

Message

Introduction: Kathryn Butler

John Lewis: Lois Magenau

John Lewis' book is about the Civil Rights Movement which took place between 1954 and 1968. The title "Across that Bridge" was inspired by the famous and pivotal march across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma in March of 1965.

In his book, John Lewis said "During the Civil Rights Movement, our struggle was not about politics. It was about seeing a philosophy manifest in our society that recognized the inextricable connection we have to each other".

He went on to say: "Let us appeal to our similarities, to the higher standards of integrity, decency and the common good, rather than to our differences, be they age, gender, sexual preference, class or color".

His book is divided into a collection of eight truths that he found are fundamental to the inner transformation necessary to affect lasting social change.

They are: **Faith, Patience, Study, Truth, Act, Peace, Love and Reconciliation.** Throughout our presentation, I will offer some of John Lewis' quotes relevant to the presentations being given today by the members of our Social Justice group.

Pause

1. Quote before first presenter – Barbara Freeman: (pg 23)

"The idea that some people were inherently better was a delusion of the human ego, a distortion of the truth. We asserted our right to human dignity based on a solid faith in our divine heritage that linked us to every other human being and all the rest of creation."

2. Quote before second presenter – Tom Maloof:

“Patience is a guiding light in all the work of change”. (pg 65)

3. Quote before third presenter – Sandy Wells: (pgs 43,44)

The Civil Rights Movement required patience: “The 15th amendment to the US Constitution was ratified in 1870, permitting black people to vote; . . . That right was continually ignored in the Deep South” and fought against into the 1960’s.

4. Quote before fourth presenter – Kathryn Butler: (pg 167)

“It takes courage to face the truth of your condition or the condition of our society. It takes courage to admit that we are not living up to our ideals of freedom and justice as a people.”

5. Quote before fifth presenter – Donna Pierce:

“We are one people with one family. We all live in the same house...and through books, through information, we must find a way to say to people that we must lay down the burden of hate. For hate is too heavy a burden to bear”.

Opening Words: Roger Wells – Nelson Mandela – (pg 188)

“No one is born hating another person because of the color of his skin, or his background, or his religion. People must learn to hate, and if they can learn to hate, they can be taught to love, for love comes more naturally to the human heart than its opposite.”

Closing Words: Roger Wells – John Lewis (pg 201)

“Thus, our purpose while we are here, in the most basic sense, is to be a light that shines – to fully express our gifts so that others might see. When they witness our splendor, when we show them it is possible to shine radiantly even in the darkest night, they begin to remember that they are stars also, meant to light up the world.”

A Good Quote by Heather Cox Richardson – 1/7/23- Spoken on the floor of the US Congress **(just for our own interest)** .

“We believe that in America our diversity is a strength – it is not a weakness – an economic strength, a competitive strength, a cultural strength ... We are a gorgeous mosaic of people from throughout the world. As John Lewis would sometimes remind us on this floor, we may have come over on different ships but we’re all in the same boat now. We are white. We are black. We are Latino. We are Asian. We are Native American.”