

# The Stir Center

## Discussion Groups

Discuss subjects of mutual interest. All ideas welcome. Groups figure out ways for competing ideas to work well together.

## Facilitation

Discussion groups facilitated for lively participation and understanding between attendees.

## Rules

Minimal rules. Minimal formality. Participants manage their own conduct and involvement. Reasonable standards of conduct expected for the health and safety of the group.

## Timing

Everyone is quick to see what they already know. Stir Center requires patience to let others catch up.

## Inclusion

No discrimination on the basis of race, sex, religion, or politics. Everyone welcome.

## Funding

Stir Center NFP is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization registered in the state of Washington. Donations are tax deductible.



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# The Problem

Imagine a very long and delicate gold chain. The chain is hopelessly snarled. Your task is to disentangle the chain.

How do you set about this task? Do you hurry?

Probably not. You need to be patient. Tugging on the chain only draws the knots tighter. Tightening the knots disfigures the links. Pull too hard and the chain breaks.

Do you set the chain aside to work on something else?

Probably not. The chain won't become disentangled on its own. Delays accomplish nothing but more time with a problem.

What to do? What to do?

The task is relatively simple. Locate a knot and loosen it. If possible, draw a length of chain free from an encircling loop. If not, find another knot to loosen. Keep going until, eventually, the entire chain slides free.

Society is like a lot of people untangling a long gold chain together. When one person starts to work a tiny piece free, someone else jerks it tight. Trying to work a different piece free.

Time passes. Knots gather and tighten. Links bend and break.

# The Solution

## Self-Education

Discuss government, industry, education, technology, social justice, and other subjects of interest. Listen and learn. Talk and be heard.

## Cross Divides

Take advantage of different ways of thinking, knowledge, experience, interests, and expectations. Benefit from differences instead of fighting them.

## Progress

Find ways to improve society in cooperation with—and without opposition from—others.

## Safety

Feel safe discussing anything with anyone.

## Social

Meet and develop meaningful friendships over time.