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Pushing Back on Privilege in Volunteerism

GET INVOLVED - CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY

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SUE CARTER KAHL, PHD (PRONOUNCED KALE)



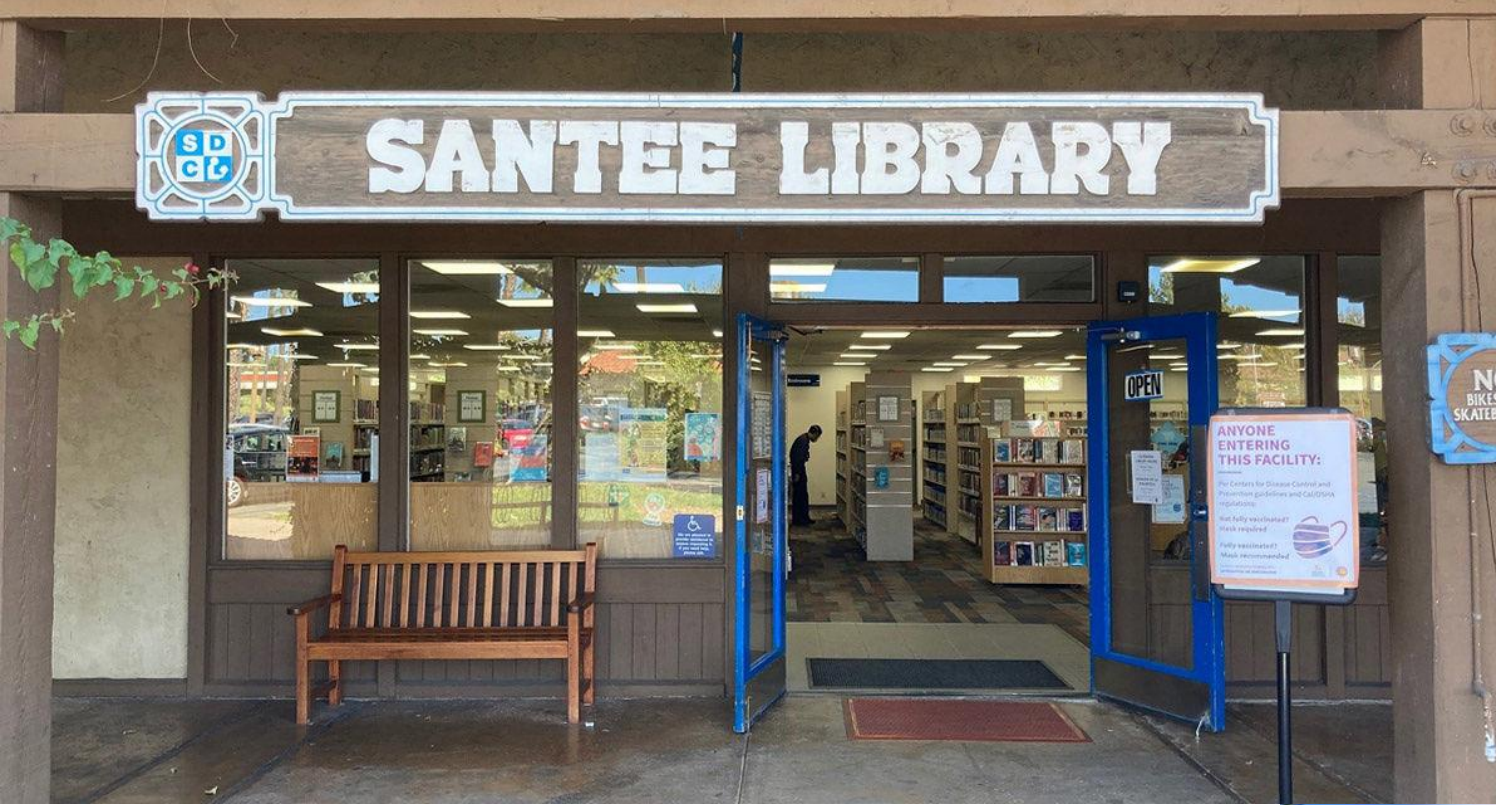


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Philosophy

Photo 2 by rfstudio from Pexels

Inherently
good?



Photo courtesy of Volunteer San Diego

Privilege

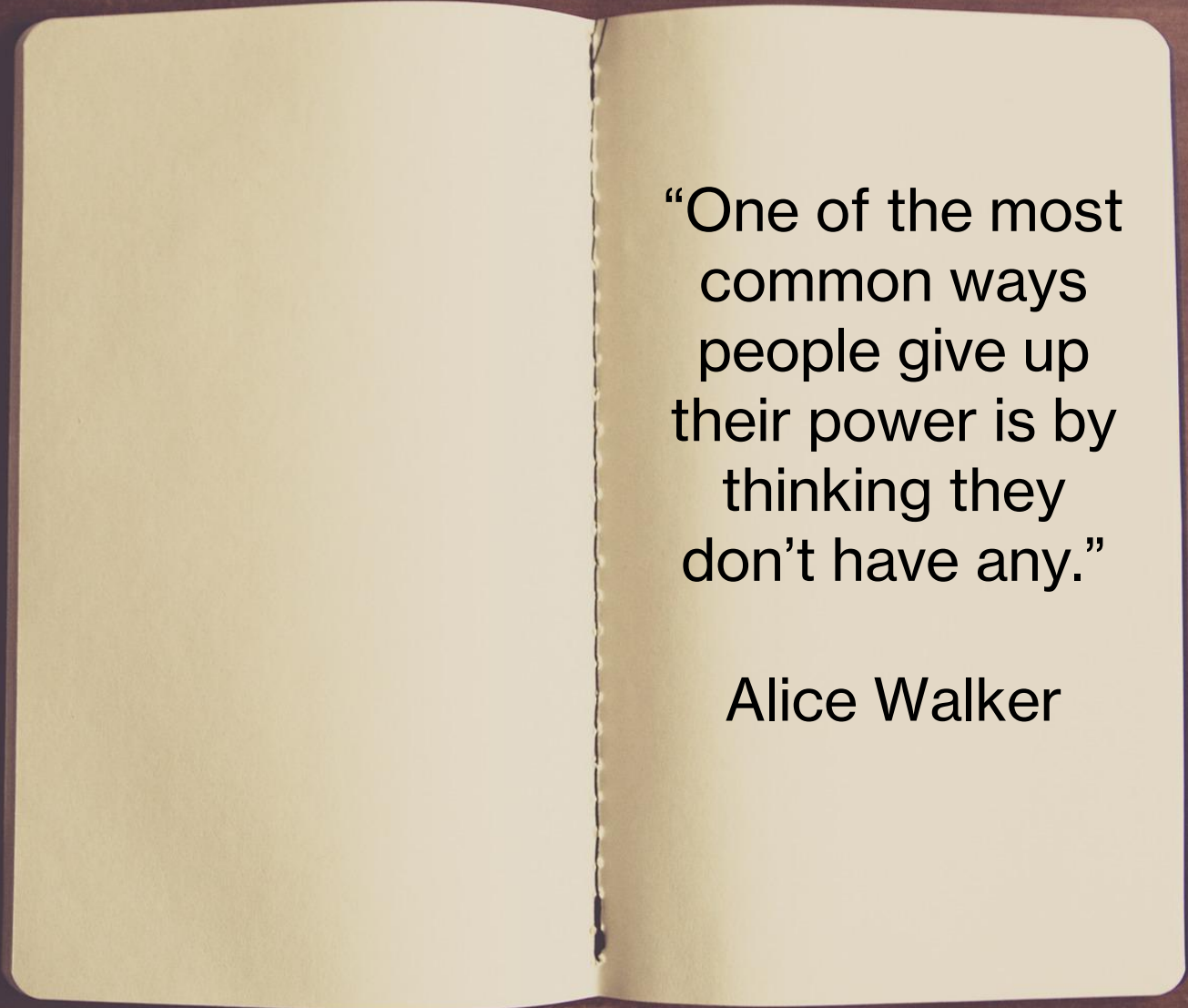
Unearned advantage
based on social group
membership

Social group examples:
class, race, gender, ability,
religion, age, sexual
orientation, education,
housing status, etc.

Power

Influence;

The ability to make
decisions and choices

An open notebook with two blank, cream-colored pages is shown against a dark, textured wooden background. The right page contains a quote in black text. The notebook is bound in the center, and the pages have rounded corners.

“One of the most
common ways
people give up
their power is by
thinking they
don’t have any.”

Alice Walker



Photo by Kerstin Riemer from Pixabay

Privilege Pitfalls

Transactions vs. relationships



Feel-good fix vs. real-world complexity



Photo by Startup Stock Photos from Pexels

Volunteer- centric vs. interdependent



Photo from Shutterstock

Them
vs.
us



Photo by Sandra Gabriel from Pixabay

What else?



CHOOSE YOUR OWN ADVENTURE®

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Guiding Principles

Practice
Right
Relationship



Extend Radical Welcome



Photo by Jon Tyson from Unsplash

Do *With*
Rather than
To



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Use Mission & Values for Permission



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Let Go of
What
Doesn't
Serve the
Community



Photo from Shutterstock

Next Steps

Encouragement

- Start in the three feet around you
- Reinterpret discomfort*
- Progress not perfection
- Find others who care
- _____

A perspective view of a wooden suspension bridge with chain-link railings, stretching over a dense forest. The bridge is made of wooden planks and has metal railings on both sides. The forest is lush with green trees and foliage.

*What is one action you will take
based on what you learned or remembered today?*

Thank you - let's stay in touch!

suecarterkahl@gmail.com

LinkedIn & Twitter

Blog: www.volunteercommons.com