



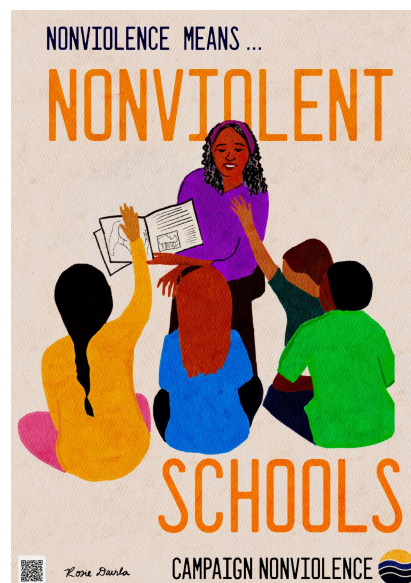
Satya  
truthful in  
thought, speech, and action

## Yes! We Can Peace Builders Newsletter - July/August 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*

### How Do You Teach Peace?



One of the most ardent desires of humanity is to have peace on earth. We talk about it, we sing about it, we pray about it, and it eludes us. So, when the idea to teach peace to youth groups became a strong desire for Yes We Can Peacebuilders the question arose. How do we teach peace?

We were already pretty aware that something like this was not reaching our school age children in their classrooms. Sure, they get courses in history and social studies, but a real curriculum based on teaching the principles that govern a peaceful society are missing. Kids these days have a lot to handle what with active shooter drills in school, bullying in the hallways and on the playground, and too often down right hate crimes targeting those who have different gender identities.

It's a fact that much of the real history of this country is blatantly left out of school courses. The absence of this knowledge only exacerbates the tensions young people deal with daily. Without a good understanding of where we came from, how can we expect to create a world that we would like to identify as an ecological civilization? One that champions a life-affirming society. How can we expect behaviors that emphasize compassion, understanding, and acceptance if we don't teach it? We live in a society run rampant with individual and systemic violence. While we espouse to a society and government that addresses economic injustice, better policing, gun control, effective mental health, affordable housing, health care for all, free education, pollution-free food, natural spaces, diversity, restorative justice, and one interested more in the well being of all than the monetary excesses for some, we are woefully far from attaining any of these things. Those of us who are of an age now realize that we are leaving much in the hands of the following generations, and we are doing so without much guidance.

Peacebuilders is not the first organization to be interested in teaching peace. Others have been hard at work doing this for years. So, we look to them for guidance as we approach our first foray into working with youth groups. We are fortunate in obtaining curriculums from two existing and long-time organizations that teach peace to young people. We are grateful to the Little Friends for Peace of Washington, DC and The Discovery Center for Peacebuilding in Shelburne Falls, Massachusetts. We agree with these organizations that we can imagine a world of peace. We also see peace as a way of thinking, feeling, and acting, an attitude towards self, others, and the world. We hope to cultivate peace in our hearts and let that flow out to those who thirst for it.

We will begin this fall first with a definition of peace realizing that it is not just a place where there is no noise, nor is it a country that has no bombs falling. As we sit in our Peace Circles, we will start with going inward to develop an attitude of care for oneself, to be forgiving to oneself, and to think uplifting thoughts. Then we will address caring for others, helping someone in need, listening attentively to another, and standing up for someone who is not being treated fairly. We will introduce caring for our earth as without this we cannot care for ourselves and others. It is a beginning, and we hope it extends beyond the Peace Circle to these young people's homes and classrooms. Peacemaking is journey.

Please consider making a donation to Little Friends for Peace at [www.lffp.org](http://www.lffp.org) and to Sarah Pirtle, Director of The Discovery Center for Peacebuilding at [www.sarahpirtle.com](http://www.sarahpirtle.com) and to Yes We Can Peacebuilders by clicking on the donation button at [www.yeswecanpeacebuilders.org](http://www.yeswecanpeacebuilders.org)



## Peace Action Days

Morro Bay, California will celebrate its sixth International Peace Day and Peace Week actions from September 17 through September 24<sup>th</sup>. The entire month of September is Peace Month in Morro Bay where we give an extra effort to extend the hand of peace to everyone.

On Thursday, September 22, 2022, Peacebuilders and members of the community and city officials as well as members of the congregation of the Estero Bay United Methodist Church will gather outside that building around the Peace Pole to offer a reading from the book by Jane Goodall, "A Prayer for World Peace."

Goodall wrote a universal message of hope and serenity for all of Earth's inhabitants in this beautiful book illustrated by artist Feeroozeh Golmohamadi from Iran. 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.

Anyone in Morro Bay is welcome to join the group at 12 Noon at 3000 Hemlock Avenue, Morro Bay, CA.

On International Peace Day, September 21, 2022, Peacebuilders will join with the youth at the Paso Robles Youth Arts Center for an art presentation performed by the youth emphasizing harmony with all creatures of this world.

The Paso Robles Youth Art Center is located at 3201 Spring Street, Paso Robles, CA. and the event will take place at 3 PM.

## Peace Tea Group



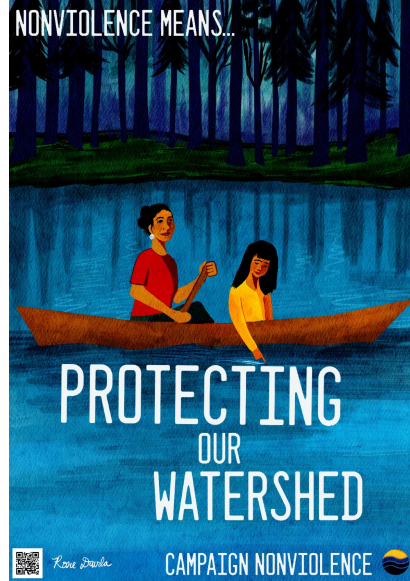
Yes We Can Peacebuilders offers Peace Tea and Talk Around the Table every month on the fourth Thursday at 2 PM at the Estero Bay Methodist Church hall, 3000 Hemlock Avenue, Morro Bay, CA.

Once a month this group gathers to discuss peace and nonviolence and how we see our world today. Our next adventure takes us through how we might handle conflict in a world of conflict. First, we will review our understanding of the three types of violence, Direct, Cultural, and Structural and then we will explore how we respond to them. Maybe we respond to violence with violence or perhaps we just try to avoid it. Much of the time we tolerate it.

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)

## New Climate Justice Affinity Group Forming



Are you worried about the earth? Do you live in an area affected by wildfires, floods, droughts, tornados? Do you believe we have a climate problem? If you answered yes, then you might want to join the newly forming Climate Justice Affinity Group.

Recently a group of followers of nonviolence principles met with trainers Rivera Sun and Ken Butigan from Pace e Bene Nonviolence Service on a zoom call discussing how we might form a variety of affinity groups with people from across the country and across nations to discuss how to organize to handle the issues affecting our world today. One of the interests expressed at this meeting was climate change and more specifically, climate justice.

Karen Weber, of Santa Fe, New Mexico stepped up to the plate to be coordinator of the group and has scheduled the first zoom meeting to take place on August 27<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM Pacific Time, 11 AM Mountain Time, 12 PM Central Time, and 1 PM Eastern Time. There are some people from the international community who will be joining the group that day.

The agenda is as follows:

1. Opening and ground rules
2. Introductions - where we live, what actions or issues we are involved with/interested in
3. Presentation - what is Ecological Civilization?
4. Discussion - what is Climate and Environmental Justice?
5. Discussion - what do we want from the group? how do we move forward?
6. Discussion - how often do we want to meet?
7. Going forward

This should be an interesting meeting where we search out the climate problems occurring in each of our specific locations and can offer what work is being done to help solve the worldwide effects of global warming.

To obtain the link contact Karen Weber at: [karen.weber7@gmail.com](mailto:karen.weber7@gmail.com)  
Or text or phone her at 845-866-4089.



## 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 Present Podcast America's Gun Problem-What Makes Us Different**

There are too many guns in the United States of America! Four hundred million firearms are owned by civilians in America—400 million—more guns than the US population. Nationally, there are more than 45,000 deaths caused by guns every year; that's nearly 125 Americans per day killed by firearms. As of this year, guns are now the leading cause of death for Americans ages 1-19.

As horrifying as these statistics are, they are only a small part of the story. The real stories are told by the victims, their families, friends, teachers and all who loved them. The loss, trauma, pain, fear, and anger just keep multiplying. Legislation that would actually make a difference in gun violence and gun deaths seems elusive.

In 2022 alone, there have already been nearly 300 mass shootings—at parties, protests, rallies, in the streets, in homes, motels, malls, stores and in school rooms—even at a 4th of July parade—almost no place feels safe anymore.

People of Faith's guest on this podcast, Michelle Garner of Moms Demand Action, shared her story and her commitment to changing the forces of gun violence in the United States. Garner told how the Assault Weapons Ban of 1994 has expired making the purchase of them easier once again. California does have a ban on the purchase of assault weapons but somehow, they are still purchased. She also said that the biggest reason young people get access to guns is because of their families not securing them. Many schools, PTAs, and districts are working on information to the public as to how to safely store guns. She said that guns are the leading cause of death for children. Moms Demand Action calls for more funding for schools for counselors and training by schools to educate kids on social media so they would know when they see a red flag with an individual. San Luis Obispo schools has a way for students to report a suspicious person anonymously. She called for advanced peace and anti-violence programs working with CALVIP (California Violence Intervention and Prevention Grant Program) to obtain funding for such programs. Calls and emails to state legislature are now needed in this effort. Anyone can text to Ready64433 for help from Moms Demand Action across the country.

You can obtain more information [at Moms Demand Action](#) and to find a local chapter.

**[pfjpodcast.lybsyn.com](https://pfjpodcast.lybsyn.com)**

To listen to the podcast go to: <https://pfjpodcast.libsyn.com/americas-gun-problem-what-makes-us-different-020>



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.

ESSENTIAL LINKS - New Thought Musicians Showcase™

NT Artist Material Used with permission: EmPower Music License #NTMS11003-22  
SHOW ARCHIVE

New Thought Musicians Showcase™ - Host Jane Thornton

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDFGOPgg_Qc&list=PLyPQgFnwl6KdCBNwdcDyU9GNF2N7xmHm0)**

**[v=pDFGOPgg\\_Qc&list=PLyPQgFnwl6KdCBNwdcDyU9GNF2N7xmHm0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDFGOPgg_Qc&list=PLyPQgFnwl6KdCBNwdcDyU9GNF2N7xmHm0)**

ALL PLAYLISTS

All NT Artist Fan/Tribute Pages:

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

POPULAR VIDEOS

**[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXxT-ABkS0GufUFLfpp4YXw/videos?](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXxT-ABkS0GufUFLfpp4YXw/videos?view=0&sort=p&flow=grid)**  
**[view=0&sort=p&flow=grid](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCXxT-ABkS0GufUFLfpp4YXw/videos?view=0&sort=p&flow=grid)**

**[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDFGOPgg\\_Qc&authuser=0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pDFGOPgg_Qc&authuser=0)**

The above videos are free to watch!

## **Bend The Arc**

Join with Bend The Arc Jewish Justice organization for their Standing Open Meeting on the second Wednesday of the month at 4:00 P.M. and learn how to organize! To receive the Zoom link email Rebecca Green at [rgreen@bendthearc.us](mailto:rgreen@bendthearc.us) .

The local chapter of Bend The Arc helped bring the city of San Luis Obispo into compliance with California Assembly Bill 392 that states police may use deadly force only when necessary to defend themselves and they must use de-escalation techniques and crisis intervention tactics before considering more stringent actions. Bend The Arc reminds us that the police respond to crime, they don't prevent crime.

They also remind us that hope is a discipline to practice! Good advice!

Bend The Arc is the only national Jewish organization focused exclusively on social change. The local chapter has been working for this change in San Luis Obispo County since 2016. You can learn more about them at <https://slo.bendthearc.us/>

## **On The Air Podcast by Yes We Can Peacebuilders**

On the Air with Sarah Kamp

On the Air Podcast spoke with Sarah Kamp, a recent California Polytechnic University graduate with a degree in Science and Public Health and going on to a master's accelerated program there in Leadership Education. She spoke on how students feel today about the violence occurring in the country as well as the issues of climate change, racism, gun violence, poverty and homelessness, war, nuclear buildup, politics, LGBTQ, lack of affordable housing, lack of jobs that pay well

enough to afford the cost of living, and how she feels about deciding whether to ever bring a child into this world as it stands now. This is a thought-provoking talk that every adult should listen to. Do young people feel they have been let down by their country? Listen and find out!

<https://soundcloud.com/ruth-ann-angus/on-the-air-with-sarah-kamp>



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

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).**



Yes We Can Peacebuilders | 703 Anchor St., Morro Bay, CA 93442

[Unsubscribe yeswecanpeacebuilders1@gmail.com](mailto:yeswecanpeacebuilders1@gmail.com)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by yeswecanpeacebuilders1@gmail.com in collaboration  
with



Try email marketing for free today!