

Conversations About ...

“ Establishing a Culture of Harmony in the Presence of Dissonance “

Available in one, two or three 120 minute sessions.

Ethical Thinking in Our Intricate World - an introduction.

We may think our decisions are of the highest ethical nature. Is it possible our decision-making is done with only a surface level of consideration? Ethical decision-making can be accomplished

through a variety of theoretical perspectives. This introductory course will cover basic ethical considerations. Key ethical factors will be presented and explored through discussion by class members. Film clips, articles, and anecdotal conversation will add energy to this course.

Asking the Hard Questions - Advanced Ethical Thinking.

Proper ethical decision-making is accomplished by considering a variety of perspectives. Peeling back the layers of a particular issue reveals numerous possibilities for action and the consequences resulting from that action. Advanced Sessions dig deeper into selected subjects. It is best, for better participation, that members of these sessions have completed the introductory course. .

Ethical Perspectives of Politics and Governance.

Politics is defined as the art and science of government and, of guiding government policy. Governing is the system of making and administering government policy. Politicians are the practitioners of this “art and science.” As citizens in any particular governing jurisdiction, we hope that our concerns and best welfare are in the minds of our politicians. Is this true? Is politics being driven by a utilitarian concept or by parochial ideologies and narrow philosophies; or, by the power of political parties and their influential supporters? The sessions offer historical and contemporary insights, various points of perspective, and introspective discussion.

Ethical Perspectives of War and Peace.

This is an exploration into the ethics of waging war and creating peace. War is often used to resolve differences. Violence is mostly rained down on the innocent. Peace is elusive. War and peace is viewed from the American perspective, based on America’s participation in twentieth-century hot wars, the Cold War, and recent conflicts. Elements of this discussion include US government, treaties, Just War criteria, Laws of War, military establishment, and the US citizens. Political and religious perspectives are kept to a minimum in order to seek out root decisions on making war and peace.

Exploring Medical Ethics - Beginning, Middle, and End of Life.

Every day, within the health care system, decisions are made about what, when, how much, and sometimes to whom medical services are delivered. These decisions are not easily made. They involve difficult and complicated issues. The First and Second Sessions will explore the more noted medical ethics issues, such as distribution of medical service, procedures, medications, transplants, and the occasional necessity to withhold service. The Third Session will discuss the moral, logical and legal debate of “if, when and how” to end life through the aid of a medical professional. Sessions will offer participants opportunity to offer their views for greater depth within this controlled discussion.

Healing the Harm - an introduction to Restorative Justice.

Altercations causing a harm - whether they be from criminal activity, disputes, or “neighbors not being neighborly” - need to be resolved before that harm escalates in severity. Restorative Justice is an ancient method of resolving such conflicts by involving participation from all parties related to that harm. Restorative Justice methods have been continually used by indigenous societies to maintain community harmony, before and after an altercation occurs. RJ is now a growing conflict resolution concept being used as an alternate to the civil courts and criminal justice systems.

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