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Greetings!

Happy new year from SUE Speaks! Thanks so much to everyone who has participated and supported us.

We have two pairs of visitors for the new year. Actually, this pair is going to stay. Sammie and Nellie are the sweetest Bichon Frises.

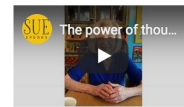


Later this week we'll get a visit from the loves of my life, my twin daughters, Jamie and Liza, who live on the East Coast. Message to parents of younger children: do not let them move far away. For a little intro to my world with them, this was from their last visit when best buddy Loren Lewis was doing [a video project about mothers and daughters](#).

For a review of 2018 on my save-the-world front, I am so blessed by what amounts to a creative partnership with my assistant, Marina. She had a successful acting career and then went to USC to become a film director. Fortunately, she needed a job along the path to success at that, so for the last almost couple of years she has been filming me. [Here are short videos we've done.](#)



How can we turn the world around and become a force for change?



Can we harness the power of thought?



What do you think of the idea about understanding versus forgiveness?



New York Magazine opens everyone's eyes to the value of psychedelics

Marina is also my social networking maven and does what goes on the internet that's beyond my capacities to deliver, aided by [Cameron Cash](#), an addition to our team this year. (How about that name going along with Nisha Money, an on an off resident here this past year, who recently retired as an air force flight surgeon and is looking to establish a treatment facility in the L.A. area for vets with PTSD.) Cameron is a marketing person (and a yoga instructor), who is steering our SUE Speaks website.

The site was going to focus on creating a Conversation As If Our Lives Depended On It, an interaction among thought leaders about shifting our worldview to where caring about each other would be as important as caring about ourselves. This, to me, is the most vital work – everything that needs fixing will get the best attention if we come at our challenges with a humanitarian point of view instead of being in a competition for having the most money and power. However, we discovered there was no hunger for that dialogue, where all the influential people I know are wrapped up in what they are delivering. Soooo, the conversation idea was dropped in favor of originating projects that could change our worldview.

Here's a project that's about to be launched!



Hi! I'm a part of

*Making L.A.
a Friendlier City*

A self-organizing movement
fostering friendly exchanges
the old-fashioned way.
person to person.

WHAT TO DO

1
Say your name and identify yourself as a participant in **Making L.A. a Friendlier City.**
Show the screen that has just the part above the line on it.

2
Ask if the person is willing to have a little conversation.

3
For subject matter, in a movie theater talk about the best movie you've seen lately, in a market name a product you love that you buy there, etc.
Invite the person to tell you what their favorites are.
If you're not in a place where the subject matter would be obvious, tell the person something of a non-sexual nature that you're attracted to about them and be open to what they might say or not say back.

4
Before you part ways, encourage them to become part of the Friendlier City movement.
Let them know that the way to do that is spelled out on **www.FriendlierCity.com**.

Optionally, post a selfie with your new friend and use #FriendlierCity.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Please interact politely.
Respect people's boundaries
and don't push anyone who is unresponsive
to your invitation to participate.

Sign up to receive updates from www.FriendlierCity.com

Your email goes here

SIGN UP

Not from L.A?
Interested in making this happen in your hometown?
Email info@friendliercity.com for what you'd need
to create interaction where you live.



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This will be a webpage for **Making L.A. a Friendlier City**, a model that could be taken up by other cities. This one is with the L.A. City Council now to see if they will get behind it. It's also been offered to West Hollywood – we just would change the name on the model. When I was a facilitator a few months ago for *EmBRACE L.A.*, a big project sponsored by the L.A. City Council which produced dinners all over the city to improve race relations, I saw that the City Council was up for social change projects and fingers crossed they will pick up on this one. If not, you'll get another email from me where we'll launch *Making L.A. a Friendlier City* under the SUE Speaks auspice without city

participation.

Here's how it would work:

Picture yourself in a movie theater. It's early, and you're waiting for the movie to start. You turn to the person next to you and you show them the top part of the site we've made, a la the illustration above, that's on your phone. You tell them you're part of Making L.A. a Friendlier City and you ask if they would have a little conversation with you. When they say yes you ask what movies they've seen lately that they liked a lot and you tell them yours. Then, as the instruction indicates, you ask if they would like to be part of Making L.A. a Friendlier City. If so, they put the website on their device and can follow its instructions about talking to strangers. There's more in the simple instructions about what to talk about in places other than movie theaters and about just what to do to participate.



This is a house event we did that led up to the big project, below, that's in the works now.

This year, I got connected to Conscious Elders Network, now called Elders Action Network, and we sent out this invite to an event in L.A.: "Under the auspice of the Conscious Elders Network, this is an invitation to a salon in West Hollywood for a Conversation As If Our Lives Depended On It, to mine the wisdom gleaned by seniors who are awake to the challenges of our time. In a real engagement where we get to know one another and become comfortable being personal together, the hope is that what would be valuable to the culture at large could emerge."

The Shift-Our-Worldview Coalition Project we're working on...

This is a proposal to the Elders Action Network to be the prime sponsor of this project to create a coalition to shift our worldview:

"A coalition already exists in spirit. It is coming together now in the social context by the attraction of its unconventional intelligence and compassionate form of high-mindedness. This natural coalition is drawn together by the recognition that the elevation of consciousness is our fundamental life work. This is a genuinely democratic, self-organizing force, flowing through persons of all descriptions. This force does not flourish as any highly structured form. It is not an institution or a foundation or a non-profit company or anything conventionally named. This coalition is a living organism -- natural, wild, free. It is made up of individuals devoted to serving the world and developing themselves as finely tuned instruments of service. They learn to gather in the energy of will-to-good, from which authentic goodwill flows out subtly to the entire world." – Lex Hixon

Twenty years ago, I gave Lex Hixon a platform where he wasn't serving followers in any of

the five spiritual disciplines he practiced but he could act as the rabble-rousing avatar he was. What he wrote, above, was the basis for enrolling a coalition that we saw being large enough to shift our paradigm. The Shift-Our-Worldview Coalition Project would pick up where that intention left off.

Given there are scenarios where human life would be annihilated, it behooves people who are aware of the threat to us to think boldly. Humanity has to work together to deal with the forces of nature and the effects of human greed that are so dangerous to us. Since governments resist what threatens power structures, any impetus to change our worldview won't come from Washington and this proposal looks to the people for that.

While vast in scope, the Coalition Project is actually pretty simple. With initiation and oversight from the Elders Action Network, it would issue a statement that expresses what Lex wrote describing a perspective where caring is ascendant and asking people who feel aligned with it to become signatory to it. We would enroll many organizations as co-sponsors who would spread the word. Via Mighty Companions, I could deliver whatever nuts and bolts it would take to get a document for signatures, to produce a website and the needed technology, to acquire that broad co-sponsorship, and to provide whatever support it would take to run projects that this force would take on.

There is nothing operative now that has a serious possibility of being transformative to the human condition. If this project were handled well, don't you think many millions of people would participate? It could do what OCCUPY aspired to accomplish. There was no way OCCUPY could harness the power of those millions who took to the streets, where we would have everyone under one umbrella for whatever actions we would come up with for this force to take.

The master plan we were working on when Lex got sick was to have Celebrations of the Human Spirit in stadiums, with that paragraph of his as the draw to who would come. A Celebration of the Human Spirit in a large theater that we would livestream to the world could be the first action for this coalition to take.

Here's a little addendum I came across that reminds us of the heritage that our materialistic world has lost sight of. The mutuality evoked by the Coalition Project would be a return to our birth as a one-life:

Living tools by which tribes and ancient cultures have sustained human growth on Earth:

All My Relations from the Native American tradition.

The Practice: To discover, name, and repair the connections that exist between all things.

Ubuntu from the African tradition.

The Practice: To water the common roots by which we all grow and to honor our strong need to join.

Thou Art That from the Hindu tradition.

The Practice: To face and feel a life of compassion that honors that we are at heart the same.

The I and Thou Relationship from the Jewish tradition.

The Practice: To stay committed to the life of honest conversation.

Ya Ayuni! from the Lebanese tradition.

The Practice: To welcome other views in the belief that we need each other to be complete.

The Great Spoked Wheel from the early Christian mystic tradition.

The Practice: To embody the paradox of our uniqueness and commonness by which the Great Wheel of Humanity turns **Hygge** *from the Danish tradition. The Practice: To create well-being, connection, warmth, and a sense of belonging.*

I See You! I Am Here! from the African Bushmen tradition.

The Practice: To be present and bear witness to each other and other life.

As these projects have been developing, we delivered some Salon events at home base and are about to launch a podcast, **SEARCHING FOR UNITY IN EVERYTHING: MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH MEANINGFUL PEOPLE**, with people who house-guested with me as the guests for the first two.

Searching for Unity in Everything

Meaningful Conversations with Meaningful People

A Podcast by Suzanne Taylor



We are doing the paperwork that will give me the rights to Suzanne, the Leonard Cohen song that is the intro and the outro for our podcasts. When that's accomplished we'll post Mary Reed, "an accidental mystic," and Ramana, whose Radical Awakening work promises "you never will have to take another workshop to find yourself again." [Click here to read more.](#)



Brian Swimme, author of *The Universe is a Green Dragon*, my favorite book that deals with who we are and what we're doing here, and who will be a future podcast guest, was my house guest when he came to L.A. as the featured speaker for an event for another auspice. [Here are some short videos with him from that trip.](#)



Another exciting thing in our world is that a [talk Russell Targ did for ex TEDx West Hollywood, that I produced few years ago](#), now has three million views. That encouraged Orchard to pick up *Third Eye Spies*, a bio film about Russell's remote viewing work for the CIA that he's been working on for the past few years, for a major release in February. [Here's the trailer for it.](#)



After the phenomenal success of *Wild Wild Country*, the video series about Rajneesh, the last Indian guru to captivate the world, I got involved with a follow-up because my friend, Pennell Rock, had been an early sannyasin. He had a story to tell that filled in what the video series didn't get into about why so many smart, successful people were on that ride to hell. Thanks to my association with [Ideapod](#), another site that delivers transformational material, [we got to do a substantial webinar that you'll find fascinating and enlightening.](#)

So, all you lovers of truth and seekers of a better shake for the world, do stick with what SUE Speaks is up to and please tell your friends. We are a little spark that hopefully burns brightly enough to make a difference. As Brian Swimme, the featured hero on [my heroes page](#), said to me a long time ago, "We are pointed at the same thing, Suzanne, to ignite a raging forest fire of love that can sweep us forever out of this deadening sadness of egos and superficiality." At this time, when we are on the cusp of change from one worldview to another, I know he could have said the same thing to many of you. May the SUE Speaks platform help propel us to make the shift to where we find ourselves, in the words of Charles Eisenstein, another of my heroes, in "the more beautiful world our hearts know is possible."

And, by the way, while you're on [SUE Speaks](#) look around the site and check out its treasure trove of blog posts, inspirations, and ideas. And do add comments to what's there.

Suzanne Taylor

www.SUESpeaks.org

For our last mailing on Brian Swimme, [click here](#).

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