



## **Crossing Lines in San Mateo**

**Sharing stories, Creating community**

Sunday, 29 January 2017 — 2:30-5:00 pm

Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center

San Mateo, California USA

[\(on the Web\)](#)

### **Participant Responses**



***"It was a fantastic and well attended event yesterday afternoon. I came in with already knowing the importance of the authority of our own stories and why we need to learn better to tell and listen to stories. I left with an understanding of the gift of another person's story opening up and giving safety to share my own story."***

Derrick Kikuchi  
San Mateo

***"My wife and I learned a great deal about sharing stories as an effective way of communicating and understanding one another. Indeed, "an enemy is one whose story we've not heard". If only people can listen to each other's story, the world would be far more peaceful."***

Diamond Longjel  
Sacramento

***"Sunday was incredible, and the most amazing way to move forward together."***

Leah Heyman  
San Francisco

***"It was inspiring to be at the gathering Sunday. I especially appreciate seeing how possible it is to use guided storytelling to enable "strangers" to build real connections among us in such a short time. I'll have what we did in mind as I lead the evening of members of a church with many undocumented folks coming to join us at Sherith Israel on Shabbat in a few weeks."***

Rabbi Julie Saxe-Taller  
San Francisco

***"Thank you for an inspiring and uplifting day. My daughter, Katherine, and I really enjoyed the program and interacting with such a warm, welcoming and diverse group of people. I would love to stay in touch!"***

Lois Lazar  
San Carlos



***"I was very pleased to be in the circle yesterday and learned much about myself, my partner, and this process which is so life-illuminating and enhancing. I am talking with a colleague who attended about bringing the process to Redwood City."***

Cheryl Hylton  
San Mateo

***"Thank you for a wonderful meeting. It is gratifying so many people want to communicate with each other and find common ground."***

Joan Bodenlos  
Hillsborough

"Thank u for sharing in Facebook this great divine Light with Humanity, of 115 people gathering from age 18 to 85 years old from diverse races, cultures and backgrounds. I made [a short video](#) to express how I felt. I am so inspired by your outcome."



Offuh James Offuh  
Ivory Coast, West Africa

<https://www.facebook.com/messages/t/100000941902205/>

*"There is a desire in my neighborhood ( the Willows) to connect on a real level with the neighborhood it is separated from by the 101 freeway ( Belle Haven). We are very different neighborhoods on many level but as was shown on Sunday we share so much."*

Dianne Otterby  
Menlo Park

*"This was a wonderful way to start an on-going community-based program. For me, it was particularly gratifying to see such a wide range of people gathered for the purpose of creating better understanding. It was inspiring in light of what's happening nationally. It gave me a glimmer of hope in the midst of despair. I found the dyad exercise particularly great, as I was forced to really listen without interrupting or thinking of my next comment. That was a powerful experience for me, and I found it wonderful to listen and be listened to in that way. Thank you for an inspirational afternoon. Hoping there'll be more to come!"*



Ron Visconti  
Foster City

*"Thanks so much for Sunday's experience! I was impressed by the connections that were forged. I was moved to hear how much everyone got from the experience and was surprised to discover that the mutual-questioning part, and the content of the questions themselves, may matter less to fostering intimacy than giving someone your full attention with the intention of simply learning who they are."*

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*"I was also wondering how this model could be usefully applied to a corporate or healthcare setting to foster understanding and compassion among people who hold different roles in the hierarchy of doctors vs. nurses vs. social workers, for example."*

Rachel Schwartz  
Palo Alto

*"Thank you for a simply beautiful and powerful event. It always surprises me to be reminded how powerful listening, really listening, and sharing our stories, beneath the facades, can be. I came away ready and able to practice, practice, practice!"*

Rev. Kristi Denham  
Belmont

*"I'm going to conduct your dialogue experience here in Fresno. As a social worker and community developer, I'm using the tool as the beginning of coalescing a collaborative group that is made up of multiple agencies that serve generally the same populations. I believe the people in the agencies think others are very different than them, but I see the opposite is also true. I've also opened it up to anyone that wanted to attend. "*

David Weikel  
Fresno

*"Our family and friends had a wonderful experience at CROSSING LINES! Mary Quaye from Ghana, West Africa, is particularly interested in participating in future dialogues! I will write a column about CROSSING LINES for Tuesday's Daily Journal."*



[\*The Power of Listening\*](#)  
San Mateo Daily Journal  
07 February 2017

Jonathan Madison  
San Bruno

*"Participating in Crossing Lines among the 115 of us attendees was revitalizing. As Church Administrator, I shared the information about that day's workshop with some members of the Community United Church of Christ in San Carlos. I suggested that something like Crossing Lines might be appropriate for us. You should know though that things flow 'slowly' in the church setting. Nevertheless, a seed has been tossed out there."*

Gwen Jeong  
San Mateo

*"Thanks for providing a link to the photos from your CROSSING LINES. Looks like you drew a lively, engaged group of cultural pioneers!"*

Joseph Jastrab  
Editor-in-Chief  
Turning Point: Journal of the Conscious Elders Network

## From Africa

*We in Central Africa have just been enriched from your California activity of January 29, 2017.*

*We are so excited about the great success of Crossing Lines in San Mateo that modeled bringing communities together through face-to-face dialogue and involving 115 people ages 18 years to 85 years from all races and different continents.*

*Your report of this excellent activity allowed us to appreciate the variety of insights of diverse participants during the workshop in comparison with our experiences here in eastern Democratic Republic of Congo.*

*From analyzing your workshop, we realized:*

- 1. General knowledge about creating a culture of connection and the creation of a community.*
- 2. The answers of your workshop participants are the same ones that our Congolese participants always express during our seminar workshops here at home, attesting that people have the same concerns and giving us much comfort.*
- 3. The participants' narratives attest to the growing need to develop connection skills for creating a culture of face-to-face dialogue and reaching out to the world community where many people still want to learn, listen, and receive advice.*
- 4. We must add other categories of participants such as social workers, healthcare staff, and other workers when organizing seminar workshops within our communities as suggested by your participant, Rachel SCHWARTZ.*

Lumenge Jacques LUBANGU  
Bangwe-Makobola  
Fizi, South Kivu  
Democratic Republic of Congo

*Add your personal contributions with e-mail to [LTraubman@igc.org](mailto:LTraubman@igc.org)*



([on the Web](#))

