

Touchstones Theme: Democracy



The Greek root of the word politics does not mean ‘of the government’ but ‘of the citizen.’ We need a new political gestalt...: an expansion of the political arena to more accurately reflect not only what we do, but who we are and are becoming. Politics should include more than just changes in government; it should include changes in us. We are what [our country] is.

There are internal as well as external aspects to a nation, and to the process of societal change. From hatred, racism, and cynicism to hope, creativity, and forgiveness ...are now political issues. Martin Luther King, Jr., spoke ...of our need to have ‘tough minds and tender hearts.’ ...We have the yang; we must reclaim the yin. We have the intelligence; we must retrieve our souls. ...We must ...recommit to essential truths, both spiritual and political. *Marianne Williamson*

10 Arts of Democracy: (1) **Active Listening:**

Encouraging the speaker & searching for meaning.

(2) **Creative Conflict:** Confronting others in ways that produce growth.

(3) **Mediation:**

Facilitating interaction to help people in conflict hear one another.

(4) **Negotiation:** Problem solving that meets ...key interests of all involved.

(5) **Political Imagination:** Re-imagining our futures according to our values.

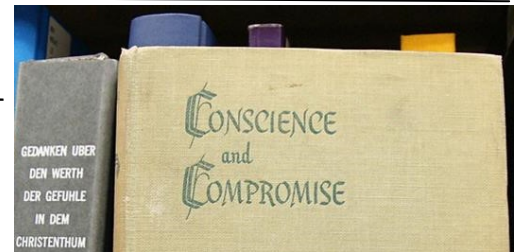
(6) **Public Dialogue:** Public talk on matters that concern us all.

(7) **Public Judgment:** Public decision making that allows citizens to make choices they are willing to help implement.

(8) **Celebration:** Expressing joy and gratitude for what we learn [...&] achieve.

(9) **Evaluation & Reflection:** Assessing & incorporating the lessons we learn....

(10) **Mentoring:** Supportively guiding others in learning ...arts of public life. *Frances Moore Lappé*



Join us in exploring Democracy

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