

Peace in Our World

Rev. Kathleen Ellis

February 3, 2008

Notes from presentation

Planting seeds of peace at Live Oak, beginning with our four peace candles.

Candles could even be expanded to include self, others, family, neighborhood, school or workplace, community, state, nation, world, all living things, universe, galaxy, cosmos.

Peace candles: **peace in my heart**

Zen meditation

Living by Heart, a practice of meditation and poetry

"Talking to Grief," by Denise Levertov

"Ah, Grief, I should not treat you
like a homeless dog
who comes to the back door
for a crust, for a meatless bone.
I should trust you.

I should coax you into the house
and give you
your own corner,
a worn mat to lie on,
your own water dish.

You think I don't know you've been living
under my porch.
You long for your real place to be readied
before winter comes. You need
your name,
your collar and tag. You need
the right to warn off intruders
to consider my house your own
and me your person
and yourself
my own dog."

Peace candles: **peace in my church**

Peaceful planet—1st 3 Sundays of academic year, in every classroom

Right relations covenant—church-wide

"We, the members of Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church, affirm a welcoming, vibrant, caring community for all ages.

"We embrace UU values, humor, and community growth on our shared spiritual journey.

"We covenant with one another to create relationships that are inclusive, open-minded, sensitive, and celebrate the differences within our community.

"We will accept, support and appreciate one another, keep our commitments, maintain healthy boundaries, and use constructive communication.

"We will be accountable to one another in a helpful, non-judgmental, peaceful environment, with integrity, respect and love."

Conflict resolution team

Personal reflection

Checking out with a trusted third party

Addressing the conflict directly

Spirituality circles, women's groups, men's group, Chalice Circles

Peace candles: **peace in the world**

My sister the peacemaker

In my family, between her younger two sisters

In her family, due to the fights in the backyard

As founding director for 20 years of the Interfaith Center for Peace:

Mission statement:

Responding in faith to the wisdom of spiritual leaders throughout human history, the Interfaith Center for Peace teaches people, by deed and example, how to be peacemakers in their own places.

In the schools

Bully prevention

Mediation
Bus driver training
In the prisons
Interfaith dorm
Day camp for Girl Scouts whose mothers are in prison
In the state of Ohio
In the Episcopal Peace and Justice Network, and 6 years on the
Standing Commission on Anglican and International Peace and Justice
Concerns

Project B.E.A.T. (Bridging, Enriching, Advancing Together)—Austin, monthly conversation about race, experience, observations, etc., facilitated by Mike Manor. Meets on the first Saturday morning of each month at St. James Episcopal Church.

When Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., was assassinated nearly 40 years ago, his dream lived on. In this week's Chronicle, Louis Black reminds us that a dream can't be killed because it arises out of oppression and rides on hope as laid out in the Declaration of Independence. Louis Black writes

"Those who shared the dream worked to end slavery, to advance public education, to earn women and minorities the right to vote. They organized mistreated workers into labor unions, fought against bigoted anti-immigrant legislation, stood up to systemic oppression, and, in every case, they lost many battles, were beaten and killed, and were defeated in the courts, and on legislative floors before they achieved even the smallest victories

"They didn't stop! They kept moving forward: in marches through communities that didn't care for them, in cities where they were attacked by police with clubs and wielding fire hoses. They watched their friends, their children, and themselves be severely beaten and sometimes killed. They didn't stop dreaming. Those with this dream saw their churches burned and four young girls in Birmingham, Ala., murdered. They saw the massacre of women and children in Ludlow and the wholesale jailing of labor organizers, but their dreaming slowed not at all.

"Martin Luther King Jr. spoke the dream, but it was not his alone. It belonged to generations of Americans who dreamed of a better, more just world. Their dreams didn't die; they were not turned back in their demand for fealty to the ideas of the Declaration. The dream survived centuries of slavery and decades of segregation, expanding in scope, with always more dreamers joining the ranks."

King became a symbol of the dream, a symbol of non-violent response to oppression. King said his dream came from God, not from himself alone. We can also lift up human guiding lights like Ghandi, Susan B. Anthony, Oscar Romero, Dorothy Day, Samantha Smith, Desmond Tutu, the Dalai Lama. But it takes all of us to carry on the dream of a more peaceful planet.

Peace candles: **peace in the web of life**

Green Sanctuary Movement, Wiser Earth, sustainable living

The Congregational Study Action Issue for 2006 - 2010 is "Peacemaking."

"Issue: Should the Unitarian Universalist Association reject the use of any and all kinds of violence and war to resolve disputes between peoples and nations and adopt a principle of seeking just peace through nonviolent means?"

The Great Turning: from Empire to Earth Community by David Korten

Turning point for Korten in Sr. year with a course on poverty; completed business school, but decided to bring business education to the world of poverty. Worked overseas for 21 years in Africa and Asia. Development was breaking down the social fabric. What's the deeper story here? Economics; global corporations; trade agreements (beyond the reach of local governments): *When Corporations Ruled the World*

Then 9/11 and our response to it. Way beyond corporate rule to the principles of empire. Global citizens movement.

Awakening the Dreamer, Changing the Dream

"Indigenous people of South America, who still live in their traditional Earth-honoring ways, refer to our modern worldview as our "dream" and have urged us, for the sake of all life, to "change the dream of the North." Well, it appears that changing this collective dream of ours will be a do-it-yourself-together project. It will be accomplished by committed individuals working in concert with one another, tens of millions of us, each willing to think and act in a whole new way."

"The villain is an outmoded worldview - a way of seeing the world in which such unthinkable acts appear reasonable, sensible, and even intelligent."

Learning pyramid

Lecture	5%
Reading	10%
Audio-visual	20%
Demonstration	30%
Discussion group	50%
Practice by doing	75%
Teach/use learning immediately	90%

So how about a little practical application you can try right away:

My colleague Phil Schulman, minister of Community UU Church in San Antonio recently shared four components of nonviolent communication (based on material from Marshal Rosenberg).

- 1- share an Observation without mixing in any evaluation
- 2- share how you Feel in relation to your observation
- 3- identify the Need. (feelings exist in service of needs. eg we feel hungry because we need nutrition)
- 4- make an immediate Request in positive action language
 - I am not sure if I made myself clear. Would you be willing to tell me what you heard me say? (request for clarification)
 - will you tell me (now) if you are willing to do the laundry once a week? (request for action)

Say your peace

Say your truth

You have already contributed to a better world

Plant seeds of peace, but remember: the seed never knows the blossom.
And so it goes from one generation to another.

Blessed Be, Amen