performed diplomatic service abroad to attempt to gain a peace treaty with Great Britain. Without the aid of France, the Revolutionary War would never have been won by the colonists. Without numerous loans from the Dutch our new nation would never have succeeded. No nation can stand alone.

Most of the men involved with the formation of this country, men who stated, “all men are created equal” and all should be free, owned slaves. Thomas Jefferson, whose humanitarian language is the bulk of the Declaration of Independence, had over 200 African slaves; George Washington, our first President over 100. Except for John Adams, none of these men saw the irony of their statements versus their ways. We have been saddled with this dichotomy ever since. Thus, the racial tension and terrorism that exists today.

One of the great disappointments for John Adams was the formation of two opposing political parties. Both he and Washington were “distracted over the rise of political divisiveness, the forming of parties or factions.” He felt strongly that political parties were an evil that could bring ruination of republican government. As Adams wrote at that time, “There is nothing I dread so much as a division of the Republic into two great parties, each arranged under its leader and converting measures in opposition to each other.” Thus, we suffer today as we attempt once again in forming a new nation.



*Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever, we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All things are bound together. All things are connected.*

*Chief Seattle*

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