



TWO YEARS OF TOPICS AT THE PEGASUS CAFE

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Each month, a new topic for conversation is introduced. The questions provided are merely to get the conversation started, to spark ideas. Occasionally, a special topic is introduced (e.g., May 30, 2002 and January 16, 2003). On the last Thursday of each month, the topic is "OPEN," and will emerge from the first two rounds of the process. What is on your mind and in your heart? What conversation are you eager to engage in? In the spirit of the Café guidelines, please consider topics that stimulate conversation and move beyond persuading, positioning and personal agendas.

February 2002 -- LOVE

What questions do you want to ask about Love?

What is love? What is compassion?

How does love show itself in our society?

How can love influence the state of the community? the nation? the world?

Winter issue of YES! Magazine asks, "Can Love Save the World?"

When are we most challenged to find and show love?

March 2002 (Missing)

April 2002 – CONVERSATIONS FOR THE EARTH

What is our responsibility to the Earth, to all living things?

How does the need to achieve "ecological integrity" fit with our current social, economic, and political systems?

How far are we willing to go to "Protect Our Home?"

This topic was selected as part of Bainbridge Island's focus on Earth Day 2002 and companion to the Conversation Café with Vicki Robin on April 19 - "What is Enough?" Earth Day theme: Protect Our Home?

May 2002 - POWER

What enables the powerful?

How does power manifest in society?

How do we measure power?

What does it take to be empowered?

Is power gender-based; if so, in what way?

In what situations are you challenged to be powerful or to squelch your power?

May 30, 2002 Special Topic - From Talk to Action

What is the role of conversation in making change?

What happens after a Conversation Café...when you get home, next day, next week?

Which conversations have inspired you to take action?

What has changed? What are you doing differently?

What does it take to move from talk to action?



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What actions do you want to see?

What interest/opportunities might there be to 'spin-off' into action after conversation?

June 2002 – COMMUNITY

Definitions:

A) A group of people living in the same locality and under the same government

B) A group of people having common interests

C) Similarity or identity; sharing, participation, and fellowship

Which definition applies to our community?

What are the common characteristics and interests in our community?

Besides the land, what do we share?

Where is the energy?

How does change occur?

What enables a healthy community?

What is community citizenship?

What do you want for our community?

July 2002 - INDEPENDENCE

What is the difference, if any, between "independence" in 1776 and "independence" today?

How much is "independence" a part of American culture and society?

What is the value of "independence?" Where is it on your/our priority list?

In 1776, united we [stood] for "independence;" what unites us to stand today?

August 2002 - LESSONS FROM THE MIDDLE EAST

What can I learn about myself from the situation in the Middle East?

How can I create peace within myself and in the world-at-large?

Where does compassion begin?

September 2002 – SEPTEMBER 11

What changes have occurred in your life and your way of thinking about life since and perhaps because of 9/11?

What changes do you observe in others?

What has been lost; what has been gained?

What will it take to prevent another September 11?

What is standing in the way of peace?

What do I want the future to look like?

What can I do to help move this ship in another direction?

October 2002 - ONE THING I KNOW FOR SURE...

In the midst of current social, political, economic and environmental distress and debate, what are you



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sure of?

What keeps you grounded?

How do you work with complex issues and multiple perspectives?

How do you come to your position, opinion or perspective?

November 2002 - WHERE DO/WILL WE GO FROM HERE?

Where do you see our country and the world community headed?

How do you see our future - the priorities, the initiatives, the changes - over the next 5, 10, 20 or 100 years?

How will our social/political/economic/education structures be impacted?

What do you want to see?

December 2002 - 'TIS THE SEASON' FOR...

Listing, shopping, buying, wrapping, giving, wishing, receiving, trimming, cleaning, baking, entertaining, singing, fasting, eating, visiting, traveling...perhaps some fairly typical activities for Americans during December?

With the Winter Solstice, Ramadan, Christmas, Kwanzaa, and the New Year approaching...

What is most meaningful to me about 'the season'?"

What traditions do I treasure? What traditions would I love to start?

How have my perspectives regarding "the season" changed over the years?

What would be my favorite seasonal greeting card - to send and to receive?

January and February 2003 - WAR AND PEACE?

Given the current state of world affairs, the upcoming report from UN arms inspectors and State of the Union message, ongoing media coverage on the 'inevitable' war, recent rallies/marches/demonstrations, a wide diversity of viewpoints exist regarding the possibility of war....

What do you think and feel about the possibility of war?

What are the strongest arguments for waging war?

When is war justified? Is war inevitable?

Is peace possible...and even realistic?

What is the price of peace?

Must peace be preceded by war?

January 16, 2003 Special First Anniversary – CREATING OUR FUTURE THROUGH CONVERSATION

What do you take away from deep and meaningful conversations?

What changes occur?

How can/does good conversation contribute to your life and help shape your future, the quality of life in our community, and the state of the world?



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How does conversation affect your hope for the future?
What have been the most provocative, stimulating and memorable conversations?

March 2003A - U.S. JUSTICE

What is 'justice' in the U.S.? What are the benefits and shortfalls?
How does the U.S. apply 'justice' at home and in the world community?
How is 'justice' playing out in current world events?

March 2003B - LOOKING AT WAR AND PEACE THROUGH THE MEDIA LENS

What sources do you use to get your information?
How do you form your opinions?
How do you get opposing points of view?
Do you feel more or less informed? More or less confused?
Do you feel the media are responsible? Do they have their own agendas?
What responsibilities do we as citizens and information consumers have?
What responsibilities do we as teachers of future generations have?

April 2003 - CONVERSATIONS FOR THE EARTH

What is our responsibility to the world - the planet and global society - as individuals, as a community and as a nation?
What does the future hold for the planet given current world events?
What are the long-term environmental consequences of our actions?
What is your view of a livable future and your place in it?

May 2003 - SAFETY AND FREEDOM

Questions, among many, to consider -
What is the price of freedom? What is the price of safety?
What value do you place on your personal liberties?
What gives you confidence in your safety and in your freedoms?
Which holds higher priority?
Under what circumstances should one be sacrificed for the other?

June 2003 - THE PROPER RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GOVERNMENT AND RELIGION?

What is the role of religion in government?
What influence does religion have on government?
What influence does government have on religion?
What is the source of morality in governance?
Who holds the responsibility for teaching morality?

June 2003 "Last Thursday" Special Topic - CONVERSATION CAFE AGREEMENTS

How well are we following the agreements - personally and collectively?



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Which is the most challenging for you?
What does "judgment" look like?
How does it feel to be on the receiving end of judgment?
What does "listening" look like?
How can you tell when you've been heard?
How can you "accept" what another believes without betraying your own beliefs?

July 2003 - WE THE PEOPLE

How does the intent and language of our forefathers translate to modern times?
What is democracy of the people, by the people, and for the people – locally, nationally, and/or globally?
What do "we the people" get from and give to the democracy?
What are the roles and responsibilities of "we the people?"

August 2003 - JUSTICE

Verbatim from Merriam-Webster:

1 a: the maintenance or administration of what is just, especially by the impartial adjustment of conflicting claims or the assignment of merited rewards or punishments. b: JUDGE. c: the administration of law; especially : the establishment or determination of rights according to the rules of law or equity. 2 a: the quality of being just, impartial, or fair. b (1): the principle or ideal of just dealing or right action (2): conformity to this principle or ideal : RIGHTEOUSNESS. c: the quality of conforming to law. 3 conformity to truth, fact, or reason : CORRECTNESS

How do you define justice?
How is justice applied in our society?
Where do you see justice most challenged?

September 2003 - VISIONS FOR BAINBRIDGE

If all things were possible, what would you wish Bainbridge to be like?
What specifically might be done to achieve your highest hopes?
What do you think it will really be like – in 20 years?
What is the role of our leaders and what is the role of citizens in making our dreams our reality?

October 2003 - A VITAL ECONOMY?

What is "Economic Vitality?" How do we gauge "vitality?"
What does it look like in our community, in the U.S. and internationally?
How do we support economic vitality?
Who are the stakeholders in a strong economy?

October 23, 2003 Special Topic - TIME

Friday October 24 is the 1st annual national TAKE BACK YOUR TIME DAY! During the week of October 20-



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26, at Conversation Cafés across our country, overworked, over-scheduled, time-starved Americans will ask, "Where did all the time go?" At our Conversation Café, we'll explore:

How does overwork, over-scheduling and busy-ness affect your life?

How do you value your time? How has it changed over the years?

How do you use, spend, invest, take, make and/or optimize time?

If anything were possible, how would you change the way you use time?

How do crammed schedules, overwork and hyperactivity affect our work, our health, our families?

Who is at risk from the frenzy?

How does our society value time, and what, if anything, needs to change?

November 2003 - Forces at Work in the Universe

What forces/energies are at work in the universe?

What "forces" do you acknowledge?

What are the implications for society in general, and humans on a personal level?

December 2003 - What about 2004...?

What are your hopes for the New Year?

What will the New Year bring?

What do you wish for yourself and each other?

What do you imagine will happen in the world around us?

January 2004 - Language, Labels and Libel

What labels/language do you hear in popular and mainstream culture?

What does our use of language say about our society?

What are your language "hot buttons?"

How do you respond to language and labels?

January 22, 2004 - Special Anniversary Topic: Milestones and Celebrations

Why acknowledge and celebrate milestones?

What have been the important milestones in your life?

February 2004 – Processes of Democracy

Caucuses? Primaries? What is the citizen's role?

Why participate? What difference will/does it make?

What's next? Predictions?

February 18, 2004 Special Topic – Mayonnaise (an experiment)

Such a benign, apolitical, and not even particularly interesting subject - even silly? How stimulating can it possibly be? How can we make meaningful conversation from a condiment? What is the extent of the diverse opinions we can bring forward on this subject?