



Satya

truthful in
thought, speech, and action

Yes! We Can Peace Builders Newsletter - November/December 2022

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

"You must first and foremost change your focus. We are looking in the wrong direction when we think we have to influence or change the power holders. We are wasting our time; they know exactly what is going on and what they wish to accomplish. We need to reach with our actions the ordinary citizen, educate and alert her/him, arouse them from their indifference and move them to action. Power is with the people but they do not know this. We have more power than we think." *Veronica Pelacaric*

Running Out of Time

"For everything there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven."

We march off . . . drum, drum, drum . . . march off to war . . . drum, drum, drum . . .
And the guns they shatter the peace . . . they shatter the peace, they shatter, they shatter . . .
We march off . . . drum, drum, drum . . . march off to war . . . drum, drum, drum . . .
And the cannons blast and shatter the peace . . . they shatter the peace, they shatter . . .
No time for song, no time for love, no time for goodbye . . . no time, no time, no time . . .

The cat's tail twitches . . . twitches, twitches, twitches . . . the black one fights the white one . . . fight, fight, fight
And the people watch in horror, they watch, they watch . . .
The cats tumble and claw . . . tumble and claw, tumble, tumble . . .
The bombs rain down and shatter the peace . . . shatter the peace, the peace, the peace . . .

Running out of time . . . running, running, running

Out of time . . .

Ruth Ann Angus

A New Direction

In October Yes We Can Peacebuilders (YWCP) joined with People of Faith for Justice (PFJ) in San Luis Obispo County, California to become a 501c3 nonprofit. This affords us a broader reach locally and more ability to expand our mission nationally.

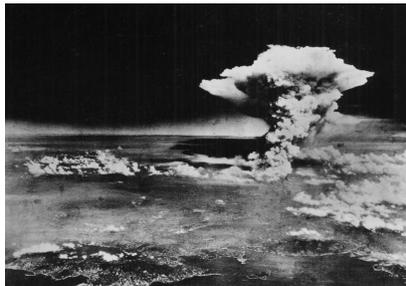
We have long desired to create a nonviolence study center in this area of the Central Coast of California and are excited to be joining the PFJ's Central Coast Center for an Ecological Civilization. Our plans include having college student interns working with us on peer-to-peer youth programs in nonviolence education. We will also offer online programs with speakers from many peace and nonviolence and ecological civilization organizations.

We look forward to bringing you more information on these new programs by the start of the new year. We continue to collaborate for guidance and educational materials with Campaign Nonviolence, a project of Pace e Bene, and Youth for Human Rights International.

Yes We Can Peacebuilders envisions a culture of peace in a community that fosters respect for all individuals, collaborating to eliminate economic discrimination, environmental degradation, poverty, homelessness, racial and sexual discrimination, stereotyping, harassment, bullying, gangs, killing, and war. We hope you will support us! www.yeswecanpeacebuilders.org to donate.

Peacebuilders (YWCP) is pleased to welcome two new writers to the SATYA Newsletter. First, two offerings from Karen Weber a peace and nonviolence activist from Santa Fe, New Mexico on the topic of nuclear weapons and air quality and second, Reverend Richard R. Kurrasch, a People of Faith for Justice Board Member of Arroyo Grande, California who asks the question: "Why not talk religion?"

The Sacrifice State



Every Friday at noon a group of 10 or 12 people stand on the four corners of Alameda and Guadalupe Streets. They stand on either side of banners attached to the sidewalk guardrails which read "Nuclear Weapons are Illegal." One man holds a flag aloft with a white dove against a black background. In its beak it holds the olive branch of peace. Most of them have been keeping this vigil and protest against nuclear weapons for years in varying places in Santa Fe.

Their newest location is intentional. The Los Alamos National Laboratories (LANL) has leased an office building and conference space at this intersection directly across from the Santuario de Guadalupe, built in 1777 and the oldest church honoring Our Lady of Guadalupe in the US. A 12-foot statue of the Lady stands and looks in the direction of the new offices.

In a ceremony at the Santuario earlier this year the Archbishop of Santa Fe, John Wester, called for nuclear disarmament and dedicated a plaque quoting Pope Francis, "The possessing of nuclear weapons is immoral."

In the next few months 75 LANL employees will be working in the leased offices while another 500 will be using another location in Santa Fe. For the first time, Santa Fe, the city of St. Francis of Assisi, peacemaker and patron saint of the environment, will be an extended home to nuclear weapons production. This expansion is funded by LANL's increased federal budget to increase the production of plutonium bomb triggers, or pits, for new nuclear weapons to 30 a year.

While New Mexico is often called the Land of Enchantment with Santa Fe as its capitol and known for its art and beauty, only a 45-minute drive north through pueblo lands and an astonishing landscape of multi-colored cliffs and mesas stands LANL, the birthplace of the US

nuclear weapons program. It started with the Manhattan Project when in 1942 US officials told Pueblo de San Ildefonso tribal leaders that use of the Pajarito Plateau to win World War II would be short-term. It has not been. Those lands, and those of the Hispanic homesteaders who were forcibly evicted, have never been returned as promised. Contaminated air, water and soil from LANL continue to impact communities and the Rio Grande in Northern New Mexico.

New Mexico is not only the Land of Enchantment - it is a Sacrifice State.

Many people come as tourists to visit Santa Fe. For the first time they may learn from the small group of people on the corners of Alameda and Guadalupe of the huge nuclear weapons industry in the state. They may be surprised to learn of its impacts. They may be moved to write a letter or make a stand themselves in the name of peace. They may be inspired by this dedicated group of activists and peacemakers who stand as Daniel to Goliath every Friday at noon.

For more information:

Nuclear Watch New Mexico. <https://nukewatch.org/>

Veterans for Peace, New Mexico. <https://www.veteransforpeace.org/take-action/abolish-nuclear-weapons>

Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Safety. <http://nuclearactive.org/>

By Karen Weber

Full Moon



Yesterday afternoon a friend and I met at Downtown Subscription, a local coffee bar near the Capitol. She told me of a recent conversation with someone who had grown up in Santa Fe, moved out of state and returned. He asked why. His reply was that “Santa Fe is close to the heavens.”

I didn’t appreciate this when I moved to Santa Fe eight years ago. Physically I didn’t appreciate that my breathing could be more labored as I hiked and light-headedness more common. Sitting in the foothills of the Sangre de Cristo, the southernmost range of the Rocky Mountains, Santa Fe is the third highest city in the country at 7,200 feet. The air is thinner, and the sun feels warmer. On some days there is a clarity in the sunlight itself that seems crystalline.

When I moved to Santa Fe, the American Lung Association rated it with its top designation of an “A” as the city having the cleanest air in the country. However, in the relatively short time I have lived here that designation has slipped to a “B” “due to the large oil and gas production in the state and wildfire and prescribed burn smoke.

And cars and trucks

Like many places and with people on the move, Santa Fe is growing. As human population presses on the earth, so it does on Santa Fe. Some of its narrow streets in the older parts of the city, once used by pedestrians and those on horseback, are now asked to carry more and bigger vehicles. Apartment and condo developments are expanding across the city though it is a question of whether they are affordable for people on New Mexico wages.

Recently as I drove along Cerrillos Road, I was stopped by several groups of men and women pushing grocery carts piled with bags and blankets and boxes hurrying on the side of the road. Most were dressed in baggy, ill-fitting clothes and some had caps pulled over their faces. Two dogs accompanied them. Another day as I pulled out of my driveway, I stopped suddenly as a man and woman with a teenaged boy appeared on the sidewalk in front of me, pushing another

piled cart and carrying more bags, looking confused as to where they were. We looked at each other. Homelessness has a face.

St. Francis of Assisi, the patron saint of Santa Fe, is said to have brought heavenly light to earthly life, to have been both down to earth and reaching toward heaven.

When night comes, clusters of stars can sometimes be seen from my backyard. They create a dome of lights and a kind of perspective. If the moon is bright enough, the outlines of the coyote fence and the cottonwood tree especially stand out against the shadows of the smaller trees.

However, my favorite time is the early morning dark when Maddie (the dog) and I open the unsteady gate and step into the darkness of my backyard. As she sniffs the air and the hard packed ground, I look into the sky over my neighbors' rooftops. I ignore the power lines and telephone pole with its electric box. Often several stars can still be seen. I turn and see the moon has made its arc due west now that we have reached the autumn equinox. Its light shines through the heavy branches of the Chinese elms next to the casita. Dawn is a faint glow in the east.

I listen closely and breathe deeply. It is nearly silent. Though a distant rushing sound of traffic is more noticeable.

By Karen Weber

Image by Frances E. Vandal

Penultimate Words



For many years, Martin Marty's "penultimate word" wrapped up each issue of *The Christian Century*, the journal that has more or less served as the unofficial voice of mainstream Protestantism. Marty was one of our more important observers of the contemporary religious scene and while coming as it did at the end of the magazine, he clearly wanted it understood that his was the "last word save one," ours, the reader. Let the conversation continue!

Continue it does, and even though we know that there is nothing like religion and politics to spoil a perfectly good dinner, if not friendship, the fact is that we like to talk religion. As someone once put it, humankind is incurably religious, so the conversation will continue.

For more than fifty years, I have tried to encourage religious conversations. I have files and files of sermons and probably every newsletter column I ever wrote. I have given priority attention to Bible studies and book clubs, and I have welcomed "teachable moments" in hallways, parking lots, and committee meetings. I have experienced some of my most memorable religious conversations, often without words, in hospital rooms and cemeteries. I can't say they have all reached penultimate heights, but never did I look upon them as the last word, just a word on the shared journey into the purposes of God.

The corner of the vineyard where I have served included churches that were practically well suited to penultimate conversations because they lacked a defined and defining creed that replaces penultimate opinion with an alleged, ultimate truth. Instead, if those gravitating to such churches wanted to find God's truth, they had to go looking for it and inevitably, that meant talking about it as well. Of course, if you put four of them together in a common conversation, you could easily get four opinions (sometimes five as a matter of principle). It can get a little messy at times but that's a small price to pay if by chance it should nudge us a bit toward Ultimate Reality.

As people of faith, we need to stay focused on Ultimate matters, remembering at the same time

that ours are penultimate conversations, for these things unfold over time. What works, what fits, what's a clear path and not a cul-de-sac—how do we know unless we engage in conversation with one another and with God??

Penultimate quests in search of the Ultimate.

By Richard R. Kurrasch



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 on DACA student Beatriz Lopez Isidro

Beatriz López Isidro was born in Uruapan, Michoacán and raised in Paso Robles, CA. Beatriz is a proud daughter of immigrants whose parents come from San Juan Nuevo, Michoacán, México. She is a recent college graduate from UC Merced with a Bachelor of Science in Biological Science with an emphasis in Human Biology.

Throughout her time at UC Merced, she received constant support and mentorship from the Services for Undocumented Students. For the 2021-2022 school year, she was given the opportunity to collaborate with the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs and the Office for Services for Undocumented Students to represent undergraduate undocumented students at UC Merced. Most recently, she was given the opportunity to participate as a CDC Undergraduate Public Health Scholar through the UCLA Public Health Scholars Training Program and paired with Promesa Boyle Heights as a summer intern.

Beatriz emphasizes the importance of fighting for the “original dreamers” (dreamer’s parents) and all the 11 million undocumented immigrants in the United States because DACA is not enough; there needs to be bipartisan Congressional immigration reform!

Click here:

<https://pfjpodcast.libsyn.com/2018-paso-high-grads-still-dreaming-big-023>

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?>

ALL PLAYLISTS

All NT Artist Fan/Tribute Pages:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXxT-ABkSoGufUFLfpp4YXw/playlist>

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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 or email us at yeswecanpeacebuilders1@gmail.com.



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