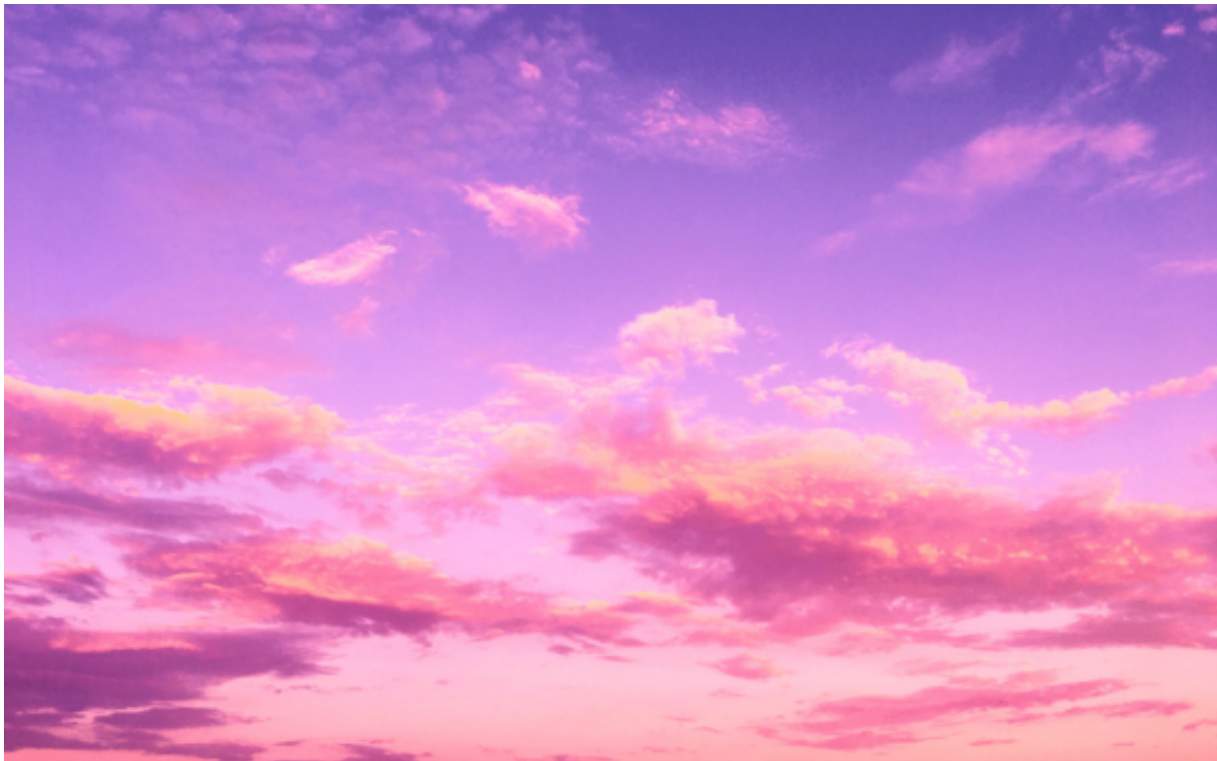


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**The Spark, May 12, 2025, Edition 45**



## **A Serendipitous Journey of Compassionate Discovery**

In 1754, Horace Walpole penned a letter that gave birth to one of the most beloved words in the English language: serendipity. Reflecting on an unexpected discovery, he wrote:

*"This discovery, indeed, is almost of that kind which I call Serendipity, a very expressive word... I once read a silly fairy tale, called The Three Princes of Serendip: as their Highnesses travelled, they were always making discoveries, by accidents and sagacity, of things they were not in quest of..."*

Walpole's charming turn of phrase—"discoveries, by accidents and sagacity, of things they were not in quest of"—perfectly captures what awaits you at the 2025 Charter for Compassion's Compassionate Action Conference, **May 14–15**.

Much like the fabled princes from Serendip, participants in this global gathering will find themselves encountering unexpected ideas, building relationships they hadn't anticipated, and stumbling upon new frameworks for compassionate action. This conference is not just an event—it is an expedition of the heart, mind, and imagination.

## Highlights of the Journey Ahead

✨ **Keynote addresses by renowned change-makers exploring the power of compassion in governance, education, and healing.**

✨ **Workshops and dialogues on creating compassionate cities, cultivating hope and resilience, and building intergenerational bridges.**

✨ **The launch of new Charter initiatives in peacebuilding, healthcare, and youth engagement.**

✨ **Opportunities to connect with educators, faith leaders, artists, and social entrepreneurs.**

✨ **Special sessions like "The Spirit of Ubuntu," "The Power of Listening," and "Love, Hope, and Compassion in Action."**

Each session is an invitation to uncover what you weren't necessarily looking for—but perhaps urgently need. Whether it's an insight that shifts your perspective, a story that stirs your soul, or a connection that launches a new collaboration, you'll leave with more than you expected.

So, we invite you: Hop on the boat with the Princes of Serendip. Let curiosity be your compass, compassion your sail, and community your harbor. This is your moment to discover what lies beyond the familiar shoreline—an open sea of ideas and possibility. Don't miss out on this adventure.

**Register today**

## **News, Programs, and Webinars**



### **Harmony of Humanity: Exploring Common Ground Through Music with Marilyn Turkovich**

**Every Wednesday, through July  
8am PDT / 9am MDT / 10am CDT / 11am  
EDT / 4pm UTC / 5pm SAST / 8:30pm IST**

Music has been an integral part of every culture throughout history, reflecting the unique characteristics and traditions of different societies. From the rhythmic beats of African drums to the intricate melodies of Indian ragas, music provides insight into the lives, histories, and identities of people around the world. By studying various musical traditions, we gain a deeper appreciation for the diversity and richness of global cultures.

**[Learn More and Register Here](#)**



**Join us on May 14 & 15, virtually, for our "Compassionate Action Conference: Transforming the World Together"**

**Everyone is Welcome!**

***Thank you to our Founding Conference Partners, Manitoba Council for International Cooperation, [Fund for Innovation and Transformation](#), and [Compassionate Las Vegas](#).***

***And our Compassionate Innovator partners at [Compassionate Dallas/Ft.Worth](#)***

**Learn More and Register Here**



## **EdNet Forum: Prison Narratives: A Practice Of Empathy And Human Dignity with Natalie Updike from Shorecrest Preparatory School**

**Thursday, May 15 (NOW INTEGRATED INTO  
THE COMPASSIONATE ACTION  
CONFERENCE)**

**7:00am PDT / 8:00am MDT / 9:00am CDT /  
10am EDT / 3pm UTC / 4pm SAST / 8:30pm  
IST**

In English 12 Honors: Prison Narratives at Shorecrest Preparatory School in St. Petersburg, Florida, students enter a semester-long, senior elective to investigate twentieth- and twenty-first century autobiographies by imprisoned and formerly imprisoned people in the United States—the country with the highest imprisonment rate in the world.

[Learn more and Register Here](#)

A promotional poster for a webinar. The background is black with white and green line art of books and stars. Text on the left: "Global Read Webinar Series" in green, "Sage Warrior" in large white font, "Wake to Oneness, Practice Pleasure, Choose Courage, Become Victory" in white, "By VALARIE KAUR" in white, "MONDAY, MAY 19" in green, "2 PM PDT / 3 PM MDT / 4 PM CDT / 5 PM EDT / 10 PM UTC / (MAY 20) 7 AM AEST / 9 AM NZST" in white, and "Conversation Moderated by GARD JAMESON" in green. On the right is a book cover for "SAGE WARRIOR" by VALARIE KAUR, with a portrait of the author. The book cover has a yellow background with a white heart shape and the text "WAKE TO ONENESS. PRACTICE PLEASURE. CHOOSE COURAGE. BECOME VICTORY" at the top and "A REVOLUTIONARY LOVE PROJECT" at the bottom.

## **Global Read: Sage Warrior by VALARIE KAUR**



**Monday, May 19**

**2pm PDT / 3pm MDT / 4pm CDT / 5pm EDT / 10pm UTC  
(MAY 20) 7am AEST / 9am NZST**

How do we find the wisdom to envision a new world and the courage to fight for it?

How do we survive seemingly apocalyptic times?

In a world on fire, how do we find love and joy?

We are not the first to ask these questions—in fact, seeking answers to them forged one of the world's great wisdom traditions. In a time riven by caste, conquest, and cruelty, Sikhs blazed the path of the sant sipahi, the sage warrior. The sage radiates love and Oneness; the warrior activates that ethical power to fight for humanity. These energies empowered the first Sikhs to survive near-annihilation in South Asia nearly half a millennium ago. The sage warrior is the essential archetype for our time of turmoil—one we can all embody to cultivate our souls and transform the world.

**[Learn More and Register Here](#)**



## **Planting Seeds of Compassion: A Guide on how to Start Your Compassionate Community Initiative**

**May 20 & 27 Morning for Pacific Time**  
**8am PDT / 9am MDT / 10am CDT / 11am**  
**EDT / 4pm UTC / 5pm SAST / 8:30pm IST**  
[REGISTER HERE FOR AM SESSIONS](#)

or

**May 21 & 28 Afternoon for Pacific Time**  
**4pm PDT / 5pm MDT / 6pm CDT / 7pm EDT**  
**/ (May 22 & 29) 9am AEDT / 11am NZST**  
[REGISTER HERE FOR PM SESSIONS](#)

You're ready to make a difference—and we're here to help you take that first step.

No matter where you live or what your community looks like, the principles of starting a compassionate community initiative are the same. It all begins with building a team, anchoring your effort in trust, shared values, and a collective vision.

Join us for this two-part global course, designed to meet the needs of changemakers in every time zone. Each session is 90 minutes and offered at two different times to ensure accessibility for participants around the world.



## Compassion Circle: The Charter Sangha

**Saturday, May 31, at 9am PDT / 10am MDT  
/ 11am CDT / 12pm EDT / 5pm UTC / 6pm  
SAST / 9.30pm IST**

On the last Saturday of every month, the Charter for Compassion offers a 90-minute practice of people coming together to be in a Circle, a Sangha.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)



## ICYMI: In Case You Missed It!

**April 30**

[Allies in Action: Florida Chat](#)

[Community Collaboration Ambassador  
Follow-Up Meeting w/ Laura Hansen](#)

**April 29**

[Allies in Action: UK Chat](#)

**April 23**

[Global Read: Becoming Wise with KRISTA  
TIPPETT](#)

## From our Partners





## WorldPride 2025 + OUR PRIDE Shorts & Arts Fest

**May 22nd - June 30th, 2025, Online!**

Faced with rising challenges, Charter for Compassion partner organization Rainbow Advocacy is launching Voices of Solidarity, a worldwide arts and social justice initiative.

The program includes the Voices of Solidarity 2025 Global Gatherings, a series of free virtual events throughout June coinciding with major Pride celebrations, featuring creative works and discussions from the LGBTQIA+ community and allies. The Gatherings are part of the larger OUR PRIDE Shorts & Arts Festival, which offers paid access to a diverse collection of international short films and artistic expressions from May 22nd to June 30th. Both initiatives aim to empower marginalized voices and foster connection across the globe.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)

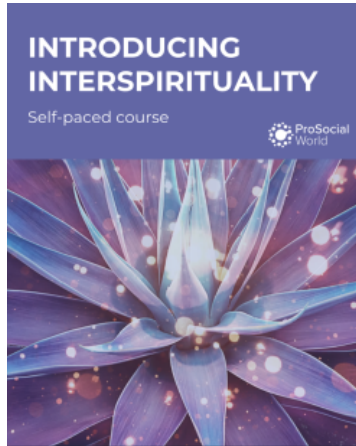


## Ron Kovic Peace Prize: Submissions are open for 2025

**Final Deadline: SEPTEMBER 1ST**

This award is all about local and world peace. We're looking for short films that show how non-violence can solve the world's biggest challenges. If your film tells a powerful story about peace, this prize could be yours!

[Learn More Here](#)



## New Virtual, Self-Paced Course: Introducing Interspirituality with ProSocial Spirituality

Are you seeking a deeper spiritual connection?

ProSocial Spirituality blends scientific wisdom with spiritual traditions to create meaningful transformation. Start your journey on your own time with our introductory self-paced course. This course explores Wayne Teasdale's Nine Elements of Universal Spirituality, providing a self-paced journey for personal growth and inner transformation.

[Learn More and Register Here](#)



## GoldenRuleism Ambassadors

A GoldenRuleism Ambassador is anyone committed to positively impacting their community and the world. This role is not defined by status or position but by the willingness to practice empathy and kindness in everyday interactions. Whether you are a community leader, educator, student, or simply someone who believes in the power of GoldenRuleism, you can become an ambassador.

[Learn More on How to Become a GoldenRuleism Ambassador](#)

*If you are a Partner organization, or belong to a registered Compassionate City/Community with us, and want to promote your events in The Spark, the Charter for Compassion's newsletter, email [contact@charterforcompassion.org](mailto:contact@charterforcompassion.org)*



*If you'd like to be featured in the LIVE show,  
email [felipe@charterforcompassion.org](mailto:felipe@charterforcompassion.org)*

## Featured items on the Store

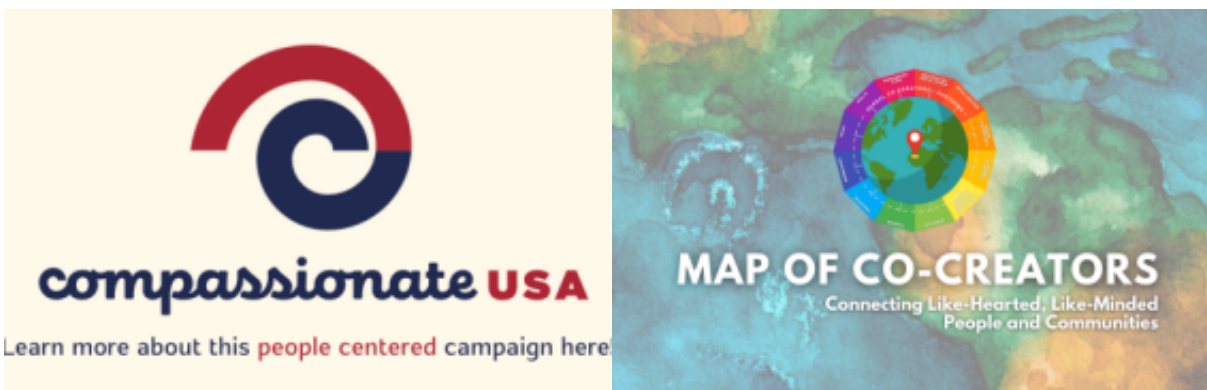


## Stainless Steel Water Bottle

**US\$25**

This 17-ounce, double-walled stainless steel water bottle is perfect for your daily outings. It will keep your drink of choice hot or cold for hours. It also features an odor- and leak-proof cap.

## Shop Water Bottles





Charter for Compassion, 2025

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