



Jerry Michalski &lt;sociate@gmail.com&gt;

---

## Meeting assets for Jerry Michalski's Zoom Meeting are ready!

---

**Zoom** <no-reply@zoom.us>  
To: sociate@gmail.com

Thu, Jul 31, 2025 at 10:11 AM



---

## Meeting assets for Jerry Michalski's Zoom Meeting are ready!

Hi Jerry Michalski

The following assets for the meeting - Jerry Michalski's Zoom Meeting are now available.

---

### Meeting summary

#### Quick recap

The group explored societal responses to trauma and grief through historical examples and personal experiences, discussing how different cultures process collective experiences and the role of government support in disaster recovery. They examined current challenges including climate change impacts, recent conflicts, and the importance of addressing root causes of violence while exploring concepts like agency and toxic masculinity. The discussion concluded with reflections on technology's effect on social connections and the need for confronting emotional pain, with plans for a follow-up meeting to continue exploring these themes.

#### Next steps

- Jerry: Find a volunteer to host next Thursday's OGM call while he is on vacation in Italy.
- Kevin: Finalize plans for moving to Asheville and renting an urban place instead of staying in rural Swannanoa.
- Kevin: Address the property situation with his children who are currently in disagreement about the future of the family farm.
- Ken: Post links to good news services in the chat.
- Stacey: Communicate more through writing about her grief and experiences.
- Jerry: Post links to the guest essays about India and the Jewish silk road to the chat.

- Gil: Find and share links about the breakdown in human communication in the age of the internet.
- All participants: Consider bringing examples of how individuals, communities, and countries deal with grief and change their inner climates for a future discussion on this topic in a few months.
- All participants: Share essays, thoughts, or resources about collective processing of difficult experiences if they find any after the call.
- Interested participants: Join Stacey's call on Monday at 1:00 PM Eastern time to continue the discussion about young MAGA supporters.

## **Summary**

### **Societal Trauma and Historical Processing**

Jerry led a discussion on societal grief and trauma, focusing on historical examples such as German war guilt and the processing of atrocities. Klaus shared his personal experiences growing up in post-war Germany, highlighting the collective trauma and generational impact of those events. The group explored how societies process grief and trauma, discussing the role of documentation, legal measures, and the challenges of rewriting history. They also touched on current conflicts, such as the situation in Israel and Gaza, and the importance of addressing trauma at both individual and societal levels.

### **Post-Disaster Community Support Challenges**

Kevin shared his experience of returning to Swanina after a disaster, noting the community's struggles and his decision to step back from local leadership roles due to emotional exhaustion. He highlighted the need for support services in post-disaster recovery, contrasting his situation with successful community revitalization efforts in other areas like Marshall and Portland's McMinn properties. Klaus agreed, emphasizing the importance of adequate government support systems in disaster recovery, comparing it to Oregon's effective response to recent wildfires.

### **Climate Change and Trauma Response**

The group discussed the impact of climate change and recent disasters, with Klaus expressing concern about the frequency and scale of storms. Jerry and Eric explored how society copes with grief and trauma, particularly comparing 9/11's impact to more recent events. Eric noted that 9/11 has become a distant memory for many, while current tragedies are more immediate but may lead to compassion fatigue. The discussion touched on how collective trauma affects different societies, with Klaus sharing examples from Chile and Argentina, and the group considered the challenges of processing grief on a large scale.

### **Comparing Historical and Current Traumas**

Jerry shared his personal experience growing up in Argentina during the Dirty War and discussed the country's truth and reconciliation process. He compared it to current events in Ukraine and Russia, highlighting the challenges of healing from historical traumas. Eric shared insights from Jewish traditions on coping with grief and the importance of acknowledging difficult pasts. Stacey expressed her thoughts on the

need to address the root causes of violence, particularly the role of men in perpetrating crimes, and suggested exploring the backgrounds of individuals involved in trafficking and blackmail networks.

### **Processing Grief and Social Change**

Stacey shared her personal experiences with grief and loss, emphasizing the importance of communication and processing emotions. She discussed the need for men to protect women by speaking out against injustice and highlighted institutional failures in addressing abuse. Jerry agreed with Stacey's points and explored the debate between nature and nurture in explaining human behavior, arguing that culture and society significantly shape individuals' beliefs and actions.

### **Agency in Confronting Harmful Behaviors**

The group discussed themes of violence, human nature, and agency, with Stacey and Gil exploring connections between violence against nature and women, while Scott presented data on the declining use of the word "helpless" and increasing use of "agency" in literature since 2000, which Gil suggested might be related to the 9/11 attacks. The conversation concluded with an agreement to explore how individuals can exercise agency in confronting harmful behaviors and attitudes, particularly among friends.

### **Intersecting Grief and Societal Change**

The group discussed how personal and societal grief intersect, particularly in relation to major historical events like 9/11 and the fall of the Berlin Wall. Jerry expressed regret that these moments were not leveraged for positive societal change, while Hank shared his personal experience of losing innocence during Trump's presidency. The conversation concluded with a discussion about how young men are being "groomed" by toxic masculinity, with Stacey suggesting that using this term could help in understanding and forgiving these individuals.

### **Understanding Societal Change and Healing**

Hank discussed his journey to acceptance regarding societal cycles of negative change and explored whether the five stages of Kubler-Ross apply to societies. Jerry shared insights on Japan's response to Hiroshima and Nagasaki, contrasting it with Germany's approach to World War II, and highlighted the importance of processing collective experiences. Stacey mentioned restorative justice and the significance of listening to difficult stories, while Jerry and Gil discussed the concept of "designing from trust" and its applications in various contexts, including medical malpractice and online communication.

### **Technology's Impact on Social Connections**

The group discussed the impact of technology on social connections, particularly how younger generations are experiencing less face-to-face interaction and deeper relationships. Ken shared reflections on societal grief and pain avoidance, emphasizing the need for individuals and communities to confront their emotions rather than distract themselves. The conversation concluded with Ken reading excerpts from Chief Seattle's speech about the sacredness of land and the interconnectedness of all living

things, with Stacey announcing a follow-up discussion on Monday to continue exploring these themes.

AI can make mistakes. Review for accuracy.

Please rate the accuracy of this summary.



Edit summary

Share



[Zoom.com](https://zoom.us)

55 Almaden Blvd  
San Jose, CA 95113

[+1.888.799.9666](tel:+18887999666)

© 2025 Zoom Communications, Inc.