

Nonviolent Cities Project



Campaign Nonviolence

- A long-term movement
 - To build a culture of peace and nonviolence free from war, poverty, racism, environmental destruction, and the epidemic of violence and injustice
 - By mainstreaming nonviolence, connecting the issues and taking action together

Mainstreaming Nonviolence

- The power of nonviolence to resist violence and create effective alternatives is evident
- Need to spread this power through awareness, education and action
- Mainstream the vision, tools, stories, methods and power of active nonviolence

Connecting the Dots

- War, poverty, racism and environmental destruction are not 4 separate realities
- Interrelated dimensions of the growing global crisis of violence and injustice
- Need to build a movement-of-movements
- The goal to alert, educate, win and mobilize people power everywhere for change

Practice nonviolence to ourselves

Practice nonviolence toward all others

Join with a grassroots global movement for
peace, economic justice, environmental
healing and effective nonviolent solutions.

Campaign Nonviolence

- Encouraging people to study nonviolence
- Practice nonviolence
- Build out the infrastructure of nonviolence
- Take nonviolence public

Campaign Nonviolence

- Organizing Campaign Nonviolence Skill-building Workshops
- Launching the 1000 Nonviolence Trainings Project and Nonviolent Cities Project
- Campaign Nonviolence Week of Nonviolent Activities (September 18-25, 2016)

Nonviolent Carbondale, Illinois

Nonviolent Carbondale is a coalition that organizes and supports activities that foster nonviolent and compassionate interactions in the community.



John Dear visited Carbondale and was inspired by their city to begin the Nonviolent Cities Project

Nonviolent Cities Project



- Activists gathered together to help solve problems in the city
- Steering committee formed
- Met with city leaders
- Goal to become a Compassionate Community

Nonviolent Carbondale

- Week of nonviolent actions yearly
 - 11 days of action on a particular topic
 - Sept.11 to International Day of Peace Sept.21
- A 5 year project moving to a 10 year project
- Based on building a Compassionate Community
 - Karen Armstrong's Charter of Compassion
 - Building on *12 Steps to a Compassionate Life*

Martin Luther King, Jr

“ It is not the violence of the few that scares me. It is the silence of the many.”

Mahatma Gandhi

“ Nonviolence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our being”.

INSTITUTE OF WORLD CULTURE



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Monsignor Oscar Romero

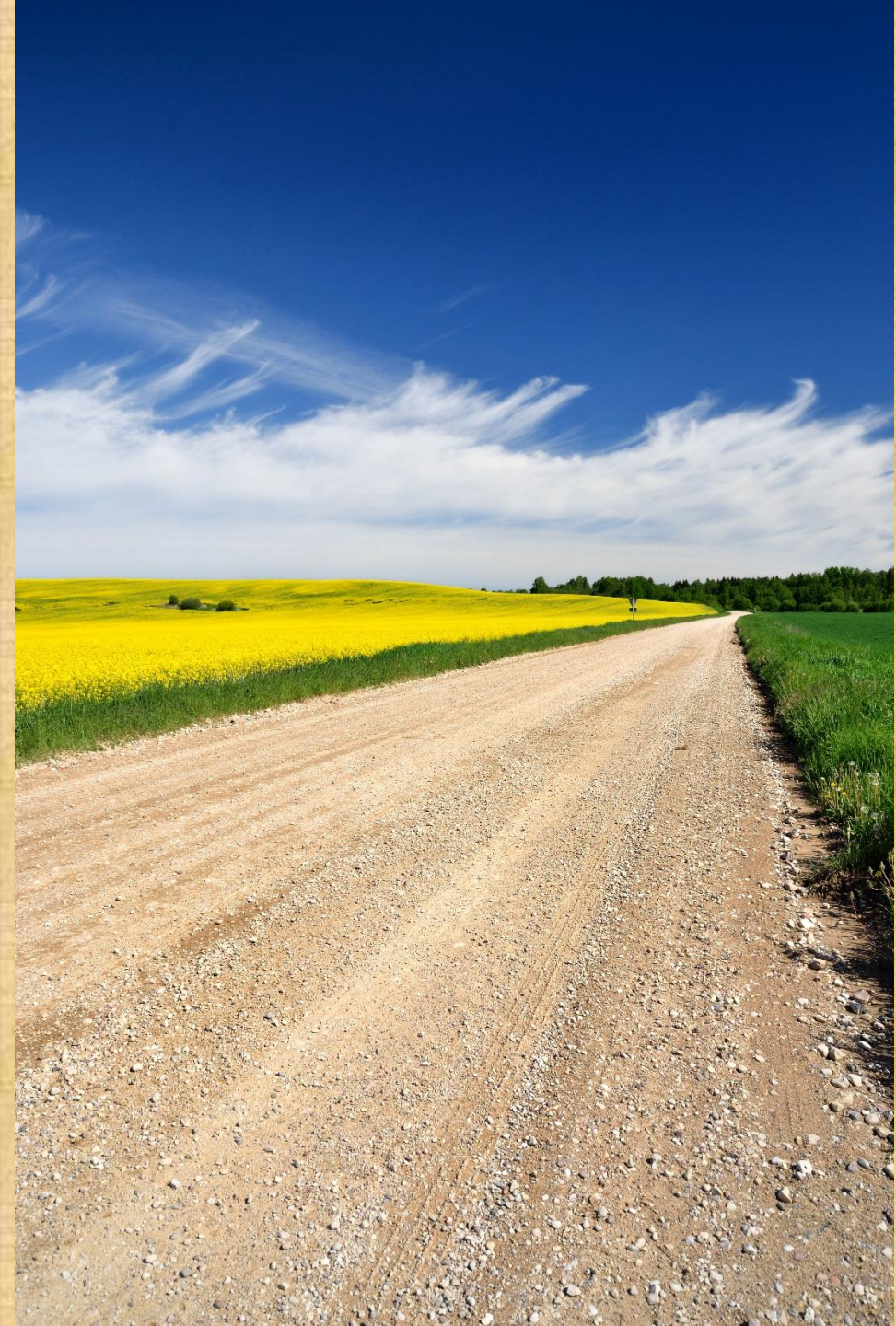
“ I will not tire of declaring that if we really want an effective end to violence we must remove the violence that lies at the root of all violence: structural injustice, exclusion of citizens for management of the country, and repression.”



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blogs

"The future doesn't take form irrationally, even though it feels that way. The future comes from where we are now. It materializes from the actions, values and beliefs we're practicing now. If we want a different future, we have to take responsibility for what we are doing in the present."

– [Margaret J. Wheatley](#)



"We have to get rid of violence for the simple reason that it serves no purpose anymore, but points us all in a useless direction. It would appear that human enemies are no longer the prime threat to world survival. The new enemies we have today – overpopulation, famine, pollution, scarcity – cannot be fought by violence. There is no way to crush those enemies, or slash them, or vaporize them."

– [Isaac Asimov](#)

"I will not raise my child to kill your child."

– *Seen on a T-Shirt – c. 2001*



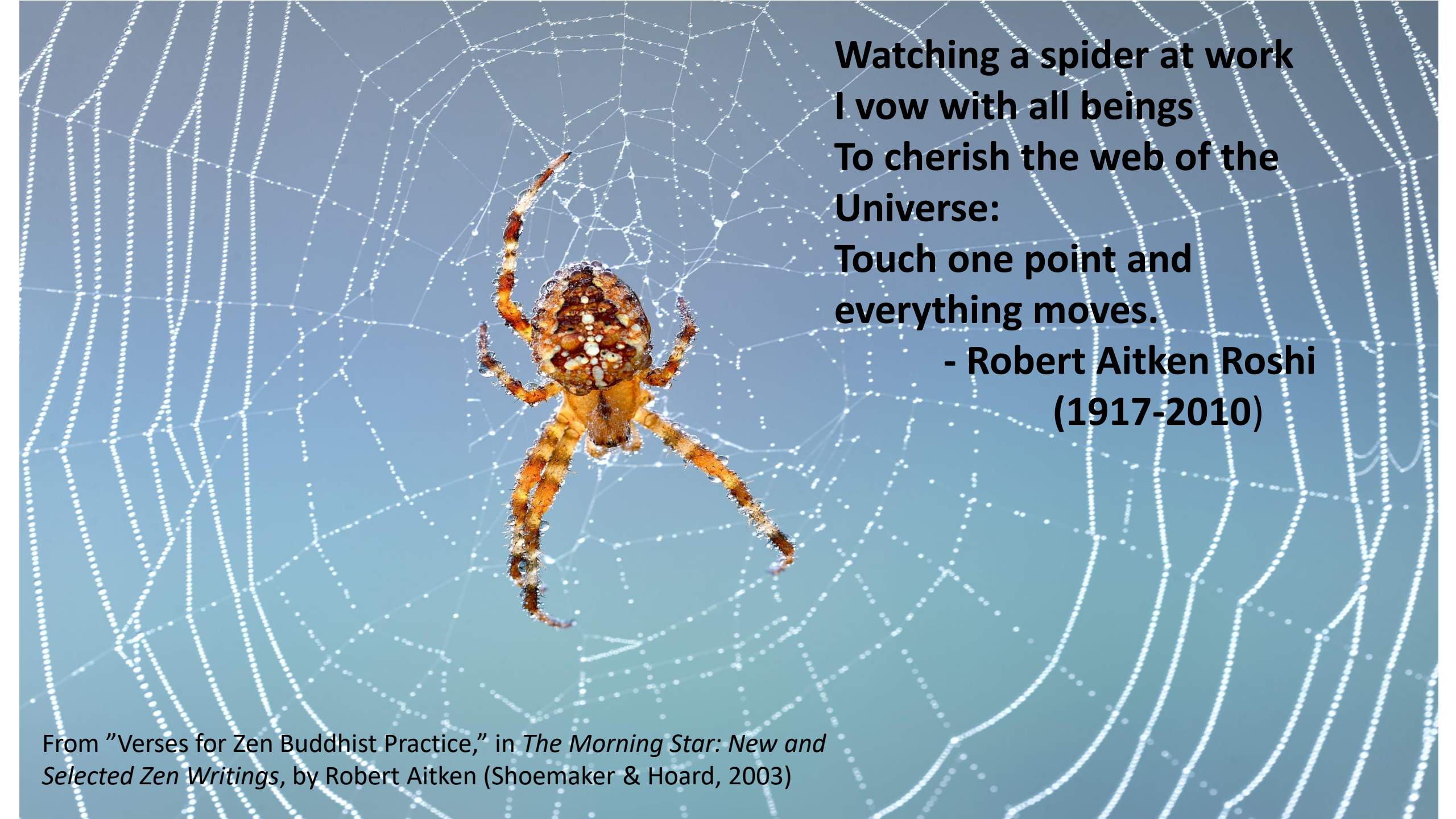
"The moral to be legitimately drawn from the supreme tragedy of the bomb is that it will not be destroyed by counter-bombs, even as violence cannot be destroyed by counter-violence.

Humankind has to get out of violence only through nonviolence. Hatred can be overcome only by love.

Counter-hatred only increases the surface as well as the depth of hatred."

– [Gandhi](#)



A brown spider is positioned in the center-left of the frame, resting on its intricate web. The web is composed of numerous concentric circles and radial lines, creating a complex geometric pattern. The background is a solid, light blue color. The spider's body is covered in small, white, granular spots, and its legs are thick and hairy.

**Watching a spider at work
I vow with all beings
To cherish the web of the
Universe:
Touch one point and
everything moves.**

**- Robert Aitken Roshi
(1917-2010)**

From "Verses for Zen Buddhist Practice," in *The Morning Star: New and Selected Zen Writings*, by Robert Aitken (Shoemaker & Hoard, 2003)

“ If you have come to help me, you are wasting your time;
but if you are here because your liberation is bound up with
mine, then let us work together..”

Aboriginal Activists Group, Queensland, Australia, 1970s

So where to go from
here?

- Next: meeting of interested people from many groups in the city
- Bring people you know who might be willing to work on this project
- Need representation from as many groups, entities as possible
- At that meeting develop a plan of action
 - Steering committee
 - Subsequent committees to focus on particular areas of violence (racism, poverty, homelessness, housing segregation, domestic violence, immigration, to name a few.

Next Meeting: November 21 or 28

Where:

What time:

WHO: ALL those you can think of who might have an interest and the courage to begin the hard work of rooting out violence in our city

"Reaching for the stars is ambitious. Reaching for hearts is wise."

– [Maya Angelou](#)

"Waking up this morning, I smile. Twenty-four brand new hours are before me. I vow to live fully in each moment and to look at all beings with eyes of compassion."

— [Thich Nhat Hanh](#)

"It is not your obligation to complete your work, but you are not at liberty to quit."

– [The Talmud](#)

"We are here to awaken from our illusion of separateness."

— [Thich Nhat Hanh](#)