

## #1 HEY, DIFFERENCE MAKERS...

### Thread 1: Looking to a new year with GANDHI's INSPIRATION

#### Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

#### Message

Posted: Wed Dec 28, 2005 10:13 pm Post subject: Looking to a new year with GANDHI's INSPIRATION

#### Looking to a new year with GANDHI's INSPIRATION

Hello friends,

**As we reach for a new year, I find myself clearing out and cleaning up to make room for emerging opportunities. Someone taught me the valuable lesson that it is hard to reach one's greatness as a difference maker when you are smothered in clutter.**

**The best part of this process is finding wonderful articles to refresh your mind and thinking. Below is one that someone sent to me last year. The hard copy is highlighted in many places. I share it with YOU!**

**WHAT LESSONS CAN WE APPLY IN YOUR SPAN OF INFLUENCE?**

**WHAT MESSAGES TOUCH YOU?**

**I would love to talk with you!**

**To the best year yet for us all!**

**Best...  
Debbe**

Debbe Kennedy  
Founder, Global Dialogue Center

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**Gandhi's dialogue with the nation  
By Madhu Dandavate**

For Mahatma Gandhi, the Dandi March was not just a non-violent weapon of struggle. It was also a means of dialogue and communication with the people along the route.

AT THE 44th session of the Indian National Congress held on the banks of river Ravi at Lahore, a resolution demanding complete independence was passed on December 31, 1929. Jawaharlal Nehru presided over the session and Mahatma Gandhi made a memorable speech while moving the main resolution. However, Gandhi did not rest content with merely delivering a speech. He led the famous Dandi March starting from the Sabarmati Ashram on March 12, 1930, culminating in the Salt Satyagraha at Dandi, a coastal village in Gujarat, on April 6, 1930.

Gandhi had a definite strategy and perspective about the Dandi March and the Salt Satyagraha. He did not want the march to be too massive to remain under control. At the same time, he did not want it to be too small to have any perceptible impact. These considerations made Gandhi reject Vallabhbhai Patel's suggestion of a massive march to Delhi. He also did not approve of the romantic idea of Nehru to set up a parallel government. Gandhi proposed a march of 78 dedicated and disciplined satyagrahis from Sabarmati to Dandi village to offer Salt Satyagraha.

Gandhi chose salt as the symbol of satyagraha because it was the lowest common denominator of the food consumption of the nation. The rich needed salt for a change of taste and the poorest of the poor needed it for mixing with water so that they could dip their dry and stale bread in the mixture as an alternative to the rich man's spicy curry.

During the Dandi March, some overenthusiastic admirers of Gandhi brought for him and his fellow pilgrims large quantities of fresh fruit and wholesome milk from dairies. Gandhi, however, humbly refused to accept them on the ground that those who were involved in the noble cause of fighting for the poor through their march must not avail themselves of such lavish hospitality.

Gandhi looked at the Dandi March not only as a non-violent weapon of struggle against injustice but also as a medium of dialogue and communication with the people along the route of the march. On their way to Dandi, Gandhi and his satyagrahis halted for night rest at various villages. He used this interlude to speak to the satyagrahis, the residents of the villages and accompanying journalists about the background of the Salt Satyagraha and wider issues of national importance. He treated the Dandi March as an educative process. He continued this dialogue with the people during all the 25 days of the march. Thrilled by the march, several journalists sent elaborate reports every day. These were well displayed by newspapers and journals. Thus what Gandhi said during the Dandi March became a dialogue with the nation.

The Dandi March brought out the fact that Gandhi was not only a crusader and an activist but also a thinker. He said: "Dandi March was a pilgrimage. The whole conception rests on unbounded faith in the unfailing power of non-violence. The satyagrahi always acts in the spirit of atonement. He believes that he shares in the sins of the ruler or ruled." About the satyagrahis he observed: "I saw in their eyes no anger against British rulers or British rule ... But joy born of the confidence that complete freedom was at hand." On the pilgrimage of the satyagrahis he commented: "I repeat that ours is a sacred pilgrimage and self-examination and self-purification are essentials, which we cannot do without." Exhorting the satyagrahis, Gandhi said: "Our ambition is to lay the foundations of the edifice of Swaraj, inasmuch as ours will be the first sacrificial offering. It should be as unsullied as possible."

Pronouncing his views on the Dandi March, Gandhi stated: "The inner spiritual rules have a greater effect than the external and material factors. Such is the idea behind this march." He strongly deplored the repressive policies of the Government saying "to approve the policy of the Government is to commit treason against the poor."

Claiming to be a revolutionary, Gandhi declared: "I have become a revolutionary, when politeness and persuasion proved infructuous. I find peace in describing myself as a revolutionary and I practice my dharma to some extent. In a revolution which is calm, peaceful and truthful, you should get yourself enrolled regardless of the religion to which you belong." On the objective of Civil Disobedience, Gandhi stated: "The objective of Civil Disobedience is double — the repeal of the tax and the repeal of the British bondage of which salt tax is but an offshoot." Paying a glowing tribute to C.F. Andrews, he remarked: "The reader knows that C.F. Andrews became a convert to independence before I came to it. I hugged the belief that Dominion status was superior to Independence. But Deenbandhu knew his England better than I did."

Yusuf Meherally met Gandhi during the Dandi March and the following dialogue took place between the two. Meherally asked: "Would you suggest any method by which the Muslims could be still more attracted to the Congress fold and protected from the pernicious propaganda of communalists?"

Gandhiji replied: "Congressmen must serve the Muslims to get their representation to the Congress. ... Soon the Congress will stand higher in the affection of Muslims than it ever did before. The masses are sound at heart. They only require a correct and courageous lead. I repeat that the best way of winning over the Musalmans is by seeking occasions of service and assuring them that the resolution of the Congress on the communal question means what it says."

Regarding complaints of Muslims about ignoring their villages during the Dandi March, Gandhi said: "He heard that some Muslim friends had complained that he and his party did not pass through their villages. If he was invited he would surely have included such villages in his programme. But his present tour was such that he could not go to any village uninvited and he could not force the villagers to receive him. "In Dandi, a Muslim has invited me. I will be putting up in his bungalow. Satyagraha (Dandi) will commence from the Muslim friend's house ... "... Muslims and Hindus both want that this tax should go as both consume equal quantity of salt and both feel the pinch."

The spark of Salt Satyagraha ignited at Dandi on April 6, 1930, spread like wild fire to different parts of the country. The extent of the spread of the satyagraha can be gauged from the fact that 60,000 satyagrahis were arrested in various States. Gandhi was arrested on May 5, 1930. After his arrest, the most memorable event was the Satyagraha on May 6, 1930, in front of the Dharasana Salt depot in Gujarat. This was led by Sarojini Naidu and was a demonstration of courage and discipline of the satyagrahis in the face of a brutal lathicharge by the police. Batches after batches of satyagrahis marched to the salt depot, braving the lathicharge. Most of them were seriously wounded and were given medical aid by women volunteers. The satyagraha went on and on. The lathi-wielding policemen, who mercilessly beat up the satyagrahis, must have been exhausted but not the unbending satyagrahis who had taken all that steel and cruelty can give.

Some critics have observed that the description of repression against the satyagrahis at Dharasana was a gross exaggeration. Pyarelal, secretary to Mahatma Gandhi, has confirmed the eyewitness account of brutalities of the police against the satyagrahis. But more than that Webb Miller, Correspondent of the New Freeman, has given the most fitting reply to these critics. He wrote:

"In eighteen years of reporting in twenty-two countries during which I have witnessed innumerable civil disturbances, riots, street fights and rebellions, I have never witnessed such harrowing scenes as at Dharasana."

The History of the Indian National Congress (Vol. I Page 398-399) mentions: "The Government denied that excessive force had been used against the satyagrahis but eye-witness accounts told a different tale. Hussain Tyabji, a Bombay Judge, K. Natrajan and

G.K. Devdhar went to Dharasana to see things for themselves. In their statement subsequently they declared that they had seen with their eyes how, after the satyagrahis had been driven out of the Salt boundary, mounted Europeans rode at full gallop with lathis in their hands, beating the volunteers. They galloped through the village scattering men, women and children and making them scamper for safety."

The Dandi March, which stirred the soul of the nation, is distant memory for many. But its lessons hold good even today.

(The quotations used in this article are from the Collective Works of Mahatma Gandhi — Volume 48.)

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## Thread 2: Steve Jobs casts a new light on MAKING A DIFFERENCE

### Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004

Posts: 96

Location: global dialogue center

### Message

Posted: Wed Jun 22, 2005 10:30 am Post subject: Steve Jobs casts a new light on MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Dear Friends,

As with all good things, they find their way to you through friends. Yesterday an email came to me with a copy of STEVE JOBS commencement address at STANFORD UNIVERSITY.

Of course, it was perfectly timed ... I've wanted to share something meaningful with all of you that might re-ignite your passion to make a difference --- that might encourage you to follow your heart --- to inspire you to reach for your finest contribution in this life.

STEVE JOBS spoke to all of us in this powerful message.

With love and gratitude I pass it along to you.

Debbe

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### **STEVE JOBS**

#### **Commencement Speech**

#### **Stanford University - June 12, 2005**

June 12, 2005.

I am honored to be with you today at your commencement from one of the finest universities in the world. I never graduated from college.

Truth be told, this is the closest I've ever gotten to a college graduation. Today I want to tell you three stories from my life. That's it. No big deal. Just three stories.

The first story is about connecting the dots.

I dropped out of Reed College after the first 6 months, but then stayed around as a drop-in for another 18 months or so before I really quit. So why did I drop out?

It started before I was born. My biological mother was a young, unwed college graduate student, and she decided to put me up for adoption. She felt very strongly that I should be adopted by college graduates, so everything was all set for me to be adopted at birth by a lawyer and his wife. Except that when I popped out they decided at the last minute that they really wanted a girl. So my parents, who were on a waiting list, got a call in the middle of the night asking: "We have an unexpected baby boy; do you want him?" They said: "Of course." My biological mother later found out that my mother had never graduated from college and that my father had never graduated from high school. She refused to sign the final adoption papers. She only relented a few months later when my parents promised that I would someday go to college.

And 17 years later I did go to college. But I naively chose a college that was almost as expensive as Stanford, and all of my working-class parents' savings were being spent on my college tuition. After six months, I couldn't see the value in it. I had no idea what I wanted to do with my life and no idea how college was going to help me figure it out. And here I was spending all of the money my parents had saved their entire life. So I decided to drop out and trust that it would all work out OK. It was pretty scary at the time, but looking back it was one of the best decisions I ever made. The minute I dropped out I could stop taking the required classes that didn't interest me, and begin dropping in on the ones that looked interesting. It wasn't all romantic. I didn't have a dorm room, so I slept on the floor in friends' rooms, I returned coke bottles for the 5¢ deposits to buy food with, and I would walk the 7 miles across town every Sunday night to get one good meal a week at the Hare Krishna temple. I loved it. And much of what I stumbled into by following my curiosity and intuition turned out to be priceless later on. Let me give you one example:

Reed College at that time offered perhaps the best calligraphy instruction in the country. Throughout the campus every poster, every label on every drawer, was beautifully hand calligraphed. Because I had dropped out and didn't have to take the normal classes, I decided to take a calligraphy class to learn how to do this. I learned about serif and san serif typefaces, about varying the amount of space between different letter combinations, about what makes great typography great. It was beautiful, historical, artistically subtle in a way that science can't capture, and I found it fascinating.

None of this had even a hope of any practical application in my life. But ten years later, when we were designing the first Macintosh computer, it all came back to me. And we designed it all into the Mac. It was the first computer with beautiful typography. If I had never dropped in on that single course in college, the Mac would have never had multiple typefaces or proportionally spaced fonts. And since Windows just copied the Mac, it's likely that no personal computer would have them. If I had never dropped out, I would have never dropped in on this calligraphy class, and personal computers might not have the wonderful

typography that they do. Of course it was impossible to connect the dots looking forward when I was in college. But it was very, very clear looking backwards ten years later.

Again, you can't connect the dots looking forward; you can only connect them looking backwards. So you have to trust that the dots will somehow connect in your future. You have to trust in something - your gut, destiny, life, karma, whatever. This approach has never let me down, and it has made all the difference in my life.

My second story is about love and loss. I was lucky - I found what I loved to do early in life. Woz and I started Apple in my parents garage when I was 20. We worked hard, and in 10 years Apple had grown from just the two of us in a garage into a \$2 billion company with over 4000 employees. We had just released our finest creation - the Macintosh - a year earlier, and I had just turned 30. And then I got fired. How can you get fired from a company you started? Well, as Apple grew we hired someone who I thought was very talented to run the company with me, and for the first year or so things went well. But then our visions of the future began to diverge and eventually we had a falling out. When we did, our Board of Directors sided with him. So at 30 I was out. And very publicly out. What had been the focus of my entire adult life was gone, and it was devastating.

I really didn't know what to do for a few months. I felt that I had let the previous generation of entrepreneurs down - that I had dropped the baton as it was being passed to me. I met with David Packard and Bob Noyce and tried to apologize for screwing up so badly. I was a very public failure, and I even thought about running away from the valley. But something slowly began to dawn on me - I still loved what I did. The turn of events at Apple had not changed that one bit. I had been rejected, but I was still in love. And so I decided to start over.

I didn't see it then, but it turned out that getting fired from Apple was the best thing that could have ever happened to me. The heaviness of being successful was replaced by the lightness of being a beginner again, less sure about everything. It freed me to enter one of the most creative periods of my life.

During the next five years, I started a company named NeXT, another company named Pixar, and fell in love with an amazing woman who would become my wife. Pixar went on to create the worlds first computer animated feature film, Toy Story, and is now the most successful animation studio in the world. In a remarkable turn of events, Apple bought NeXT, I returned to Apple, and the technology we developed at NeXT is at the heart of Apple's current renaissance. And Laurene and I have a wonderful family together.

I'm pretty sure none of this would have happened if I hadn't been fired from Apple. It was awful tasting medicine, but I guess the patient needed it. Sometimes life hits you in the head with a brick. Don't lose faith. I'm convinced that the only thing that kept me going was that I loved what I did. You've got to find what you love. And that is as true for your work as it is for your lovers. Your work is going to fill a large part of your life, and the only way to be truly satisfied is to do what you believe is great work. And the only way to do great work is to love what you do. If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. Don't settle. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it. And, like any great relationship, it just gets better and better as the years roll on. So keep looking until you find it. Don't settle.

My third story is about death.

When I was 17, I read a quote that went something like: "If you live each day as if it was your last, someday you'll most certainly be right." It made an impression on me, and since then, for the past 33 years, I have looked in the mirror every morning and asked myself: "If today were the last day of my life, would I want to do what I am about to do today?" And whenever the answer has been "No" for too many days in a row, I know I need to change something.

Remembering that I'll be dead soon is the most important tool I've ever encountered to help me make the big choices in life. Because almost everything - all external expectations, all pride, all fear of embarrassment or failure - these things just fall away in the face of death, leaving only what is truly important. Remembering that your are going to die is the best way I know to avoid the trap of thinking you have something to lose. You are already naked. There is no reason not to follow your heart.

About a year ago I was diagnosed with cancer. I had a scan at 7:30 in the morning, and it clearly showed a tumor on my pancreas. I didn't even know what a pancreas was. The doctors told me this was almost certainly a type of cancer that is incurable, and that I should expect to live no longer than three to six months. My doctor advised me to go home and get my affairs in order, which is doctor's code for prepare to die. It means to try to tell your kids everything you thought you'd have the next 10 years to tell them in just a few months. It means to make sure everything is buttoned up so that it will be as easy as possible for your family. It means to say your goodbyes.

I lived with that diagnosis all day. Later that evening I had a biopsy, where they stuck an endoscope down my throat, through my stomach and into my intestines, put a needle into my pancreas and got a few cells from the tumor. I was sedated, but my wife, who was there, told me that when they viewed the cells under a microscope the doctors started crying because it turned out to be a very rare form of pancreatic cancer that is curable with surgery. I had the surgery and I'm fine now.

This was the closest I've been to facing death, and I hope its the closest I get for a few more decades. Having lived through it, I can now say this to you with a bit more certainty than when death was a useful but purely intellectual concept:

No one wants to die. Even people who want to go to heaven don't want to die to get there. And yet death is the destination we all share. No one has ever escaped it. And that is as it should be, because Death is very likely the single best invention of Life. It is Life's change agent. It clears out the old to make way for the new. Right now the new is you, but someday not too long from now, you will gradually become the old and be cleared away. Sorry to be so dramatic, but it is quite true.

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. Don't be trapped by dogma - which is living with the results of other people's thinking. Don't let the noise of other's opinions drown out your own inner voice. And most important, have the courage to follow your heart and intuition. They somehow already know what you truly want to become. Everything else is secondary.

When I was young, there was an amazing publication called The Whole Earth Catalog, which was one of the bibles of my generation. It was created by a fellow named Stewart Brand not far from here in Menlo Park, and he brought it to life with his poetic touch. This was in the late 1960's, before personal computers and desktop publishing, so it was all made with typewriters, scissors, and polaroid cameras. It was sort of like Google in paperback form, 35 years before Google came along: it was idealistic, and overflowing with neat tools and great notions.

Stewart and his team put out several issues of The Whole Earth Catalog, and then when it had run its course, they put out a final issue. It was the mid-1970s, and I was your age. On the back cover of their final issue was a photograph of an early morning country road, the kind you might find yourself hitchhiking on if you were so adventurous. Beneath it were the words: "Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish." It was their farewell message as they signed off. Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish. And I have always wished that for myself. And now, as you graduate to begin anew, I wish that for you.

Stay Hungry. Stay Foolish.

Thank you all very much.

## Author

**bill.tipton116**

Joined: 03 Nov 2004

Posts: 61

Location: San Jose

## Message

Posted: Sun Jun 26, 2005 5:56 pm Post subject: Re: Steve Jobs casts a new light on MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Hi Debbe,

Thanks so much for sharing! This message really helps at this time in my life.

I can relate to Steve's points. Around how you go through life gathering dots. Some of the dots you might know where they fit in and most you do not. If you do not worry how these dots will fit together while you are gathering the dots, in witch I think of as knowledge bits or nuggets, and just keep gathering what you enjoy and feel the strongest about. On some days, you might, just all of a sudden feel something click and you take that extra leap forward in your journey towards your goals. That is how it feels when one or more of these dots touch others in my perception. You never plan on how or why some of these dots will touch and give meaning to each other, just some days they make very valuable connections. So keep gathering dots.

On Steve's second topic, it seems like things just keep changing for me. It seems like nothing is stable for long at all. I am ready to hang on and see where things take me, and will be ready to keep a positive attitude and have fun while things change.

On Steve's third topic, I can really hit home with this one since I almost died more than

once during a very serious illness I had. Even though I had coded multiple times and not many people thought I would even live; When you do get a second chance at life, it is so very easy to get caught back up in old habits of gathering dots at a frantic pace without time to look around. It is then possible to forget to realize what really matters. Friends, family, love and happiness!!! I'll try not to forget while going through challenging times. I will still be gathering my dots to succeed, but will remember to take time out to remember the good things and to let these good things care for me.

Thanks Debbe,

Bill Tipton

## Thread 3: ON ENERGY

### Author

**earthling2**

Joined: 24 May 2005

Posts: 2

Location: BALTIMORE, MD.

### Message

Posted: Wed Jun 22, 2005 9:59 am Post subject:

Linda:

Welcome! Sorry I am late seeing your message. Have you seen Johusa Peace Seeker's WHAT YOU CAN DO blog in our WORLD VISION DIALOGUES at the GLoBal Dialogue Center?

<http://www.globaldialoguecenter.com/socrates-hall-dialogue.html>

Joshua just converted his car to run on recycled "veggie oil" ... as well as doing many other inspiring things to help create a new world. I'm sure he would welcome your enthusiasm and ideas.

Debbe Kennedy

## Thread 4: HEY, DIFFERENCE MAKERS ... WE COULD USE YOUR HELP! ON ENERGY

### Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004  
Posts: 96  
Location: global dialogue center

## Message

Posted: Sun Apr 24, 2005 4:59 pm Post subject: HEY, DIFFERENCE MAKERS ... WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!

### **HEY, PMAD FRIENDS ... WE COULD USE YOUR HELP!**

Inspired by conversations on this board, we have just opened a new "wing" of our virtual facility ----- SOCRATES HALL. For the remainder of 2005, we are hosting what we hope will be a world-changing WORLD VISION DIALOGUE!

We could use the help of all visionary, difference makers to help us seed this dialogue. WOULD YOU GIVE US A HAND???

Go to [SOCRATES HALL](#) to learn more (click here)

With love and gratitude,

Debbe

## **Thread 5: What does it take to change our CONSCIOUSNESS???**

### Author

**debbekennedy**

Joined: 27 Oct 2004  
Posts: 96  
Location: global dialogue center

### Message

Posted: Sun Feb 13, 2005 5:48 pm Post subject: What does it take to change our CONSCIOUSNESS???

### **What does it take to change our CONSCIOUSNESS???**

**Today, a friend sent along this thought-provoking piece by Howard Zinn. I pretty much sums up WHAT NOW? What are your thoughts on the subject. I'm interested in your thoughts and ideas on changing one mind at a time...**

Debbe Kennedy

### **Changing Minds, One at a Time By Howard Zinn - The Progressive**

March 2005 Issue

As I write this, the day after the inauguration, the banner headline in The New York Times

reads: "BUSH, AT 2ND INAUGURAL, SAYS SPREAD OF LIBERTY IS THE 'CALLING OF OUR TIME.' "

Two days earlier, on an inside page of the Times, was a photo of a little girl, crouching, covered with blood, weeping. The caption read: "An Iraqi girl screamed yesterday after her parents were killed when American soldiers fired on their car when it failed to stop, despite warning shots, in Tal Afar, Iraq. The military is investigating the incident."

Today, there is a large photo in the Times of young people cheering the President as his entourage moves down Pennsylvania Avenue. They do not look very different from the young people shown in another part of the paper, along another part of Pennsylvania Avenue, protesting the inauguration.

I doubt that those young people cheering Bush saw the photo of the little girl. And even if they did, would it occur to them to juxtapose that photo to the words of George Bush about spreading liberty around the world?

That question leads me to a larger one, which I suspect most of us have pondered: What does it take to bring a turnaround in social consciousness - from being a racist to being in favor of racial equality, from being in favor of Bush's tax program to being against it, from being in favor of the war in Iraq to being against it? We desperately want an answer, because we know that the future of the human race depends on a radical change in social consciousness.

It seems to me that we need not engage in some fancy psychological experiment to learn the answer, but rather to look at ourselves and to talk to our friends. We then see, though it is unsettling, that we were not born critical of existing society. There was a moment in our lives (or a month, or a year) when certain facts appeared before us, startled us, and then caused us to question beliefs that were strongly fixed in our consciousness - embedded there by years of family prejudices, orthodox schooling, imbibing of newspapers, radio, and television.

This would seem to lead to a simple conclusion: that we all have an enormous responsibility to bring to the attention of others information they do not have, which has the potential of causing them to rethink long-held ideas. It is so simple a thought that it is easily overlooked as we search, desperate in the face of war and apparently immovable power in ruthless hands, for some magical formula, some secret strategy to bring peace and justice to the land and to the world.

"What can I do?" The question is thrust at me again and again as if I possessed some mysterious solution unknown to others. The odd thing is that the question may be posed by someone sitting in an audience of a thousand people, whose very presence there is an instance of information being imparted which, if passed on, could have dramatic consequences. The answer then is as obvious and profound as the Buddhist mantra that says: "Look for the truth exactly on the spot where you stand."

Yes, thinking of the young people holding up the pro-Bush signs at the inauguration, there are those who will not be budged by new information. They will be shown the bloodied little girl whose parents have been killed by an American weapon, and find all sorts of reasons to dismiss it: "Accidents happen. . . . This was an aberration. . . . It is an unfortunate price of liberating a nation," and so on.

There is a hard core of people in the United States who will not be moved, whatever facts you present, from their conviction that this nation means only to do good, and almost always does good, in the world, that it is the beacon of liberty and freedom (words used forty-two times in Bush's inauguration speech). But that core is a minority, as is that core of people who carried signs of protest at the inauguration.

In between those two minorities stand a huge number of Americans who have been brought up to believe in the beneficence of our nation, who find it hard to believe otherwise, but who can rethink their beliefs when presented with information new to them.

Is that not the history of social movements?

There was a hard core of people in this country who believed in the institution of slavery. Between the 1830s, when a tiny group of Abolitionists began their agitation, and the 1850s, when disobedience of the fugitive slave acts reached their height, the Northern public, at first ready to do violence to the agitators, now embraced their cause. What happened in those years? The reality of slavery, its cruelty, as well as the heroism of its resisters, was made evident to Americans through the speeches and writings of the Abolitionists, the testimony of escaped slaves, the presence of magnificent black witnesses like Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman.

Something similar happened during those years of the Southern black movement, starting with the Montgomery Bus Boycott, the sit-ins, the Freedom Rides, the marches. White people - not only in the North, but also in the South - were startled into an awareness of the long history of humiliation of millions of people who had been invisible and who now demanded their rights.

When the Vietnam War began, two-thirds of the American public supported the war. A few years later, two-thirds opposed the war. While some remained adamantly pro-war, one-third of the population had learned things that overthrew previously held ideas about the essential goodness of the American intervention in Vietnam. The human consequences of the fierce bombing campaigns, the "search and destroy" missions, became clear in the image of the naked young girl, her skin shredded by napalm, running down a road; the women and children huddled in the trenches in My Lai with soldiers pouring rifle fire onto them; Marines setting fire to peasant huts while the occupants stood by, weeping.

Those images made it impossible for most Americans to believe President Johnson when he said we were fighting for the freedom of the Vietnamese people, that it was all worthwhile because it was part of the worldwide struggle against Communism.

In his inauguration speech, and indeed, through all four years of his presidency, George Bush has insisted that our violence in Afghanistan and Iraq has been in the interest of freedom and democracy, and essential to the "war on terrorism." When the war on Iraq began almost two years ago, about three-fourths of Americans supported the war. Today, the public opinion polls show that at least half of the citizenry believes it was wrong to go to war.

What has happened in these two years is clear: a steady erosion of support for the war, as the public has become more and more aware that the Iraqi people, who were supposed to greet the U.S. troops with flowers, are overwhelmingly opposed to the occupation. Despite the reluctance of the major media to show the frightful toll of the war on Iraqi men, women, children, or to show U.S. soldiers with amputated limbs, enough of those images have broken through, joined by the grimly rising death toll, to have an effect.

But there is still a large pool of Americans, beyond the hard-core minority who will not be dissuaded by any facts (and it would be a waste of energy to make them the object of our attention), who are open to change. For them, it would be important to measure Bush's grandiose inaugural talk about the "spread of liberty" against the historical record of American expansion.

It is a challenge not just for the teachers of the young to give them information they will not get in the standard textbooks, but for everyone else who has an opportunity to speak to

friends and neighbors and work associates, to write letters to newspapers, to call in on talk shows.

The history is powerful: the story of the lies and massacres that accompanied our national expansion, first across the continent victimizing Native Americans, then overseas as we left death and destruction in our wake in Cuba, Puerto Rico, Hawaii, and especially the Philippines. The long occupations of Haiti and the Dominican Republic, the repeated dispatch of Marines into Central America, the deaths of millions of Koreans and Vietnamese, none of them resulting in democracy and liberty for those people.

Add to all that the toll of the American young, especially the poor, black and white, a toll measured not only by the corpses and the amputated limbs, but the damaged minds and corrupted sensibilities that result from war.

Those truths make their way, against all obstacles, and break down the credibility of the warmakers, juxtaposing what reality teaches against the rhetoric of inaugural addresses and White House briefings. The work of a movement is to enhance that learning, make clear the disconnect between the rhetoric of "liberty" and the photo of a bloodied little girl, weeping.

And also to go beyond the depiction of past and present, and suggest an alternative to the paths of greed and violence. All through history, people working for change have been inspired by visions of a different world. It is possible, here in the United States, to point to our enormous wealth and suggest how, once not wasted on war or siphoned off to the super-rich, that wealth can make possible a truly just society.

The juxtapositions wait to be made. The recent disaster in Asia, alongside the millions dying of AIDS in Africa, next to the \$500 billion military budget, cry out for justice. The words of people from all over the world gathered year after year in Porto Alegre, Brazil, and other places - "a new world is possible" - point to a time when national boundaries are erased, when the natural riches of the world are used for everyone.

The false promises of the rich and powerful about "spreading liberty" can be fulfilled, not by them, but by the concerted effort of us all, as the truth comes out, and our numbers grow.

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Howard Zinn's latest work (with Anthony Arnove) is "Voices of a People's History of the United States." [Available at Amazon.com](#)

## **Thread 6: Wonderful Energy Source**

### **Author**

**Charles M Brown**

Joined: 16 Feb 2005

Posts: 1

Location: Kilauea, Kauai, Hawaii

## Message

Posted: Wed Feb 16, 2005 6:28 pm Post subject: Wonderful Energy Source

Aloha,

I am nearing the fulfillment of a quest for cheap, clean, and abundant, energy began 40 years ago when Issac Asimov's book, *View From a Height* introduced me to the First and Second Laws of Thermodynamics (1LT & 2LT). The quest proceeded quickly with my fathers electrical engineering books. The conclusion is that mankind can aggregate rectified Johnson Noise; we can extract thermal energy from any warmth above absolute zero in temperature and release this absorbed heat as an equal amount of electrical power using very many very small diodes in consistent alignment parallel. I filed for a U.S. patent in 1973. It was granted in 1975 as DIODE ARRAY #3,890,161. It has been in the public domain since 1992. In 1993 I commissioned the adaption and testing of a satellite transponder chip containing 5,600 diodes as a prototype to see if the concept was feasible. The device produced 50 millivolts DC into 50 k ohms or 50 nanowatts in a uniform temperature bath at 20 C. It worked; This output is much more than 1/2 kTB watts. Other people can try similar experiments for ~ \$1K. In ~2000, I concluded from *Scientific American* that carbon buckyballs were excellent as diode anodes when evenly spread on N type InSb an excellent shared cathode. a prototype along these lines is in inactive development at [www.nano-lab.com](http://www.nano-lab.com) Massachusetts.

Air conditioners will create electrical power. Personal aircraft will have extreme range. Small appliances will work out of the box anywhere. India and China can develop without pollution. Water can be pumped cheaply. One processe's waste can be sent to become another's raw material.

We escape the depression of inevitable waste in one comprehensive move. I want this technology to be developed by an open federation.

<http://www.diodearray.com>  
[http://peswiki.com/index.php/OS:CBC:Main\\_Page](http://peswiki.com/index.php/OS:CBC:Main_Page)

## Thread 8: DAY AFTER THE NIGHT BEFORE – State of the Union?

### Author

**24sevenTEAM**  
Site Admin  
Joined: 25 May 2004  
Posts: 63

### Message

Posted: Thu Feb 03, 2005 10:34 am Post subject: DAY AFTER THE NIGHT BEFORE - State of the Union?

#### **DAY AFTER THE NIGHT BEFORE**

After reading John Perkins' expose in the book, *Confession of an Economic Hit Man*, the State of the Union address by President Bush took on a new meaning. It was painful to listen and one is left questioning...

What truths was in his rhetoric? Good and scary? The words are intentionally crafty to address the few; many actions affecting the many frightening.

how can we survive with a broken, greedy system with a man at the helm who lusts for power?

what is the real state of our union?

what can we do?

### **YOUR THOUGHTS?**

Debbe

## **Thread 11: 112 Days of Peace and a Holiday CD for Your Community**

### **Author**

#### **AsliceofParadise**

Joined: 06 Dec 2004

Posts: 1

Location: Hawaii

### **Message**

Posted: Mon Dec 06, 2004 10:10 pm Post subject: 112 Days of Peace and a Holiday CD for Your Community

Aloha from Kauai,

Just wanted to extend our best wishes, and ask you to consider some new good ideas coming out of Kauai, for the upcoming Holiday.

112 Days of Peace Campaign...follow us as we work with Music, Art, and Experience Artists, on the trail to the Peace and Non-Violence Festival(PeaceFest '05) on Kauai March 13 -22, 2005.

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/asliceofparadise/>

or [asliceofparadise-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:asliceofparadise-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)

Also, we are working with Terry Bradford([www.terrybradford.com](http://www.terrybradford.com)) on a new 'Goodwill to All' Holiday Singing campaign. His newest CD, which has restyled some lyrics with more contemporary words, are combined with a songbook. That way, your churches choir or singing group can work with a proven vocal interpreter for Peaceful Music, and also add his voice, as our is on Kauai, to the upcoming Holiday experiences.

You'll find that information comes to you in a file, when you subscribe to

the group above.

We hope you have a wonderful Holiday experience, and will soon join our community(if you do, then simply add a link to your website, under the Peaceful Sites You'll Want to Visit.)

Mahalo,

Patrick Michaels  
Chief Encouragement Officer  
A Slice of Paradise Enterprises

## Thread 12: Reflections on Making a Difference

### Author

**stevepiersanti**

Joined: 09 Nov 2004  
Posts: 9  
Location: Berrett-Koehler

### Message

Posted: Sun Dec 05, 2004 8:20 pm Post subject: Reflections on Making a Difference

A few thoughts to pass along-

One of the things that impressed me about the M.A.D. conference was how much people felt like they belonged there and were engaged in conversations that mattered. I felt that the positive comments that I heard about the conference went beyond the ideas and content being presented by the various speakers. Something deeper and richer was going on, and I have been puzzling over what it was.

I have come to believe that one important thing that was unique about the M.A.D. conference -- and that is at the heart of Berrett-Koehler's distinctive publishing agenda -- was that it was a place where people were engaged in fundamental and profound conversations that are different from the conversations that dominate in other spheres. These conversations are what I referred to in the last paragraph of my opening conference remarks: "trying to to change the underlying beliefs, mindsets, paradigms, institutions, patterns, and structures that keep putting us in the same place, no matter who our leaders are." These conversations gave the conference a special meaning and power. This was one of the few places where such conversations take center stage. This was particularly striking because we had just come through a contentious political season in which the more normal conversations had dominated -- conversations focused on personalities, issues, problems, symptoms, and other contentious matters that generate lots of heat but won't really bring about any fundamental or lasting change.

All the best,

Steve

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Steve Piersanti  
President, Berrett-Koehler Publishing