

# 2022 Kindness Awards

## "LOCAL KINDNESS HERO" AWARD

### **Toni Iseman**

A Legend of Kindness, Toni has served on Laguna Beach City Council for 24 years, she has made history as the longest running council member; always so respectful always listening intensely to every person and their issues. Toni cares about city issues, the Environmental issues and all people in Laguna Beach. She's there for any one anywhere who asks for her help. That is her known legend. She wants a good quality of life for everyone. Toni has been called a hero many times and a few years back was officially given that title of Laguna HERO. She treats everyone with respect, care and love. It has been said many times that no one cares or loves Laguna and it's people more than Toni Iseman.

## "COURAGE TO BE KIND" AWARDS

### **Randy Morgan**

Randy was noticed as a five-year old by a teacher because he loved to draw and create. He wanted to teach everyone as soon as he discovered something new. He loved people of all ages and won a contest for creating, even then. To this day, Randy mentors anyone who will allow him. He believes everyone is a born creator and we all have a God-given talent to create and love whatever we want to do in life. He will help you to search, live and love whatever you want to do. Randy has many art pieces around town including the Hobie wall and a wall at the Art Hotel. One of his greatest loves over the years, that was created during his own toughest years, was the famous Skipper Carrillo statue because he had to have everyone feel and see Skipper's real love for mankind. And, he accomplished just that! You can see and feel Skipper's emotions in this great piece! Skipper's hands are out and he's shouting "Have a Home Run Day!" Randy brings smiles to many! His kindness is portrayed in his daily actions and through his work! You may hear him say, "God is the creator and because he made us in his image that makes us all creators – Be kind to everyone, support each other and help create the kind of life we all want."

### **Ann Marie McKay**

Ann Marie is one of the kindest City leaders ever known to Laguna Beach. She is the epitome of ethics, accountability, fairness and compassion. Ann Marie has been volunteering at the Laguna Beach Animal Shelter and is the President of it's nonprofit PUP Laguna Beach, protecting and caring for unwanted animals. She lives with clarity and peace of mind that evolve from always doing the right thing. As the ambassador to all citizens in town, Ann Marie exhibits kindness in all that she does making her loved by all!

### **Mehdi Zahedi**

Kindness is contagious says Mehdi, so many folks are having a bad time and take it out on anyone they encounter. The last few years have been especially so. Mehdi has that amazing ability to stop and smile and looks into your eyes and has something comforting to say. He is always giving out something free, boxes, tubes, paper and pens free candy and cookies and dog treats to name a few. He sponsors many low income families through out the year with their special needs clothes, shoes and household items etc. At Christmas times he has several families he and Santa deliver gifts too. He is such a kind, caring and generous man. So many times he works late into the nite helping so many with their at once needs. He does it with a grin. Mehdi is indeed a town hero.

### **Tyler George**

On February 10 when fires were burning in Laguna Beach and evacuation order was in place, Tyler posted on Facebook: "if any affected families need a place to stay tonight, we have a guest bedroom downstairs and can host as many as needed... PM message if we can help or provide dinner. Anything...". We are so grateful for your kind heart to open up your home to strangers. Your words demonstrates a true kindness in action.

### **Jeff Calvert**

Chief Calvert always goes the extra mile to ensure that his leadership includes kindness. He along with Tony Hawk created the Laguna Beach anti-bullying campaign in 2018. He ensures that our students feel safe with dependable Student Resource Officers who are there always, immediately and thoughtfully when our students call for help. He supports the Pink Patch Project in Laguna Beach. He is very involved with the special needs projects. We thank him for his outstanding thoughtfulness, accessibility, and intelligence in protecting our families and community at large, as well as for putting kindness first.

### **Heidi Miller**

Truly one of the kindest members of our community, Heidi is a business owner whose giving hands and kind heart is always there to help. In July, she gifted a community member who lost their home and belongings in fire on Park Ave. the start of a new wardrobe and was grateful to have found a new friend. She said: "It's not about the clothes, sharing is caring". She is also a Kidney donor and has been making beautiful handmade art with repurposed jewelry to support the cause "Donate Life" for years.







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## "COURAGE TO BE KIND" AWARDS

### **Corinne Capiaux**

Corinne is one of our best volunteers for the past 6 years. This year for the 2nd year in a row she beautifully decorated her convertible bug with ribbons and hearts and joined us holding our very heavy banner at the 2022 Patriot's Day Parade. She has been recruiting youth volunteers, contributing her resources, donating and supporting our nonprofit for 6 continuous years and we are so grateful for her generosity and her kind giving heart.

### **Rodney Carmer**

When Rod heard about our upcoming event he completely and wholeheartedly jumped in to see how he could help. He got us a truck offered to load and unload our giant boxes of vigils, banners, kindness wall and more back and forth from storage. He took care of so many details and on his own ordered 300 Choose To Be Kind bumper stickers and another 300 Choose To Be Kind window decals to help with our fundraising efforts and to spread the message of kindness in our community and beyond. We are so very grateful for his generosity, giving heart and helping hands to support our mission and help us make a bigger impact.

### **Lavinia Homoreanu**

Lavinia of Buni's Bakery works hard everyday and wears many hats! She's busy working a full-time career, raising a family and creating a successful business where she makes adorable custom cookies! Her cookies are often customized with messages of kindness, joy and many times for charitable events! Thank you for your generous donation of your incredible cookies. When it comes to kindness, we think of Lavinia!

### **Lesli Del Rio**

Lesli of Spa Del Rio has kindness running through her soul! She's always wanting to give and volunteer, whether it be for our Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce or give for a meaningful event like we are having today. Thank you Lesli and Spa Del Rio for supporting our efforts in fundraising.

### **Robert Gaber**

Rob is willing to lend a helping hand! No matter what the task is, he will step up to the plate! He's very giving of his time and efforts to volunteer for various causes. Service is in his blood and caring is in his heart. Robert has volunteered for our last 2 events. For the "Day of Kindness" event he worked tirelessly for a whole day outside in the hot sun with a smile on his face. We were so happy to see him join us again. At the 2022 Laguna Beach Patriots Day Parade he so carefully drove our love-bug with talented Sydney Noelle and her sound equipment in the car in the middle of a crowded group of volunteers. We are so grateful for your kind giving heart and helping hands!

### **Tarek Jadeba**

Tarek always offers to help with charitable events. He offers his fabulous photography & videography skills whenever needed. His kind heart and talents combined make him a prime candidate for a Kindness award! This is the 2nd year Tarek is offering his amazing talent to capture all the great moments of our Day of Kindness. We are forever grateful for @eyesintheskyusa.

### **Yeggi Watts**

Artist, musician, mom, humanitarian and Child Advocate, founder of HeARTsy with a mission to provide therapeutic art activities, music and kids yoga for the homeless, at-risk youth and special needs children; healing hearts through the arts. HeARTsy is sponsoring a table of activities for children at our event for the 2nd year and Yeggi is performing on stage for the 3rd year at our event. She's always reaching out to see how she can help and her kindness touches everyone she meets.

### **Kristin Nicholson**

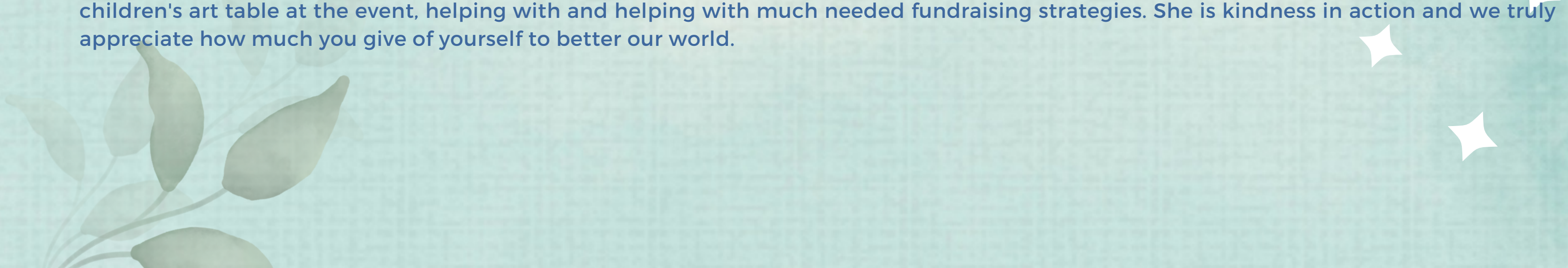
Kristin has given countless hours sharing her skills to help local businesses succeed. She's always the first one to offer to volunteer to help out in the community. @Kristinbytheocean volunteers for We Love Laguna Beach, Just Gather, Catmosphere and other nonprofits. Kristin is a true servant leader who is kind no matter what!

### **Terrell Washington Anansi**

Terrell's kindness has been woven into the fabric of Laguna Beach for decades. As a poet, author, artist, and family leader, Terrell shares his gifts to uplift others. He is one of the most attentive listeners in town which makes him a revered mentor to many. Terrell is a spiritual leader as well whose life mission includes kindness, compassion and empathy. He also a supporter the City of Laguna Beach HIV committee.

### **Michelle Highberg**

Founder of a local nonprofit "Just Gather", Michelle is not only passionate about leading our youth towards a more connected and kind future but also has been providing tremendous support for our event, gathering kindness stories, providing materials and support for children's art table at the event, helping with and helping with much needed fundraising strategies. She is kindness in action and we truly appreciate how much you give of yourself to better our world.







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## "COURAGE TO BE KIND" AWARDS

### Jennifer Halbert

Jennifer is an incredibly giving soul who pours her heart, wisdom and all her resources to make our events successful. Her caring smile is the first thing you'll notice about her because connecting and helping people is in her nature! She's the best in her career in real estate plus the founder of a nonprofit called "We Love Laguna Beach", providing much needed support to local nonprofits and businesses in town including Ability Awareness Project and our Laguna Beach Kindness Movement. For the 2nd year in a row, she has been providing great help for our Kindness Day event from sponsoring sound system with KX FM, providing merchandise to give to donors and inviting members of the community to give and participate. She is a community builder and full heartedly helps anyone who reaches out. She's an advocate for our local youth, animals and an ambassador of kindness who is always ready to help no matter how difficult and time consuming the task is. We truly appreciate your kind heart and generous gifts to our nonprofit and appreciate your ongoing support.

### Api Weinert

Battalion Chief Api makes it his business to attend every city event possible, even on days off, he participate in programs honoring the veterans of America, mentors firefighters and spends many hours with retired firefighters. Api takes them to events, and dinners, and is one of the first to visit them in hospitals, retirement and nursing homes. Recently his wife witnessed her first responder husband save a mother's life on an airplane while her daughter was watching!

### Ed Steinfeld

Ed is in many ways the pulse of Laguna Beach. His radio show inspires, informs, and, connects the community. Ed uplifts Laguna Beach further as a comedian who helps instill confidence in those getting started. A great dad, a supportive partner, and, one of the most positive people we know, Ed always puts kindness first. He's been instrumental in growing the voice of kindness in our town and this year will be moderating The Conversation In Kindness at our event.

### Gail Duncan

When it comes to kindness, we all think of Gail who dedicates herself tirelessly towards the wellbeing of her fellow men. Gail is faithful, fearless, honest and transparent. She's a mom, grandmother and a Chamber Ambassador, a super volunteer with the Rotary Club of Laguna Beach, Laguna Love, House and Human Services, as well as her volunteerism and involvement with the City, the Assistance League, 211 and many others organizations. Gail performs her every task with kindness and we are lucky to have her as a board member of Ability Awareness Project.

### George Heed

George quite simply gets things done for a higher good. A brilliant businessman, philanthropist, and sage to many, George dedicates much of his time to serving the Laguna Beach HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee. He is also mentoring a student from Ukraine and we thank you for your kindness and service.

### Embry & Steve Munsey

Embry and Steve of Jedidiah Coffee in Laguna Beach are one of the warmest and most loving business leaders in Laguna Beach. They volunteer and donate coffee to Labor Day Pancake Celebration for Firefighters and other local nonprofits. We appreciate your generosity in keeping our volunteers caffeinated with kindness!!

### Sande St. John

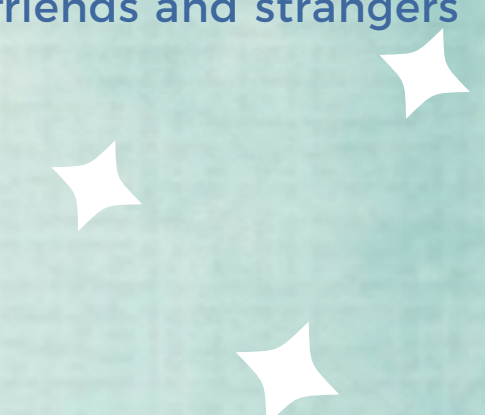
Sande has been a walking example of kindness in our community for years. She's been a key volunteer at every Laguna Beach Firefighters Pancake breakfast, 911 annual ceremony, Patriot's Day Parade, Memorial Day Ceremony, No Square Theater, Ability Awareness Project, The Laguna Beach Police Department, Hospitality Night and so much more. She was voted the Laguna Beach Citizen of the Year 2020 but to the community, she's the Kindest Laguna Beach Citizen every single day!

### Anzonette Perlin Lee

Anzonette is a force of bright light and confidence! This young lady's creativity and talents continue to surface. She is one of Laguna Beach's most confident young public speakers and artistic leaders who always puts others first and makes friends feel special. She goes out of her way to use her gifts to make her family feel happy and relaxed.

### Dee Perry

Dee Perry is one of the kindest citizens of Laguna Beach who always puts kids first. Her outstanding ethics combined with her love for humanity help her to be one of the most dynamic and caring School Board members in town. It is hard to find Dee without a smile on her face which sparkles through her eyes when she speaks. Dee is the first to make a stranger feel welcome and treats friends and strangers alike with warmth and hospitality.







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## "COURAGE TO BE KIND" AWARDS

### **Dia Prieto**

Dia is a student servant leader who is always kind, thoughtful, attentive, and makes peers feel seen and heard. When greeting he always says hello using their name and making eye contact. He genuinely engages and cares for others. He shows gratitude and always is the first to offer to help

### **Alex Rounaghi**

Alex Rounaghi is one of our youngest and brightest City helpers in Laguna Beach. Alex promotes inclusion, diversity, common sense and intelligence. He is quick to thank people with a heartwarming humility that wins hearts. Kindness comes easily to Alex whose thoughtfulness and dedication shine through all of his work.

### **Macie Shearer**

Macie's sweet nature, and empathetic disposition are her hallmarks traits that shine bright and touch everyone around her. Macie stands up for others, even in difficult situations when she is bravely standing alone and works hard to be kind and make sure no students are left out. She is a standout in the PALS program which focuses on helping others.

### **Shaena Stabler**

Shaena is one of the kindest and smartest leaders in Laguna Beach. As a friend to many, she sparkles with love, humility, empathy, and compassion. As a business leader, she ensures Stu News is ethical and honest, and in doing so, much of the community remains informed and diligently involved. Shaena also shares her gift of music as a brilliant musician, singer, song writer, and drummer.

### **Sharon Ashauer**

Sharon is a real Laguna local. She went to school here and is very proud to be LBHS Alumni. She keeps up her relationships. Sharon knows everyone and has made it her mission to help everyone and connect you to whatever your needs are. Her favorite is to help the seniors. She says they have so many needs and she sometimes just helps them with phone calls or telephone numbers or connecting to their other needs., she loves to be able to connect them with the help they need. Sharon says it helps her more than them. So many times she can oblige by taking them somewhere or bringing them something. She delivers pieces of Pineapple upside down cake and banana bread she says it's their favorite. She brings cards and she writes lovely notes in them. Friends give her things including clothes and regift items she hands out to a lot of low income seniors. Her mom lives in a place with 72 units so she is there almost every day everyone has her number and go over to moms to see her. This helps them all socialize. She says it's easy to spread the love. She doesn't think she does anything anyone wouldn't do. That's why we are here on this earth. She is a kind lady and we are so grateful she lives here in our city.

### **Geshe Tsewang Thinley**

Being the embodiment of kindness, compassion, intelligence, and good humor. Geshe Lharampa Tsewang Thinley, teaches classes, provides monthly Dharma talks, and performs Buddhist practices at the Rime Buddhist Center, and throughout the midwest, since his US arrival in 2017 from the Drepung Gomang Monastery in India. For the 2nd year in a row Geshe Thinley will be blessing us with a chant on Kindness, Compassion and Forgiveness at our Sunset Meditation on Nov. 12, 2022 Day of Kindness Celebration..

### **Lila Mahoney**

Lila is one fearless young lady. She is a leader at school and with her friends. She is kind to others and is quick to share her thoughts with confidence. As well, Lila is an attentive listener and loving friend. We commend her for her courage to be kind.

### **Bob Lively**

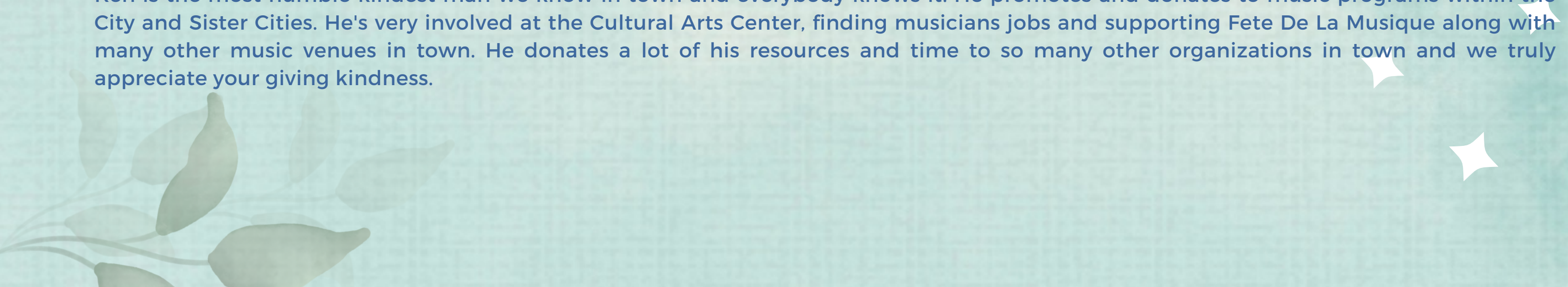
Bob is a super volunteer for American Legion, VFW, Fete De La Musique, Memorial Day and Labor Day Pancakes, 911 Ceremony, No Square Theater, Kindness Day Celebrations and much more. He cares about everyone and helps everyone in need of his assistance.

### **Mark Orgill**

Mark has spent many years mentoring and helping many in the community. He has built live-work studios for artists in town at 7degrees. He's serving on the board of Visit Laguna and Laguna Beach Community Clinic. A few years ago he's was given an award by the Exchange Club of Laguna Beach for his extraordinary contributions to the community. He's humble and a "Kind" of guy who actually built a home for someone in need but would never tell a soul! We are truly touched by your continued support for the community and all our artists in town.

### **Ken Aubuchon**

Ken is the most humble kindest man we know in town and everybody knows it! He promotes and donates to music programs within the City and Sister Cities. He's very involved at the Cultural Arts Center, finding musicians jobs and supporting Fete De La Musique along with many other music venues in town. He donates a lot of his resources and time to so many other organizations in town and we truly appreciate your giving kindness.







# 2022 Kindness Awards



## "COOL TO BE KIND" AWARDS

The following individuals/groups are recognized for their kind contribution to help us celebrate World Kindness Day 2022

**Michelle Scott and Djembeh Fusion**-- Fusing New Generation and Traditional West African Rhythms and Percussion

**Shasta Bell**-- Musician, Singer/Songwriter, performer

**Lele Rose**-- Musician, Singer/Songwriter, performer

**Pam Wicks and The Enchanters**-- Call and Response Devotional Kirtan Chanting

**Laguna Beach Whole Foods**-- Providing Kind Bars

**Dan Safkow**-- Volunteer extraordinaire!

**Carrie Click**-- Philanthropist and mentor, joining our panel in a "Conversation In Kindness"

**Beth Garlock**-- Co-chair of Laguna Beach Interfaith Council, joining our panel in a "Conversation In Kindness"

