



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

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

Summary



***"Out beyond rightdoing and wrongdoing there is a field.
I'll meet you there."***

Jelaluddin Rumi (1207-1273)



In divided 2017 post-election America, distanced citizens increasingly felt like strangers in their own land.

Urgently needed was a response to close distances and begin creating a Culture of Connection.

Mostly strangers to each other—115 very diverse women, men, and youth. ages 18-85—answered a call for **CROSSING LINES IN SAN MATEO: Sharing stories, Creating community** during [World Interfaith Harmony Week](#).

From all races, many religions, diverse communities they streamed into Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Center for an inspiring, hands-on community workshop.

They were from diverse faith traditions—Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Judaism, Sufism, Catholicism, Protestantism, and Unitarian Universalism.

They learned to dignify one another with respectful communication across all lines, beginning with their new quality of listening-to-learn, listening to everyone.

From many arenas of life—students, workers, shopkeepers, parents, police, educators, clergy, more—the participants grew closer and experienced that a stranger or "an enemy is one whose story we have not heard."

They experienced One.

This day is documented online with illustrations, graphics, stories, and other tools, so others around Earth can easily replicate this healing experience wherever they live.

1. CROSSING LINES IN SAN MATEO Web site

<http://traubman.igc.org/sanmateocrossinglines.htm>

2. Photographs (PDF file)

<http://traubman.igc.org/sanmateocrossinglinesphotos.pdf>

3. Photographs (all, on Web)

<http://www.donnoltephotography.com/Events/Crossing-Lines-In-San-Mateo-2017/n-p4pgFs/>

4. Audio Recording

<http://traubman.igc.org/sanmateocrossinglinesaudio.mp3>

and <https://soundcloud.com/libby-len-traubman/crossing-lines-in-san-mateo>

5. Participant Responses

<http://traubman.igc.org/sanmateocrossinglinesresponses.pdf>

6. Published Event Articles

"A Model for Conversation"

SAN MATEO DAILY JOURNAL

<http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/news/2017-01-27/a-model-for-conversation-san-mateo-couple-offers-forum-to-listen-share-stories/1776425174953.html>

"The Power of Listening"

SAN MATEO DAILY JOURNAL

<http://www.smdailyjournal.com/articles/opinions/2017-02-07/the-power-of-listening/1776425175454.html>

"Who Are They, Anyway? Finally Meeting the Strangers in Our Own Land"

TRANSCEND — Solutions-Oriented Peace Journalism (Portugal)

<https://www.transcend.org/tms/2017/02/who-are-they-anyway-finally-meeting-the-strangers-in-our-own-land/>



US peace activists say: Who are “They” anyway?

PRESSENZA (Hungary)

<https://www.pressenza.com/2017/02/us-peace-activists-say-anyway/>***“Sharing Stories With Strangers for Peace”***

THE DAILY PRISM

<http://thedailyprism.blogspot.com/2017/02/sharing-stories-with-strangers-for-peace.html>***“Who are They, Anyway? Finally meeting the strangers in our own land”***

GLOBAL CAMPAIGN FOR PEACE EDUCATION

<http://www.peace-ed-campaign.org/anyway-finally-meeting-strangers-land/>***“U.S. Citizens learning face-to-face engagement to create a culture of connection”***

GOOD NEWS AGENCY — Positive News from the World (Italy)

<http://www.goodnewsagency.org/m/issue.php?number=254&lang=en#CE>**Tools for others to use:****7.****Pre-event Flyer**<http://traubman.igc.org/sanmateocrossinglines.pdf>**8.****Facilitator's Guide**<http://traubman.igc.org/vidschoolguide.pdf>**9.****Useful Graphics of Communication and Change**<http://traubman.igc.org/changechartsall.pdf>**10.****Post-event Participant Action Choices**<http://traubman.igc.org/sanmateocrossinglinesaction.pdf>

Follow-up action choices included:

- A. Meet to plan and gain support for facilitating a “crossing lines” circle in my community.
- B. Continue meeting with others in a sustained way to deepen my skills in community building.
- C. Receive occasional e-mail messages with human success stories of relationship-building.

Follow-up activity began within days after the CROSSING LINES experience.

For further information, contact:

Libby and Len Traubman

Co-facilitators

LTraubman@igc.org

1-650-574-8303





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

