
SATYA - TRUTHFUL IN THOUGHT, SPEECH & ACTION

The hope of a secure and livable world lies with disciplined nonconformists who are dedicated to justice, peace, and brotherhood.

Martin Luther King, Jr.

Hope is being able to see that there is light despite all of the darkness.

Desmond Tutu



Those who make peaceful revolution impossible will make violent revolution inevitable.

John F. Kennedy

We can never obtain peace in the outer world until we make peace with ourselves.

Dalai Lama

Join us for our next Talk Around the Table on Sept 2 at 2 pm. Pacific

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9266995011?pwd=c3Z0TkdkEK1hNK2dHZzk1TXVNZ1Y2Zz09>

Meeting ID: 926 699 5011

Passcode: 1249765

The International Day of Peace 2020

It comes around every year – the International Day of Peace on September 21st. Now, in the waning days of August I begin to think about what types of activities we will be able to put on to celebrate this most important day. This year a virus is causing a change in the way we do almost everything and that includes the spreading of the message of peace and nonviolence in ways we did previously.

I didn't know about the International Day of Peace prior to joining Campaign Nonviolence and signing up Morro Bay into the Nonviolent Cities Project. I found out that it is a day observed around the world and was established in 1981 by a unanimous United Nations resolution. They state that "Peace Day provides a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace."

United Nations Resolution 52/15 on November 20, 1997 took the steps a bit further proclaiming the year 2000 as the "International Year for a Culture of Peace" and was followed with Resolution 53/25 on November 10, 1998 proclaiming the period 2001-2010 as the "International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World."

A variety of actions were adopted establishing aims, strategies and main actors, as well as actions to foster a culture of peace through education, to promote sustainable economic and social development, to promote respect for all human rights and to ensure equality between women and men, foster democratic participation, to advance understanding, tolerance and solidarity, to support participatory communication and free flow of information and knowledge, and to promote international peace and security. All worthy items and many that leave us wondering how much of these have taken place. For it seems like we have regressed and appear to be going backwards, doesn't it?

The question is, have the two decades since these resolutions were adopted advanced the culture of peace and if so, how? Beginning in 2014 the organization Pace e Bene/Campaign Nonviolence began asking people around the world, and most especially in the United States, to celebrate the day but extend it for the full week surrounding the date. That year a bit more than 200 people across the country planned and carried out peaceful actions. Last year the number of peace and nonviolence actions swelled to 3,200. Numbers like this indicate that the movement toward a culture of peace is growing.

The United Nations establishes a theme for this day every year and this year's theme is "2020 Shaping Peace Together." Here is the statement announcing the theme: "This year, it has been clearer than ever that we are not each other's enemies. Rather, our common enemy is a tireless virus that threatens our health, security and very way of life. COVID-19 has thrown our world into turmoil and forcibly reminded us that what happens in one part of the planet can impact people everywhere.

In March, UN Secretary-General António Guterres called on all warring parties to lay down their weapons and focus on the battle against this unprecedented global pandemic. While the message is intended for armed parties, solidarity and cooperation across borders, sectors and generations are also needed to win this new fight against the worst public health crisis of our time.

For the United Nations, 2020 was already meant to be a year of listening and learning. To mark its 75th anniversary, the UN has invited millions of people worldwide to join UN75, the largest and furthest-reaching global conversation on building the peaceful and prosperous future that we want.

As we struggle to defeat COVID-19, your voice is more important than ever. In these difficult times of physical distancing, this International Day of Peace will be dedicated to fostering dialogue and collecting ideas. The world will be invited to unite and share thoughts on how to weather this storm, heal our planet and change it for the better. Even though we may not be able to stand next to each other, we can still dream together.

The 2020 theme for the International Day of Peace is “Shaping Peace Together.” Celebrate the day by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the pandemic. Stand together with the UN against attempts to use the virus to promote discrimination or hatred. Join us so that we can shape peace together.”

Yes We Can Peacebuilders did some serious thinking as to how we could participate this year. For the past three years we held public actions; a Peace Picnic in the Park with nonviolence groups from around the county, drumming by Tribe Elation Drumming and songs of peace by the Peace Choir; a presentation of peace and nonviolence by members of the SLO Peace Academy at the United Church of Christ Congregational; a Peace Vigil at Estero Bay United Methodist Church, Arise and Go Forth walk at First Christian Church of Morro Bay; and Peace and Nonviolence at Farmer’s Market along with the Morro Bay Resource Office.

With Covid 19 restricting us from holding a second year Peace Picnic in the Park, we decided to join the technical world and produce a series of eight videos, one for each day of Peace Week, with some of the following topics: Morro Bay Celebrates the Month of Peace in September; Great People of Peace; The Story of International Peace Day; How Morro Bay joined the Nonviolent City Project and What is That All About; What is Civil Disobedience; Climate Justice. Social Justice, Systemic Injustice-How Do They Relate. These videos will air on You Tube and begin on September 19th.

You can take part in International Peace Day by joining UN75 at www.un.org/en/un75 and join in the world’s largest global conversation. And be sure to watch us on You Tube – we will send a link to you soon! Find us on the Internet at www.yeswecanpeacebuilders.org and join us for biweekly Zoom sessions – just email yeswecanpeacebuilders1@gmail.com for the link.

- Ruth Ann Angus

*Nonviolence means avoiding not only external physical violence
but also internal violence of spirit.*

You not only refuse to shoot a man, but you refuse to hate him.”

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

