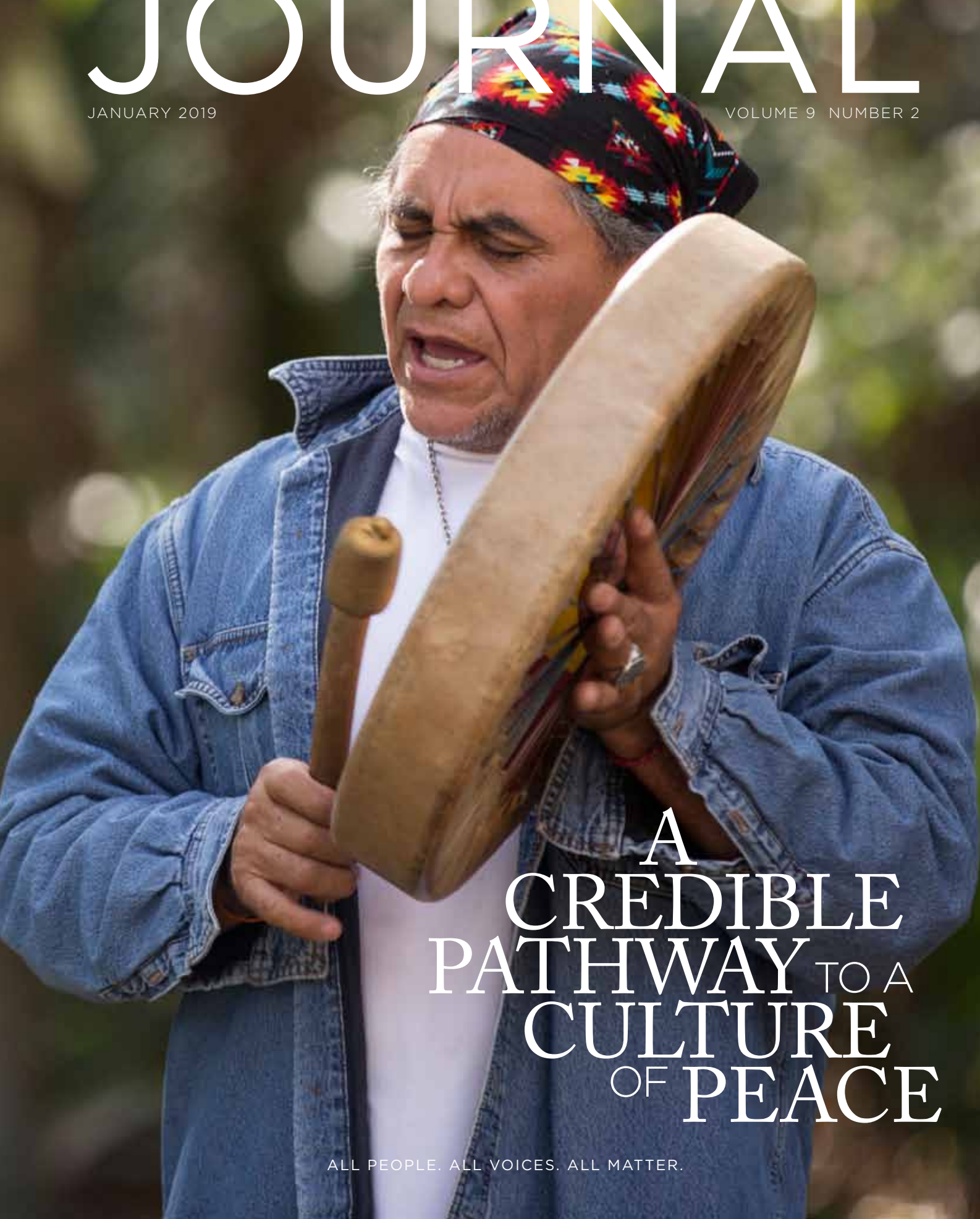


PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

JOURNAL

JANUARY 2019

VOLUME 9 NUMBER 2



A CREDIBLE PATHWAY TO A CULTURE OF PEACE

ALL PEOPLE. ALL VOICES. ALL MATTER.



PJI's Pathway to the Culture of Peace

For all people engaged in the expression of PJI's mission, there is a shared commitment to nurture understanding of and act for our common humanity.

PJI Director Rachel Allen's invitation from the President of the General Assembly of the United Nations to participate as a panelist in a High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace held at the United Nations Headquarters on September 5, 2018 was international recognition of PJI's universal significance as a roadmap for building the Culture of Peace at Valencia, in the community and beyond.

This issue of the Peace and Justice Institute JOURNAL is a reflection of the six steps to that pathway.

Through the medicine wheel drum, which is a symbol of healing and the resilience of nature and life cycles, Iron Eagle teaches of the daily need to "look within and around yourself."

Valencia Associate Professor Linda Goddard in her essay on hospitality says it is essential to embrace this first of the "Principles for How We Treat Each Other" to fully relate to the remaining twelve and develop "communities of peace."

As an Olympic athlete, dual campus President and PJI champion, Dr. Stacey Johnson explains how athlete activism and higher education are "mutually supportive systems" that impact global equity.

Co-founder of the Peace and Conflict Studies at UC Berkley and founder of the Metta Centre for Nonviolence, Michael Nagler counsels that the future of humanity is inextricably linked to nonviolence.

Ambassador Anwarul Chowdhury, the Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations from 1996-2001, who served as President of the UN Security Council writes about the "Declaration and Programme of Action on the Culture of Peace."

The final step is a collective appeal to "commit to the process, cast a vision for the future and live into it."

For the well-being of our global community, PJI's model is a way forward for everyone everywhere to play a role to assure that humans flourish equitably and the culture of peace is realized.

Patricia Ambinder
Peace and Justice Institute Advisory Council Chair

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Special thanks to our contributing writers.

Cover: Iron Eagle Joe, of the Chiricahua-Apache Nation leads the PJI Healing Retreat.

VALENCIA COLLEGE

Principles for How We Treat Each Other Our Practice of Respect and Community Building

1. **Create a hospitable and accountable community.** We all arrive in isolation and need the generosity of friendly welcomes. Bring all of yourself to the work in this community. Welcome others to this place and this work, and presume that you are welcomed as well. Hospitality is the essence of restoring community.
2. **Listen deeply.** Listen intently to what is said; listen to the feelings beneath the words. Strive to achieve a balance between listening and reflecting, speaking and acting.
3. **Create an advice free zone.** Replace advice with curiosity as we work together for peace and justice. Each of us is here to discover our own truths. We are not here to set someone else straight, to "fix" what we perceive as broken in another member of the group.
4. **Practice asking honest and open questions.** A great question is ambiguous, personal and provokes anxiety.
5. **Give space for unpopular answers.** Answer questions honestly even if the answer seems unpopular. Be present to listen not debate, correct or interpret.
6. **Respect silence.** Silence is a rare gift in our busy world. After someone has spoken, take time to reflect without immediately filling the space with words. This applies to the speaker, as well – be comfortable leaving your words to resound in the silence, without refining or elaborating on what you have said.
7. **Suspend judgment.** Set aside your judgments. By creating a space between judgments and reactions, we can listen to the other, and to ourselves, more fully.
8. **Identify assumptions.** Our assumptions are usually invisible to us, yet they undergird our worldview. By identifying our assumptions, we can then set them aside and open our viewpoints to greater possibilities.
9. **Speak your truth.** You are invited to say what is in your heart, trusting that your voice will be heard and your contribution respected. Own your truth by remembering to speak only for yourself. Using the first person "I" rather than "you" or "everyone" clearly communicates the personal nature of your expression.
10. **When things get difficult, turn to wonder.** If you find yourself disagreeing with another, becoming judgmental, or shutting down in defense, try turning to wonder: "I wonder what brought her to this place?" "I wonder what my reaction teaches me?" "I wonder what he's feeling right now?"
11. **Practice slowing down.** Simply the speed of modern life can cause violent damage to the soul. By intentionally practicing slowing down we strengthen our ability to extend nonviolence to others—and to ourselves.
12. **All voices have value.** Hold these moments when a person speaks as precious because these are the moments when a person is willing to stand for something, trust the group and offer something they see as valuable.
13. **Maintain confidentiality.** Create a safe space by respecting the confidential nature and content of discussions held in the group. Allow what is said in the group to remain there.

Prepared by the Peace and Justice Institute with considerable help from the works of Peter Block, Parker Palmer, the Dialogue Group and the Center for Renewal and Wholeness in Higher Education

VALENCIA COLLEGE

PEACE AND
JUSTICE INSTITUTE

All People. All Voices. All Matter.

valenciacollege.edu/pji



The Institute is guided by its mission:
All People. All Voices. All Matter.
Making a difference by intentionally engaging in practices and principles that explore, advocate, and honor the dignity of self, others, and the earth.

PEACE AND JUSTICE STUDIES

The Peace and Justice Institute offers a variety of interdisciplinary courses centered around perspectives of peace, community building, multicultural interconnectivity, conflict transformation, and service learning. To read the full list of peace and justice courses, visit: <http://valenciacollege.edu/PJI/students/curriculum.cfm>

PEACE AND JUSTICE DISTINCTION

The Distinction offers students an opportunity for a co-curricular focus in peace and justice to advance their personal and professional development. Through the Distinction program, the student will gain awareness, garner interest, and seek additional learning opportunities in Peace and Justice.

PEACE AND JUSTICE AMBASSADORS

This service learning course provides students the opportunity to become an agent on change through service, peace, and social justice. Ambassadors complete 60 hours of service (3 credit hours of SLS 2940) through the Peace and Justice Institute.

SOWING PEACE, GROWING PEACE, THROUGH SERVICE

The Sowing Peace program provides students the opportunity to explore peace and justice experientially. The group meets weekly to explore nonviolent wisdom, peace practices and community challenges. Over the course of the semester, the group attends eye-opening field trips with local justice leaders, exposing them to social inequities often ignored or overlooked. This transformative experience is meant to be a spark toward compassion for the other, action and change. Successful completion of the program earns a \$300 stipend.

LEADERSHIP FELLOWS

The Peace and Justice Leadership Fellow position offers students the opportunity to become more highly engaged with the work of the Institute by aiding in the development of programming, providing administrative support, and establishing the Culture of Peace.

Fellows should be committed to the values and the teachings of the Peace and Justice Institute and have strong communication, intercultural, computer and organizational skills.

**For more information, please contact the
Peace and Justice Institute at
PEACEANDJUSTICE@VALENCIACOLLEGE.EDU**

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GLOBAL PEACE WEEK

This past fall, nearly 4000 students, faculty, staff, and community members experienced the annual Global Peace Week. The week was full of peace-related workshops, labyrinth walks, documentaries and featured guest Daryl Davis, an American R&B and blues musician, author, actor and bandleader who for the past 30 years, has spent time befriending members of the Ku Klux Klan. The Florida Humanities Council generously funded Davis' visit.



The Culture of Peace

For a Safer, Saner and Sustainable World

By Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury



Ambassador Chowdhury

At the United Nations High Level Forum on The Culture of Peace which is convened annually by the President of the UN General Assembly since 2012 and was held this year on 5 September, I was the Chair and Moderator of the panel discussion at that Forum on the theme; “The Culture of Peace: A Credible Pathway to Sustaining Peace”. As one of the panelists invited by name by President Miroslav Lajcak, Director of the Peace and Justice Institute (PJI) of Orlando’s prestigious Valencia College, Rachel Allen began her presentation by saying “In 2013 Ambassador Chowdhury came to Valencia College as a guest scholar. He met with students, faculty and staff and introduced us to the 1999 Resolution 52/243 on Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. It was at that time I realized the possibility of aligning our growing program called the “Peace and Justice Initiative,” with the UN mandate.

Ambassador Chowdhury helped us frame our local work in a global context.” These words underline very succinctly the value, relevance, objective and purpose of UN action taken nearly two decades ago recognizing the significance of the work for the culture of peace at local levels – how to connect global to local and vice versa.

The delegates, civil society representatives, secretariat officials all connected with United Nations listened with rapt attention as Rachel continued with energizing emotions to say that “I come here not alone, but with the thousands of people in Central Florida ... who are committed to the work of building a more respectful, compassionate and nonviolent community, that honors the identity and dignity of all people. There are countless people, at all levels and through all means, advancing the Culture of Peace in our region. Our work did not begin at this scale but has grown to capacity through a slow and steady commitment.” By her words, she created a very special inspiring atmosphere as listeners were encouraged to learn about a clearly-seen value of UN’s global work bringing benefits to the community levels.

One of my speeches which I gave at Valencia College on 5 November in 2013 had the title “*The Culture of Peace: Agenda for New Global Civilization*”. In that I had asserted that “interdependency of today’s world, if not addressed with sanity, can turn into a social, economic, nuclear or environmental catastrophe. The magnitude of these problems requires all human beings to work together in finding realistic, rational, reasonable and responsible solutions,” adding that “The values of non-violence, tolerance and democracy which augment the flourishing of the culture of peace will generate the mindset that is a prerequisite for the transition from force to reason, from conflict and violence to dialogue and peace.” I am proud to say the people in Central Florida responded very positively with those thoughts.

As my work took me to the farthest corners of the world, I have seen firsthand similar interest in communities for building sustainable peace. What I have seen has outraged me but also has given me hope and encouragement that there are forces which are determined to turn our planet into a livable place for all. Those are working hard to turn all the negative energies into positive ones so that every individual can realize her or his highest potential and live a secure and fulfilling life.

I have seen time and again how people – even the humblest and the weakest – have contributed to building the culture of

peace in their personal lives, in their families, in their communities and in their countries. And that ultimately is contributing to the global movement for the culture of peace. I am always inspired by the human spirit and its resilience and capacity to overcome all adversity.

As I say time and again, "Peace does not mean just to stop wars, but also to stop oppression, injustice and neglect." The United Nations' focus on promoting "international peace" – peace among nations – was being taken as the absence of war between states. To see peace as the opposite of war is fallacious. Absence of war or absence of active violence is not peace. It may bring cessation of hostilities, but it is obviously not peace in its totality - for sure it is not sustainable peace.

The preamble of the UNESCO Constitution expressed this brilliantly when it declared that "a peace based exclusively upon the political and economic arrangements of governments would not be a peace which could secure the unanimous, lasting and sincere support of the peoples of the world, and that the peace must therefore be founded, if it is not to fail, upon the intellectual and moral solidarity of mankind." A positive peace, a sustainable peace is needed that does not allow for the outbreak of war, that abolishes war forever as an available option for humanity. Paraphrasing a statement by the great anthropologist Margaret Mead, one can say "the same species that invented war is capable of inventing peace."

We should not isolate peace as something separate or distant. We should know how to relate to one another without being aggressive, without being violent, without being disrespectful, without neglect, without prejudice. It is important to realize that the absence of peace takes away the opportunities that we need to better ourselves, to prepare ourselves, to empower ourselves to face the challenges of our lives, individually and collectively. It is also a positive, dynamic participatory process wherein "dialogue is encouraged and conflicts are solved in a spirit of mutual understanding and cooperation."

Each and every individual is important to the transformation required to secure the culture of peace in our world. Each person must be convinced that nonviolent, cooperative action is possible. If a person succeeds in resolving a conflict in a nonviolent manner at any point in time, then this individual has made a big contribution to the world, for this singular act has succeeded in transferring the spirit of nonviolence and cooperation to another individual. When repeated, such a spirit will grow exponentially, a practice that will become easier each time the choice is made to resolve a conflict nonviolently. It is a good that belongs to you—one that you are able to transfer to and share with others.

On 16 December 1998, at a Security Council meeting on the maintenance of peace and security and post-conflict peace-building, I implored that, "International peace and security can be best strengthened, not by actions of States alone, but by men and women through the inculcation of the Culture of Peace and non-violence in every human being and every sphere of

activity... The objective of the culture of peace is the empowerment of people. It contributes effectively to the overcoming of authoritarian structures and also exploitation, through democratic participation. It works against poverty and inequality and promotes development. It celebrates diversity, advances understanding and tolerance and reduces inequality between women and men."

In 1999, the United Nations adopted the Declaration and Programme of Action on the Culture of Peace, a monumental document that transcends boundaries, cultures, societies and nations. It was an honor for me to Chair the nine-month long negotiations that led to the adoption of this historic norm-setting document that is considered as one of the most significant legacies of the United Nations that would endure generations.



Rachel Allen and Ambassador Anwarul K. Chowdhury at the UN Headquarters in New York.

Through this landmark adoption, the General Assembly laid down humanity's charter for the new approaching millennium. A significant aspect of the Declaration is articulated in its second article which says that the "culture of peace is a process of individual, collective and institutional transformation ... " 'Transformation' is of the most essential relevance here.

The Programme of Action identifies eight specific areas which encourage actions at all levels – the individual, the family, the community, the nation, the region - and, of course, the global level. Though the Declaration and Programme of Action is an agreement among nations, governments, civil society, media and individuals are all identified in this document as key actors.

How do we build the culture of peace? To turn the culture

(continued on page 30)

The United Nations Welcomes PJI

The following statement was delivered at the United Nations High-Level Forum on the Culture of Peace September 5, 2018. The Panel discussion was titled "The Culture of Peace: A Credible Pathway to Sustainability."

Thank you to Mr. Miroslav Lajcak for the invitation today, and to the Member States for the inspiring commitment to building the Culture of Peace and Nonviolence.

In 2013 Ambassador Chowdhury came to Valencia College in Orlando, Florida as a guest scholar and introduced us to the Declaration and Programme of Action on a Culture of Peace. At that time, I realized the possibility of aligning our growing program called the "Peace and Justice Initiative," with this UN mandate. Ambassador Chowdhury helped us frame our local work in a global context. I honor his lifetime commitment to building peace and creating equity for women globally. Thank you Ambassador Chowdhury.

I come here not alone, but with the thousands of people in Central Florida, the home of Walt Disney World and the site of the recent Pulse tragedy, committed to building a more respectful, compassionate and nonviolent community, that honors the identity and dignity of all people.

I am here to offer emerging trends and recommendations for how to further the Culture of Peace, based on our experience at Valencia College, an institution with 70,000 students.

Our work began with a small group of faculty and staff asking the question, what would peace look like on campus? Justice? We represented diverse religions, genders, sexual orientation, age, ability, economic and employment status. The work took root in an academic institution which grounded us in scholarship and enabled teaching and learning in a receptive setting.

We honored the inner work necessary to do true peacebuilding through our Principles for How We Treat Each Other, practices of respect and community building, which invite us to slow down, listen deeply, check assumptions, and turn to wonder versus anger, among other practices. They help the individual develop a reflective practice, exploring the "who am I" of peace work, raising emotional intelligence and mindfulness, and developing conflict navigation skills that invite us to see conflict as an opportunity for growth and transformation.

The Principles also support the relational work of building peace among us, be it among family, colleagues, organizations, or nation states. The Principles became the foundation of our

Dr. Rogoberta Menchu 'Tum delivering the keynote address at the UN General Assembly.

culture, and an opportunity at the college to create a common language and common practices.

Developing the faculty and staff was critical early work, recognizing we needed the tools to model and teach peace and nonviolence. As we built capacity on campus, a community of practitioners emerged, providing mutual support for the work.

Once we built capacity at the college, we turned our vision to the community. The Valencia College Peace and Justice Institute, known as “PJI,” regards every citizen as a rising peace and justice practitioner. Through a peace studies curriculum, interfaith and community dialogue, film forums, panels, the arts, and the Principles for How We Treat Each Other, PJI aims to build the Culture of Peace throughout Central Florida.

In 2015 PJI was awarded a contract with the local government in the City of Orlando to train all 3000 city employees. This included all city police officers and firefighters. As the United States struggled with police relations in communities of color, PJI partnered with local government to create dialogue between citizens and police aimed at strengthening relations and addressing concerns among them.

Additionally, PJI has worked with civil society in business, media, non-profit, sustainability, healthcare, criminal justice, judiciary, law and interfaith groups to advance the Culture of Peace and develop common language and common practices among us. Over 25,000 residents are introduced to the Principles for How We Treat Each Other annually. And notably, this summer marked the inaugural year of the PJI Academy for Teachers, where educators, from early learning through post-secondary are introduced to pedagogical tools and theoretical frameworks that create classrooms fostering inclusion, safe spaces for dialogue, and positive conflict transformation.

PJI helps address the most challenging aspects of our culture, including our racialized past of Florida. We convene community dialogue and create space to address historical harms to mend the fabric of our humanity.

Our vision for the future remains strong. Understanding that all humans would benefit from peace, we model a way of being in community, with support at the college at all levels, from the President to the staff, students and faculty, that attracts others to the work and leads them to say, “I want to be a part of that movement.”

Partnership has been critical to our success, recognizing that leaders and organizations throughout our community align in

vision and provide mutual support and uplift.

Therefore, as a teacher, advocate, and member of civil society, I make the following recommendations to create a credible pathway to the Culture of Peace:

Honor the inner work of peacebuilding; it is a daily practice.

Adopt a shared set of principles and practices through which to build a community of practitioners

Utilize an educational institution to advance the work, taking time to develop the teachers and staff in peacebuilding and nonviolence.

Develop a peace studies curriculum for students to build capacity.

Turn the vision to the community and provide training to advance the Culture of Peace among civil society.

Commit to the process, cast a vision for the future, and live into it.

Thank you for providing this global platform to share a credible pathway for sustaining peace among us.

Rachel C. Allen
Director, Peace and Justice Institute
Valencia College
Orlando, Florida, U.S.A.



Dr. Eileen J. Ain, Bickley Wilson, Dr. Stacey Johnson, Rachel Allen and Reverend Roxanne Graves at the General Assembly Hall of the U.N.

FALL 2018 IN REVIEW

JULY

July 23-27

PJI Academy for Teachers

Winter Park Campus



Generously funded by the Central Florida Foundation the Academy supports teachers in identifying methods to foster inclusion and create safe spaces for learning.

September 21

UN International Day of Peace kicks off Global Peace Week

Multi-Campus



Global Peace Week featured workshops on multiple Valencia campuses intended to build peace practices and raise consciousness on campus and within the community.

October 17

Princeton Elementary School celebrated first Global Peace Week

Orlando, FL



SEPTEMBER

September 21

Iraqi Delegation

Winter Park Campus



Through the State Department's Visiting Leaders Program, the World Affairs Council of Central Florida asked PJI to present our work to a distinguished group of educators from Baghdad, Iraq who are sent by the Prime Minister to develop Iraq's education policy.

OCTOBER

October 5

Valencia Night at Islamic Society of Central Florida

Orlando, FL



As part of PJI's interfaith program, the Islamic Society of Central Florida welcomes the community for a tour of the mosque, a Middle Eastern meal, and a presentation about the fundamentals of Islam.

PJI Academy for Teachers Alumni hosted their first Global Peace Week. They invited residents from Winter Park Gardens, a 55+ community for a breakfast, musical performance, and arts and crafts.

October 21
**Valencia Day at the
Freethought Community**
Winter Park, FL



As a part PJI's interfaith and world-view program, the Central Florida Freethought Community welcomed the public for a Q&A forum about all things related to Freethought.

NOVEMBER

November 8
**Sowing Peace, Growing Peace,
Through Service Cohort Visited
Parramore**
Parramore, FL



Students in this cohort shared a meal at a local restaurant in Parramore and learned about the impact of environmental racism on this community.

November 14
**Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith
Gathering**
East Campus



Twice a year PJI welcomes faith and philosophy leaders from the community to increase interfaith understanding.

November 15
**Healing Circle in Remembrance
of Tree of Life Synagogue
Victims**
East Campus



In remembrance of Tree of Life Synagogue victims, this healing circle created a safe and accepting environment for members to explore the capacity to heal and search for meaning with an open heart.

November 17
Healing Retreat with Iron Eagle
Ocala, FL



This annual fall retreat invited participants to connect with nature and one another through yoga, meditation practices, healing music and teachings based on Apache wisdom.

November 19
**Family Friction: Keeping
Conversations Civil During the
Holidays**
Lake Nona Campus



Students and community members attended this workshop to learn how to have respectful and compassionate conversations during times of conflict.



Dr. Stacey R. Johnson

Athlete Activism

The Choice to Speak Out

By **Dr. Stacey R. Johnson**

East and Winter Park Campus President, Valencia College

Athlete activism is an important avenue to help create more just societies. As a National Champion and Olympian, I have experienced firsthand the imbalance of power and equity for women, people of color and those experiencing economic hardship. By finding their voice and taking action, athletes worldwide can make a difference toward global equity and peace.

I will start by providing my background to explain key life experiences that grounded my own self-identity. I was a moderately successful athlete in college, winning four-national team championships and two individual championships while at San Jose State University (SJSU) from 1975-1980. My athletic experiences at SJSU came out of an institution that had a rich history and tradition of athlete activism. SJSU is the institution fielding John Carlos and Tommie Smith, the famed Black track sprinters who raised their gloved fists on the podium in the Black Power salute in the 1968 Mexico City Olympics. SJSU also helped me directly by being one of the very first universities in the country to adopt and offer Title IX women's athletic scholarships in 1976. These federally mandated scholarships made higher education possible for me and countless women throughout the country.

Later I qualified and traveled on many USA world teams and ultimately secured a berth on the 1980 U.S. Olympic Fencing Team. These were the infamous 1980 Olympic Games held in Moscow, Russia. The United States boycotted these Games for political reasons by then U.S. President Jimmy Carter. Many athletes considered the boycott a breach of trust with the Olympians and the ideals of Olympism, where athletes and nations seek to peacefully come together to compete. The boycott was the beginning of my own personal journey as an athlete activist. I participated in protests against the boycott, speaking around the country against the action President Carter, our government, and the Board of Trustees of the U.S. Olympic Committee had taken.

In my early days as a competitor, I became activated by the injustices I personally experienced in sport in the U.S., and then

began to witness elsewhere in the world. I saw injustices against women, people of color, the poor, and those who were denied access to compete.

In 1970's there was an international campaign to boycott South African sports until apartheid was vanquished. As a USA National Championship team member, I received an invitation to compete in South Africa at a world cup there where they offered to pay all expenses for U.S. team members. There was one caveat – no Black American team members could participate. We had two Black athletes at the time – the great Peter Westbrook and Dr. Nikki Franks on our team. U.S. team members came together and agreed not only were we not going to compete in South Africa, but we would never go there again until apartheid was abolished.

It has been and is my focus to pry open the doors, not only for women but for people of color as well. The first African American president for fencing is Donald Anthony who currently is the president of USA Fencing. I first encouraged and enlisted Anthony to serve on my executive committee as Secretary when I was president from 2000—2004, bringing the first person of color to be an officer in the organization. This is how it works, year by year, person by person, one hand reaching out to open the opportunity door for the next person and the next.

One goal of my Olympic work has been to ensure equity in women's ability to compete in the same disciplines as men. In 2004, while serving as USA Fencing's President, the opportunity for women to fence in the third and last discipline not accessible to women fencers in the Olympics, the saber, was achieved. That year in Athens, Greece, after a long political battle for equity, U.S. athlete Mariel Zagunis won the first gold medal in more than 100 years, and another American woman, Sada Jacobsen, took the bronze medal.

Today, as President of the International Fencing Federation's (FIE) Council on Women and Fencing I work to improve conditions for women in sport in all aspects from competing, to



refereeing, coaching and helping create pathways into governance. This year I will travel to Paris, France, for an International Fencing Federation (FIE) Congress meeting to speak to 153 country delegates concerning a proposal to change rules of the FIE from the current female representation of 20% to 30% representation on all Councils and Commission. This proposal was introduced four years ago but was defeated, even though 43% of all competitors worldwide are women. The men in power, led by Russian Oligarch, President Alisher Usmanov, one of the world's richest men, have not wanted to relinquish their positions and influence.

This is not a new phenomenon. Only four of the 70 international sports bodies have achieved a critical mass of women directors. Critical mass is a minimum of three women, or 30% representation, on the boards or commissions of 10. The federations that currently meet or exceed 30% include only triathlon, hockey, rowing and gymnastics (Adriaanse 2016). An even more staggering statistic in international sport governance is that men hold 93% of chair or president roles, and 81% of the chief executive positions, even though nearly all sports in the Olympics have seen the seismic growth of equal participation of female athletes on the playing field. I believe sport is a basic human right for all people in the world and the kind of "throat hold" on governance positions exercised by men currently is not serving the interests of nearly half of the sports participants in the world.

In the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals for 2030, sport is highlighted as a powerful ingredient for prosperity, peace, partnership and ultimately a sustainable planet (UN 2016). The agenda explicitly recognizes sport as an important enabler of women's empowerment. The UN previously collaborated with the International Olympic Committee (IOC) to empower thousands of girls, teaching them health, protection against violence, leadership and education.

It is important to note that the sport industry and national governments worldwide are inextricably intertwined both politically and financially. Dr. Harry Edwards, the lead organizer behind the Olympic Project for Human Rights, who helped to organize Black athletes in the 1968 Olympic Games, is today an internationally known pioneer and scholar of the sociology of sports. Edwards, who currently consults with top athletes across the country, including Colin Kaepernick and professional sports teams such as the 49ers and the Golden State Warriors, asserts that sports is a recapitulation of the power relationships in society. He suggests you cannot have a non-racist, non-sexist sports-industrial complex within the context of a racist, sexist society (O'Neal, 2018).

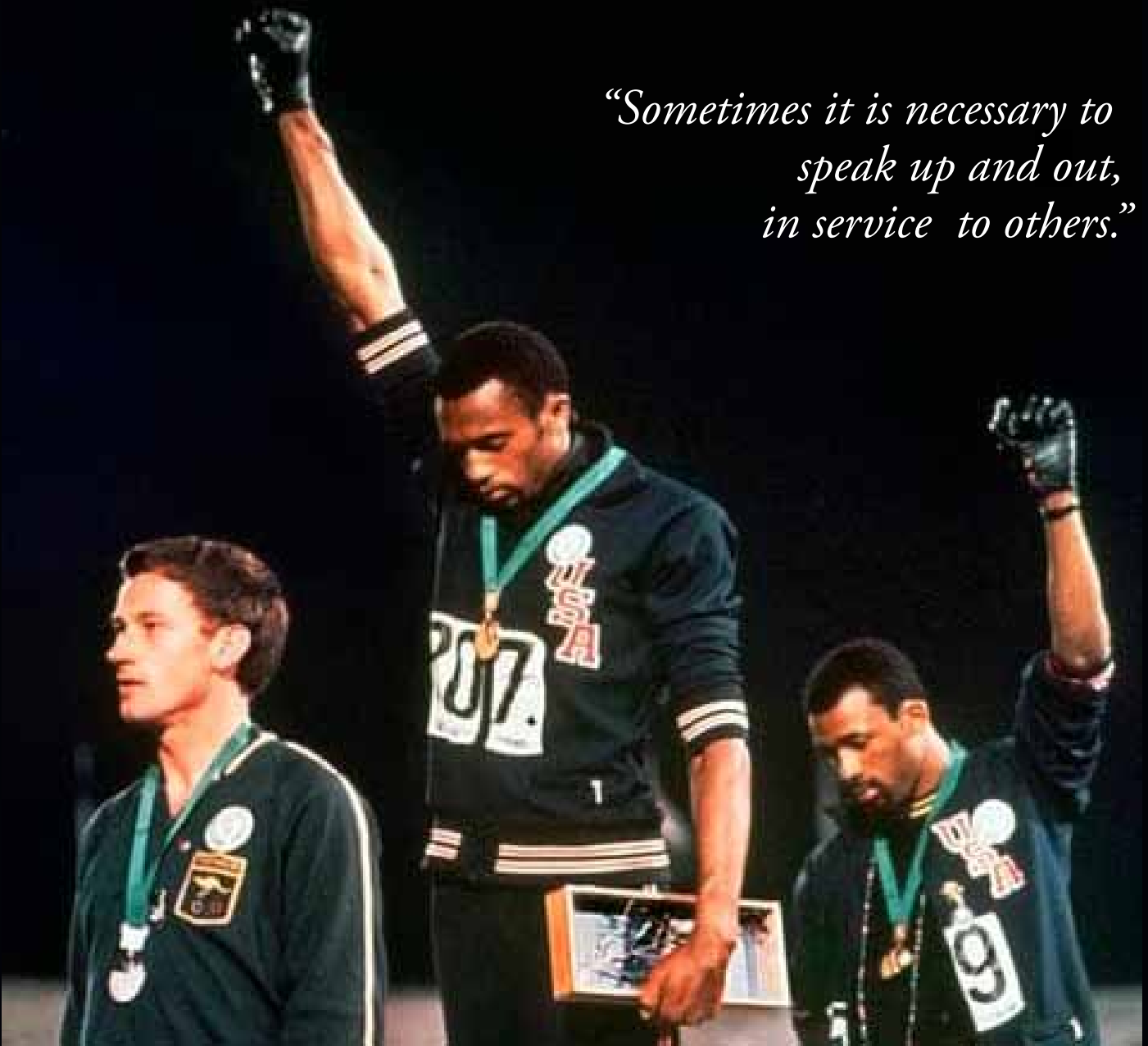
Athletes have used their status and personal power, often developed and harnessed through the demands, challenges and rigors of sport, to step forward and protest issues ranging from racial injustice, equal pay, ineffective or unjust leadership, to violence and sexual assault. Athletes have been provoked to take stands against Presidents, as I felt compelled to do against Carter's decision in 1980 and as the National Football League athlete, Collin Kaepernick did when defending himself against the rage of Donald Trump from taking a knee during the national anthem to protest the oppression of Blacks in the U.S. Athlete activism is evident through a myriad of social media websites such as World Players Unite, the NBA Cares and the Equality League, to name just a few. With the power of social media, more athlete activism is on the horizon to address the deep legacies of institutional racism and sexism in the U.S. and the world.

This past spring, I accepted an invitation to join San Jose State University's newly created Institute for the Study of Sport, Society and Social Change. The Institute is dedicated to research, analysis and education at the intersection of sport and society. One of the Institute's monikers is, "From words to action." It was through my appointment at the Institute that I met Dr. Harry Edwards. It was a wonderful honor to join the Institute as a board member and personally, it was a "full circle" event coming back to my alma mater, with gratitude for my wonderful educational beginnings. SJSU also provided the incredible opportunity as a student athlete to watch the first SJSU woman president, Dr. Gail Fullerton, in action. I thought how marvelous she was and how supportive of the women athletes – she never missed an awards banquet. Seeing a woman in action as a president of a university, at that time a rarity, helped me believe it was possible to aspire to such a future calling later in my life.

Athlete activism or student activism must first come from knowing your deepest values and purpose as you move through life. Secondly, you must know and be willing to stay in the "long game" to make an impact. Athletes know this to be true intrinsically because of the kind of training and commitment it takes to aspire to audacious goals, such as making an Olympic Team and winning a medal.

Finally, whatever cause or goal one determines to support, one must ensure that the internal locus of control is in alignment with one's purpose. In my case, my purpose has been to serve and support others to achieve their goals, whether it is in higher education or in the Olympic Movement. In these arenas, one must be willing to speak truth to difficult issues that can help others participate more fully in this life and find success in the goals to which they aspire. If you do these

*“Sometimes it is necessary to
speak up and out,
in service to others.”*



things, you can move with confidence into the unknown and in pursuit of your goals.

For those of us who participate in the Valencia Peace and Justice Institute, we believe all people, all voices, all matter. Sometimes it is necessary to speak up and out, in service to others. Athlete activism today is pushing great societal change, such as the recent shake up at USA Gymnastics over sexual victimization of so many female athletes. The athletes' voices of pain and truth are moving changes in that organization, and at the same time creating greater societal change. Athlete activism, education and movements to create peace are indeed mutually supportive systems, helping drive new levels of awareness of injustices and needed change in societies in the world.

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Nonviolence and a Human Future

By **Michael N. Nagler**

Founder and President of the Metta Center for Nonviolence
and author of *The Search for a Nonviolent Future*



Michael N. Nagler

I am firmly convinced that the many and grievous problems we are experiencing have a common cause. That cause can be understood, and named – and therefore quite possibly cured.

The name (for me) is violence; and of course the antidote, or cure is the topic of much of this issue of the JOURNAL and the subject I've been working on for just about all my adult life: nonviolence.

What is nonviolence?

Since the Metta Center is creating a major documentary on this topic I've had the privilege of interviewing some of the most heartfelt and effective practitioners of this great, humanizing art. Let me draw on the wisdom of two of them to set our course. The film opens with a direct statement from Bernard "Doc" Lafayette, who played such a pivotal role in the work of Martin Luther King, Jr. and is today a major authority on strategies for nonviolent social change and is recognized as one of the leading exponents of nonviolent direct action in the world:

Nonviolence to me is a kind of power. And that power is in each person. Because every person has a heart. ... See, in nonviolence, not only do you replace your weapon with something more powerful, but you never run out of ammunition! So my point is when you step out of the shower, you're fully armed ... So that's the importance of the training: that people begin to discover something in themselves that's so powerful, that is transformative.

My next witness is Ali Abu Awwad, who made the journey from being a Palestinian in resistance, accepting armed struggle, to learning – in prison! – that there’s a much better way:

Well, nonviolence is . . . to be an artist of your humanity. To bring the best of you, not just to solve problems but also by living, by experiencing, by practicing the human being that you are. It’s not about giving up your right to resist; actually, it’s the opposite. . . .not to be controlled; to be a controller of your own destiny. Nonviolence is about helping the other side to see his own humanity. It’s not just when I say, “My weapon is my humanity,” but “my weapon is your humanity;” and I have to be able to bring you to that place, which can be a very hard job to do.

So, nonviolence means to have a taste for . . . life and to have a meaning of your existence. That’s nonviolence.

What we’re hearing from these two experts (and many others who will be speaking through our film) is that nonviolence is much, much more than a mere set of tactics, however impressive those may be. In Gandhi’s own words, it is “not the inanity it has been taken for down the ages. Nonviolence lies at the very heart of what it means to be a human being.

If that claim seems far-fetched or just incredible, that is why I’m writing this article – and the film, which we’re tentatively calling “The Journey Home: Nonviolence and Human Destiny.”

Today the “perennial philosophy” that runs through all the wisdom traditions of the world is becoming a bit more visible as a theme of “new age” consciousness; it is also dramatically supported by a new wave of science. It’s a rich story, but we can pull out five or so talking points that get across the essence of it, and we heartily recommend that all of us get familiar with this story, and the evidence for it, and use it wherever there’s an opening. That is how paradigms shift:

- The world is not a material object. We human beings are body, mind, and spirit on a living planet.
- We are deeply interconnected with one another and indeed all of life, so that:
 - We cannot become secure by threatening others, much less harming or dominating them;
 - Nor can we be fulfilled by exploiting the material resources of the earth, much less taking them from others.
 - We are not at all determined by our genes, hormones, or any outside influences but are capable of determining our own destiny; and finally,
 - A glorious future awaits us if we rise to that challenge.

As a friend of mine recently said, “People acting for the defense of life wake up to the grandeur of who they are.” They wake up to the nonviolence within them, which Gandhi expressly said is the greatest power we have been endowed with.



METTA CENTER
for NONVIOLENCE



VALENCIA NIGHT AT THE Jewish Congregation Ohev Shalom

Friday, February 15th, 2019 | 5:30 - 8:30 PM
613 Concourse Parkway South Maitland, FL 32751

As a part of Valencia College's PJI Interfaith Series, we invite you to learn more about Judaism and explore ways in which our community can learn from and strengthen connections with each other.

Please join PJI and Rabbi David Kay for a tour of the synagogue, free dinner and presentations on a variety of Jewish religious and cultural traditions at Congregation Ohev Shalom.

All are welcome to attend this free event.

To register, please go to: bit.ly/OhevShalom

Teachings from Mother Earth

By **Iron Eagle**, Apache Medicine Man, with Rachel Allen

Each fall we have a gathering which is an opportunity to be with nature, with Mother Earth, to feel the vibration and to ground ourselves. It is a time to develop friendship, to quiet our minds, and to feel Mother Earth.

The first and most important peace is the peace within ourselves. If we accomplish inner peace everyday, then we empower ourselves. Our attitude is going to speak without saying any words. It is the way we walk, the way we talk, the way we behave.

The opportunity to share our time and space with nature is a great opportunity for all to open to the teachings of Mother Earth. In every expression of life there is a teaching for us. And the best way to learn this teaching is to spend time with the forest, the mountain, the desert – to open ourselves and to feel the land and the lesson for us.

Everything in the universe is in order. Everything is a cycle. The cycle of spring has a teaching. The fall, the winter, the sum-

mer, each has a teaching. They remind us to be mindful – to be open to listen and learn from the land.

The drum is the heartbeat of the Mother Earth. If we connect ourselves to the heartbeat, it is the cycle of life. It is the medicine wheel. Every living thing has the right to be, and has the right to express without feeling threat. The medicine wheel teaches us about this cycle. There is a moment to speak from our hearts, and there is a moment for listening, which is a time to learn. There is a moment to step back and observe.

The power of the vibration of the medicine wheel is unconditional love and gratitude. Nobody can have the right and power to judge another because we are on the same Mother Earth. There is no space for judgment.

Our inner peace comes to be an everyday way of life. It starts with ourselves.



The First Principle: Building Communities of Peace

By **Linda Goddard**, Associate Professor of English Valencia College
Poet, Creative Nonfiction Writer, Peace Activist



Professor Goddard

Is the First Principle for How We Treat Each Other of Foundational Significance to Grasp All of the Principles as We Create Peace and Justice in Our Personal Lives, Our Communities, and in the United States of the Americas?

This question began to unravel itself, first, in reading the Thirteen Principles with my Valencia students over the last few years. As students and I read them, we were also discussing each one, but the students seemed to read them by rote. They seemed to see them as public relations strategies, separate from their personal and social lives. They didn't appear to understand the principles as the basis through which to develop communities of relationships that ground their lives in ways that can profoundly liberate them and learn to fully embrace who they are. I felt an

inner subtle nudging, a notion that the first principle, "Creating a Hospitable and Accountable Community," seems of pivotal significance to grasp all of the other principles as Valencia's Peace and Justice Institute continues to affirm "hospitality as the essence of restoring community."

A notion about the implications and magnitude of hospitality and accountability that the institute encourages came, first in Professor Hank Van Putten's Professional Development Course, "The Danger of the Single Story." Then, in Spring 2018, while in Professor Michele Lima's "Peace Practitioner's" Course for those of us who want to earn our Peace Practitioner's Certificate, I followed that notion and designed my Capstone Project with a key emphasis on the first principle as essential for practicing the other twelve.

This Fall 2018 term, my students and I are exploring how we understand hospitality and accountability, what attitudes and ideologies work for and against this principle, and ways in which we can use these peace-building skills to restore community. I have been self-reflecting on how I've come to suspect that the loss of hospitality in community that celebrates those who arrive rather than tolerates their presence has created a vacuum and fragmented experiences. The consequences leave an absence of open-hearted welcoming places for those who arrive in isolation, whether to class, to work, arriving at home or any other place of importance. In one class discussion this term on hospitable and accountable communities, some students remarked that both are necessary to build trust within a community. One of my students, Sage Robertson, remarked, "Yeah, you can't have one without the other." Another student said, "An accountable community means not just expecting everyone else to be responsible. I have to show I am, too." To look into how hospitality is the essence for restoring community, students have chosen three communities in their lives to observe themselves and others as they participate and engage, or do not, in ways hospitable and accountable. We've discussed what exactly the first principle requires. We've examined how this principle can give us ways to live, learn, work, and share meaning in varied communities within this nation of culturally diverse people.

I said that honor, respect, and a deep sense of humanity come up for me when I consider hospitality and accountability, particularly today. For those arriving in isolation, a deeply welcoming community gives them the possibility to be who they are, to bring their whole selves to community without my presumption that they should act as I expect.

As the class continues to observe and examine this first principle, I have become more and more aware that fully realizing all of the implications for a hospitable and accountable community requires a lot to unravel for answers. My close examination of the title question, as well as my students' work, has led me to suspect that two crucial points are essential and can influence pivotal changes in the lens through which we experience ourselves and others in our communities and in the larger world. I have a sense that they require a willingness to open ourselves to change on a deep, core level. A hospitable and accountable community, one that honors another's intrinsic dignity, as Michael Casey states, reaches "beyond the social virtues of courtesy, politeness, urbanity, or civility" (26). This type of community begins with an inner conviction that fosters a willingness within each person to value the dignity and uniqueness of others.

It's a change that some of my students over the last few years, do resist or because in their particular circumstances and experiences, they don't see value in using them. About respect for speaking truth, one student remarked, "If I spoke my truth



Professor Goddard and her class in the fall of 2018.

on my job, I'd get someone's fist in my face." His response speaks to my second crucial point that we've got to change the present paradigm for how we build, enter, and live in community. As my student, Garrett Corfield points out, "People should always be able to express themselves freely. It's a natural part of being alive." Many students agree with Garrett's comment and have shared ways they've used the principles in their relationships with family, friends, and people with whom they work, and have attempted to try them out in other settings. Just as encouraging, some have said they wish that their parents or their bosses or sweethearts would learn and use the principles. One student said that if her boss would "be real," she'd feel less guarded."

About hospitable communities as opposed to violent ones, two of my students remarked that they were resigned to mass violence as the new normal. I thought my heart for these students was going to explode. Please, I said, let's never resign ourselves to violence as normal in our communities. What's at stake here?, I asked. I also asked if anyone could explain the implications of losing communities that nurture us, encourage us to become our whole selves? Irma Tinajero, another student, commented that, "... to thrive as a nation of immigrants, it's necessary to maintain hospitality in communities."

Refusing to live in fear and isolation can counter hopelessness, I remarked. Let us continue to look into the ways communities of hospitality and accountability can restore and ground us in communal commitment to engage fully in the growing good for our lives and the life of our nation.



Conversation on Justice

January 28th - January 31st

Covering many of today's hot-button issues - ranging from gender violence, immigration and economic inequality to food insecurity, race and sexual orientation - each event, through the power of transformative stories, facilitated discussions, award-winning films, art projects, and more, will delve into critical conversations whose ultimate goal is to promote a culture of peace and understanding and mend the fabric of our humanity.

Valencia Campuses

For the full schedule of events visit [*valenciacollege.edu/PJI*](http://valenciacollege.edu/PJI)

For more information, call 407-582-2291 or email [*peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu*](mailto:peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu)

VALENCIA COLLEGE

PEACE AND
JUSTICE INSTITUTE
All People. All Voices. All Matter



PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Academy for Teachers



PJI ACADEMY FOR TEACHERS

The Peace and Justice Institute offers this unique and powerful experience to teachers working in Pre-K through higher education with the goal of creating more inclusive, respectful, compassionate and loving classrooms and citizens. The teacher academy model is based upon ten years of collaboration with leading scholars in the field of peace studies including Dr. Peggy McIntosh, Dr. Beverly Tatum, Dr. George Lopez, Dr. Michael Nagler, Elaine Sullivan, Emily Style, and Dr. Alma Abdul-Hadi Jadallah. The academy pairs their insights and practices with local PJI experts to create peaceable and inclusive classrooms for your students.

“WE TEACH WHO WE ARE”
- Parker J. Palmer

WORKSHOP DETAILS

WHO SHOULD ATTEND?

Pre-K-12 and post-secondary teachers, staff and administrators

WHAT?

Summer, 1 week, 40 hours of professional development

WHEN?

Session 1: For College and University Faculty and Staff;
and Pre-K-12 Administrators | **June 24-28, 2019**

Session 2: For Pre-K - 12 Teachers | **July 8-12, 2019**

Session 3: For Pre-K-12 Teachers | **July 22-26, 2019**

For more details visit our website: www.valenciacollege.edu/PJI

WHERE?

Valencia College Winter Park Campus: Winter Park, FL, 32789

COST?

\$1000 per person: Includes facilitation, books, supplies, snacks and lunch daily. Hotel and transportation costs not included. Hotel and transportation information provided upon request.

KEY TOPICS

WE TEACH WHO WE ARE

- PJI Principles for How We Treat Each Other, Our Practice of Respect and Community Building
- Scholarship of the Self
- Multicultural Selves
- Using Windows and Mirrors

CREATING A PEACEABLE CLASSROOM

- Tools for Conflict Transformation
- Peaceful Communication Skills
- Creating a Safe Space for Dialogue
- Restorative Practices
- Mindfulness

INCLUSIVE CLASSROOMS

- Holistic Education: Marrying the Head and the Heart
- Emotional Intelligence
- Hidden Bias
- Stereotyping and Microaggressions
- Ally Work

TRANSFORMING CURRICULUM

- Exploring the “Isms” through Personal Story
- Systems of privilege and Oppression
- Cycle of Racism
- Missing Histories

BUILDING COMMUNITY & CONNECTION

- Positive Interdependence
- Relationship Development

CONTACT: Lauri Lott, PJI Academy Coordinator
LLott1@valenciacollege.edu 407-582-2905

The Power of Music: A Night with Daryl Davis

On behalf of the Peace & Justice Institute, musician Daryl Davis was invited to Valencia College East Campus as a guest speaker for Global Peace Week on September 25th.

By **Gabriela Baez** and **Jessica Silva**

Valencia College Students, East Campus

From the Valencia Voice Student Newspaper, <http://www.valenciavoice.com/a-night-with-daryl-davis/>

When asked why invite Daryl Davis, Peace & Justice coordinator, Nicole Valentino responded, “Similar to our own values, Daryl Davis talks about how to have conversations when you disagree with someone without being angry, but really doing it for knowledge and understanding.”

Daryl Davis proved this ideology of knowledge and understanding at the School of Arts & Entertainment stage when he opened a bag and captivated the audience with the robe of a former KKK member who went as far as to befriend the black boogie-woogie musician.

Long before he got on that stage, Daryl Davis knew he wanted to be a musician. He told the Valencia Voice, “I began thinking about people that I admired for inspiration. And instantly, two names came to my head: Elvis Presley and Chuck Berry. They have touched millions upon millions of people all over the world with their music. I thought about how cool it was that you can affect somebody that has never even met you.”

In fact, it was music that brought the first Klansman his way, Davis recalled. “This is the first time I ever heard a black man play piano like Jerry Lee Lewis,” a man told Davis in a white-only bar. Taken aback from this statement, Davis explained to the man that Lewis had actually adopted his style from black bluesmen and boogie-woogie players. Despite the man’s disbelief in Davis’ truths, he invited him for a drink. He was, as Davis soon learned, an official member of the KKK. This unlikely interaction developed into a friendship that would soon leave Davis with the man’s robe.

Daryl Davis never had the intentions of persuading over 200 men to give up their robes. Davis would soon attend KKK

rallies and stop by some Klansmen’s houses on his way to his own gigs. He did all this to get to know them and answer his lifelong question: “How could someone hate me, if they don’t even know me?”

“[KKK members] had never been exposed with the things that I presented,” said Davis. “They know so much hatred, violence and racism because they’ve been there for so long, that’s all they know. They’re accustomed to that. Sometimes people are willing to stay with the bad because they’re more familiar with it than try to do something new or strange to them. Others are willing to take that chance and step out,” he said.

At the event, James M. Ray was one of the non-student community members who came to experience a true night with Daryl Davis. “Daryl Davis is my hero,” begins Ray, “He’s as brave as Ed Snowden in my opinion. I’ve heard his speeches on YouTube so often that I have a feeling I know what he’s going to say, but I’ll hear him again. I want to shake his hand, you know.”

Davis introduced the origin of most musical genres: black blues and boogie-woogie. He played multiple songs and spoke about how music brings people together. When he held out the KKK robe and hood surrendered to him by a former Klan member, he said, “I got this robe through dialogue, not violence. I did not respect what he had to say, but I respected that he had the right to say it. If you respect someone enough to sit down and listen to them, they will likely have the respect to do the same and listen to you.”

The four day residency of Daryl Davis at Valencia College was supported by a generous grant from the Florida Humanities Council.



Daryl Davis

FUND OUR WORK

With your generous help we continue to bring practices of respect and community building to Central Florida through community dialogue, workshops, speakers and peace education. Please give a tax-deductible gift today to support our work.

GIVE

Give online at valenciacollege.edu/pji

If you prefer to give by check, please mail to:

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C/O Valencia College
MC 5-1

850 West Morse Blvd
Winter Park, FL, 32789

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PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

Spring 2019 Calendar of Events

For details visit www.valenciacollege.edu/pji

*All events are subject to change. Additional events will be added throughout the year. For the most up-to-date PJI calendar check Facebook at www.facebook.com/valenciapeaceandjustice or the PJI website at www.valenciacollege.edu/pji

JANUARY 28TH – JANUARY 31ST

Conversation on Justice

Covering today's hot-button issues ranging from #metoo, gun violence, immigration, economic inequality, sexual orientation, the environment and racial inequity – each event, through the power of transformative stories, facilitated dialogue, award-winning films, art and more, will delve into critical conversations whose ultimate goal is to promote a culture of peace and mend the fabric of our humanity. **College-wide | Check online for events schedule**



THURSDAY JANUARY 31ST

Black History Celebration Breakfast

Come together to celebrate the voices of courage, strength and passion from some of our African Heritage leaders within the community. Learn about their pathways to success and guiding mantras that encourage and sustain them. A free breakfast is served. All are welcome!

East Campus | 701 N Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando, FL 32825 | Room 8-101 | Doors Open for Breakfast 8:00am Program 8:30-9:45am



FEBRUARY 22ND – 23RD

Faculty and Staff Peace and Justice Spring Retreat

Nationally acclaimed speaker and facilitator, Elaine Sullivan, from the Center of Renewal and Wholeness Higher Education returns for a multi-day retreat. Explore ways for knowing beyond the rational, including mindfulness and emotional intelligence. Engage in conversations of commitment around themes of social justice and practice the Principles for How We Treat Each Other.

**Maitland Civic Center | 641 Maitland Ave S, Maitland, FL 32751
8:30am-4:00pm**



TUESDAY MARCH 5TH

International Women's Day Celebration Breakfast

Join us for a celebration of women, their courage and determination that makes a difference in our local community. A free breakfast will be served. All are welcome!

**West Campus | 1800 S Kirkman Road, Orlando, FL 32811 | Room HSB 105
8:30am-9:45am**



SATURDAY MARCH 23RD

Spring Fling Service Project

Join Valencia clubs and organizations as we come together to bring a day of fun and spring festivities to the children and families in residency at the Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida.

**Coalition for the Homeless
8:30am-1:30pm**



APRIL 1ST - 5TH

Inclusiveness Excellence Speaker Series

Explore the impact of trauma, PTSD and chronic stress on the individual, and specifically the impact on learning, health and community well-being. This will be done through a series of events and workshops aimed at heightening awareness, building empathy, and offering bridges of support for individuals.

College-wide | Check online for events schedule



PEACE NEWS

Celebrating peace news
locally, nationally, and internationally



'Respond to Hate With Love': Raise Thousands to Benefit Pittsburgh Synagogue Shooting Victims

Muslim-led effort has begun a crowdfunded campaign to raise money for the victims of [the] synagogue shooting. The effort aims to help support the short-term needs of victims and their families by raising money for medical bills, funeral costs and other expenses after a gunman stormed services at Pittsburgh's Tree of Life Synagogue, killing 11 and wounding 6 before being captured by police.

Source: Time



Bus Cleans the Air: Sucking Up Pollution As It Travels

This bus doesn't just take you to where you need to go – it also cleans the air you breathe. The Go-Ahead Group, which is one of the largest bus and rail operators in England, has just launched a bus that sucks up pollution as it travels. The Bluestar prototype is the first bus in the UK that can clean city air. It is fitted with an air filter that collects ultra-fine pollution particles and spews out purified air at the front of the vehicle. The filter works with 99.5% efficiency.

Source: Good News Network



Women and LGBT Candidates Make History in 2018 Midterm Elections

From a pair of Native American women to a Somali refugee to the first openly gay man elected governor, the 2018 midterm elections brought a series of history-making votes that marked major accomplishments for women and LGBT candidates.

Source: CNN



Sikhs Commit to Planting One Million Trees by End of 2019

To commemorate the 550th anniversary of the birth of Guru Nanak, the founding Guru of the Sikh faith, EcoSikh, an NGO working for environment protection, has launched a worldwide campaign to plant one million trees by the end of 2019.

Source: Interfaith Council of Central Florida



European Parliament Approves Sweeping Ban on Single-Use Plastics, a 'Victory for Our Oceans'

In a landslide vote, the European Parliament has just approved a widespread ban on a dozen forms of single-use plastics. The directive, which was passed by 571 votes to 53, will prohibit the use of many of the most commonly found forms of plastic pollution, including cotton swabs, plastic plates and cutlery, straws, and drink stirrers.

Source: Good News Network



Dad Confronts Bully by Treating Him Like a Son – Now the Homeless Boy Has Money and Friendship

When this father heard that his son was being bullied at school, he took a more compassionate approach to confronting the problem. At first, Aubrey Fontenot was angry to hear that his 8-year-old son Jordan was being picked on at school by another boy named Tamarion – but instead of fighting fire with fire, he decided to invite the boy out for some one-on-one time together.

Source: Good News Network



'Our Voice Will Count.'

Florida voters approved Amendment 4 on Tuesday night in the 2018 midterm elections, restoring voting rights to more than 1 million people in the state who were previously convicted of felonies. "This is transformative in Florida," Howard Simon, Executive Director of the ACLU of Florida tells TIME. "We will no longer have second class citizens."

Source: TIME Magazine



(continued from page 7)

of peace into a global, universal movement, the most crucial element that is needed is for every one of us to be a true believer in peace and non-violence. A lot can be achieved in promoting the culture of peace through individual resolve and action. Peace and non-violence should become a part of our daily existence.

By immersing ourselves in a culture that supports and promotes peace, individual efforts will

- over time - combine and unite, and peace, security and sustainability will emerge. This is the only way we shall achieve a just and sustainable peace in the world.

All educational institutions need to offer opportunities that prepare the students not only to live fulfilling lives but also to be responsible and productive citizens of the world. For that, educators need to introduce holistic and empowering curricula that cultivate the culture of peace in each and every young mind.

Indeed, this should be more appropriately called *“education for global citizenship”*. Such learning cannot be achieved without well-intentioned, sustained, and systematic peace education that leads the way to the culture of peace. If our minds could be likened to a computer, then education provides the software with which to “reboot” our priorities and actions away from violence, towards the culture of peace.

For this, I believe that early childhood affords a unique opportunity for us to sow the seeds of transition from the culture of war to the culture of peace. The events that a child experiences early in life, the education that this child receives, and the community activities and socio-cultural mindset in which a child is immersed all contribute to how values, attitudes, traditions, modes of behavior, and ways of life develop. We need to use this window of opportunity to instill the rudiments that each individual needs to become agents of peace and non-violence from an early life. PJI developed principles for children to inculcate respect and peacebuilding called “HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER, CREATING A SAFE SPACE” is a simple and meaningful tool that should be more widely shared and used by other communities. I find the Principles for adults are equally good.

Keeping in mind the forward-looking initiative to advance the culture of peace by Central Florida, I would strongly emphasize the importance and relevance of the community level policies and direction to trigger change for its populace. Utilizing the culture of peace as a “compass for guidance and a lens to see and understand differently,” Oregon’s Ashland City Council

established in 2015 the Ashland Culture of Peace

Commission for a city-based initiative

to integrate the principles of the culture of peace into governance structures and educational organizations. It believes that this will lead to a shift in mindset and behaviors which will lead to systemic change. My expectation is that increasingly more community-level initiatives would mushroom from these commendable examples in Central Florida and Ashland.

I believe that we, the older generations, should do everything to empower the young of today in the real sense to become true global citizens. I also believe

that such empowerment is going to stay with them for life. That is the significance of the Culture of Peace. That is its essence. It is the process of changing each one of us so that each of us becomes the agent of the culture of peace. It is not something temporary like resolving a conflict in one area or between communities without transforming and empowering people to sustain peace.

Albert Einstein once said, “The world is a dangerous place to live, not because of the people who are evil, but because of the people who don’t do anything about it.”

Let us – yes, all of us -- embrace the culture of peace for the good of humanity, for the sustainability of our planet and for making our world a better place to live.

LET THAT BE OUR RESOLVE AS THE WORLD OBSERVES NEXT YEAR THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE ADOPTION OF THE CULTURE OF PEACE DECLARATION & PROGRAMME OF ACTION BY UNITED NATIONS ON 13 SEPTEMBER 1999!



Proclamation

CITY OF ORLANDO - OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

- WHEREAS,** United Nations: International Day of Peace is observed around the world on September 21 as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples; and
- WHEREAS,** in 2015, the United Nations Member States adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals; Number 16 which states "Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions" calls for promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and
- WHEREAS,** the mission of the Peace and Justice Institute at Valencia College is All People. All Voices. All Matter. Making a difference by intentionally engaging in practices and principles that explore, advocate, and honor the dignity of self, others, and the earth; and
- WHEREAS,** the Peace and Justice Institute's Principles for How We Treat Each Other, a foundation for the practice of respect and community building as used by schools, colleges, corporations, civic institutions and government locally, nationally and globally; and
- WHEREAS,** the Peace and Justice Institute is recognized for its peace and justice curriculum, pedagogy, trainings, workshops, student and community conversations, and interfaith forums that create a safe space for authentic dialogue, transform conflict and identify pathways to foster diversity and inclusion; and
- WHEREAS,** the Peace and Justice Institute's work was shared at the United Nations on September 5 at a High Level Forum on the Culture of Peace highlighting ideas and suggestions to build and promote a culture of peace;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, BUDDY DYER, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF ORLANDO, hereby do proclaim September 21, 2018, as

"Peace and Justice Institute Day"

in the City of Orlando and encourage citizens to honor the positive impact the Peace and Justice Institute has on our community and participate today and all days in growing our Culture of Peace.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I hereunto have set my hand and caused the Seal of the City of Orlando to be affixed this 21st day of September, 2018.



Buddy Dyer
MAYOR

VALENCIA COLLEGE

PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

All People. All Voices. All Matter.



Be a part of the Peace and Justice Institute, visit us online at

facebook.com/valenciapeaceandjustice
valenciacollege.edu/pji

Professors Rudy Darden and Dr. Angela Blewitt facilitate the Conversation on Race workshop on West Campus during Global Peace Week 2018.