



A CURRICULUM OF HOPE  
FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD

# A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World

## Newsletter

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### Founder's Message

2013 is beginning with a mixed sense of sadness and hope. Many people on every continent on our planet were staggered on December 14, 2012 by the senseless and horrific killing of twenty six and seven-year-olds and six educators at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. Eight of our Curriculum of Hope members are Connecticut residents, all are teachers and peacemakers, and we are devastated by this abhorrent act. We've struggled, as many of you have, to stop the tears, get beyond the nightmares, to function each day in a semi-daze, and most of all to try to maintain a sense of normalcy and even optimism. We shall never forget the numbing reality of this mind-boggling event.

Now, three weeks later, we are being lifted by renewed hope as the spirit of human love surrounds us, coming from near and far to unite us as one. The oneness is encouraging as well as exciting because it is so vital to the very survival of humanity. Astronauts who have been in space tell us that seeing Earth from afar has profoundly changed them. "When you go around the Earth in an hour and a half, you begin to recognize that your own identity is with the whole thing." says astronaut Russell Schweichart of his 1969 spacewalk. In 1971 astronaut Edgar Mitchell spoke of "a profound sense of connectedness...an understanding that all humans, animals, and systems were part of the same thing, a synergistic whole." He described an "interconnected euphoria...a feeling of bliss". Other astronauts have since enjoyed a similar experience which has been named the *Overview Effect*. At the *Overview Institute*, dedicated to educating the public regarding the reality of the Earth as seen from space, Dr. Andy Newberg, neuroscientist/physician, states "It appears that the brain itself is capable of taking in the overview experience and converting such an overwhelming concept...to feel a breaking down of boundaries and a sense of the interconnectedness and preciousness of the Earth and all those who live on it." There is tremendous healing potential when Earth is "understood to be a tiny, fragile ball of life, hanging in the void, shielded and nourished by a paper-thin atmosphere. The need to create a planetary society with a united will to protect this 'pale blue dot' becomes both obvious and imperative."

Is it possible that the senseless killing of twenty innocent children was so overwhelming that it can have an overview effect right here on Earth to bring us a step closer to a universal understanding that we are all connected, and we all have an effect on each other worldwide? Is there a "tremendous healing potential" as we remember the innocents and move forward with continued focus on the growing sense of goodness that is washing over us and becoming more evident each day? There is a choice for us to make. Choose to believe in the interconnectedness of all humankind. Choose to become a more outspoken advocate for improving the human condition everywhere; make a difference in combatting hunger, poverty, disease, human rights infringements and environmental crises. Choose to become a voice in defense of the voiceless so that they will know they are not alone, that we are truly one family on earth.

May 2013 be a year of personal growth, understanding, conviction and action for each of us. Do take the time to nurture yourself with moments of silence to remind yourself that you ARE a peacemaker. Take time to remember that you have innate inner peace that is always present deep within you. You have but to bring it forth, to draw on it and to share it with others who are in need of it. May your life be enriched and your spirits lightened by all the good you do each day. May your efforts bring love into the hearts of others as we all strive to bring more peace to the "tiny, fragile ball of life" called Earth. It is, after all, only we who can do it.

Loving thoughts,

Jeanne Morascini, Founder



*"There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about."*

-- Margaret J. Wheatley

## Peacemakers at Work

### Doctors Without Borders

For the first time, **Doctors Without Borders/Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF)** mobilized local medical and mental health teams to set up medical clinics in the U.S. to help the victims of Superstorm Sandy at several locations in the New York area. "We learned our lessons from Katrina when we thought the medical needs would be covered, and when we realized there were gaps it was too late for us to react," says Sophie Delaunay. Doctors Without Borders/Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) works in nearly 70 countries providing medical aid to those most in need regardless of their race, religion, or political affiliation. MSF provides assistance when catastrophic events — such as armed conflict, epidemics, malnutrition, or natural disasters — overwhelm local health systems. MSF also assists people who face discrimination or neglect from their local health systems or who are in populations are otherwise excluded from health care. On any given day, more than 22,000 doctors, nurses, logisticians, water-and-sanitation experts, administrators, and other qualified professionals working with MSF can be found providing medical care around the world.



Stepbrothers **Max Goldstein**, 12, (left) and **Jackson Mittleman**, 11, both of Newtown CT, pose near a bin placed outside the Newtown Youth Academy recently. Max and his brother started a movement called "Played Out," encouraging kids to dump their violent video games in the wake of the mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. When Max attended the funeral of his friend's brother, one of the victims of the slaughter at Sandy Hook Elementary, and listened to the prayers and songs, it hit him. Max said "how real this was." He didn't want to kill, even in the illusory sense of a video game. His mom, Roberta Mittleman, said she had initially prohibited Max from playing violent video games, but gradually succumbed. After all, Max is an A-student and a gentle kid and she didn't see any real harm in it. The slogan of Played Out, Max said, is, "Choose not to play."



*The Hartford Courant*



In 1971, civil rights lawyer **Morris Dees** teamed with Joseph Levin Jr. to start the Southern Poverty Law Center. The Southern Poverty Law Center is a nonprofit civil rights organization dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry, and to seek justice for the most vulnerable members of society. The SPLC is internationally known for tracking and exposing the activities of hate groups. Their Teaching Tolerance program began in 1990 and produces and distributes – free of charge – documentary films, books, lesson plans and other materials that promote tolerance and respect in the nation's schools. Morris Dees co-founded the SPLC following a successful business and law career. He started a direct mail sales company specializing in book publishing while still a student at the University of Alabama, where he also obtained a law degree. After launching a law practice in Montgomery in 1960, he won a series of groundbreaking civil rights cases that helped integrate government and public institutions. He also served as finance director for former President Jimmy Carter's campaign in 1976 and for Democratic presidential nominee George McGovern in 1972. Known for his innovative lawsuits that crippled some of America's most notorious white supremacist hate groups, he has received more than 20 honorary degrees and numerous awards. Those include Trial Lawyer of the Year from Trial Lawyers for Public Justice, the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial Award from the National Education Association and The Salem Award for Human Rights and Social Justice. He was named one of the 100 most influential lawyers in America by the National Law Journal in 2006. In addition, the University of Alabama Law School and the New York law firm Skadden jointly created the annual Morris Dees Justice Award to honor a lawyer devoted to public service work. Dees has written three books: *A Season For Justice*, his autobiography; *Hate on Trial: The Case Against America's Most Dangerous Neo-Nazi*; and *Gathering Storm: America's Militia Threat*. In 1991, NBC aired a made-for-TV movie called "Line of Fire" about Dees and his landmark legal victories against the Ku Klux Klan.

Congratulations to **ESR** (Educators for Social Responsibility) for 30 years of providing leadership in focusing teachers on conflict resolution, critical thinking, intercultural understanding and social responsibility.

## Caring for Our Planet

**Grasscutters** are wild rodents, prized in West Africa for their sweet and lean meat. When **Heifer Ghana** started in 1999, it worked to help develop a hugely successful method to raise domesticated grasscutters to improve nutrition and increase income for families producing and selling the animals. In Ghana, they are highly desired bush meat. Some even consider it a delicacy. That's why, when Heifer Ghana was just getting started, Roland Kanlisi, the deputy country director, began looking into whether the grasscutter could be domesticated and used in Heifer projects. And they could. A German NGO had actually begun doing just that in neighboring Burkina Faso just a few years prior. Today, the grasscutter projects are some of the most successful in Ghana. Before Heifer helped domesticate the animals for farming, hunters used to either set poisonous traps for the animals or set bush fires to smoke the creatures out. Eating the poisonous meat would harm the humans, and bush fires often got out of control, burning nearby farmland and leaving the earth scorched. Now, farmers in Ghana are raising upwards of 30 animals in tiered cages and the demand for the animals is very high. The grasscutter projects have been so successful, there are now 105 grasscutter farmers in just one area outside Accra. It's rare to find people hunting them in the wild anymore. The environment is saved, jobs and income are generated, and people's lives are improved.



*"To accomplish great things we must not only act, but also dream, not only plan, but also believe."*

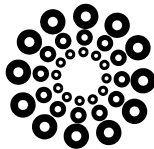
Anatole France

*"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference, and you have to decide what kind of difference you want to make."*

Jane Goodall



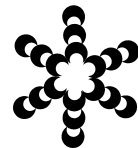
The **Arbor Day Foundation** is looking to find wild hazelnuts growing throughout the Midwest, East, and Southeast of the United States and Canada. The goal of the Hybrid Hazelnut Consortium is to create a world-leading hazelnut research and breeding program to develop hazelnuts as a widely adapted, high-yielding and low-input sustainable crop suitable for marginal soils that is competitive with annual crops for food, feed or bio-energy. Go to [www.arborday.org/programs/hazelnuts/consortium/overview.cfm](http://www.arborday.org/programs/hazelnuts/consortium/overview.cfm) to find out more.



Led by co-founder and senior director Dominique Browning, **Moms Clean Air Force** is a national movement of more than 100,000 moms, and dads too, who are protecting our children's right to clean air. Rallying the force of moms and dads every day are bloggers and a grassroots field team, starting up state chapters to take their mission to local communities. On the national stage, a leadership circle amplifies those grassroots voices to make sure Congress gets the message. Visit [www.momscleanairforce.org](http://www.momscleanairforce.org) to find out specific targets for action and how you can add your voice to the mission.



The World Health Organization estimates that globally 1.5 million people die every year from diseases like lung cancer and pneumonia caused by pollution from indoor wood-burning cooking and heating fires like those used by India's poor. There are 1.2 billion people living in India, and one-third do not have electricity and more than half earn less than \$500 per year. The Fair Climate Network, a coalition of non-profit groups including the **Environmental Defense Fund**, is providing thousands of **biogas digesters** and small methane gas powered stoves to 150,000 Champa families in southern India. Women no longer spend their days searching for firewood. Instead, they use the biogester—a small concrete pit with an airtight cover just outside their homes. The biogester is filled with dung from cows, which then decomposes, producing enough methane for daily cooking needs. The remaining slurry is a good fertilizer for the farm. Each digester reduces carbon dioxide emissions by approximately three tons a year. Local air quality and health are improved, and global warming pollution is reduced. Women no longer need to spend their days searching for firewood, and have more time to take care of their families and homes.



*"Pull a thread here and you'll find it's attached to the rest of the world."*

Nadeem Aslam,  
The Wasted Vigil

## Caring for Our Planet



**Williams-Sonoma** has launched an Agrarian line of products, supporting healthy living and homegrown/homemade. Visit their website to find information as well as upscale supplies for raising chickens, keeping bees, making cheese and growing and canning vegetables. [www.williams-sonoma.com/shop/agrarian](http://www.williams-sonoma.com/shop/agrarian)

**SAP Americas** makes business software by day and ice by night. To be exact, during the summer of 2012 it made 3,400 tons of ice every night. The Pennsylvania company's ice-tank air-conditioning system is not cutting-edge. But it helped SAP fight the searing heat wave - and relieved pressure on the region's electric grid during peak daytime hours. A traditional commercial air-conditioning system uses electricity to power chillers during the daytime to cool the air. The ice-tank system uses electricity to power chillers at night to make ice, which is stored in tanks. During the day, chillers are shut off as the ice alone cools the refrigerant used to cool the air in the building. The technology was developed 10 years ago, said Brian Barrett, SAP Americas' construction project manager. Barrett said 85 percent to 90 percent of the cooling at the SAP building during the day was done by the ice made at night. By diverting electricity use to nighttime, SAP helped to avoid a blackout during these days. It also cut costs because the price of electricity at night is cheaper due to lower demand. Compared with a standard commercial building, the ice-tank-equipped SAP site saves 35 percent on electricity cost.

The 16 tanks cost a total of \$780,000, but the return on investment is fast approaching after just two years. "We are almost at the point where everything we are doing is savings," Barrett said.

The ice tanks sit in the basement of SAP's 218,000-square-foot building, which was constructed in 2009. They were among many design components that made the building LEED platinum-certified. Designed by FXFOWLE Architects, the building incorporates triple-pane windows, automatic shades that adjust to light, an energy-efficient roof, and a water system that collects rainwater for landscaping and toilet flushing. Just across a walkway, an older SAP building uses 2.25 kilowatts per square foot. Usage at the new facility: 1.25 kilowatts per square foot.

### Who Knew?

It is crucial that demand for **cork bottle-stoppers** is maintained. According to the World Wildlife Fund, "Cork oak landscapes are one of the best examples of balanced conservation and development anywhere in the world. They also play a key role in ecological processes such as water retention, soil conservation, and carbon storage." The cork forest is home to numerous endangered species, and provides a richly diverse habitat to flora and fauna.

The forest is utilized by a cork industry that has created legal protection for its preservation. Cork trees are harvested every nine or ten years. The trees are not cut down and can be expected to live for 200 years. This makes the industry a near-perfect example of renewable production. Cork Oaks are normally found in scattered stands of indigenous growth; they require no soil preparation, irrigation, pesticides or herbicides. Harvesting is almost entirely manual with the only use of power equipment used by the occasional tractor to carry harvested wood to a central location. The manufacturing process is a pattern of washing, drying and cutting. There is no call for widespread use of chemicals – and when used they are generally tame and safe substances like hydrogen peroxide – which is used in the final washing.

The cork industry employs an estimated 100,000 people throughout the Mediterranean region. The majority is employed in harvesting and production, but the cork sector also employs thousands involved in associated industries like nurseries, transportation and research. The UN has reported that forests in North Africa play an important role in both environmental protection and poverty alleviation.

It is the wine business that drives the cork industry. The past decade has seen the cork industry invest tens of millions of dollars in research and application of new methods designed to position cork to remain as the leading wine bottle closure of the future. Newly developed systems of washing, material handling and quality control have already created great improvements in quality and consistency. Much of the past emphasis has been on reducing the incidence of cork taint.

Everybody can help save the precious cork oak landscapes of the Mediterranean and protect them against desertification, fires and other threats which could lead to their disappearance. Wine drinkers have to demand that their favorite wine store stocks bottles with cork stoppers. <http://corkqc.com>



## Caring for Our Planet

### Cleaning With Vinegar

Recently a new vinegar cleaning product has popped up on the market. According to Heinz, which makes the stronger version of its white distilled vinegar, it has six percent acetic acid, instead of the five percent of regular vinegar, boosting its strength by twenty percent. Regardless of the strength used, a mixture of half water, half vinegar in a spray bottle can be used to clean everything, including the kitchen counter, stainless steel appliances, floors, the bathroom, and laundry.

According to a 2011 report by Canada's National Collaborating Centre for Environmental Health, the acid in vinegar crosses the cell membrane of bacteria, and then prompts a release of protons, which causes the cell to die. It is thought to be most effective against shigella, salmonella, E. coli, and other "gram-negative" bacteria. Gram-positive bacteria have tougher cell walls that are harder to break.

Using vinegar as a cleaning product will reduce waste and eliminate the need for many different cleaners. The new extra strength kind sells for around \$3.80 a gallon.

The **campaign against Styrofoam** is strongest in California where 70 jurisdictions have approved restrictions, 19 in this year alone. The bans apply to restaurants and others using disposable cups or containers. At the urging of middle school students, Los Angeles County, which runs the second-largest public school system, extended its 2010 ban on foam food containers in schools, and switched to compostable paper lunch trays. Dozens of other U.S. cities have similar bans.

Styrofoam is not biodegradable and is rarely recycled. However paper containers often have higher environmental impacts and require more resources to make. They may not be recyclable due to plastic coatings.

*"The world must learn to work together,  
or finally it will not work at all."*  
General Dwight D. Eisenhower



*"The life I touch for good or ill  
will touch another life,  
and that in turn another,  
until who knows where  
the trembling stops  
or in what far place my touch  
will be felt."*

-- Frederick Buechner



*"We have a stake in one another ...  
what binds us together  
is greater than what drives us apart,  
and ...  
if enough people believe  
in the truth of that proposition  
and act on it,  
then we might not solve every  
problem, but we can get something  
meaningful done for the people  
with whom we share this Earth."*

Barack Obama



### Three-Stream

San Francisco has collected more than one million tons of compostable organic waste since its composting program began more than 15 years ago. But things really started piling up just three years ago, when the city mandated composting for all city residents and businesses. Today, San Francisco collects 600 tons a day as part of its overall effort to achieve zero waste by 2020.

San Francisco may have been the first major U.S. city to mandate composting, but it is no longer the only one. Curbside composting has experienced unprecedented growth over the last three years. There are now more than 90 cities with such programs. Portland Ore. launched its curbside composting program in October, joining the likes of Boulder, Colo., Salem, Ore., and Seattle, among other cities.

Americans generate 250 million tons of garbage per year. Before San Francisco started its composting program in 1996, a city study found that more than one-third of all waste entering landfills could be composted instead. Today, between composting and recycling, the city diverts 78 percent of its waste from landfills. When Portland launched its composting program, it cut back its weekly garbage collection to every other week. Customers just weren't producing as much trash.

Ultimately, San Francisco and other composting cities have found that it is cheaper to compost than dump garbage, because it extends the life of landfills by saving space. Diverting food waste from landfills also reduces carbon emissions and the risk of potential groundwater pollution. Plus, the end product of composting can be reused and resold as fertilizer.

Portland estimates that its composting program cost about \$1 million to set up -- most of which has been spent on education efforts explaining how and why to compost. [www.governing.com](http://www.governing.com)

## Caring for Our Planet



Paper towel usage creates a staggering impact on our environment. Every day, 51,000 trees are cut down to manufacture the amount of paper towels used in a 24-hour period. And most paper towels cannot be recycled or even composted. As a result, paper products amount to 40 percent of the waste in our landfills. The United States alone accounts for 30 percent of the world's paper towel usage.

Jimmy Johnson has been profoundly affected by the sustainability movement. Once a corporate CEO in Latin America with the carbon footprint of a small country, he now is an eco-conscious consumer living a sustainable life complete with vegetable-oil diesel cars and homegrown produce. The Jimmy Towel is made of a super-absorbent cloth branded with an inspirational eco-conscious message. The towel folds down into a pocket-sized carrying case outfitted with a moisture wicking system that helps extend usage. The towels can be removed from the carrying case to be washed at home. Each Jimmy Towel is assembled in Southern California, satisfying the company's goal to maintain production as close as possible to their headquarters in San Luis Obispo, California.

The idea for Jimmy came in 2010 when Johnson, his friend Alec Ramsey and fellow San Luis Obispo business leaders including Jimmy ApRoberts found themselves in a local leadership program. While discussing their environmental impact, ApRoberts shared how he hadn't used a paper towel in more than a year, opting instead to dry his freshly-washed hands on his pants. The story hit home for Ramsey, though he understood promoting any real change would require a more practical, reusable substitute for paper towels. Ramsey immediately went home, taught himself how to sew, and began making pocket-towel prototypes that he named after his friend who inspired him.

After partnering with Johnson to move the Jimmy Towel into production, the team filed for a patent, established production, and launched the product in their community and online. The Jimmy Towel is currently featured on Kickstarter, and within a few days on the crowd-funding site, it had raised over half of its goal. To learn more about the Jimmy Towel or support its cause on Kickstarter, visit [www.JimmyTowel.com](http://www.JimmyTowel.com).

[www.livinggreenmag.com](http://www.livinggreenmag.com)



A total of 150 youths (18 to 35 years old) from diverse cultural and religious backgrounds and with outstanding track records in intercultural dialogue and youth work were selected as participants of the **Youth Event and the 5th United Nations Alliance of Civilizations Forum in Vienna** in February. These 150 participants were selected from a pool of close to 4,000 applications from 140 countries. Aiming to launch well in advance the discussions among the youths, during the period of end of December 2012 – February 2013, the organizers will invite youths to participate in online consultations on the Forum's themes and start brainstorming on the elements of the youth recommendations to be prepared. [unaocyouth.org/](http://unaocyouth.org/)



A new global initiative on elephant protection and welfare, the Elephant Advocacy League (EAL), has been born. EAL is an innovative and unconventional organization experienced in fighting poachers in Africa's bush and in engaging the public's opinion in the tricky world of global communication. The heterogeneous team of EAL is made up of a new breed of conservationists, with a strong background in high-level security and investigation, communication, innovation and business. The initiative was already blessed by some of the most important elephant experts and wildlife protection organizations in the world, like Dr. Joyce Poole of Elephant Voices, Dr. Cynthia Moss of The Amboseli Trust for Elephants, Dr. Lucy King of Save the Elephants, TUSK USA, Conservation Justice, PALF, Elephant Family and the David Shepherd WF. The Elephant Advocacy League (EAL) operates like an action-oriented Public Relations & Crisis Communication firm, which serves one client only: the

elephant. EAL raises much needed money to fund concrete projects in two specific areas: human-elephant conflict and anti-poaching training, which are beneficial to both elephants and people. EAL is co-funding research in Mozambique by Dr. Lucy King, who is testing the use of beehives to mitigate human-elephant conflict. EAL is also planning a wildlife crime-related security survey in central Africa and anti-poaching training activities in Eastern and Central Africa, in collaboration with other NGOs. EAL felt the need to better explain to the general public (not just animal lovers), in the West but also in Asia, the extent of elephant exploitation, the tragedy around the ivory trade, the human toll, and the uniqueness of the elephant's mind, one of the top four intelligences on Earth, including man, apes and cetaceans. The Elephant Advocacy League (EAL), founded in November 2012, is registered in the State of California and has offices in the Netherlands and Italy. [elephantleague.org](http://elephantleague.org)

# Resources and Ideas

Favorite environmental books for young people:

- The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss (1972)
- The Giving Tree* by Shel Silverstein (1964)
- Lost in the Woods* by Carl R. Sams (2004)
- Dear Children of the Earth* by Shim Schimmel (1994)
- On the Day You Were Born* by Debra Frasier (1991)
- Minn of the Mississippi* by Holling C. Holling (1951)

Books that are out of print may be found at used-book sellers such as Alibris (alibris.com), Amazon (amazon.com), Barnes and Noble Used Books (barnesandnoble.com) and Powell’s Books (powells.com).



**Teaching Tolerance** has hundreds of anti-bias lesson plans. They are free and online.

### Different Colors of Beauty

Six lessons to help students preK-5 develop their racial or ethnic identities. [tolerance.org/activity/series](http://tolerance.org/activity/series)



### Speak Up At School

#### Responding to Hate and Bias at School

Guides for teachers, administrators, and counselors to help build inclusive and nurturing school climates. [tolerance.org/don't-ignore-hate](http://tolerance.org/don't-ignore-hate)

## Civil Rights Books

### Elementary

- Rosa Parks: The Ride to Civil Rights*  
By Jo S. Kittinger
- Sky Dancing* by Ellen Erwin
- Only One Year* by Andrea Cheng
- The Accidental Adventures of India McAllister* by Charlotte Agell
- Operation Marriage* by Cynthia Chin-Lee
- Super Tool Lula: The Bully-Fighting Super Hero!* by Michele Yulo



### Middle & High School

- Nilda* by Nicholoasa Mohr
- Rebound* by Bob Krech
- Scars* by Cheryl Rainfield
- Crow* by Barbara Wright
- The Fat Boy Chronicles* by Diane Lange and Michael Buchanan
- Freedom Flyers: The Tuskegee Airmen of World War II* by J. Todd Maye
- We’ve Got the Job: The 1963 Birmingham Children’s March* by Cynthia Y. Levinson



### Adults/Professional Development

- Turning High-Poverty Schools Into High Performing Schools*  
by William H. Parrett and Kathleen M. Budge
- Marching to the Mountaintop: How Poverty, Labor Fights, and Civil Rights Set the Stage for Martin Luther King Jr.’s Final Hours* by Ann Bausum



## Peaceful Playgrounds at Recess

Peaceful Playground is a program for purchase that uses organized recess activities with consistent rules to teach students conflict resolution, increase involvement among students and reduce playground accidents. The comprehensive program kit includes stencils for creating 100 permanent playground activities that help make recess more positive and productive, educational materials, equipment, and guides for recess leaders. It is intended to maximize the number of students involved in physical activity, rather than having them wait in line, or just stand around talking. Looking for a facelift for your playground? The program is worth a look. [www.peacefulplaygrounds.com](http://www.peacefulplaygrounds.com)



**Abundance:**  
*The Future is Better Than You Think*  
Peter H. Diamandis and Steven Kotler  
Free Press, 2012  
Providing abundance is humanity’s grandest challenge—this is a book about how people will rise to meet it. This bold, contrarian view, backed up by exhaustive research, introduces our near-term future, where exponentially growing technologies and three other powerful forces are conspiring to better the lives of billions. Examining human need by category—water, food, energy, healthcare, education, freedom—Diamandis and Kotler introduce dozens of innovators making great strides in each area. [www.abundancethebook.com](http://www.abundancethebook.com)



“What is the use of a house if you haven’t got a tolerable planet to put it on.”

Henry David Thoreau

Babylon.com, founded in 1997, is the world’s leading provider of language solutions such as online dictionary and translation software and language learning solutions. Babylon set as a mission to help provide every child in the world access to a modern education. Babylon has initiated a donation program for schools, whereby it donates its software to all K-12 educational institutions, so that every child, from kindergarten through 12th grade, will have access to Babylon’s wide variety of languages, dictionaries and resources. Find out more at [www.babylon.com/k12-program.html](http://www.babylon.com/k12-program.html).

## Opportunities

There are more than one million organizations and many millions of us around the world who are actively working toward ecological sustainability, economic justice, human rights protection, political accountability and peace -- issues that are systemically interconnected and intertwined. [wiser.org](http://wiser.org)



**Astronomers Without Borders** fosters understanding and goodwill across national and cultural boundaries by creating relationships through the universal appeal of astronomy. The essence of the Astronomers Without Borders is connection, interaction and collaboration. Programs focus on bringing members of the Astronomers Without Borders worldwide community together to share resources and ideas, thus allowing local visions to become global realities. Astronomers Without Borders is a global astronomy community. Astronomy enthusiasts, educators, and others around the world participate in programs that create interaction and cooperation through common interests in all aspects of astronomy including observing, outreach, the arts in astronomy and more. The common heritage of astronomy, which is present in the traditions of every culture, is a perfect platform for bringing people together across cultural and geopolitical borders. Astronomers Without Borders' signature program, Global Astronomy Month in April, has become the largest annual celebration of astronomy with a diverse range of programs and participation from over 100 countries. [www.astronomerswithoutborders.org/](http://www.astronomerswithoutborders.org/)

**The Greenpeace Semester** is an environmental training program for young adults who are driven to make real, positive change in their communities and on their campuses. The Semester gives participants the skills needed to organize and advocate for the environment -- from volunteer recruitment to understanding how to use media to talk about an issue, participants leave the program well-prepared to make a difference. Also available:

### 2013 Greenpeace Summer Experience

Tuition: \$2200

**Summer 1:** May 20 - June 21,

**Summer 2:** July 8 - August 9

Greenpeace Summer training is an accelerated program with one week of travel and four weeks of intensive workshops. Greenpeace is committed to making the semester accessible for all students who are passionate about protecting the planet. There are a number of scholarships offered each year. For more information, please visit [www.greenpeace.org](http://www.greenpeace.org).



### Global Concerns Annual Student Workshop

March 8, 2013

The annual student workshop brings together students across the NYC area in a simulated United Nations "summit" where, collectively, they confront global topics such as the Millennium Development Goals, Emergency Response, Hunger or Water.

Visit [gcc.concernusa.org](http://gcc.concernusa.org) for details, as well as resources for ideas and action, and more information to get your students involved.

### Ecumenical Advocacy Days 2013: At God's Table:

#### Food Justice for a Healthy World

April 5-8, 2013

EAD is a national gathering in Washington, D.C.

for people of faith who want to be a force for change for the betterment of all!

Join over 1,000 Christian advocates at the 11th annual

Ecumenical Advocacy Days.

Speakers will offer faith-based vision for fair and humane food policies and practices, along with grassroots advocacy training.

[www.AdvocacyDays.org](http://www.AdvocacyDays.org)

### A Celebration of the Peace Abbey and the newly opened Center and Archives for Peace, Social Action, Public Policy and the Arts

Spring 2013

JFK Library

Adjacent to UMASS, Boston

Check [www.peaceabbey.org](http://www.peaceabbey.org) for details





# Calendar



## January

- 20 **World Religion Day**  
[www.worldreligionday.org](http://www.worldreligionday.org)
- 21 **Martin Luther King Day of Service**  
[www.mlkday.gov](http://www.mlkday.gov)  
[www.teachingheart.net/happymlkbooks.html](http://www.teachingheart.net/happymlkbooks.html)
- 21-25 **No Name-Calling Week**  
[www.nonamecallingweek.org](http://www.nonamecallingweek.org)

## February

- February is Black History Month**  
[www.blackpast.org/](http://www.blackpast.org/)  
[www.tolerance.org/activity/riding-rosa](http://www.tolerance.org/activity/riding-rosa)  
[www.inmotionaame.org](http://www.inmotionaame.org)  
[www.cnn.com/EVENTS/black\\_history/index.html](http://www.cnn.com/EVENTS/black_history/index.html)  
[www.jimcrowhistory.org/](http://www.jimcrowhistory.org/)
- 4-8 **National Green Week Kickoff**  
[www.greeneducationfoundation.org](http://www.greeneducationfoundation.org)
- 10 **Chinese New Year: Year of the Snake**  
<http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/chinese-new-year/>
- 18 **Presidents' Day**  
<http://holidays.kaboose.com/presidents-day/presidents-day.html>  
[http://score.rims.k12.ca.us/score\\_lessons/special\\_events/presidents\\_day/](http://score.rims.k12.ca.us/score_lessons/special_events/presidents_day/)

## March

- March is Music In Our Schools Month**  
[www.learningfromlyrics.org](http://www.learningfromlyrics.org)  
[www.cultureofpeace.com/songs](http://www.cultureofpeace.com/songs)
- 8 **International Women's Day**  
[www.internationalwomensday.com](http://www.internationalwomensday.com)
- 22 **World Water Day**  
<http://www.unwater.org/watercooperation2013/>

## April

- 7 **World Health Day**  
[www.who.int/world-health-day/en/](http://www.who.int/world-health-day/en/)
- 8 **Yom HaShoah Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust**  
[www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org)
- 14-20 **National Environmental Education Week**  
[www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org)
- 22 **Earth Day**  
[www.earthday.net](http://www.earthday.net)
- 26 **Arbor Day**  
[www.arborday.net](http://www.arborday.net)  
[www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign](http://www.unep.org/billiontreecampaign)  
[www.stateforesters.org/](http://www.stateforesters.org/)

## May

- May is Asian-Pacific American Awareness Month**  
[www.nps.gov/history/nr/feature/asia/](http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/feature/asia/)  
[www.free.ed.gov](http://www.free.ed.gov)
- 5 **Cinco de Mayo**  
<http://larryferlazzo.edublogs.org/2009/04/10/the>

## June

- 5 **World Environment Day**  
<http://unep.org/>
- 20 **World Refugee Day**  
[www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)

*Peace*

does NOT mean to be in a place where there is no noise, trouble or hard work.  
 It means to be in the midst of those things and still be calm in your heart.

## What Reader's are Saying

*"I continue to find your newsletter one of the most meaningful and inspirational resources I receive as a DKG member and State officer. Thank you for your persistence in publication in hard copy form."*

*"I don't think you've ever put out a newsletter that isn't worth reading cover to cover. Each time I think this is the best one ever. I give you the Pulitzer Prize for Peace Newsletters."*

*"Your efforts to create a more peaceful and caring world are spreading through this newsletter and the efforts of those who read and use it."*

*"A great publication! Thank you for your many contributions."*



*"But we shall also do our part  
to build a world of peace  
where the weak are safe  
and the strong are just.  
We are not helpless before the task  
or hopeless of its success.  
Confident and unafraid,  
we labor on—"*

John F. Kennedy

Thank you readers! Our newsletter can be found online at [www.deltakappagamma.org/CT/hopenews.php](http://www.deltakappagamma.org/CT/hopenews.php). If you would like to receive a PDF version by email, please contact Janice McKusick, editor, at [jmckusick@charter.net](mailto:jmckusick@charter.net).

Curriculum of Hope is a Standing Committee of Alpha Kappa State of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International.  
Our intent is to promulgate resources and information, not to endorse products.

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