



2020

# NEWSLETTER

JULY ISSUE

## UNITY FOR EQUALITY UPDATES

## FUN JULY HOLIDAYS TO LOOK OUT FOR

Postal Appreciation Day  
World Population Day  
National Give Something Away Day  
World Emoji Day  
World Listening Day  
World Ice Cream Day  
International Friendship Day

## INDEPENDENCE DAY

Reminiscing what Independence Day  
represents to us

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# Chairman's Message

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Neil Trivedi

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Greetings, my name is Neil Trivedi the Chairman & Founder of Unity For Equality. I'm speaking to you at what I know is an increasingly challenging time, a time of disruption in the life of our country, a disruption that has brought grief to some, financial difficulties to many, and enormous changes to the daily lives of us all. I want to thank everyone on the national health service frontline, as well as care workers and those carrying out essential roles who selflessly continue their day-to-day duties outside the home in support of us all. I'm sure the world will join me in assuring everyone that what you all do is appreciated, and every hour of your hard work brings us closer to a return to more normal times. I also want to thank those of you who are staying at home, thereby helping to protect the vulnerable, and sparing many families the pain already felt by those who have lost loved ones.

Together we are tackling this disease, and I want to reassure you that if we remain united and resolute, then we will overcome it. I hope in the years to come everyone will be able to take pride in how they responded to this challenge, and those who come after us will say the everyone of this generation were as strong as any, that the attributes of self-discipline, of quiet, good-humored resolve, and of fellow feeling still characterize this world. The pride in who we are is not a part of our past, it defines our present and our future.

The moments when the world has come together to applaud its care and essential workers will be remembered as an expression of our global spirit, and its symbol will be the rainbows drawn by children. Across the United States and around the world, we have seen heartwarming stories of people coming together to help others, be it through delivering food packages and medicines, checking on neighbors, or converting businesses to help the relief effort. And though self-isolating may at times be hard, many people of all faiths and of none are discovering that it presents an opportunity to slow down, pause and reflect in prayer or meditation.

Today, once again, many will feel a painful sense of separation from their loved ones, but now as then, we know deep down that it is the right thing to do. While we have faced challenges before, this one is different. This time we join with all nations across the globe in a common endeavor. Using the great advances of science and our instinctive compassion to heal, we will succeed, and that success will belong to every one of us. We should take comfort that while we may have more still to endure, better days will return. We will be with our friends again. We will be with our families again. We will meet again. But for now, I send my thanks and warmest good wishes to everyone around the world.

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# President's Message

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Jaden Wiesinger

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Hello everyone! My name is Jaden Wiesinger, and I am super humbled to be the new President of Unity for Equality. I am honored to be a part of this amazing organization and am looking forward to interacting with our partners, supporters and volunteers, and the community. I am super excited about this incredible opportunity that I have been given to truly impact causes that bring valuable change to communities everywhere. I hope to have mindset of growth and innovation as UFE focuses on our chapter expansion plans and increases our outreach across the globe.

As for my agenda and goals for my term as President, I am incredibly passionate about pursuing the cause of financial literacy education and microloans for farmers in lesser developed countries. Farmers in these countries are often uneducated in financial literacy concepts, which hurts them as they are unable to negotiate a fair market price. By empowering them through education and providing them with a low-interest microloan to upgrade their technology, they would have the knowledge and resources to succeed in our global economy. I hope to use Unity's network in the community and our business development & finance departments to partner with respected educators to develop a robust financial literacy curriculum that would be easy to understand and learn. This curriculum, along with expanding our seminars program with intriguing guest speakers from across disciplines, will be the avenue to provide financial literacy education for our initiative. I hope to have guest speakers from seminars available for everyone to watch and learn from different experts in a variety of fields. With COVID-19 impacting small business and low-income communities everywhere, I hope to continue our efforts in providing aid to small businesses, front line health care workers, and impacted communities. Internally within the organization, I plan to strengthen our business development department and strive to create partnerships with entities that will enhance our mission and help us make progress towards our goals. A strong focus of mine will be on social media; I hope to grow our numbers on all platforms and SEO optimize our website to increase fundraising numbers. At the end of the day, aside from the goals and initiatives we pursue, I hope to represent our organization's empathetic culture and expand the impact that we have left and continue to leave in communities around the world. Once again, I am humbled by this opportunity and will put my best effort into Unity for Equality's success and making substantial impact in communities.

# New Leadership



**Jaden Wiesinger**  
President



**Blake Kravitz**  
Vice President



**George Anderson**  
Chief Financial Officer



**Sam Grimmke**  
Secretary

# July Birthdays!



July 11



July 18

**Happy Birthday Neil and Jennifer!  
Have a great one!**

# JULY 1st POSTAL SERVICE APPRECIATION DAY

WORLANYO MENSAH



**T**echnological advances in the twenty-first century have innovated all aspects of life, especially communication. With emails, phones, and social media, humans are able to communicate with anyone around the world in an instant. However, our bills, coupons, and packages do not just appear in our homes. The backbone of society, the postal service, is increasingly overlooked yet is still one of the most significant of all industries. That is why on Wednesday, July 1, Postal Service Appreciation Day is an official holiday to honor the postal workers who deliver the mail, even in the midst of coronavirus.

Postal Service Appreciation Day was founded in Seattle in 1997 to honor employees. Since then, it has spread into a nationwide holiday. This day to commend the four hundred thousand postal workers' efforts is well deserved due to the strenuous work they endure day to day. On average, postal workers walk from four to eight miles to deliver the mail. Even during inclement weather to the pandemic, postal workers set out to deliver your items when the general safety precautions are to stay in. In addition, the postal service delivers packages of all sizes, small to large; this work is not only completed in rain or shine, but it also requires a lot of physical strength.

Under the Trump Administration, the postal service was defunded by thirteen billion dollars in March. Coronavirus has also challenged the financial stability of this federal agency. As job security is up in their air due to this big postal service blow, it is even more important that we respect and thank our local postal workers to celebrate the ones who deliver our mail. Happy Postal Service Appreciation Day, and do not forget about the ones who keep the foundation of the United States strong.

# July 4th

# Observing Independence Day

Ian Connelly

**F**ourth of July in California is something to behold. Not just the displays of fireworks, but the sense of excitement that seems to spread like wildfire as families and friends begin planning barbeques and parades in anticipation of the nation's birthday. I cannot help but reminisce on my childhood June summers, excitedly waiting for the fourth of July to roll around. There was a sense of freedom that seemed to come with lazy summer days with little responsibility, and anticipation for the celebration to come as fireworks vendors began setting up shop in parking lots with their bright and colorful signs. Then finally, in a flourish, the fourth would arrive, and all too quickly pass. The experience that is the fourth of July would become a fantastical memory for me. Powerful parades, awe-inspiring fireworks, delicious barbeque, and the jubilant company would amalgamate in my mind over the year eventually to resurface the following June.

Based on my own experiences of Independence Day, it seems that the day of celebration is much more than a celebration of the signing of the declaration of independence that occurred on July 4th, 1776. Many patriotic symbols that appear on the Fourth of July (the colors red white and blue seem to appear everywhere, along with Uncle Sam's face). But to many, including myself, the day seems to hold little patriotic value and instead is a celebration of the different communities and cultures that make up the nation, as opposed to the nation itself. After all, the prominence of the United States is due to a history of immigration and cultural diversity. Through the celebration of diversity, it seems that we are also celebrating our nation.

The fireworks displays and parades that are traditions of July Fourth for many could be seen as a spectacle, but have little symbolism of any independence. Last year, Vice News published an insightful piece on what it means to be an immigrant living in the United States during the Fourth of July. The piece includes interviews with immigrants from around the globe, each with unique identities and stories. Interestingly, each interviewee shares feelings of indifference towards the federal holiday and finds value in the fourth through celebrating "life, family, and the ones you love" as Fidel, a Liberian immigrant living in Virginia, states.

In this context, the traditions of Independence Day seem to take on a different meaning. For someone like Fidel, the fireworks and parades do not symbolize the revolutionary, patriotic desires of a young United States freed from Great Britain. Instead, they symbolize the valuable relationships unique individuals across the nation hold with one another.

This Fourth of July when I look up at the fireworks shining bright in the Northern California night sky, I expect that I will not be feeling very patriotic. However, I imagine that I will be filled with feelings of pride, hope, and gratitude for the community that I exist in, and the relationships that are important in my life. I hope that you too can share these feelings this Independence Day.



# July 11th

Abheek Singh

## Facts:

The world's population is growing at a rapid rate each year, with approximately 83 million people each year.

Even though population rates are growing higher than ever, the worldwide birth rate has fallen from 1960.

The life-expectancy rate is growing each year; in the year 2000, the life expectancy rate was only 67 years old, while it is predicted that in the year 2050, it will go up to 77 years old.

Some ways you can help is by reducing your personal consumption and become vegan.



## World Population Day

World Population Day is a popular holiday that takes place on July 11th and is created to raise awareness of global population issues. This year the popularly represented holiday is taking place on a Saturday. The holiday was first recognized in 1989 by the governing council of the United Nations Programme. Community groups, business groups celebrate the day and perform many activities. The activities include essay contests, seminar discussions, and many more. The special day has gained a lot of popularity and is now recognized in more than 90 countries.

To understand the importance of World Population Day, you have to understand the effects overpopulation has in this world.

Overpopulation is a big issue in the 21st century, with the population growing at exponential growth. Overpopulation means there is not enough water, food, and breathable air for the whole population. There are many causes of overpopulation, including immigration, lack of water, lower life expectancy, and many more.

You might be wondering how do we combat this growing issue. There are many solutions, such as promoting family planning according to positive.news, which states, "Simply educating men and women about contraception can have a big impact." The article later states the surprising results that Iran's fertility rate dropped from 5.6 births per woman to 2.6 births per decade.

Overpopulation is a big problem in today's society, and we are lucky to have many advocates and workers to help fix this crisis.

So let's celebrate World Population Day and fight this crisis together!

# July 15th

## NATIONAL GIVE SOMETHING AWAY DAY

WORLANYO MENSAH



### GIVE AWAY SOMETHING THAT WILL HELP SOMEONE IN NEED

Cleaning the house can be stressful. When there are so many items that lay around your bedroom to the living room, we tend to throw them away just to make our space so manageable. At these times, when these household items are getting thrown out are more important to us than where they are going. On Wednesday, July 15, you can finally think about where these things are going while also showing others you care. National Give Something Away day is a holiday to be generous, giving items away to people that you cherish or are in need.

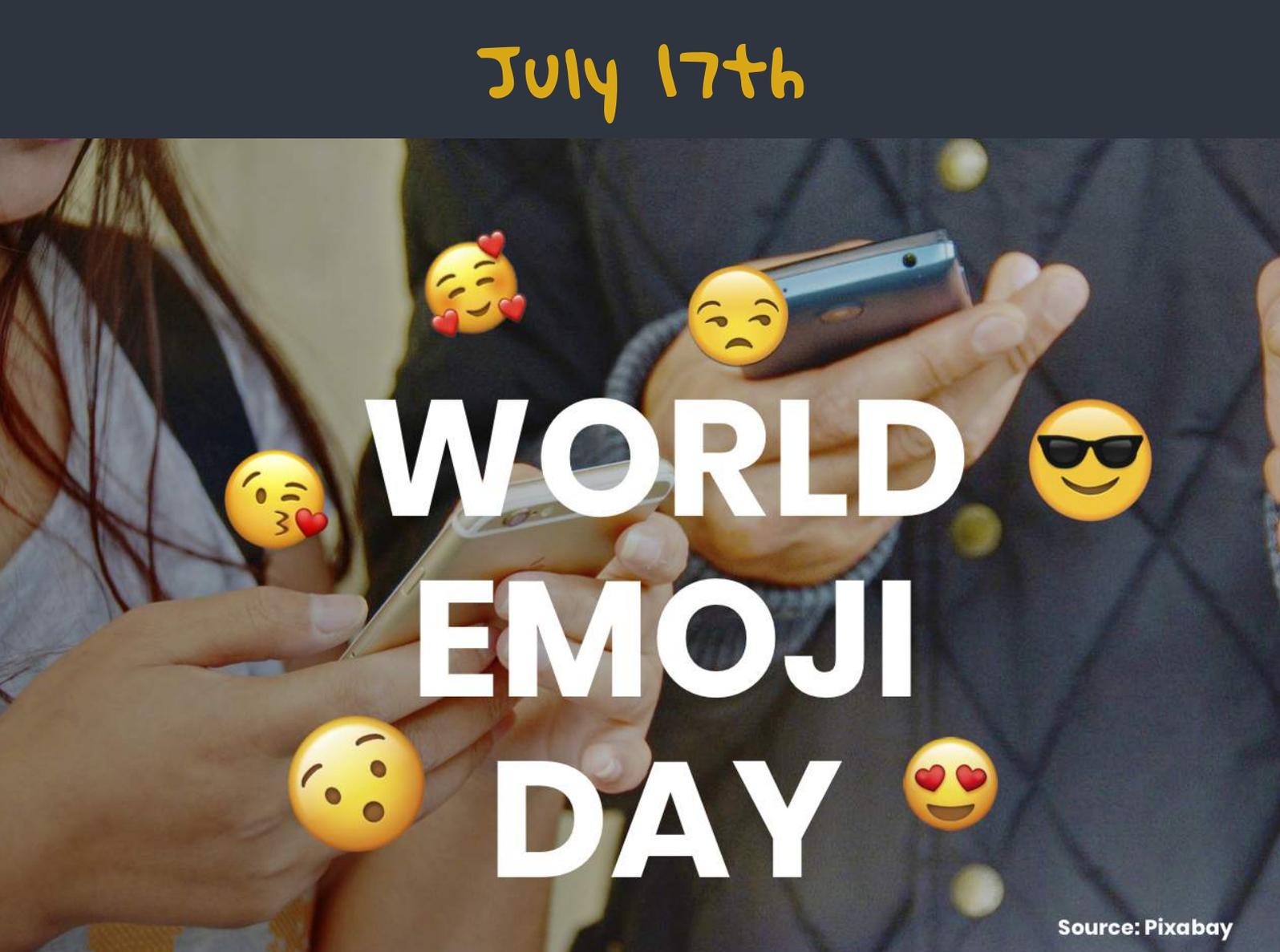
This holiday is a perfect way to dispose of extra items after spring cleaning. Giving away things not only makes you and the other person feel great, but it also gives a sense of lightness to not only your home, but your psyche as well. With less hoarded objects, you become a lot more stressed about your living situation. To continue, there are many ways to celebrate this holiday. One item you can give away is money, in the respect of buying someone food or a drink of their choice.

### DONATE SOMETHING

Donating clothing and accessories to thrift stores and charities such as The American Red Cross or even giving flowers to someone you love would make a difference. You can also donate books to local schools, magazines, to nursing homes, and unneeded kitchen supplies in good condition to a food kitchen.

This is a holiday to utilize what you already have to make a difference. The fact that we are fighting a pandemic makes this holiday even more important. Many families and institutions are losing funds to buy new resources. By donating to organizations or even to a struggling friend, you are making a difference in the world around you. Have a great National Give Something Away Day; you can change lives!

July 17th



# WORLD EMOJI DAY

Source: Pixabay

## 5 facts about emojis

Jennifer Brooks

We use them at the end of text messages, we accidentally send them to our bosses, and we still have to explain them to our grandparents, but how much do we actually know about the emoji? Is there more to them than just a smiley face and an eggplant? This World Emoji Day, we did some digging and found 5 amazing facts about emojis. Keep reading to find out where they came from, their surprising uses, and how they evolved from humble beginnings to becoming increasingly diverse and inclusive.

I've personally used emojis, since I got my first iPhone. For this reason, it's easy for me to assume that they've always existed. However, they're actually a relatively new invention. They came about in 1999, when the Japanese designer [Shigetaka Kurita](#) created them for the Japanese internet system, i-mode. Here, users could write emails to each other, but they were limited to [250 characters](#). As a result, emojis gave users a fast and efficient way of communicating their emotions without using too many words. At

first, emojis were limited to a Japanese audience, however, in 2010 they were released onto iPhones and Androids. Soon after they became a worldwide craze.

Nonetheless, emojis aren't just used in text messages. In 2009, [Fred Benenson](#) wrote the aptly named, *Emoji-Dick*, after translating *Moby-Dick* into emojis. The book had mixed reviews. Some thought Benenson had too much time on his hands. Others thought that his creation was utterly useless. However, the idea is actually very creative. It shows that whether we like it or not, emojis are now a part of our culture, and a part of how we communicate. Also, if it encourages just a couple of young people to put down their smart phones and start reading classics, then it can't be all bad.

However, aside from just being a bit of fun, many still wonder what emojis are actually good for. Some even have concerns that they make us dumber, as we don't put as much thought into using actual words. However, researchers at [Bangor University](#)

say that this couldn't be further from the truth. Instead, it is thought that emojis can make us better communicators. This is because in normal written communication expressing emotions is difficult, because you don't get the luxury of using facial expressions, or intonations. As a result, it is very easy for our intentions to be misread. However, emojis makes expressing yourself that much easier as whoever you're texting can now tell if you are happy, angry or sad, based on the emojis we use. Of course, this doesn't replace face-to-face interactions, but it is the next best thing. You may also be surprised to know that the most used emoji of all time isn't the smiley face. Or the sad face. It is actually the "tears of joy" emoji. I can see why this is. I use this emoji all the time, even when I'm not actually laughing. But why is this? According to a recent study, many of us reply to mildly humorous texts with this, even if we haven't laughed out loud. This is because exaggerated emojis act as "relationship maintenance tools." We wouldn't want to hurt our

friend's feelings if we didn't laugh at their jokes in real life, so online we magnify the truth and pretend we're howling instead.

Finally, one of the best new developments of technology in recent years is the fact that emojis are finally becoming more [diverse](#). This began in 2015, when people could match their emojis to their skin tones, and again in 2019 when 230 emojis were released to represent people with disabilities. This included emojis of wheelchairs, canes and even hearing aids. There still is a long way to go. Many are still fighting to have emojis that represent them holding hands with their partners who have different ethnicities. There is also an argument that sign language emojis aren't representative of the 300 different sign languages because the only emoji is in ASL. This being said, the fact that emojis are beginning to celebrate differences, could be the start of a more representative, inclusive society, and that can only be a good thing, can't it?

# July 18th

Jarrett Hoffman

## Now Hear This: It's World Listening Day!



World Listening Day is a day that has been celebrated every year on July 18th since 2010. It was established by a non-profit organization known as the World Listening Project. The date July 18th was chosen in tribute to the birthday of Canadian composer and music educator R. Murray Schafer. R. Murray Schafer is responsible for creating the World Soundscape Project presenting new ideas in acoustic ecology. Acoustic ecology is a discipline that studies the relationship between humans and the natural world as mediated through sound.

World Listening Day is described as a day “devoted to understanding the world and its natural environment, societies and cultures through the practice of listening and field recording.” The theme for World Listening Day 2020 is “Listening to the Ground”. According to National Today, this is asking us to consider the sounds of the ground in all its surfaces, from soil to asphalt, whether we’re losing metaphorical ground, and whether we can find new ground by listening for it.



If anyone is wondering how they can celebrate World Listening Day, here is some suggestions from National Today:

- **Go on a solo listening walk:** It can be anywhere you are on the sidewalk, the park, the beach, a trail in the woods, anywhere in nature. All that’s need is you and your listening skills.
- **Host a listening quiz:** Record any sound and have your friends and/or family guess what sound they are listening to.
- **Go to a concert:** Not interested in listening to the sounds of nature? You can listen to any sound you wish including music at a concert or at home.



July 19th

# WORLD ICE CREAM DAY

Hannah Hur

**I**t is no surprise that ice cream has become one of the most popular treats enjoyed by people worldwide. On average, each American consumes more than 23 pounds of ice cream per year.

In 1984, President Ronald Reagan declared a holiday to celebrate the beloved dessert. He described ice cream as “a nutritious and wholesome food enjoyed by over ninety percent of the people in the United States.” His proclamation also designated July as National Ice Cream month. At the time, National Ice Cream Day was only supposed to be celebrated once. The tradition, however, has continued annually since. National Ice Cream Day is celebrated on every third Sunday of July, meaning July 19 this year.

There aren't too many festivities associated with this holiday. Most people simply choose to go out and enjoy their favorite ice cream dish. So, how should you celebrate National Ice Cream Day?

Fortunately, many local stores and ice cream vendors will host sales and special deals to commemorate this special day. You can even try making your favorite ice cream from scratch at home. Try out new recipes during the month-long celebration. If you don't live in the United States, don't let that stop you from partaking in festivities. Make your own ice cream dish and share with family and friends!

# July 30th

Abheek Singh

# International Friendship Day

International Friendship Day takes place on Thursday, July 30th, this year. The special day was first proposed in Paraguay in 1958 by the owner of Joyce Hall, the founder of Hallmark Cards. It was not until 2011 when it officially was made official by the United Nations. International Friendship Day is created to remind people to appreciate their friendships and build bridges among cultures, countries, and even ideologies, according to "nationaltoday.com."

Even though International Friendship Day is not a public holiday but a UN observance, there are still many opportunities to enjoy the day. According to "timeanddate.com," it states that the UN encourages governments, organizations, and communities to hold events and activities to celebrate the observance. The UN's main goal with this day was the friendship be-

tween people, countries, and cultures can inspire peace efforts and promote new bridges and understanding.

Friendship is an important part of our lives and allows for open discussion, growth, and self-reflection. Friendship also detests violence and stands against harshness, oppression, and prejudice. While we may have problems in our work and other instances, strong friendships are a way to unwind from all of our problems.

Since the coronavirus is present in today's society means no excuse to not celebrate International Friendship Day. Some ways to celebrate during these unprecedented times is face-timing your friends, message them about how much they mean to you, and sending them gifts. So let's celebrate this day with pride and tell our friends how much we appreciate them!



## Fun Facts About Friendship

1. The average size of your friend group tends to be the same throughout your life.
2. Having no friends or confidants is bad for your health. It is reportedly as bad as smoking or being overweight.
3. People who have been through a stressful situation return to normal more quickly if they spend time with a friend.
4. The amount of time you invest with your friends determine the longevity of your relationship.
5. Most people are unable to accurately identify those who have truly earned a place in their friendship network.

<http://psychobytes.xyz/awesome-psychological-facts-about-friendships/>

# New Merch!

Check out the new merch we just dropped!



## CLOTHING

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Every purchase goes towards efforts to address the challenges we face today, from climate change to extreme inequality. When you purchase Unity For Equality's merch, you will turn your action into a real, lasting impact.

If you want to help, check out our merch website at:  
<https://unity-for-equality-incorporated.square.site/>

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