

PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE

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ALL PEOPLE. ALL VOICES. ALL MATTER.

An Honor to Serve



Retiring to my home in Ocoee, Florida, I was always aware of the incident that tore this community apart in 1920 when a resident, July Perry, attempted to register to vote along with several other African American citizens. The situation that followed resulted in some of the African Americans citizens being killed and all being run out of Ocoee. No African American lived in Ocoee again until 1980.

While the Ocoee incident was discussed for decades, very little had been done to heal the city. Then in 2017, PJI held a series of conversations on this historical event, two of which I attended. After

sitting through these conversations and planning sessions, I knew I had to be a part of this outstanding organization.

One reason I was attracted to the work of the Peace and Justice Institute relates to one of my best memories growing up in segregated Miami. I was taken to a meeting by a teacher, who was a friend of the family, where they talked about tolerance and justice for all races in the community. This was a youth meeting of what was then called the National Council of Christians and Jews (NCCJ). That series of NCCJ Youth meetings and the teachings of my parents had a major influence on my life, especially my career choices. I later served on the Board of what is now called Miami Coalition of Christians and Jews (MCCJ) which has been serving the community since 1935.

As a youth, I also volunteered and later had a thirty-four year career with one of the world's largest and best-known humanitarian organizations, the American Red Cross. There I was able to assist those in need in communities across the United States, retiring as CEO of the American Red Cross of Central Florida. My second career was as meaningful as my first, as I was able to support the funding needed for students to secure a degree in higher education as Vice President for Advancement at Bethune-Cookman, Florida International, and Florida Memorial Universities.

I am humbled to now be given the opportunity to serve as Chair of the Peace and Justice Institute Advisory Council and to work with such an outstanding staff and citizens of Central Florida. Thanks to all of the many persons, especially Chair Emerita Patti Ambinder, who give their time and treasure to the work of the Peace and Justice Institute.

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A Champion's Legacy



While celebrating our newest issue of the JOURNAL, I reflect on a change taking place at PJI. Patti Ambinder has stepped down as Chair of the Advisory Council after serving in the role for five and a half years. It is challenging to imagine paying tribute with words to a true CHAMPION of the Peace and Justice Institute, someone who will forever be recognized as a foundational force in our work. Patti leaves a legacy of razor focus on advancing our mission and the culture of peace in Central Florida.

At PJI we are clear - LEADERSHIP MATTERS. Patti's leadership in the work for peace and justice began long before she assumed her role at PJI. As a national board member for NCCJ (National Conference for Community

and Justice), Patti led social justice work in Central Florida and beyond, addressing biases and promoting understanding between people of different races and cultures.

She served as past Chair of the Board for the Holocaust Memorial Resource and Education Center of Central Florida and is an Honorary Life Member of the Board of Directors at Second Harvest Food Bank of Central Florida. Currently she is a member of the Board of Directors of the World Affairs Council of Central Florida, and at the University of Central Florida, she serves on the Center for Study of Human Trafficking and Modern Slavery Advisory Board and the Global Peace and Security Studies Program Advisory Board.

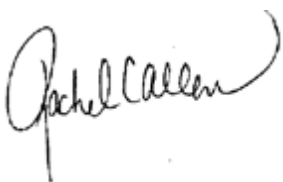
Patti's unwavering commitment to others, and to our community, is demonstrated in her search for truth, integrity, loving nature, humility and keen intellect. She leaves a legacy of writings, through which special attention is paid to every word to assure the advancement of the vision, "All People. All Voices. All Matter.," and she models the Principles for How We Treat Each Other.

Patti personally taught me to question more deeply, aim to never harm anyone in the process of our work - to practice true nonviolence - and continuously use imagination to address what are seemingly intractable problems in our community.

Leadership matters. I am grateful to have been given the opportunity to work so closely with Patti, and thank her for her generosity of spirit. She continues to lead by serving in her new role as Advisory Council Chair Emerita. For this, we are grateful!

And to each one of you, we are grateful for the role you play in partnering with PJI to advance the culture of peace. Enjoy this issue of the JOURNAL.

Fondly,



Rachel C. Allen
Peace and Justice Institute, Director



10 WAYS TO CREATE PEACE WITHIN YOURSELF, HOME, WORKPLACE, AND COMMUNITY

1. Practice the Principles for How We Treat Each Other everywhere.
2. View conflict as an opportunity for growth and transformation, not violence and aggression.
3. Create a peace corner in your home to regain calm after an upsetting experience.
4. Listen to diverse perspectives to create an inclusive culture.
5. Embrace the positive “isms”: optimism, activism, idealism, altruism, etc.
6. Honor the environment and act sustainably when you eat, drink, drive, clean, etc.
7. Learn about policy issues, question political leaders, and vote.
8. Think globally and act locally since we are all interconnected.
9. Meditate, learn mindfulness, and enjoy other healing arts.
10. Spend time outdoors to appreciate our beautiful natural world.

10 WAYS PJI PROMOTES PEACE AND JUSTICE

1. Promotes the culture of peace at Valencia and in the community.
2. Embeds the Principles for How We Treat Each Other in all work.
3. Provides intercultural experiences for students and the community through visiting houses of worship.
4. Offers the PJI Academy for Teachers, with the goal of creating more inclusive, respectful, and compassionate classrooms and citizens.
5. Uses research-based practices and data collection to validate program outcomes.
6. Integrates ACE's (adverse childhood experiences) science, trauma-informed practices, and healing for community wellness.
7. Hosts signature events, including Global Peace Week, Conversation on Justice, Orlando Speaks, the Peace Breakfast, and more.
8. Facilitates dialogue on campus and in the community on race, privilege, gender equity, LBGTQ, and more.
9. Fosters student growth through a Peace and Justice Studies curriculum, internships, service learning, PJI Distinction, PJI Ambassador Designation and Leadership Fellows.
10. Welcomes visiting delegations from the State Department's International Visitors Leadership Program.

FALL 2019 IN REVIEW



June 24 - July 26 **PJI Academy for Teachers**

Winter Park Campus

In three separate cohorts spanning over two months, PJI Academy for Teachers supported teachers in identifying methods to foster inclusion and create safe spaces for learning.

September 6 **She's Beautiful When She's Angry Film Screening and Panel Discussion**

Winter Park Campus

In partnership with the League of Women Voters of Orange and Seminole county, Rollins SWAG, and UCF Women's and Gender Studies this screening inspired all genders to work for feminism and human rights.



September 17 **Hannibal Square Walking Tour**

Hannibal Square, Winter Park

In partnership with the Hannibal Square Heritage Center, Valencia and the community gathered for a walking tour with Fairlyn Livingston to learn about the historical, and once thriving African-American neighborhood, Hannibal Square.

September 21 **Peace Day in the Park**

Central Park, Winter Park

Celebrating International Day of Peace, PJI hosted an inaugural morning of peace activities for all ages such as Qigong Meditation, games, a public art project, multicultural performances, a photo booth, and the annual human peace sign with over 15 sponsors.

September 23-26 **Global Peace Week**

Valencia Campus Collegewide

The Global Peace Week conference took place on multiple Valencia College campuses, intended to build peace practices and raise societal consciousness.



September 24-26

LGBTQ+ Film Screenings and Panel Discussion

St. Luke's United Methodist Church and Valencia College East Campus
The LGBTQ+ community has been the target of religiously-based persecution and oppression for too long. Award-winning filmmaker, Daniel Karlake of *For the Bible Tells Me So* and *For They Know Not What They Do*, sensitively addressed the intersection of Christianity and the LGBTQ+ inclusion, as well as the legal and social struggles, and victories of the community.



September 26 and October 11

Resilience: The Biology of Stress and the Science of Hope Film Screening and Discussion

Lake Nona Campus and The School of Public Safety

This documentary delves into the science of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and the birth of a new movement to treat and prevent toxic stress. Following the film, Valencia, the community, and multi-sector groups partnered to explore the impact of trauma and possibilities for creating a resilient community.

October 4

Valencia Night at the Islamic Society of Central Florida

Orlando, FL

As a part of PJI's interfaith program, the Islamic Society of Central Florida welcomed the community for a tour of the mosque, a Middle Eastern meal, and an educational conversation on the fundamentals of Islam.

October 26

Fall Festival Service Project

Coalition for the Homeless

PJI brought together Valencia clubs and organizations, and the students of Winter Park High School for a day of festivities for the children and families in residency at the Coalition.

November 3

Valencia Afternoon at Mount Moriah Baptist Church

Hannibal Square, Winter Park

As a part of PJI's interfaith program, PJI visited Mount Moriah Baptist Church, known to many as "The Mount", a landmark in Hannibal Square. Together we joined for service and conversation on the history and beliefs of this historically black church.

November 13

Peace Breakfast: An Interfaith Gathering

Valencia College East Campus

PJI welcomed faith and philosophy leaders from the community to increase interfaith understanding and build wisdom, peace and fellowship among us.

November 16

Healing Retreat with Iron Eagle

Georgetown, FL

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





A LOOK INSIDE:

The Peace and Justice Institute Academy
for Teachers' Influence on Participant
Professional Practices

By Jennifer Sanguiliano & Rachael Mack

The Peace and Justice Institute (PJI) Academy for Teachers is a weeklong workshop that focuses on creating more inclusive, respectful, compassionate and loving classrooms and citizens. Throughout this five-day professional development workshop, participants explore their own identities, hidden biases, and life experiences in order to discover their impacts on the selection and delivery of curriculum and student engagement. Participants engage in selected reading, written-reflection, experiential activities, and dialogue while identifying ways to expand inclusion and create safe spaces for learning.

PJI received funding from Wells Fargo in 2018 to analyze the impact of the PJI Academy for Teachers on participants' instructional, personal, and professional practices. Twenty-three OCPs faculty members representing Academic Center of Excellence (ACE) downtown K-8; Boone High School; Early Learning Coalition; Evans High School; Orange County Academy K-12; Palm Lake elementary; Park Maitland K-6; and Princeton Elementary, participated in the PJI Academy for Teachers (see Table 1). This study involved eleven of the alumni and consisted of participating in focus group interviews and responding to a brief questionnaire (see Table 2). The teacher focus group interviews were recorded and transcribed by the researchers, and the comments were organized into three emerging themes, (1) Principles as a Guide, (2) Relationships in the Classroom, and (3) Influence of Training on Professional Practices. The following highlights the results of the evaluation, emphasizing the teachers' experience as a PJI graduate.

THE PRINCIPLES AS A GUIDE

The Peace and Justice Institute promotes *Principles for How We Treat Each Other, Our Practice of Respect and Community Building* (The Principles) throughout their curriculum. A major finding of this evaluation was that graduates of the Academy for Teachers are utilizing the Principles as a form of guidance in their personal and professional lives. This speaks to their knowledge of respect and community building which are the fundamental components of the practices and language taught at the PJI Academy. It was identified that in addition to integrating these Principles into participants' home life by serving as a moral compass for promoting positive behaviors, they also prepared teachers for difficult conversations that related to race, privilege, and politics through methods that challenged them to unpack their own privileges and encouraged them to promote justice by taking action.

A seminal quote that highlights the impact of the Academy on equipping teachers with tools needed to engage in honest conversations surrounding sensitive subjects after exploring one's own identity, hidden biases, and life experiences as part of the PJI Academy for Teachers

workshop is expressed below.

I got to challenge myself a little bit too about cultures and lifestyles and things that I didn't know very much about. I probably would have been a little nervous to like step into that water in fear of, 'Oh, I might offend someone, or I might say the wrong thing, so I'll just avoid it altogether.' And so, I feel like with the Academy, like I was able to find language and ways to lead those discussions really positively and not be afraid to kind of go there and explore some of that.

As it relates to the Principles as a Guide, the PJI Academy for Teachers shows participants that the core of promoting peace and justice is starting with one's self, which might be the program's most important contribution to creating more inclusive, respectful, compassionate and loving classrooms and citizens.

RELATIONSHIPS IN THE CLASSROOM

As the teachers discussed the personal and professional changes that stemmed from their experiences at PJI Academy for Teachers, one theme emerged, the change in relationship between the teacher and their students. A high school teacher, Ms. B, reflected on the change sharing that her classroom "was kind of like a home environment and I gave autonomy to

the students... they helped me do attendance and they help the autonomy in the classroom." Many talked about how they celebrate student success, heritage, and birthdays, while others explained that by taking the time to suspend judgment and check in with students, they created a stronger bond with their students.

While teachers have always been considered community role models, PJI Academy alumni discussed how they became more mindful of their role in their school, and the influence they had on the students around them.

I realized that our students are watching every move I make. Am I going to model those principles? Am I going to be a role model for them? But they're observing. And when I was home with my ankle injury, Ms. A's class made little love notes for me and they wrote, I love how you do this or how you do that. But one of her students said, 'I love how you're careful with everyone that you meet'. I was blown away. This was a second-grader. 'I love how you're careful with everyone', that was so impacting to me and really brought home that they're watching (Mrs. M).

The relationships that are formed between the students and the teachers changed the classroom dynamic and created a more welcoming and accountable environment.

One of the most exciting changes that occurred in classrooms, however, was the change in the student-student relationships in participant

"I got to challenge myself a little bit too about cultures and lifestyles and things that I didn't know very much about. I probably would have been a little nervous to like step into that water in fear of, 'Oh, I might offend someone, or I might say the wrong thing, so I'll just avoid it altogether.' And so, I feel like with the Academy, like I was able to find language and ways to lead those discussions really positively and not be afraid to kind of go there and explore some of that."

“This is Sophia’s time and she’s choosing not to use it. We still need to respect the fact that she has a voice and this is her time... Eventually those kids [like Sophia] would become comfortable with filling that time...So in that way, we really got to hear everybody’s voice. It did become like a community and everybody was a lot more welcoming.”

classrooms. Teachers noted that following the integration of the PJI Principles their classrooms were beginning to resemble small communities. This feeling spanned grade levels, from Ms. A, a second-grade teacher, sharing her morning classroom routine:

So, every morning they’re greeting someone from the class and, we have a little sharing time...This is an important piece of what I’m building, an accountable and respectful community. And just the other day one of the students said, “you know, I feel like our class really likes each other”.

Mrs. B, a high school teacher, discussing having new students enter her classroom, addresses the value of building community:

We would get new kids throughout the year, ‘okay, today we have a new neighbor that’s coming into our community’... one of my 10th graders told me that they were a little nervous about coming into a new environment and that they felt like they just kind of got absorbed and, and it wasn’t weird.

PJI introduced multiple strategies, including McIntosh’s Serial Testimony, to help create a community atmosphere. During Serial Testimony, each participant gets a designated time to share their personal testimony, or story, while also reinforcing the skill of listening deeply to others and connecting on a deeper level. Ms. D, an elementary school teacher, used this strategy in her classroom:

I’m like, because this is Sophia’s time and she’s choosing not to use it, we still need to respect the fact that she has a voice and this is her time... Eventually those kids [like Sophia] would become comfortable with filling that time...So in that way, we really got to hear everybody’s voice. It did become like a community and everybody was a lot more welcoming.

These examples and the rest of the focus group responses serve as a testimonial to the magnitude of impact the weeklong training had on the participants and their schools.

INFLUENCE OF TRAINING ON PROFESSIONAL PRACTICES

As an overall evaluation of the PJI Academy for Teachers, another staple finding was based on the influence of the PJI training on participants’ professional practices in regard to classroom management and curriculum improvements. As it relates to classroom management, participants associated the outcomes of using the Principles as a foundation for respectful engagement to character development for their students, and correspondingly the mindfulness activities taught in the Academy as appropriate restorative justice approaches towards correcting students when rules were broken. As it relates to curriculum improvements the inclusive Emily Style’s (1989) framework of Windows and Mirrors, where students are able to see themselves within the curriculum (mirror) and are exposed to others (windows), was a seminal component of PJI Academy’s training. This resulted in participants being more deliberate about incorporating content, texts, and activities into their classrooms that provided insight into students’ interests and personal experiences. Furthermore, participants noted that higher classroom morale existed when students were presented with activities that represented their various cultures and a variety of perspectives.

CONCLUSION

The overall response to the PJI Academy for Teachers was positive and appeared to have made an impact within the participants’ personal and professional life. There is substantial evidence that the participants are using the Principles within their classrooms, and the strategies and knowledge gained during the summer program have greatly influenced their professional practices.

UCF Doctoral Candidates in Public Affairs and Education, Jennifer Sanguiliano and Rachael Mack conducted this study. To protect the confidentiality of the participants in this evaluation, this study used pseudonyms. For further information regarding the PJI Academy for Teachers please contact pjiacademy@valenciacollege.edu

Table 1
Grade Levels and Roles of All PJI Summer Academy for Teachers 2018 Participants

	Early Childhood	Elementary	Middle School	High School
Administration	1	3		
Teacher	2	5	1	5
Staff				

Table 2
Participant Teaching Demographics

Years in the Classroom	Number of Participants
0-2 years	0
3 - 6 years	1
7 - 9 years	1
10 years or more	9



This research project was funded by Wells Fargo.



AM I A FEMINIST?

Where feminism is today.

By Jessica Kavalec-Miller

Wendy Cope is an English poet who went to Oxford and writes with a jovial tone. One of her poems is titled “The Uncertainty of a Poet.” This poem begins with the lines “I am a poet/I am very fond of bananas.” She then proceeds to use these same words to form seven various, humorous and mostly absurd two-line verses. The poem ends with the verse “I am very fond of bananas/Am I a poet?”

This uncertainty also exists within feminism. Replace “poet” with “feminist,” and “bananas” with “equality.” There are endless variations of how to practice feminism and work towards equality. We may begin our journey as a feminist with absolute certainty and righteousness only to realize that the more we learn, the more questions arise, and the more ambiguity exists within this realm of social justice. We might question our feminist identity and question the beliefs of other feminists. More difficult still, we might question our feminist role models and the beliefs of our feminist friends.

But what is feminism? The Oxford dictionary defines feminism as, “the advocacy of women’s rights on the basis of the equality of the sexes.” I believe feminism aims to give women choice and freedom, and expansions on this definition abound.

Acceptance of the nuance and differences within feminism is essential to achieving gender equality and allows this movement to thrive. We may all be working towards gender equality and supporting women, but not all feminists agree. Not all feminists want the same things. Not all feminists have the same beliefs. To me, this means that the movement is strong, is growing, and is becoming free.

In the second wave of feminism in the 1960’s and 1970’s, absolutism began to harm the movement. There were small groups of women that wanted to exclude men as well as male children. Many feminists did not agree with this, and the movement became divided. In the modern feminist movement, men are held accountable as the oppressors of women, while also being welcomed to join feminists in our efforts to dismantle the system of patriarchy. The system of patriarchy negatively effects both men and women; however, women are oppressed while men are disadvantaged. Understanding this distinction is important as men experience benefits from the patriarchy that women do not; one example is income inequality. Income inequality is one of many oppressions, and I encourage readers to investigate the other ways in which women are oppressed by patriarchal norms. (A good place to start would be

to watch the award winning documentary *She’s Beautiful When She’s Angry*, directed by Mary Dore.) However, the plethora of ways women experience oppression is not the focus of this piece.

The greater inclusion of men in the feminist movement is one of many examples of how the movement has changed. I think this is important to the growth of the movement, but not all feminists agree with me. The objection is, “why do we need men to validate feminism? Why do we need men to save us from the patriarchy?” Some feminists would rather have more affinity groups for women to connect with, rather than connect with men. I think that both are necessary but also that it is okay for some feminists to want to only connect with other women. Remember, feminism is multifaceted; many different opinions exist within the movement. Diversity of thought strengthens the movement. It is the acceptance of our differing opinions that lend us freedom.

Feminism today has many faces. I practice my feminism through academia. I study sexuality and the importance of developing a healthy sexuality. Evidence shows that sexual inequality exists within heterosexual relationships and creating more equality in heterosexual’s sexual lives counters gender inequality. This practice of feminism is very different than a political activist’s. Activists march, contact their representatives, and work actively within their communities. I participate in these feminist spaces, but I plan to be a university professor, and I intend to integrate feminism into my curricula. Some women practice feminism by just doing what they love: they are the writers writing dystopian novels with female protagonists; they are the microbiologists working towards their PhD; they are the female restaurant owners working in a predominantly male environment; they are the poets who write poems about identity and bananas. Men practice feminism by defying gender norms, by staying home with their children and supporting and loving the women in their lives. Feminists are the friends, siblings, parents, and partners who support other women and tell women they have agency and power. Chances are, you’re already a feminist, and you don’t even know it.

So, we formally welcome you to our movement, and hope that you will join us.

Jessica Kavalec-Miller is a graduate of Valencia College, where she was one of the founders of FAVE, the Feminist Association of Valencia East. She is currently an undergraduate student at Rollins College studying Sexuality, Women, and Gender Studies (SWAG).



AN INTERVIEW WITH REIGN HERVEY

Black Queer Feminist Organizer and Content Creator

WHAT IS THE SIGNIFICANCE OF INTERSECTIONALITY IN THE FEMINIST MOVEMENT AND YOUR LIFE?

Intersectionality is a framework I understood long before I knew there was a word for it. It is no coincidence that the term was coined by Dr. Kimberle Williams Crenshaw to describe the ways in which Black womxn experience oppression. As a Black queer femme, I've been gifted with a unique lens by which I view the world. For people like me, the struggles of mainstream (white) feminist movements have often ignored and even reproduced the very forms of oppression they claim to resist. While all people are impacted by the fight for gender justice, many of us are simultaneously fighting through the added layers of oppression like racism, transphobia, ableism, and more. As Audre Lorde once said, "there is no such thing as a single-issue struggle because we do not live single-issue lives." When the most marginalized voices are placed front and center, we ALL win.

COULD YOU EXPAND ON TODAY'S FEMINIST MOVEMENT IN THE DIGITAL WORLD, AND WHERE WE ARE GOING FROM HERE?

Digital media is the highest consumed form of media today. As a digital organizer, this is both terrifying and exciting. What is so powerful about the digital world is that it creates opportunities for storytelling and finding community, which I would argue are integral to any social movement. We saw the power of Black womxn who created BlackLivesMatter and #MeToo, global phenomenons, who otherwise may not have had the resources or platforms to do so. The shifts in international conversations about racial and gender justice are undeniable and don't appear to be going anywhere anytime soon. Sadly, progressives aren't the only ones in

these conversations, which makes our presence and reach all the more indispensable. As digital media continues to evolve and increase, so do the opportunities to shift our culture and policies for a more equitable society.

WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TAKEAWAY FROM THE FILM *SHE'S BEAUTIFUL WHEN SHE'S ANGRY*?

The film is a solid reminder that much of history repeats itself. As a millennial, I see the value of younger generations revisiting the movement's past to inform how we show up in these critical moments. Feminism has always been so much more than just a phrase, this film reminds us of the power of organizing our communities and leaving our mark for the next generations. I am excited to hear what future waves will say about these moments, let's give them something to remember us by.

****Womxn or Womyn is used as a variation to promote intersectionality especially for cis, trans+, genderqueer, and gender-nonconforming folks. The spelling also removes patriarchal linkages to "men" or "man" inherently a part of the traditional spelling.*

Reign Hervey holds a B.A. in Sociology, an M.A. in Communication, and is passionate about dismantling racialized gender-based violence. Reign's work centers Black womxn, femmes, and girls' experiences as a means of addressing systemic and interpersonal harm. Her Instagram account, @afroliberatedtaste explores the intersection of Black veganism, queer theory, and feminism. As a digital organizer and content creator, Reign believes in the power of online engagement to educate, advocate and mobilize people. When those most impacted win, we all win.

GANDHI IN THE 21ST CENTURY

Relevance of nonviolence as a method towards realizing a peaceful world

By Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra



Mahatma Gandhi inspired nonviolent movements across the world including the civil rights movement in America. This article examines the ideas and relevance of Gandhi on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary.

During the Indian freedom struggle, a woman inquired when Gandhi is planning to visit America, to which Gandhi replied in jest that there are people in America who want to put him in a zoo. Gandhi alluded not to a real zoo but to the unfamiliarity of his idea and practice of nonviolence and its potency to the American public. On one occasion he wrote, “I respectfully invite Americans to study carefully the Indian National Movement and they will therein find an effective substitute for war.” Notably, Gandhi’s ideas on nonviolence were put in action in the civil rights movements in America in late 1960s. Recently, the Speaker of the US House of Representatives, Nancy Pelosi, called Mahatma Gandhi, “the spiritual leader of America’s non-violence movement.”

In October I participated in the Gandhi Global Legacy conference at the California State University Fresno, where I talked about the relevance of Gandhi for international society. The university with its beautiful Peace Garden, displaying statues of Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Jr., Cesar Chavez and Jane Addams, appeared an appropriate venue for the conference. Organized by the Gandhian scholar Veena Howard, the conference offered an excellent opportunity to interact with several Civil Rights activists, including, Reverend James Lawson, Mary Elizabeth King, and Dolores Haurte. Reverend Lawson, whom Martin Luther King, Jr. called the ‘leading theoretician and strategist of nonviolence’ told we need to cultivate Gandhian principles to address global problems. This reminded me of Nelson Mandela,

who, while unveiling a Gandhi Memorial in South Africa in 1993, stated, “The enemies that Gandhi fought – ignorance, disease, unemployment, poverty and violence are today common place... Now more than ever is the time when we have to pay heed to the lessons of Mahatma Gandhi.” Like his former colleague and leader Martin Luther King, Jr., Reverend Lawson argued there are greater moral forces of the universe, which we have not tapped yet and applied in our daily lives. Among these forces he counted the Gandhian soul-force or love-force as one, which we need to cultivate to make a better world.

Raised in a traditional Hindu family in Porbandar in British India and

married at the age of 13, Gandhi wanted to be a lawyer. During his study in London he wanted to learn the manners of British society, but later got disillusioned. At a later stage he chose to shun his suit and wear a loincloth for the rest of his life. The transformation, however, started in South Africa. In 1893 he sailed to South Africa to practice law. While traveling in a train on a first-class ticket in racially segregated South Africa, Gandhi was thrown out of the coach in Pietermaritzburg due to his color. The young man of 23 shivered the whole night in cold and weighed on two options –returning to India to the safety of his family or fight injustice. The later

thought prevailed, and thus started the journey of Mohandas Gandhi to become Mahatma (noble soul) Gandhi. Gandhi not only successfully fought against discriminatory laws in South Africa but later spearheaded the freedom struggle in India.

There is something eternally appealing about Gandhi, a frail figure about five feet and four inches tall, weighing about one hundred and ten pounds. He

**“I respectfully invite
Americans to study
carefully the Indian
National Movement
and they will therein
find an effective
substitute for war.”**

was an adherent of nonviolence, which he also termed love-force or soul-force. To one of his colleagues, who argued that in the history of the past 200 years no freedom struggle has been won without violence and India needs to adopt violent methods to fight the British rule, Gandhi replied that India could set an example to achieve independence through the method of nonviolence. Gandhi's ideas not only inspired leaders like Martin Luther King, Jr. and Nelson Mandela, but also leaders and people across continents who fought for nonviolent social change. To acknowledge this, the United Nations observes Gandhi's birthday on October 2 as the International Day of Nonviolence.

Gandhian worldview can be summarized in the three fundamental principles. First, there are certain universal moral principles that can be applied across divides. These principles are needed to realize positive peace among individuals, societies and nations. Second, these principles are not something outside of human beings and their collectivities. They are found within the human mind and heart. Third, it is the individual who is the center of the universe. Or rather, the individual is the nation and the world in miniature. Martin Luther King, Jr. during his visit to India in 1959, affirmed, "Mahatma Gandhi embodied in his life certain universal principles that are inherent in the moral structure of the universe, and these principles are as inescapable as the law of gravitation."

For Gandhi, nonviolence is the primary universal moral principle; the supreme virtue in human life. Life is an integral whole, and the nonviolence principle should govern it. His idea is relevant in the contemporary world which apparently witnesses chaos in human life due to the widening chasm between the moral principles and the actual living. His caution rings true: "For one man cannot do right in one department of life whilst he is occupied in doing wrong in any other department. Life is one indivisible whole." Further, the Gandhian dictum that 'Nature has for everyone's need but not for everyone's greed' provides a powerful message. Unless the very basic datum of thinking of individuals, states and their leaders change and factor the principle of nonviolence, Gandhi would argue, it will be difficult to have sustainable peace, at the individual, community or at the international level.

Gandhian nonviolence embodied not only a conviction in the principle but also in its firm application. But there is an apparent paradox – though Gandhi preached and practiced nonviolence and influenced leaders across continents, in the 21st century world there appear to be fewer adherents to nonviolence. There are ample examples to corroborate this. At the international level, in Syria about a half million people perished in less than a decade while international organizations and conflict stakeholders were engaged in endless dialogue. At the domestic level, thousands of Americans are killed by guns each year. Martin Luther King, Jr. argues there is no choice: "The choice today is no longer

between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence."

Gandhian ideas are relevant to the contemporary world, but selectively and creatively. His letter to Hitler to adopt nonviolent method during World War II, his critique of modern industrial civilization as 'satanic', his puritan values may appear at odds with the 21st century world. A selective approach to Gandhian ideas is helpful. First,

Gandhi does not have all the answers (he also never claimed to have them). Second, it will facilitate exclusion of his ideas which are outdated.

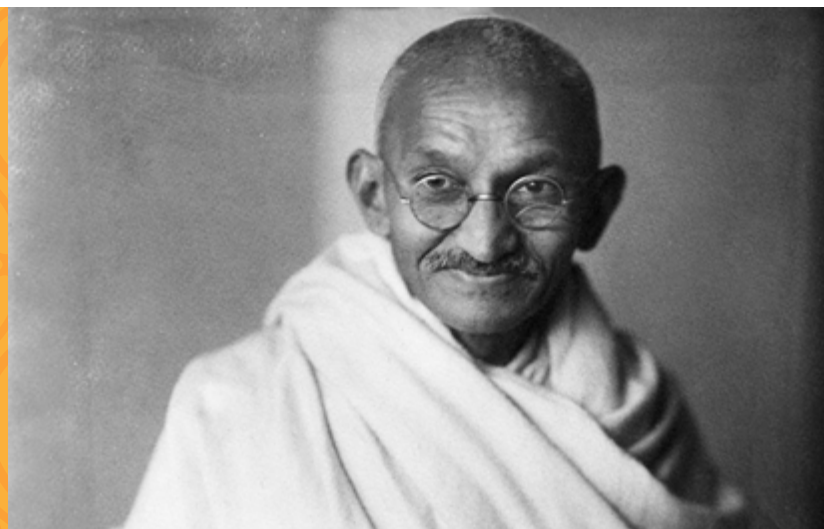
If Gandhi, King, Jr., and Mandela were leaders and champions of nonviolence in their times, why not individuals, communities and leaders

of our time practice nonviolence? Why there is an apparent increase in violence everywhere, while still the names of these champions are invoked? How can the paradox be explained – while policymakers do not factor nonviolence in the policymaking, many popular movements worldwide have increasingly espoused nonviolence and rejected violent tactics? Is nonviolence as a governing principle of life and society not relevant for the contemporary world? Gandhi's 150th birth anniversary provides an occasion to meditate on these questions.

Debidatta Aurobinda Mahapatra has a doctoral degree in conflict resolution from the University of Massachusetts Boston. He was a recipient of the Scholar of Peace Award in 2007. The award was supported by a Dalai Lama Foundation in New Delhi. He was a Charles Wallace Fellow at the Queen's University at Belfast in 2010 to study peace process in Northern Ireland. His writings and comments have been published by reputed publishers, magazines and news agencies like Reuters. His publications include Gandhi and the World (Lexington, 2018), Conflict Management in Kashmir (Cambridge University Press, 2018), and Conflict and Peace in Eurasia (Routledge, 2012). As an adjunct professor, he teaches courses on human rights, international politics, Asian politics, and American politics at University of Central Florida and Valencia College. He is also a member of the advisory board of Peace and Justice Institute.

"To acknowledge this, the United Nations observes Gandhi's birthday on October 2 as the International Day of Nonviolence."

Be the change you
wish to see in the
world.
- Mahatma Gandhi



The Mindful Gift of the PRINCIPLES

Each morning I sit quietly and invite stillness into my life. This is a radical act. I meditate to open my heart to whatever arises and to free my mind from the biases that diminish me and my relationship with others.

Mindfulness is an open invitation to examine our lives, to slow down and pay attention to our thinking, our emotions, and our bodily sensations. And through this careful examination, we begin to uncover how we treat ourselves and others. We notice how we react, cruelly or kindly, to our own actions and the actions of others. We may see for the first time how our actions are directed by internal biases from past conditioning and not by the situation at hand. Seeing our behavior with clarity becomes the first step in conscious awareness, and this clear seeing creates a precious wedge of awareness between the situation and our reaction. In this space, we have time to choose a more skillful response, unfettered by the ghosts of past scripts, and instead guided by compassion, curiosity, and kindness. Living an awakened life is the gift a mindfulness practice offers us and the gift bestowed on us by practicing the Principles for How We Treat Each Other.

In both the Principles and in mindfulness, we learn to embrace silence and see non-doing and journeying inward as essential to awakening. We learn to sit in community and alone, examining ourselves to discover our truths so that we can speak them to others with compassion and honesty. We learn to listen fully without judgment, turning to curiosity when judgment arises and saying, “I wonder why she said that? I wonder why I reacted that way?”

These questions and practices create a container for thoughtful reflection and conversation, allowing the soul to show up. They require discipline and steadfastness as well as patience and self-compassion. For as we practice opening our hearts, we sometimes shut down. We fall back into old patterns of judging and criticizing ourselves and others, for being different, for not measuring up. And in this moment of despair at our human lapses, we can turn gently inward and say with kindness, “That’s okay. Many people feel this distress. Change is difficult. You are loved, just as you are.” In accepting ourselves, we learn to accept others, allowing all of us the space to grow.

The Principles for How We Treat Each Other invite us to live our lives with present moment awareness in service to creating the change we wish to see in ourselves and in the world. They support us in creating a hospitable, compassionate community that seeks to welcome all, value all, and hear all through discipline and gentleness, strength and flexibility, accountability and compassion. And, in the mud of these tensions, the lotus of peace and justice blooms.

Celine Kavalec-Miller is an English Professor at Valencia College as well as the Academic Coordinator at PJI. She is a qualified Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR) instructor, trained through the University of Massachusetts Center for Mindfulness Teacher Training program.





WE CONTINUALLY ASPIRE TO BE BETTER.

By Jennifer Foster

I first encountered the Principles for How We Treat Each Other at the Creating a Resilient Community: From Trauma to Healing Conference in April 2019. By the time the thirteenth Principle was read, the room of 500+ people was united and centered in the knowing that we were all there for reasons much bigger than ourselves. I immediately knew this would be a powerful tool for One Orlando Alliance.

We are a coalition of LGBTQ+ organizations that came together after Pulse. The tragedy revealed to us that, while we are a very diverse community, we were/are not always inclusive. One of the many things that we had to reconcile was that there were members of our LGBTQ+ community - impacted by the tragedy - that didn't have representation when it came time to make decisions about how to help them, and our entire region, heal. Collectively, we knew we needed to change that.

Our coalition has spent the past three years doing intentional work to identify, engage and elevate the most marginalized voices of our community. In order to address the most complex issues, all voices must be represented and valued

equally. We know that. Unfortunately, we also know that cultural transformation doesn't happen overnight. We live in a world where our own biases and differences often get in the way of seeing and honoring our shared humanity. The LGBTQ+ community is no different.



Inclusion requires thoughtfulness and commitment. I truly believe that the majority of people who call Central Florida home, felt a collective shift in consciousness after the Pulse tragedy. We want to listen deeply, suspend judgement and create space to speak the truth. As a region, we aspire to be better.

The Principles are an excellent tool to help us all evolve and grow. They are a powerful reminder to treat each other how we want to be treated and to practice showing love, kindness and grace to others, and to ourselves.

Our 35 member coalition recently voted, unanimously, to adopt the Principles as part of our commitment to each other and the LGBTQ+ community which we serve. It was not a decision we took lightly. In fact, we asked each organization to thoughtfully consider whether this was something that they could truly commit to within their own organizations as well as when we collectively come together around community-centric issues.

I am proud to say that we have already begun to intentionally embed the Principles into our culture. They will be a valuable tool to help us create a safe and inclusive community for all LGBTQ+ people in Central Florida. The Principles also help us all aspire to be better humans.

Jennifer Foster is the Founding Executive Director at One Orlando Alliance and the President of Foster Productions Inc.

PRINCIPLES FOR HOW WE TREAT EACH OTHER

OUR PRACTICE OF RESPECT AND COMMUNITY BUILDING

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

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



Peace Day in the Park

CELEBRATING INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE
SEPTEMBER 21ST, 2019

On Saturday, Sept. 21st, PJI partnered with the City of Winter Park to celebrate the United Nations International Day of Peace in the city's Central Park. The event was well attended with around 500 attendees. We were honored to have many distinguished visitors in attendance, including public officials from Orange County, Eatonville and the City of Winter Park, who spoke to the significance of honoring a culture of peace. Winter Park Commissioner Sarah Sprinkel opened the day with a Proclamation to inaugurate the event.

From 9 a.m. to noon, PJI offered free activities for all ages including xigong, games, a public art project, and multicultural

performances. Community partners had the opportunity to table and offer a positive peace practice. Entertainment included performances from 9 a.m. to noon, featuring Valencia opera instructor Carla DelVillaggio, who performs as "Simply Streisand"; local cabaret and jazz singer Maria Olivia Bryant; Valencia Opera Theatre Project; Fearless Leaders Step Out (Valencia step team); Sueño de Hormiga, a local Latin band; and the chorus from Hungerford Prep Elementary School. At the end of the celebration, attendees came together to form a human peace sign, and were photographed to be featured in the Orlando Sentinel the next day.





PEACE DAY

Student Art and Poetry

Untitled

The last leaf is about to fall,
To other places my attendance calls,
The shriveled leaf shudders in fright, Will no one stand up for what's right?

No, not I, Yes, but me,
Arguing about this little tree,
That fragment seeming little so,
Could you save it from the coming blow?

I am pushed forward by my own good will,
Do I have to? Why me? Can someone else fulfill?
I pick up the water, walking toward that tree,
Then my mind opens up, and now I see,

This world needs people like you and me.
We walk toward that tree,
The tree of life, the tree of free spirit, the tree of peace.
We pour the water, and that water makes a masterpiece.

This tree that we talked about so,
Just seems to grow and grow,
And the tree turns green,
and oh how beautiful the scene,

And out of the branches tis' beautiful flowers,
The prettiest of pink, the purest of blue, Its leaves almost looking like an
emerald tower! The tree spreads and spreads,
Turning heads and heads,

Scattering peace around the globe,
Covering it like a giant robe,
Until each and every person has peace, From anger, from war, we are released.

Charlotte L. | Grade 6

The Power Of Peace

When peace wakes up, it spreads its wings to help the people in need. It flies from its home in the sky. Peace is not a being or organism but is a spirit in every person's soul. When war rears its ugly head, peace fights back with love. Peace shows up in every war and uses its power of forgiving. When the soldiers feel the power, they immediately drop their weapons and apologize to one another. The sign of peace is when children laugh and adults love one another. Peace should be everywhere, in every soul. Make sure you laugh and smile today because today is the day of peace.

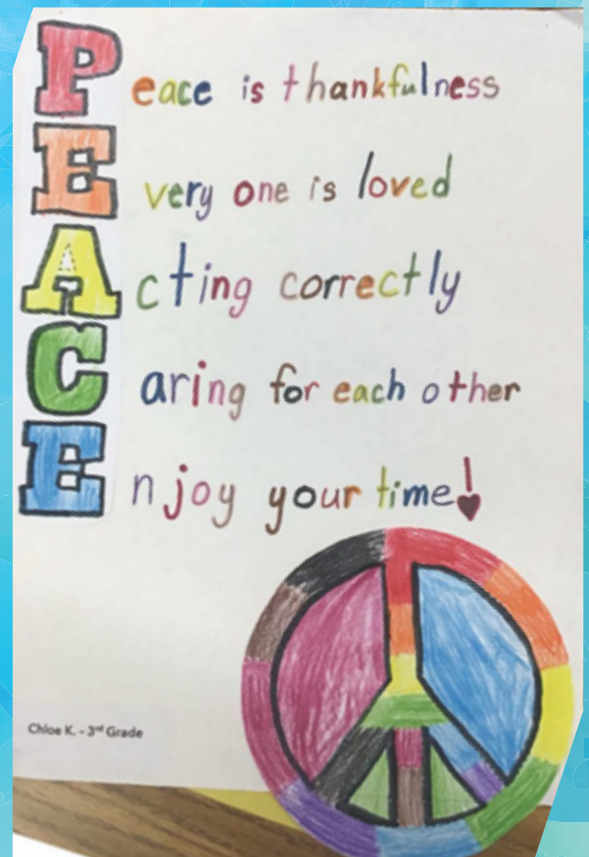
Tank Chavous | Grade 5

Untitled

Peace drifts through the air
For kindness has been unleashed
Feel all of the love

Sammy Lou | Grade 6

The Peace and Justice Institute extends its gratitude to the Park Maitland school students and their parents, as well as the students' Language Arts Teacher, Brett Carrier, and Park Maitland Head of school, Cindy Moon, for their initiative and beautiful contribution of poetry and art to our inaugural Peace Day in the Park celebration.



Peace Not War

What does peace mean?
It probably doesn't mean picking up a weapon.
It probably doesn't mean going to war.
We all say we want peace, but do we really?
So many people died for our freedom, but how do we repay them?
With murder, shootings, and kidnapping.
Did they die for nothing?
Did they die only to leave a country at war?
Did they die so the problems they fought for could get worse?
No. They died for peace.
Martin Luther King Jr. said he had a dream.
Let's make that dream come true.

Christina Brown | Grade 5

Untitled

If only peace was forever
If only we could live without a bloody war
Washing up on every shore
If only we could calm our minds
If only we had peace
And when we finally have some peace
Our world will be whole and complete

If only peace lasted forever
If only we could stay neutral to the end of time
If only people were happy with what they had
If only peace lasted forever

Sarah Cantwell | Grade 6

CITY OF WINTER PARK

proclamation

Peace Day in the Park | September 21, 2019

WHEREAS, September 21 marks the 37th Annual United Nations International Day of Peace which has become a worldwide tradition since 1982; and

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Institute at the Valencia College Winter Park Campus is hosting central Florida's inaugural *Peace Day in the Park* celebration in Central Park, Saturday, September 21; and

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Institute works to build a culture of peace and maintains the vision "All People. All Voices. All Matter"; and

WHEREAS, the Peace and Justice Institute wants *Peace Day in the Park* to foster intercultural connections and nurture community engagement, as it requires a shared commitment so "peace becomes the way we live"; and

WHEREAS, the citizens of Winter Park and their families are invited to participate in *Peace Day in the Park* multi-generational activities such as yoga, games, a public art project and multicultural performances that educate about "peace as an optimum environment in which human potential and communities can flourish"; and

WHEREAS, the goal of this celebration is to promote the culture of peace in all communities.

NOW, THEREFORE, I Steve Leary, by virtue of the authority vested in me as Mayor of the City of Winter Park, in the state of Florida, do hereby proclaim **Saturday, September 21, 2019**, to be **Peace Day in the Park**.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Winter Park, Florida, to be affixed this 21st day of September 2019.

Steve Leary
Mayor

INVEST IN YOUR PEOPLE.

YOUR PEOPLE WILL INVEST IN YOU.

The Peace and Justice Institute offers transformative, interactive workshops customized to meet the needs of your organization.

Our trained facilitators promote critical conversations that foster inclusive and connected workplaces.

To learn more visit
<http://bit.ly/PJIBizSolutions>
or call 407-582-6525

Workshops We Offer:

- Principles for How We Treat Each Other
- Organizing and Planning for Leadership Success
- Waking Up to Our Shared Humanity
- Understanding Bias
- Understanding Privilege
- Understanding Human Sexuality and Inclusion
- Conversations on Race
- Conversations on Gender
- Conversations in Inclusiveness
- Reflective Practice and Emotional Intelligence
- Working with Conflict
- Servant Leadership: Activating the Principles
- Moving into Action: Making a Difference



Conversation on Justice

January 27th - 30th

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

Valencia Campuses

For the full schedule of events visit valenciacollege.edu/PJI

For more information, call 407-582-2291 or email peaceandjustice@valenciacollege.edu

PEACE AND JUSTICE INSTITUTE Spring 2020 Calendar of Events

For details visit www.valenciacollege.edu/pji

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

TUESDAY, JANUARY 14TH

Intersectionality: A Framework For Social Change

Join us for an informative workshop where participants will embark on an understanding of the multiple identities we embody, in an effort to better understand the positions of privilege and power that are held by others, and ourselves, and actively work to address equity and achieve liberation. This workshop will be facilitated by our partner QLatinx.

East Campus 8-101 | 701 N Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando, FL 32825 | Check online for additional details

1:00 pm - 3:00 pm

JANUARY 27TH - 30TH

Conversation on Justice

Covering today's hot-button issues ranging from gender equity, gun violence, immigration, economic inequality, sexual orientation, the environment and racial inequity – each event, through the power of transformative stories, facilitated dialogue, award-winning films, art and more, delves into critical conversations whose ultimate goal is to promote a culture of peace and mend the fabric of our humanity.

Collegewide | Check online for events schedule



THURSDAY, JANUARY 30TH

Black History Celebration Breakfast

The Black History Celebration Breakfast is a gathering of prominent African American leaders who will share the first meal of the day with us, and positively engage in conversations about their challenges, successes, and guiding philosophy.

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

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14TH

Valencia Night at the Hindu Society of Central Florida

As a part of PJI's interfaith program, the Hindu Society of Central Florida welcomes the community for a tour of the temple, a free vegetarian dinner, and presentations on a variety of Hindu religious traditions.

Register at: www.bit.ly/Hindu2020

Hindu Society of Central Florida | 1994 Lake Drive Casselberry, FL 32707 | 5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

FEBRUARY 21ST - 22ND

Faculty and Staff Peace and Justice Spring Retreat

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

Venue on the Lake | 641 Maitland Ave. S, Maitland, FL 32751 |

8:30 am - 4:30 pm



MARCH 3TH - 5TH

Conversation on Gender and Equity

Join PJI as we kick off our first annual Conversation on Gender and Equity. This forum provides a space to discuss important issues around women's rights, the feminist movement, gender, systems of oppression and how we can move toward equity. All are welcome!

Collegewide | Check online for events schedule

THURSDAY, MARCH 5TH

International Women's Day Celebration Breakfast

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

West Campus Room HSB 105 | 1800 S Kirkman Road, Orlando FL, 32811

Open for Breakfast 8:00 am | Program 8:30 am - 9:45 am





SUNDAY, MARCH 22TH

Valencia Day at Guang Ming Temple

As a part of PJI's interfaith program, Guang Ming Temple welcomes the community for a tour of the temple, a presentation on calligraphy and Buddhist philosophy. Enjoy a free vegetarian lunch and more!

Register at: www.bit.ly/GuangMing

Guang Ming Temple | 6555 Hoffner Ave, Orlando, FL 32822 | 9:30 am - 12:30 pm



SATURDAY, MARCH 28TH

Spring Fling Service Project

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

Coalition for the Homeless | 18 N Terry Ave, Orlando, FL 32801 | 8:30 am - 1:30 pm



APRIL 1ST - 2ND

Inclusive Excellence Speaker Series

The Inclusive Excellence (IESS) Series is a collaborative effort to educate our community on a topic aimed at improving inclusive excellence - the notion that a community or institution's success is dependent on how well it values, engages and includes the rich diversity of its members. This year's keynote speaker will be Austin Channing Brown, author of *I'm Still Here: Black Dignity in a World Made for Whiteness*.

Collegewide | Check online for additional details



TUESDAY, APRIL 21ST

Annual Conference | Creating A Resilient Community: From Trauma to Healing

The Creating a Resilient Community: From Trauma to Healing conference hosts keynote speakers and convenes participants representing multiple sectors including Health, Medical, Education, Business, Criminal Justice, Judicial, First Responders, Government, Public Sector, Civic, Faith, Non-Profit and the Healing Arts. This community initiative provides a space to discuss the impact of trauma, ways of healing and how Central Florida can build a resilient community.

Florida Hotel and Conference Center | 1500 Sand Lake Rd, Orlando, FL 32809 | 9:00 am - 4:00 pm | Check online for registration information





BLACK HISTORY *Celebration Breakfast*

JANUARY 30TH

Join us for a gathering of prominent African American leaders who will share the first meal of the day with us, and positively engage in conversations about their challenges, successes, and guiding philosophy.

**GATHER FOR BREAKFAST 8:00 AM | PROGRAM 8:30 – 9:45 AM
EAST CAMPUS 8-101 | 701 N ECONLOCKHATCHEE TRAIL, ORLANDO, FL**

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT ANNA SAINTIL AT ASAINTEL@VALENCIACOLLEGE.EDU



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If you prefer to give by check, please mail to:
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1768 Park Center Dr. STE 400
Orlando, FL 32835



PEACE NEWS



Dicks Sporting Goods Destroyed \$5 Million Worth of Guns

While promoting his new book, the chief executive said the retailer was reviewing gun sales chainwide. "If we do these things and it saves one life, don't you think it's worth it?" He said.

Source: The New York Times



The Earth is Getting Greener

The world is literally a greener place than it was 20 years ago, and data from NASA satellites has revealed a counterintuitive source for much of this new foliage: China and India. A new study shows that the two emerging countries with the world's biggest populations are leading the increase in greening on land. The effect stems mainly from ambitious tree planting programs in China and intensive agriculture in both countries.

Source: NASA



Intersectionality is in the Spotlight

As women's movements strategize about how to make the most powerful impact in the face of increasing oppression, more and more organizations, leaders, and movements are recognizing the power of cross-movement organizing. The result? More collaboration, conversation, and connections between social justice organizations, leading to stronger movements.

Source: Global Fund for Women



Billionaire Who Promised to Pay Off College Debt for Grads is Now Paying Off Their Parents' School Debt Too

Multi-billionaire Robert F. Smith made headlines back in May for his pledge to pay off the student loan debt of an entire graduating college class—and now, he says that he is paying off the debt of the students' parents as well.

Smith, who is the founder and CEO of Vista Equity Partners, is collectively donating \$34 million to the new Morehouse College Student Success Program to pay off the loans that students and parents of the class of 2019 accumulated to fund a Morehouse education.

Source: Good News Network

CELEBRATING PEACE NEWS LOCALLY, NATIONALLY, AND INTERNATIONALLY

Schools Are Now Teaching Wellness Techniques For Mental Health

Thousands of children and teens are being taught wellness techniques aimed at providing the students with better coping skills and self-awareness of their mental health. The London-based researchers expect their study to show how investing in training and setting aside class time devoted to relaxation, mindfulness, and mental health will pay off for our youth—with less depression and anxiety, and fewer suicidal thoughts.

Source: *Good News Network*



A Lesson for the Toy Industry's Future: Sharing

Millennials are having fewer children and caring more about environmental impact, so the toy industry is now experimenting with a newly popular “toy subscription” service. Rather than accumulating mass quantities of plastic, children can now receive monthly boxes filled with toys that are designed to pique their interests and can even be themed. Parents say that children look forward to a new box each month and that the plastic consumption could be cut in half if kids share. Large companies like Amazon are now creating their own toy sharing services.

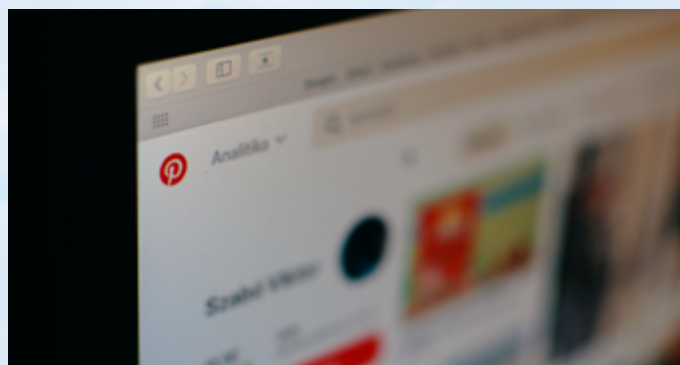
Source: *Solutions Journalism Story Tracker*



Pinterest says AI reduced reported self-harm content by 88%

Using artificial intelligence, social media companies can quickly identify and reach out to those at risk for self-harm. Pinterest, a San Francisco-based social media company, is employing AI to support its user's emotional well-being. Those who search for content related to self-harm receive links to support resources thanks to the help of collaborations with groups like the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline and Vibrant Emotional Health. The effort has significantly reduced content related to self-harm on the platform.

Source: *Solutions Journalism Network*



Ethical Business With a Better Bottom Line

Corporations concerned about their social and environmental impact must also consider the costs. Bcorps, a new form of corporation in the U.S., are using a rigorous certification process to gain consumers trust and boost sales.

Source: *Solutions Journalism Network*



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All People. All Voices. All Matter.



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