

PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

# NEWSLETTER

ALL PEOPLE. ALL VOICES. ALL MATTER. | VOLUME 8, NUMBER 1





# LIFE IN METAPHOR

By Patricia Ambinder  
Peace and Justice Institute, Advisory Council Chair

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A few years ago, I attended a summer institute on "Teaching Peace in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" at the Kroc Institute for International Studies at Notre Dame. It was an extraordinary opportunity to study with geniuses in the field to learn the art and soul of peace-building as well as the techniques.

World-renowned, but very humble Dr. John Paul Lederach introduced us to the use of metaphor to understand peace building. The following from a blog post by students of GOVT 581 at Georgetown University was inspired by Dr. Lederach:

"Metaphor pervades the everyday experience. Throughout all medium of verbal communication, metaphor serves a dual purpose. In addition to making language more beautiful and poetic, the use of metaphor also eases the strain of expression by creating cognitive short cuts."

Leafing through my notes, I came across Dr. Lederach's long-forgotten metaphor of bread making and ingredients for social change:

1. Yeast is the smallest ingredient yet it drives potential change and is necessary to make the other ingredients grow. *A few strategically placed people have greater potential for creating social growth than large numbers of people who think alike.*
2. Sitting on the shelf, yeast has no real capacity to bring about growth. It must be mixed in with the larger mass.
3. However, yeast cannot be mixed in directly and quickly; initial growth must be cultivated carefully. *Similarly social change requires the creation of safe spaces to bring people together for social growth.*
4. After the initial phase, the yeast must be thoroughly mixed into the mass through a process of kneading. To be authentic, growth must persist in spite of everything that pushes it down. Like yeast, *social change requires a capacity for resilience.*
5. It is important to preheat the oven. *Social change is a matter of multi-tasking: while one set of changes is set in motion, attention must always be given to what will need to be attended in the future.*

I believe that PJI is the critical yeast for the imagination, intuition, and resilience needed to affect lasting social change at Valencia, our community and beyond.

And as our community commemorates the one year anniversary, can any metaphor "ease the strain of expression" to reflect on the tragedy at the Pulse nightclub?

No. But Lin Manuel Miranda of **Hamilton** fame tried:  
*Love is love is love is love is love is love...cannot be killed or swept away.*

---

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS



**02** Featured

**06** Events

**10** Interfaith Understanding

**12** Peace News

**14** Service and Civic Engagement

**17** Peace and Justice Ambassadors

**22** Peace Learning at Valencia

**26** Faculty and Staff Focus

**28** Principles for How We Treat Each Other

**29** Peace and the Arts

**32** Announcements and Recognitions

**34** Calendar

**36** Farewell Letter from the Editor

## STAY CONNECTED



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**PJI 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.

# FEATURED

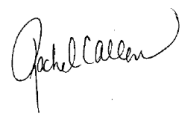
## Visioning the Future of PJI

In the fall of 2017 PJI turns 10 years old. Yes, 10 years ago the seed of an idea, to develop a peace studies program at Valencia, was planted. The ground was fertile and faculty and staff from around the college came together in small group settings, world café events, and retreats to vision the work and establish our mission. Ten years later we see the fruits of those early gatherings of possibility manifested in so many beautiful and inspiring ways, from the hope in our students' eyes, the passion spoken in community dialogue, and the feeling of accomplishment when a conflict is transformed with meaningful outcomes.

Looking forward to this milestone, PJI came together to vision the future this past spring. What will the next ten years bring and how will the college and community be impacted by the work?

In the awesome setting of Valencia's Collaborative Design Center, under the expert facilitation of [Gert Garman](#), we asked ourselves big questions and came up with compelling responses and powerful ideas. We thank our Advisory Council and all of the community members who came to the table to once again imagine the possibilities for the decade ahead. Please join us as we work together for peace and justice.

Yours,



Peace and Justice Institute, Director



*Gert Garman facilitates the Visioning Days*



*John Moskos, Yasmeen Qadri, and Sue Foreman discuss PJI's future for the next 10 years at the Visioning Day*



*Valencia College's Director of Education for Sustainability, Resham Shirsat*



*Steve Foreman and Aminah Hamidullah participate in a small group activity together*

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## Conversation on Justice January 30-February 3, 2017

This past spring, nearly 3000 students, faculty, staff, and administrators across Valencia College experienced the annual Conversation on Justice! Covering many of today's hot-button issues - ranging from 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, delves into critical conversations whose goal is to promote a culture of peace and justice and mend the fabric of our humanity. To view the schedule of events from the 2017 Conversation on Justice, [click here](#).

### COJ Featured Speaker: Sam Obeid, Queer Activist



This year's featured speaker for the Conversation on Justice was Sam Obeid. Sam(ira) Obeid is a queer activist. She identifies as a masculine performing lesbian and is

somewhat of a subject matter expert on gender identity and gender expression. An internationally renowned spoken word poet, her work focuses on the tensions of gender, immigration, love, religion and intersectionality. She was born and raised in India and moved to the U.S. in 2007, where she earned her second Master's in Multimedia Journalism and her third in Women's and Gender Studies. Sam now works in youth Development and youth empowerment as [ANYTOWN](#) Coordinator for Community Tampa Bay.



*Sam Obeid discusses gender stereotypes with students*

Sam shares, "I'm a lot of things. But most importantly, I'm all heart. I live and breathe words, equality and equity. I write lines everywhere, words everywhere. I live in the work I do. Faces I photograph are pinned to my wall as are maps of subways in cities I love, and notes to places I haven't visited yet. I don't believe in drawing boxes or borders. I believe in open lines of communication. My pitbull is the love of my life."

To view videos of Sam's work, follow these links:  
["The Journal"](#) and ["We Are All Trans"](#)

## West Campus Model United Nations Hosts Orlando Immigration Attorney for Justice Week

By Adrienne Matthews  
Professor of Political Science  
West Campus Model United Nations Advisor



*West Campus Model UN hosts Immigration Attorney Nayef Mubarak during the Conversation on Justice*

Approximately 200 faculty, staff and students — many concerned about their immigration status, travel plans and how recent presidential executive orders could affect families and friends — joined together for a presentation by local attorney [Nayef Mubarak](#). The event, which was a part of the Peace and Justice Institute's Conversation on Justice, was hosted by West Campus' Model United Nations.

Mubarak challenged students to answer questions from the U.S. citizenship test, explained the process of asylum and answered questions about the current state of immigration in light of the executive orders issued by President Donald Trump in recent weeks.

Several students asked questions about Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA), an Obama-era executive order that granted a renewable two-year delay from deportation proceedings and eligibility for work permits for some immigrants who arrived in the United States as children. To qualify for DACA, immigrants without legal status had to register with the federal government.

Given 750,000 young adults came out of the shadows to register for DACA, including students at Valencia College, they are now concerned that they have drawn unwanted attention to themselves and their families, putting them in danger. Mubarak addressed these concerns and offered a

free initial consultation to any Valencia student in need of legal advice.

The session on immigration was one of the many social justice issues presented as part of the week-long Conversation on Justice. West Campus' Model United Nations chose this topic to raise awareness about the plight of Syrian refugees, although recent political events mandated a slight shift in focus.

Aanchel Shah, a Valencia student and vice president of West Campus' Model United Nations, arranged for Mubarak to visit the campus and was pleased with the presentation and discussion.

"I wanted to learn from an immigration attorney the details that the news channels were not covering," she shared. "After his discussion, I believe I am able to articulate stronger and more factual arguments, which is crucial in an era of alternative facts."

Model United Nations President and Valencia student J.J. Merilan agreed. "Being someone who has never personally been affected with problems regarding immigration, this event was truly an eye-opener," he said. "I believe that events like these are not only important for me, but for our humanity. They not only provide grounds for much-needed discourse, they also help us all realize that there are way more forces at play than the ones that personally affect us. An awareness of ourselves and others is essential for curing any disease that plagues our existence."

**"Being someone who has never personally been affected with problems regarding immigration, this event was truly an eye-opener."**

The issues discussed at Justice Week were focused on raising awareness and providing insight into the challenges that we, as a society, confront on a daily basis.

"I believe intersectionality is so important," said Aanchel. "In the political climate we live in today, I believe we cannot just pick and choose what to fight for, but we must vehemently defend the rights for all."

This article first appeared in the [Valencia Grove](#).



## Black History Month Kick-Off Luncheon

As part of the Conversation on Justice and to kick-off Black History Month, the [African American Cultural Society \(A2CS\)](#), under the leadership of club President Hannibal Callens, hosted a special luncheon featuring live performances and speakers. The keynote speaker was newly elected Orange-Osceola State Attorney of the 9th Judicial Circuit, [Aramis Ayala](#).



*Vertrilla Hunt and her Oviedo Women's group were featured guests at the Black History Month Luncheon*



*Keynote speaker, State Attorney Aramis Ayala*



*The luncheon opened with Lift Every Voice and Sing, the Black American National Anthem written by James Weldon Johnson*

## Moments from the Conversation on Justice



*We send a special thank you to Aida Diaz for leading the PJI work at West Campus this spring!*



*The [Bridge the Gap Coalition](#) partnered with Valencia theater students to host a "Know Your Rights" interactive workshop that holds the goal of empowering participants with knowledge of their rights on various legal matters*



*Professor of Political Science and Yoga, PJI Advisory Council member, and a founding member of PJI, Subhas Rampersaud shares in a small group during a workshop at West Campus*





## EVENTS

### Advisory Council Meeting January 11, 2017

The Peace and Justice Institute Advisory Council held its bi-annual meeting on January 11, 2017 at Valencia College's District Office. Five new members of the Council were introduced and recognized for significant contributions to inclusive excellence in the workplace and community:

Marcia Hope Goodwin, community champion and City of Orlando PJI partner; Kiki Grossman, developer of the PJI Legal Education Action Project (LEAP); Dr. Yasmeen Qadri, one of the original PJI founders, Professor in the Teacher Education Program at Valencia and Co-advisor of Valencia Future Educators (VFE) and Muslim Ambassadors for Peace (MAP); Dr. Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra, scholar and PJI Peace Breakfast leader, and Nicole Elinoff, Human Services Consultant with the HIV/AIDS program office of Florida Health.

Chair Patricia Ambinder acknowledged her admiration for Rachel Allen and thanked her for the opportunity to do this work by her side: "She is restless and relentless in her pursuit of peace and justice. And rarely do we have a conversation without acknowledging her mentor and by association, mine, and champion of the PJI mission, Council member and President, East and Winter Park campuses,

Dr. Stacey Johnson."

After a brief business meeting, where the current results of PJI's Champions for Peace and Justice fundraising initiative were shared, reports were given by Council members: Sue Foreman, Chair of the Valencia Foundation; Dr. Johnson on a National Conference she would attend with Rachel to introduce PJI; Kiki Grossman on the Legal and Judicial Education program and Aminah Hamidullah on the PJI Peace and Justice Practitioner Program. Marcia Hope Goodwin spoke passionately about PJI and Orlando Speaks; and Greg Higginson introduced plans for two collaborative design sessions in May to vision the development, outreach and impact of PJI over the next 5-10 years.

It was noted that All People have heard the very divisive voices of fellow citizens and people in power at all levels this past year causing some to question do All Voices really matter? Rachel Allen led a thoughtful and lively conversation to reflect on this question.

One conclusion: we have to be open to listen to others with differing viewpoints, and it is important to teach the Principles For How We Treat Each Other so opinions are shared in a respectful and inclusive manner.

Rachel Allen closed the meeting with a PJI update on the numerous programs and events that are reported in detail in this newsletter.



## PJI Staff is Featured Speaker at UCF February 22, 2017

The [Department of Writing and Rhetoric](#) at the University of Central Florida (UCF) held their 3rd annual Writing and Rhetoric Symposium on February 22, 2017 to celebrate the hard work of students and faculty in the department's undergraduate programs. This year's symposium theme was *Crossing Boundaries: Listening, Writing, and Rhetorical Action* and focused on using concepts of writing and rhetoric to promote civic engagement, in addition to effective listening skills.



PJI Staff Assistant, Krystal Pherai was a keynote speaker during the symposium, leading an engaging workshop on *Identity, Testimony, and Listening*. Assistant Professor Dr. Natasha Jones also moderated an interactive interview, *Socially Just Rhetorical Action*, featuring Krystal and fellow keynote speaker Dr. Alexandra Hidalgo, activist, documentarian, and assistant professor of Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures at Michigan State University.



Krystal shares, "Serving as a keynote speaker was an incredible experience. I feel honored and humbled to have had the opportunity to facilitate a crucial discussion on our diverse identities and share about my experience as an activist. I send a special thank you to Dr. Thomas Wright and Dr. Laurie Pinkert for asking me to present and making me feel especially welcome to the department!"



Keynote Speakers Dr. Alexandra Hidalgo and Krystal Pherai  
Photos taken by Rebekkah Fitzpatrick and Dr. Laurie Pinkert

## PJI Presents at League for Innovation Conference March 12-15, 2017

Dr. Stacey Johnson, Valencia College East and Winter Park Campus President and PJI Advisory Council member and



Rachel Allen, PJI Director led a special session titled, *Organizational Culture: How Peace and Justice Work Leads the Way* at the 2017 [League for Innovation Conference](#).

The presentation included the evolution of PJI and its impact on the organizational culture at Valencia. In addition, the PJI [Principles for How We Treat Each Other](#) were shared, and participants learned how these Principles have positively transformed the culture within the College and the community. Rachel noted that, "the workshop was met with positive response with multiple participants requesting a visit to their respective campuses to share the PJI work with campus leadership."



John and Suanne Roueche Excellence Award winners  
Mathematics Professor Claudia Genovese-Martinez,  
PJI Director Rachel Allen, and Counselor Andrea Bealler with  
East and Winter Park Campus President Dr. Stacey Johnson

## City of Orlando Mayor's Summit March 18, 2017

PJI facilitators Rudy Darden and Mollie McLaughlin hosted a workshop on Inclusive Excellence at [Mayor Buddy Dyer's 12th Annual Neighborhood and Community Summit](#). This



was the third Mayor's Summit at which PJI has had the honor of presenting.

## Orlando Speaks April 12, 2017



*City of Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer welcomes participants to the 5th Orlando Speaks community dialogue*

By Jimmie Williams  
[The Orlando Times](#) Contributor

ORLANDO - It's always a pleasure to see Mayor Buddy Dyer, Orlando Chief of Police John Mina and my commissioners involved with the community. I think that the "Orlando Speaks" series is a great way to hear the citizens and the police departments discuss changes for the greater good. The citizens must first know their rights. We as citizens also need to provide accountability and cooperation. Law enforcement officers' roles should include being more caring, showing leadership, respecting boundaries, being supportive, showing compassion and respect.

As I looked around the room I said to myself, "Wow! Just look at all the different nationalities in this room." This event was really different. It had life like a spiritual movement about it. People from all types of communities and backgrounds were there. They spoke out about things that were concerns in their community and how law enforcement could be a little bit more caring and have some kind of compassion. We as citizens understand that they have a very dangerous job but at the same time you signed up for the job knowing the dangers involved. So we as community leaders and citizens ask that you would work on some of these things that we have discussed that concern us. We as citizens and community leaders should encourage our communities to get to know their rights, be cooperative and accountable.

If you feel an official has acted improperly call

321.235.5300 and ask for a supervisor or watch commander. If you feel the complaint is too serious for them to handle, call Internal Affairs at 407.246.2352. The City of Orlando Police Department Community Relations Unit, Sgt. Jacqueline Howard sat at the table with my group. One of the citizens at my table was business owner of Showtyme Hair, Ms. Lisa. She was very outspoken and had a lot of good things to say.

Five Stars \*\*\*\*\* goes to Valencia College's Peace and Justice Institute, Ms. Rachel Allen and City Commissioner Samuel B. Ings for having me to be a part of the Orlando Speaks series. See you at the next one! Don't Meet Me There, Beat Me There!

This article first appeared in [The Orlando Times](#).



*Community Leader and The Orlando Times contributor Jimmie Williams shares during Orlando Speaks*



*A community member listens to an officer share his testimony*

The 5th Orlando Speaks workshop was dedicated to **Lieutenant Debra Clayton**, who was committed to helping youth and making Orlando a better place to live.



## Moments from Orlando Speaks



*City of Orlando District 6 Commissioner Samuel B. Ings welcomes Orlando Speaks participants to his district*



*New PJI Facilitator Mordecai Dixon addresses participants*



*An officer shares her personal testimony*



*Vinnie Cannady and Martha Kirby embrace each other with a hug at Orlando Speaks; [click here](#) to view a video of the two sharing a beautiful story about how they credit Orlando Speaks for bringing them together as great friends*



*Chief of Police John Mina welcomes participants*



Click the image above to view a video of Orlando Speaks.



Hillsborough Speaks, facilitated by [Safe & Sound Hillsborough](#) launched this year! [Click here](#) for more information.

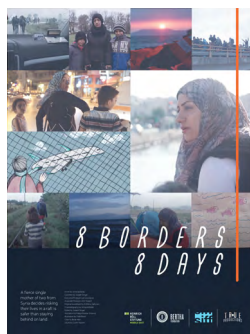


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## 8 Borders, 8 Days Film Screening April 30, 2017

In partnership with the [League of Women Voters of Orange County](#) and the [American Civil Liberties Union \(ACLU\) of Central Florida](#), PJI screened [8 Borders, 8 Days](#), which debuted this year at the Florida Film Festival. In the film, a single mother shows us the consequences of closing America's doors to families fleeing war. With no answer to her application for resettlement in the US, and every other path to safety closed off, a smuggler's raft to Europe was the only way out.



PJI Advisory Council member Anna V. Eskamani, moderated a panel discussion following the screening. Panelists included Weam Jabbar of the [Arab American Community Center \(AACU\)](#), Chardo Richardson, President of the ACLU of Central Florida, and Amanda Bailly, the filmmaker.

## PJI Presents at NCORE May 30-June 3, 2017

This year the annual [National Conference on Race and Ethnicity](#) in American Higher Education (N.C.O.R.E.) celebrated its 30th anniversary in Ft. Worth, Texas. For 30 years it has come together to provide a place for those who work on issues of racial equity and indigenous equity for students, staff and faculty in higher education.

This year, over 3500 individuals attended workshops on topics of inclusion, diversity, Black Lives Matter, Social Justice, White Privilege, Latinx and others. PJI facilitators Rachel Allen, Rudy Darden, Michele Lima, Mollie McLaughlin, Paul Chapman and Aida Diaz presented a well received workshop, *Be the Change: Valencia College's Peace and Justice Institute*. The three hour presentation included the history of PJI, the principles that guide us, and a workshop on race and systems of oppression. Attendees suggested PJI present as a day-long pre-conference workshop and inquired how they could bring PJI to their own campuses.



## INTERFAITH UNDERSTANDING

### Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering March 21, 2017



*Spring 2017 Peace Breakfast faith leaders: Aminah Hamidullah, founder and director of Knowledge for Living, Reverend Bryan Fulwider of Friends Talking Faith, and Reverend Kathy Schmitz of the First Unitarian Church*

Every semester, PJI hosts the Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering for students, faculty, staff and community members. Leaders from a variety of faith traditions gathered at the spring event on Tuesday, March 21, 2017, on East Campus to participate in an interfaith dialogue.

In light of the changing political climate and the uncertainty that many of our marginalized communities face, this Peace Breakfast presented the faith leaders with the question, "What is the role of the faith community in protecting the most vulnerable citizens and assuring that the arc continues to bend toward justice?"

Representing Christianity, Unitarian Universalism and Islam, the [Rev. Bryan Fulwider](#), the [Rev. Kathy Schmitz](#) and PJI Advisory Council member [Aminah Hamidullah](#) shared how their faith traditions answered the call to protect our country's most vulnerable citizens. PJI's student ambassadors Nathan Daniels and Ashley Larkin shared PJI's statement of solidarity written by Patti Ambinder, PJI advisory council chair (included on the next page).

This article first appeared in the [Valencia Grove](#).



## Peace and Justice Institute's Statement of Solidarity

Valencia College's Peace and Justice Institute is committed to nurturing an inclusive, caring and respectful environment on campus, in our community, in our nation and the world. 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.

Each spring, students, faculty, administrators, community members, clergy, and religious leaders gather together for a PJI Interfaith Peace Breakfast to learn teachings, and the touchstones of multiple faiths. Touchstones transcend any one tradition and share a common purpose to promote compassion and interfaith understanding.

As we witness the incidence of prejudice-motivated crimes in our community, nation and world, we find strength in our unity and a steadfast commitment to reject discrimination, racism, xenophobia, islamophobia, homophobia and hate speech against any individuals and groups.

We condemn hate crimes directed at any individuals and places of worship.

As a shared touchstone, we stand together to honor the values of a diverse and inclusive society that treasures all faith traditions, experiences and identities.

*Photo: Rodion Kutsaev*

### First Annual Valencia Night at the Hindu Society of Central Florida March 31, 2017

On March 31, 2017, PJI invited the Valencia community to the [Hindu Society of Central Florida](#) for an evening of education, yoga, meditation and Indian food. This event was part PJI's interfaith mission to educate our students on the incredibly diverse and valuable faith communities here in the Central Florida area.

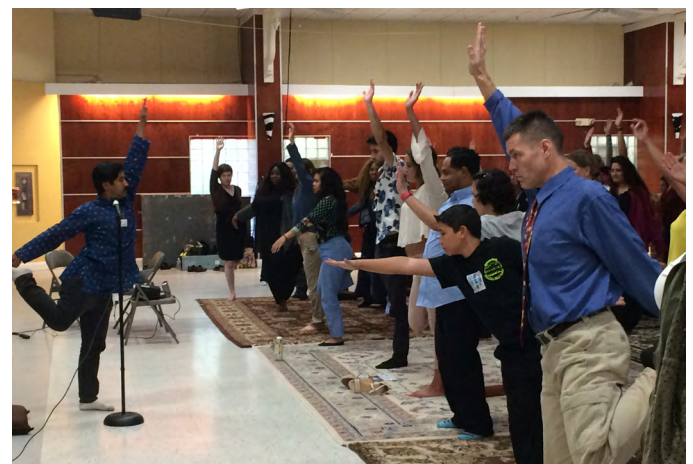
Close to 100 students, faculty and staff participated in the event. As you can see from the photos, our gracious hosts gave us wonderfully active lessons in simple yoga movements and mindful meditation techniques.



*The Valencia community participates in a yoga and meditation practice from the Hindu Society of Central Florida*

Over the last three years, PJI has partnered with and held several very successful events with the [Islamic Society of Central Florida](#). Starting in fall 2017, we will hold two Valencia Night events each semester. Look for Valencia Nights with our Muslim and Sikh faith communities in the fall. In spring 2018, we will turn our attention to the Judeo-Christian traditions.

Valencia Night events give students an opportunity to reduce ignorance by replacing stereotypes of faith traditions with accurate information based on authentic relationships.



*Participants learn dancer's pose during Valencia Night*



**Hindu Society  
of Central Florida**



# PEACE NEWS

*Celebrating peace news locally, nationally, and internationally*



Temperatures in Yellowknife have required some adjustment among the Alhajj family. Photograph: Nazim Awan/Yellowknife NT

## Syrian refugees find a second home in Canada.

After unboarding a plane to Yellowknife, one of the coldest cities in the world, Mustafa Alhajj and his family were promptly taken on a shopping spree for winter gear. This was made possible months earlier, when a group of residents came together under a program to cover the expenses of refugees for their first year in the country. Mustafa says “I love Yellowknife. Our sponsors have prepared everything for us – we feel right at home...Everyone knows we are Syrian refugees. They stop and shake hands with us and ask us how we are doing. Here, it’s not warm in weather, but warm in emotions and feelings.”

**The Guardian**

**Ikea releases free designs for a Garden Sphere that can feed a whole neighborhood.** Anyone in the world now has access to construction plans for Ikea’s Growroom, a source for locally-sourced food. As of now, there are plans to build them in Helsinki, Rio de Janeiro, Taipei, and San Francisco.

**Huffingtonpost**

**A city in Iowa** is setting aside 1,000 acres to populate with wildflowers and grasses as an initiative to save the honeybee population.

**Huffingtonpost**



MRS VIA GETTY IMAGES | A honeybee perches on a flower.



## Youth basketball team forfeits season for female teammates.

The St. John Apostle’s fifth grade Catholic Youth Organization basketball team were told that they wouldn’t be allowed to finish their season as a coed team. This meant that they would have to cut their two female teammates, even though they had been on the team the past four years.

In response, the boys forfeited their season and chanted “unity” as reinforcement. **CNN**



In this Friday, Feb. 10, 2017, photo, Kayla Martel, center right, and her fifth-grade teammates eat pizza after forfeiting the rest of their basketball season in the teachers lounge at St. John the Apostle School in Clark, N.J. (AP)





**Ireland passes bill** making it the first country to divest its sovereign wealth from coal, oil, and gas.  
**GoFossilFree**



BREAKING: Irish parliament votes through Fossil Fuel #Divestment Bill to #divest its €8bn sovereign fund.

**153 Greek villagers put their lives on hold to help tens of thousands of refugees.** Despite life in poverty, residents on a small island in Greece have opened their hearts to helping others flee from the Syrian Civil War. Refugee filmmaker, Talal Derki noted "Even though Greece is in the middle of its own economic crisis and craziness, there are people with an unbreakable generosity of spirit who provided hope and positivity to the displaced families. They made me feel so much more optimistic about life." Talal covered this story in his short documentary In Ode To Lesbos.

**GoodNewsNetwork**



These 153 Greek villagers don't have much money or material wealth, but that did not deter them from spending countless hours—putting their own lives on hold—to help tens of thousands of displaced refugees.

**An Indian primary school** asks parents to plant trees instead of pay tuition for children, resulting in 700 saplings being planted in the area, while allowing poor families to afford education.

**Science Alert**



Green Drive/Times of Indian  
Fiona Macdonald

**Poland joins 157 states as they destroy their complete stock of landmines.** The country destroyed one million mines, and all in an environmentally friendly way, as well, through recycling parts.

**ICBL**

**New Yorkers join together to remove racist graffiti from subway car.** After boarding a subway car, passengers couldn't help but notice every window and advertisement was covered in swastikas and hateful messages. As a result, the group took to removing all the symbolism within two minutes.

**CNN**



New York City subway art. "Passing Through" (detail) by artist AI

# SERVICE AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

## PJI Members Serve as Activists

Martin Luther King, Jr. stated, “human progress is neither automatic nor inevitable...

Every step toward justice requires sacrifice, suffering, and struggle; the

tireless exertions and passionate concern of dedicated individuals.” Many members of PJI have served as activists in the community, participating in peaceful protests and social movements. This year, some PJI members participated in the [Women’s March on Washington](#), the [March for Science](#), and the [People’s Climate March](#), among other various movements. *Pictured above: PJI staff, Advisory Council members, and facilitators at the Women’s March on Washington on January 21, 2017*



## The Importance of Political Engagement

By Tucker Morgan

Peace and Justice Ambassador and Leadership Fellow

Despite shaping the entire world and society in which we live, politics is often reduced to casual talking points to be skimmed over, or just brushed under the rug to avoid possible conflict. This is unfortunate, because I would argue that politics and civic engagement should be at the center of everyone’s life.

The decisions made by those in power, as well as the subsequent response by those being governed, greatly affect every person in the country, and even the world. Climate change, war, water scarcity, famine, and mass surveillance present some of the most pressing issues humanity faces today. With countless lives at risk, actions must be quick and direct. Unfortunately, especially in regard to climate change, it doesn’t appear that the current US administration is prepared to do that. Luckily (I guess?), quality

change never comes from the top. However, if problems are to be resolved, the people need to be involved.

It’s not hard to figure out why some choose not to participate in politics or get too involved. Many become jaded and cynical, believing that nothing could ever be done. Others may be hesitant to put themselves out there and run the risk of criticism or conflict. It doesn’t help when you risk being reduced to either a self-entitled, hippie stoner or a dumb redneck, as if most people aren’t more complex than one of two labels. Upon closer look, though, it’s apparent that the only reason the US enjoys the freedoms it has, is because of a long history of activism. People who came together, fought, and changed things.

Activism is characterized by much more than standing in the street with a sign. It’s boycotting and altering consumer habits. It’s changing your diet to fit your morals. It’s rejecting a patriarchal emphasis on a bogus definition of masculinity that also reduces women to a mere object to be acquired. In a society that has become atomized, simply going out and connecting with neighbors, waiters, the homeless, and anyone else can be seen as a form of activism. In doing so, you reject the desires of political and corporate leadership by establishing a stronger sense of brother and sisterhood. Anyone can do that.

The role of educators is often overlooked as well, and this doesn’t have to be limited to formal teachers and coaches. If you are someone who reads and learns a lot of viable information, by all means, share it with others. Encourage intellectual conversation and curiosity. People can’t act for an end to mass casualties of Yemeni civilians at the hands of the US and Saudi Arabia if they don’t even know it’s happening. They can’t act to end environmental racism if they don’t know that poor communities of color are specifically targeted for toxic waste dump.

Everyone cares about something and you’d probably be hard pressed to find someone who believes everything is perfect the way it is. I believe humans are naturally good, so it’s fun to imagine a world where everyone works to improve themselves every day and acts according to their beliefs--a world where everyone looks out for one another. Like Martin Luther King Jr. said: “In the end, we will remember not the words of our enemies, but the silence of our friends.”



## Civic Education with the League of Women Voters January-June 2017

Each month, students from our Peace and Justice Distinction, Ambassador, and Leadership Fellow programs attend “Hot Topic Luncheons” hosted by the



[League of Women Voters of Orange County](#). Topics this spring included race relations, new gun legislation, water quality, and transportation.

PJI is thankful for our strong partnership with the League and happy to bring our students to their important events.



*PJI students and staff with League co-presidents Carol Davis and Sara Isaac, former State Senator Geraldine Thompson, retired Florida Supreme Court Judge James Perry, and community activist, who has registered thousands of voters, Dr. Lavon Bracy during the “Shattering Racial Walls” Hot Topics*



*During the Hot Topics focusing on water quality in Orange County, Peace and Justice Ambassador Felicia Dixon encouraged the audience to take action and participate in cultivating positive change about water quality in our state.*

## The Annual Spring Fling at the Coalition for the Homeless March 25, 2017

Bi-annually, PJI partners with clubs across Valencia to host a party for the families in residence at the [Coalition for the Homeless of Central Florida](#).



This spring, over 80 volunteers participated in the event, including representatives from HERO (Human Empathy Rights Organization), Honors Seneff College, MAP (Muslim Ambassadors for Peace), LASO (Latin American Student Organization), VFE (Valencia Future Educators), FLS (Fearless Leaders Stand-Out), Model United Nations, PTK (Phi Theta Kappa), Peace and Justice Ambassadors, GSA (Gay-Straight Alliance), and SGA (Student Government Association).



## Making a Difference in Our Community: Reflecting on Serving During the PJI Spring Fling

By Denise Bourne

Administrative Assistant, Fine Arts Office

When I first agreed to volunteer for the Peace and Justice Institute Spring Fling at the Coalition for the Homeless on Saturday, March 25, 2017, I didn't have any expectations. I rallied my fellow members of the Fearless Leaders Standout and Step Dance Team and my daughter to join me and, together, we experienced what would become an enlightening adventure. As the event began, it was so nice to meet with the children at the Coalition and their parents. There was so much to do, everyone wanted to work and help one another.



*Denise Bourne laughs and dances at the Spring Fling*

During the event, I met a young girl who really touched my heart. She was very particular about everything she did during the event. I think she was about 7 years old. She knew exactly how she wanted her face painted and things she wanted to use to bling out her gift bag. But the one thing that really stood out to me was, when the dance team began to teach various steps to the children, how competitive and focused she was to learn the steps. It was inspiring to see that she wasn't willing to quit no matter how difficult the step routine was for her.



*A FLS member teaches a routine to Spring Fling participants*

I had an opportunity to speak with her parents and hear their story. They moved to Orlando from Maryland and fell on hard times. The only place they could go was the Coalition, so their daughter could have a roof over her head. At first, my heart went out to them because no one should have to go through this. But to see the joy on their faces despite their situation made me smile, because they still had each other. This was so moving to me, because we sometimes forget what is most important: family and staying together. The beautiful thing about the Coalition is

that it not only provides shelter to women, children and men, but they house families.

I asked my daughter about her experience at the Coalition and she said, "To witness all walks of life come through the Coalition doors was life changing. I am 17 years old and, before I attended the Coalition, I thought I had a good perception of life, but, being there, my view had changed. The Coalition made me realize that not everyone is raised the same way I was, and we need to help people every chance we get. We have a duty to help people in need, and I started to fulfill some of that duty during the event. When I walked in, I immediately gravitated to the kids especially because they wanted to dance. They were very eager to learn some of the steps and moves, so we began to teach them. When the children's parents witnessed their excitement, they started to open up to us. They began to share with us their trials and tribulations, some of which we have not experienced or could even imagine. They also began to express how small things like the photo booth, bounce house, food and other activities for the kids meant so much to them. I wholeheartedly enjoyed every bit of the Coalition and can see myself participating again next year. It's definitely an experience everyone should have."

The dance team members also expressed that they would love to be part of this event again next year. One of the strategic pillars for Valencia is to "Involve the College in meeting the community's needs and goals." After this rich experience and in the spirit of Valencia's commitment to community, the team thought it would be nice to do something great for the children and their parents, like bring classes to the Coalition to help the ones who desire to move forward in their lives.

This article first appeared in the [Valencia Grove](#).





## Holocaust Center Dinner of Tribute April 20, 2017

The [Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Florida](#)



hosted their Annual Dinner of Tribute this year in honor of Mayor of Orlando Buddy Dyer for his service to the community. PJI members representing the Advisory Council, faculty, staff, and student Ambassadors were happy to attend the Dinner of Tribute.

## Orlando Youth Empowerment Summit May 6, 2017

Working alongside the [City of Orlando](#) Mayor's office, [Zebra Coalition](#), [GLSEN Tampa, Orlando](#)



[Youth Alliance \(OYA!\)](#), [Commissioner Patty Sheehan](#), and the [Florida Department of Children and Families](#), the Peace and Justice Institute was one of the sponsors for the [O-YES LGBTQ+ Youth Empowerment Summit](#) on May 6th at the Beardall Senior Center in Orlando. Dr. Angela Blewitt worked with the planning committee for the several months leading up to the event, and volunteered with Peace and Justice Ambassadors Felicia Dixon and Nathan Daniels on the day of the summit. The O-Yes Conference was a resounding success with diverse workshops and speakers, and the Peace and Justice Institute is proud to work for and support our LGBTQ+ youth of Central Florida. We look forward to our continued partnership with the City of Orlando Mayor's Office for the O-YES LGBTQ+ Youth Empowerment Summit in 2018.



Ambassador Nathan Daniels and Dr. Angela Blewitt

## PEACE AND JUSTICE AMBASSADORS



The Peace and Justice Ambassadors give back to Valencia and the greater Orlando community by assisting PJI with events, projects and activities, with a mission, "To cultivate student empowerment through activism and outreach that promotes nonviolence, compassion, and dignity for all creatures of the earth, while upholding and embodying the core principles of the Peace and Justice Institute."

## Ambassador Retreat February 18, 2017

By Nicole Valentino  
Professor of English

PJI East Campus Coordinator

On Saturday, February 18th, Peace and Justice Ambassadors enjoyed a morning of self-discovery and connections with peers through the mission and values of the Peace and



Justice Institute. Activities with music and art are mediums used to exchange ideas and tap into one's inner truth. As students created art projects, they listened to songs they chose, helping them identify similar musical tastes. This allowed students to open up about what they held in common beyond music.

Another way students formed bonds with their fellow Ambassadors was the creation of a soul collage, which used this unique art form to convey deeper messages of their identity, value system, beliefs and struggles in life. Sharing their collages helped students discuss who they are as human beings. It was quite powerful as students opened up to each other, discussing their private matters with affirmation and conviction.



Through the practice of the [Principles for How We Treat Each Other](#), Ambassadors were able to discuss very personal issues, sometimes painful truths, because they understood that the safety of the space shared was one of respect and one free from judgement. If more students joined in these unique opportunities to meet others and form connections, how can they too benefit?

## LGBT+ Awareness Day March 30, 2017



Each year, the East Campus [Gay Straight Alliance](#) (GSA) hosts a LGBT+ Awareness Day. The Peace and Justice Ambassadors participated in this year's event, sharing information about our

work and how students can get involved. PJI is proud to partner with GSA and help create an inclusive environment for the LGBT+ community.

## East Campus Earth Day Celebration April 6, 2017

The East Campus Earth Day event, coordinated by the [Valencia Earth Studies Association](#) (VESA), inspired the Peace and Justice Ambassadors to bring out our "Conversation Pool." Students were invited to sit in the pool to discuss and answer questions written on colorful balloons related to earth day, climate change, and sustainability. Earth Day is April 22nd every year.



## Ambassadors Visit Classes

This spring, Ambassadors visited classes to share their experience with the PJI Ambassador program. An emphasis on the [Principles for How We Treat Each Other](#) and how students can get involved with PJI was also shared.

If you're interested in having the Peace and Justice Ambassadors speak to your classes, please contact [peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu).

## Become a Peace and Justice Ambassador

The Ambassadors are PJI student leaders who meet weekly to practice the principles of peace, justice, and nonviolence, work closely with faculty, staff and fellow students, and assist with events and activities.

In fall 2017, the Ambassador program is offered as a Service Learning course for 3 credits and meets on Thursday's at East Campus from 2:30-3:45 pm. Register via Atlas: SLS 2940 | CRN 17000



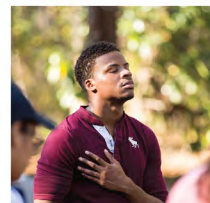
## Join the Peace and Justice Ambassadors Service Learning | Fall 2017

Peace and Justice Ambassadors complete 60 hours of service (3 credit hours) in collaboration with the Peace and Justice Institute.

The mission of the Peace and Justice Ambassadors is to cultivate student empowerment through activism and outreach that promotes nonviolence, compassion, and dignity for all earthlings, while upholding and embodying the core principles of the Peace and Justice Institute.

**COURSE: SLS 2940 | CRN: 17000**  
Peace Ambassadors meet Thursdays  
at the East Campus from  
2:30-3:45 PM in room 1-340 beginning August 31st  
With Professor Nicole Valentino [nvalentino@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:nvalentino@valenciacollege.edu)

Contact [peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu) for more details, or call 407-582-2291



PEACE AND  
JUSTICE INSTITUTE  
All People. All Values. All History.

VALENCIA COLLEGE



# Student-Led PJI Workshop Embraces Civility in Difficult Conversations

By Dani Moritz-Long  
Senior News Writer for [The Grove](#)



Between unrelenting social media battles and increasingly uncomfortable dinner conversations with that uncle who always takes it too far, surviving today's political climate without inciting a verbal (or physical) brawl can seem like an impossibility. Consequently, too many of us avoid engaging in difficult conversations altogether — leaning on avoidance and apathy as an alternative to unwelcome confrontations.

That's where Valencia's Peace and Justice Institute (PJI) comes in.

Rooted in the Institute's 13 [Principles for How We Treat Each Other](#), PJI fosters peace and justice by empowering our community to engage in inclusive, caring and respectful dialogue that leads to growth and transformation, rather than violence or aggression.

To promote this, the Institute hosts workshops and seminars, such as Global Peace Week and Orlando Speaks, throughout the year within and outside of the Valencia community. Generally, these workshops are hosted by trained PJI facilitators, but recently, PJI inspired Valencia's students to take action and lead a workshop of their own. Emboldened by PJI, its principles and its impact, Yerika Germosen, Nathan Daniels and Ashley Reyes hosted a PJI workshop for their peers, as well as faculty and staff, on East Campus on Wednesday, June 14, 2017.

During the workshop, they discussed the PJI principles and explored the application of them through interactive simulations and discussions. From discussing Black Lives Matter, climate change and immigration to simulating confrontations about a smoke-free campus and gender-neutral pronouns, the workshop invited participants to civilly engage in controversial conversations.

"I have noticed how a particular environment is created when the principles are introduced and how difficult conversations are made significantly more bearable when the principles are exercised," Yerika explained. "I wanted to help in the efforts of showing others that the principles are not only good in theory, but also in practice. All the topics that were discussed throughout the workshop were controversial, to say the least. Nonetheless, all the conversations that were had were characterized by civility and understanding. I think this is something that would have been difficult to attain if the principles were not applied." As Yerika attested to, many of the conversations proved stimulating, as students, faculty and staff shared their personal experiences and convictions on topics that, for some, were very close to them.

In one circle, students discussed the reality of undocumented immigration and their experiences with undocumented immigrants. In another, a discussion about Black Lives Matter evoked difficult testimonials about implicit bias and the complexities and contradictions surrounding the movement.

Commenting on the success of the event — which one student said helped "restore my faith in humanity" — Yerika said she's proud of the outcome.

Likewise, PJI Director Rachel Allen commends the students' work.

"Watching the Peace Ambassadors lead this workshop using the Principles for How We Treat Each Other to engage in such important social issues was a point of pride for me," she said. "Knowing PJI is developing leaders to facilitate civil dialogue in such a contentious time is heartening. Kudos to Yerika, Nathan and Ashley for such good work."

This article first appeared in the [Valencia Grove](#).

## Peace and Justice Distinction Spring 2017 Recipients

The Peace and Justice 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, students gain awareness, garner interest, and seek additional learning opportunities in Peace and Justice.

The Distinction offers a certificate and graduation chord upon completion, honorable mention in the Peace and Justice bi-annual newsletter and recognition at the annual Student Awards Ceremony. For more information or to register, [click here](#).

### **Congratulations to the spring 2017 Peace and Justice Distinction Recipients:**

Ashley Reyes  
Ashley Larkin  
Felicia Dixon  
Gunika Datt  
Jaykwon Hosey  
Joseph Torres  
Kim Marquard  
Laura Brito  
Nathan Daniels  
Rula Khalaf

**We are so proud of you!**

## New Student Program Launching this Fall: Sowing Peace, Growing Peace, Through Service



### **Sowing Peace, Growing Peace, Through Service**

PJI invites Valencia students to become a Peace Leader for the community through our Sowing Peace, Growing Peace, Through Service program! This new program is endowed through a generous gift to PJI by Penny Villegas, the Mother of Peace Studies at Valencia College, a PJI Advisory Council member, and a founding member of PJI.

Over a period of 16 weeks, students will learn about community needs, both in and outside of the classroom setting, through working with local peace leaders who will help students build authentic relationships with the people who need help. Civic and classroom activities which engage the heart as well as the intellect are at the core of the program.

After completion of all assignments, attending all meetings at the Winter Park campus, and fully participating in 4 mandatory off campus field trips, students will receive a \$300 stipend.

**Applications are due August 1, 2017.**

**[Click here](#) for more information and to apply.** Contact Professor Paul Chapman at [pchapman@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:pchapman@valenciacollege.edu) if you have any questions.



## Valencia Alum Reflects

By Heather Rashal, LMHC  
Valencia College Alum  
and Psychotherapist

With luck and happenstance, my life journey brought me to a career in the helping professions starting at an early age. A car accident when I was 15 caused several injuries and spun me into a long list of unhealthy behaviors. Depression joined grief when I lost my father the following year. For the most selfish reasons, I wanted to learn more about my sadness, my anger, and myself as a whole. The desire to learn the 'whys' of human behavior drew me to the discipline of psychology. I became hooked, instantly fascinated with the topic in sophomore year when I took an introduction to psychology class as an elective. Not a class offered often in high school, I jumped on the opportunity to learn more and pursued the subject further in college.

The pursuit of academia brought me to Valencia's East campus. What I found did not remotely match what I had experienced in public school. Absent of cliques and popularity contents, I found a place where people of different ages and upbringings met to learn. Even better, as I found at a club fair within my first month at the school, there were other students who wanted to be active in the community. Through this, I discovered [Amnesty International](#), led at Valencia by Penny Villegas. The organization allowed me to channel my wish to seek change for marginalized and oppressed communities around the world.

The club tamed an energy the 18-year-old version of me had previously misplaced, directing it toward human rights and helping. I quickly gained a position as secretary to the club and searched for additional ways to apply this drive. It took no time for me to find other classes that appealed to my interests, topics unavailable in the structure of high school. Humanities, in particular, a subject I had never learned until browsing electives for college, complemented my interest in people. In particular, a class called "What's Love Got to Do with It?", taught by Prof. Rachel Allen, allowed me to learn and give back with an immediate reward. Volunteer work included as part of the class involved planning and delivering an event at the Coalition for the Homeless in Orlando. It provided a meaningful

experience and started a theme of volunteer work that has continued through my adult life.

Involvement with school organizations collaborating with Amnesty, like the Muslim Student Association, and campus events promoting cultural awareness gave me foundation. Through what were precursors to the Peace & Justice Institute, I learned to cultivate open-mindedness, find compassionate curiosity for others and myself, and to identify big and little ways to help those around me. The lessons also drew me to yoga and mindfulness meditation in efforts for self-care. These methods of healthy living have not failed me through the years.

**"I find myself in regular gratitude for the opportunity Valencia presented me..."**

After Valencia, my journey continued to another school to finish my undergraduate education and pursue a graduate degree. I continued helping as my career. The foundation built from my earlier college experience made the decision of mental health counseling simple. It allowed me to practice and hone the skills I had already gained. I find myself in regular gratitude for the opportunity Valencia presented me at a critical turning point in my life. Now practicing as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor, I incorporate mindfulness into my therapeutic approach, helping diverse individuals with emphasis on those recovering from trauma, anxiety, addictions, and young adults on the LGBTQ+ spectrum.

*Heather Rashal is a practicing psychotherapist at [Center for the Healing Arts](#) in Winter Park, FL. She is co-chair for the non-profit organization, [Psychological Service Dogs, Inc.](#), currently working on the Journey to Wholeness mental health series. She can be contacted at 407-657-8555 ext 6.*

# PEACE LEARNING AT VALENCIA

## Looking for Peace and Justice



By Kinyel Ragland  
Professor of Peace Studies

Introduction to Peace Studies is essential to how we approach the many issues that we face in our world today. Terrorism, gender and racial issues, social and income inequality are among some of the issues that need urgent attention and academic analysis. My course focused on those issues with in-depth discussions, debates, information and media, in a controlled environment.

The course was broken into three units; The War on Terrorism, The War on Poverty (with income inequality) and The Civil Rights Movement (in the context of racial and gender inequalities). Before we began our journey through these topics, we read and understood the Principles of How We Treat Each Other, which are ground rules that include listening to each other deeply without judgement and being free to use our voices (or silence) to express ourselves civilly and respectfully.

In the War on Terrorism unit, we began with the atrocious

attack on September 11th. We discussed the politics of how and why it came about and then questioned the United States' response to the attack. The two questions at the center of our discussion was, "Is war ever justified, Is war a necessary solution?" To assist with our answers, we analyzed and applied "the Just War Theory," as a guide to answering the questions of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In our next unit, The War on Poverty, we started with the speech of President Lyndon B. Johnson and his plans for beginning of the war on poverty. That speech provided a foundation for how we discussed the current economic crisis of global poverty and income inequality today. Our class took the time to define what poverty looked like and where it could be found. Ultimately, poverty was not simply within the Black race but White as well and could be found in suburban areas, dispelling notions that poverty was solely in urban areas. We delve into the growing gap between the rich and poor, the dissipating middle class and prospective policies of the current presidential administration and how those policies could affect the United States. To examine solutions to poverty and income inequality, we read and watched videos of different economists and scholars who explained their theoretical solutions to these problems, which included ideas like Universal Basic Income (UBI).

Our last unit led us into a discussion about race and we started with the court case Plessy vs. Ferguson, decided in 1896 which segregated our society. Going into Brown vs. Board of Education and the beginning of the Civil Rights movement in 1954, it gave us a platform to discuss race and it's effect, both past and present.

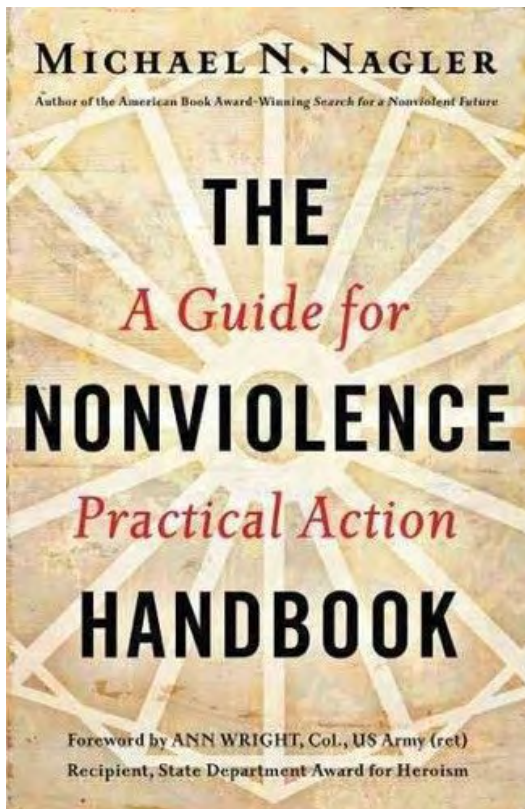
In closing, a professor's goal or end game, should be for their students to hopefully retain different components of the subject that they teach. Indeed, no student will leave a



classroom at the end of a semester remembering all of the information that was presented to them. My end game or goal aligns with my teaching philosophy which is Social Reconstructivism. This philosophy is used in a manner to address social and political injustices within our society, with analytic intentions of applying solutions to those issues. In the context of Peace Studies, I use this philosophy to discuss contentious issues that we all face in the U.S., including the effects of war and social injustices.

With all that is going on in the world; wars in Syria and Afghanistan, a potential threat from North Korea, the humanitarian crisis in the Middle East, the global reach of terrorism, income inequality, policies that favor rich families over poor families, universal health care (or the lack thereof), the absence of freedom for women to make their own choices, disparities in our justice system, issues of race and racism, gender inequalities, age discrimination, drugs, gangs and gun violence, there has never been a better time to examine these issues through the Peace and Justice Institute.

## What We're Reading



[\*The Nonviolence Handbook: A Guide for Practical Action\*](#)  
by Michael N. Nagler

## PJI's Continuing Education



PJI partnered with organizations throughout the community to bring the mission of PJI and our Principles this spring and early summer. A featured series of workshops took place at [Christ Church Unity](#) (CCU)

in Orlando. This three part series included workshops titled, "Waking Up To Our Shared Humanity," "Conversations on Race," and "Conversations on Privilege." These powerful workshops invite participants to consider their own bias, learn about systems of privilege and oppression and explore how each individual can support those with less privilege as we work to level the playing field and bring about increased equity within our community. Participants called the workshops "empowering, emotional, engaging and transformative," and found the personal stories to be eye-opening, motivating them to be agents of change.



*Participants in the CCU workshop share a smile together during small group testimony*



*A community member listens to a fellow participant's story*

## Legal Education Action Project LEAPS into the Central Florida Legal Community



By Kiki Grossman, J.D., LL.M.

Writer and Speaker on Dispute Resolution and Law  
PJI Consultant and Advisory Council Member

"In a hurried world where we sometimes forget to look beyond people's words and actions and discover the 'why' behind what people say and do, LEAP helped me become a better attorney and in essence a better person, by delving into those 'whys' to understand what is really happening when people say the things they say and do the things they do."

-Wendy Mara, Attorney and LEAP participant

After reading Wendy's quote about her experience in our first Legal Education Action Project (LEAP) class, my heart received confirmation that our class had its intended effect: To reach lawyers, judges, and paralegals on a level most continuing legal education (CLE) classes seldom do.

Participant and attorney Jill Kelso mirrored this intention when after the program, she explained how much she valued the LEAP curriculum because "there just aren't many opportunities for [lawyers] to learn how to be better people." Jill furthered that to "have people participate and feel is much more meaningful than concepts" and her morning in class was spent "meeting great people and learning" about herself.

Had it been available, confetti would have been flying upon hearing her thoughts. I'll have to remember it for the next class.

LEAP has been a year in the making and is now known among judges, paralegals, and lawyers in the Central Florida area. The Florida Bar has accredited our 1-Hour and 3-Hour "Principles For How We Treat Each Other" classes with the sought-after Professionalism credit classification. And the next class will be at the Orange County Bar Association Lunch and Learn on June 16. The 3-Hour Principles class will be offered again on July 21 and we plan to roll out our next class, "Authentic Advocacy," in September.


Our goals for LEAP are far-reaching. We want to help legal professionals learn new skills to practice law with the professionalism, civility, courtesy, and dignity required by The Florida Bar. And we want more. We want to help participants look deeply within and use those skills in thoughtful, soulful, and transformative ways.

Sustainable change and transformation must come from within. We are teaching our participants how to reflect on their relationship with the Principles and how to contemplate the space between their aspirations and the sometimes-difficult realities of their practice. And by looking within and then using the Principles, we teach them how to transform conflict into a learning opportunity for all involved. This kind of education has the potential to cause a ripple effect not only into the legal community, but also into the general community as a whole. When clients witness their lawyers, paralegals, and judges using skills to peacefully and creatively navigate conflict, they learn. And then have a chance to use these witnessed skills in their own lives and hopefully pass them down to their children.

If you would like to learn more about LEAP or you know of a legal professional who would be interested in participating in our program, please email me at [kgrossman2@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:kgrossman2@valenciacollege.edu). Or, click the image above to register for the LEAP program.

**THE PRINCIPLES FOR HOW  
WE TREAT EACH OTHER**

PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE  
LEGAL EDUCATION ACTION PROJECT



**FRIDAY, JULY 21, 2017**

This workshop will explore how Legal Professionals can use the Principles for How We Treat Each Other in order to creatively and more effectively navigate conflict and achieve greater levels of professionalism and career satisfaction.

Florida Bar CLE Credits: 3 hours Professionalism OR General



# PEACE AND JUSTICE STUDENT COURSES

FALL 2017



## **Conflict Transformation: Paths to Peace**

**PAX 1500 | West Campus**

**West: CRN 16395**

This course is designed to create the potential for intrapersonal and interpersonal transformation while exploring tools for conflict transformation. Students will explore different approaches to conflict and the many reasons why conflict between individuals, groups and states arises and even turns violent. We will discuss the various actions that people can take to mitigate and transform the destructive forces of both inter and intrapersonal conflict, including, for example: reflective practice, dialogue, mediation and negotiation. We will explore these different "conflict interventions" by studying the theory and practice of negotiation and mediation skills, analyzing specific conflicts in history and in current events, and becoming proficient in skillful dialogue aimed at bridging personal, social and cultural gaps which often lead to misunderstanding and conflict.

## **Environmental Science**

**EVR 1001 | East Campus | CRN 16233**

This non-laboratory course provides understanding of our interdependence with and responsibility for environment, earth and all species. We will investigate such aspects as pollution, urbanization, population trends and changes in lifestyles. We will address present and projected solutions to current and future problems and predicaments. You are encouraged to inquire beyond these basic areas of study outlined.

## **Freshman Composition II: Perspectives on War, Philosophies of Peace**

**ENC 1102 | East Campus and Online**

**East CRN: 10109, 12918, 13459, or 13460**

**Online CRN: 12993**

**Prerequisite: Freshman Composition I**

Through documentaries, photography, poetry, art, literature, philosophy, and non-fiction works, this online course explores multiple perspectives of warfare and introduces philosophies of peace to build pathways of healing. Application of skills learned in ENC 1101 is expected, while there is an emphasis on style; use of library; reading and evaluating available sources, along with planning, writing, and documenting a short research paper. This is a Gordon Rule course in which the student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments.

## **Peace and Justice Ambassadors Service Learning**

**SLS 2940 | East Campus | (60 Hours of Service) | CRN 17000**

This is a planned service-learning experience that focuses on three hallmarks: service, leadership and scholarship. Students in this course will complete 60 hours of Service Learning. Students serve as Peace and Justice Ambassadors in Service to the Peace and Justice Institute at Valencia College.

## **Social Justice Hangs on *The Wire***

**HUM 2930 | West Campus | CRN 16805**

**Prerequisite: Freshman Composition I**

Social Justice hangs on "The Wire". This class is based on the popular HBO Series The Wire. Topics include: social justice, the war on drugs, mass incarceration, and the workings of inner city Baltimore.

## **Freshman Composition II: Voices From the Margins: Reading, Discussing and Writing for Peace and Justice**

**ENC 1102 | East Campus**

**CRN 10108, 10110, or 11064**

**Prerequisite: Freshman Composition I**

Through literature and film, this course will explore the perspectives of Americans who live between and beyond borders: their cultures of origin and the American mainstream. This course will focus on literature written by and about people from marginalized cultures in America. Application of skills learned in ENC 1101. Emphasis on style; use of library; reading and evaluating available sources; planning, writing, and documenting short research paper. Gordon Rule course in which the student is required to demonstrate college-level writing skills through multiple assignments.

## **Introduction to Peace Studies**

**PAX 1000 | East Campus,  
Osceola Campus, Online,  
West Campus**

**and Winter Park Campus**

**Osceola: CRN 12396 or 16776**

**Online: CRN 13699**

**West: CRN 17417 or 17419**

**Winter Park: CRN 17150**

This course studies peace in its philosophical, religious, literary, historical and other cultural contexts. It investigates the causes of violence on the global and personal levels. There is an emphasis on the interdisciplinary study of peace and the peace movement in historical and contemporary views. It also teaches the application of conflict resolution, nonviolence, and other practices necessary to become more powerful and peaceful members of our world.

## **Multimedia Literature and the Holocaust**

**LIT 2174 | Online | CRN 13055**

**Prerequisite: ENC 1101**

This course explores literacy characteristics inherent in various media including (but not limited to) Holocaust - related historical text, documentary film, comics (graphic narrative), survivor narratives, pre- and post - Nazi art and contemporary major motion pictures. The examination includes critical analyses of textual, visual, syntactical, mechanical and thematic conventional similarities found in traditional textual "literature" and in the structure, syntax and language of visual media.

## **Peace, Conflict, and the Police**

**CJE 2062 | Online | CRN 17326**

**Prerequisite: Minimum grade of C in ENC 1101**

In this course, students will learn the meaning of peace and investigate the philosophical and religious theories that underlie peace studies. In addition, students will investigate causes of war and violence from the individual level to international level and evaluate the paradox of the police as instruments of both peace and conflict. Students will investigate the police role in nonviolent movements and learn about occupational and organizational factors that influence police behavior. Students will learn about the history of non-violent movements and the means used to end conflict or injustice peacefully. Finally, students will be expected to devise an alternative framework for the police that emphasize peacekeeping strategies rather than coercive means.

## **Positive Psychology**

**PSY 2930 | East Campus, Osceola Campus**

**East: CRN 13259, 15000, 15987, 15271, or 15354 | Osceola: CRN 13614**

This course is designed to introduce a strength-based psychology that scientifically studies positive human functioning, specifically, the strengths and virtues that enable individuals and communities to thrive. Emphasis will be placed on studying and applying topics such as; happiness, gratitude, flow, optimism and hope, wisdom and courage, positive affect, resilience, coping, friendship, and positive development across the lifespan.

## **Social Entrepreneurship**

**GEB 1155 | East Campus | CRN: 16751**

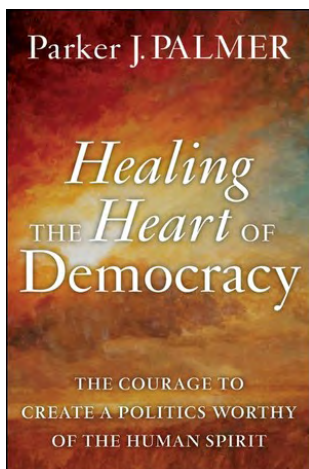
**Prerequisite: GEB 1011 or GEB 1136 or ECO 2013 or ECO 2023 or MUM 2720C or Department Approval**

This course explores Social Entrepreneurship as a rapidly developing and changing business field in which business and nonprofit leaders design, grow, and lead mission-driven enterprises. As the traditional lines blur between nonprofit enterprises, government, and business, students explore opportunities and challenges in this new landscape through local project based learning.

**For more information  
please contact the  
Peace and Justice  
Institute at  
[peaceandjustice@  
valenciacollege.edu](mailto:peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu)**

# FACULTY AND STAFF FOCUS

## PJI Annual Faculty and Staff Retreat: Who Am I? Valencians Reflected on their Contributions to Peace and Justice During Recent PJI Retreat



*This year's PJI faculty/staff retreat was focused on [Healing the Heart of Democracy](#) by Parker J. Palmer.*

Who am I? It seems a simple enough question; but the reality is that it takes deep reflection to answer it honestly. According to Peace and Justice Institute (PJI) Director and Professor of Humanities Rachel Allen, this deceptively simple question is also pivotal in developing ourselves as agents of peace and justice.

As Rachel explained in her retreat introduction, "Peace, justice and love are an inside job!" We must first cultivate peace within ourselves before we can begin the work of sharing the same.

Throughout the two-day retreat, held Friday, February 24 and Saturday, February 25, 2017, participants learned and reflected through the PJI [Principles for How We Treat Each Other](#), poetry, affirmations, journalism, song, yoga, the visual arts and dialogue. The retreat was led by Elaine Sullivan from the Center for Renewal and Wholeness in Higher Education and co-facilitated by Rachel.

"I thought it was great that we shared meals together and could walk and talk together, unconfined," said Implementation Coordinator Amanda King of the retreat environment.

In the spirit of reflection, three participants of the retreat, Employee Development and Inclusion Coordinator Luisa Sersch and Implementation Coordinators Leah Fowlkes and Amanda, revealed their experiences.

Collectively discussing their thoughts, they explained that even though there were times when the conversations were difficult, overall the retreat experience empowered them to be true to themselves.

They weren't alone in feeling this way. Many participants shared that the retreat felt intimate, as they shared their true selves and viewpoints, for better or worse. At times, it may have been challenging for some to drum up the courage to speak, but, for many, the retreat felt safe and meaningful.

Summarizing the event and the connection to Rachel's question, who am I, Leah shared, "The work of non-violence has to start within yourself — within your own soul and your own thoughts. That can then be brought to your community, workplace, friends and family. That was the focus for me."

This article first appeared in the [Valencia Grove](#).

## Register Now for SEED at Valencia

SEED, an acronym for [Seeking Educational Equity and Diversity](#), is an international project, founded 30 years ago by Dr. Peggy McIntosh of Wellesley College. SEED utilizes a cohort-based, monthly seminar model with the intention of



creating gender fair, multiculturally equitable and globally informed educational spaces and workplaces. SEED values all voices and experiences and recognizes diversity in its many forms. These forms include, but are not limited to, traditionally thought of categories such as race, color, ethnicity, religion, sex, gender identity and expression, age, sexual orientation or ability. They also include categories like military service, position classification, primary campus, introversion/extroversion, length of service at Valencia, family structure or political affiliation.

**For more information or to register, [click here](#).**



# Peace and Justice Practitioner Program

By Ellen Rendle

Coordinator, Program Advisor  
Behavioral and Social Science, West Campus

The Peace and Justice Practitioners: sixteen viewpoints, sixteen voices, an open-welcoming environment and a desire to explore components of living in a more just community.

Last month, sixteen participants, comprised of Valencia staff and community members completed the inaugural Peace and Justice Practitioner Program. A diverse group met to delve into the values and practices of peace and justice. Under the leadership and hospitality of Rachel Allen, participants met for 43 hours over the course of eight months.

Valencia staff, faculty and outside guests taught tools for encouraging peace and justice at home, in the community and on campus. The content dove deeply into the 13 [Principles for How We Treat Each Other](#). The topics of each meeting focused on the commitments of a peace and justice practitioner, which include the following:

- Places relationship as central to the work, focusing on the culture of collaboration
- Encourages a reflective practice to support self-awareness, meaning and purpose, including mindfulness practice and emotional intelligence
- Addresses conflict as a source and opportunity for growth and transformation
- Uses the tools of story, dialogue, and peaceful communication while practicing the Principles for How We Treat Each Other
- Supports a community of inclusive excellence in which all voices are heard and valued
- Engages in the exploration of the “other” with an acknowledgement of our inherent interdependence
- Recognizes that there can be no peace without justice for all

PJI also provided participants with a notebook of resources and readings to further their thinking and action going forward.

While participants came from different areas of the

college and community and represented a broad range of ages and experiences, each found tremendous value in the work. Some participants commented on how they will use the various tools in their workplace, or personal life. Others were impacted by the environment created from meeting regularly over time, in an open and welcoming space, still others expressed feeling more connected to the college, and to a community of like-minded individuals. A few discovered the value in slowing down and using meditation and mindfulness.

For the final session, participants were asked to create a capstone project to share one concept from the program. The presentations are archived at PJI for use as skillshops, in staff meetings, classrooms or a community setting. The projects included education on environmental justice, LGBT awareness, team-building activities, and new ways to present the 13 Principles for How We Treat Each Other.

As with many programs that Valencia offers in a cohort, content is not the only takeaway. Practitioners shared how impactful the experience of being together to discuss personal and deep material can be: This program gave me a stronger connection to the college because I am proud to work for a school that puts resources into a program like this. I am grateful for the connections I made. Another concluded in this powerful way: “...Found a community to grow with - Found a community to support and who can support me - Life changing.”

The Institute is will continue the work of the Practitioner Program, offering it to a new cohort of participants next year. Look out for an announcement in [The Grove](#). If you are interested in broadening the effect of mindfulness and inclusivity in your own life and at Valencia, this might be an appropriate fit for you.

**PJI regards every individual as a rising peace and justice practitioner and provides the tools for all to be leaders of socially inclusive change and innovation in their circle of influence. The commitments of a peace and justice practitioner are a pathway to building The Culture of Peace and an invitation to becoming an agent of change.**

# PRINCIPLES FOR HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER

## Valencia's Nursing Students: Diverse, Unique, and Together: Creating a Culture of Civility January 18, 2017



By Marci Dial, DNP, ARNP, RN-BC, CHSE, LNC  
Doctor of Nursing Practice  
Professor of Nursing, Valencia College  
Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner

Nursing, “the profession of caring” is defined by those individuals dedicated to tending to the well-being of others in times of joy, despair and loss. Nurses make the commitment to serve and provide care to patients, families and communities every day. Turmoil and stress may create conflict for nurses as they struggle to care for patients. Conflict, may sometimes cause nurses and other members of the health care team to react in an uncivil manner, thus, jeopardizing the safety of patients.

Each term, the incoming Nursing 1 students come together on the first day of school and define what civility means to them. Collecting the words and creating the Nursing 1 Civility Charter has changed the culture in the Nursing 1 classroom. The powerful words defining civility speak volumes as the students and faculty work together to create a classroom built upon these words and Valencia's Peace and Justice Institute's [Principles for How We Treat Each Other](#).

The Nursing 1 Civility Ceremony has become one of the most important aspects in my work as a nurse, a professor

and a peace and justice practitioner. Seeing students reach out to one another, overlooking differences and unifying their classroom is a true testament to the strength of this endeavor. The impact these future nurses are making in raising awareness about civility on campus is only a stepping stone toward even greater things for the community in which we serve.



*A nursing student signs the charter and receives a copy of the Principles for How We Treat Each Other and an “Achieve Your Dreams” bracelet*



*Nursing student Robert Lewis speaks about the meaning of civility and how it impacts the classroom culture and the students' future profession as nurses*

## PRINCIPLES FOR HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER

Our Practice of Respect and Community Building

Click the image above to read the full list of Principles, PJI's practice of respect and community building.



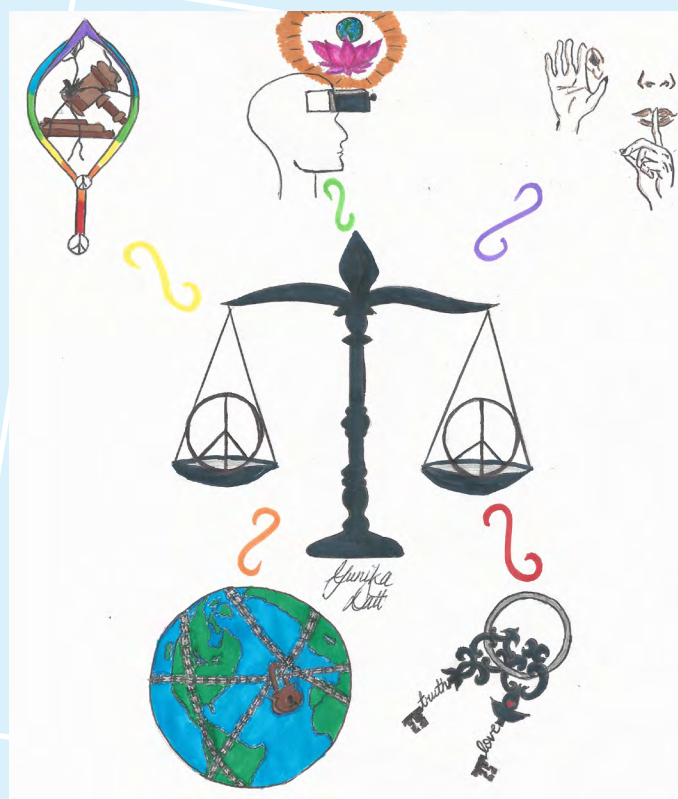
# PEACE AND THE ARTS

## PJI Distinction Sparks Original Artwork, Poetry, and Song

A requirement of the [Peace and Justice Distinction](#) is for students to complete a capstone project demonstrating what they've learned throughout their time attending and volunteering at PJI events. This past spring semester, PJI Distinction recipients submitted a wide variety of capstones, including beautiful reflection papers, original artwork, poetry, and song. Included in this section are some of those submissions. . . . .

### *Principles of Peace Art Work*

By Gunika Datt  
PJI Distinction Recipient  
Valencia Graduate



There are many principles in which to regard this world, but they all embody one thing; understanding. In these heavy times, understanding our neighbours is the key to peace and prosperity in a world where differences set us against each other.

In the aftermath of the Pulse shooting, the world united against unfair judgement on who they are, as I learned from the speakers at “Post-Pulse: Homosexuality and Cultural Acceptance.” The broken rainbow mirror represents the ongoing fight for LGBTQ rights, and the justice denied to so many. In my opinion, it is important to acknowledge the identity of others without judgement.

Next, the lotus symbolizes a sort of re-birth of our minds, and thus, the world. In acknowledging the choices of others, we must also realize that the world is changing, and our views must change with it. Furthermore, in Sarva Dharma, where the main belief is equality among religions, each petal of the lotus flower symbolizes one of the six major religions; Islam, Christianity, Hinduism, Zoroastrianism, Buddhism, and Judaism. The talk, “Role of Arab-Americans & Muslims promoting Global Peace,” opened my eyes to the rise in Islamophobia. As a result, I felt it necessary to depict that in order for a new and better world to arise, the angst between religions must be relinquished for an understanding that one might not comprehend the traditions of another religion, but that does not make it a lesser form of spirituality.

The third picture is an illustration of two of the [Principles for How We Treat Each Other](#), which are “listen deeply,” and “all voices have value.” To create a better world, we must learn to understand each other. The best way to understand and delve deep into the conscious of another human being, is to listen to what they have to say, regardless of our own opinions on the matter.

In the depiction at the bottom of this piece, the world is in chains; the kind of chains that cannot be broken with physical materials, such as guns, but rather with human connection. It has always been love and truth that have opened one human heart to another. In the center, the scales of justice symbolize the two opposing sides, where a fair distribution of understanding from both sides for the opposition, can create a community where only truth and love are offered to all those who enter.

# Peace and Justice Song

By Kim Marquard

Peace and Justice Ambassador and Distinction Recipient  
Valencia Graduate, Class of 2017

Being a part of the Peace and Justice Institute team is like having a family. We share common interests and goals towards a better tomorrow and spread awareness in our community and beyond. What inspired this song in the first place is what we stand for: Peace and Justice. Each verse has different elements of what we do and stand for. Although I had a few ideas in mind it was difficult to formulate the words to not only make it fit together but to also make strong points for each verse of what I have learned and what we, the PJI do: spreading awareness of our worldly impacts, fighting for what is right, working in harmony, but most important of all, to make peace and justice. ....

## Peace and Justice Song Lyrics

Every being on this Earth  
Whether big or small  
You know your worth  
No matter how young or old  
You make an impact in the world

Pre Chorus  
So stand beside me my friend  
Side by side and hand in hand

Chorus  
Let's gather for peace and justice  
Let our voices be heard  
And our actions speak louder than words  
Together we can make a difference  
Together we are strong  
And we know we are not alone

Come join us in common faith  
To strive towards justice, don't be afraid  
In harmony we work for a cause  
Every voice is counting making us strong

Pre Chorus  
Chorus

Let's bring together our strength  
Breaking the walls we are up against  
Together we will unite  
Let's step as one into the light

Pre chorus  
Chorus

All voices all matter  
We all are in this together



*Kim Marquard wrote a beautiful song, titled Peace and Justice for her PJI Distinction capstone project*

## Poem Inspired by Principles for How We Treat Each Other

By Felicia Dixon

Peace and Justice Ambassador and Distinction Recipient

Sit down before you stand, listen before you speak.  
Swallow your disagreements to understand another's point of view. Pause your opinion is still valid and your voice will be heard. Now listen to mine and prior to your answer, take meaning to my choice of words do not convey and respond until you have tasted my speculation. Again stand up before you sit down. I mentioned it backwards because before you were squatting and dissecting what I was speaking to you, this time you could stand up with more power under your britches and not look a fool. Remember to always think of another's innovation and to never assume. Be humble with a cocky smile it may only brighten someone's day. Be Ruthless when you poise and be Fearless when you perch for everyone has a purpose so define yours.



## Peace Maker Poem

By Jaykwon Hosey

Peace and Justice Ambassador and Distinction Recipient  
Valencia Graduate, Class of 2017

Peace is not a preexisting state, peace is not the absence of conflict, no, peace is not something that must be kept but made, the day we make peace will be the day we can keep it. We have mistaken silence for peace, but I have learned that peace lies within the noise, within the mess, within the turmoil is where I find my peace. Until my eyes have experienced blindness, I cannot see, until I have experienced the disorder I have not seen peace that lies on the other side. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. In this, I have learned to embrace the silence, it is there that you will hear God, embrace the darkness, because that is where the light will shine, find your pain, then you will see healing is not far away, immerse yourself in the troubles of life and this world, there you will lock hands with peace. Last I will say, embrace the hopelessness, sit within it, drown in the oceans of doubt and fear, because you will then learn to walk on water. I say again that peace in anything is not a preexisting state, but must be made manifest through us. Speak of your wounds, as well of the wounds of the world, sing of our pains, there is nothing our mouths can say that our souls are not already crying out. We are not peace keepers, we are peace makers.

## Poem Sparked from Visioning Days

By Lauri Lott

Professor of Education  
Valencia Future Educators Advisor  
PJI Advisory Council Member

I Remember When....  
It ran itself.  
Pulse.  
He SAW Me!  
Love and Peace Studies.  
The Principles on my refrigerator door.  
Can we send some Principles to Washington?  
Conversations.  
WE have a place at the table.  
Peace and Justice in 1 sentence!  
Hesitant, now what?  
We Do The Work!  
It's great to be able to fight....  
We are walkin' the walk.  
We're both bossy! We call that Leadership in the 21st  
Century.  
They laughed.....

THIS PRINCIPLED PLACE!



# ANNOUNCEMENTS AND RECOGNITIONS

## Pulse Remembrance

June 12, 2017 marked one year since the Pulse Nightclub shooting so tragically claimed 49 lives. In remembrance of those we lost and those who survived, the City of Orlando and Orange County Government, in collaboration with Pulse, have marked June 12<sup>th</sup> as *Orlando United Day - A Day of Love and Kindness*. Various remembrance ceremonies took place across Valencia College to remind us and the world that while our hearts may be broken, our pulse remains strong. PJI is committed to continuing our work of building an inclusive, loving community for Central Florida.

Screenings of the short documentary [\*Love the Sinner\*](#) took place at Valencia's East Campus in response and honor of to Orlando United Day. *Love the Sinner* explores the connection between Christianity and homophobia in the wake of the shooting at Pulse.



### FILM SCREENINGS

VALENCIA COLLEGE EAST CAMPUS  
701 N. ECONLOCKHATCHEE TRAIL  
ORLANDO, FL 32812

TUESDAY, JUNE 13<sup>TH</sup> | 5:00-6:30 PM | ROOM 3-113  
THURSDAY, JUNE 15<sup>TH</sup> | 1:00-2:30 PM | ROOM 6-110

Join us as we screen the film *Love the Sinner*, which explores the connection between Christianity and homophobia in the wake of the shooting at Pulse nightclub in Orlando. Following the screening, join us for a thought provoking and in depth discussion surrounding the film's theme and the realities experienced by the communities represented in the film.

*Love the Sinner* probes our responsibility to face bias in our communities and push for dignity and equality for all.



PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE  
An Agency of the University of Central Florida



## Honoring PJI Members

Ashley Reyes, Peace and Justice Ambassador and recipient of the PJI Distinction was awarded with the Matador Spirit Award by East Student Activities at their annual ceremony this past spring. The Matador Spirit Award is presented to an individual who has assisted in the development of campus life above and beyond the call of duty.

This individual works successfully behind the scenes and does not work for recognition. Congratulations, Ashley!



Nicole Valentino, PJI East Campus Coordinator and Professor of English was honored at the [Arab American Community Center](#) of Central Florida's Spring Gala this past April for her service to the organization. Nicole assisted the AACC with the spring Arab Festival, clearing their storage facility out, and spreading awareness about their important work in the community. Some of Nicole's students also wrote grant letters to help AACC receive funding. Congratulations, Nicole!

We are happy to welcome Sadia Inshan in her new position as Staff Assistant for PJI. She is a graduate from the University of Central Florida with a Bachelor's degree in Psychology and a Master's degree in Social Work. This summer, we also welcome Peace and Justice Ambassador and PJI Distinction recipient, Nathan Daniels as our [Leadership Fellow](#).



Nathan is a founding member of the Valencia Historical Society, a new club coming to the East Campus in fall 2017, and is dual-majoring in History and Political Science with a minor in Global Peace and Security Studies. We are excited to have both Nathan and Sadia working in the PJI office!



Save the Dates:

## GLOBAL PEACE WEEK SEPTEMBER 25-29, 2017

Join us September 25<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> for Global Peace Week with celebrations and events including peace education, music, arts and crafts, guest speakers, and free film screenings in partnership with the [Global Peace Film Festival](#). Click the Global Peace Week image to the left for more information.



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 all of our work.

**GIVE**

Give online at [valenciacollege.edu/pji](http://valenciacollege.edu/pji)

If you prefer to give by check, please mail to:  
**Peace and Justice Institute**  
**CO Valencia Foundation**  
**P.O. Box 3028 Orlando, FL 32802-9961**



# PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

## Fall 2017-Spring 2018 Calendar of Events\*

For details visit [www.valenciacollege.edu/pji](http://www.valenciacollege.edu/pji)

Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>

### 911 Memorial Service

Osceola Campus | Time TBA

Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

### Community Screening of the Global Peace Film Festival (film TBA)

Winter Park Campus

Rooms 225-226 | 6:00-9:00 pm

Friday, September 15<sup>th</sup>

### INDV 3251 Creating an Environment for Inclusive Excellence: Inclusive Excellence through the Islamic Lens (FOR FACULTY ONLY)

Osceola Campus | Room TBD | 9:30-11:30 am

Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup> - Sunday, Sep. 24<sup>th</sup>

### Global Peace Film Festival

Sponsored in part by PJI:

Screenings throughout Orlando, including Valencia Campuses

Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

### International Peace Day Festival

East Campus | Mall Area | 11:00 am-2:00 pm

Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>

### Multiple screenings of the Global Peace Film Festival

West Campus, Time and Room TBA

Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>

### Global Peace Film Festival screening (film TBA)

Campus TBA | 6:00-9:00 pm

Monday, September 25<sup>th</sup> - Friday, Sep. 29<sup>th</sup>

### Global Peace Week

College-wide, Check online schedule for events

Thursday, September 28<sup>th</sup>

### INDV 3251 Creating an Environment for Inclusive Excellence: Inclusive Excellence through the Islamic Lens (FOR FACULTY ONLY)

East Campus | Room TBD | 5:30-7:30 pm

Friday, September 29<sup>th</sup>

### INDV 3251 Creating an Environment for Inclusive Excellence: Inclusive Excellence through the LGBT Lens (FOR FACULTY ONLY)

East Campus | Room TBD | 9:30-11:30 am

Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup> / Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

### INDV 7316 How We Treat Each Other (FOR FACULTY ONLY)

Thursday, October 5<sup>th</sup>

West Campus | Room TBA | 2:00-4:00 pm

Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

East Campus | Room TBA | 2:00-4:00 pm

Friday, October 6<sup>th</sup>

### Valencia Night at the Islamic Society of Central Florida

1021 N. Goldenrod Road, Orlando, FL 32807

5:30-8:00 pm

Would you like to learn more about Islam and share a deeper understanding with our Muslim neighbors? Please join Valencia students, faculty, and staff for a tour of the mosque, a free Middle Eastern meal, and a presentation about the fundamentals of Islam.

Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup> / Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

### INDV 7311 Creating a Safe Space for Dialogue Kick-off (FOR FACULTY ONLY)

Tuesday, October 24<sup>th</sup>

West Campus | Room TBA | 1:00-5:00 pm

Friday, October 27<sup>th</sup>

East Campus | Room TBA | 1:00-5:00 pm

Saturday, October 28<sup>th</sup>

### Fall Fest Service Project

639 W. Central Blvd, Orlando, FL 32801

8:30 am-1:30 pm

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

\* Events are added throughout the year. Be sure to follow PJI on Facebook or through the Valencia College events calendar for the most accurate and up to date schedule.



Friday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Valencia Night at the  
Sikh Society of Central Florida**

2527 W State Road 426, Oviedo, FL 32765  
5:30-8:00 pm

Would you like to learn more about Sikhism and explore ways in which our community can learn from and better connect with each other? Please join Valencia students, faculty, and staff for a free tour of the Temple, a free meal, and a presentation about Sikhism.

Wednesday, November 15<sup>th</sup>

**Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering**

East Campus | 8-101 | 8:00-10:00 am

Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup> / Friday, Nov. 17<sup>th</sup>

**INDV 2151 Inclusion and Diversity**

(FOR FACULTY ONLY)

Thursday, November 16<sup>th</sup>

Osceola Campus | Room TBA | 2:00-4:30 pm

Friday, November 17<sup>th</sup>

West Campus | Room TBA | 2:00-4:30 pm

Saturday, November 18<sup>th</sup>

**Healing Retreat with Iron Eagle**

Ocala | 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Join PJI for a retreat with Chiricahua Apache Medicine Man Iron Eagle in the Ocala National Forest

Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> / Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

**INDV 7311 Creating a Safe Space for Dialogue  
Wrap-up (FOR FACULTY ONLY)**

Tuesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>

West Campus | Room TBA | 1:00-4:00pm

Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>

East Campus | Room TBA | 1:00-4:00 pm

Friday, January 19<sup>th</sup>

**INDV 7315 Authentic Conversations and  
Reflections on Privilege, Race, and Academic  
Achievement Kick-off (FOR FACULTY ONLY)**

East Campus | Room TBA | 1:00-4:00 pm

Monday, January 29<sup>th</sup> – Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

**Conversation on Justice**

College-wide; Check online schedule for events

Wednesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>

**INDV 3251 Creating an Environment for  
Inclusive Excellence: Inclusive Excellence  
through the LGBT Lens (FOR FACULTY ONLY)**

West Campus | Room TBD | 5:30-7:30 pm

Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup> / Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

**INDV 7312 Mindfulness Tools for Educators**

(FOR FACULTY ONLY)

Thursday, February 1<sup>st</sup>

East Campus | Room TBA | 1:00-4:00 pm

Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

West Campus | Room TBA | 1:00-4:00 pm

Friday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>

**INDV 3251 Creating an Environment for  
Inclusive Excellence: Inclusive Excellence  
through the Islamic Lens (FOR FACULTY ONLY)**

West Campus, Room TBD, 9:30-11:30 am

Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> / Friday, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>

**INDV 2255 Multiple Perspectives**

(FOR FACULTY ONLY)

Thursday, February 22<sup>nd</sup>

Osceola Campus | Room TBA | 2:00-4:00pm

Friday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>

East Campus | Room TBA | 2:00-4:00pm

Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> – Saturday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

**Faculty and Staff Annual Peace and Justice  
Retreat (FOR FACULTY AND STAFF ONLY,  
REGISTRATION REQUIRED)**

Venue on the Lake, The Maitland Civic Center  
9:00 am-4:00 pm

Friday, March 2<sup>nd</sup>

**INDV 7315 Authentic Conversations and  
Reflections on Privilege, Race, and Academic  
Achievement Wrap-up (FOR FACULTY ONLY)**

East Campus | Room TBA | 1:00-4:00 pm

Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup> / Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

**INDV 7310 Working with Conflict**

(FOR FACULTY ONLY)

Thursday, March 8<sup>th</sup>

West Campus | Room TBA | 1:00-5:00 pm

Friday, March 9<sup>th</sup>

East Campus | Room TBA | 1:00-5:00 pm

Wednesday, March 21<sup>st</sup>

**Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering**

East Campus | Room 8-101 | 8:00-10:00 am

Saturday, March 24<sup>th</sup>

**Spring Fling Service Project**

639 W. Central Blvd, Orlando, FL 32801

8:30 am-1:30 pm

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





# *Farewell Letter from the Editor*

Dear Friends,

It is with a bittersweet heart that I share that this is the last Peace and Justice Institute newsletter for which I will serve as Chief Editor. Many of you may have heard by now that I am transitioning into a new role at Valencia College in the East Campus Student Services department starting in July. I am excited, nervous, sad, and thankful all at the same time.

As I reflect on the five and a half years I've been with PJI, there is so much I can say, and yet, I'm having trouble finding the words to explain my experience—thinking of my journey here has left me feeling speechless, in a positive way. What does continue to fill my mind (and heart) though is that I feel so honored to be a part of this work. I've watched myself and others beautifully grow as a result and it has been quite rewarding. I'm truly not sure what my life would be like without PJI.

During my time here, I've experienced many wonderful opportunities that have helped grow both my professional and personal life: coordinating events, working with our amazing Peace and Justice Ambassadors, moderating panel discussions to then serving as a panelist, facilitating workshops, serving as a featured speaker, stepping in the role of a community activist, and even making new best friends.

I am extremely lucky to have worked and become friends with such thoughtful, caring, persistent, passionate, and loving individuals.

There are so many people I want to thank for helping me grow and thrive in my role at PJI. Your names would fill up this whole page, so instead of listing them all, just please know that so many of you have touched my heart in beautiful ways. Thank you.

I do want to thank three women in particular though, for supporting me during my time at PJI. I thank my mother, Debbie Penny for being my first example of what a strong woman is. She has shown me true strength and love and has been a huge influence on me being capable to do our challenging, but important work. I also want to thank Rachel Allen and Penny Villegas for seeing that strength my mother helped cultivate in me. If it wasn't for each of these incredible women in my life, I wouldn't have felt comfortable tapping into my own strength doing this work.



This all said, I do not in any way want this letter to sound like a permanent goodbye. This of course is not the end of my time with PJI! I'm looking forward to continuing our work in a new capacity, sharing what I've learned throughout my time here with my new colleagues, and participating with PJI in new and different ways. I'll still be at East Campus, so please stop by to visit! You can also always contact me at [kpherai@valenciacollege.edu](mailto:kpherai@valenciacollege.edu) too.

I love you all so much!

Sincerely,  
*Krystal*



# All People. All Voices. All Matter.



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