

American Street Philosophers

The 'Elsewhere' of Rising Equality

Steve Wilson and Friends

*"The creation of groups from personal and intimate mutual knowledge
was the unique achievement of humanity."*

*"Social intelligence enhanced by group selection made Homo sapiens
the first fully dominant species in Earth's history."*

E. O. Wilson in *THE MEANING OF HUMAN EXISTENCE*

Contents



Life is always choices... 6

Benson Technical High School 12

Mitch's Frugal Innovation 25

Laura's Street Books 30

A Web of Words 37

We know who we are 48

Dignity Village Intake Packet 54

Dignity Village Documents 67

Who we are 97

"What we need, 129

Creative—Attitude—Community 138

Some Helpful Background: 140

Hello, welcome 143

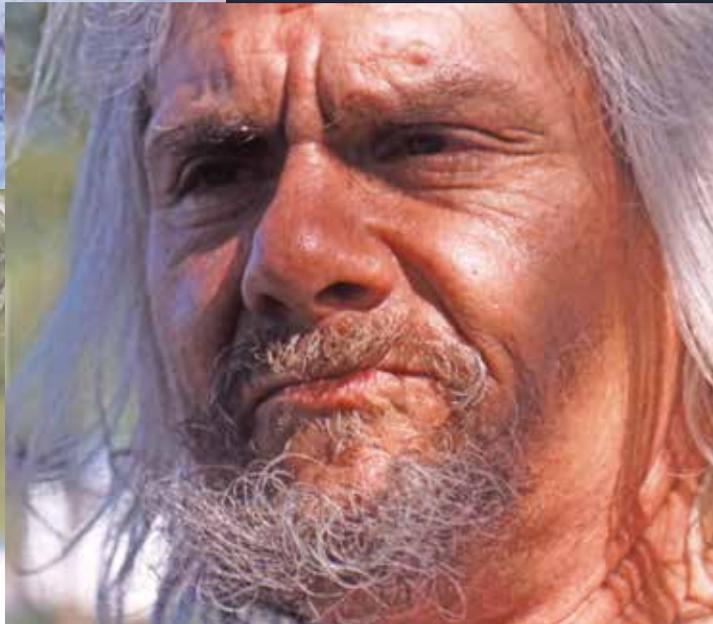


Life is always choices...





Not by default.
Choice is decision.
Occupy opportunity.
Happen a village.





physical aspects

SOCIAL ASPECTS

social ownership

self-management

residents want to protect

a place to be



“I want you to be you.
Have you figured out what that is?”

”United by Spirit, Bonded by Name”

Benson Technical High School

Friday morning Amy and Tim took the Tech-Geo class to Dignity Village so they could understand how the structure they are building will be used and to also visit the occupants of the Village. The students also got to meet Melissa who will be living in the structure they are building.







Welcome to Dignity Village:
an introductory letter

We know who we are

We are glad that you are here and we want the time that you spend here to be as pleasant, comfortable, and productive as possible. This is a community based on love and respect, for others and us. We try, as much as possible, to keep the “rules” to a minimum, trusting that people that share the Village will use common sense and basic courtesy in relating to others. We have five basic rules that we have established as fundamental to the survival and success of the Village.

1. **No violence to yourselves or others.**
2. **No theft.**
3. **No alcohol, illegal drugs or drug paraphernalia on site or within a one-block radius.**
4. **No constant disruptive behavior.**
5. **Everyone must contribute to the operation and maintenance of the Village. (Total 10 hours per week unless in school or show proof of employment.)**

There are other rules, of course, but these five are the basis for the others and will be firmly enforced. **Violation of these can result in permanent removal from the Village.**

We are a membership-based, 501(c)(3), non-profit community organization. Each member of the Village has a vote and is encouraged to participate in the self-governance that is the cornerstone of the Village. The membership as a whole elects a Village Council whose responsibility is to make decisions relating the business issues of Dignity Village Inc.

The Board of Directors consists of the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer, as well as other members of the Council. We may elect not less than 3 or more than 25 Councilors to serve a one-year term. The Board officers are elected by the rest of the Village Council (or Board). Village Council, membership, and various committee meetings are open to the public and anyone not removed for rule violations is welcome. All Villagers are welcome and encouraged to attend. Membership meetings held on the first Tuesday of the month at 18:00 (6:00p.m.) are mandatory (*note: meetings are no longer mandatory as of Feb 2007*).

Most of the Villagers have their own stoves. The Village does not provide fuel for those stoves. You may, if you do not have a stove, cook on the woodstove in the common area (until we set up a community kitchen) or use Village bar-b-cues. Everyone is expected to clean up after him or herself.

Donations come into the Village on a regular basis. The Donations Coordinator handles donations and all donations coming into the Village must be logged in and recorded for tax purposes and the proper receipts issued before **ANY** items can be distributed. It is the responsibility of the Donations Coordinator to see that items are distributed in a fair and equitable manner (i.e. Members first, then residents, guests, and outreach). If a vehicle enters the Village to bring in donations, do not approach the vehicle unless donations ask for assistance. Do not solicit donations for your private use from supporters. Clothing, food, and miscellaneous

items are put on the donations tables. High demand (or “big ticket”) items must be signed for and are available at the donations structure during normal hours. It is not the intention nor the responsibility of Dignity Village to provide each Villager with everything needed to live here. If you need an item and it is available, the Donation Coordinator will notify you that it is now available. We encourage you to go down to Life Center, work for a couple hours, and get what you need. You can leave your requests with the Donations Coordinator, and if it is something we accept, she or he will let you know when it comes in.

The office trailer is located directly in front of the main gates. In the office there are computers, telephone, fax machine (local only) and message board. Phone messages are posted on the board. Notifications of meetings and all official Village notices are on the council chamber message board located in the council chamber door in the common area. A current bus schedule is on the wall to the right as you come into the common area and at the guard shack. Mail is picked up daily by a designated individual (no one else is to get the mail unless assigned to do so by the Treasurer of Dignity Village.)

Some of the rules that apply to the office are as follows:

1. No yelling, or profanity in the office. People are making calls to family, jobs, courts, doctors, etc. and loud or obscene talk in the background is inappropriate.
2. Phone calls are limited to 10 minutes unless it is Village business or special arrangements have been made.
3. Computer time is limited to 45 min. per person except on approved Village business.
4. Please clean up after yourself.

Violations of these rules may result in restrictions of office use being imposed. If you need help setting up an e-mail or need help with the computers, ask the Office Manager for assistance. Do not download anything from the computers without the help of the Office Manager. Do not open any e-mail from someone you do not know. This can infect the computer with a Virus.

Port-a-lets (toilets) are by the main gate. They are serviced Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.

The shower is across from the office up the ramp (along with the gray water disposal and dishwashing station at this time). An on-demand propane water heater heats the water. Unless out of propane, the showers are always hot! If you notice that the propane bottles are empty, please notify a council member. We have a limit of 20 minutes for the showers. Please pick up and wash out the shower when you are done. Guests for outreach may shower from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 8:00p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

There are people in the Village who work different hours and not everyone follows the same schedule. Because of this we have a “quiet hours” policy from 10:00p.m. to 10:00 a.m. This does not mean that you are not allowed to speak in a normal tone or use a radio or T.V. It means you must **KEEP THE NOISE LEVEL DOWN** during these hours. Repeated violation of this rule constitutes constant disruptive behavior and will result in disciplinary action before the Village Council. Exception is, of course, construction. Construction may begin at 8:00 a.m.

It is the responsibility of Security to maintain the peace and safety of the Village. If a situation arises that requires intervention by security, do not interfere or get involved unless Security personnel on duty request assistance. Every Villager is required to work 2 hours mandatory security unless specifically excused with a doctor's excuse or if he/she has been removed by the Security Coordinator (*note: as of March 2007, security hours are not mandatory*). If for some reason the police have been called, you are to remain behind the gate. They will come to you. You are to allow Security and the Board Officers deal with the police. Remain polite and do as they ask in a timely manner.

This introduction is not meant to be all-inclusive; it is intended to answer some basic questions and to lay down certain guidelines for residency in Dignity Village. If you have any questions please ask the Department heads or Council members.



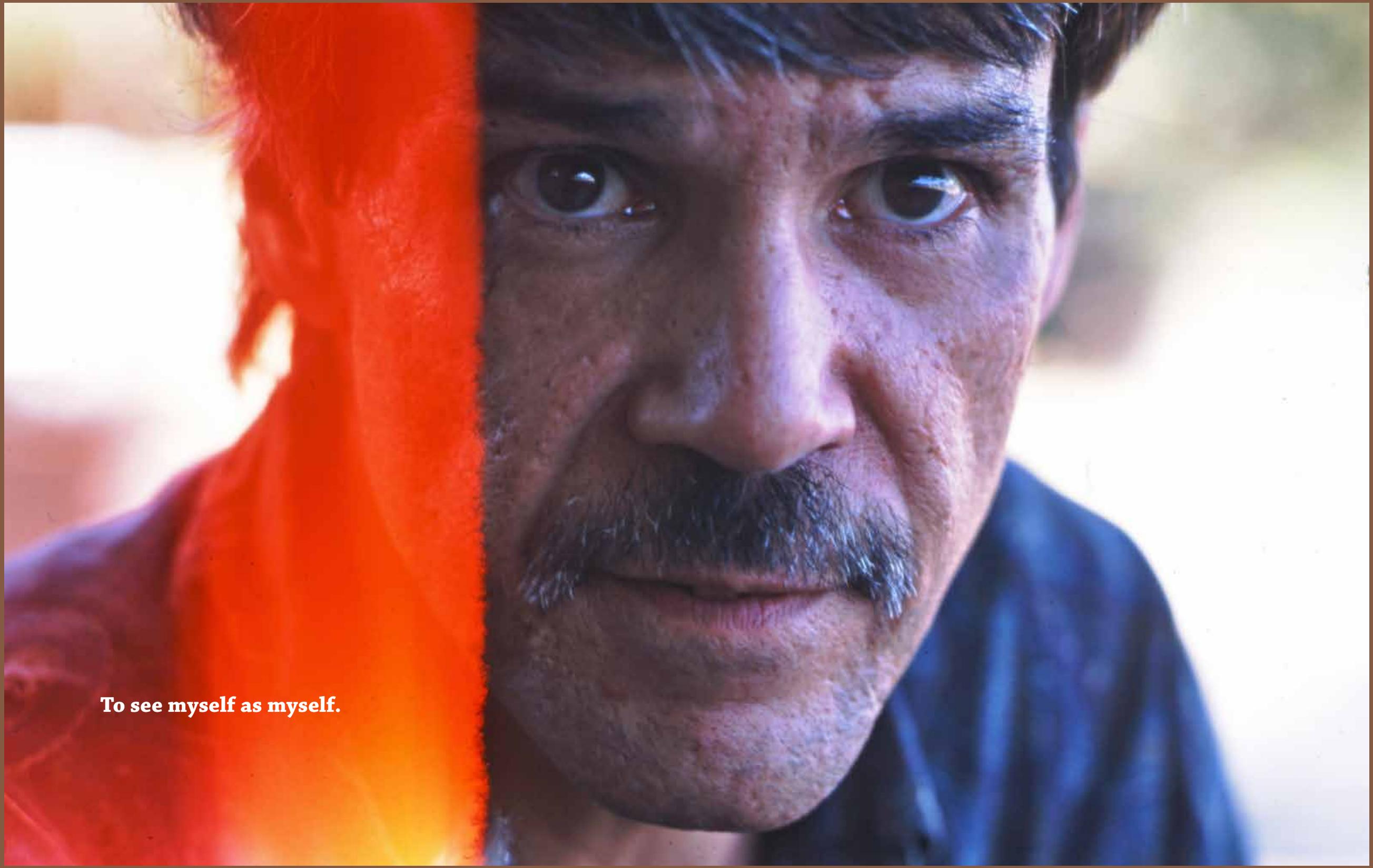




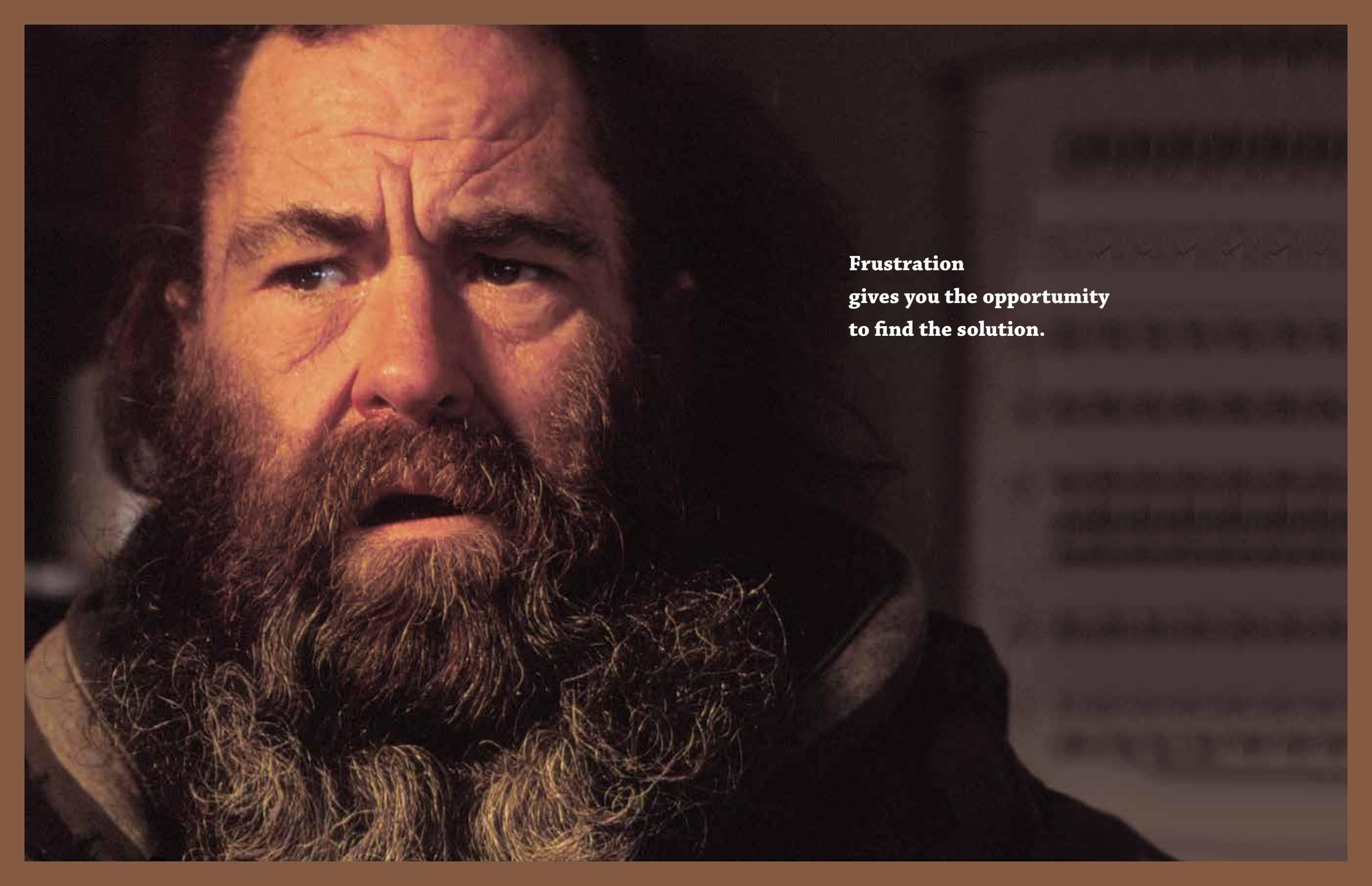
Who we are



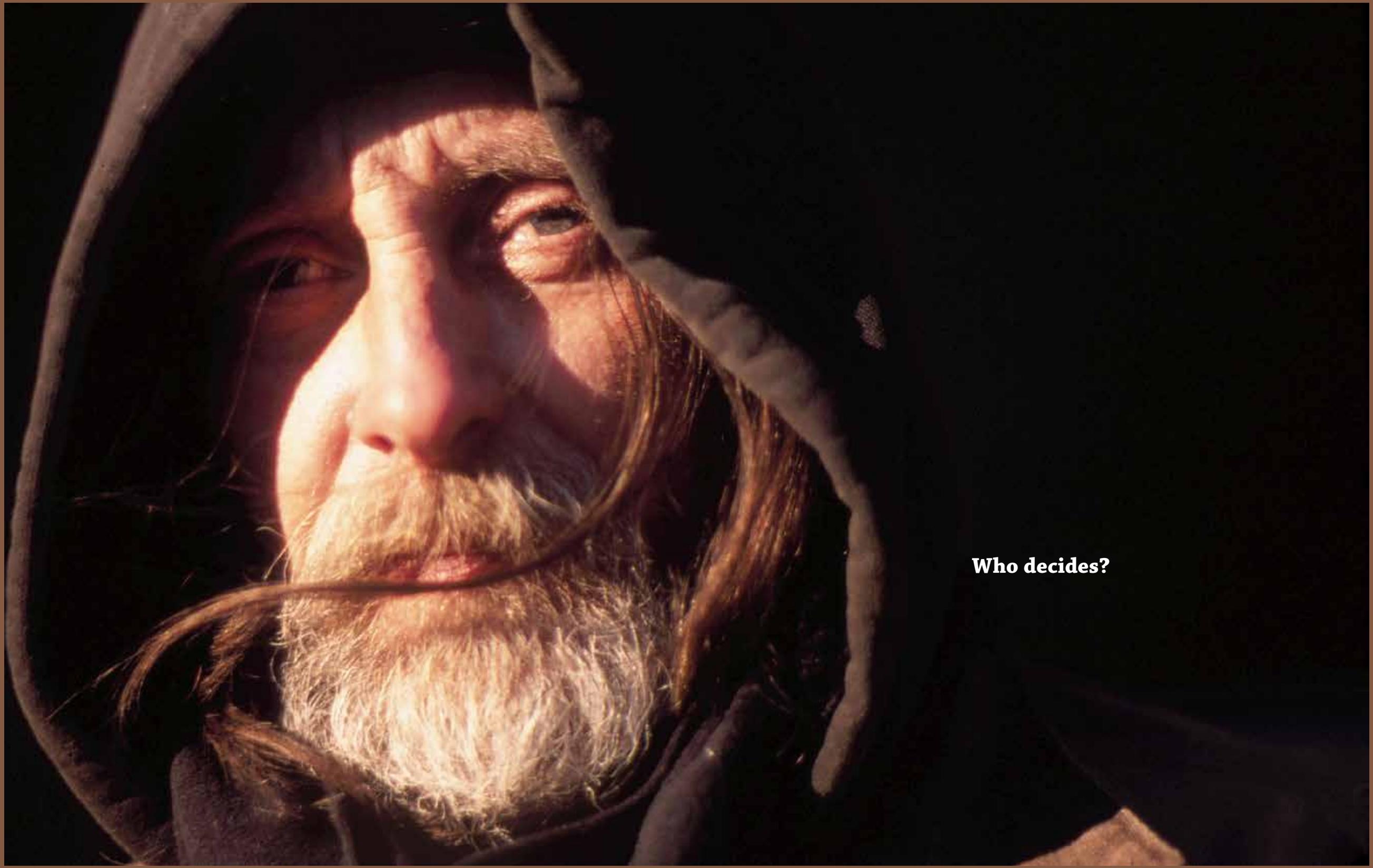
Because we trust each other.



To see myself as myself.



Frustration
gives you the opportunity
to find the solution.



Who decides?



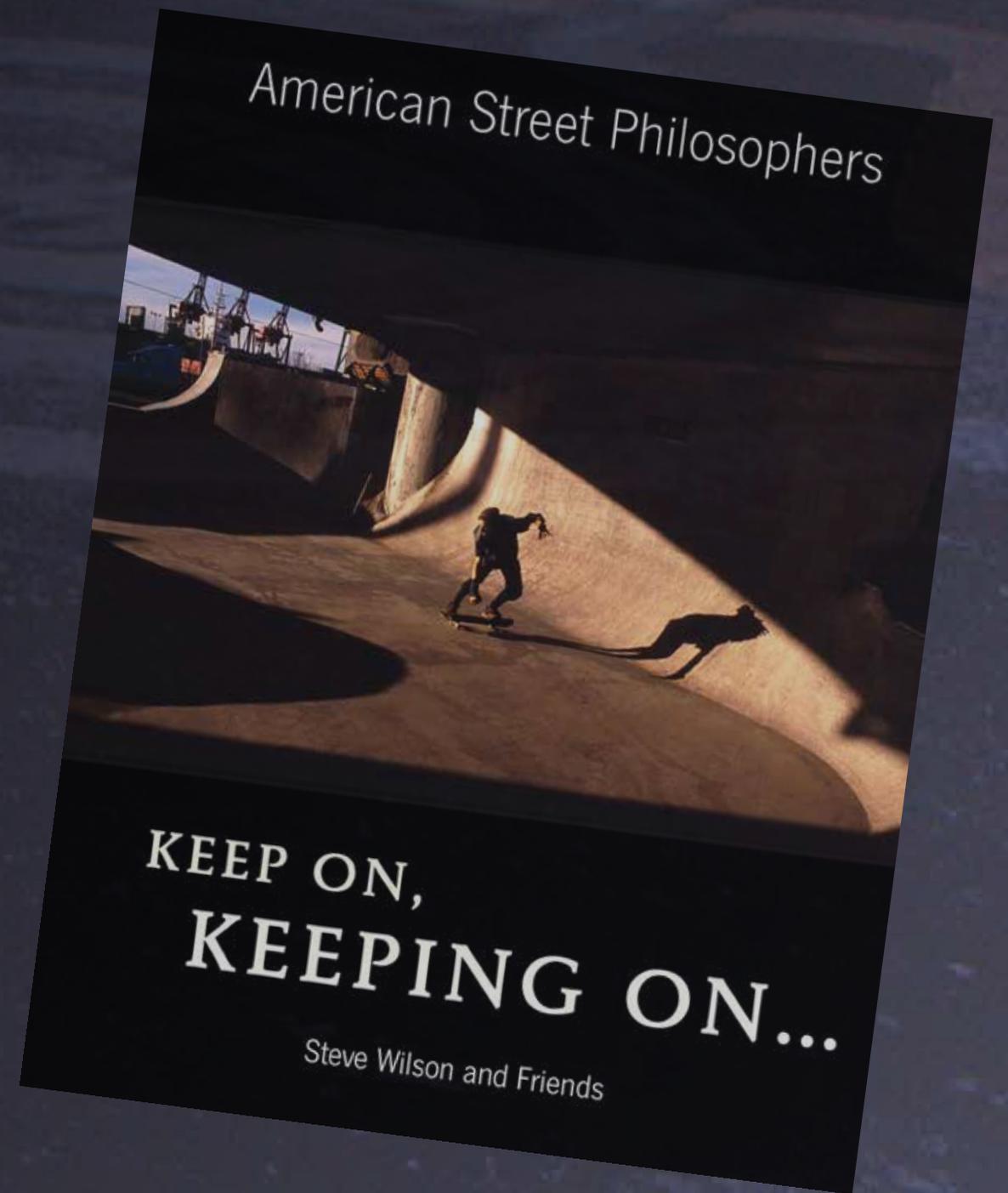
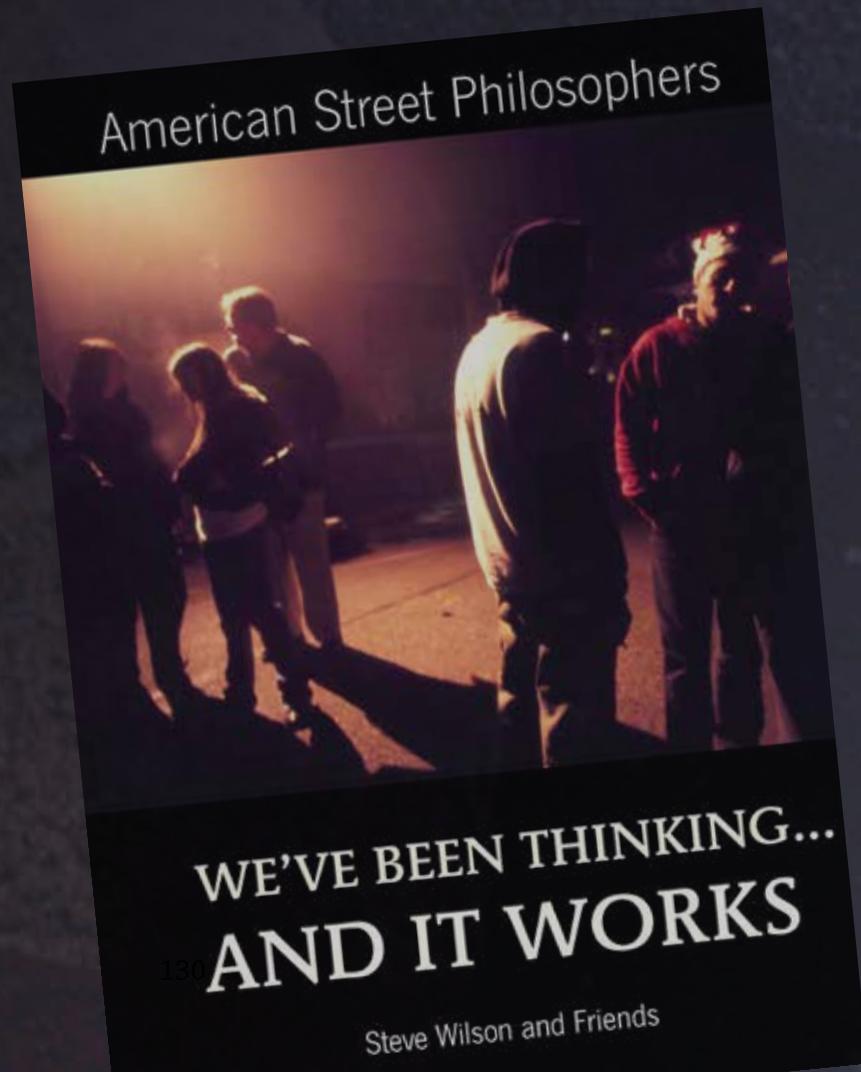




“What we need,

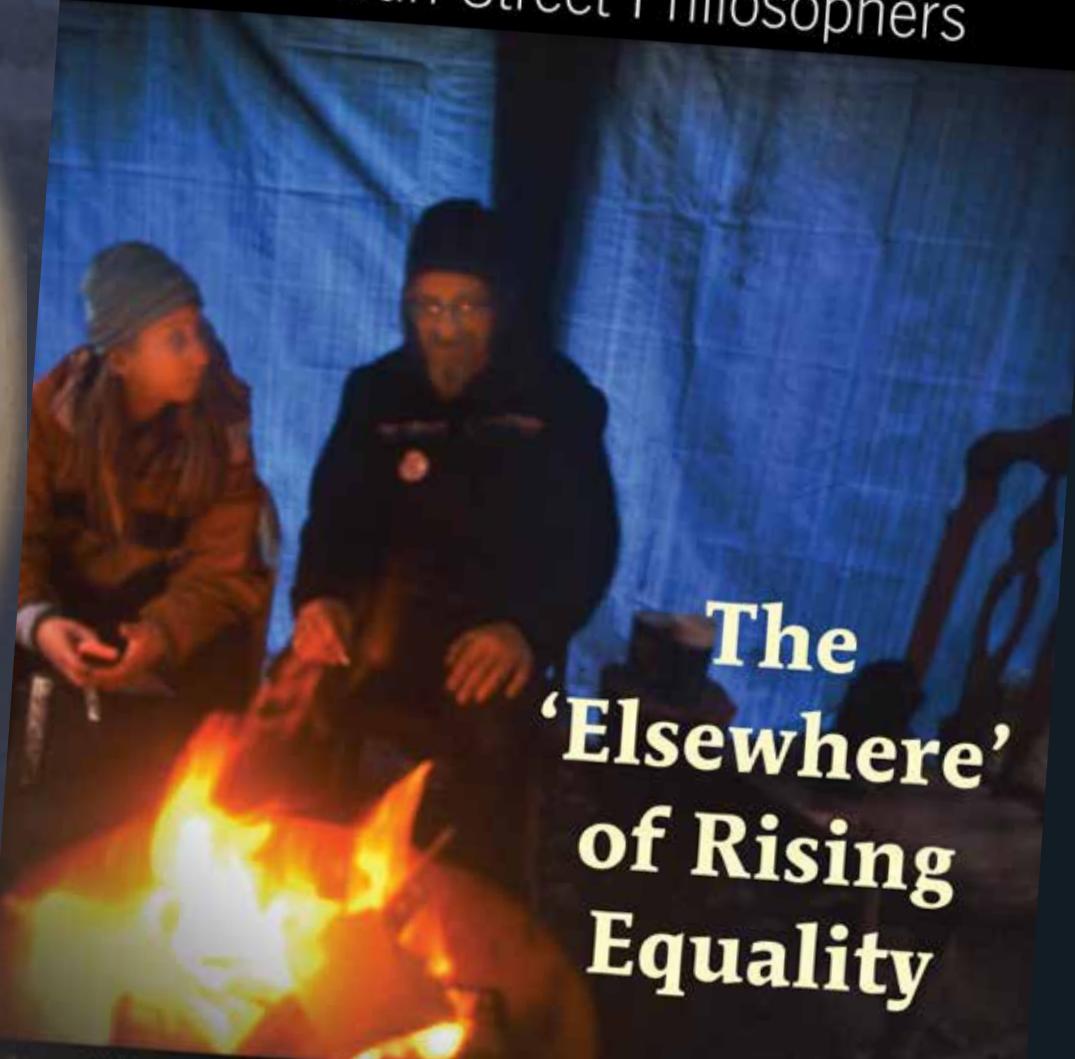
**what we are ultimately groping toward,
is the sensitivity required
to understand and respond
to the psychic energies
deep in the very structure
of reality itself.”**

Thomas Berry, *Dreamer of the Earth*





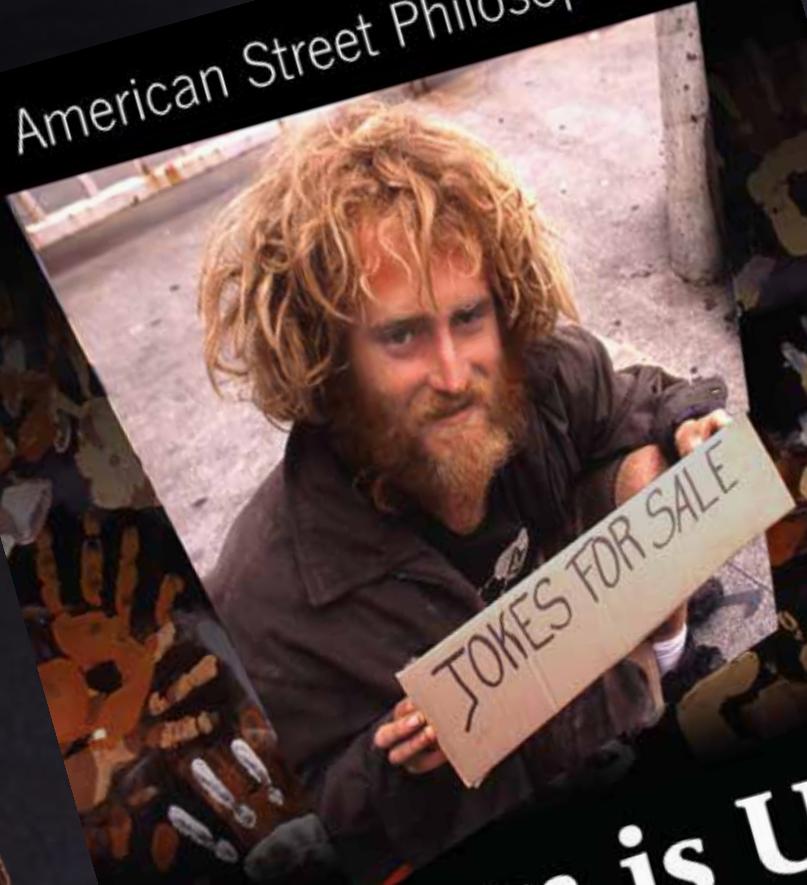
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**The
'Elsewhere'
of Rising
Equality**

Steve Wilson and Friends

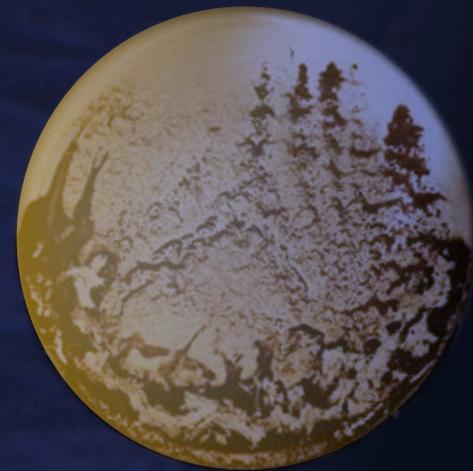
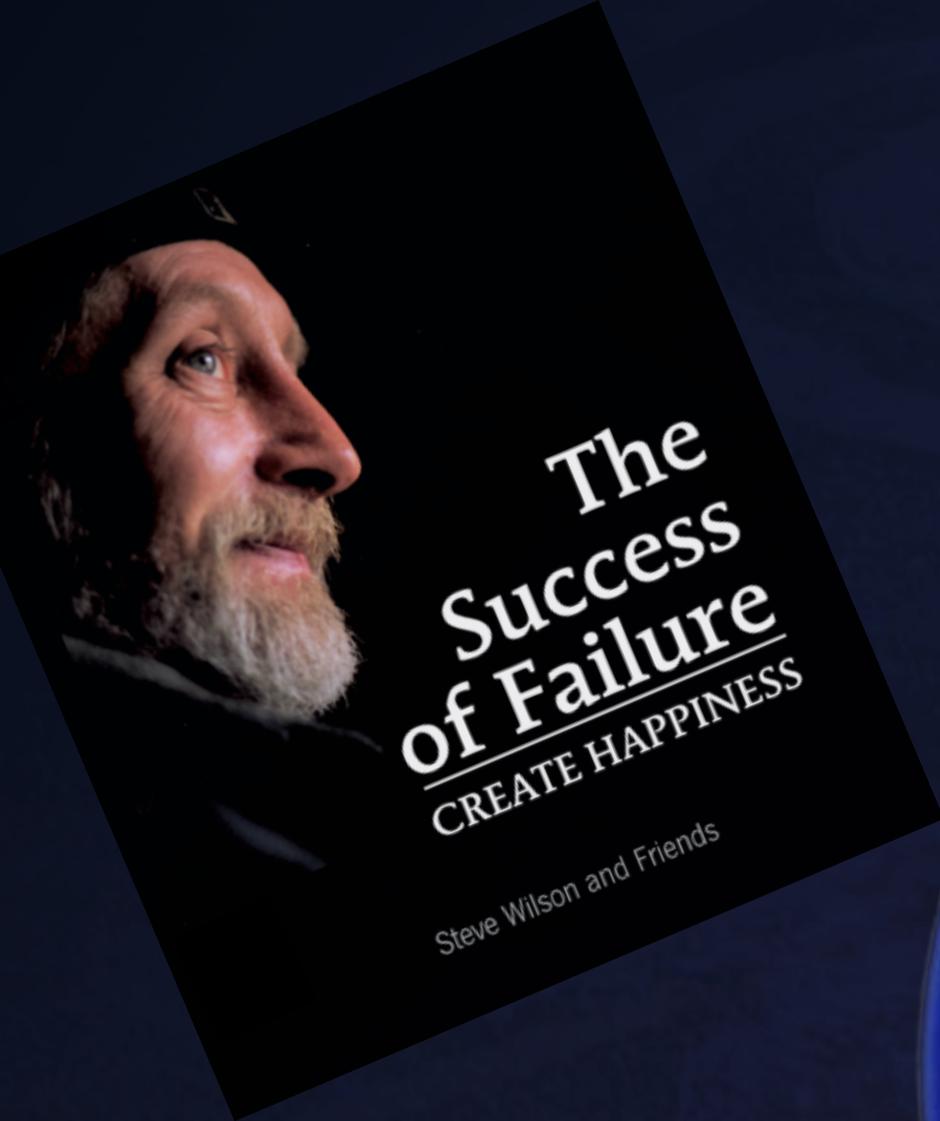
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Them is Us

Steve Wilson and Friends





CREATIVE—ATTITUDE—COMMUNITY

AMERICAN STREET PHILOSOPHERS





CREATIVE

ATTITUDE

COMMUNITY







“Diversity is the ‘truth’ of the community”.

Some Helpful Background:

N. Anderson

University of Chicago Press, 1923

The Hobo:

Sociology of the Homeless Man

J. Blau

Oxford University Press, 1992

The Visible Poor: Homelessness in the U.S.

A Braum & D Burnes

Westview Press (Boulder, CO), 1993

A Nation in Denial:

The Truth About Homelessness

T. Frank

Doubleday, 2001

***One Market Under God: Extreme Capitalism,
Market Populism, and the End
of Economic Democracy***

T. Cresswell

Reaktion Books, 2001

The Tramp in America

D. Harvey

University of California Press, 2000

Spaces of Hope

D. Lewenthal

Cambridge University Press, 1985

The Past is a Foreign Country

J. Miller

Harvard University Press, 1994

Democracy is in the Streets

D. Mitchell

Guilford Press, 2003

The Right to the City:

***Social Justice and the Fight
for Public Space***

J. Spradley

Little Brown, 1970

You Owe Yourself a Drunk:

An Ethnography of Urban Nomads

Ian C. MacMillan & James D. Thompson

Wharton Digital Press, 2013

The Social Entrepreneur's Playbook

Pressure Test, Plan, Launch and

Scale Your Enterprise

Expanded Edition



HELLO,

**You, your family, your friends,
your co-workers, your clubs and churches
and community leaders, cities, most major towns...
if necessary with a sleep-over.**

No reservations necessary.

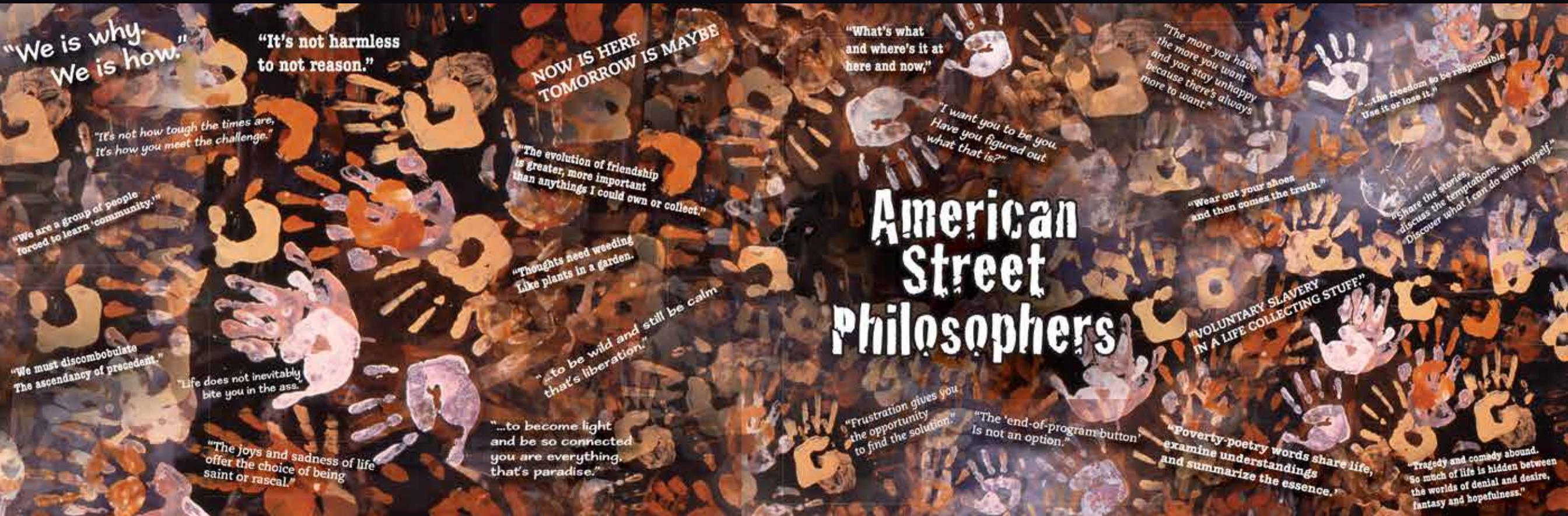
No registration required, WELCOME

American Street Philosophers

Melissa and Martice, Tonya and Ben and Laura, Jim and Ptery and extremely Dave.
...quite a lot of stuff to ponder and meditate upon.
To wrap youse, we need focus:

Second, how quite a number of these folks recognize the extent their own **flaws have helped to bring about their own grim condition.**

Third, comprehensive, damning, and accurate indictment of inequality and inequity and our society's 'values' educates American Street Philosophers. You may find yourself saying, 'Right on!' many occasions as you read and think. **You may ask**, "Why Is our society plagued by wishful thinking, short-sightedness, and, above all, insatiable greed?"



First, what wonderful faces! Definitely up close to the human condition without gloss, glamour, ornamentation, or pretense. **What we look like when we're really up against it.** Not just a sudden setback, but in a big way and for the long haul...through our own fault or through the workings of a society that can be incredibly unfair, uncaring, even cruel. And, often, how tough and resilient we are in coping, even at the bleakest level.

American Street Philosophers writing is organized and articulate, and freely spiced with love. A little poetic whether capturing poetry or not.

To wrap youse, us explore **"Unity through kindness."**

Dave and Steve Wilson