

Comparing "Village Acre" to the Typical Subdivision

One Acre (43,560 sq. ft.), 32 people, 1.2 private living suites.

vs.

One Acre, 16 people, 7 houses.

27,160 sq. ft. of shared open space for gardening and social activities.

vs.

3,000 sq. ft. or less of usable backyard space maintained separately by each family.

A common house, childcare facilities, and workshop totalling 5,700 sq. ft. with abundant shared appliances, tools, and luxuries such as a hot tub and sauna.

vs.

No shared facilities, few luxuries, and wasteful duplication of appliances and tools.

400 to 850 sq. ft. (varies by family size) of private living space in addition to the common facilities used for meals and socializing.

vs.

1,700 +/- sq. ft. of private space for each family (no matter the size) with no place to interact with others.

Low cost of living and more free time by sharing expenses, space, and chores with others.

vs.

High cost of living and little free time because individual families don't share responsibilities.

5200 sq. ft. of street area and fewer car trips.

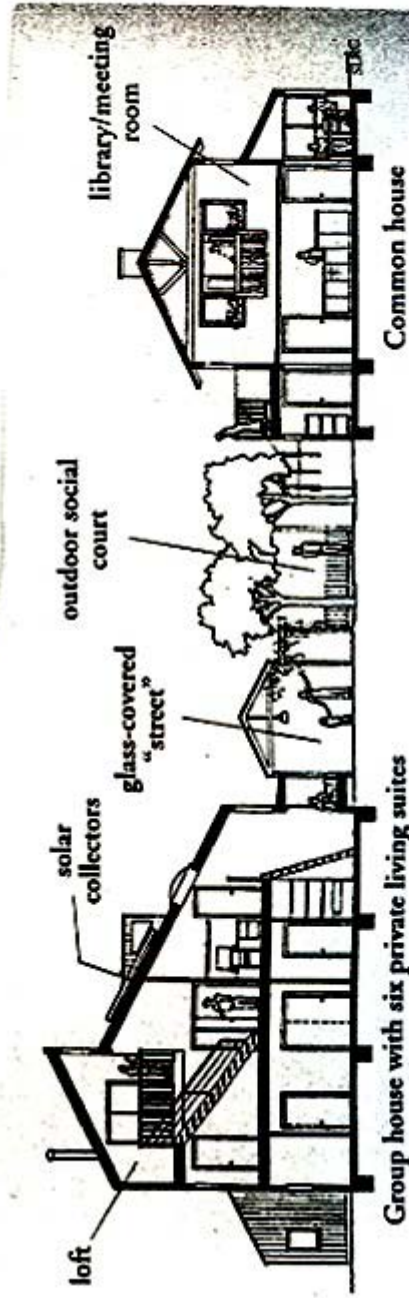
vs.

10,500 sq. ft. of street area and more car trips.

It follows layout relationships found in many traditional villages, in which private living spaces lead to semi-private patios and rooms, which then lead to semi-common courts and activity areas, finally opening into the common buildings and outdoor gathering areas. Humankind has lived for many thousands of years passing down this village heritage of hierarchical spatial relationships. "There is nothing new under the sun."

While the common places, such as the kitchen, dining room, and library, reflect the needs and desires of the entire group, the private living spaces respond directly to the needs of each community member. Each family and individual designed and completed their own interiors, which saved them money and gave them a strong sense of pride and belonging. Flexibility was built into the design by the use of soundproof, modular, movable wall units that are independent of the free-span structure. As

Note: All of page 9, except this note, and the diagrams and most of the captions on page 8, 10, 11 and 12 were from resources created by the Shared Living Resource Center (SLRC). I simply created and added the word So-Jus Diversa-Village to describe this form of community. I strongly encourage you to visit their center, or at least visit their website and donate to keep the SLRC growing. The SLRC is an indispensable, overlooked, international non-profit resource. They are far better than any public library that I have ever visited worldwide, without exception. www.sharedliving.org - Use of their material beyond free of charge use must be requested. For more information go to: <http://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/17/107.shtml>



Privacy and Community

From the sanctity and calm of the private living suites to the festiveness and camaraderie of the common house, Village Acre offers its members a variety of experiences and opportunities for interaction.

**“True compassion is more
than flinging a coin at a
beggar; it comes to see that an
edifice which produces beggars
needs restructuring.”**

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

‘Beyond Vietnam-A Time To Break Silence’ -delivered April 4th, 1967 in New York City

"Look at me- I am poor and naked, but I am the chief of the nation. We do not want riches, but we do want to train our children right. Riches would do us no good. We could not take them with us to the other world. We do not want riches. We want peace and love."

- Red Cloud, Lakota (Sioux)

"To attain inner peace you must actually give your life, not just your possessions. When you at last give your life - bringing into alignment your beliefs and the way you live then, and only then, can you begin to find inner peace."

-Peace

Pilgrim

So-Jus Diversa-Village Workshop and Community Meetings



So-Jus Diversa-Village Workshop and Community Meetings

Juice, cherry and grape tomatoes, organic tortilla chips, hummus, sesame sticks, grapes, and bananas are a few of the vegan snacks that you will find at our meetings... all free-of-charge. We invite you to join us!

Join the email list to receive announcements of future meetings at:

www.aworldofpeace.org/sjdv.html

or

www.dsame.com/sjdv.html



So-Jus Diversa-Village Workshop and Community Meetings

(From left to right) Emmy and Jake playing music at the So-Jus Diversa-Village Community Meeting at the People's Free Space. We look forward to seeing you at our next meeting! All are welcome / Bienvenidos.

"Pooling Our Experience"

This workshop is essentially about: Pooling Our Experiences, Pooling Our Resources and Pooling Our Communities to create a **So-Jus Diversa-Village**.

This particular, pocket-size, special edition of this publication, was created for students in the workshop, was created to aid people in teaching this workshop to other people all over the world and was created as a resource for activists worldwide. This publication is anti-copyrighted and may be duplicated and reproduced and modified without advance permission to help you create your own community.

This presentation and workshop will be taught at the upcoming **A World Beyond Capitalism Conference**, the Annual International Multiracial Alliance Building Peace Conference. See www.aworldbeyondcapitalism.org or www.CommonUnityPeaceConference.org

There are four things which I would like to emphasize before getting into the details of the workshop. If you learn nothing else from this workshop, please try to remember these four things.

#1. Love is the most important part of any successful activist, community or movement to create a better world. It is the glue that keeps any positive effort, or any group of people held together. Without an emphasis on love, any achievements or accomplishments made should not be considered as achievements or accomplishments, but rather a colossal failure waiting to occur. You must learn to love not only your friends, but also your enemies. In the absence of love there is hatred (not neutrality as is commonly believed). Even a little hatred can distort your perspective in any conversation, activity or community in which you are involved. Even a little hatred can soon become self-corrosive and will eat a person from the inside out, usually very slowly, in ways which are only detectable to your closest of friends.

#2. The second thing, which should be remembered, is that capitalism is the exact opposite of true communities, and true communities should encourage their members to learn about the destructive nature of capitalism. Anything less is like teaching someone unfamiliar with dynamite-sized-firecrackers (industrial fireworks) how to gather



together to light the fuse to see something beautiful, without teaching them the destructive, and possibly fatal nature of the explosion... if it is not released from your hand at just the right moment. Some things,

like fireworks and capitalism, should always be propelled far away from people. ☺

Capitalism teaches people that if they selfishly accumulate enough money and look out for themselves with complete independence that they will be O.K. Otherwise, if they don't horde money, they may go hungry, go homeless, go without healthcare and eventually be forced into government housing in a crime-infested ghetto or forced into an understaffed retirement home (at best) or left to die in anguish for four days in situations like a Tsunami or Hurricane Katrina (at worst).

Real and true community is the exact opposite of capitalism. It teaches people if they selflessly share and look out for others, through mutual aid and interdependence they will live a happy life and work through all obstacles with a support network: a community.

Many people feel that it is possible to create true communities without confronting capitalism. I completely disagree. If a cow wanted to accrue lots of money to help other



cows around the world, and he chose to invest a large amount of money into stocks such as McDonald's or Burger King, it is very possible that the cow

would make a large profit from those stocks, but at what cost? Sure, the money made from the stocks could be used to help save a few cows, but that investment in those stocks would also help to increase the mass slave camps

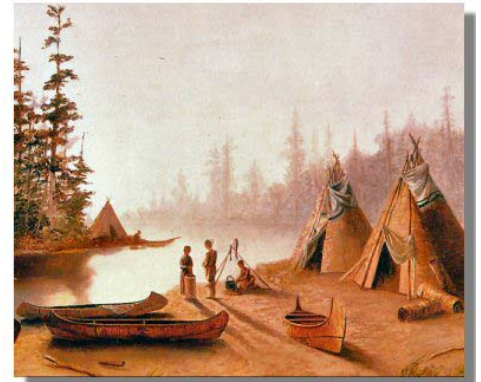
and extermination of other cows worldwide. The same is true for capitalism. If a community wanted to gather members without confronting capitalism, it is very likely that members will join the community, but at what cost? Sure, the members might gather together and speak of peace and social justice, but to ignore capitalism is to help increase the worldwide slave-wage sweatshops and extermination of other people in communities due to never-ending wars, embargoes, tariffs, CIA sponsored dictators and third-world country national debt necessary for capitalism to exist and thrive worldwide.

#3. The third thing, which should be remembered, is that any form of community or cohousing group created strictly by each member's ability to pay rent or pay fees is a community or cohousing group rooted in racial discrimination. When responding to questions about Hurricane Katrina, even George Bush, one of the world's most oppressive, war-addicted, truth-dodging individuals had to admit: "poverty is rooted in racial discrimination." The truth is so omnipresent it must be admitted. If a community or cohousing group makes money a requirement for eligibility, how can that community ever truly say that they are selflessly looking out for others? They can't. They can only admit exactly what they are: They are a false community that selfishly looks out for people who are privileged enough to pay some or all of their rent and monthly maintenance fees, period. They are a false community that selfishly accepts people of color... **ONLY** if those people of color are privileged enough to be able to pay some or all of their rent and monthly maintenance fees, period. I say 'period' because there are a lot of people (in denial) who like to make excuses and worn out, intellectual rationalizations for their rent and fees which exclude people of color.

Any lack of people of color in such false communities or cohousing groups is not accidental or unintentional... it is created by a group of people who are intentionally ignoring the reasons why people of color cannot join their groups. They are structured from their very foundation to exclude minorities and marginalized, financially disadvantaged people.

#4. The form of community which I am telling you about is called a **So-Jus Diversa-Village**. The specific So-Jus Diversa-Village that is now being created is called **Networking for Peace So-Jus Diversa-Village**. The email list for updates on this particular So-Jus Diversa-Village is found by going to

www.aworldofpeace.org and clicking on **subscriptions**. The email list archives are public. Despite what you may think, it is not a radical new idea. It is a very old idea, thousands of years old, proven to work, with a new name and a return back to several important indigenous, tribal ideas:



- If you take care of your elders (house them in your community, rather than ship them off to nursing homes and retirement homes) and if you take care of the less fortunate in your community, it will strengthen everyone in your community because people will not feel a need to horde in order to look out for themselves, and they will share. Once upon a time elders were considered the most important part of the tribe and the community, but in most industrialized nations, they are mistakenly and erroneously seen as a financial burden. In a real community, the cost for housing a senior citizen, must be met, otherwise, the young members of your community will **correctly** realize that they too may be labeled as a financial burden one day and marked as expendable. The cost of taking care of one's elders is an investment, because it strengthens the entire community belief that no matter what, they will not abandon one another, but take care of one another, as a true community should do.



- If you look out for people when they are at their worse

(such as form a rescue, relief and transitions shelter team for people such as Hurricane Katrina victims) they will not feel a need to horde in order to look out for themselves, and they will share with you, and by looking out for others, you will teach your children and future generations to look out for you.



- The lifelong nomadic flame that burns bright and warm in every person's heart, that suddenly encourages people to travel and wander, should not be extinguished by a wage-slave commitment to a 9-5 job or a commitment to one materialistic structure with a roof and monthly dog-leash for humans (known as rent and car payments) that capitalism brainwashes people into believing is necessary to have a 'home' or necessary to have 'the American Dream.'
- Just as indigenous tribes, from aboriginals to Native Americans, were encouraged to travel the earth on walkabouts and treks without destinations (rather than horde materialistic possessions which keep you anchored) so should we encourage activists to travel the earth, and yet ensure them that they will have a home to return to and still be a part of many **So-Jus Diversa-Villages** located throughout the world.
- The first toys that you give to your child or any child help to teach that child about greed and selfishness. If you buy your child a toy and they simply stockpile it and horde it in their bedrooms with their arsenal of other toys, it will only teach your kids to horde items rather than share. Just because the phrase "Mine! Mine!" from a 2-year old in the USA is common, doesn't make it any less scary (scary because it foreshadows a future of greed). However, if the toys and some of the other smaller items that you give to your child as a gift



are placed into a common house (which is standard in a So-Jus Diversa-Village), or a shared playroom in the community, where your child grows up learning to share gifts given to him/her, then it will help your child learn what true community is all about.

They are a false community that selfishly accepts people of color... ONLY if those people of color are privileged enough to be able to pay some or all of their rent and monthly maintenance fees...



...period.

*"We must think in terms of restructuring the home itself, so that it can be made more suitable to the demands and **diversity** of our new families."* -Betty Freidan

Likewise, if you allow your child to watch you give something you value and own to someone as a gift, as indigenous people have done for thousands of years, or make something, rather than purchase more items, (in a community of people doing the same thing) it will teach the child the value of sharing and giving, rather than accumulating more possessions and purchasing items from multinational corporations which have no ethics but plenty of sweatshops. Conversely, what do you think it teaches your child, when she/he watches you purchase gifts made by non-union labor that came from overseas sweatshops?

In an effort to encourage international discussion about creating So-Jus Diversa-Villages If you would like to respond to these articles (with your name or anonymously) on a public Bulletin Board please visit either of the below websites:

www.aworldofpeace.org/peaceforums/viewtopic.php?p=260#260 or use the shortcut web addresses at:
www.aworldofpeace.org/sjdv.html or
www.dsame.com/sjdv.html

A Few Recommendations

Below is a non-traditional list of recommendations. Traditionally, lists of academic references are cited at the end of a

document and people largely tend not to read or view anything on the list. However, the below references include children's books and popular movies with the hopes that people of all reading levels and backgrounds will read or watch some of the references. Thank you. In order or priority:

#1. The Giving Tree, by Shel Silverstein (a book, available in many languages) – This is a children's book with colorful pictures and only a few pages. Through teaching the true nature of selflessness, it illustrates how a true community should offer services to the world.

#2. Jonathan Livingston Seagull (a book or an audio-book, available in many languages)– Richard Bach beautifully describes how you can learn to think outside the box and open your mind to new ideas and a better quality of life...with a story of a bird.

#3. The Island (a movie) – Starring Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johansson. This is an action movie, rated PG-13. Some of the action scenes are a bit over the top. However, the underlying, symbolic plot is that multinational corporations will someday 'breed' human beings as a product designed only to keep the gears of consumerism and capitalism thriving for a few privileged people in our society. The symbolic plot makes it an interesting movie. As long as human beings, particularly minorities and financially disadvantaged people, are isolated and not forming true communities with one another, we are almost completely dependent upon multinational corporations for everything: vehicles, gas, computers, and even entertainment such as this movie. It is to the point where even farmers who once lived without corporate dependence are now forced to buy genetically modified crops with corporate 'terminator-seeds' that yield no seeds for the next year's crop. The pollen of genetically modified crops also irreparably changes the crops of organic crops. The bait that keeps us in this brainwashed state of non-community is the belief that we will go to 'The Island,' or 'have the American Dream' of our own house, car, and our personally owned materialistic items... rather than to begin sharing, selflessly with one another.

#4. "Creating a Life Together: Practical Tools to Grow Ecovillages and Intentional Communities" –by Diana Christian. This is an excellent book by a wonderful person and a

very wise author. Unfortunately, the book mostly covers the how-to methods of creating fee-required ecovillages and communities. Nevertheless the author has devoted her life to communities and is also the editor of 'Communities' magazine (also recommended, even though the magazine caters to fee-required cohousing groups in the USA more everyday). The manner in which the book has a page-by-page detailed listing of the problems to avoid when creating any form of community (using actual examples) is priceless.

#5. Hellraiser (the horror movie) – As an eyewitness, I can tell you that all the academic and intellectual documentary movies made about the inhumane conditions which currently exist in nursing homes in the USA (and most certainly Third World countries) are only sugarcoated, watered down depictions of the actual crisis. However, there is a scene in this movie, when a person is walking down endless hallways with rooms on each side and they can hear people scream in loud, agonizing pain in each room, without end.... which reflects what it is like in many corporate retirement homes and nursing homes. Here are a few common, well documented reasons for those endless screams: A. Nurses turn off the patients 'Help me' buttons, because too many buttons are being pressed by so many people unattended. This causes the patients to scream; yet no one comes to help as nurses must attend to others who need more urgent care. B. Nursing homes and retirement homes are a magnet for nurses who are drug addicts because they can steal the patient's very expensive narcotic pain killers, use them and sell them and the only person who is aware of this inhumane betrayal is the patient lying in the bed in unthinkable pain. C. Although there are many nurses who genuinely care about patients, due to patients passing away on a weekly basis, the nursing profession is a high stress, high turn-over field, and yet most multinational corporations pay the nurses little more than minimum wage with little or no benefits. To have a community built upon such death and lack of appreciation is neither natural nor healthy for anyone, especially the elderly and disabled patients. This situation is worsening exponentially due to social service cuts, increasing health-care costs and the Baby-Boomer generation becoming the world's largest senior citizen population.

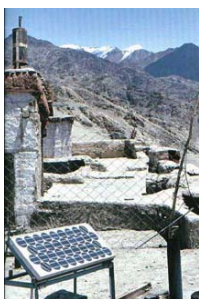
#6. The Barefoot College: Knowledge Demystified (VHS documentary) –A non-fiction movie so wonderful that I cannot sufficiently describe it. It details how a college in India learned to teach their members, free of charge, about creating sustainable communities by relying upon local teachers rather than paying

self-empowered gurus/consultants from abroad. Also, see the college's website for extensive information: www.barefootcollege.org



Aruna and Bunker Roy, who founded the Barefoot College project (seen above) in 1972, have a simple catalogue of "Do's and Dont's:"

- **"People with formal qualifications are not needed. Any villager literate or illiterate can be trained to do the job."**
- **"Any remote village can easily be made self-sufficient with solar power regardless of the local level of affluence."**



Thank you very much.
Love for the people,

-T, the peace guru
www.dsames.com/sjdv.html or
www.aworldofpeace.org/sjdv.html

I use the name 'peace guru' as a symbol of my thoughts regarding creating true communities. I define peace as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. defined peace: *"True Peace is not the absence of tension, it is the presence of justice."* In addition, I believe that in a true community, there is no such thing as a guru, because even a 2 year old can teach an elder how to smile,

laugh and have fun again... sometimes much better than anyone else in the community can teach it. We must not rely on the government or self-empowered professional community consultants (gurus) to teach one another about creating community... we must create it for ourselves, while we are still free to create it.

"The first problem for all of us, men and women, is not to learn, but to unlearn." -Gloria Steinem

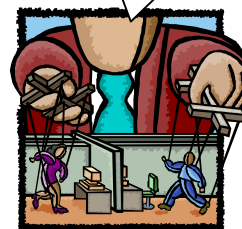
"I see in the near future a crisis approaching that unnerves me and causes me to tremble for the safety of my country ...corporations have been enthroned and an era of corruption in high places will follow, and the money power of the country will endeavor to prolong its reign by working upon the prejudices of the people until all wealth is aggregated in a few hands."

-U.S. President Abraham Lincoln, Nov. 21, 1864

"As we view the achievements of aggregated capital, we discover the existence of trusts, combinations, and monopolies, while the citizen is struggling far in the rear, or is trampled beneath an iron heel. Corporations, which should be the carefully restrained creatures of the law and the servants of the people, are fast becoming the people's masters."

-President Grover Cleveland, 1888

A So-Jus Diversa-Village requires no rent or fees. A Landlord should not be a Puppet-Master of you or your activist group! Unhook yourself from corporate control!



The time to create peace activist communities, the time to create **So-Jus Diversa-Villages**, which look out for all people, for your friends, for your family and for you... for the rest of your life ... is now.