



A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter

A CURRICULUM OF HOPE
FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD
NEWSLETTER

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Founder's Message

What an exciting time to be alive! We enter the year 2009 with feelings of great hope because of a growing global awakening by much of mankind that all life is interconnected. We need to be concerned for all of us and for our planet. It is encouraging that global consciousness is embracing concepts like hope, unity, respect, compassion, cooperation, trust, commitment and action. There is a groundswell of concern and caring.

Oh yes, I know we are presently in a painful, potentially paralyzing financial crisis, partly due to irresponsibility and lack of over-sight on the part of many. It is a time of uncertainty and volatility in our personal lives and our plight may get a whole lot worse before it gets better. But we cannot afford to be overwhelmed by daily devastating facts and figures that predict a "bottoming out" yet to come. That may be the case right now, but hand-wringing and worrying have never accomplished anything. Do not despair! President-elect Barack Obama reminds all of us that there is "enduring hope". Let's keep looking forward with hope. Let's all spend our time and efforts on thinking of ways to improve our situation. Every small act is important. Depending on how each one of us thinks and acts right now, a better future can emerge soon. *"What's truly risky is to accept things as they are instead of working for what could be."* Barack Obama

People of good will everywhere are being called upon to care and share, to unite and work to develop a better future world for all. Pope Benedict XVI urges us to join in "authentic solidarity" to prevent global ruin. Governments, corporations and financial institutions world-wide are working together with great cooperation, and are devising creative stop-gap and long-term measures to provide relief and impetus for improvements. Suddenly we are acutely aware of just how interconnected and interdependent all of humanity has become. *"I know we don't have to agree with each other in order to think well together. There is no need for us to be joined at the head. We are joined by our human hearts."* Margaret Wheatley, author

Prophecy from elders all over the world reminds us it is our hearts that will save us in these strong times. Nothing else can protect us. What better practice then, than to meditate upon scenes that make our hearts leap. First we must notice these 'courage', these connections, these true carings and deep strivings toward good. Doing this, we make albums in our minds we can turn to anytime to fine tune ourselves and keep our hearts supple.

Maggie Davis,

NEIGHBORCARE Newsletter #40, September 2008

Please believe in the infinite possibilities for peace in our world. Understand that peace often happens in simple events, remote places and in many small ways. There is so much to be done and we all can be involved. The thought is exhilarating! Throughout this issue you will read about a sampling of the thousands of "true carings and deep strivings toward good" on many different problems, large and small, taking place around the world to help our planet and its inhabitants survive and thrive.



Be aware of your personal power as a force for peace. Be involved in the solutions. Bring awareness and knowledge of the world's needs to our students to offer them the privilege of helping in some way to improve our habitat and the lives of others. Children of all ages can be involved and are capable of collectively having a huge impact. Involvement fosters hope and feelings of inclusion and self-worth.

May this new year, with its weighty challenges, be a time of faith in your abilities, pride in your actions, and peace in your hearts and homes. Blessings on all that you do.

Jeanne Morascini
Founder

Ideas

January 18: World Religion Day

The day emphasizes that the religions of the world must strive for unity among people. www.worldreligionday.org



January 19: Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

This federal holiday honors Reverend King's life and commitment to equality, unity, and community service. Ideas, projects and activities for teaching about Martin Luther King can be found at www.mlkday.org and at www.teachingheart.net/happymilkbooks.html.

January 26: Lunar Chinese New Year

To celebrate the major holiday, people clean their homes, buy new shoes and clothing, get new haircuts, and hold a New Year dinner that celebrates family ties. 2009 is the Year of the Ox. Printable Chinese folktales can be found at <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/chinese-new-year/short-stories/>

January 26-30: No Name-Calling Week

This week focuses on ending name-calling of all kinds and provides school communities with tools and inspiration to talk about ways to eliminate bullying. www.nonamecallingweek.org



February is library lovers' month. During the month, libraries of all types are celebrated to ensure that they will continue to serve. www.librarysupport.net/librarylovers

February is Black History Month. In 1976, Congress expanded the week-long observance begun in 1926 by Carter G. Woodson, to the entire month of February. Simple ideas for introducing young children to the concept of being treated equally can be found at <http://atozteacherstuff.com/pages/268.shtml>. The Major Taylor Association recognizes the accomplishments of Marshall W. Taylor who in 1896, broke two world cycling records, but was banned from the track by the Jim Crow laws. Free downloadable curriculum can be found under the Home tab www.majortaylorassociation.org/. Civil Rights Movement veterans are available for speaking engagements. www.crmvet.org. *Mighty Times-The Legacy of Rosa Parks* is a free teaching kit from Teaching Tolerance www.teachingtolerance.org. The History of Jim Crow is available at www.jimcrowhistory.org. BlackPast.org provides reference materials on Black history in the United States and on the history of people of African ancestry around the world. In Motion: The African-American Migration Experience provides resources on 13 migrations that have formed and transformed African-Americans and the nation. www.inmotionaame.org.

February 2-8: National Green Week

A public awareness campaign to mobilize one million school children to collectively demonstrate how eco-friendly choices can significantly reduce the volume of trash produced in schools. www.greenfoundation.com

February 16: President's Day is a good opportunity to look at not only Presidents, but those who are leaders in working for the "common good". Visit www.whitehouse.gov/kids/presidentsday for an overview of the holiday and brief biographies of the presidents.

February 21: International Mother Language Day

This observance began in 1999 by UNESCO's General Conference and promotes people's uniqueness and cultural diversity by highlighting native languages. www.un.org/Depts/dhl/language.

March is Music in Our Schools Month. Check out PeaceSongs.net which lists & links more than 300 peace songs. Looking for new ideas to motivate students to think critically and improve their writing? M.U.S.I.C. is a non-profit 501(c)(3) publicly supported organization. They promote the educational use of songs by teachers in all subject areas. Song lyrics are an excellent teaching tool that will engage, excite and motivate young people. The creative process of analyzing and interpreting song lyrics helps students to develop essential research, writing, critical thinking, and media literacy skills. Song-based lessons, projects, and activities are tools that will enable educators to create opportunities for all students to experience success in the classroom. www.learningfromlyrics.org



March 22: World Water Day

The world's 263 transboundary lake and river basins include the territory of 145 countries and cover nearly half of the Earth's land surface. Every country must seek to satisfy water needs from limited water resources. WaterPartners has downloadable school curriculum, aligned with national standards, for elementary, middle and high school levels. Also available are water fact sheets and videos. Funding for this global water project was provided by the Open Square Foundation. www.water.org/waterpartners— Look under the Outreach Materials tab.

**National Environmental Education Week**

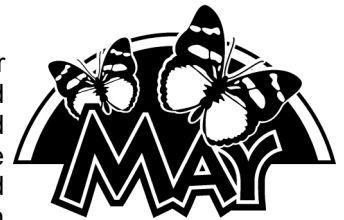
National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States. Made possible by Canon, it increases the educational impact of **Earth Day** by creating a full week of educational preparation, learning, and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums. By participating in EE Week, you encourage your students to make a difference in their schools, homes, and communities. It is celebrated the third week in April. www.eeweek.org

April 24: Arbor Day

Arbor Day is a nationally-celebrated observance that encourages tree planting and care. Founded by J. Sterling Morton in Nebraska in 1872, National Arbor Day is celebrated each year on the last Friday in April. www.arborday.org, The United Nations Environment Programme has launched a Billion Tree Campaign with the goal of planting at least one billion trees worldwide each year to effect positive climate change. unep.org/billiontreecampaign. Look for a tree group or project on urban forestry near you at treelink.org. Many state foresters are a wealth of information! stateforesters.org.

May 5: Cinco de Mayo

Cinco de Mayo is an important national holiday for Mexico—second only to September 16, Independence Day. It was on this day, in 1862, that a small group of poorly trained Mexican peasants, under the command of General Ignacio Zaragoza, bravely and fiercely fought for their freedom against a regiment of 6,000 French soldiers under the command of Napoleon III. Today, Cinco de Mayo is celebrated by native Mexican (and American) people everywhere. In several towns in Mexico, on the fifth of May, along with many speeches and parades, the Battle of Puebla is elaborately re-enacted in a whole day dramatization. In America, Cinco de Mayo is taken as an opportunity to celebrate Hispanic culture in general, and is celebrated with huge fairs, which include Mexican singing, dancing, feasting, costumes, sports activities, fireworks, and entertainment. Mariachi bands play while dancers perform native Mexican dances such as the Mexican Hat Dance and the Raspa. Speeches and parades encompass a large part of the celebration too. These events are one way in which people celebrate the friendship of the United States and Mexico. This observance of the Cinco de Mayo victory is a special symbol for all Mexican people who celebrate their rights of freedom and liberty, honoring those who fought, against the odds, for these principles. Visit www.midgefrazel.net/cinco.html for ideas and lesson plans on celebrating Cinco de Mayo in the classroom.

**June 5: World Environment Day**

World Environment Day is one of the principle vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment. World Environment Day will be held on 5 June 2009 in Mexico. The theme is: "Your planet needs you. Unite to combat climate change." worldenvironmentday@unep.org

June 20: World Refugee Day

On June 20, we celebrate World Refugee Day. Events around the world focus on the fundamental needs of millions of refugees who live without material, social and legal protection. www.unhcr.org/

Opportunities

DEADLINE ALERT

Class on
Nonviolent Social Change
 With Joanne Sheehan
 UCONN Avery Point
 Groton, CT
 Thursday evenings
 Spring Semester
www.CreativeCommunityBuilding.org

Global Stakeholders Summit for a National Peace Academy
 Case Western Reserve University
 Cleveland, Ohio
 March 2-4
www.nationalpeaceacademy.us:80/
 This project is an initiative of Peace Partners International.

Teaching Human Rights Global to Local
 2nd CTAUN Conference
 Atlanta, GA
 Tuesday
 March 24, 2009
 For registration information contact:
 Judy Farrigan
farrigan@bellsouth.net

Thinking about taking a **Responsive Classroom** workshop this summer?
www.responsiveclassroom.org
 for dates and locations

La Vista Ecological Learning Center
 Godfrey, IL
 Offers seasonal celebrations and programs including Choices for Sustainable Living and Earth Literacy Programs
www.lavistaelc.org

*****CTAUN CONFERENCE*****
 The Eleventh Conference for Educators at the United Nations is Friday, January 30th. The theme is "Human Rights—The United Nations—Our Schools" and Greg Mortenson, featured in *Three Cups of Tea* and Executive Director of the Central Asia Institute and Penins for Peace, will be the afternoon keynote speaker. Registration deadline is **JANUARY 14th**.
 Call Ricky Velez-Negron, 718-285-0667.
 \$65
www.teachun.org (PayPal)

*****PLANET CONNECT*****
 Student Grants
 This grant program includes \$1,000 to high school students to improve the environment in their community. Applications are due **JANUARY 20TH**
www.mywonderfulworld.org

NEA Foundation
Student Achievement Grants
 Student Achievement grants of \$5000 are awarded to classroom innovation projects to engage students in critical thinking and to deepen their knowledge of standards-based subject matter.
 Deadline is February 1
www.neafoundation.org

Travel to South Africa!
 Join Maggie Sherman (Hands on Productions) and Diane Gayer (AIA—University of Vermont) and take a hands-on summer course in South Africa.
 Participants will meet with teachers, students and community leaders, and take part in activities such as tree planting and community gardening.
 For more information:
http://learn.uvm.edu/teachertravel/south_africa

*****HIPP WORKSHOPS*****
 The next Pax Educare's Help Increase the Peace introductory workshop for youth (ages 12 and up), youth staff and adults, will be held on February 6th, 4-8 p.m. and February 7th, 9-5, at the Hartford Seminary. Register by **JANUARY 20th**
paxeducare.hipp@comcast.net
 HIPP workshops teach young people and adults skills for addressing and transforming conflict in their lives.

Heifer's Learning Centers, or "living classrooms," offer tours, Global Village immersion experiences, single and multi-day educational programs, and service learning events. Learning Centers are working examples of the sustainable agriculture they support around the world. Go to Heifer's website to find a Learning Center near you.
www.heifer.org
 Click on the Learn tab.

Heifer University For Educators
 July 24-27
 Heifer Ranch
 Perryville, Arkansas
 Apply for a full scholarship (excluding travel) at www.heifer.org/educators. Heifer U will focus on education outreach programs to be used to motivate students to contribute to sustainable solutions to hunger, poverty, and environmental degradation.

*****TOYOTA TAPES-TRY*****
Science Grants
 Fifty large grants of up to \$10,000 each and 20—32 mini-grants of up to \$2,500 will be awarded to projects involving physical science application, environmental science education, and integrating science and literacy. The project director must be either a middle or high school science teacher with a minimum of two years of science teaching already completed in a K-12 school. The project must be implemented during the 09-10 school year. The deadline for the online application is 11:59 p.m., EST, on **JANUARY 21st**.
 Go to <http://tapestry.nsta.org>

LEMELSON-MIT INVENTEAMS
 Teams of high school students, teachers, and mentors are asked to identify a problem they want to solve, research the problem, and then develop a prototype invention as an in-class or extracurricular project. Applicants are encouraged to consider the problems and needs of the world's poorest people (those earning less than \$2 a day). Teams are encouraged to work with community partners. Grants of up to \$10,000 support each team's efforts. Go to <http://web.mit.edu/inventteams/index.html>
 Deadline is April 24th.

Teaching Tolerance Grants
www.teachingtolerance.org

Peacemakers at Work

Kudos to the **Ambassadors of Peace** and their teachers at **Rock Hill School** in Wallingford CT! These fifth graders, selected for their leadership potential and desire to help others, help to make their school a safe and caring place, and promote school unity. The ambassadors run the school store where points earned by students who care for others are traded in for school supplies and other items. They also mentor younger and new students in the school. On the International Day of Peace (September 21st) the group designed a display of the 352 pinwheels made by each student in the school. According to the national Pinwheels for Peace program, 2 million pinwheels were placed in 3,000 locations this year.



Naturalist and videographer **Scott Tucker**, of East Haddam, CT produces and hosts "**Expedition New England**", a cable show about nature shown on local access channels in 68 towns. Scott recently mailed over 500 free copies of his new film to every 6th grade class in the State of Connecticut and sent more to area nature centers and educational facilities. Thanks to a \$24,854 grant from the Department of Environmental Protection's Long Island Sound License Plate Fund, together with a corporate contribution from the XL Corporation, Scott Tucker's Expedition New England was able to produce a thirty minute documentary DVD about Long Island Sound entitled "More than a Sound, a Symphony of Life." While the program is designed to inspire everyone to protect this magical body of water, it is specifically geared it to capture the hearts and minds of Connecticut's youth. That's why every sixth grade science educator received a copy of the DVD. Scott and his family took the camera underwater while scuba diving to show the fantastic creatures that depend upon Long Island Sound for survival.

Kids Cafe is one of the nation's largest free meal service programs for children. Since the program's inception in 1993, Kids Cafes have become a central tool in **America's Second Harvest's** efforts to end childhood hunger. The primary goal of the Kids Cafe program is to provide free and prepared food, and nutrition education to hungry children. Kids Cafes across the country achieve this goal by utilizing existing community resources, such as Boys and Girls Clubs, or schools where children already naturally congregate. Kids Cafe programs have been established in a wide range of community-based settings. In addition to providing hot meals to hungry kids, some Kids Cafe programs also offer a safe place, where under the supervision of trustworthy staff, a child can get involved in educational, recreational and social activities that draw on existing community programs and often include family members. Kids Café began after two young brothers in Savannah, GA in 1989, were discovered late one night in the kitchen of their housing project's community center. The older brother had broken into the kitchen to feed himself and his younger brother. There are currently more than 1,000 Kids Cafes in operation in the U.S., with plans to expand the number of sites through the Feeding Children Better Program. www.secondharvest.org



Congratulations to Habitat for Humanity! In the year 2000, Habitat's 100,000th house was built, in 2005, their 200,000th, and in 2008 Habitat reached the milestone of having constructed their 300,000th house. More than 1.5 million people in more than 3,000 communities around the world have benefited with safe, decent, affordable shelter. Habitat for Humanity International is a nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry. HFHI seeks to eliminate poverty housing and

homelessness from the world and to make decent shelter a matter of conscience and action. Habitat invites people of all backgrounds, races and religions to build houses together in partnership with families in need. Habitat Collier County in Florida has financed the construction of more than 100 homes in Guatemala. Find out about a Habitat program near you at www.habitat.org.

Students at **E.O. Smith High School** in Storrs, CT are raising funds that will help build a school in South Sudan. The school's **Ending Genocide Around the World** student group is holding events to benefit the Ariang School in South Sudan. Gabriel Bol Deng, one of the Lost Boys of Sudan, visited E.O. Smith in the spring, and again this fall to share with students and staff his story and his dream for building a school in his home village of Ariang. Children who attend school now meet under a tree. With help, Gabriel hopes to drill six wells and build a school for 700 students. At present many children, especially girls, cannot go to school because they must spend their days collecting water for their families.



Resources

The **UN website** is available in six languages and has a wealth of information about the UN and their work on global issues. The web site features news reports and webcasts of major UN events, radio feeds, multi-media resources, and educational materials. You can also find calendars of all UN events and online access to UN Library resources and archives on the work of the Organization. Programs focusing on the UN's Millennium Development Goals can also be found. www.un.org



UN related curriculum materials can also be accessed on the **C T A U N website** (www.teachUN.org). Additional materials are available under "Teacher Plans" and "Best Practices". Teaching ideas and materials are also available on the United Nations Environment Program website (www.unep.org). Of particular interest is their Plant for the Planet: Billion Tree Campaign.

Viva la Causa, a free DVD and teacher's guide, produced by Teaching Tolerance, is available for grades 7-12. The documentary film shows how thousands of people across the nation joined in a battle led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta for justice for farm workers. The boycott of grapes and wines finally led, in July of 1970, the California growers to recognize the workers' union and increase wages to \$1.80 per hour. The film is offered in English and Spanish. Download an order form at www.teachingtolerance.org/lacausa.

Tribeca Film Festivals' Best Documentary Award Winning **Pray the Devil Back to Hell** is the gripping account of a group of brave and visionary women who demanded peace for Liberia, a nation torn to shreds by a decades-old civil war. This remarkable peace movement led by Leymah Gbowee, eventually resulted in the ouster of Liberia's cruel dictator Charles Taylor and the 2005 election of President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Africa's first elected female head of state. To find out more visit www.praythediabacktohell.com.

Child Labor Resources

Educational International
www.ei-ie.org

You can view a short video about the dropout prevention program created by the national teachers' union in Morocco.

The International Center on Child Labor and Education
www.iccle.org

Child Labor Coalition
www.stopchildlabor.org

New, **free Global Education Resource Kits** are available from Heifer. Students will be inspired by stories showing how goats and other animals from Heifer are helping people all over the world fight hunger and poverty. Some grade levels are still in development. Some materials can be downloaded, and some will be mailed. The site requires registration. www.HeiferEducation.org



Let's all begin to generate infectious hope that will restore the faith necessary for us to create an environment of optimism. Optimism breeds energy and energy breeds solutions. May the solutions we seek be mindful of what created our present situation and sensitive to a distant future. May the imprint we leave be soft on the earth and strong in the business of mankind.

Roberta Campbell
Folsom, CA

The crisis in DARFUR continues...

International Rescue Committee
www.theIRC.org

Save Darfur Coalition
www.savedarfur.org

Darfur Alert Coalition
www.darfuralert.org

Hungry Planet: What the World Eats

Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio
Ten Speed Press
The authors visit thirty families in twenty-four countries to capture snapshots of abundance and deprivation at the dinner table.

What the World Eats

Peter Menzel and Faith D'Aluisio
Tricycle Press
2008

A more kid-friendly version of the original meant to get kids thinking about the world around them, but also about the food on their own plates.

A new caring for the wholeness of life is being defined. This has never happened before on a global scale. An awakening of concern about how we human beings treat one another and the planet is taking place that has tremendous possibilities for moving the world forward to a new era of peace.

Douglas Roche

Former Canadian Senator

Author of **Creative Dissent:**

A Politician's Struggle for Peace

“Changing the World One Pin at a Time”

Lucinda, the creator of the “house pin” to raise money for her local homeless shelter, is now creating additional pins to represent other social issues. Your organization can raise awareness and raise funds by selling pins. A variety of styles are available. Visit the website www.lucinda.com to learn about Lucinda’s story, to buy a pin, or to find out more about how your group can be involved. Lucinda is also available for speaking engagements. To date her company has sold more than 4 million pins, raising over \$24 million for non-profits.



At least 50% of the developing world’s schools do not have access to safe water and 75% do not have adequate sanitation facilities. To put the spotlight on this issue the UN General Assembly declared the year 2008 the International Year of Sanitation.

Several interesting programs are available to address the challenge of the global water crisis.

H2O for Life has nearly 100 schools partnered with schools in developing countries. U.S. students are studying global water crisis issues, and taking action to raise funds to support their partner schools. www.h2oforlifeschools.org.

More information can also be found at



Recommended by Joan Seliger Sidney, a Special Research Assoc, Judaic Studies at the University of CT.

Hitler Youth: Growing Up in Hitler’s Shadow

Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Scholastic Press 2005

This book for teenagers and adults is about the millions of boys and girls who followed Hitler and the National Socialist Party from 1933 to 1945.

The Boy Who Dared: A Novel Based on a True Story of a Hitler Youth

Susan Campbell Bartoletti
Scholastic Press 2008

Another outstanding book for teenagers and adults about Helmuth Hubener, who changes from a patriotic Hitler Youth to a courageous resister.

Four Perfect Pebbles A Holocaust Story

Lila Perl

Marion Blumenthal Lazan

Hardcover: Greenwillow, HarpeCollins

Paperback: Avon-Camelot, Scholastic

Book Club

Ages 10 and up

Marion’s award-winning memoir recalls the devastating years that shaped her childhood. It is a story of courage, hope and the will to survive. Also available is a 58 minute DVD, **Marion’s Triumph Surviving History’s Nightmare.**

Go to www.fourperfectpebbles.com for student and teacher resources and

Getting the Truth Out

In October 2008, at a middle school in a suburb of St. Louis, Missouri, 3 students were slapped and hit –all for being Jewish on “Hit a Jew Day”. Surprising? Not really, according to a 2008 Pew Research Center Survey. There is a rise in anti-Semitic attitudes in several countries. The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington D.C. is an excellent resource for “unleashing the power of truth to confront hate, anti-Semitism and extremism”. www.ushmm.org/

Project Linus—New Jersey distributes handmade blankets to children in hospitals and shelters who are suffering from serious illness and trauma. They gladly welcome knitted, crocheted, quilted, machine-sewn and hand-sewn blankets from volunteers. In addition to adults, since the year 2000 over 12,000 school-age children have actively supported the mission of Project Linus. There are many ways to get involved including: making blankets, collecting yarn or fabric, distributing brochures to get others to make blankets, and collecting contributions for their wish list. Visit the website to find out more www.blankiedepo.org/ and contact the director@blankiedepo.org to get involved.

Published in partnership with the Gender and Racial Attitudes Lab at The University of Texas at Austin, Teaching Tolerance has six easy-to-implement lesson plans for early grade classrooms to **reduce gender-based bullying**. Available on line at www.teachingtolerance.org/gender.

Visit www.responsiveclassroom.org to read their free newsletter, published four times a year. It has valuable **ideas and resources to help teachers improve social and academic skills** in this test-focused climate. You can also sign up to receive free printed

**When One Door Closes:
A Teen's Inspiring Journey
and Living Legacy**

Susie and Bill Graham
H. Thomas Saylor
Three Dot L.L.C.
2008

The honest and inspiring story of a teenager's battle with cancer as told by her family, friends and medical staff. This brave girl teaches readers about friendship, love, respect and dignity.

**Critical Lessons:
What Our Schools Should
Teach**

Nel Noddings
Cambridge University Press
2006

This book advocates critical thinking and self-knowledge as the best ways to reinvigorate our schools. Each section contains questions to get students thinking and talking, and to increase their awareness of the connections between subjects that schools now treats as completely sepa-

The Story of Stuff is a free 20 minute on line video by Annie Leonard that looks at our production and consumption patterns. It's fast-paced and calls us to work together for a more sustainable world. www.storyofstuff.com



**Be kinder than
necessary
because
everyone
you meet
is fighting
some kind
of battle.**

Although Women's Educational Media has changed its name to **Groundspark**, their mission, to create visionary films and educational campaigns that move individuals and groups to take action for a more just world, remains the same. The **Respect for All Project** seeks to create safe and hate-free schools and communities by giving youth and adults the tools to talk about diversity. The project offers films, curriculum guides and professional development. With support by the Ford Foundation, the Marguerite Casey Foundation, and the Walter and Evelyn Haas Jr. Foundation, the Respect For All Project works with the NEA and others to provide inclusive environments for all children. Go to www.groundspark.org/ to find out more, including information about their film, *Let's Get Real*, which is an honest look at bullying among middle school students.

www.mywonderfulworld.org

Make geography come alive! A great resource for educators and fun for students.

Creating a curriculum of peace is an ongoing project of Dr. Donna Ferrantello, Adjunct Professor at the University of Bridgeport. Dr. Ferrantello notes that "a number of texts from the America Heritage, as well as in World Literature, contain writings which reveal the visions, struggles and attainment of peace as it is envisioned in each writer's unique circumstances and culture."

Dr. Ferrantello's interpretation of *Moby-Dick* entitled, *Moby-Dick and Peace/Melville's Gospel of the Century Revisited*, explains "Ishmael's discovery of peace within his meditations on the water and his whale hunting trip to the Far East." Educators of AP high school or college students interested in purchasing this text, structured as companion text to the novel, should contact her at opensky51@yahoo.com.

Dr. Ferrantello will be presenting for the 2009 International Melville Conference in Jerusalem.

PeaceBuilders International is a program for communities and schools to promote positive, healthy behaviors while reducing violence, injuries, bullying, and other negative behaviors. It was named a Best Practice of the International Safe School Program of the World Health Organization. www.peacebuildersintl.com.

PeaceJam offers K-12 educational programs based on the lives and work of leading Nobel Prize winners. In recognition of starting a worldwide youth peace movement, PeaceJam was nominated for the 2008 Nobel Peace Prize. For information about PeaceJam programs visit



**The Sea is So Small:
Charting a Course for the
Next Generation**

Marian Wright Edelman
www.childrensdefense.org/Book

Children's Defense Fund President Marian Wright Edelman has released her new book, a series of letters to a variety of audiences—educators, faith leaders, youth, elected officials and concerned citizens nation-wide. The book reflects on the social and economic progress as well as the setbacks since Dr. King's death 40 years ago. Mrs. Edelman challenges each audience to step up and take action at this pivotal moment to ensure a level playing field for the next generation.

Ikuro Anzai, Joyce Apsel and Syed Sikander Mehdi have co-edited **Museums for Peace: Past, Present and Future** (Kyoto, Japan, 2008).

The collection of essays includes sections on Museums for Peace as Sites for Peace Education. Joyce Apsel's essay is on "Peace and Human Rights Education: The UN as a Museum for Peace". It discusses how a tour to the UN building in New York City or a virtual tour on www.un.org may be integrated into class curriculum on human rights, peace, and social justice.

**Leading with Kindness:
Good People Consistently Get
Superior Results**

William F. Baker, Michael O'Malley, and Glen Hubbard
AMACOM
2008

A must-read for anyone in a management position, this book explains how the six ingredients of kindness: compassion, integrity, gratitude, authenticity, humility and honor are essential to the role of a leader. It then explains how to implement them in a meaningful way.

I do not want to talk about what you understand about this world.

I want to know what you will do about it.

I do not want to know what you hope.

I want to know what you will work for.

I do not want your sympathy for the needs of humanity.

I want your muscle.



Robert Fulghum, author

Peace and Pancakes

Anne Picard
Beaver's Pond Press
2006
Ages 9—12

Peace and Pancakes is a charming tale about a dragon, a gnome, a forest full of animals, and a rather unruly giant. It will entertain children of all ages, though it also has important lessons to teach us all about patience, communication, and understanding. The beautifully illustrated book also comes with an imaginatively rendered CD, so that children can listen along again and again as the adventure unfolds.

**Great Peacemakers:
True Stories from Around the
World**

LTS Press
2008
Grades 7-12

In this book you will meet twenty inspiring individuals who have made peace their choice in life. Exploring a wide range of peace-making, *Great Peacemakers* is organized into five paths to peace: choosing nonviolence, living peace, honoring diversity, valuing all life and caring for the planet. Each path shows the true life stories of four amazing peacemakers who have successfully cultivated peace in a variety of ways.

**Seeing Through Maps:
Many Ways to See the World**

Ward Kaiser, Bob Abramms and Denis Wood
ODT, Inc.
2006

All Grades
This book challenges the popular world view by questioning a number of maps and the specific messages they communicate. The book is suitable for social studies, global studies, and psychology courses in universities. The revised second edition offers new material. The authors assert that maps are propositions or arguments and used as tools of persuasion or exploitation.

Caring for Our Planet

Sawdust Shortage Brings Worries Out of Woodwork

Excerpted from an article in The Wall Street Journal by Joe Millman

Ernie Johnson figured \$100-a-barrel oil was bound to happen someday. But the 58-year-old businessman in Missoula, Mont., never thought he'd see sawdust at \$100 a ton. The price of sawdust has soared since 2006, up from about \$25 a ton to more than \$100 in some markets. Blame the housing slump: Fewer new homes mean fewer trees cut for use in construction, which leads to less sawdust and other wood waste, driving up the price.

Sawdust may seem like a lowly commodity, but it is widely used in today's economy. Farms use sawdust and wood shavings as cozy and clean bedding for horses and chickens. Particle-board makers devour it by the boxcar to fashion a cheap building material. Auto-parts manufacturers blend a finely pulverized sawdust called "wood flour" with plastic polymers to make a lightweight material to cover steering wheels and dashboards.

Robert Vader of Fair Grove, Mo., buys scores of bags of fluffy pine shavings a month for his business, called Vader's Bunnies and Pets. The price of each bag has jumped to \$6.25 from \$5 in just a few months. Why does Mr. Vader need so much sawdust? His rodent kennel specializes in breeding mice to sell to owners of snakes and birds of prey.

The housing slump has devastated sawmill production across the country. The Pacific Northwest is expected to produce about 15 billion board feet of lumber this year, a decline of almost 3 billion board feet since 2006. That translates into a shortfall of 1.5 million tons of sawdust and shavings. It's surprising how many industries use wood waste. Wineries use oak sawdust as a flavoring agent for some wines. Perdue Farms, which raises broiler chickens, goes through seven million cubic feet of wood shavings a year. Oil-rig operators in Wyoming and Colorado pour sawdust into the caverns they find deep inside rock formations as they hunt for pools of petroleum. Sawdust gives drill bits something to grind through.

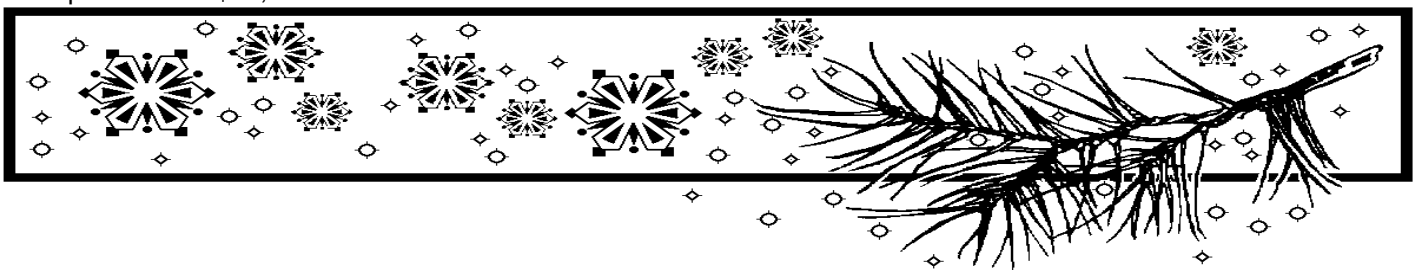
The sawdust shortage has also made life hard for Mr. Johnson of Montana. His company's trendiest business is compressed sawdust pellets, a popular fuel used in special stoves that produce lots of heat but little ash. The pellets, made of blended bits of cedar, lodgepole pine and Douglas fir, require dry fiber, without impurities. Tree bark won't do, only sawdust.

The shortage is leading to some unusual solutions. Mr. Johnson now mines old houses that are being torn down for lumber that he can grind up and sell. He has also opened a free wood dump for any construction crew that wants to drop off any two-by-four trimmings from a local site. Mr. Stulce, who runs the Utah wood-waste supplier to oil rigs, says rig operators that use sawdust are now dumping some novel substitutes. "They're pumping in almond hulls, walnut shells, whatever they can get," he says.

Farmers have come up with perhaps the most unusual tactic: using processed cow manure as bedding instead of wood shavings. Many dairy farms have a process to convert cattle waste into methane gas that they sell to electric generators. The byproduct is basically the hay the cows ate. Lee Jensen's Five Star Dairy in Elk Mound, Wis., uses an aerobic digester to render manure into stall bedding, and has so much on hand after the process that he's selling the excess to neighbors.

"Some of them were paying \$3,000 a week for sawdust bedding," the 49-year-old dairyman says, "so they're glad to get it from me." He says his herd likes it, too. With all that extra straw, he's able to lay a thicker bed for his cows, which he says encourages them to stay off their feet. That increases milk output.

As with every economic upheaval, there are winners as well as losers. With sawmill waste harder to find, opportunities for profit from scarcity are coming out of the woodwork. Boy Scout troops in Oregon fattened their coffers in January collecting discarded Christmas trees. Troop 618 in Beaverton made \$3,000 hauling trees to a lumber recycler. Troop 728 made \$10,000.





Improving 21st Century Cities

Herbert Girardet, an expert in urban sustainability says that eco-friendly urban development could well become the greatest challenge of the twenty-first century, not only for human self-interest, but also to create a sustainable relationship between cities and the biosphere. By 2030 it is expected that 3/4 of the world's population will be urban. Urban centers now use only 2% of the world's land surface, yet over 75% of the world's resources.

The Mega-Cities Project is one group working for change. They are a non-profit network of leaders working to share solutions to problems they have in common. Their vision is "to transform cities towards increasing social justice, ecological regeneration, political participation, and economic vitality". You can find out more at www.megacitiesproject.org/

Did You Know?

- There are now more than 400 cities world-wide in excess of a million inhabitants, with China accounting for 200 of these cities.
- Mega-cities (in excess of 10 million (such as Tokyo, Mexico City, Shanghai and New York) are increasing.
- Asia alone is estimated to have 104 hyper cities (in excess of 20 million) by 2025.
- In Africa, cities are also on the rise. Lagos, Nigeria is expected to grow to 25 million by 2015.

UN-Habitat Global Report
On Human Settlements 2007

Snail or Electronic?

An article by Anne H. Hamilton in the Hartford Courant recently discussed which was more green, snail or electronic mail?

Pitney Bowes Inc. commissioned a study of the carbon dioxide emissions generated by paper mail. The company is a global provider of many products connected to regular mail. The report, which was completed in June, did not come to a conclusion. A huge number of factors are involved in both forms of communication and a broad-based comparison of the carbon footprints of each is impossible.

According to the report, the information and communication sector of electronic communications represents about 2% of the nation's energy use, which is similar to the energy requirements of the paper industry. Some regular mail is generated from a computer file. In addition it is estimated that office workers print 1 1/2 times more pages than the total mail received by the workers at home. Forty letters, from forest to paper mill to recipient is equivalent to the energy required to heat water for a two-minute shower or a 3-mile car ride.

The best news is that work is being done on where to focus efforts for improvements.

Reduce Your Carbon Footprint

- Use shredded mail for garden mulch.
- Pay bills online.
- Contact Direct Marketing Association (www.dmahoice.org), www.greendimes.com, or other services to opt out of unwanted catalogs, credit card offers, or mail to deceased persons.
- Recycle mail with newspapers.
- Ask for quarterly financial statements online.

10 Green Travel Tips

From Spirit of Change

- Do your research—Sustainable Travel International has researched and implemented a U.S. certification program for guides.
- Take only pictures and leave only footprints.
- Spend your money locally.
- Conserve resources.
- Walk whenever possible.
- Stay on the trails.
- Gain some cultural knowledge.
- Try to use the least-pollution transportation.
- Offset your travel emissions.
- Eat local produce.

www.sustainabletravelinternational.org



Look for the EcoTool's brand—a new line of budget friendly, eco-conscious bath accessories that are both easy on the environment and on your wallet. Items include cosmetic brushes, bath brushes and sponges, shower mitts, facial buffs and pedicure tools. The labels are made from recycled paper and are printed with plant inks. All are marketed with minimal or reusable packaging, and the bath and shower items are made from bamboo. Best of all, the items are available at local Walgreen's and Kmart stores and are very reasonably priced.

Your Sky is the interactive planetarium of the Web, offering stargazers different skymaps created from data about your specific location. www.fourmilab.ch/yoursky/.

Earthwatch Institute is an organization that aims to engage people in scientific research that will help save the planet. www.earthwatch.org

Congratulations Beatrice!

Those readers familiar with Heifer, know the story of Beatrice's Goat. Beatrice Biira's Ugandan family received a goat from Heifer International in 1992. Beatrice, then age 9, sold the extra goat's milk to others in her village. Her mother was able to buy a uniform and books and enroll Beatrice in a nearby school.

On May 18, 2008 Beatrice Biira graduated from Connecticut College with a bachelor's degree in international development and gender studies. She spent the summer in Uganda with her family, and has now returned to the United States where she is attending the University of Arkansas Clinton School of Public Service. She is pursuing a master's degree in public service, with a focus on international development.

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This newsletter is published three times annually by The Committee on a Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World. We are a Standing Committee of Alpha Kappa State (Connecticut) of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International, an honorary organization of key women educators in sixteen countries. Our purpose is to promulgate peace-making resources and to develop peace programs for children and adults.

WE WELCOME contributions to our features Resources, Ideas, Caring for Our Planet, Opportunities, Peacemakers at Work, and What Kids are Saying. We also welcome guest contributors to our Founder's Message. Please send your contributions, comments, and suggestions to one of the members below. Our intent is to promulgate resources and information, not to endorse products.

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