



Satya
truthful in
thought, speech, and action

Yes! We Can Peace Builders Newsletter - June 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*

Cambria Peace Group Demonstrates for an End to Gun Violence



On Friday, June 10th the Cambria Peace Group gathered on the street corner in Cambria, CA supporting "March For Our Lives" to abolish gun violence. These social activists show up on the corner of Main Street and Cambria Drive, placards in hand, to display to people in cars entering and leaving this predominantly tourist destination. Teresa Lees, coordinator of the group, and long-time member of Yes! We Can Peacebuilders along with 133 people take turns on the

Cambria Peace Corner demonstrating for changes.

Lees says it in her own words, “Let's stand in solidarity with those who suffered losses in Buffalo, New York [Uvalde, Texas] from the senseless mass shooting. Let us stand up for ridding our world of racism and ideologies that separate us. There is no need for outdated ideas such as white supremacy or "replacement theory." Let us come together and unite in actualizing the dream of all people living in peace and harmony.”

It takes maybe a few hours of their time in the early morning or evening. It's not difficult, but it takes courage. You can join them in your neighborhood too. Let's stand in solidarity with all peace groups working to make this country and this world a place where everyone belongs, where everyone is “part of one another.”

You can learn more about the Cambria Peace Corner on Facebook.



Shaping Peace Together

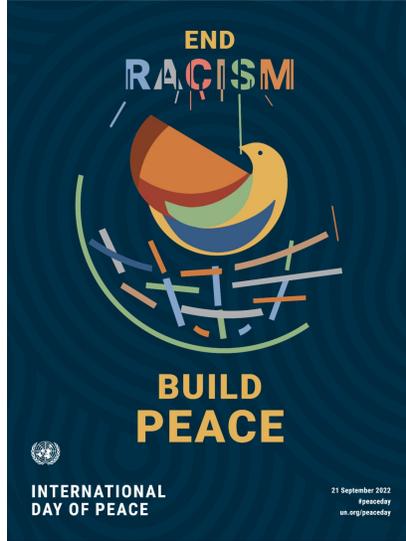
Peace Day! It will be here soon and Yes! We Can Peacebuilders has many irons in the fire. For the first time we will help facilitate several actions with youth groups on the Central Coast of California.

We are excited as we begin collaborating with the staff of the Paso Robles Youth Arts Center on a peace curriculum for youth from 7 to 18 years of age attending the center doing art, music, dance, band, theater, and video production. For International Peace Day, these young people will do a special art, music, and dance project. The Center offers these wonderful creative services free to children in a wide geographic area. Peacebuilders is honored to collaborate with them.

We are also working on Peace Day actions for youth in Morro Bay and San Luis Obispo. But adults are not being left out either. The Peace Tea Nonviolence Discussion Group in collaboration with the congregation of Estero Bay Methodist Church will gather around the Peace Pole to sing and offer prayers for peace on earth.

Yes! We Can Peacebuilders joins with the thousands of people and groups across this country and many foreign nations in collaboration with Peace e Bene/Campaign Nonviolence for International Peace Day on September 21, 2022. This year's theme set by the United Nations is “End Racism – Shaping Peace Together.”

The United Nations began Peace Day in 1981 and this is the day that they ask all people and all nations to stop fighting, end war, and end all kinds of violence. This year peace actions will take place from September 21st through October 2nd, now established as International Nonviolence Day. Please go to www.pacebene.org and click on “Get involved – Action Days” to learn more.



Peace Tea Group



On the fourth Thursday of every month the adult Peace Tea Nonviolence Discussion Group of Morro Bay, California meets to discuss peace and nonviolence and how we see our world today. We spend time exploring types of violence to obtain a better understanding of our own involvement with violence. We examine our ideas on our basic human rights and go deeper into the exploration of living the nonviolent life. Meetings are held at the Estero Bay Methodist Church Hall at 2 PM at 3000 Hemlock Avenue, Morro Bay, CA. All are welcome. For more information email yeswecanpeacebuilders1@gmail.com.

We Are Tired of Being Sad



The following essay was published on the Blog of Peace e Bene.org June 3, 2022

The tv screen flashed from horror to horror. Another mass shooting. Ten people obliterated in an instant. Never knowing what hit them. The tv announcer cannot give a succinct explanation. All he can say is that it is sad.

Today is shopping day. The old woman in the tiny house with the peace sign in her yard plans to go to the market. For a while as she gets ready, she wonders if she should. Maybe it isn't safe anymore to go to the market. Weren't those people gunned down at a supermarket?

She turns up the volume on the tv to listen to the announcer. The victims, all different sexes, and ages, were mostly black. The old woman looks closely at the screen. The perpetrator was just a kid, she sees. What did the announcer say? Eighteen? He is eighteen. And he drove over 200 miles to get to that supermarket so he could kill 10 people.

Fiddling with her shopping list, she picks up her handbag and stuffs the list inside. She sits down in her lounge chair and continues to listen to the tv. No one can explain why this child decided to commit this horrendous crime. They say he was filled with racist hatred. Later, when he finally gives a reason for his rant, he says it all started during Covid with the isolation. He began to visit racist sites on his computer. He says he cooked this whole thing up because "he was bored."

It is getting late, and the old woman likes to shop in the evening when the store is less crowded. Things are getting scarce on the shelves. One cannot always find all the items needed. Often it means going to more than one market. She doesn't purchase the high-end groceries because she doesn't want to use up the funds on her EBT card, food stamps. Even with the limited income she gets every month, the government only allows her \$67 in food stamps. The amount is not enough, even for just one person. So, she shops very selectively, taking her time to check the prices. She knows she will go over her limit and must make up the difference with her debit card. Once in the handicap parking slot in front of the market, she turns off the ignition and sits for a minute, looking around. Would she be able to recognize a shooter if there were one?

Finally, home as darkness descends, the old woman parks in her driveway, lifts the latch on the hatchback and begins to tote in her bags of groceries. Her cats sit waiting patiently on the front step a foot or two beyond the peace sign that rests on the ground up against the ice plant bush. She's been meaning to work on the sign, spruce it up a bit. People walking their dogs along the street every evening often comment on it. "Ah, peace, they say," as they nod at her. "Yes, it would be nice, wouldn't it?" she answers. They murmur assent, shaking their heads positively and then walk on. The old woman wonders if they ever genuinely think about the idea of peace. Have they ever heard the word nonviolence?

As she empties the grocery bags, putting away her food in the refrigerator and on the shelf, she can't help pondering that killer, that boy, that bored child. How is it that we have nothing for a youngster to do when he is bored? How does boredom devolve into mass murder?

They say it is the lack of gun control. If we didn't have guns so easy to obtain, these things wouldn't happen. That's what she hears as she flicks on the tv to listen to a special broadcast about gun violence. She hits the guide button on the remote to see what other programs might be airing now, hoping to find a nature show. The old woman would much rather watch lions tearing into the carcass of a wildebeest than listen to ruminations of excuses on the special broadcast. She knows it isn't about guns. At least the lions are not bored.

And then another day dawns and what to her horror the old woman hears of 19 children massacred along with two teachers in a small town in Texas. It is too much to take in, too much to process. She can't get the comment of the earlier announcer out of her mind. "It is sad," he said.

Now, she knows she will not sleep well tonight with those words running around in her mind and the vision of young lives lost while her life is near the end. She knows it isn't enough to place a peace sign in the garden. She realizes that she still has time to do something about this. She picks up a pen and notepad and jots down all the comments, all her thoughts.

Tomorrow is another day. It is the first of many days where she knows if she works at it, she can make a difference. It is not too late.

The old woman peers at her writings. On the top of the paper in the notepad, she places a title in bold, capital letters.

WE ARE TIRED OF BEING SAD!



Links to Good Stuff

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

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."

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXxT-ABkS0GufUFLfpp4YXw>

People of Faith For Justice Podcast ***Earth Eternity - Healing our Mistakes***

Listen to their most recent podcast dealing with climate change -- here is a summary of the show:

Our guests today are three friends from the Central Coast of CA who share a mission: to make the Earth a better place for all their descendants. Earth Day, Earth Month, Earth Year—why not an Earth Eternity? We know that nothing lasts for eternity; one day, scientists say, our Sun will fail us and leave everything in darkness and cold, long after life on planet Earth no longer exists. But what about now? How do we celebrate our Earth's longevity, long after a day in April, a month in Spring or a year from now? Spend the next hour with our guests June Cochran, Kelly Fisher and Grace Gautreaux while we vision together an Earth Eternity healed of the many mistakes we made while generations embraced the notion that Earth's resources were boundless, that our greed was "good" and that our abuses would never be noticed.

<https://pfjpodcast.libsyn.com/earth-eternity-healing-our-mistakes-019>

"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 or 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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