

The image features a dynamic splash of water. The top portion is a vibrant teal color, while the bottom portion is a shimmering golden-yellow. The water splash is centered, with droplets and bubbles visible. Overlaid on this is white, serif text. The text is arranged in four lines: 'COMMON' at the top, 'GROUND' in the second line, 'AWARDS' in the third line, and 'RIPPLES OF CHANGE' in the bottom line. The text is centered horizontally and partially obscured by the water splash.

COMMON

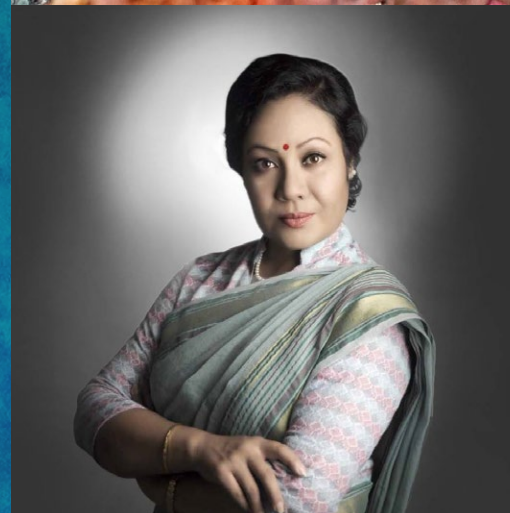
GROUND

AWARDS

RIPPLES OF CHANGE

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# Message from President & CEO

Dear Friends,

We welcome you to the 2017 Common Ground Awards with a rich sense of gratitude, awe, and pride. As we celebrate our 35th anniversary, we shine a light on the human capacity to transform fear into trust, hatred into understanding, chasms into connections.

Since 1998, Search has sought out and shone a light on both famous and unknown heroes who have modeled such transformation in particularly inspiring ways. We are always humbled by the Awardees' stories; they prod us to rise to their examples. Dozens of Awardees over the years have touched us deeply with their larger-than-life vision of our interconnectedness. Recipients have made significant contributions toward bridging divides between people, finding solutions to seemingly intractable problems, and providing inspiration and hope where others saw none. Whether Awards recipients work internationally or in their local communities, the work they do to create peace and stability has the same ripple effect.

Tonight we honor six more — in honor of their personal conviction of bringing people together to find shared humanity despite differences. I

hope you find tonight a worthwhile testament to your own vision of a better world, as well as to Search's work to build safer, healthier, more just societies.

I also want to recognize our founder, John Marks, for his vision 35 years ago. That vision has helped transform peacebuilding from a niche effort to a central part of nearly all international development strategy.

As we celebrate tonight, we also reflect on the work left to do. While we have touched many lives throughout our history, we have many who are counting on the continued commitment of Search and our supporters. That is why I thank you for coming, to celebrate the impacts we've made, and to encourage your commitment to our future.

I look forward to seeing you throughout the year. On behalf of our Board, more than 600 staff, and thousands of partners, we are grateful for your support and attendance.

Shamil Idriss



# ABOUT SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND

For almost 35 years, Searchers have pioneered constructive ways to end violent conflict and enable cooperation in our communities. We've tested our methods across 50 countries in Africa, the US, the Middle East, Asia, and Europe, transforming destructive conflict into sustainable peace and positive change.



# AWARD RECIPIENTS



## CORPORATE LEADERSHIP AWARD

# DANIEL LUBETZKY

Daniel Lubetzky is on a mission to build bridges between people. He is the Founder & CEO of KIND, which makes delicious and nutritious snack foods. A not-only-for-profit, KIND also works to foster kinder and more empathetic communities through a myriad of social and philanthropic commitments.



## WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT

# SYLVIE MUTWAMBAKA MIRINDI

Sylvie Mutwambaka Mirindi is the Founder of the Mamans Sensibilisateurs, a committee made up of women who, like her, are married to members of the Democratic Republic of the Congo Armed Forces. Sylvie took a stand against the violence that these women often face. She founded the committee, launched programs that have dramatically reduced violence in their communities, and spearheaded a co-counseling system for married couples to discuss their problems constructively and nonviolently.



**SURVIVOR AND MEDIATOR**

**BONIFACE MUDENGE**

Boniface Mudenge, a survivor of the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda and founder of the Inyenyeri Itazima Association, has devoted his life to building tolerance and understanding as a mediator and peacebuilder. Over the last two decades, he has risked his life to advocate for peace and justice among Hutus and Tutsis.



YOUTH LEADERSHIP

FATIMA EZZAHRA  
BENOUGHAZI

At just 22 years old, Fatima Ezzahra Benoughazi is already a leading voice in youth participation in peacebuilding in Morocco. A member of Search's Youth Leaders Council of Tangier, Fatima has been involved in various Search initiatives to prevent and counter violent extremism.



## AN UNLIKELY ALLIANCE

# PARDEEP KALEKA & ARNO MICHAELIS

On August 5th, 2012, a white supremacist shot and killed 6 members of a Sikh temple in Wisconsin, including Pardeep Kaleka's father, Satwant Singh Kaleka. Arno Michaelis, a former skinhead, reached out to Pardeep after the shooting. Since then, the pair has formed an unlikely alliance, teaming up to spread a message of peace through their organization Serve 2 Unite.



# ORDER OF PROGRAM

**6:00 pm** Cocktails, Hors d'Oeuvres, & Silent Auction

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**7:00 pm** Introduction Video  
Opening Remarks  
Awards Ceremony, presented by Shamil Idriss, CEO of Search for Common Ground  
Honoring:

- Daniel Lubetzky, Founder and CEO of Kind Snacks
- Sylvie Mutwambaka Mirindi, Founder of Association de Mamans Sensibilisateurs
- Boniface Mudenge, Founder of Inyenyeri Itazima Association

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**8:15 pm** Dinner Break

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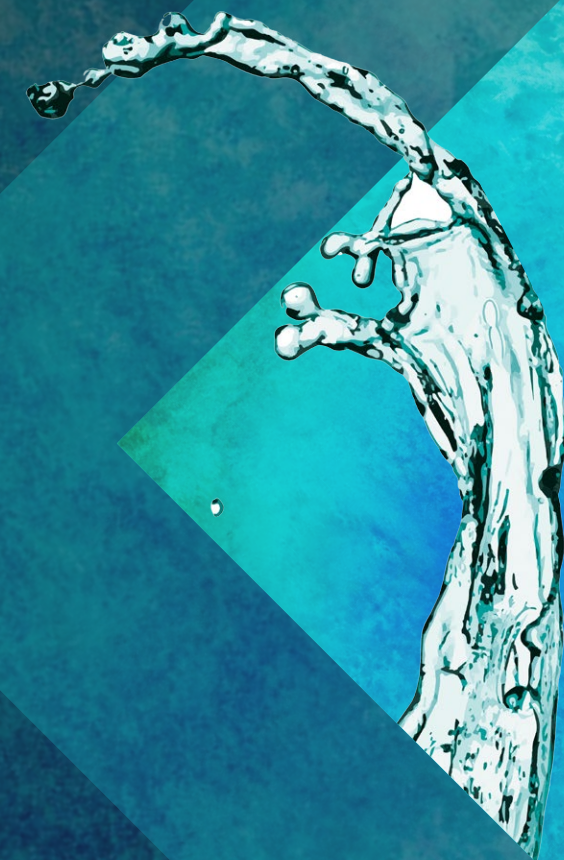
**8:45 pm** Silent Auction Closes and Program Resumes  
Awards Ceremony, continued by Shamil Idriss  
Honoring:

- Fatima Ezzahra Benoughazi, Member of the Youth Leaders Council
- Arno Michaelis and Pardeep Kaleka, Founders of Serve2Unite

Dessert & Remarks

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**9:30 pm** Auction Winners Announced & Closing Remarks





# MENU

## THREE COURSE MEAL

### First Course

Watercress and Frisee  
Lettuce with Toasted  
Pecans, Dry Cranberry,  
Tangerine Segment, Light  
Vinaigrette

### Entree

**DUET OF BEEF -**  
Braised Guava Short Rib  
& Slice of Chateaubriand,  
with Herbed Mashed  
Potatoes, Vegetable  
Succotash, Micro Greens,  
Truffle Oil

### Dessert

Warm Chocolate Souffle  
Cake served with Vanilla  
Ice Cream with KIND  
healthy grains clusters on  
top, Fresh Berry Compote  
Creme Anglaise

## WINE

### White:

Stone Cellar Chardonnay,  
California

### Red:

Copper Ridge Merlot

# Honorary Host Committee Chairs



G A L A C H A I R M A N

# SHARIF EL-GAMAL

CHAIRMAN AND CEO, SOHO PROPERTIES

Sharif El-Gamal is the Chairman and CEO of Soho Properties, a Manhattan-based real estate company which he founded in 2003. With his extensive experience in all aspects of the development process from financing, acquisition, structuring complex joint ventures, and a 15-year career of investing in New York City real estate, he has successfully led the repositioning of over 20 Manhattan buildings containing in excess of 2 million square feet. Since founding Soho Properties, Sharif has executed over \$1 billion in real estate transactions in Manhattan. A charismatic and sought-after public speaker, Sharif has appeared in national and international media and has been quoted in *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, and *Associated Press*. Sharif is a Founding Board Member and a Trustee of Park 51, a Board Member of Stella Adler Studio of Acting, and is involved in numerous non-profit organizations and charitable foundations.

# 2017 HOST COMMITTEE

## MEMBERS

Eric & Beth Berman

Lesly Black

Kim & Richard Chirls

Gordon Clark and Hugh Graham

Gary DiBianco & Sczerina Perot

Abigail E. Disney

Tim & Anna May Feige

Jeremy & Jenna Goldberg

Kathryn Grody & Mandy Patinkin

Naomi Kay

Tom & Elizabeth Manley

Cathrine Steck

Randy Wright

# GLOBAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**ADAM BERREY**

Board Chair  
CEO, Curoverse

**LAURIE MICHAELS**

Board Vice Chair  
Founder, Open Road Alliance

**ERIC A. BERMAN**

EVP | Public Affairs,  
Universal Music Group

**LESLY BLACK**

Philanthropist

**GARY DIBIANCO**

Partner,  
Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom

**ABIGAIL E. DISNEY**

Filmmaker, Philanthropist, Activist

**JOHN L. ESPOSITO**

University Professor & Founding  
Director, Prince Alwaleed Bin  
Talal Center for Muslim-Christian  
Understanding, Georgetown University

**TIMOTHY FEIGE**

Former Senior Vice President and  
International Insurance Group Executive,  
Prudential International Insurance

**JEREMY S. GOLDBERG**

President, LeagueApps

**JO-ANNE HART**

Professor, Lesley University  
Research Faculty, Brown University

**NAOMI KAY**

CEO, Ellsworth Property Investment Co.

**DOUGLAS W. KENYON**

Partner, Hunton & Williams

**ELIZABETH RIKER**

Senior Partner, New Profit Innovation  
Fund

**SUHAIL R. RIZVI**

Founder & Chairman, Rizvi | Traverse  
Management

**INGRID STANGE**

Founder and Chair,  
Partnership for Change and the Pfc  
Social Innovation Fund

**CATHRINE STECK**

Partner, Arrington Natural Resources

**RANDY WRIGHT**

Partner, Berry Moorman P.C.

**SHAMIL IDRIS**

President & CEO, Search for Common  
Ground

SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND  
- BRUSSELS

# BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

**PATRICK DE WOLF**

Partner, De Wolf & Partners

**DR. ALEXANDROS SPACHIS**

Ambassador of the European Union (ret.)

**SANDRA DJUVARA MELONE**

Founder & former Executive Director,  
Search for Common Ground-Brussels

**SHAMIL IDRIS**

President & CEO, Search for Common  
Ground

35TH ANNIVERSARY AUCTION

# QUOTES FROM THOUGHT LEADERS ON PEACE

Bidding will be open from 6:00 PM - 8:45 PM

QUOTES FOR AUCTION:

*Leymah Gbowee, Liberian peace activist who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 2011*

*Deepak Chopra, Author, public speaker, alternative medicine advocate*

*David Villa, Striker for New York City FC and the Spain national football team.*

*Richard Morias, Author of 100 foot Journey*

*Chuck Hagel, American politician, 24th United States Secretary of Defense*

*Ryan McKinny, American bass-baritone opera singer*

*Euny Hong, Korean-American journalist, and author*

*David Puttnam, Best-selling author, British film producer, and educator*

*Lieutenant-General Roméo Antonius Dallaire, Humanitarian, author and retired senator and general*

*Mark Ruffalo, American actor, filmmaker, and social activist*

*Chris Hemsworth, Australian actor*

*Yo-Yo Ma, American cellist*

*Kathleen Turner, American film and stage actress, and director.*

*William Rankin, Founder of the Global Aids Interfaith Alliance*

*Justin Fairfax, Lt. Governor of Virginia*

*Daniel Lubetzky, Founder, and CEO of KIND Snacks*

FOR DISPLAY ONLY:

*Skoll Elders, 'I'm Walking for Peace' picture. Signatories are Ban Ki-Moon, Kofi Annan, Mary Robinson, Lakhdar Brahimi, Graça Machel, Ricardo Lagos.*

# SPONSORS



# UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP

CONGRATULATES THE  
**RIPPLES OF CHANGE HONOREES**  
AND IS PROUD TO SUPPORT

# SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND



UNIVERSAL MUSIC GROUP



## ELLSWORTH

PROPERTY INVESTMENT

We offer our warmest congratulations to the 2017 Common Ground Awards Recipients, and express our deepest gratitude for their examples of searching for common ground in their own lives. We thank the brave staff of Search for Common Ground for keeping the potential for peace alive.

— Ellsworth Property Investment Co.  
Naomi Kay, Tom and Jamie Davis

Members of the Board of Search for Common Ground  
give heartfelt thanks to our colleagues



Gary DiBianco, Search Board Member since 1996

Jo-Anne Hart, Search Board Member since 1991

Cathy Steck, Search Board Member since 2004

for their many years of service as Board members and for their  
generosity to our cause and our organization.

Their selfless, steady confidence in the power of peacebuilding  
has enabled Search to overcome many challenges.

We will miss their companionship, experience and wisdom.

**Search for Common Ground**

*A life that involved work that helps 'me and my family for now and next week' whilst simultaneously caring for 'all being for all time' is both worthwhile and enjoyable*

**SILENT AUCTION PRIZE:**

**Tea for up to 5 people at the House of Lords**

I am pleased to extend this invitation to join me for tea at the House of Lords and a short tour of our magnificent Palace of Westminster.

Very best wishes,  
Lord Stone of Blackheath

LEARN MORE AT OUR SILENT AUCTION  
**Bidding for this unique experience is  
open from 6:00 PM to 8:45 PM**



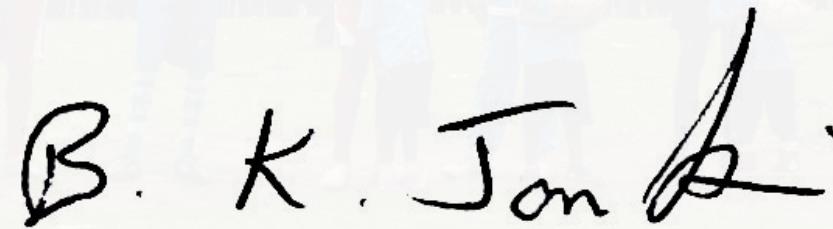
**Congratulations to the  
2017 Common Ground Awardees!**  
May the ripples of change you set forth this day  
continue to carry the capacity to change the  
world and prove the peace is possible.

Lesly Black

## Search for Common Ground

As a human family, we share the same internal longing - for peace in our communities.

By awakening the awareness of our own inner spiritual identity - as a being of peace - we can see into the heart of another and know that we all belong to the One, the Supreme parent of the whole of humanity. We take strength to live with compassion, mercy and forgiveness. This is the atmosphere that is needed in today's world. I congratulate 'Search for Common Ground' on all it has achieved and will achieve in the future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "B. K. Jon" followed by a stylized flourish.

Brahma Kumaris.

Soho Properties  
proudly supports  
the important mission of  
Search for Common Ground

45

PARK PLACE  
TRIBECA



With so much friction and fighting in the world today, it is both inspiring and healing to raise a toast to all those who listen with respect, look with curiosity, touch with kindness, forgive with liberality and laugh with humility.

Such heroes are with us tonight —  
these admirable Awardees and Search's remarkable staff  
from all around the world!

To all peacebuilders everywhere:  
**You are not alone! Never give up hope!**

— Abigail Disney





**PEACE**

**IS LOUD**

All of us from Peace is Loud honor and thank this year's Common Ground Awardees for their brave contributions to the peace we all seek. And, we thank Search for Common Ground for its role in creating the conditions for the Awardees, and millions of others throughout the world, to understand their adversaries and find their common ground.

Global Strategy Group congratulates all honorees and is proud to support the work of Search for Common Ground



In the course of human evolution, I trust there will come a time that humans learn to consciously choose cooperation, compassion, caring, and love instead of violence, aggression and dominance, in resolving their conflicts. I suspect this process will take many centuries to take hold, since in our evolution the qualities that we will be eventually shedding have been crucial for our survival. These transitions will not work based on plans to be executed, but rather as emergence from a collection of small steps by many many generations.

When we look back at those who lived thousands of years ago, we consider them primitive in their knowledge, practices, activities and technology. In a similar way many of our ways of resolving conflict will be very primitive looked at from thousands of years in the future – if we last that long.

Given this long time horizon, all the ways in which we can keep the flame of possibility and hope alive in this area, will reverberate through time. At times our actions and steps may feel like casting a stone in the ocean. During these many centuries, it is essential not to lose heart or give up, each step we take will count. Search for Common Ground, as an institution, provides a beacon of hope and “proof of concept” during these times of transition. Search is on the leading edge of offering practical solutions, and working to create options other than the familiar in resolving conflict at various levels of society.

Our family stands with Search in their endeavor. We cheer on the Search staff, leaders and supporters plus many others on a similar journey. We honor you and send you our love from California.

*Monib with Casey, Courtney and Teddy*



With appreciation to all the Searchers  
With congratulations to the Awardees  
With hopes for a more peaceful world

**Eric and Beth Berman**



With love and thanks to my Board colleagues,  
past and present, for your time, effort and passion.  
Search for Common Ground would not be where  
or what it is today without you.

Here's to 35 more years!

**Cathy Steck**



Kathryn Grody-Patinkin, and her family,  
would like to thank Shamil and Search for continuing  
to teach them how to talk to unlike minds with respect and optimism,  
and to say, when we are in despair about the state of the world,  
that turning to the work Search is doing always renews our faith in the  
possibility of peaceful resolutions of a thousand kinds.

With gratitude and congratulations,

**Kathryn, Mandy, Isaac and Gideon**



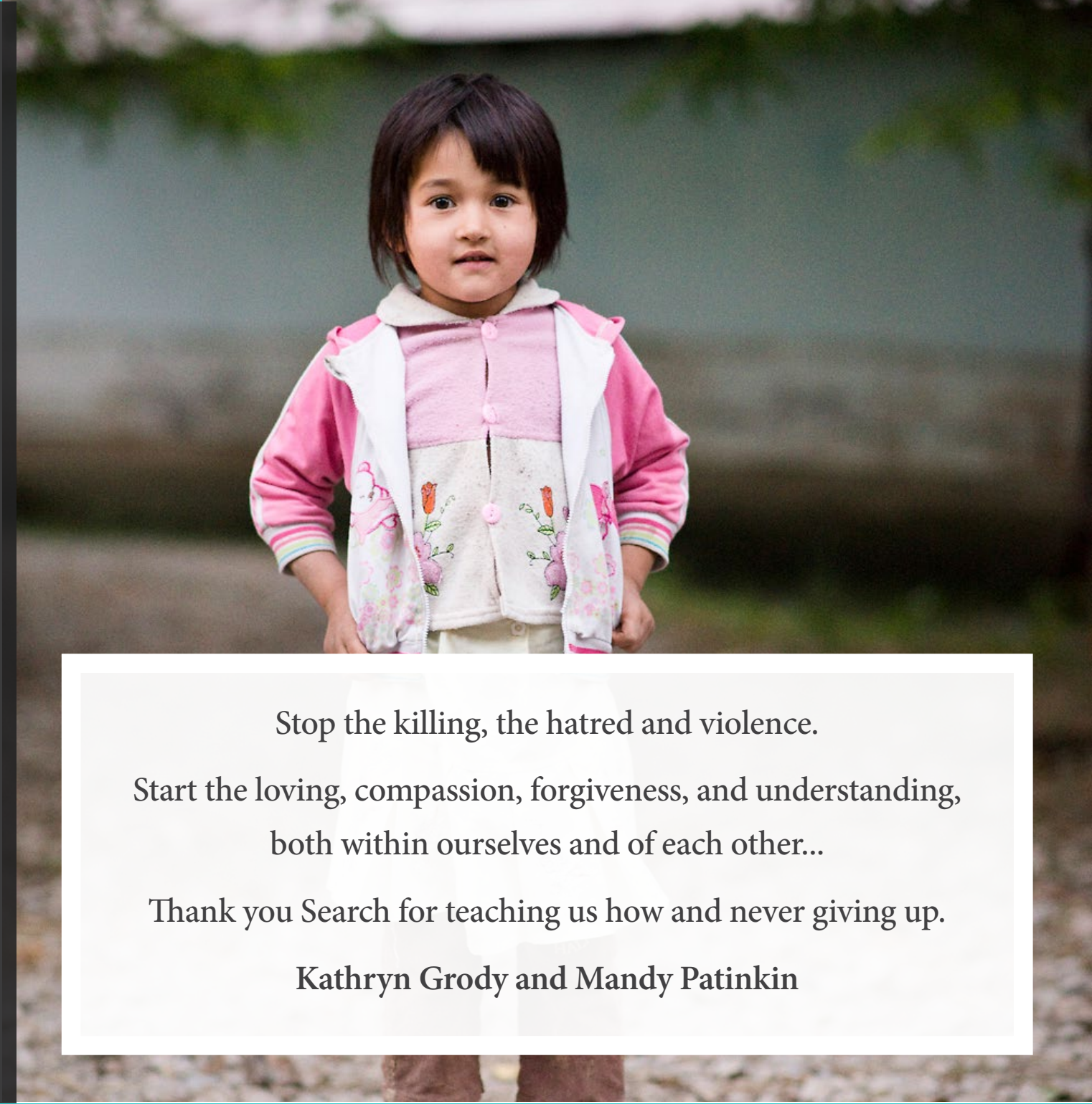
# HAPPY BIRTHDAY SEARCH!

~ 35 YEARS OF

Understanding  
Differences

Building on  
Commonalities

- From Tom and Elizabeth Manley



Stop the killing, the hatred and violence.

Start the loving, compassion, forgiveness, and understanding,  
both within ourselves and of each other...

Thank you Search for teaching us how and never giving up.

Kathryn Grody and Mandy Patinkin

Thank you for  
your partnership!

WWW.SFCG.ORG

#CGA17 #RipplesOfChange