



No. 24
Summer 2009

Positive News™

US Edition

from around the world

www.positivenewsus.org

Clown
Army
Needs You!
Page 3



Students
Find They
Can't Kick
Kindness
Page 10



Cleaning
a Country
in 5 Hrs
Page 14



Karma
Kitchen
Feeds
Everybody
Page 17



This paper is
FREE!
But your subscription
is positively helpful.

Jasmine the Greyhound: a Mother to All

Jasmine became a symbol to all of us about limitless possibilities for kindness, trust, and connection.

In 2003, police in Warwickshire, England, found an abandoned, whimpering greyhound and brought her to the nearby Nuneaton Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary, a haven for animals in need run by Geoff Grewcock.

Geoff and staff focused on restoring the dog whom they named Jasmine to full health, and on winning her trust. After several weeks it was time to find her an adoptive home.

Jasmine, though, had other ideas. No one remembers how it began, but she started welcoming all animal arrivals at the sanctuary. It wouldn't matter if it was a puppy, a fox cub, a rabbit, or any other lost or hurting animal. Jasmine would peer into the

box or cage and, where possible, deliver a welcoming lick.

Geoff relates one of the early incidents. "We had two puppies that had been abandoned by a nearby railway line. They were tiny when they arrived at the centre and Jasmine approached them and grabbed one by the scruff of the neck in her mouth and put him on the settee. Then she fetched the other one and sat down with them, cuddling them."

"She is like that with all of our animals," Geoff continues, "even the rabbits. She takes all the stress out of them and it helps them to not only feel close to her but to settle into their new surroundings." So far Jasmine has cared for a fawn, five fox cubs, four badger cubs, 15 chicks, eight guinea pigs, two puppies and 15 rabbits.

Contact:
Warwickshire Wildlife
Sanctuary
www.nuneatonwildlife.com
Tel: 011.44.2476.345243



© Peter Corns

Jasmine the greyhound and Bramble the fawn are inseparable

Positive
News
Aims to



- Bring hope
- Exemplify solutions
- Inspire to action
- Connect with those who create positive change

We envision a world in which people treat each other with respect and kindness, where we consider the Earth to be our home to care for and to enjoy... And we know that this world is in the process of emerging.

Positive News is a reflection of this widespread emerging movement and tells its stories.

"You Are Brilliant, and the Earth Is Hiring"

Paul Hawken is an entrepreneur, visionary environmental activist, and founder of *Wiser Earth*. In early May Paul delivered a commencement address at the University of Portland, OR. Below are excerpts from his speech.

There is invisible writing on the back of the diploma you will receive, and in case you didn't bring lemon juice to decode it, I can tell you what it says: you are brilliant, and the earth is hiring. The earth couldn't afford to send recruiters or limos to your school. It sent you rain, sunsets, ripe cherries, night blooming jasmine, and that unbelievably cute person you are dating. Take the hint. And here's the deal: Forget that this task of planet-saving is not possible in the time required. Don't be put off by people who know what is not possible. Do what needs to be done, and check to see if it was impossible only after you are done.

When asked if I am pessimistic



or optimistic about the future, my answer is always the same: If you look at the science about what is happening on earth and aren't pessimistic, you don't understand the data. But if you meet the people who are working to restore this earth and the lives of the poor, and you aren't optimistic, you haven't got a pulse. What I see everywhere

in the world are ordinary people willing to confront despair, power, and incalculable odds in order to restore some semblance of grace, justice, and beauty to this world.

You join a multitude of caring people. No one knows how many groups and organizations are working on the most salient issues of our day: climate change, poverty, de-

forestation, peace, water, hunger, conservation, human rights, and more.

This is the largest movement the world has ever seen. Rather than control, it seeks connection. Rather than dominance, it strives to disperse concentrations of power. It is made up of teachers, children, peasants, businesspeople, rappers, organic farmers, nuns, artists, government workers, fisher folk, engineers, students, incorrigible writers, weeping Muslims, concerned mothers, poets, doctors without borders, grieving Christians, street musicians, the President of the United States of America, and as the writer David James Duncan would say, the Creator, the One who loves us all in such a huge way.

The living world is not "out there" somewhere, but in your heart. What do we know about life? In the words of biologist Janine Benyus, life creates the conditions that are conducive to life. I can think of no better motto for a future

economy.

We can just as easily have an economy that is based on healing the future instead of stealing it. We can either create assets for the future or take the assets of the future. One is called restoration and the other exploitation. Whenever we exploit the earth we exploit people and cause untold suffering. Working for the earth is not a way to get rich, it is a way to be rich.

You are graduating to the most amazing, stupefying challenge ever bequeathed to any generation. Nature beckons you to be on her side. You couldn't ask for a better boss. The most unrealistic person in the world is the cynic, not the dreamer. Hope only makes sense when it doesn't make sense to be hopeful. This is your century. Take it and run as if your life depends on it.

For the full speech visit:
www.charityfocus.org/blog/view.php?id=2077

Another World is Possible! • Spread the Word • Let's Make it Happen



Positive News
115 THE COMMONS
ITHACA, NY 14850
TEL: 607-330-4330
welcome@positivenewsus.org

**POSITIVE NEWS
US EDITION**
WWW.POSITIVENEWSUS.ORG

EDITOR:
Ilonka Wloch

CO-EDITOR:
Marty Luster

YOUTH COORDINATOR:
Emily Shumway

YOUTH TEAM:
Julia Pergolini, Margaret Keating,
Cicely Kurtz, and Joni Sweet

OFFICE MANAGER:
Lisa Woodruff

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:
Linda Holzbaaur

SUPPORT TEAM:
John Hamilton, Lindy Clayton,
Neil Oolie, Lee Riddell, Cindy Golos

Positive News US Edition is
a NOT-FOR-PROFIT Project Partner of



Printed on 100%
post-consumer
recycled
newsprint using soy based inks.
For more information contact:
Our Press at 607 648 3021

*We are part of Positive News
International Network*

**POSITIVE NEWS
UK EDITION**
WWW.POSITIVENEWS.ORG.UK

EDITORS:
Shauna Crockett Burrows
Francesca Sandwell

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:
Sarah Wilkinson

POSITIVE NEWS UK
Telephone: +44 (0)1588 640 022
office@positivenews.org.uk
www.positivenews.org.uk

NOTICIAS POSITIVAS Argentina
Teléfono: +54 11 15 5739 8139
info@noticiaspositivas.org
www.noticiaspositivas.org

POSITIVE NEWS Hong Kong
Tel/Fax: 00852 2982 2807
Email: peterlloyd@netvigator.com

From the Editor

It is my pleasure to present the summer edition of Positive News. The excitement and the opportunities for creating a new template for us humans on this Planet Earth are contagious. We are beginning to notice that as each step takes us into the unknown, we are not alone. There are thousands, millions of people taking that first, and second step together with us. Paul Hawken's commencement address, thousands gathering to clean up the country of Estonia, and the brilliant recipients of the Goldman

Prize are our companions. When I recently decided to live without a car in a secluded coastal town, I created a new template for myself. I opened to a deeper trust in human kindness through my new reliance on others when I car-pool, hitchhike, or petition for a more consistent bus service. In Positive News this reliance on one another is mirrored in "Respecting Our Elders", "Peace X Peace", and many, many more. It is my hope that as You take in this issue of Positive News, you will rest for a while. You are not alone, we are here,



together conspiring how to exist in a joyful, dignified, and sustainable way. Have a wonderful summer. Splash!
~ Ilonka

Positive News Welcomes Volunteers!
We are looking for distribution help EVERYWHERE and especially in California, Massachusetts and Vermont. We are also starting a *California Edition of Positive News*. To find out how You can help, contact 415.868.9011 or ilonka@positivenewsus.org

A Day for Park(ing)

by Margaret Keating

On September 18, 2009, in cities around the world, lawn chairs, benches, trees, and people will temporarily fill metered parking spaces normally occupied by cars. This date marks the annual global event known as PARK(ing) Day, started in 2005 by a San Francisco art collective called Rebar.

This day calls for activists, artists, and citizens to take over parking spots and transform them into temporary public parks and green spaces. Amid the hustle and bustle of modern society, PARK(ing) Day encourages, according to Rebar, "creativity, civic engagement, critical thinking, unscripted social interactions, generosity and play."

The event grew from an experiment that aims to explore the use of public space in urban environments. Rebar intends to break the cycle of short-term leases of the city's land in which people pay to park their cars.

The conversion of the first single parking space happened in 2005. Sod, a bench, and a tree were all it took to start this global phenomenon.

Though Rebar was initially prepared for legal confrontations, with speeches written and sports coats stashed, Matthew Passmore, one of the founders of PARK(ing) Day, explains what happened. "We were completely unprepared for the immediate and global nature of the reaction the project provoked."

The response from cities around the globe was unexpectedly positive.

"PARK(ing) Day 2008 included more than 500 PARKs in 100 cities on four continents, and was included in the 2008 Venice Architecture Biennale in Venice, Italy," says Matthew. The event also received support from other non-profits such as the Trust for Public Land, Black Rock Arts Foundation, and Public Architecture.

PARK(ing) Day 2009 will take place on Friday, September 18.

Contact: Rebar
Rebargroup.org
holler@rebargroup.org or
www.parkingday.org

This article was written by Margaret Keating, one of our Positive News student interns this semester.



by Scott Beale/Laughing Squid

Global Women Take Peace Action with a Click

by Ilonka Wloch and Peace X Peace

*"Peace X Peace
Circles are expanding
through the world like ripples
from a heartbeat."
~Susan Collin Marks*

Peace X Peace is a global women's organization founded in 2002 by Patricia Smith Melton. Headquartered in Washington, DC, it connects women across cultures to create a more balanced world where women's lives, stories, and voices are valued and honored.

In the safe environment of its online Global Network, women and Women's Circles communicate directly via the internet, to form supportive friendships, educate and mentor one another, empower one another through shared expertise, and deepen their passions and commitments. All the supporting programs honor women's wisdom.

One passionate member took a pile of applications and registered all the women in her African village into the Peace X Peace Network.

"The Global Network is an area where women can feel like themselves, be themselves," says Tala Abu Taha. "I know there are women in Jordan waiting for the opportunity Peace X Peace represents."

"Our mission is to improve the status of women worldwide and to build sustainable peace," reads their mission statement. Together, participants take on peace-building projects in areas such as education, health, micro-enterprise, social equity, and leadership development. One posted week's peace action reads: "Ask a child what peace means to them."

Women without internet connectivity particularly in poverty-stricken and rural areas find ingenious ways to participate. Usually one person in a Circle has internet or knows where to find it. The Peace X Peace registration forms have been downloaded, printed off hundreds of times, and distributed hand to hand throughout the villages of Africa.

One passionate member took a pile of applications and registered all the women in her village into the Peace X Peace Network.

In addition to partaking in a Circle through the Global Network, members are encouraged to read, listen, and contribute to inspiring interviews and e-media that showcase the wisdom and experience of women in Afghanistan, Brazil, South Africa, India, and dozens of other countries.

Contact: Peace X Peace
www.peacexpeace.org
Tel: 202.684.3550



at the last minute...



Home Births As Safe As Hospitals

AMSTERDAM, Holland - Women who give birth at home face the same possible birth related complications as women giving birth in hospitals, according to a major new research project. A team from the TNO Institute and Maastricht and Amsterdam Universities' Medical Centres looked at 500,000 births between 2000 and 2006.

This is the first time such a big research project has compared the safety of home births to hospital births. Some thirty percent of Dutch mothers opt to give birth at home. Women who gave birth in hospital for medical reasons were excluded from the survey. *Source: dutch-news.nl*

EU Finance Ministers Blocked in by Activists

BRUSSELS, Belgium - In March hundreds of Greenpeace activists from across Europe blocked the exits of the building where EU finance ministers were discussing funding for developing nations to tackle climate change. Activists refused to let politicians leave until they committed to 'Bail out the Planet'.

"Our finance ministers are giving billions of taxpayers' money to failed banks and their managers. We are here to make sure they put money on the table to tackle climate change," said Thomas Henningsen of Greenpeace.

To reduce emissions of greenhouse gases and cope with the impacts of climate change, developing countries need at least 157 billion USD a year by 2020 from rich countries. For Europe, this is the equivalent of the price of one bus ticket per week per citizen. *Source: Greenpeace International*

'Hope over Fear' Wins in El Salvador

This spring the people of El Salvador elected Mauricio Funes the first leftist president in El Salvador's history. Mauricio's party "FMLN, (Frente Farabundo Martí para la Liberación Nacional) called the victory "hope winning over fear".

Journalist Roberto Lovato says the FMLN victory is the end of 130 years of nearly complete domination of the Salvadoran political system by oligarchy and dictatorship.

Let's Plant a Tree for Peace!

WILKOWICE, Poland - Save the date, plant a tree. Klub Gaja, a pro-environment, pro-animal rights organization designated October 10 as an international Tree Day. The campaign has inspired school children, grown ups, organizations, and neighbourhoods in 35 countries to plant trees. "In 2007," Klub Gaja reports, "over 57,000 people planted 36,262 trees." www.klubgaja.pl

The Rebel Clown Army Needs You!

by John Hamilton

Most cultures have stories about tricksters, who use clever play and humor to confront power and change the world. In our time, we have such real-life tricksters as Dario Fo, the Italian playwright/clown whose playful political satire got him a Nobel Prize, as well as banned from the US. The Bread and Puppet Theater

of Vermont has for forty years told truth to power, while leaving their audiences weak with laughter.

Into this long and glorious tradition steps a group of activists from the UK known as the Clandestine Insurgent Rebel Clown Army, (CIRCA).

CIRCA emerged out of the direct action movement and has participated in dozens of demonstrations against the Iraq War, globalization, poverty, climate change, etc. The

group gained international fame in their colorful actions at the G8 summit held in Scotland in July 2005.

CIRCA 'clownbattants' often dress in military-style camouflage clothing supplemented with brightly coloured trimmings and political logos. The costumes both create a comical atmosphere and serve to maintain anonymity, which can be very useful in protest situations.

There is more to the Clown Army than simply dressing up and messing around. The clown persona helps defuse tense situations and engage with police in public order situations. 'Recruits' prepare for this by participating in a non-violent training workshop before deployment.

One member describes the group saying, while some members would describe themselves as anarchists "...most would consider themselves 'horizontalists', where we engage people without the need for leaders."

Recent projects include a workshop on Clowning and Permaculture, and preparations for the Copenhagen conference in December. The Clown Army now has active groups in the UK, Ireland, The Netherlands, Belgium, France, Denmark, Germany, Canada and Israel, as well as inspiring many other groups around the world.



By Pixiduc

French Brigade Activiste des Clowns.

Contact: CIRCA
www.clownarmy.org

Irish Volunteers Build 253 Homes in a Week

by Paul Ellison

On a trip to a South African Township in 2002, Irish builder Niall Mellon was so shocked by the living conditions of local people that he decided to act.

That same year, he created the Niall Mellon Township Trust, to help provide homes for the country's impoverished communities. Groups of volunteers and subcontractors were soon organised and building commenced in the township of Imizamo Yethu. Work continued there to the end of 2005, by which time 450 homes were built.

In 2006, the Trust built a further 191 homes for the community of Nereg, on the outskirts of Capetown, where people had been struggling to get housing for almost two decades. Later that year, in a November 'building blitz', 358 Irish volunteers built 70 houses in one week for the suburb of Mfuleni. This added to the 220 houses the group's workforce had already built there. The next 'blitz' of 2007 took place in Freedom Park, a township approximately 30 miles from Cape Town. In just a single week, 1,350 volunteers completed 203 houses!

2008's 'building blitz' was a historic occasion, when 2,000 volunteers left Ireland for Khayelitsha. It was the largest group of volunteers ever to leave the country and also the largest group of white people ever to build in a South African township.

In one week the volunteers built



253 houses, which provided homes for more than 3,000 people. Also taking part were builders from South Africa, UK, USA, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Finland, Lithuania and Australia.

During the building 'blitz' of 2008, the Niall Mellon Township Trust Volunteer Club was launched and honoured guest, Archbishop Desmond Tutu, was invited to become its very first member.

Paudie Corbett, from Pallasgreen, in Limerick, was a first-time volunteer in 2008. He raised 5,000 euros for his own fare and materials. "Thanks to the vision of Niall Mellon, the encouragement of friends and the generosity of donors, I took part in a great project," Paudie said. "It was the hardest, yet most rewarding, week's work I have ever



Photos © Niall Mellon Township Trust

Archbishop Desmond Tutu hugs Niall Mellon.

done. I'll definitely be volunteering again this year."

Contact: www.irishtownship.com
Story from Positive News UK

at the last minute...



Crime in US Drops Significantly

From Washington DC to Oregon, to Vermont, states across the country are tallying lower crime rates over the past few years. Even in 2009, amidst economic downturn, cities like Los Angeles, Dallas and New York have seen a dramatic reduction in violent crime.

New York City's crime rate for the first three months of '09 was the lowest in more than 40 years according to the New York Daily News. Tampa's crime rate has plummeted 46 percent in the past six years, a decrease not seen since the 1970s, Mayor Pam Iorio announced recently. Dallas saw crime fall 10 percent in 2008, exceeding the city's goal, and Police Chief David Kunkle said the trend will continue. "We believe that we can see another 10 percent reduction in crime in 2009." *Source: The Good News Network*

Iraq Commits \$30 Million for Children

Iraq's Ministry of State for Marshlands has committed \$30 million for projects to assist children in rural areas of the Marshlands region in 2009. The allocation marks the first government investment focused exclusively on improving the lives of Iraqi children.

"This is a major achievement by the government as it's the first-of-its-kind investment targeting children not only in Iraq but also globally," stated Sikander Khan, UNICEF Iraq Representative. "This sets the standard and will be the beginning of a series of child-friendly investments that will help realize the long-deprived rights of all Iraqi children, specifically improving their prospects for survival and to fully develop their capacities."

A Victory of Human Rights v. Pesticides

WEST MARIN, CA - Residents who do not want to be sprayed by pesticides in the counties of Marin and Sonoma achieved a great victory on May 13. Thanks to a five year campaign and testimony from citizens explaining how damaging pesticides would be for them and other creatures, the Marin/Sonoma Mosquito and Vector Control District board members unanimously voted to adopt an official No Spray list for residences in their counties. It's the first time in over 35 years that a No Spray list will become official policy.

The board also voted to continue to develop a notification system to alert neighborhoods that they are about to be sprayed.

Residents of Marin and Sonoma wishing to be placed on the No Spray list can call 800-231-3236 and be sure to keep a record of the request.



Meet Sustainable Fairfax



by Pam Hartwell-Herrero

Volunteers during a two-day training to learn Sustainability 101 and become Center staff.

by Pam Hartwell-Herrero

This is the home of Sustainable Fairfax with its multitude of talented community volunteers working hard on policy and examples of sustainable living. The Sustainability Center sits across the street from the Town Hall in Fairfax, CA. It's a cheery building with a bright blue bathtub, strawberries, and an herb spiral in the front yard. Inside you will find resources on rainwater harvesting, a lending library, local artists goods, a seed library and lots of take away brochures and information about everything from toxins to greywater and from food to waste reduction.

The mission of Sustainable Fairfax is painted on the walls. In the kitchen area you will find an example of a well stocked emergency supply kit and a display telling you where your water comes from. Out the back door

you enter the Sustainable Backyard with composting demonstrations, rainwater harvesting, a victory garden, native plantings, a cob bench, and space for classes to be held.

Sustainable Fairfax has achieved a great deal in their almost ten years as the sustainable voice in Fairfax. They educate the community in very active ways. An all volunteer board of directors leads teams on policy, community education, marketing and projects. These teams bring the vast array of sustainability issues to the community in the form of lectures, email newsletters, field-trips, and workshops.

In the early stages Sustainable Fairfax brought the law that created Marin Clean Energy and recycling bins to Fairfax. Last year they were instrumental in putting a plastic bag ban on the ballot and educating so that the measure won seventy-nine percent of the

votes. Much of the education happens on Green Wednesdays at the Fairfax Farmer's Market's with do-it-yourself crafts and a Green Tip of the Week.

In collaboration with Permaculture Marin they will present a film series with speakers and cutting edge films on the topics of water, homegrown food, bee-keeping and chicken raising, and sustainable farming. Each film night will be followed up by a field trip or hands-on class with the goal of re-skilling our population to be more resilient and to learn together as a community how to live in a regenerative way.

Sustainable Fairfax creates opportunities for residents to become engaged in their community and invites you to join them.

Contact: Sustainable Fairfax
www.sustainablefairfax.org
Tel: 415.455.9114

First Major US Victory for People v. Cell Towers

The Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors voted unanimously on June 2 to actively seek and support federal legislation to repeal portions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 that limit the authority of state and local governments to regulate cell towers and related wireless facilities on the basis of their health and environmental effects.

This victory indicates that residents and local governments should have the authority to be in charge of their own well-being

when it comes to wireless facilities such as cell phone towers.

The vote follows similar action taken by the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) Board of Education at its May 26 meeting.

The motion by concerned supervisors cited "ongoing debate within the scientific community and among governing bodies throughout the world regarding how thoroughly the long-term health effects of low-frequency electromagnetic and

radio-frequency emissions are understood" and "questions . . . regarding how well the existing regulations established by the Federal Communications Commission [FCC] protect more vulnerable populations such as school-aged children, and how well they protect against the cumulative effect of radio-frequency emissions on people who live or work in close proximity to multiple cellular facilities."

In April the European Parliament overwhelmingly passed a resolution on Health

Concerns Associated with Electromagnetic Fields (EMFs) by a vote of 559 to 22, which includes the position that wireless telecommunications facilities should not be placed in proximity to schools, places of worship, retirement homes, and health care institutions.

Contact: Coalition for Local Oversight of Utility Technologies (CLOUT)
www.cloutnow.org

Media Activism from a Planetary Perspective

A look at EON, the Ecological Options Network

Surrounded by organic farms in West Marin, California, Mary Beth Brangan and James Heddle co-direct EON, The Ecological Options Network, a non-profit media service for progressive organizations and campaigns. Award-winning filmmakers Mary Beth and Jim have been partners in life and work for over twenty-five years. Their videos have been broadcast internationally, on PBS, Link TV and Free Speech TV, and screened in the US Congress, many Parliaments and at the UN, as well as used by activists worldwide.

The couple produced fifteen documentaries and over

100 YouTube posts of courageous and creative responses from across the world to injustice, greed and violence. These stories of people's movements are examples of what they call deep democracy and a new worldview they've dubbed the planetarian paradigm.

"We use the term deep democracy," says Jim, "to mean substantive democracy that comes up from the trans-nationally linked grassroots. It's distinguished from 'struc-

tural,' or managed democracy, which comes down as limited choices posed by internationally linked ruling elites. The election protection movement that has grown in this country since 2000," Jim says, "is committed folks who understand that freely cast and accurately counted ballots are essential for deep democracy."

"We're seeing increasing numbers of people responding to the urgent challenges of our time. We're blessed to be documenting what

As media activists, they hold a mirror which reflects citizens stepping up, committing themselves, and joining in to stop the destruction of the planet and create solutions.

Paul Hawken calls the 'blessed unrest,' says Mary Beth. As media activists, they hold a mirror which reflects citizens stepping up, committing themselves and joining in to stop the destruction of the planet and create solutions.

EON has partaken in a vibrant variety of collaborations. These include: the international Nuclear Free Zone; stopping electromagnetic pollution from wireless technologies; stopping proposed

radioactive waste dumps in California and Texas; as well as California's Community Choice Energy, the Election Protection, and the Stop the Pesticide Spray campaigns.

EON interweaves stories from national to village levels by documenting the beginnings of a new culture, from alternatives to capitalism, to taking part in Transition Towns and permaculture movements.

"These vibrant movements together represent the first tendrils of new ecologies of consciousness," Mary Beth explains. "We call this the planetarian perspective," adds Jim. "It's visioning and creating a world

civilization grounded in the knowledge that we're part of a living planet in a living universe, and moving from geo-politics to Gaian politics."

They have recently completed a book, "The Enlightenment Imperative: Meditations on Spiritual Awakening, Social Engagement, Sexual Maturity and Cultural Creation at the Turn of the Millennium".

"This is a book about activism



by www.scheherassacredart.com

Co-directors of EON, Mary Beth Brangan and James Heddle

as a spiritual path unique to our time," says Mary Beth. "Those of us working for social change must become the change we want or we'll merely perpetuate the old violent system. Our book offers seed thoughts about this important process."

"There are more activists at work today on every issue than ever before in history who know a better world is possible and are creat-

ing it, though mainstream media ignore them," Mary Beth sums up. "Our challenges are serious, but there's so much realistic hope in the stories and sheer numbers of these determined folks!"

Contact: EON
www.eon3.net
www.youtube.com/profile/eon3
Tel: 415.868.1900



“We care for the planet and her beings. Bolinas says no to toxic spraying and ground applications.”

A store not for profit, dedicated to the prevention of cancer, birth anomalies, neurological and other diseases; created in Gratitude for my own survival.

Dedicated to supporting the Body Miraculous naturally.



Judith's Herbs & Sundries

Organic Ayurvedic, Chinese & Western Herbs
Locally Made Herbals

LOTIONS
&
POTIONS



We carry therapeutic grade essential oils, Flower Essences, homeopathic remedies including Boiron, Hylands, Heel, Boericke & Taffel, Mineral Salts, Sea Vegetables.

We specialize in non-toxic toiletries, cosmetics, toys, stainless steel & glass travel ware, candles, incense, soy ink cards, handmade paper wrap.

THURSDAY thru MONDAY 11 AM - 6 PM (Friday 10 AM)

judithsherbs@sbcglobal.net

Judith Elliott
6 Wharf Rd.
Bolinas, CA
94924
415-868-9078

To find out more call: 415-868-1378

**BROEK
HARDWOOD
FLOORS**

JAN BROEK
c. 415 516 0905
415 868 1188

MADAME CHARLATANIA
(Your specialist in occult chicanery)

Tarot – Numbers

Open Wallet Readings

415/868-2103

All predictions cheerfully retracted



GRAND HOTEL

P.O. Box 537
15 Brighton
Bolinas, CA 94924
(415) 868-1757



**BOLINAS
COMMUNITY CENTER**
The heart of the Bolinas Community
www.BoCenter.org • 868-2128

EON

The Ecological
Options Network
www.EON3.net



BOLINAS BAY
Lumber & Landscape Supply

Jerry Tergis

LiLiane Ninaud

415-868-2900

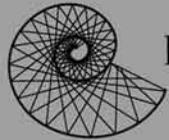
1 Olema-Bolinas Road, Bolinas, CA 94924

Box 327
Bolinas,
California
94924

BOLINAS HEARSAY NEWS
The Voice of the Village

Published Monday, Wednesday & Friday.

Available at the Bolinas Market & People's Store,
Don's Liquors, Odyssey Video & Library



Regenerative Design Institute

Cultivating life skills
and deepening awareness
of our place on earth

*Eleanor Lyman,
Bolinas*

MIGUEL
BUSTAMANTE
DENTAL
CORPORATION



24 WHARF RD.
P.O. BOX 975,
BOLINAS, CA 94924
415 868 0911

“The health and well being of humans is important to us. We oppose the construction of a cell tower in or around Stinson Beach.”

THE SAND PIPER
Lodging at the Beach
415-868-1632
1 Marine Way
Stinson Beach, CA

Claudia Chapline
Contemporary Art



3445 Hwy. 1
P.O. Box 1117
Stinson Beach, CA 94970
Business & messages: 415 868 2308
Residence: 415 868 2101
Cell: 415 602 5101
Email: info@cchapline.com

HEALING ARTS STORE

415-868-9305

3415 Hwy 1
Stinson Beach, CA

FLYING PIG RANCH



Gifts • Clothing • Movies
Ice Cream • Espresso

MOVIES & GIFTS
STINSON BEACH / BOLINAS

P.O. Box 207
Stinson Beach, CA 94970
415.868.2809



**pacific
green
energy**
Solar Energy Design
Installation & Service
Contact Darren 415-868-1111 x111



DR. SCOTT KANDLER
CHIROPRACTOR

WELLSPRING CENTER FOR HEALING
3425 Hwy. 1 (PO Box 267) • Stinson Beach, CA • 94970
415-868-1370
Tues., Thurs. 10-5, & Sat. (odd dated) 8-2

PHYSICAL MEDICINE CENTER OF MARIN
33 Miller Ave. • Mill Valley, CA • 94941
415-389-8925
Wed. & Fri. 11-7

Cell: 415-819-7684
Fax: 415-868-9520

E-Mail: skandlerdc@sbcglobal.net

The Redwoods Haus Inn

Zimmer mit Frühstück

1 Belvedere & Hwy. 1
P.O. Box 404,
Stinson Beach, CA 94970
(415) 868-1034 (415) 868-9828
www.stinson-beach.com



Oriental Medical Therapist • Acupressure
Meridian Therapy • Zen Shiatsu

禪 指 圧

David A. Frank, MA, OMT
By Appointment 51 Buena Vista Avenue
(P.O. Box 283) Stinson Beach, CA 94970
Tel. (415) 868-9085 / Cell (415) 299-0874
Email: frankdavid13a@hotmail.com

**Many
Villages**



3488 Hwy 1 Stinson Beach CA.
415 868 1419 OSHEN...
osheno@yahoo.com

Stinson Beach Health Club

P.O. Box 945
3605 Shoreline Hwy.
Stinson Beach, Ca. 94970
415-868-8801
Larry Wall-Sneddon
Owner



**Diana
of the Hounds**
dog walking
kindness patience understanding
(415) 868 9569



Earth's Heroes

The '09 Goldman Environmental Prize Recipients

by Donna Beckwith

SAN FRANCISCO, CA - The Nobel Prize Awards inspired Richard and Rhoda Goldman, civic leaders and philanthropists from San Francisco, to create a similar prize for environmental activists. In 1990 they began awarding six annual prizes, along with a monetary reward, to enable winners to continue pursuing their vision.

The Goldmans knew that grassroots leaders are often unrecognized. Yet their efforts are critical. So this prize recognizes individuals for sustained significant efforts to protect and enhance the environment.

The Goldman Environmental Award has had an impact. In 2001, winners and jurors traveled to Mexico to demand the release of a jailed activist. They were successful. And the Goldman Environmental Prize committee has helped develop a curriculum for high school students.

The prize is always awarded on Earth Day. In April, 2009, the Goldman Environmental Prize went to six activists - one each from Africa, Asia, Europe, the Island Nations, North America and South and Central America. And Positive News is honored to introduce a few of this year's winners.

Contact: www.goldmanprize.org
Tel: 415-345-6330

Olga Speranskaya for Toxic-Free Legacy

Russia, Europe

Olga Speranskaya, a Ph.D. in Physics, wrote an essay, "What Will the Collapse of Communism Do to the Environment?" that won an award and changed her career. She is now the Director of the Russia's Chemical Safety Program at the Eco-Accord Center for Environmental and Sustainable Development.

Stockpiles of obsolete pesticides and PCBs, called POPs (persistent organic pollutants) are stored throughout the region of the

former Soviet Republics. Olga has forged bonds between NGOs, academia and the governments, creating one participatory force, with one goal: eliminate the toxic chemicals from the environment. Foremost, they are working to get all nations to ratify the Stockholm Convention which will prevent the release of POPs.

In the meantime, she is working to ban all burial and transport of POPs, and she is continuing to connect people and organizations through the International POP Elimination Network.



© John Antonelli

Olga Speranskaya envisions a toxic-free Moscow

Marc Ona Essangui Protects the Rainforest



© John Antonelli

Marc Ona Essangui on Gabonese beach

Gabon, Africa

Gabon is home to the Congo Basin Rainforest, which is the second largest rainforest in the world. Ten percent of the forest has been set aside as a national forest.

Unfortunately, mineral deposits were discovered here, and in 2007, a Chinese company began building a road through the protected area.

Marc Ona Essangui, founder and president of Brainforest, an NGO, found a leaked copy of a mining agreement between his government and China's. The affected communities were not consulted, and no environmental impact statements were written. The project called for creating a dam, with a deep water port, building a railroad, and of course mining.

Marc called for environmental impact statements, and began informing people of their rights. The mining project is currently on hold. The government has established some mining oversight regulations and has decreased the permissible amount of mining. This is important because "The industrialization of Africa by leaders acting without environmental conscience will be the ruin of us," says Marc.

Marc Ona Essangui, confined to a wheelchair because of polio, also works for handicapped rights.

Contact: www.brainforest.collectivex.com



© Tom Dusenbery

Rizwana Hasan with shipbreaking workers

Rizwana Hasan Challenges the Shipbreaking Industry

Bangladesh, Asia

Many countries send decommissioned ships to the coast of Bangladesh, where they are broken apart for recycling.

The ships are laden with toxic substances. Shipbreakers work right on the beach releasing asbestos, PCBs, lead, arsenic and thousands of liters of oil and grease into the environment. The

water is heavily polluted.

Syeda Rizwana Hasan is an environmental attorney spearheading the movement to reform shipbreaking. She is working for increased government regulations and improved public awareness. Rizwana is the Executive Director of the Bangladesh Environmental Lawyers' Association, a public interest law firm. For the first time ever in Bangladesh, a polluter was

financed for breaking the rules and the breaking was stopped.

Currently, her government is framing binding rules, which will state that all toxins must be removed before the ship enters the waters of Bangladesh, and that working conditions will be improved.

Rizwana also works for wetland preservation, traditional forest rights and against vehicular and industrial pollution.



'Celebrate Africa' - A Tale of Two Sisters

by Heather Crawford

I met Chioma Ogwuegbu on a bus in Ghana last summer. We were both traveling north, to the rural and culturally distinct hinterland. She was a young African woman from Nigeria with a big camera. We got to chatting during the seven hour journey, and ended up traveling together for a few days. Her mission? To celebrate Africa!

Chioma had quit her job of five years with a women's development NGO in Nigeria in pursuit of her own personal quest – to document positive images and stories of Africa and bring them to the people, to Africans in particular. As her sister Oluchi notes in their BBC interview, "So many times what the media projects about Africa is negative, there isn't that much positive news, positive stories about what is going on." Oluchi, inspired by her sister, joined her a few months later to celebrate Africa. The plan evolved to visit 33 countries across the continent in a year and a half.

What they found was that Africa was not the scary place it was made out to be. Instead, they found friendly smiles and sign language when language was a barrier, the doors of stranger's homes flung wide open to them, offers of food and even airplane tickets! The only flight they took was from Liberia to Ivory Coast;



Sisters, Chioma and Oluchi

all other travel took place over land and waterways.

The sisters stayed in rural areas as well as cities, visiting NGOs, village healers, and discovering all kinds of projects enhancing well-being. They made their contacts as they went along, trusting in the kindness of strangers, and staying mostly with local families.

Chioma and Oluchi intend to produce a documentary and exhibition on their Celebrate Africa travels, and are looking forward

to planning similar trips for young people. "Many young Africans, they all want to leave Africa. I'm not saying that Africa is perfect," says Chioma. "but our aim is to first tell Africans about what is here, what we have here."

For further updates of Celebrate Africa visit: www.celebrateafrica.net. oluchi@celebrateafrica.net chioma@celebrateafrica.net

Women Organize for Sons' Safety

The sisters encountered an inspiring organization of women in Thiaroye, a fishing village outside of Dakar, Senegal.

Chioma shares: "Imagine this, 81 boys from the same village on a fishing boat taking a clandestine sail to Europe in search of a 'better life'. The winds change and bad weather strikes, all the boys on the boat die and are lost at sea. Your only child was on the boat and now he is lost to you forever, what would you do?"

For Yayi Bayam Diouf it was a time to take action and ensure that nobody's son was ever lost again from this kind of reckless illegal immigration. "When my son died," recalls Yayi Bayam, "I cried and cried so much because he was my only child. But when I stopped crying, I said I don't want any other person to lose their child like because it is very painful." She got in touch with the other women in the village who lost their sons in the tragedy and mobilized them for action to end the harm.

At first, there was a stiff resistance by the village elders and by the other women whose sons were about to take another voyage, "They said because I lost my son, I did not want their own children to succeed so I am trying to stop their future." However, some other women whose sons had gone abroad and never returned or gotten in touch spoke up

with one voice.

Eventually, these women formed an organization: Collectif Des Femmes Pour La Lute Contre L'Emigration Clandestine. This group addresses illegal immigration by creating alternative sources of income for its members; poverty is

She got in touch with the other women in the village who lost their sons and mobilized them for action.

the main cause of this kind of immigration.

The women also work with the police to arrest the fishermen who steer the fishing boats during these voyages. Some of these fishermen are now employed by the organization. From a small group of women, the organization has now grown to 400 members and is being replicated in fishing villages in Mali and Senegal.

"Now the women work hard and have their own money. They don't send their sons to die in the sea. I am very happy," concludes Yayi with a big smile.

Dare to Hope

Positive News wants to know what You find hopeful in the world today.

I am hopeful that a new spirit of generosity is emerging and will sweep out the age of greed and that philanthropists will increase all over our precious Earth springing up as wild flowers do after the first rains.



~ Marion Weber, Founder of the Flow Fund Circle, Stinson Beach, CA



Today we have the luxury of having a role model that we can relate to. He is a man that speaks to my spirit. To have him, as President is an inspiration. He encourages me to look forward to the next day. I am excited to see what the day will bring, because each day is different.



~ Chances Gomez, Student, San Francisco, CA



That a new consciousness is emerging, taking over, that will redefine what sustainability is. This con-

sciousness is about to manifest itself across the globe in myriad ways. It is a necessity. There is a fundamental need for it. It's not a fad. Consciousness is coming into the world of ideas and the world of actions."



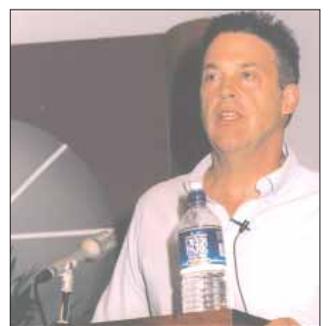
~ William A. McDonough, Architect, Charlottesville VA



I find it hopeful that when all the fear is gone, what remains is love. People are waking up to what they are missing. They are ready to embrace the truth that the ego and intellect are no longer enough to satisfy us. In our hearts we want connection. We seek connection with

other people, the earth, the creatures, and the divine.

~ Randy Eaton, Educator, Cincinnati, Ohio



The human spirit; there are people out there that do care and want to



make a difference, and are very driven to do so.

Cory Olivares, Student, writer, Trumansburg, NY



Get Into the Green!

For all your green renovations and upgrades, Alternatives will keep some green in your wallet along the way.

- 1/2 point APR discount on all hybrid vehicles
- Home energy renovations at very low interest rates*
- Short-term interest-only payments on a Home Equity Line of Credit for solar panels**

*Must be NYSEEDA approved. Contact an Alternatives home loan officer for more details. **18 month maximum



Alternatives
FEDERAL CREDIT UNION
125 N. Fulton St. • 607-273-4611
www.alternatives.org



The UPS Store™
LOW RATES DIRECT FROM UPS

101 EAST STATE STREET
THE COMMONS
ITHACA, NY 14850

Mon-Fri 9-6; Sat 10-5
Tel (607) 256-0275
Fax (607) 256-0277

- Shipping Services
- Packaging Services
- Mailbox & Postal Services
- Copying Services
- Faxing Services
- Office Supplies
- Passport Photos
- Custom Packaging/ Freight Services



GreenStar CO-OP
Natural Foods Market

ithaca's natural resource

701 W. Buffalo St. Ithaca, NY
273-9392

215 N. Cayuga St. Ithaca, NY
273-8210

www.greenstar.com

To advertise in Positive News call 607-330-4330



Fresh local flavor to enjoy on Cornell campus

This coupon good for 50% off any Espresso Drink

Espresso
Mamndible bites
There's something about salads
desserts too...
Catering
any day - any day
MANN LIBRARY
Mamndible cafe has your average eatery

great for eating!
MANN LIBRARY
MANN LIBRARY

KELLIE RYAN lmt

Integrative Massage including Deep Tissue
Expressive Movement Facilitator

SOMA Living Arts
409 State St
Ithaca NY

607-342-5509
kellieryan@gmail.com

Expanding Awareness Through Bodywork and Dance

35 years and still cookin! visit us on the Cornell campus at Anabel Taylor, Mon - Fri 11 am - 2 pm

www.moosewoodrestaurant.com



Lunch: Monday - Saturday 11:30 - 3:00
Dinner: Monday - Thursday 5:30 - 8:30
Saturday - Sunday 5:30 - 9:00
273-9610

Go Beyond Just Coping

THE JOY WITHIN

Diane Hecht
233 Elm St. • Ithaca NY 14850
(607)277-1318 • Ithaca Hours Welcome
dhecht@iitvcy.ny.us

Stress Management • Meditation • Reiki



REGIONAL ACCESS
PURVEYORS OF SPECIALTY & NATURAL FOODS

Serving New York's Cooperatives & Specialty Retailers since 1989

1609 Trumansburg Rd. • Ithaca, NY 14850
p: 607-319-5150 • f: 607-351-5156

The Pathway to Radiant Health

Healing Tree Studio
Advanced CranioSacral Therapy
Therapeutic Massage
Energy Balancing

Nancy Young LMT
307 N. Tioga St. Ithaca, NY 14850
(607) 387-3020



What Have We Done for the Planet Lately: A Special Report

by Geri Weis-Corbly

The Good News Network asked one question of leading environmentalists who are usually keen to point out what is wrong with the environment: What is the good news in the last dozen years for Planet Earth?

Historically there is good news. Within two years of the first Earth Day in 1970 a slew of major legislation was passed: the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, establishment of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the ban on DDT, and the reduction of lead from paint, all of which delivered monumental benefit to the environment.

But what have we done for the planet lately? Here are some top favors we've done for Mother Earth in the last 12 years.

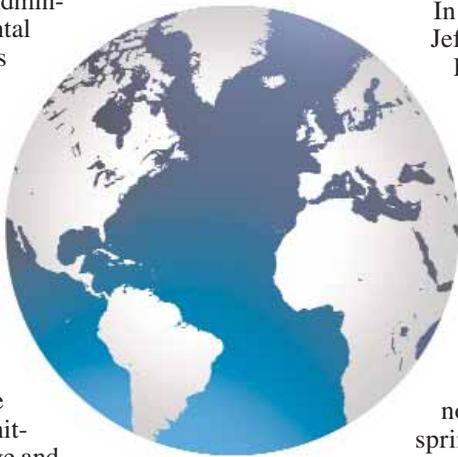
Action on Global Warming

Lisa Jackson, the new Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, joins the majority of others interviewed in speaking of the new worldwide public consensus around global warming. "In the last decade the world has united around tackling climate change, which will impact people from Micronesia to the Florida Keys to the Sahara. There is a growing, global commitment to fight climate change and build a green economy. That will lead to further cooperation among nations to tackle other threats to our health and our planet - and that is truly good news for our Earth."

Randy Serraglio, of the Center for Biological Diversity, agrees. "In the last decade a consensus has emerged within the international scientific community that global climate disruption is underway, is caused by humans, and threatens very serious consequences if we do not deal with it. The good news," says Serraglio, "is the consensus has pushed even corporations toward aggressive action to ward off the worst of those consequences."

The Natural Resources Defense Council says one of the top events of the decade was the EPA's recent landmark affirmation formally announcing that global warming pollutants are a threat to public health. "By announcing that carbon and other global warming pollutants pose a threat to public health, EPA sets in motion the process of regulating those pollutants, which has to be one of the major advances in public health and environmental protection since the 1970s."

Consensus grew out of the UN in 2007 when nearly 200 countries agreed to accelerate the elimination of chemicals that weaken the ozone and exacerbate global warming. UN Environmental Program chief Achim Steiner hailed the agreement by governments, especially China who moved quickly to ban dangerous hydrochlorofluorocarbons, as a "vital signal" in efforts



© Flávio Cruvinel Brandão.
A Blue-winged Parrotlet, the smallest Brazilian parrot

to slow climate change.

Renewable Energy Hits its Stride

Nick Nuttall, a spokesperson for the United Nations Environmental Program (UNEP) sees a new era of commitment to green causes. "Over the last 12 months some countries have begun to factor-in the economic costs of environmental degradation and seize the opportunities of transiting to resource efficient, low carbon societies. If this can be scaled up and accelerated and the three trillion dollars-worth of stimulus packages can be spent wisely and creatively, there is now the chance for a transition to a truly Green 21st century economy."

In answering our survey, Jeff Mikulina, Executive Director of the Blue Planet Foundation and former director of the Sierra Club in Hawaii, nominated the tremendous progress and growth in clean energy development - solar and wind, in particular. And, Blue Planet is not the only group to spring up in the past decade powered up by a mission to end the use of fossil fuels.

The editorial staff at Treehugger also gave a nod in this direction arguing, "We have finally reached the point where renewable energy from solar and wind have hit the competitive pricing point."

The Internet: a Greening Force

Jane Goodall, the famous primatologist and anthropologist, thinks the fact that so many people are using their lives to make a difference, every day, is most amazing and worthy of note. Helping them make this change has been the rise of the world-wide web.

"I believe the most most positive trend has been the rapid and organic growth of communications technologies," says Blue Planet's Jeff Mikulina. "While this 'tech' might seem antithetical to the theme of low-energy use and sustainability, the power to connect with people and share information has proven a potent tool for social change."

Protecting the Amazon

For the World Wildlife Fund (WWF), the best news for Planet Earth came in 2002 when WWF partnered with the Brazilian Government and others to launch the world's largest tropical forest conservation program. The Amazon Region Protected Areas Program carves out strict preservation and sustainable use reserves, including the establishment of over 62 million acres of new



protected areas - a swath about the size of Wyoming. The final phase began in 2009 and will create 50 million acres of newly protected land, comparable to the US National Park System, yet 50 percent larger.

Higher Fuel Efficiency Standards

The US Congress strengthened vehicle fuel-efficiency standards for the first time in 30 years with the passage of the Energy Independence and Security Act in December 2007. The bill includes measures to save Americans money at the gas pump and cut down on global warming pollution. "We handed Congress an ambitious agenda at the beginning of 2007, and the bill represents real progress in achieving cleaner cars, fuels, and appliances," said Karen Wayland, legislative director at NRDC.

The Act sets a goal for the national fuel economy standard of 35 miles per gallon by 2020, an increase of 40 percent that will save the country billions of gallons of fuel.

Conservation of Wild Lands by Clinton, Obama - and Bush

Each of the last three presidents, Barack Obama, George W. Bush and Bill Clinton

In Bush's final days in the White House, a stroke of the pen designated three new areas in the Pacific as Marine National Monuments to create the largest area of ocean protection in the world, measuring 195,000 square miles and preventing the destruction of some of the world's most pristine natural resources, rich in biodiversity.

Bush created the largest protected marine sanctuary in the world once before, two and a half years earlier, preserving nearly 140,000 square miles in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands. The sanctuary is home to 7,000 marine species, at least a quarter of which are found nowhere else.

This spring, Barack Obama signed into law one of the most sweeping conservation and public land management bills in years. The legislation will protect 2 million acres of wilderness across the country, including 1,000 miles of wild and scenic rivers, by creating a national system to conserve land held by our Bureau of Land Management. The measure will block mining and drilling on millions of acres of land.

The Amazon Region Protected Areas Program established over 62 million acres of new reserves.

Reaching Beyond the Environmental Movement

Mark Tercek, president and CEO of The Nature Conservancy is a believer in the maxim that necessity is the mother of invention. "We are in the midst of the kind of necessity in which the Conservancy excels and is most inventive. A glance at the highlights of the last 10 years only hints at what is possible in the coming years: conservation on a grander scale, more ambitious partnerships, an increased integration of human well-being



© Parkerlab

President Obama's bill will protect areas around Colorado River

have left a major mark on land use and conservation in the United States. Starting with Clinton, the NRDC points to his historic issuance of the Roadless Areas Conservation Rule, which protected 58.5 million acres of unspoiled national forest land in 39 states from virtually all road building and logging.

into conservation and an expansion of market solutions across continents and the planet."

Excerpts from "Special Report: The Best News for Planet Earth in Decades" by Good News Network, www.goodnewsnetwork.org



The Best Medicine

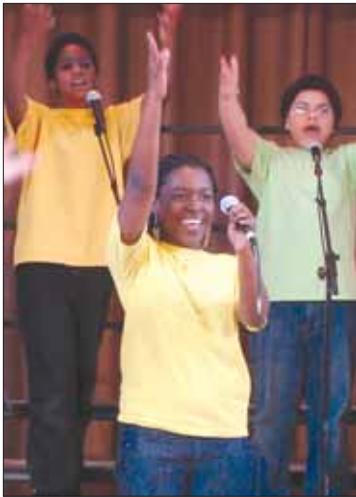
Vitamin L Celebrates Twenty Years

by Janice Nigro

ITHACA, NY - Every year since 1989, Vitamin L concerts and recordings have inspired thousands of children with transformative messages delivered through the magic of song. Vitamin L makes memorable connections with children through music – inspiring them to grow into adults with personal integrity who treat others with dignity and respect.

Based in Ithaca, New York, and a Project Partner of the Center for Transformative Action at Cornell University, Vitamin L's mission is to spread love and goodwill, and to encourage the development of positive character through music by inspiring children with messages that are meaningful and accessible in their daily lives. Vitamin L's goal is to reach and positively influence as many children as possible.

Vitamin L's performing group consists of songwriter Jan Nigro and a diverse group of 80 talented singers, ages 11-21, with 10 performers in each concert. They have given hundreds of performances



at schools, conferences, and community events around the Northeast and beyond.

Using youth singers to present positive messages about empathy, gratitude, appreciating diversity, perseverance, human rights, the world as one family, and more, is an effective approach that is key to Vitamin L's success. The singers are seen as role models, heroes, even rock stars in the eyes and hearts of the children.

"You guys were awesome, and my favorite song was 'Walk a Mile' [about empathy]," says Brianna, a fifth grader. "That song inspired me to apologize to my best friend. When I went to her house she was getting up to apologize to me, too. So thank you for coming 'cause my best friend would probably still hate my guts. One more thank you."

"When I hear your songs, I feel so happy and joyful," writes Vidal, another listener.

For those outside of central New York wishing to bring Vitamin L's transformative messages into their homes and schools, the group has recordings available. The songs are used



Photos by Janice Nigro

in the US and abroad.

Vitamin L's visionary approach to positive social change through music is clearly illustrated by Lily Cavanaugh, an alumna chorus member who currently teaches first grade. "Vitamin L taught me to think concretely about issues of racism, sexism, the value of individuality and taking responsibility for my actions," Lily shares. "Ultimately, the message of love we sang penetrated my core and left a lasting mark. My experience in Vitamin L helped shape the person and teacher I am today. It gives me great hope knowing that Vitamin L and other teachers exist who are

committed, as I am to teaching for social justice. We are all working together to bring more love and acceptance into our world."

Vitamin L invites you to its 20th Birthday Concert Celebration on August 8, at the Hangar Theatre in Ithaca. There will be a birthday cake for the audience, a birthday raffle and lots of love and goodwill!

Contact: *The Vitamin L Project*
Tel: 607.273.4175
www.vitaminL.org
To reserve concert tickets email
VitaminL20th@gmail.com

Students Find They Can't Kick Kindness!

by Ruth Robertson

BIDDEFORD, ME - Students at a middle school in this coastal community performed over three thousand acts of kindness in the past school year, winning the title The Kindest Middle School in Maine. More important than the award itself, students felt like real winners when they found that they were able to change the spirit in their school, stop teasing and taunts, and spread an infectious form of happiness.

Empowered by Michael J Chase of Kindness Center and his vision to 'change the world, one school at a time', students learned about making good choices. They started by focusing on the nine elements of a kind heart, then put what they learned into action every day at school, at home, and in their town of Biddeford.

Middle-schoolers living in this southern Maine industrial town learned that a kind heart is authentic, charitable, compassionate, courageous, enthusiastic, grateful,



inspirational, patient and shares random acts of kindness. They discovered the importance of being kind to yourself every day. Some took their first step by reducing junk food in their diet, others sat down to write a personal letter, listing nine things they liked about themselves, posting it nearby so they could remember to start each day with a cheerful outlook.

After first looking inward, students were in a good position to feel grateful for what they have in life, then start with acts of kindness at home. One student surprised a family member with breakfast in bed then cleaned up the kitchen! Lots of other ideas emerged for helping out at home to foster positive feelings. Cleaning and organizing an entire room was a great first step toward creating good family relationships and an atmosphere where kindness would prevail. "Kindness Day" instituted at home gradually turned into kindness every day!

Students next took a good look

at their relationships at school. They discovered that they could start with the simple step of talking to someone they'd never met before. Some liked leaving notes for different people reminding them how special they are. Smiling and thanking the school bus driver meant that each school day started and ended on a positive note.

With help from their teachers pupils started tracking random acts of kindness. They recorded hundreds of good deeds at home and at

school... but there was much more they could do! Looking to their own downtown Main Street, the young people noticed the Stone Soup Pantry, a community gathering place where families are able to share their resources with each other, including food, clothing, housing, furniture, and household goods. While some students collected non-perishable food items and delivered them to the food pantry, others offered to babysit for free, or help neighbors with similar surprises.

With thousands of acts of kindness under their belts and plans for many more, Biddeford Middle School students are proud of their designation as "kindest middle school in Maine." Kindness is now a habit these sixth through eighth graders just can't kick!

Contact: *The Kindness Center*
www.thekindnesscenter.com
Tel: 207.620.1023



Photo by Cara Chase

Here comes the kindness brigade

The Altruism of Children

This may be hard to believe for those of you who have to bribe kids to do chores, but the latest scientific research indicates that children are born altruistic. Psychology researcher Felix Warneken, at Germany's Max Planck Institute, performed a series of ordinary chores in front

of 18 month old toddlers like using clothespins to hang up a towel or arranging books. Sometimes he "struggled" with the tasks; sometimes he deliberately messed up. And what he found was that when he seemed to drop something accidentally, the child, without being asked, would try to pick it up and give it back.



From My House to the White House

TAMPA, Fla. – At age 11, Zach Bonner has already walked farther and done more for charity than many grown-ups.

Now he's about to make good on his vow to walk more than 1,200 miles from Tampa to Washington to bring attention to the issue of homeless kids in the US.

The boy with the spiky red hair came up with the idea in 2007, then hiked nearly 300 miles from his home near Tampa to the state capital, Tallahassee. Last year, he walked another 270 miles or so from Tallahassee to Atlanta.

In May he set out for the final and most demanding leg of the journey, well over 600 miles from Atlanta to Washington. He figured it'll take about two months.

Zach expects to cover around 11 miles a day. Along the way, he'll collect donations and letters from people urging President Barack Obama to take more action to alleviate homelessness among children. His long walk during summer vacation isn't expected to interfere with school.

Zach became a local celebrity of sorts at age 7 when he pulled his red wagon around his neighborhood collecting bottled water and food for victims of Hurricane Charley, which hit Florida in August 2004. He ended up sending 27 pickup truck loads of goods.

"When somebody tells me I can't do something, it makes me want to do it even more," says the soft-spoken fifth-grader.

Once he started helping people, especially kids, he couldn't stop. He put together and distributed about 1,200 backpacks full of toiletries, food and other necessities for homeless kids. Now he even has his own registered nonprofit charity, the Little Red Wagon Foundation Inc.

Zach said he was inspired by a peace activist known as "The Peace Pilgrim," who walked back and forth across the country for 28 years. That's when the idea for the "My House to the White House" walk came to him.

"He told everybody before I had a chance to say no," said his mom, Laurie. "It's just him. It's who he is."

Once he gets to Washington around July 9, Zach will participate in activities at the Sasha Bruce House, an emergency shelter for homeless youth.

"My plan is to help as many kids as I can, have fun and keep it simple," Zach summed up his agenda.

Contact: Little Red Wagon Foundation Inc.
Tel: 813.495.1813
www.LittleRedWagonFoundation.com
www.zachtracker.com
Story content from Dailygood.org



Global Youth Service Day a Success

WASHINGTON, DC – The 21st Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) was a resounding success. Lasting three days, April 24-26, thousands of events around the world celebrated and recognized the contributions young people make to their communities every day of the year.

1,950 GYSD projects were registered this year, almost twice as many as in 2008. 19,000 young people volunteered in Hungary and 260,000 volunteered in Taiwan. GYSD events also occurred in countries such as Liberia, Rwanda, and Pakistan.

Miley Cyrus and Youth Service America launched Miley.YSA.org and asked kids to change the world. Over 800 young people registered on the site.

President Obama signed the Kennedy Serve America Act, which highlights Semester of Service and Global Youth Service Day.

This year, youth all over the world focused on critical issues including literacy, care of the planet, and eliminating poverty.

To learn more about the projects, visit www.GYSD.org/map



Top left: Kiev, Ukraine: Kyvites student members learned and performed a traditional Indian dance to encourage global cooperation. © PTPI; bottom left, Boys making Community Cupcakes which raised over \$100 for the local food shelf. © Julie Graves; right: Kampala, Uganda: a member of Angels of Humanity visits a local impoverished area in her community to provide meals and interact with residents. © PTPI

The Secret Garden

by Carol Day

HOWE OF FIFE, Scotland - At The Secret Garden woodland nursery for two to five year olds, the staff and children enjoy the great outdoors in all weathers. Creative development through play is the primary focus.

The nursery has its own curriculum called Nature as Teacher. Developed from the Curriculum for Excellence model, used in Scottish schools, the curriculum was designed to enable all children to become good learners, confident individuals and effective contributors to society. Nature as Teacher aims to support

the development of 'the inspired, creative child' and the 'confident and happy child' using the natural environment as its classroom.

Trees, woodland creatures and elements of the natural world are used as symbols for each stage the child passes on their journey. The nursery involves both the children and their families as much as possible by, for example, making a poster that can be taken home and hung on the wall.

The project began four years ago as a baby sitting service, run by its founder, Cathy Bache. With the commitment and enthusiasm of a supportive community, a management team was organised and funding was put in place for a council supported nursery.

Since The Secret Garden opened its 'doors' last September, there are now three dedicated practitioners, who work with the children and allow them time, space, freedom, focus and flow to be in their senses, within the exclusive venue of the natural envi-

ronment.

The Secret Garden appreciates how the outdoors can encourage the child's unique expression and its 'pure way of being' to develop. It honours how nature sets an example for the children with its beauty, physicality and diversity.

The nursery is still in its early stages, and the staff and managers are learning so much about how to be 'alive'. They are building a team, a community and a structure – one that appreciates the specialness in each being. How this is expressed and what structures are put in place to further the evolution of peaceful communities on Earth, is a vital part of the journey.

The Secret Garden would love to hear from similar projects and share ideas!

Contact: Cathy Bache
www.secretgardenoutdoor-nursery.co.uk

Story from Positive News UK



© The Secret Garden

Enjoying a snack at The Secret Garden



Performers Without Borders



© Performers Without Borders

Thom Herzmark wows the crowd

by Thomas Herzmark

From a small village in the dusty plains of north India, to the humid intensity of a big city railway station, Performers Without Borders have been sowing the seeds of positive change, through their inclusive programme of performing arts. By providing unique workshops, team games and tutoring in circus skills, they are empowering children to enjoy learning.

During my experience in India, with Performers Without Borders, we encouraged children to develop performance skills, while also building

"Regardless of language, race or social class, children all over the world have a huge capacity to laugh, smile and learn."

friendships and confidence in their ability. At the end of a month of learning, the children put a show together for their community.

As a workshop leader, I was fascinated by the way in which the young artists used their own imagination to produce a unique performance. It was beautiful to see them engage with each other in a supportive environment, sharing ideas and enjoying learning something new, for its own sake.

Regardless of language, race or social class, children all over the world have a huge capacity to laugh, smile and learn. Circus is a great leveller, as the basics are quite easy to pick up, generating a strong sense of progress and achievement, while simultaneously promoting learning in a non-competitive way. It was especially inspiring to watch the extraordinary pace with which the children developed their skills.

Since leaving India, the group has received fantastic feedback from youth workers in the four communities. They have applauded how the children have continued to practice all their circus and performance skills. Indeed, it has become a regular part of their curriculum.

Having successfully completed this first-time teaching experience in India, the charity is now forming a new team of trainers, performers and workshop leaders to return to India next autumn. Through close, enduring



© Performers Without Borders

Boys showing off their new skills

friendship and co-operation with local communities, we can continue to create exciting opportunities for young people to help them enjoy learning and performing.

Contact:
performerswithoutborders.org.uk
Story from Positive News UK

Giving with No Strings Attached!

by Ruth Robertson

Know someone with a high IQ? You probably know it is just as important to have a good EQ, also known as an emotional intelligence quotient. But have you heard of CQ?

CQ, or compassion quotient, is the spiritual component that offers you an art that can be practiced. When times are bad, the higher your CQ, the better you feel. A high CQ can even strengthen your spirit!

Nipun Mehta began a trip towards perfecting the art of CQ when he quit his Silicon Valley engineering job and started doing things just for the love of it, and giving without any strings attached. Mehta says that anyone can begin on the path toward a higher CQ by just starting wherever they are and focusing on one small act. "Think about what makes you come alive and start doing it. You won't solve all the problems in the world," he advises, "but make sure you aren't a problem for the world to solve."

The truth is that none of us could be who we are and where we are without the contributions of so many others. Mehta and a group of friends thought deeply about just that during a casual get-together over pizza one evening almost a decade ago. On that fateful day they became more than just friends. That night they became a "posse of people" focused on the inner change that comes when people take the opportunity to act selflessly.

Mehta and his "posse" started by using that powerful tool, the internet. They knew they had the skills that could help others spread their messages of peace and care around the world, but that many non-profits did not have the money, skills, or people to start a website. That's where the spirit of volunteerism came in with a roar. Mehta's group donated their time doing what they knew how to do best. Good news emanated from the websites they helped create and the volunteers felt hugely rewarded.

Since focusing on charity was the group's

goal, they came up with the name Charityfocus. Mehta humbly reminds people that focusing on charity is not a new concept.

Indigenous cultures and monastic traditions across the world have long been rooted in a gift economy paradigm. A gift economy is a culture where valuable goods and services are regularly given without any agreement for immediate or future rewards. In societies with a gift economy, giving is so common that it circulates and redistributes valuables within the community.

When custom governs exchanges, rather than an explicit exchange of goods or services for money, there is much to be gained. For one thing, the heart goes into the creation of the product, whether it be a website or a cherry pie, and even though there is no expectation that profit will result, the rewards are many.

The core group behind Charityfocus recognized that whereas gift economies have operated successfully in times past and in cultures outside of Western tradition, to operate as a gift culture within the larger market economy of today's modern world they would need to pay close attention to the process. With no centralized headquarters and no paid employees working 9-to-5, they decided to maintain a strict rule that there would be NO fundraising. They engaged passionate "be-the-change" volunteers, and jumped to action instead of stalling projects until resources were secured.

This style of operation represented a sea change from life in Silicon Valley, California where most of the early volunteers resided. This was a decade ago, in a time and place where start-up companies were creating millionaires overnight. Everything that society deemed to be of value seemed to be measured purely in dollars.

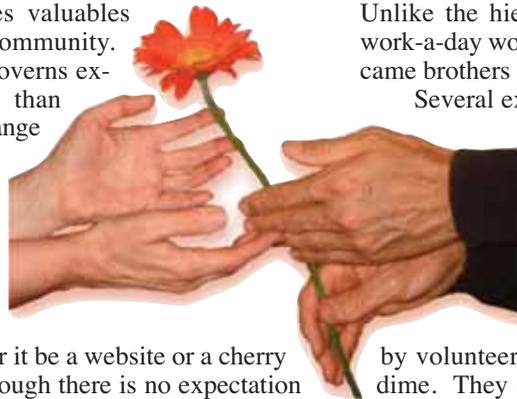
Compared to their day jobs, people found that their volunteer work through Charityfocus was free of time consuming negotiations and accounting. Instead of sitting in endless meetings deciding what they should do and how they should do it, they were able to respond quickly and efficiently to directly provide services to those in need. It was a welcome change from the commercial world where nothing moves forward without lawyers and lengthy contracts. Unlike the hierarchical relationships in their work-a-day world environments, volunteers became brothers and sisters in service.

Several exciting projects literally fell into their hands as word spread of Charityfocus's ability to work quickly and directly to serve people in need. In addition to creating free websites for non-profits, Charityfocus volunteers started a restaurant where the food is prepared and served

by volunteers and where no one need pay a dime. They created an internet portal called ProPoor that provides information, resources and news about development work in South Asia and is a platform to match resources with needs. Some of the recent "matches" created thanks to ProPoor include former refugees helping people displaced by conflict in Sri Lanka.

Volunteers for Charityfocus continue to grow in their generosity. Their work is a reminder that we all can take part in rekindling the spirit of service around the globe. If you still need a motivating thought to inspire you to begin with yourself and one small act, remember this slogan from the folks at Charityfocus: Every small change we make creates a ripple in the universe without a measurable end!

Contact: CharityFocus
P.O. Box 2711
Santa Clara, CA 95055
www.charityfocus.org



Pittsburgh Man Plants Seeds for a Kindness Epidemic

On the eve of April Fools' Day, a 29-year-old Pittsburgh resident posted an ad on Craigslist, a network of free online advertising with jobs, internships, housing and more, offering "help with something this weekend" to any Chicago residents in need of an extra pair of hands. The mystery Samaritan wished to remain anonymous and his only request to those asking for help was that they "pay it forward" by doing a good deed to someone else.

The samaritan's inbox started filling up just minutes after his ad went live, eventually receiving nearly 150 responses. He culled through the list, settling on four people he knew he could help. On Friday, April 3, he drove west bringing only a box of hand tools, and the best of intentions.

That weekend, he delivered a car battery, gave a lift to a stranger, dismantled a swing set, cleared out a demolished bathroom and delivered fresh clothing to a local charity that serves the homeless.

His five labors complete, the Pittsburgh Samaritan drove back home. Everything went according to plan, he said, calling the experience the "best weekend" of his life.

Source: DailyGood.org



at the last minute...



Chicago Says Yes to Healthier Babies

The Chicago City Council voted to make Chicago the first U.S. city to ban bisphenol A in baby bottles and sippy cups. This is the latest act in a groundswell of public concern about a widely used chemical that has been linked to cancer, diabetes and other ailments.

The unanimous vote adds the city to a growing list of states and countries moving to eliminate the chemical from household products, especially those made for infants and children.

Minnesota adopted a similar ban last week, and lawmakers in Illinois and several other states are considering their own measures.

Chicago's action puts it at odds with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which insists that the small amount of BPA in containers isn't dangerous. Industry officials cited the FDA's position when they tried to block the city's measure this week.

But scientists increasingly are concerned that constant exposure to the chemical is harmful, even at low doses leaching from plastic. BPA has been found in 93 percent of Americans tested, with the highest levels in the youngest infants.



Responding to public pressure, many retailers have already vowed to stop selling bottles and containers made with BPA. Some manufacturers, including the nation's leading baby-bottle makers, also have started to market products labeled as "BPA-free."

Source: CommonDreams.org

Student Bids no-drilling Rights

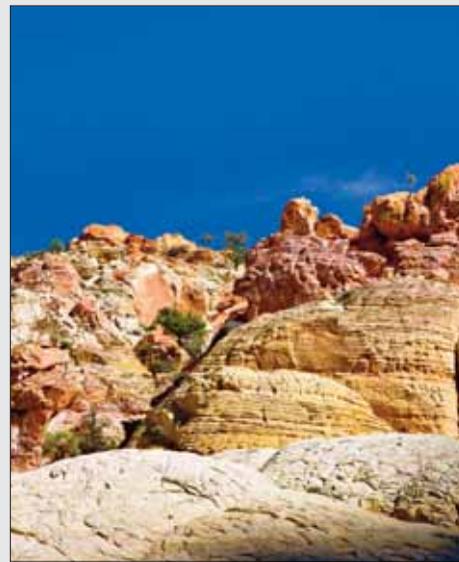
UTAH - Tim DeChristopher walked past the protesters outside the office where Bush administration officials were auctioning drilling rights in pristine Utah wilderness. He bid a total of \$1.8 million for 13 parcels near Arches

and Canyonlands National Parks. Federal officials finally got suspicious and stopped the bidding.

It turned out the 27-year-old economics student had no money and no intention of drilling for gas and oil. Instead, he saw a chance to monkey-wrench the effort to offer federal lands to energy companies.

"If I ended up going to prison, then I could live with that," he told Amy Goodman on Democracy Now! "But if I saw an opportunity to protect the land of southern Utah and give us a better chance for a livable future, and I passed up that opportunity, I wouldn't be able to live with that." Donations have poured in from around the country.

Tim tells his story at www.YesMagazine.org/oilbid



Countries Eliminating Cluster Bombs

GENEVA, Switzerland - Several of the ninety-six countries which signed a treaty to ban cluster bombs have started to destroy their stockpiles of the weapons even before the treaty is ratified, an advocacy group reports.

"Only a few years ago the destruction of these stockpiled cluster munitions would have been unthinkable, but there has been a sea change of opinion against this weapon," says Steve Goose of Human Rights Watch. "In an incredibly short period of time, many governments have moved from staunchly defending the need for cluster munitions to completely rejecting them," he adds.

Spain has already completed the destruction of its stockpile, and Colombia is close to doing so. Canada and half a dozen European countries are also in the process.

The treaty was signed in Oslo last December by over 90 countries after a campaign to outlaw cluster bombs. The bombs contain hundreds of "bomblets" that blanket wide areas and which may explode years later, posing lethal danger to civilians.

Campaigners for the ban are pleased that 35 former users, producers, stockpilers and exporters of the weapons, including Britain and France, have signed up.

The treaty will come into force six months after it has been ratified by 30 countries.

Campaigners hope President Barack Obama will sign up the United States, which has already banned exports of the weapons.

Source: www.CommonDreams.org

"We care for the planet and her beings. Keep Fairfax free of toxic spraying."

For more information: www.stopthespray.org

Vegan ♥ Gluten-Free ♥ Raw



Lovin' Foods for the Body, Mind & Soul

www.lydiasorganics.com

31 Bolinas Road tel: 415.258.9678
Fairfax, CA 93920 fax: 415.258.9623
Email: info@lydiasorganics.com



Contemporary Ethnic Imports

Lorie Kulberg
415-456-8138
7 Bolinas Rd.
Fairfax, CA
cultureshockonline.com



Connecting Community,
Economy & Ecology

ALL PURPOSE
Handyman
REPAIRING THE PLANET
CONSCIENTIOUS SERVICE
TO MEET YOUR NEEDS
721-7241 MARIN



Store ★ Gallery ★ Workshops

★ A store offering unique & unusual, art-based clothes, toys, cards, & more!

★ An art gallery of local student talent.

★ Workshops for young people.

14 Bolinas Rd, Fairfax 415-459-7999



FAT KAT SURF SHOP
1906 SIR FRANCIS DRAKE BLVD.
FAIRFAX, CALIFORNIA 94930



Positive News
t-shirts!

You can get one
at
www.positivenewsus.org or
607-330-4330
\$18.50
Small, Medium, Large

LIGHTLINK'S MISSION STATEMENT

"To open the channels of communication and to allow people to speak the truth as they see it"

Get online and enjoy our hotspots at the following locations:

- ABC Café, Alladdin's, Treman Marine, Autumn Leaves, Asia Cuisine, Boatyard Grill, Border's Books, Café Pacific, Carriage House Café, Castaways, Center Ithaca, Chanticleer, Chapter House, Chip-N-Dales, Club Sudz, Collegetown Bagels, Collegetown Pizza, Dassan J's, D.P. Dough, Felicia's Atomic Café, Four Seasons, Gimme Coffee!, Geno's, Greenstar, Ithaca Bakery, Ithaca Farmer's Market, Jade Garden, John Thomas Steakhouse, Juna's Café, Jabberwock, Korova, Letter's, Mate Factor Café, Mahogany Grill, Mango café, Micawbers, Moosewood, No Radio Records, Oasis, Olivia, Pete's, Pizza Aroma, Pyramid Mall, Race Office, Ragmann's, Ruloff's, Rongo, Sadie D's, Sciencenter, Sinbad's, State Diner, Starbucks, Stieh's, The Common's Deli, Triphammer Laundromat...
- For a complete online listing go to www.lightlink.com



No Insurance?
We Can Help!

ITHACA HEALTH ALLIANCE

- \$100/year for General Membership
- Access up to \$4500 in medical bill assistance
- Discounts with over 150 medical providers
- Dental and Eye Care Loans available
- Employer Discount available
- Special Loans for Healthcare Professionals
- Medically Integrated Free Clinic

www.IthacaHealth.org • 607-330-1253

a cooperatively funded, community non-profit organization



The Odd Couple of Humor: Azhar Usman (left) and Rabbi Bob Alper

A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to Peace

by Marty Luster

They are booked more than a year in advance, receive rave reviews, and play to enthusiastic crowds, especially on the college circuit. Their goal is healing and understanding and the medium for their message is humor. "They" are Rabbi Bob Alper and his friends.

Bob is an ordained and practicing rabbi who started doing stand-up comedy in 1986 in Philadelphia when he came in third in a Jewish comedy contest, right after a lawyer and a chiropractor. He and his co-stars do about 60 shows a year throughout the U.S. and overseas.

Being a rabbi comic might be unusual, but what really sets this act apart is that Bob teams up with other performers who happen to be Palestinian, Muslims (but not necessarily Arab), and non-Palestinian Arabs. Currently Bob performs with three close friends who, in their own rights, are world-class comedians. Azhar Usman is Muslim, but not Arab; Ahmed Ahmed is Muslim and Arab; and Nazareth, that's his whole name, is a Palestinian Christian.

Most recently, Bob has been

touring with Azhar, a former lawyer whom he met by googling 'Muslim comedian.' Running throughout the performance is their clear belief that when audiences see this "Odd Couple of Humor" entertaining together, they leave fully believing that peace and perhaps even love is possible between those who have been separated by fear, politics and history. Their message is delivered simply, without preaching and with a humor that recognizes the absurdity of self-destructive artificial barriers that have fueled hatred and warfare for generation after generation.

"We give people an opportunity to laugh together and see each other's humanity," says Bob. "When I make them laugh, I know I move them spiritually."

Consistent with their hope that their performances will bring disparate people together, many of their campus shows are jointly funded and sponsored by campus Muslim and Jewish organizations.

Contact: Bob Alper
www.bobalper.com/oddcouple.html
Tel: 1.888.483.3297

by Wong-eye

HONG KONG - "I just love life," said Nick Vujicic. Nick is a 25-year old Australian motivational speaker who was born without limbs, an extremely rare condition called Tetra-amelia Syndrome. Yet, he has a double degree in financial planning and accounting and a career in stock market and property investment. He was also nominated as Young Australian of the Year in 2005. He recently completed a six-day tour in Hong Kong, giving inspirational talks that were like part standup comedy and part speeches.

"I am not here to say that I suffer more than you do because that's not true," Nick said. "I think it's worse to have a broken family. I'm here to tell you that there's power in never ever giving up".

Despite being limbless, Vujicic is capable of doing many things with his torso and what he calls his "chicken drumstick" - his 'foot' with two toes at the bottom of his torso. Determined to turn "life without limbs into life without limits", he can play computer games, soccer, golf, drum machines, dive off a springboard, swim, drive his wheelchair, speedboats and horse ride. With his two fingers, Vujicic is capable of typing 43 words per minute. On top of that, he has a great sense of humour and is capable of laughing at himself as well as others.

Referring to his broken foot after an accident with the football, he said, "No matter what happens, you should always be grateful. You don't know what you have until you lose it. I am so grateful for my foot. You never know what you can achieve until you try".

After having been inspired by a speaker at school at the age of 19, Nick decided to become an international speaker. He seems to have achieved his goal having spoken to 2.4 million people in 24 countries. And there are currently 8,000 pending invitations from all over the world to hear Nick speak.

"I have a passion and a goal; I wanted to reach it through practice," Nick said. "When I fall, I have love and encouragement to get me back up again. We should never ever give up. The storm will pass and life will carry on; an eagle flies above the storm and it's always a sunny day".

Nick is now a president of two companies, one of which is named, "Attitude is Altitude" in which the former determines the latter.

"Hope is something that people cannot buy. You can be a miracle to someone and that person will in turn encourage somebody else," he explained. "Where there is suffering, there's hope and the biggest obstacles in life are fear and guilt".

Life Without Limits

A message of hope: Nick Vujicic proves that human nature can rise beyond suffering.

Amid the financial crisis, his visit to Hong Kong was timely. Being a professional investor, Nick has lost 40 percent of his money. "I have strength. I don't care for money because love is the greatest gift of all; without it we are nothing," he said. "We're all different but we all need love, hope and not fear and guilt. As long as we come together, we shall overcome all obstacles".

Nick also visited Xichuan and Mianyang in China to give hope to the earthquake victims. "I am not here to compare our suffering or to say that I understand their pain because I have not been through what they have gone through; but I'm there to let them know that they are not alone. If they don't give up, they can become a miracle of hope for someone else who has been through the same trauma."

Contact:

www.attitudeisaltitude.com

www.lifewithoutlimbs.org

Story from Positive News Hong Kong



Nick Vujicic



Estonia countryside.

Cleaning A Country in Five Hours

Half of Estonia's territory is forest. Yet, these forests are sometimes used as the country's dump sites. A group created a grassroots initiative to rid Estonia of 10,000 tons of trash littering its forests and natural environment. The initiative aimed to recycle up to 80% of the collected waste, making it the first massive recycling project in Estonia, a Baltic country one-third the size of Pennsylvania.

In one day, over 50,000 volunteers - or four percent of Estonia's population - cleaned their country in five hours.

"Let's Do It campaign was born from one idea - What if we clean up the whole country?" says Toomas Trapido, the campaign initiator.

The next step was to gather a team of pro-

fessionals fired up about the cause. Next the team focused on getting the support of individuals, organizations, politicians, and celebrities, with ample media coverage aired on TV and radio. "We were told that at some point we were like the 'mafia', nobody would say 'no' to us," explains Rainer Nolvak, a visionary and campaign initiator.

For a year 650 activists planned the historic clean up day.

This extraordinary project helped to change the waste department system as well as public perspectives on the environment and the possibilities for civic action.

To watch a video of this action visit
www.youtube.com/watch?v=A5GryID10qY



Indigenous Peoples Organize on Climate Change



© Powless

Summit Participants

by Jen Sotolongo

The future of Indigenous Peoples lies in the wisdom of our elders, the restoration of the sacred position of women, the youth of today and in the generations of tomorrow.

~Anchorage Declaration

ANCHORAGE, AK - For one week in April, hundreds of delegates from indigenous tribes throughout the world gathered in Alaska for the Indigenous Peoples' Global Summit on Climate Change. Participants discussed ways in which their inherent knowledge of the land, oceans and wildlife can be used to both alleviate and adapt to climate change.

The Summit, hosted by the Inuit Circumpolar Council in partnership with the United Nations University, created a declaration and action plan to be presented to the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen in December, at which a successor to the Kyoto Agreement will be discussed.

On account of their close relationship with the Earth as well as their traditional knowledge, Indigenous Peoples have long noticed the effects of climate change and were among

the first to report the changes and urge governments and society to do their part to reverse the damage.

Aborigines in Australia have discovered ways in which to adapt to the changing climate by using traditional fire practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This practice has enabled them to sell \$17 million worth of carbon credits to industries.

"Indigenous Peoples have contributed the least to the global problem of climate change but will almost certainly bear the greatest brunt of its impact," says Patricia Cochran, Chair of both the Inuit Circumpolar Council and the April Summit.

Indigenous Peoples have a wealth of knowledge and traditions which they wish to share with the rest of the world. Their declaration reads: "We offer to share with humanity our Traditional Knowledge, innovations, and practices relevant to climate change, provided our fundamental rights as intergenerational guardians of this knowledge are fully recognized and respected."

Contact: www.indigenoussummit.com
info@indigenoussummit.com

1001 Inventions

What do coffee beans, windmills, surgical scalpels, arches and observatories all have in common?



The answers can be found at the '1001 Inventions' exhibition. The '1001 Inventions' exhibition celebrates the significant contribution the Muslim world has made to modern science. Developed in 2006 with the help of a Wellcome Trust People Award, it has toured the UK and is now beginning to tour globally, bringing the rich heritage of Islamic science and culture to different countries.

'1001 Inventions' uses interactive displays, hands-on and sensory exhibits to bring to life the inventions of early Muslim pioneers. These include: the camera and the foundations of modern optics; the crank shaft, used today in every car and motor engine; the first successful manned flight and manned rocket projection; industrial paper making and the fountain pen; the birth of the modern hospital and hundreds of surgical tools; the birth of the first university; and navigation devices.

Contact: [1001 Inventions](http://www.1001inventions.com)
www.1001inventions.com



Gardens in the Desert

OMAN - The Oman Botanic Garden is an aspiring project. Commissioned by Qaboos Bin Said Al-Said, the Sultan of Oman, it is the very first of its kind in Arabia. When completed, the centre will be four times the size of Kew, the home of British Royal Botanic Gardens. Using techniques that have never been tried before, this sustainable garden in the desert is an experiment, with the most ambitious of aims.

Designed to celebrate and conserve the unique, precious and hugely varied biodiversity of Oman, the centre will also demonstrate the vital role its plants have played in the country's heritage. Seeds and cuttings are being collected, recorded, numbered, labelled, cleaned, grown and cared for by the garden's dedicated 'Green Team' of young horticulturalists. Their expeditions to remote areas have even discovered new plant species.

From nothing in 2006, the number of plants currently at the nursery has grown to 51,000 and to date, now includes 327 species. It is the largest stockpile of Arabian plants in the world.

The facility will research, cherish and protect this unique collection, as well as the country's botanical history. Its native plants have been used for 5,000 years as food, shelter, medicine, animal feed, dye, preservative and perfume. Each species has its own story to tell. The team will research and document what they learn from the Omani people and record the information. "If we lose our stories, we lose part of our history and what makes us unique," reminds Saif Al Hatmi, the project's ethnobotanical specialist.

Visitors to the Gardens will be able to experience the country's three climates and different habitats all year round and all in one place - 'biomes' will mimic the cool fog

forests, baking sands, lush juniper forests, arid salt-flats, dry gravel plains and beautiful temperate valleys - surrounded by a stunning nature reserve.

Stories will come to life in the heritage village, where the 'hustle and bustle' of Omani culture will be recreated, using artefacts, demonstrations, activities and live presentations. The village will also feature some of the customs associated with their local products, such as henna, frankincense, indigo, rosewater and the role plants play in Omani crafts.

The 420-hectare project, being run by the 'Office for Conservation of the Environment within the Diwan of the Royal Court', is already under construction and due for completion in 2010. By then, it will be the largest botanic garden in the Arabian Peninsula—a destination for local and international visitors as a place of learning, research, conservation, fun, recre-



© Oman Botanic Garden

Oman's 'Green Team' specialists collect and record seeds and cuttings

ation and fascination—an oasis in the desert and a significant cultural treasure of the world.

Contact: Oman Botanic Garden
www.oman-botanic-garden.org
Story from Positive News UK



Top 10 New Species for 2009

How many new species would you guess are discovered by scientists in a given year? Would you believe, a tally of more than 18,000 species in 2007 alone?

From among the more than 10,000 newly spotted species each year, scientists have named the top 10 new species - the most colorful, weird and surprising of them all.

The Arizona State University's International Institute for Species Exploration along with a committee of taxonomists - scientists responsible for species exploration and classification - tallied their votes to come up with the list for 2009, which includes a pea-sized seahorse, caffeine-free coffee and bacteria that live in hairspray.

The top 10 new species also include the world's tiniest snake just 4 inches long, an insect as big as a dog, a ghost slug from Wales, a deep blue damselfish, and a palm that flowers itself to death.

There are an estimated 1.8 million species that have been described since Linnaeus initiated the modern systems for naming plants and animals 251 years ago. Scientists estimate there are between 2 million and 100 million species on Earth, though most set the number closer to 10 million.

Contact: International Institute for Species Exploration species.asu.edu

Source: Good News Network, www.goodnewsnetwork.org



Corn Cuttlefish. Cuttlefish are masters of disguise, able to change their skin color in less than a second. Now, scientists are developing cuttlefish-inspired electronic ink and screens that use less than one-hundredth the power of traditional TV screens

Harnessing the Genius of Life: Biomimicry

by Jennifer Rego

Imagine living in a house that self regulates temperature within one degree between summer and winter without a furnace or air conditioning, spraying your roof with a non-toxic substance that "self-assembles" into solar panels, using sticky notes without glue, and driving your car without fear of colliding with another.

In the natural world, it's already been done.

Biomimicry recognizes that nature has successfully solved most of the problems we struggle with today. Guided by naturalist and author Janine Benyus, scientists and corporations are asking, "How can we redesign the world the same way nature does - without toxic chemicals and waste?"

Humankind traditionally creates

using "heat, treat and beat", a process that ends with 96 percent waste, most of it toxic, a process nature simply couldn't afford. Biomimicry is about learning an idea from an organism and then applying it because you were inspired by the natural process. It's not just copying nature.

"We're swimming in solutions. 3.8 billion years of R&D, 10-30 million species, and well adapted solutions are right in front of us. We just have to change our lens of looking at the world. Life, solves problems and creates in context, and the context is the Earth; the same context that we are trying to solve our problems in. It's taking the genius of the natural world and learning something from it."

For example, Volvo is studying swarming locusts in order to create a pedestrian avoidance system. They are asking how 80 million lo-

custs can swarm in a square kilometer without one collision. In order to develop self-assembling solar panels, researchers are examining how seashells create their hard protective layers from nothing but seawater. Paint companies are developing paints that, like the lotus leaf, completely clean themselves using only rain water.

Life creates in ways that support life. Life cleans air, water, builds soil and takes care of future generations. More scientists, inventors and companies are turning to biomimicry not only to create better products, but also to be good stewards of the Earth. "Learning about the natural world, that's one thing. Learning from the natural world, that's the switch," says Janine.

Contact: The Biomimicry Institute www.biomimicryinstitute.org
Tel: 406.728.4134



Satomi's Pygmy Seahorse is one of the world's tiniest seahorses. Two adults would fit head-to-head across the face of a penny and their offspring are each about the size of a 12-point apostrophe.




DAYTON INTERNATIONAL PEACE MUSEUM
A SPACE TO MAKE PEACE

In a world preoccupied with violence and fear, where are the images of peace? To have a culture of peace, we need to have a place to make peace. The Dayton International Peace Museum has exhibits, activities, a peace resource center, and children's programs dedicated to the rich and often overlooked history of peace and nonviolence.

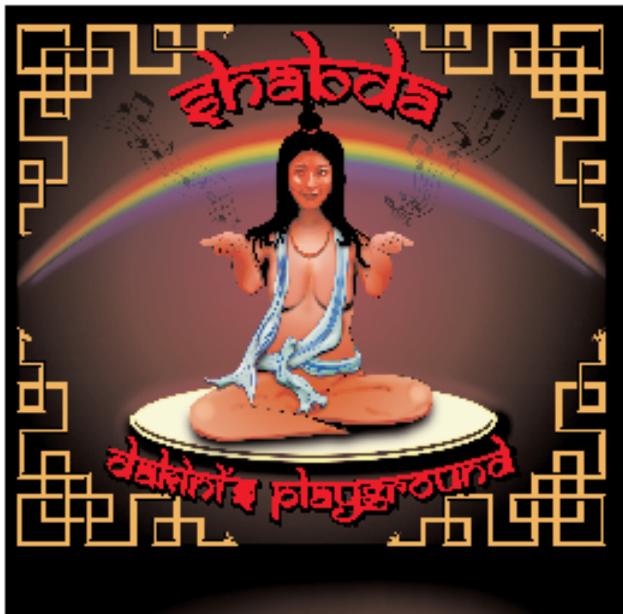
Located in downtown Dayton, Ohio, the Peace Museum is housed in a beautiful, historic 3-story mansion with gallery space and Peace Store.

208 West Monument Avenue • Dayton, Ohio 45402
937-227-3223 • www.DaytonPeaceMuseum.org

Affiliated with the Missing Peace Gallery: www.MissingPeaceArt.org
and the Cities of Peace initiative: www.DaytonCityOfPeace.org

TRUTH CAN BE ONLY REALIZED THROUGH DISSOLVING ALL OUR CONCEPTS AND OPENING OUR HEARTS. THERE ARE MANY METHODS TO EXPERIENCE THIS ENLIGHTENED STATE OF OUR CONSCIOUSNESS. DEVOTIONAL SONG IS ONE OF THEM. MANY SPIRITUAL ASPIRANTS FROM ALL OVER THE WORLD HAVE BEEN USING MUSIC AND SONG TO REACH DIRECT UNION WITH SUPREME TRUTH. ALAN STERNIK IS A TALENTED, SOULFUL MUSICIAN WHO CHANNELS THE POWER OF DEVOTION THROUGH SONGS THAT HOLD MAGIC WHICH BECKON THE LISTENER INTO TASTING THE NECTAR OF THE DIVINE.

-ANAM THUBTEN RINPOCHE



SHABDA
वेदकीर्तन संग्रहण

ALAN STERNIK 415 259 7918
WWW.SHABDASONG.COM INFO@SHABDASONG.COM



Food Abundance from Food Waste

by Ilonka Wloch

NOVATO, CA - Every week they provide food for as many as 1,500 households in Marin County. They don't charge for the food. Nor do they get paid themselves. Who are these people and why do they do this?

They are two community elders, Ruth Schwartz and her husband Curt Kinkead, supported by a team of about 100 volunteers. They do it because Curt "gets fed by the joy he sees in the people who come to collect the food he delivers." Ruth adds, "If we [Ruth and Curt] do something together where we face out into the world and make a contribution, that is a key piece of having our relationship thrive."

Respecting Our Elders started in 2005 when Curt and Ruth, residents of a subsidized housing development, noticed that some of their

neighbors weren't getting enough to eat. The couple decided to do something about that. One thing led to another and in no time a thriving organization spun into existence that picks up and delivers food seven days a week, several times a day.

Usually, the first step is to approach a foods market, a café, or a catering business offering to pick up their excess, dated food. The foods vary from from nori rolls and rib eye steaks, to fresh produce, choice breads and gourmet salads. Once a relationship is established, volunteers make regular pick ups, and deliver the goods within less than an hour, mostly to low-income senior complexes in the county.

Food recipients set up and clean up the delivery area. There are no volunteers rationing the goods; the food is shared amongst all in a spirit of honesty and cooperation.

Respecting Our Elders is building

community by bringing individuals together. "So many seniors have a tendency to isolate," says Ruth. With this program, there is no separation between the recipients and volunteers. The volunteer drivers and helpers are also recipients. And all the food recipients at the various locations are co-responsible for making sure that the distribution process goes well.

Additionally, with the Saturday Morning Bag Program, volunteers put together and deliver a bag of food, on a weekly basis, to anyone in need in the county.

The couple consistently hears stories about how 'recipients are able to make the rent check more easily each month, or do something special out with friends' thanks to the free food received. "What we are finding," Ruth explains, "is that people are moving from living in scarcity and survival to abundance and prosperity, where prosperity is



Founders, Curt Kinkead and Ruth Schwartz

where you are so filled up that you have enough to pass on and take care of others."

Contact: Respecting Our Elders
www.respectingourelders.org
Tel: 415.483.4025

Fresh from the...City

Citizens and local policymakers join up to get fresh foods to schools and neighborhoods

by Mark Winne

The city of Cleveland, Ohio has "brought together an amazing group of food system stakeholders who have a vision for a just and sustainable local food system," according to Jennifer Schofield, co-founder of the Cleveland Cuyahoga County Food Policy Council.

Like many so-called rust-belt cities, Cleveland has lost a staggering number of residents and supermarkets, leaving citizens stranded amid large tracts of vacant land with no place to shop. But Jennifer saw vacant lots as future mini-farms, and the remaining corner stores as potential outlets for healthy food, not just candy, tobacco, and lottery tickets. "Anybody in their right mind knows that Cleveland's economic future isn't with the Fortune 500. We need to stimulate small, local businesses like food and gardening."

But how do you start up agriculture in the middle of a city, and on a scale that will make a difference?

The food policy council tackled that

question by seeking citywide policies that could open possibilities for urban farming. They found a champion in City Councilor Joe Cimperman.

"Urban farming can be transformative in terms of the economy, nutrition, health, and public safety," Joe Cimperman says. "Our goal is to make Cleveland a national leader in the local food economy." He and the FPC have secured a zoning change that permits community gardening. They are now working on new zoning to create larger plots, one-acre or more, and allow chicken-raising and beekeeping.

Similar approaches have succeeded in Portland, Oregon, where the 15-member Portland-Multnomah Food Policy Council has encouraged the city to open up more land for community gardens through their "Diggable City" project. Even though 3,000 people currently till the city's community gardens, there are still 1,000 gardener wannabes on a waiting list.

Portland is also thinking beyond a few garden plots. The council is working with the region's planning commission to encourage the inclusion of food access, affordable food, and the viability of state agriculture in the region's five-year comprehensive plan. Should they succeed, it will be the first time any major US city has recognized food and agriculture as key issues in city and regional planning.

Through such collaborations, food policy councils give ordinary people a chance to have a big impact on where their food will come from in the future.

As new voices speak out through the FPCs, there's hope that food and agriculture decisions will start delivering what people really need—healthy, affordable, sustainable food.

Story from Food for Everyone, the Spring 2009 issue of YES! Magazine.
www.yesmagazine.org



A little extra help with getting a community garden going in Portland, OR



Volunteers outside the Berkley Karma Kitchen

© Charity Focus

Karma Kitchen

A Price-less Experiment in Generosity

by Aparna Kothary and Nirali Shah

WASHINGTON, DC - On February 15, Karma Kitchen DC opened its doors.

Imagine a restaurant where there are no prices on the menu and where the check reads \$0.00 with only this footnote: "Your meal was a gift from someone who came before you. We hope you will pay-it-forward however you wish." Welcome to Karma Kitchen, a price-less experiment in generosity.

Run mostly by volunteers, the meals at Karma Kitchen are cooked and served with love, and offered to the guest as a genuine gift. To complete the full circle of giving and to sustain this experiment, the guest is asked to pay it forward, expressing their gratitude in whatever way they wish. One immediate option is to contribute toward the cost of serving a future guest. In keeping this chain going, the generosity of both guests and volunteers helps to create a future that moves from transaction to trust, from self-oriented isolation to shared commitment and from fear of scarcity to a celebration of abundance.

Karma Kitchen DC is inspired by the Seva Cafe, launched in India by Manav Sadhna, BeTheCause launched in Southern California, and the first Karma Kitchen in Berkeley, CA. Nipun Mehta, a Karma Kitchen Berkeley pioneer helped organize the DC Kitchen.

Karma Kitchen DC guests comment:

"I wish I had more to give. If anything I'll try my best to improve the life of someone else. I love the Karma Kitchen and will try to spread the word." "Thank you - because of Karma Kitchen last week I gave a meal to a man- this week I hope to be able to do the same. I love this place - what great idea!" "What a wonderful idea and experience! This was such a peaceful and relaxing afternoon that spread joy - there was so much gratitude in the air."

Thanks to the warmth and generosity of restaurant owner, Arbinda Rajbhandari, and staff, volunteers run Karma Kitchen out of Polo India Club restaurant (1736 Connecticut Avenue NW) every Sunday from noon to 3pm.

Contact: www.karmakitchen.org
www.karmakitchendc.wordpress.com



Our Press
 P.O. Box 512, Kattelville Rd.
 Chenango Bridge, NY 13745
 607-648-3021 • Fax 607-648-9191

**Proud Printers of
 Positive News**

**Finding
 the Sage**
*He who knows others is wise,
 He who knows himself is enlightened.
 Lao-tzu, c. 525 B.C.*

**Personal Transformation
 through Wisdom Traditions**
 Master knowledge and skills to enhance your well-being,
 create right relationships, be a passionate leader,
 or chart your future

Personalized sessions for individuals,
 families, communities and organizations

Your Guide
 Lee Riddell combines her profes-
 sional background in holistic nutrition and
 leadership development with studies of
 ancient tools of spiritual awakening and
 personal empowerment, to tailor sessions
 of growth and discovery. Visit her at:
FindingTheSage.com

**SHIRT
 EXPRESS**
 607.273.6667
www.t-shirtexpressions.com

Where you can find:
 Mugs, Bags, Hats, Banners, Stickers, Magnets, Decals
 Pens, Key Chains, Aprons, Post Cards, Lanyards,
 And thousands of other products customized for you!
 Fund Raisers - Corporate Gifts - Team Apparel

**REAL ESTATE AND
 PHILANTHROPY?
 ABSOLUTELY.**

Experienced real estate services for
 Buyers and Sellers.
 In appreciation to the community I donate
 5% of every commission I earn to
 the local creative endeavor
 chosen by my client;
 I offset 100% emissions at Carbonfund.org;
 certified in Feng Shui;
 fluent in Spanish and French.

hildamoleski@warrenhomes.com
 330-5249

sustainable technology

agile worry free web

agile enterprise software
www.agile-software.com ~ info@agile-software.com

**MAKE A DIFFERENCE
 when you shop!**

At Ten Thousand Villages, your purchase
 provides vital, fair income to artisans in developing countries,
 helping them pay for food, education, housing, and health care.

171 The Commons
 M-W, Sat 10-6
 Th-F 10-8
 Sun 12-5

FAIRLY TRADED HANDICRAFTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

Visit PositiveNewsUS.org for advertising rates

Planned Parenthood®
 of the Southern Finger Lakes, Inc.

Your source for exceptional services,
 honest education and fearless
 advocacy in Chemung, Schuyler,
 Steuben, and Tompkins Counties.

**Sex is a part of life. Be prepared.
 Talk about it.**

Corning 962-4686
 Elmira & Watkins Glen 734-3313
 Hornell 324-1124
 Ithaca 273-1513

www.ppsfl.org
www.sextalk.org

Magical Garden Preschool
 Nourishing Children's Connection to Earth
 through gardening, animal care, stories, songs, art,
 and peaceful play and communications

351-8809

Elizabeth Salon, RNC, MS, FNP
 Family Nurse Practitioner
 Ithaca, NY

Medical Exams and Holistic Care
 Reiki and Craniosacral Therapy
 Minor Emergencies/Ear Irrigation

House Calls and Consultations: 607-277-2201
 Insurance Reimbursable Appointments at
 Integrative Medicine Center: 607-275-9697

Israel • Mexico • Peru • Scotland • Senegal • USA

**Living
 Routes**

Australia • Brazil • India

Study Abroad
 in Ecovillages LivingRoutes.org

dreamingturtles.com

a way cool family friendly earthy groovy place
 Contact Paul or Frannie Speight 607-838-3492
 481 Lafayette Rd. Groton NY 13073

eco/agritourism packages, stay in our new tipis!
 We accept 100% Ithaca hours



learning, living, sharing
Life As it Can Be.



www.AvalonSprings.org

ecovillage, hot springs,
ecoretreat learning center

2 hrs north of San Francisco
permitted, planned, ready to build
development financial partner wanted

CLIMBING MACHINES



Remote controlled
climbers do work
humans should not.
They climb walls
then clean,
decontaminate or
perform any
mission.



www.icm.cc 607 288 4001 Ithaca, NY

Coming to Ithaca, NY • October 16-18, 2009
FINGER LAKES BIONEERS

"We Make Our Future"



A weekend of events revolving around live
national video links to inspire a potent "global-local"
approach to our shared planet's future.

For more information or to get involved contact us at:
www.sustainabletompkins.org/fingerlakesbioneers

The Moving Center School 5Rhythms® Movement Practice

*"The quickest way
to still the mind is to
move the body."*
Gabrielle Roth

Healing through the practice of the
5Rhythms moving meditation.

The 5Rhythms is a simple, powerful
moving meditation that anyone –
of any age, size, or physical ability –
can practice.

We are committed to bringing
awareness, aliveness and movement
to anyone who has a body, breath,
a beating heart and a willing spirit.

415-388-0431 www.MovingCenterSchool.com

Natural Burial at... Greensprings Natural Cemetery Preserve

For those who love the
earth
a choice in death
that reflects your
life

PO Box 415 • 293 Irish Hill Road
Newfield, NY 14867
607-564-7577 info@naturalburial.org
<http://naturalburial.org>

renew ■ sustain ■ endure



The CENTER for
Transformative Action

The Center for Transformative Action
advocates an approach to social change
that considers not how *we* can defeat
them, but how *WE* can act together on
the unseen threads that connect us all.

To learn more: 607-255-5027 www.CRESP.cornell.edu

CLASSIFIEDS

\$1/word - 40 word max. Send info
with check payable to Positive
News/CRESP, 115 The Commons,
Ithaca, NY 14850
To pay by credit card
call 607-330-4330.
Feel welcome to email us at welcome@positivenewsus.org

SERVICES

ALTERNATIVES LIBRARY, a community
resource free and open to all. Progressive,
Alternative, Independent. 127 Anabel Tay-
lor Hall, Ithaca NY, tel. 607-255-6486
www.alternativeslibrary.org

FREE BANKRUPTCY CONSULTATION
Uncontested Divorce & House Closings.

A Debt Relief Agency under the new
Bankruptcy Code. **Jeff Coleman, Attorney**
607-277-1916.

FOR SALE

VEGE DIESEL Vegetable oil conversion
kits and insulation available.
www.vegparts.com

**BOLINAS PEOPLE'S
STORE**
ORGANIC PRODUCE
NATURAL FOODS
OPEN DAILY 8:30 TO 6:30
14 WHARF RD (415)868-1433

SUBSCRIBE TO POSITIVE NEWS US EDITION

Name _____
Address _____
Tel# _____ Email _____
WHERE DID YOU PICK UP THIS
COPY OF POSITIVE NEWS? _____

NEW SUBSCRIPTION ADDITIONAL DONATION \$ _____
RENEWAL TOTAL \$ _____

1 Year US Subscription - \$15.50 - outside of US - \$24
2 Year Subscription - \$28 - outside of US - \$45

To pay by credit card please call 607.330.4330 (There is a \$1.00 processing charge.)
Mail checks made out to Positive News/CRESP to the address below:

I WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE ELECTRONIC POSITIVE NEWS UPDATES. MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS _____

Positive News US, 115 The Commons, Ithaca NY 14850
Visit our website to order online www.positivenewsus.org





Art for the Sky

'Art Changes People – People Change the World'

MOSIER, OR - 'Art for the Sky' is a unique, large group, team-building experience for schools, communities, events and festivals. The end result of each art project is a giant 'living' painting made out of people – a metaphor, demonstrating the power of collaboration and the value of holding a 'big picture' view of the world.

Human 'paint drops' are organised into their places using a megaphone from a high vantage point, such as a crane. At ground level, these stunning creations seem, at first, to be just a mishmash of people, props and materials. To make sense of each piece, one must literally 'reach for the sky'.

Each project helps the partici-

pants to awaken their 'skysight' – a term coined by founder Daniel Dancer, describing a manner of viewing the world in a 'big picture' way – learning to see through the eyes of all beings; through the eyes of future generations. "With skysight we can access our highest creative potential and better solve the problems we face as individuals and as a society," he says.

Before going 'out to the field', Daniel encourages the 'painters' to learn about their chosen art form through interactive multimedia presentations – information on the creature's plight, its significance as part of the wider ecosystem or its symbolic importance to cultural groups.

Daniel, a part-Mohawk environmental artist, author, educator, singer-songwriter and photographer, became fascinated by 'sky art', while travelling around South America and coming across the famous Nazca Lines of Peru.

As a result, Daniel decided to bring an entire primary school out to perform as beads on the headband of a 25-acre American Indian head. A decade later, the parents of one of the 'beads' informed him that the experience was the most memorable thing their son had ever done in school. It had taught him that things are not always as they seem and how a 'big picture' view is essential – so, in 2000, 'Art for the Sky' was born.

With hundreds of people collaborating to become an animal or a symbol from nature, each living painting becomes an act of cultural splendour. The projects help erase some of the boundaries that often exist in school or office settings and signify a promise to better care for



© Art for the Sky

The human eruption of Mount Hood Volcano, led by students of Westside Elementary School, dressed as hot lava!

our world and each other. "Being part of something glorious – something much bigger than ourselves – is rare in life," explains Daniel. "So, when it happens in our school years, it sets a kind of 'true north' in our internal compass, which we can always reference."

Native Sky: an Indian Art Rising is one of Daniel's current projects. Expected to take up to three years, it brings 'Art for the Sky' to 12 Indian Nations, as a unified response to the present environmental crisis – a message to America written on Indian lands; giant living paintings formed by living and breathing bodies of Indian people and their supporters.

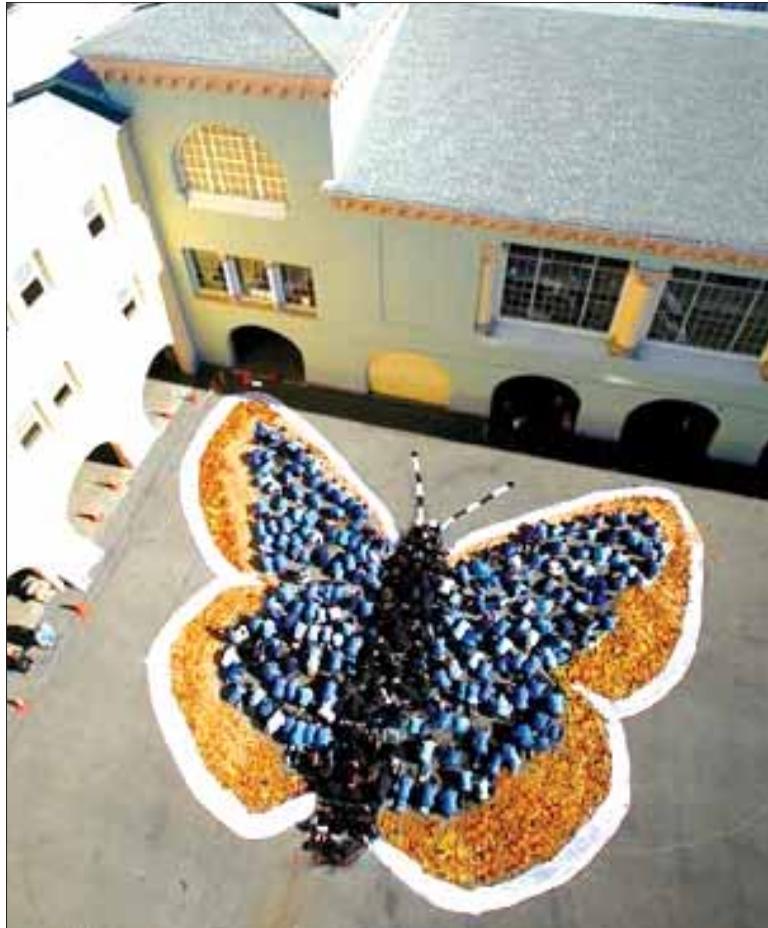
Daniel has also begun to facilitate river and wild land clean-ups, using the found materials as intricate parts of his images. For example, his recent 'Kids Light the World' artwork featured 2,100 stu-

dents forming a lighthouse, rising out of 'rocks' made from rubbish collected during a beach cleaning event.

"This art is medicine for ourselves and the wild. It's a way to give thanks for all the beauty that surrounds us and to seek forgiveness from Earth for the damage inflicted by humankind," says Daniel. "Through story, intention and participation with others, each piece activates a healing responsiveness. Despite their impermanence and perhaps because of it, these works have real and intrinsic value... like Earth herself.

Contact: Art for the Sky
Tel: 541.806.3020
www.artforthesky.com

Story from Positive News UK



© Art for the Sky

Presidio Middle School, in San Francisco, first formed a chrysalis and then metamorphosed into the endangered Mission Blue Butterfly

Would you like to help us spread Positive News and sponsor a bundle of the newspapers?

We will send it to a place of your choice (i.e. store, café, library, school, etc.) or to one of our suggested destinations. There are 50-75 papers in each bundle.

I would like to sponsor 1 bundle I'm enclosing a donation of \$10 - \$20

Please send my sponsored bundle to the destination below.

I would like to sponsor 4 bundles: Spring, Summer, Winter & Fall editions. I'm enclosing a donation of \$35 - \$50.

Please send my sponsored bundle to a destination of your choice.

name of place _____
 contact person _____
 address _____
 telephone _____
 I would like to receive electronic Positive News updates. My email address is _____

Payment by check or credit card.
 Make check payable to **Positive News/CRESP**
 Address: Positive News
 115 The Commons
 Ithaca, NY 14850
 TOTAL \$ _____
 You can also call us with credit card info: 607-330-4330
 your name.....
 telephone.....
 Where did you pick up this copy of Positive News?



Sponsor a Bundle!