



No. 22
Winter 2009

Positive News™

US Edition

from around the world

www.positivenewsus.org

Happiness
in Sweden

Page 6



Why My
Dad's
Going
Green

Page 9



William's
Windmill

Page 13



Penny-
Wise
Growing

Page 20



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

Ecuador's Historic Vote Nature Gets Legal Rights

by Becky Daniel

QUITO, Ecuador - Approximately two-thirds of Ecuador's population voted 'yes' this Autumn, in a historic, national referendum – a result that reflects the vast majority's hopeful expectation of political change. By an overwhelming margin, the Ecuadorians backed their president, Rafael Correa, in voting for a new progressive constitution – the first in the world to grant Nature the same inalienable rights as human beings.

"I think a lot of eyes will be on Ecuador," said Mari Margil, associate director of the Community Environmental Legal Defence Fund – the law firm that worked with the members of Ecuador's Assembly to draft the legal framework. "With this vote, they are leading the way for countries around the world to fundamentally change how we protect Nature."

Officially, the new Magna Carta seeks to repair the country's past inequities and injustices. According to Maria Fernanda Espinosa, Ecuador's ambassador to the United Nations: "It aims to supersede the assumption that having more will enable better living." Inspired by the indigenous Quichua concept, *sumak kawsay* – which translates as "balanced living" – this new constitution promotes being in harmony with oneself, society and nature.

Geographically, Ecuador abounds in unique habitats and precious ecosystems. The Amazon rainforest, the Andes and the Galapagos Islands are home to rare and irreplaceable flora and fauna: the jaguar, spectacled bear, land and marine iguana, golden-headed quetzal, umbrella bird, river otter, fur seal and thousands of species of orchids. The country is also culturally diverse and a quarter of the population are indigenous. Descendants of the Incas, Quichua, Otavaleños and Saraguros live primarily in the Andean highlands, while the tropical rainforest is the home of the Shuar, Huaorani and Achuar Indians. The new bill is a groundbreaking step towards the protection of this natural wealth and cultural diversity.

Dr Mario Melo, a lawyer specialising in Environmental Law and an advisor to Fundación Pachamama, explained that the new constitution redefines people's relationship

with Nature. It is not an object to be appropriated and exploited but rather a rights-bearing entity, that should be treated with parity under the law.

"In this sense, the constitution reflects the traditions of the indigenous peoples living in Ecuador, who see Nature as a mother and call her by her proper name, Pachamama," Dr Mario Melo said.

This new bill for Nature's 'right to exist' offers an alternative paradigm. It clearly acknowledges that all life on Earth is interconnected. It must be protected and respected for the sake of all species – beliefs which have long been obvious to Ecuador's indigenous peoples.

The constitution provides explicit legal protection for the environment. Says one section: 'Nature or Pachamama, where life is reproduced and exists, has a right to exist, persist, maintain and regenerate its vital cycles, structures, functions and its processes in evolution.'

It also decrees that the government must apply: 'precaution in all the activities that could lead to the extinction of any species, the destruction of ecosystems or cause the permanent alteration of natural cycles.'

Although the government is ultimately responsible for upholding the new laws, in Ecuador, every individual, organisation or community now has the power to represent Nature in the courts and halt any damaging activities.

Alberto Acosta, ex-president of the Ecuadorian Assembly, helped draft the new laws. He said: "If social justice was the axis of struggle in the 20th century, environmental justice is going to be the focus of conflicts for the 21st century."

Alberto explained that western society has long viewed Nature and all its living species simply as objects of property or resources, available for exploitation, to be bought or sold. Any legal measures to protect the environment have, until now, concentrated only on regulating human behaviour, the amount of pollution and the extent of destruction. Ecuador's new laws are a radical turnpoint because they champion sustainable development over economic growth.

"Throughout legal history," stated Mr Acosta, "each extension of liberties – the abolition of slavery or the expansion of civil rights – has required a recognition of

the 'right to have rights'. It has taken a concerted political effort to change the laws which deny this vision."

Looking ahead, some environmental organisations can foresee potential conflict between multinational corporations and the implementation of Nature's new rights. Ecuador's economy has depended largely on the extraction of timber, oil and minerals – industries which have contributed hugely to the degradation of the country's environment.

Continued on Page 13

Positive News aspires to:

- Bring hope.
- Provide 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.

Exposing Poverty

LONDON, UK - More than 100 men and women clad just in their underpants trooped on to the concourse of a central London train station this November setting a new world record for the largest gathering of people wearing underpants.

The event was organized by *Pants to Poverty*, a Fair Trade Organization, to mark Guinness World Records Day.

Pants to Poverty, part of the Make Poverty History coalition aims to "rid the world of bad pants" by selling ethical underwear that is fair trade certified, sweat shop free and made from organic cotton.

Founder Ben Ramsden said, "Most people are not aware of the devastating effects of manufacturing bad pants – exploitation, killer pesticides and carcinogenic dyes are just some of the hazards – so Guinness World Records Day is a really exciting opportunity for us to influence the public to make ethical choices in their purchases this Christmas. I'm sure that we will make a few stressed-out morning commuters smile in the process."

Contact:
www.pantstopoverty.com



© Pants to Poverty

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:

Polly Wood

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:

Marty Luster

OFFICE MANAGER:

Lisa Woodruff

WEB SUPPORT:

Agile Enterprise Software, Bob Gabriel

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:

Linda Holzbaur

SUPPORT TEAM:

Cicely Kurtz, John Hamilton,
Neil Oolie, Lee Riddell, Cindy Golos,
Angelina Frost, Lindy Clayton,
Ruth Robertson, and Bob Nape

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.POSITIVENEWSUS.ORG.UK

EDITORS:

Shauna Crockett Burrows
Jane Taylor

GRAPHIC DESIGNER:

Sarah Wilkinson

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

Message to the President

Dear Brother Obama,

You have no idea, really, of how profound this moment is for us. As being the black people of the Southern United States. You think you know, because you are thoughtful, and you have studied our history. But seeing you deliver the torch so many others before you carried, year after year, decade after decade, century after century, only to be struck down before igniting the flame of justice and of law, is almost more than the heart can bear. And yet, this observation is not intended to burden you, for you are of a different time, and, indeed, because of all the relay runners before you, North America is a different place. It is really only to say: Well done. We knew, through all the generations, that you were with us, in us, the best of the spirit of Africa and of the Americas. Knowing this, that you would actually appear, someday, was part of our strength. Seeing you take your rightful place, based solely on your wisdom, stamina and character, is a balm for the weary warriors of hope, previously only sung about.

I would advise you to remember that you did not create the disaster that the world is experiencing, and you alone are not responsible for



bringing the world back to balance. A primary responsibility that you do have, however, is to cultivate happiness in your own life. To make a schedule that permits sufficient time of rest and play with your gorgeous wife and lovely daughters. And so on. From your happy, relaxed state, you can model real success, which is all that so many people in the world really want. They may buy endless cars and houses and furs and gobble up all the attention and space they can manage, or barely manage, but this is because it is not yet clear to them that success is truly an inside job. That it is within

the reach of almost everyone.

I would further advise you not to take on other people's enemies. Most damage that others do to us is out of fear, humiliation and pain. Those feelings occur in all of us, not just in those of us who profess a certain religious or racial devotion. We must learn actually not to have enemies, but only confused adversaries who are ourselves in disguise. It is understood by all that you are commander in chief of the United States and are sworn to protect our beloved country; this we understand, completely. However, as my mother used to say, quoting a Bible

with which I often fought, "hate the sin, but love the sinner." There must be no more crushing of whole communities, no more torture, no more dehumanizing as a means of ruling a people's spirit. This has already happened to people of color, poor people, women, children. We see where this leads, where it has led.

A good model of how to "work with the enemy" internally is presented by the Dalai Lama, in his endless caretaking of his soul as he confronts the Chinese government that invaded Tibet. Because, finally, it is the soul that must be preserved, if one is to remain a credible leader. All else might be lost; but when the soul dies, the connection to earth, to peoples, to animals, to rivers, to mountain ranges, purple and majestic, also dies. And your smile, with which we watch you do gracious battle with unjust characterizations, distortions and lies, is that expression of healthy self-worth, spirit and soul, that, kept happy and free and relaxed, can find an answering smile in all of us, lighting our way, and brightening the world.

We are the ones we have been waiting for.

*~In Peace and Joy,
Alice Walker,
Author and activist*

Native Nations Halt Logging

by Jessica Bell

GRASSY NARROWS, Canada - Indigenous communities in Canada scored a major victory recently when Abitibi Bowater, one of North America's largest newsprint and forest products companies, halted logging on the traditional territory of the Grassy Narrows First Nation in Ontario.

The company yielded to a decade-long campaign led by Grassy Narrows, a community of 1,000 people, and backed by a coalition of human rights and environmental groups, including Amnesty International, Christian Peacemaker Teams, and the Rainforest Action Network.

The campaign began in December 2002, when two young mothers from Grassy Narrows felled two trees across the area's major logging road. Their action sparked the longest running blockade in Canadian history.

The Grassy Narrows victory is part of a thriving

movement for indigenous self-determination in Canada. Dozens of First Nations from the Haida in British Columbia to the Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug (KI) in northern Ontario are asserting control over their land.

The issue drew national attention from the press and support from prominent leaders after six activists from the KI nation were arrested for protesting mining on native land in northern Ontario. In response to the protests and public outcry, provincial politicians protected 56 million acres in northern Ontario from mining and logging, and promised to change the province's outdated mining act to give First Nations more decision-making power over resource extraction on their land.

Grassy Narrows activists, who see protection of their land and their culture as intertwined, are working to empower their youth and revive their culture and language.

Story from Fall 2008 issue of Yes! Magazine



© Rainforest Action Network

Grandmothers from Grassy Narrows unfurl a banner at the Ontario Provincial Legislature in Toronto.

Visualizing a World Without Borders

by Ruth Robertson

BROWNSVILLE, TX - Although it may be hard to imagine a world without national borders, some people are asking the question: Why should artificial borders divide us?

In the lone star state of Texas, Eloisa Tamez, a leader in the stand against the US-Mexico border fence, has won a civil rights award for refusing to allow government surveyors onto her property.

Ms. Tamez traveled from the border town of Brownsville to the

state capital of Austin to receive the Henry B. Gonzalez Award for her work against the controversial border fence. Organizers of the ceremony, in which Ms. Tamez received a standing ovation, said she was selected for bringing a suit to prevent the fence construction on her land and for organizing her neighbors in a campaign against injustice caused by the creation of a walled international boundary.

After receiving her award in October, Ms. Tamez told reporters she has successfully stopped any work on a border fence from taking place

on her acreage for the past 14 months.

Ms. Tamez is not alone. Six Texan mayors on the border with Mexico are preparing to take the US government to court and are encouraging ranchers to do the same to block construction of the fence. The mayors are concerned that the planned fence, part of Washington's crackdown on illegal immigration, will hurt trade, split closely knit Mexican-Texan communities on both sides of the border and endanger wildlife.

Elsewhere in the world people

are uniting to tear down the borders that keep people apart. In November an international "No Borders Camp" in the UK drew participants who learned how to assist immigrants facing deportation proceedings and made plans to help create a Europe without borders. Members of the "No Borders Network" that sponsored the camp operate under the united platform: Freedom of Movement, Freedom of Residence, Right to Come, Right to Go, Right to Stay.

Contact: www.noborders.org.uk
www.deletetheborder.org



Hats off to the International Court for the Environment

Deputy High Court judge Stephen Hockman is calling for an international court for the environment to hold accountable states that fail to protect wildlife and prevent climate change.

This new body is proposed to be the supreme legal authority on issues regarding the environment and would enforce international agreements on cutting greenhouse gas emissions.

Go Baby Elephants

SRI LANKA - Eight orphaned baby elephants left their human foster parents and walked free into thick tropical jungles of the Udawalawe National Park this summer.

Aged between three and five, all are orphans rescued from potentially harmful situations. Placed in the country's Elephant Transit Home, they received medical treatment, were brought up on formula milk and coconut palms and then released into the wilds.

This is the eighth batch of baby elephants to be released into the jungles. Sixty four baby elephants have been released into the jungles since the programme started in March 1998. One of the released elephants gave birth in the wilds a few years ago. Source: *Positive News Hong Kong*

China's Wind Power Full on

BEIJING, China - Wind power could produce 12% of the world's energy needs and save 10 billion tonnes of CO2 within 12 years, according to a new report published in October.

The 'Global Wind Energy Outlook 2008', published by the Global Wind Energy Council (GWEC) and Greenpeace International was launched at the Global Wind Power conference in Beijing. China has the world's fastest growing wind power market and is expected to become the biggest manufacturer of wind energy equipment by the end of 2009.

The report found that by 2020 wind power could save as much as 1.5 billion tonnes of CO2 every year, which would add up to over 10 billion tonnes in this time-frame. The report also explains how wind energy can provide up to 30% of the world's electricity by the middle of the century. Source: *Greenpeace International*

Preventing Pesticides Play-fully

by Angelina Frost

FAIRFAX, CA - What do you do when life gives you lemons? Well, make lemonade, of course! But, what do you do when threatened with the possibility of toxic aerial spraying over the densely populated areas where you live? Hmm... the idea of aerial spray-ade does leave a bit to, well, be desired.

How about write a play? That's what Raphael Mendel, DC did. Dr. Raphael, as he's lovingly referred to by his community in Fairfax, decided that the best way to get the word out to the public about the threat of a pending aerial spray would be to present the facts in a 'play'-ful, satirical way. And this is how the play 'Chain of Fools' came to be.

As one of the play's characters, Nurse Goodheart points out in the beginning of the play: "...Doctor, I've heard a rumor that the government has been working on a plan to do aerial spraying of the entire Bay Area with very toxic chemicals every month, for the next three to ten years, in an effort to exterminate a harmless moth, the Light Brown Apple Moth. It's claimed that it could do a lot of agricultural damage, but in other countries it has been shown to be a very minor pest and not a problem at all!"

Aerial spraying for the Light Brown Apple Moth, LBAM, in Monterey and Santa Cruz counties in the Fall of 2007 resulted in hundreds of health complaints and reports of environmental damage. The California Department of Food and Agriculture, CDFA, planned to resume and expand spraying into the larger San Francisco Bay Area.

On June 19, 2008, thanks to a groundswell of public protest, the CDFA announced the eradication campaign would no longer include aerial spraying for LBAM over populated areas. Ground treatments, as well as aerial spraying of "agricultural" and "forested" areas are still to go forward.

In September, a Petition for the Reclassification of the LBAM was submitted to US Department of Agriculture. As a result of organizers' efforts, the State dropped its appeal of the Santa Cruz and Monterey Co. court rulings. Over 31,000 people have signed a petition demanding no exposure to pesticides without consent.

Activists are moving forward to pass legislation to ensure that people and the environment are protected in the future.



Protest scene from the performance where actors are surprised by what they see in the sky.

To learn more about LBAM eradication in California please visit: stophespray.org/info.htm
To view the reclassification petition visit: forum.stophespray.org/viewtopic.php?f=13&t=1973

Success in Zambia

by Cindy Golos

Question: What do wildlife and natural resource conservation, economic security and family preservation have in common?

Answer: COMACO - Community Markets for Conservation, a revolutionary model for rural development operating throughout the Luangwa Valley region in Zambia since 2005.

"COMACO operates in a 25,000 square kilometer area with close to 25,000 participating families certified in conservation farming. This equates to well over 100,000 people", says Alex Travis of the Baker Institute for Animal Health at Cornell University, and a lead investigator of a USAID grant that is testing and fine-tuning the model. "That's a huge impact on the human and wildlife populations."

Here's an example of how the model works. A farmer, Duma, can't adequately feed his family with his peanut crop. He travels long distances to bring goods to markets and



Mama waterbuck and her day-old baby.

profits are minimal. Duma's farming practices result in soil erosion and low crop yields. To cope with chronic hunger, he poaches protected wildlife, endangering his life and reducing the potential for tourism which is vital to the region.

COMACO staff teach Duma sustainable farming practices and provide a distribution system to collect his and other farmers' produce at

local depots. These goods are processed into products with broader appeal at regional trading centers, and are sold to wider markets. For example, farmers can make more money collectively selling peanut butter than from selling peanuts individually. Less time spent on travel means more time for Duma to work and to be with his family, and more profits return to his local village.

"Farmers have turned in over 900 guns and 40,000 wire snares as a demonstration of their commitment to conservation. In exchange, they get market incentives and are taught new skills of their choosing, such as bee husbandry", explains Alex. "Profits from honey provide additional incentive to leave flowering trees in the forest intact."

"COMACO works because it makes natural resource conservation economically and socially sustainable", Alex continues. It is the most expansive and holistic model of its kind, and it yields amazing results".

Contact: COMACO www.itwild.org



Algae Gas Anyone?

Solena, a company based in Washington state turns algae and other organic substances into a synthetic gas, or 'syngas'. It is then cooled, cleaned and fed into a gas turbine to produce electricity. This re-cycles carbon dioxide and, in the process, produces a sustainable source of fuel.

Solena has recently announced a number of projects, including renewable energy plants in California and Europe. www.solenagroup.com

California Means Business

NASA scientists announced in September that the world's temperature is the warmest it's been in the last 12,000 years. Two days later, California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed a law to fight the trend. It's the first statewide attempt to target greenhouse gas emissions from all industries.

The California Global Warming Solutions Act seeks to bring the state's greenhouse gas emissions down to 1990 levels by 2020.

The final plan may include gradual annual reductions and/or a cap-and-trade system. The cap-and-trade system would allow companies that reduce emissions more than the cap requires to sell those "credits" to other companies who have not met the mandated levels. Such a system is already in place in Europe, where companies can profit from keeping greenhouse gases out of the air.

To address fears that poor communities will be harmed by a market-based system, an environmental justice advisory committee will also participate in California's process. Source: *Yes! Magazine*

Solar Car Circles the World

POZNAN, Poland - The first solar-powered car to travel around the world ended its journey at the U.N. climate talks in early December, arriving with the message that clean technologies are available now to stop global warming.

The small two-seater, hauling a trailer of solar cells can travel up to 55 mph and covers 185 miles on a fully charged battery.

"This is the first time in history that a solar-powered car has traveled all the way around the world without using a single drop of petrol," said Louis Palmer, who made the trip.



Equality Ride

LGBT Road Trip Breaks Through Stereotypes

by Noah Grant

On March 22, 2007, a bus pulled up in front of Mississippi College in Clinton, Mississippi. A group of 25 young people got out and formed a line at the edge of the campus, which college administrators had forbidden them to enter. One of them announced that they had come to share their experiences with homophobia and Christianity.

Hundreds of students milled around eyeing the newcomers. A few approached and engaged them in conversation. Others got on their knees and prayed for God to forgive the riders. One black student compared the treatment of the riders to the treatment of African-Americans during the civil rights movement. The riders' leader said they wanted to come on to the campus to talk with other students. As five of them attempted to enter school property, policemen arrested them.

This encounter was part of the 2007 Equality Ride, a tour that brought 50 young people to 34 conservative campuses across the United States.

The riders hope to show the humanity and spirituality of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) people, and to represent others on campus who are too scared to speak out for themselves. Following the teachings of Gandhi and Martin Luther King Jr., riders see Conservative Christians, not as enemies, but as "victims of untruth." The ultimate goal is reconciliation, not confrontation or "winning."

That philosophy is so essential to Soulforce, the group that organizes the rides, that they named their organization with the English translation of Gandhi's word for nonviolent activism, "Satyagraha." Soulforce was founded to overcome the religious bigotry at the root of homophobia.

That doesn't mean they have anything against religion itself. Many of the participants in the 2007 Equality Ride are life-long Christians who want to talk about tolerance with others who share their faith. Several are former students at religious colleges the ride visited in 2006, its first year.

Vince Cervantes, one of the 2007 riders, attended a Christian college and endured "reparative therapy" for his same-sex attractions. "It gave me a deep understanding of the harm of homophobia within the faith community," he says.

Angel Collie went through the ordeal of coming out in a conservative Baptist family at age 14. "I was told I was going to Hell," Collie says. "Now I want to work toward reconciliation and loving our neighbor."

Relationships with LGBT friends motivated Abigail Reikow and other straight allies on the ride.

Not all schools reacted to the riders like Mississippi College did. At some universities, administrators embraced the ride as an educational opportunity and set up breakfasts,



© Josh Varner

An Oklahoma Baptist University student watched and listened for a few minutes, then had the courage to introduce herself and shake the hand of every one of the Equality Riders. It was a moving moment for the bus riders.

debates, discussion groups, and other forums for interactions between students and riders. "Easily more than half were welcoming," says Soulforce outreach director Jarrett Lucas. Even at colleges where the riders were not allowed on campus, they were still able to connect with students, often at a nearby location like a coffee shop. At Mississippi College, the riders who avoided arrest shared lunch with students off campus, where they continued their dialogue.

Some students wanted nothing to do with the riders. Others wanted to confront them over their sexuality or their interpretation of the Bible. But many were interested in talking, despite differences in beliefs. Some students, "didn't seem to know what to do with a bunch of Joe Schmoes," said one rider, who guessed they were "expecting lumberjacks and drag queens." The majority of those who disagreed were civil. Some of the students had never spoken with a gay person, let alone one who shared their deep commitment to Christianity.

Robin Reynolds, one of the 2007 riders, was inspired to see "the look a person gets when they've never heard an idea before."

"It was harder to throw out one-liners and rely on stereotypes when students were face-to-face with LGBT people," she said.

Some students approached the riders because they wanted to know how to support their LGBT friends and family. Others were closeted gay and lesbian students who thanked the riders for showing them they weren't alone.

After the riders moved on, students continued the conversation through emails and Facebook. Some have started Gay-Straight Alliances on their campuses to keep the momentum of the ride going.

The Equality Ride hit the highway for a third time this October, this year visiting colleges exclusively in the South. As Angel Collie put it, "there's a lot more people out there that we need to reach."

Story from "Purple America," the Fall 2008 YES! Magazine, 284 Madrona Way NE Ste 116, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. Subscriptions: 800/937-4451 Web: www.yesmagazine.org

by Julia Pergolini

Former South African Deputy-Minister of Health, Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge, knows all about the power of community and



Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge promoting a healthy diet.

Fueled by Ubuntu

interdependence.

"We cannot exist by ourselves," she says in an interview with the Global Oneness Project, a web-based video initiative exploring how the simple notion of oneness can be lived in our increasingly complex world.

As a Quaker, Member of Parliament, unwavering advocate for women, and a veteran of South Africa's liberation struggle, Madlala-Routledge devoted her time spent as Deputy-Minister of Health to researching and exposing the reality of the healthcare crisis in South Africa. She publicly advocated for strong action on the AIDS pandemic, and raised warning flags about South Africa's poor public health infrastructure. Described as "heroic" and a "ray of hope" for the South African people, Madlala-Routledge revealed the importance of antiretroviral drugs in improving the health of the 5.41 million South Africans infected with HIV/AIDS.

Her approach was often met by resistance from both Health Minister Tshabalala-Msimang, and South African President Thabo Mbeki. Madlala-Routledge was dismissed from her position in August 2007. AIDS ac-

"She emphasizes the importance of trust and dialogue, as it opens up conversation and allows everyone to have a voice."

tivists globally have denounced the President's decision, but Madlala-Routledge has remained positive and continues her crusade toward greater equality and more unified co-existence amongst her community.

Madlala-Routledge lives by the philosophy

of Ubuntu, a traditional African concept with origins in the Bantu languages of Southern Africa. Ubuntu defines what it means to be truly human. Ubuntu philosophy suggests that we affirm our humanity when we acknowledge that of others, and offers its followers a better understanding of themselves in relation to the rest of the world.

Archbishop Desmond Tutu says that a person with Ubuntu is open, available and affirming of others. "He or she has proper self-assurance that comes from knowing that he or she belongs to a greater whole and is diminished when others are humiliated, or diminished when others are tortured or depressed".

This is what drives Nozizwe Madlala-Routledge's activism in the African and global communities. She emphasizes the importance of trust and dialogue, as it opens up conversation and allows everyone to have a voice. "Your life depends on my life" she says. "We must not destroy what we commonly share."

Contact: *Global Oneness Project*
www.globalonenessproject.org



The Road to the Electoral Reform

by Marty Luster

"Majority rules." We all learned it in grade school, right? The basic premise of democracy is that the majority rules, subject to certain rights guaranteed to everyone. Well, that's not quite so. In fact, in the overwhelming number of jurisdictions in the U.S., "plurality rules" - at least with regard to the election of public officials.

A quick survey of state and municipal laws reveals that in all but a small - and growing - handful of localities the candidate who has received more votes than any other individual candidate is the winner, even if he or she has failed to win a majority (50%) of all votes cast. Thus we have governors, mayors, state representatives and local officials performing their duties even though they may have received just 25 or 35 percent of the total vote. Doesn't sound very democratic, does it?

There is a reform called "instant runoff voting?" (IRV) or "preferential voting" that addresses this deficiency in our electoral system.

Under IRV, voters mark their



© Marty Luster.

Voting machine in Upstate New York.

ballots in order of preference. For example, if Joan Adams, Thomas Jefferson and Ralph Nader were all running for a single City Council seat, voters would indicate their first, second and third choices. If a tally of the votes results in 45 % for Jefferson, 30 % for Adams and 25% for Nader, the lowest vote getter (Nader) would be eliminated, but all second choice votes on Nader ballots

would be thrown to that second place choice. So if Nader voters also voted 55% of second choice ballots for Jefferson and 45% for Adams, 55% of the Nader vote would go to Jefferson and 45% to Adams. A new tally is then conducted and if Jefferson receives 50% or more of the total votes cast, he becomes our new Councilperson. IRV provides benefits in addition to insuring that our government

represents a true majority of the governed. It encourages the advent of third parties and minority factions to establish themselves in the political system, giving them a realistic opportunity to challenge the two major parties. In those jurisdictions where a majority vote is already required for election, it avoids the necessity of an expensive and time consuming run-off election (most recently seen in the Senate race in Georgia) and, since second or subsequent preferences are counted in the final tally, it eliminates the argument that a vote for a minor party candidate is a "wasted" vote for a "spoiler."

IRV is growing in acceptance. A number of local and state governments have adopted it and a dozen other jurisdictions are considering it. IRV is used in San Francisco municipal elections, Burlington, VT mayoral races, and Memphis, TN city elections among other places.

IRV is a reform whose time has come.

Contact: instantrunoff.com

Return to Direct Democracy

by John Hamilton

As life on earth emerged from our single-cell ancestor, some beings learned to recognize each other as individuals, and grew to depend on small social groups for survival. These groups learned 'ethnicity', cooperation within the group (usually including some level of hierarchy); as well as some measure of distance from other groups. Each group developed specific procedures to reduce conflict within the group and increase safety for the group as a whole, ie, governance. We humans come from this line.

We humans came into being human with millions of years of experience of governance in small social groups under our belts... before we even had belts or clothes! Only recently - the last 200-300 generations - have we gathered in larger groups, and during this time we have struggled to develop satisfying ways of governance in large groups.

Today, we humans face a large challenge, to combine our awakening that all six billion of us are essentially equal (moving beyond ethnicity), and our impact on the Earth itself, with an effective and relatively harmonious means of making agreements with each other that provide respect, safety and sustainability for now and the future.

Some activists are looking to the past to move forward.

Direct democracy is a political system where citizens participate in the decision-making personally, as equal voices in the decision process, instead of relying on intermediaries or representatives. It is perhaps the oldest form of governance, among small groups, and may help us today among our billions.

Most direct democracies in recorded history have been relatively small communities, usually cities and states. Vermont and other New England towns have been known for their yearly town meetings, held every year to decide local issues.

However, some see the extensive use of referendums in California, population 20 million, as a meaningful step toward direct democracy in a very large polity. In Switzerland, 5 million voters decide on national referenda and initiatives two to four times a year; direct democratic instruments are also well established at the cantonal and communal level.

Many internet supporters envision a return to direct democracy on a national level, with millions of citizens voting directly on specific issues through use of electronic media.

While effective representative democracy has spread around the world as an improvement over strictly hierarchical regimes, perhaps our future form of government will borrow from our earliest experiences.

Power to the People Shack Dwellers Organize

by Jennifer Rego

SOUTH AFRICA - What began in 2005 as the Kennedy Road settlement's protest of apartheid-like land allocation has grown into a powerful democratic mass movement of over 35,000 people and 30 settlements across South Africa. Abahlali baseMjondolo, Zulu for 'people who live in shacks', has fused into a powerful force against evictions, unlawful

arrests, and other injustices of the country's poorest citizens.

Office holders at the branch, settlement and movement levels are elected annually in open assemblies. At least half of all elected positions are filled by women. Office holders are given mandates for action at open weekly meetings. Every three months, or at times of crisis, there is a 'camp' - an all night meeting. Rather than making decisions for the group, elected officers ensure

the democratic process is upheld.

Abahlali organizes primarily for 'Land & Housing in the City', but they also focus on access to clean water, electricity, sanitation, education and health services. They have created community projects such as gardens, sewing collectives and sports leagues, and provide support for people living with, or orphaned by AIDS.

In 2006, Abahlali successfully organized a boycott of local elections under the motto 'No Land, No House, No Vote'. According to Richard Pithouse, an Abahlali supporter, "They've always been told, 'vote now and get what you need later.' Now they are saying we won't vote until we get what we need." He says, "The ANC [African National Congress] tends to treat settlements as vote banks. For this reason, refusing to vote is a radical act of defiance." Abahlali baseMjondolo has mobilized and empowered shack dwellers through peaceful protests, organized marches and use of the court system to stop illegal evictions, police brutality, and gain access to safe housing.

Abahlali gives a once-silenced group a voice and helps them take the lead in shaping their own future. Abahlali is 100 percent volunteer based and refuses aid with conditions attached. Most funding comes from members and small outside donations.

Contact: www.abahlali.org

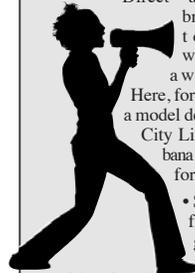
Tools for Change

In the upcoming issues of Positive News we will share with you a toolbox of some simple, effective tools for change. Have fun, experiment, and create change.

How to take direct action:

Direct action can bring people together while raising awareness.

Here, for example, is a model developed by City Life/Vida Urbana for protesting foreclosures:



- Seek advice from an organization that provides legal

advice and support for those facing foreclosure.

- Canvass the neighborhood to find support. Tell the story of the family involved, and explain how a foreclosure harms the community.

- Inform the bank that a protest is planned. Send out press releases.

- Gather neighbors, family, friends, faith groups, and organization members at the house for the scheduled foreclosure. Hold signs and use a megaphone to tell the story of the homeowner.

- If successful in thwarting the foreclosure, use the extra time to negotiate with the lender.

Source: *City Life/Vida Urbana and Fall 2008 YES! Magazine* www.yesmagazine.org



© Abahlali baseMjondolo.

Participants of an anti-eviction march on the Western Cape held this October.



Midsummer dancers at Skåne in Southern Sweden.

© Peter Westrup

Sweden, Democracy and Happiness

by John Hamilton

The northern European country of Sweden is named the 'most democratic' nation in the world by the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU), a project of the conservative Economist magazine.

"Sweden, a near-perfect democracy, comes top, followed by a bevy of similarly virtuous northern European countries," the EIU reports.

"From each according to ability, to each according to needs"

When 60 indicators were graded from 1 to 10, Sweden achieved a dazzling score of 9.88. The indicators were spread across five broad areas: electoral process, functioning of government, political participation, political culture, and civil liberties.

The report notes that while Sweden tops the list, two traditional bastions of democracy rank surprisingly low - Britain (23) and the US (18).

The organization looked at a wide range of democratic variables before dividing the 167 countries surveyed into four categories: full democracies, flawed democracies, hybrid

regimes and authoritarian regimes.

Sweden and the US are diametrically opposed on one important point, states Stefan Hedlund, Professor of Soviet and East European Studies at Uppsala University in Sweden. Where Swedes treasure equality, liberty is everything for Americans. To achieve equality, Swedes place a lot of money in the hands of the state.

Although Sweden has always had a solid market economy, Swedish prosperity has been spread among the population to a greater degree than perhaps any other country. "From each according to ability, to each according to needs" - is the working doctrine of a nation in which all inhabitants would always be guaranteed basic economic security in all stages of life. Swedes call their society 'the home of the people'.

Today while the country's economic security systems are financially burdened and are struggling with serious structural problems, the main features of the Swedish state, with its publicly guaranteed and publicly financed safety net for everyone in the country, remain intact.

Interestingly, surveys of individual happiness closely track the functioning of democracy, with Sweden ranking close to the highest in world surveys. Sweden also ranks first in Save the Children's Mother's Index and Women's Index, indicating effective societal support for families, and gender equality.

Voice Of The People

From online petitioning to YouTube, blogs and sms-ing, Avaaz.org's 3.2 million members band together to bring public opinion on urgent issues like climate change and human rights to the decision making table. Ben Wickler, Campaign Director of Avaaz, tells Peter Lloyd of Positive News Hong Kong about the organization's unique brand of people power.

The founding mission of Avaaz is to bring global public opinion to global decision making leaders.

Avaaz takes positions in close dialogue with our members -- we poll members from our global list and take into account issues from specific countries; we poll members within those countries, and interact with them about what should be done about it. The position that emerges is broadly one that you know most people would agree with but that isn't actually being enacted.

Sometimes we run campaigns within specific countries on issues of specific global concern. There is a feeling that our members and ourselves are human beings first and citizens of our countries, second. So there is recognition of community principles; that every human life is equally precious and there's a shared responsibility to ourselves and to our planet, with the idea that the many things that divide people are less powerful when people are united.

We are nimble. We structure our staff and our technology to interact with our members, so that if there is a crisis, or a window of opportunity, public pressure can be used to evoke change. Avaaz works in 14 languages and our staff collaborate in a virtual office and a couple of times a year, we gather physically.

It's a model that allows very rapid co-ordination of people everywhere to take immediate action about specific issues when they arise.

The Bali G8 Climate Change Summit is a good example of a very controversial issue; climate change is a global problem threatening everybody, everywhere. It is certainly something that can only be solved through coordination at a global level because we are all contributing to the same atmosphere. And there is wide agreement in every part of the world that there must be a significant step away from fossil fuels to stop greenhouse gases.

At the Bali Climate Change Summit, Canada, Japan and the US specifically were blocking the consensus -- normally at these epi-summits, governments send their delegations with negotiating instructions, the government at home has set its position in advance, and they go and they wrangle through whatever, and then they go to the minimum, you know the lowest common denominator. We were able to mobilize people in those countries to create domestic pressure in real time, pressuring their home governments.

For example, 90,000 Canadians signed a petition to their government within 72 hours of the summit, we ran newspaper advertisements around Canada, in politically sensitive places and the government finally reversed its decision, and caved in to its own people and sent different instruction and Canada allowed for a stronger declaration to come through at the Bali Summit.

People hold us accountable for the messages that we send out into the world, and if we write a message that veers into a negative space, it doesn't ask people to act as their best selves. So the positive energy that we try to en-



Ben Wickler.

gender is then reflected back to us from our members if we do it well.

We as stewards and the staff of Avaaz, what we do with this community is try to identify, even in a moment of terrible darkness, where there is a crack - a place where if we all get together and push, we can have a positive impact and move things forward.

In Switzerland if enough people sign a petition, it becomes legally binding. But there are many countries where not only would signing a petition not have an automatic influence on the government, it will put you at personal risk. It's not a sanctioned activity.

Avaaz means voice in Hindi and Urdu and Farsi and many other languages. And there is an excitement to hear that you are speaking and being heard. Some governments -- and we hope that all governments -- will actually respond to all the messages that they get. It's very satisfying to write to a government and receive a response from the ministry.

Contact: avaaz.org
Avaaz Foundation
857 Broadway, 3rd floor,
New York, NY 10003

Story from Positive News Hong Kong

Mexicans Declare New Government

by Chuck Collins

On September 16, the anniversary of Mexican independence, over a million disaffected Mexicans convened a "democratic congress" and declared illegitimate the Electoral Tribunal's decision that Felipe Calderón had won the presidential election. They designated Andrés Manuel López Obrador president of their parallel government and vowed to remain a permanent opposition to Calderón and block his December 1 inauguration.

This action followed months of massive street protests by Obrador's supporters after the July 2 razor-close presidential election that pitted the conservative Calderón of the National Action Party (PAN) against the populist Obrador of the Democratic Revolution Party (PRD).

Obrador's supporters charged election fraud. Observers and civil society groups agreed that there is ample evidence of vote shaving, local fraud, and meddling by the PAN ruling party. Obrador's supporters took to the streets and to Mexico City's central square (the Zócalo) with the demand: Count every vote!

The election's closeness reflects a deep and troubling fault line between Mexico's northern and southern regions. Voters in the more affluent and industrialized northern states voted for Harvard-educated Calderón, a champion of U.S.-backed free trade, foreign investment, and low inflation policies. Voters in the southern, poor, and agricultural regions of Mexico teamed up with Mexico City's urban residents to vote for Obrador.

On July 30, more than two million Mexicans began a series of actions that included encampments and blockades on the main streets of Mexico City, and massive gatherings in the Zócalo. Tens of thousands remained in these encampments until they intentionally disbanded in mid-September to set up a parallel government, their response to the controversial partial recount that declared Calderón the winner by fewer than 200,000 votes, with more than 41 million votes cast.

Story from "Purple America," the Fall 2008 YES! Magazine, 284 Madrona Way NE Ste 116, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. Subscriptions: 800-937-4451 Web: www.yesmagazine.org



SHOP FAIR TRADE. INVEST IN YOUR WORLD.



Fully loaded baskets, made of banana leaf and raffia fibers handwoven by artisans in Uganda, are functional works of art.

Celebrate Fair Trade

Visit Ten Thousand Villages to learn how fair trade offers dignity, sustainability, education and hope to skilled artisans around the world.



171 The Commons
Ithaca, NY
607.256.0616

Fair trade since 1960

PERCUSSION HEADQUARTERS!

Toko IMPORTS

- CONGS
- HATS
- HAMMOCKS

**DRUM LESSONS
DRUM REPAIRS**

(607) 277-3780 DEWITT MALL, DOWNTOWN ITHACA



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



The UPS Store™

LOW RATES DIRECT FROM UPS

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

101 EAST STATE STREET
THE COMMONS
ITHACA, NY 14850

Mon-Fri 9:00am-6:00pm
Sat 10:00am-5:00pm
Fax (607) 286-0277

**Please Share
Positive News**

ONE HEART COMMUNITY DRUM CIRCLE

OUR OPEN DRUM CIRCLE HERE IN ITHACA, NY
www.oneheartcommunitydrumming.org
every Saturday 5 PM til dark • good weather: west end of Stewart Park • poor weather: Alternative Community School: 111 Chestnut Street
location, events, schedule changes: 512-682-0761

To advertise in Positive News call 607-330-4330

SONYMA MORTGAGES ARE HERE! (State of New York Mortgage Agency)

- Below-market interest rates
- Benefits varying income levels
- Down-payment as low as 3%
- \$5,000 in Closing Cost Assistance
- Not just for first-time homeowners

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

NATURALLY GREAT FOOD!
Finely Crafted Beverages

ABC CAFE
WORLDWIDE CUISINE

**BREAKFAST & LUNCH
10AM - 3PM
DINNER 5 PM - LATE**

Full Service Vegetarian Restaurant

- Open Tues-Fri: 8am-10pm
- Sat & Sun: 9am-10pm
- Open until midnight on music nights
- 2 new beers on tap
- Brunch Sat & Sun 9am-3pm

**308-310 STEWART AVENUE
ITHACA, NY • 607-277-4770**

Major Credit Cards Accepted • www.theabcafe.com
100% Ithaca Hours Accepted



One City's Brilliance

by Daleena Samara

BOGOTA, Columbia - What would happen to your city if you were to give its mayor a magic wand? The answer depends on the quality of the mayor and the quantity of power he or she wields. In Columbia, where mayors carry potent wands, two mayors transformed a despicable place into a desirable one.

The city in question is Bogota, population 8 million – a city worse for wear after a 38 year war; facing pollution, poverty, corruption in political places, and crime in most other places. It wasn't a place you'd choose to live in.

Then, within just seven years, Bogota became a model of progressive urbanization; thanks to policies of two recent mayors.

First there came Antanus Mockus, a Harvard graduate with the reputation for goofiness – he even mooned a crowd of undergrads. As mayor of Bogota from 1995 to 1998, Antanus put his talents to a good use. He tamed traffic by hiring mime clowns to mimic civil road behaviour. When the motorists saw them no-no-ing and shushing them whenever they crossed a traffic light, they stopped breaking rules. Amazingly, traffic

“He tamed traffic by hiring mime clowns to mimic civil road behaviour.”

became orderly.

Antanus had more tricks up his sleeve. He began to mingle with the public, wearing a super-citizen outfit, giving them lessons in civility. He let go of unfriendly police officers, and went to even greater lengths to get his message across by, for example, demonstrating how to save water by showering live on national television.

After Antanus came the dapper Enrique Penalosa, a man with city

planning stamped in his DNA. The son of a Bogota City Council member and UN housing specialist, he drew a line between roads and pavements. The city, he pointed out, had been taken over by cars. Vehicular traffic was displacing citizens. It was the luxury of the elite. In Bogota, where poverty is rife, most people don't have cars. Enrique Penalosa committed to put cars in their place.

Enrique's mayoral term, from 1998 to 2001, saw Bogota transformed into a warm and people-friendly place. One of the first things Enrique did was snip rush-hour traffic jams by 40 percent – by restricting peak time traffic. He also upped the price of fuel.

These drastic measures were well received because whilst tightening private transport, he injected a much needed dose of efficiency into the public transportation system, creating the Trans Manéilo, a super-efficient public bus system. Commuters were given quality transport options.

He also initiated construction of kilometres of sidewalks and bicycle paths. In 2000, he introduced Bogota's first city-wide Car-Free Day. His efforts were surprisingly successful, and resulted in a public referendum instituting the Car-Free Day as an annual event; and it is expected that from 2015, a car ban during specific rush-hour periods will be enforced in Bogota.

Enrique achieved a lot during his term as mayor: he created a successful Urban Land Reform institution; added parks and pedestrian space to the city, especially in run down crime-infested areas, built more than 100 nurseries for children under 5 years old, gave 14,000 computers and Internet connectivity to public schools, and planted thousands of trees.

Enrique, who was in Hong Kong recently to teach China's gleaming city-state how to make better use of its ample plush public space, pointed out the obvious but sadly often-forgotten fact that cities are primarily for people. “Public spaces,” he says, “are for kissing in, for strolling in and mingling. They aren't there for cosmetic effect or to



Former Mayor of Bogota, Enrique Penalosa (middle) believes that “cities should be for people, not cars.”

accommodate important people's cars. Public spaces are the only places where all citizens are equal.”

Enrique advocates expanding public spaces, and for cities that already have ample public space, to rejuvenate them by allowing the public maximum enjoyment of them.

“Let the kids splash in the public

fountains,” he said. “Don't expect them to admire the fountain from behind a barrier. And let there be lots of street entertainment. Keep roads, in their place, at a distance.”

The importance of pedestrian public spaces cannot be measured, but most other important things in life cannot be measured either: Friendship, beauty, love and loyalty

are examples. Parks and other pedestrian places are essential to a city's happiness.

Story from Positive News Hong Kong

CLIMBING MACHINES

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

ICM www.icm.ca 607.288.4001 Ithaca, NY



The city of Bogota is surrounded by nature.



Why My Dad's Going Green

by Kate Sheppard

It started with a lawn sign war. It was 2000. I was 16, and sold on Ralph Nader, even though I couldn't actually vote. I staked a Nader lawn sign in front of my parents' house. It was quickly stashed in the garage. I put it out again. And again, back to the garage. Dad was rooting for Bush.

I never really felt like my politics fit in my family. There was my conversion to vegetarianism (the same as "communism" in Dad's book), my stance against President Bush and the Iraq War, and my growing commitment to environmental work. Dad griped that I was becoming one of "those radical environmentalists."

So when my father called a few years ago to ask me about this whole organics thing, I was confused. I was sort of flattered that Dad thought of me as his de facto source of information about the young and eco-minded. Turns out he'd been reading in agricultural trade publications that organics were the next big thing. My father, though not always in tune with the latest on the environmental front, was ever a savvy businessman: He wanted in.

My father, Thomas Sheppard, has been a farmer since he was old enough to wield a shovel. The Sheppards came to what would become the US from England in 1683, and promptly put down roots in Cumberland County, NJ.

Today the Sheppard brothers farm 1,500 acres of lettuce, cucumbers, peppers, tomatoes, asparagus, and squash on one of the last vestiges of garden in the Garden State. And for my whole life—and as long as my father can remember, too—they've grown everything "conventional."

Given that the brothers, along with everyone in the country for the most part, have become accustomed to fossil-fuel and chemical-intensive methods of growing food, I was surprised that my father was willing to venture into organics. Dad's a farmer, businessman, life-long Republican, and two-time Bush voter who drives one of those massive, gas-guzzling pickup trucks. In our town of 2,000, he's a member of the three-person town council, and the three of them take turns being mayor. It's his turn right now.

I've always figured myself the political outsider in the family. After graduating, I moved to the city and took a job as an environmental reporter, and became a bike-riding, Whole Foods-shopping urbanite. I got as far away from the farm as possible. So at first it seemed almost an affront for Dad to be venturing into what I considered my rebellion. What do you want here, old man?

But a visit home a few years later tipped me off to the possibility that we might agree on more than I'd thought. A new shopping complex was being built a few towns over, one of those strip malls of big box stores and acres of parking. I asked Dad about it, and we shared an eye roll. "They're taking all this space in the country for these mega stores," said Dad. "We're going to have three Wal-Marts in Cumberland County. What the hell do we need three Wal-Marts for?" Our county has less than 150,000 people. Not much to disagree with there. I didn't expect to hear Dad espousing anti-corporate sentiment, and it felt good to have something to bond over.

It touched a deep nerve within me. Each time I go home, the suburbs of Philadelphia sprawl farther and farther into South Jersey, taking over land that was farms only months before. I can't help but mourn the lost history and culture of rural America, even though I've moved away. And imagine how Dad must feel. It's not just history for him; it's his livelihood. Dad says farmers in the area have been selling their land because of the congestion and development. "There was so much traffic around they couldn't get equipment up the road," he says.

Regardless of political affiliation, farmers remain the closest Americans to the earth. Though I write about these issues every day, I can't really understand the impacts of today's environmental problems like farmers do—decreasing open space, sprawl, shifting weather patterns, droughts, floods, invasive species. These long-term hazards to humankind are much more immediate threats to the livelihood of folks like Dad, so caring about them isn't as much a political issue as a matter of necessity.

But how often we "environmentalists," and the political



Thomas Sheppard in 1988 with Kate and her baby brother Alex.

Left in general, forget this. How much we confine ourselves by writing off these folks as party-line Republicans.

In recent years, the realities of the agricultural economy have increasingly led Dad across the political line. There's the increase in fuel costs: My family's farm consumes 1,000 gallons of diesel every week during the growing season, guzzled by the tractors, combines, and tractor-trailers that haul the vegetables to grocery stores along the East Coast. And while the farm used to grow lettuce that would be sold locally, it now has to compete with giant farms on the other side of the continent, and other continents.

Organics give small farms like Dad's a niche in the large chain grocery stores, and an "in" with rapidly expanding "natural" markets like Whole Foods. The strategy seems to be working—I spotted Sheppard Farms asparagus in a Whole Foods for the first time just a few weeks ago.

Of course, Dad and his brothers have had a lot to learn as they've greened the farm. Classes in organics didn't really exist when the three of them attended Cornell University's agricultural program, one of the best in the country. Right now they have only 40 organic acres out of 1,500, and they're trying to learn how to get better yields out of them, and how to expand. "They say as you get deeper into organics, you'll reap more benefits as the soil gets further away from the time that chemicals were used. It will have time to recover," says Dad. "That could be just urban legend. Er, rural legend."

The next big project he's hoping to tackle is greening the farm's energy supply. The farm is located along the Delaware Bay, and bay breezes lend great potential for wind energy. Dad hopes the wind turbines could be a source of income.

He's also considering investing in solar panels, which could bring the farm's energy costs down from 16 to 10 cents per kilowatt-hour right away. He's even thinking about lobbying to get the town to go solar.

"We could put solar panels on the new firehouse," says Dad. "change those natural gas heaters to electric heaters and produce our own. That might be the more economical and more environmentally friendly thing to do." I never expected to hear the phrase "environmentally friendly" coming out of Dad's mouth.

But Congress keeps stalling on an extension of the tax credits for renewable energy, which are set to expire at the end of the year, and the lack of market assurance right now has put the solar industry in a holding pattern. I cover this action day-to-day on the Hill, so Dad called recently to find out how his representative, Frank LoBiondo, had voted on the extensions.

I assumed, based on party affiliation alone, that he'd voted against them. I was wrong. I guess that shows my own political biases. Dad said he'd call anyway, just to make sure LoBiondo knew how important these extensions are. It was

the first time I'd heard Dad talk about calling his legislator about an environmental issue, so I was pumped. Isn't this what I spend my life working on—giving citizens the information they need to push for political reforms?

Tough economic times have made him more politically active in other areas as well. New Jersey has been in dire financial straits for quite a while, and this winter, the governor proposed total elimination of the state's Department of Agriculture. Dad bussed to the capitol to protest. Other farmers brought goats and tractors, creating quite a scene in Trenton. Considering he's made fun of me for protesting the Iraq War, it was funny to see Dad on his first political march. And the farmers won: The governor backed off the proposal.

The farming experience has made him break from the party line in other areas as well—like immigration. Dad says the country's immigration policies are both mistreating immigrants and imperiling the domestic agricultural sector. He understands this, since the farm relies heavily on immigrant workers, mostly from Mexico.

"The Sheppards never had any green cards," he adds. In Dad's book, if the first Sheppards rolled off the boat without permission to be here, who are we to tell others they don't have the same right? Many of the men and women Dad hires were farmers back home in Mexico, too, but hard economic times forced them to come to the U.S. A few years ago, Dad even went to visit a village in Mexico that a lot of his workers call home, wanting to see where these folks are from.

I told him recently that I think he's slowly becoming a liberal, whether he likes it or not.

"I think it's more being a fiscal conservative," Dad said. "I would say I'm a fiscal conservative and socially liberal."

I asked him whether he'd vote for Bush a third time.

"Oh, hell no," he retorted.

"Dad, how'd I come out a liberal?" I asked.

"I was more liberal when I was your age," he said.

I might argue that he's migrating back that direction, from a Bush-hugger to a treehugger. But in recent years I've realized that a lot of my beliefs aren't in spite of where and how I grew up—they're because of it. I care about the land because it's from the land that my family makes a living. I care about food sources and security because I never had to think twice about where mine came from growing up—I could just walk out back and pick a tomato or a pepper. I care about open space and clean water and air because I can't imagine a childhood without them.

And so does Dad. Even if we may never agree on a lawn sign.

Story from "Purple America," the Fall 2008 YES! Magazine, 284 Madrona Way NE Ste 116, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110. Subscriptions: 800/937-4451 Web: www.yesmagazine.org



Harlem Children's Zone

by Cicely Kurtz

Did you know that:

60% of black men in their mid thirties who dropped out of high school spent time in prison? And only 7 percent of all 8th graders perform at grade level in math?

The people of Harlem NY know it. They live it. In the 1970's they recognized problems and established a program which worked with young children and their families known as The Harlem Children's Zone (HCZ).

Jeffrey Canada, the founder of HCZ has made a bold promise to the parents who live in the zone. "If your child comes to this school, we will guarantee that we will get your child into college. We will be with you with your child from the moment they enter our school till the moment they graduate from college."

Understanding that schools are central to communities, HCZ was among the first to turn schools into community centers on nights and

weekends. Then, HCZ ran a pilot project that brought a range of support services to a single block. The idea was to address all the problems that poor families were facing. One novel program, The Harlem Peacemakers, placed AmeriCorp volunteers in classrooms to assist teachers and run afterschool programs.

Other successful programs include Baby College parenting workshops, the Harlem Gems preschool, The HCZ Asthma Initiative, teaching families to manage the disease, a charter school named The Promise Academy and an obesity awareness program. By 2007, the Zone Project had grown to almost 100 blocks and serves 7,400 children and over 4,100 adults

And now, did you know:

100 percent of the participants in the Harlem Gems were found to be school-ready for six consecutive years? And 97.4 percent of Promise Academy students are at or above grade level in math?

Contact: Harlem Children's Zone
Tel: 212 360 3655 www.hcz.org



Growing New Roots

by Nick Boyar

A new public high school in Ithaca, New York is responding to a call issued by the United Nations. The UN Decade for Education for Sustainable Development seeks innovative new models of education that address the social and ecological challenges of the 21st century.

According to its vision statement, "New Roots Charter School will empower young people as citizens and entrepreneurs to create just, democratic communities and thriving green economies that maintain and restore the natural world."

New Roots students will meet rigorous New York State learning standards while applying their studies to collaborative, hands-on projects in areas such as alternative energy, sustainable food systems, com-

munity arts, and land stewardship, working in teams that encourage the development of respectful relationships across the lines of race, class, and gender.

A ground-breaking curriculum will challenge students to examine the common roots of pervasive social, economic and environmental issues, and to develop solutions that they will put to work in the school and in the wider Ithaca community. Each student will be closely guided and supported by a faculty mentor, and will produce an online digital portfolio that demonstrates they meet all state and school graduation requirements.

New Roots has established extensive community partnerships, creating the opportunity for a wide range of student internships and community service projects. A Farm-to-School meal program developed by the Center for Local Farms and Foods, in

partnership with local, organic farms, will allow students to participate in growing, harvesting, and preparing food for the school's lunches. Program development will also be supported through partnerships with Cornell University, local colleges and national sustainability organizations.

In preparation for its September 2009 opening, the school will host informational meetings and focus groups for prospective students, parents, and community members this winter and spring. Principal Tina Nilsen-Hodges said, "We invite the community to join us in the planning process. We are building a school from the ground up, and want to understand and meet the needs of the people we will be serving."

As a public school, New Roots will be funded by local school taxes, as well as state and federal funds. For each student who chooses the school, the local school

district will transfer a portion of that student's per pupil expenditure to New Roots. Like other school boards with new charter schools, the Ithaca City School District has expressed concern about how the transfer of students and funds to the new school will affect its budget. The Charter Schools Institute of New York, however, which has overseen this process in hundreds of cases, has concluded that districts hosting new charter schools have not seen significantly greater tax increases or reductions in service than those districts without new charter schools.

New Roots Charter School will enroll 125 incoming 9th and 10th graders the first year, and growing into a four-year school serving 225 students.

Contact: www.newrootsschool.org
info@newrootsschool.org



Young representatives put climate concerns before Prime Minister, Dr Manmohan Singh in New Delhi.

KidsCall Campaign in New Delhi

Students meet the Prime Minister of India to demand Climate Action

In August, three representatives from the international youth campaign KidsCall met India's Prime Minister, Manmohan Singh, to carry out a special Indian tradition: the tying of a rakhi.

The rakhi is a thread bracelet, which is tied around the wrist and symbolises a commitment to the protection from harm. The bracelet was given on behalf of thousands of children between the ages of 7 and 21, who participated in the KidsCall campaign, requesting protection from climate change.

The children also handed over a list of six key concerns to the Prime Minister which, they felt, needed the immediate attention of the Indian government, such as the promotion of organic farming and a

massive increase in renewable energy.

The KidsCall campaign in India is the combined initiative of Navdanya, an environmental research organisation based in Delhi and the

messages have been presented to state representatives of the G8, plus the heads of government of Brazil, China, India, Mexico and South Africa, to influence policy makers

"The rakhi is a thread bracelet, which is tied around the wrist and symbolises a commitment to the protection from harm."

Hamburg-based World Future Council, which provide a platform for young people to express their concerns about climate change.

Through KidsCall, more than 10,000 messages from over 30 countries have been collected from children and young people using a variety of mixed media. These

towards making decisions in the interests of the planet and future generations.

Contact: KidsCall
www.kidscall.info or
www.worldfuturecouncil.org
Story from Positive News UK



Kyle Taylor.

“Don’t Escape Reality. Change It.”

Last issue we introduced globetrotter Kyle Taylor. A year ago he approached Ashoka’s Youth Venture with the idea of travelling the world to meet with and document the stories of other young changemakers. The ‘Dream it. Do it.’ World Tour was born.

Kyle interviewed fellow venturers from 11 different countries, documenting his journey on the organisation’s community action-website. “...Sleeping on couches and floors, travelling in rickshaws

and living on rice, I encountered the most inspiring changemakers that I could have ever imagined.” Kyle says, “and we’re doing more than just coming together to create change. We’re defining an entire generation.”

Enjoy all the stories and photos by Kyle Taylor.

Contact: www.kyletaylor.com or www.genv.net or www.ashoka.org

Art E Amor

BRAZIL - Arte E Amor, which translates as Art and Love, has found a second life for old or discarded glass products by turning them into beautiful, marketable jewellery.

Based in Sao Paulo, Brazil, 20 year old Leandro and Jucimeire, aged 23, wanted to improve the quality of life for young women considered impoverished and at risk. The aim was to generate an income, while at the same time recycle, educate and help to clean-up the community.

Now Leandro and Jucimeire employ dozens of young workers, who melt down hundreds of pounds of unwanted glass and turn it into fashionable necklaces, earrings, belts and rings. They sell the jewellery at local



Leandro and Jucimeire from Arte E Amor.

markets, using a share of the profits to fund the upkeep of other invaluable community projects.

In two years, they have sold thousands of items and created successful income-generating jobs for many young women in their neighbourhood.



More Youth Ventures from Kyle Taylor’s World Tour

Blown Away by Team Organico

MEXICO - Liliana and Juan have been transforming an impoverished community in Oaxaca into a haven for fresh organic produce. Both biology students, they wanted to find a way to bring affordable, organic groceries to the city’s poorest residents, believing that every human being has the right to eat healthily. Through their venture, they have established rudimentary roof gardens atop homes in and around the crowded neighbourhoods of the city.

By charging for their training services in wealthier areas, they are able to offset the costs of garden construction for those who cannot afford it, supplying their own seeds and homemade organic fertiliser. This is an affordable way to effectively bridge the gap between rich and poor and it is revolutionising urban farming in this area of Mexico.



Liliana and Juan maintaining their rooftop organic garden project in Oaxaca, Mexico.

Juan and Liliana also run classes on organic farming and have forged multiple partnerships with other venturer’s to build more rooftop gardens. In the meantime, to keep their pro-

duce accessible to everyone, their organic crops continue to be marketed through the city’s local, low-income food stores, rather than the expensive downtown supermarkets.

Cultivating Health and Wellbeing

USA - Searching for a way to support Seattle’s large mentally ill population, Vishal, with the help of three friends, has launched a community gardening project. It works closely with the neighbourhood residents of government-assisted living facilities.

The purpose is three-fold: to provide the homeless shelter residents with a garden they can help maintain; to encourage the harvest of fresh vegetables and supplement poor diets; to increase the scenic beauty of the area, benefiting the people who are housed there, as well as the community as a whole.

The venture also runs a summertime ‘cookout’

for residents, using vegetables harvested from the gardens and hosts seminars for students at Washington University on the issues of homelessness.

The neglect that the mentally ill often face can lead to a downward spiral in brain capacity and activity. However, the responsibility and social interaction involved in maintaining the garden, has helped these individuals make enormous improvements in terms of health and wellbeing. At the same time, Vishal has been able to expose an entire group of students to the struggles of their local community, providing not only a service initiative but a valuable learning opportunity for young people.

“By launching a venture dedicated to addressing the issue of homelessness, we hope we can do our part to make a difference in our community,” explains Vishal. Last year they set up one garden and this year they are expanding to five other locations, engaging over a hundred local students and hundreds of community residents.



Vishal with other key members of his community gardening project.

Contact: [Sigma Beta Rho UW](http://www.sigmetarho.com) SAO Box 40, HUB 207, UW Box 352238 Seattle, Washington 98195 www.sigmetarho.com

The Green Trash Action Project

ARGENTINA - Moved to action by a school project on the environmental impact of open-air rubbish dumps, Ayelen and Florencia set up ‘Basura Verde Proyecto En Accion’.

The first part of their campaign was to initiate a scheme to collect

all reusable goods in their school for recycling. They then recruited volunteers to help spread the new eco-message throughout their town, situated in the Jujuy province of Argentina, just a stone’s throw from the Bolivian border.

They are now lobbying city

and state government officials to upgrade the local dump site to meet environmental safety standards. Their multi-faceted approach is a prime example of how young people are not only fixing immediate problems but working to change actual policy.

Left: Ayelen and Florencia with members of Basura Verde Proyecto En Accion.



Living a Cause

by Christine Brouwer

On Christmas Day 2005, Mira Brouwer, the nearly 2 year old daughter of Chris and Christine Brouwer of Ithaca, NY, complained of dizziness and other symptoms. A few weeks later she was diagnosed with a form of brain cancer called ependymoma. After multiple surgeries, chemotherapy and radiation, remission of the disease and it's recurrence, Mira died on April 26, 2008. From that tragedy has come Mira's Movement.

Most causes are born of personal suffering. People discover an injustice in the world, often through their own experience, and set out to right that injustice. Whether it's voting rights, civil rights, human rights—there are many good causes to work for.

Some choose an area of action based on stories they've read or issues they've become aware of through friends or the media. The founders of Mira's Movement wish this had been their situation. They have found a cause through personal experience: the loss of their four-year-old daughter, Mira.

Mira's Movement was born in her honor. The organization has a three part mission: to encourage the federal government to fund pediatric cancer research, to raise awareness of pediatric cancer issues, and to support children

with cancer and their families.

This year, funding from the federal government for childhood cancer trickled down through the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to wind up at \$26.4 million dollars. That's for all of pediatric cancer. Within that category, there are nearly 200 separate types of cancer.

Due to this severe shortage of funding, (CureSearch states that they needed at least \$56 million this year to continue their current research and initiate the most promising new projects), research is devoted to the diseases that effect children the most, and what is left over is put toward the others. Thankfully, the prognosis for some of the leukemias has improved. It has barely changed for many others. An overall increase in funding is needed for all types of childhood cancer.

In 2007, the National Cancer Institute and other sources including the NIH devoted \$705 million to breast cancer cure. This resulted in a much higher rate of recovery for women effected. With cancer being the number one fatality for children by disease in this country, much more funding is deserved to help these children make it, and achieve a higher quality of life on their road to recovery.

In living with and supporting a child fighting cancer, as well as living without them, the challenge for the family is to find things to be thankful for and to continue living life in



Mira and her brother Jackson.

the best possible way. It is not a challenge easily satisfied. Mira's family, the Brouwers, hope that through Mira's Movement, change will come and children with cancer and their families will have bright futures.

Contact: Mira's Movement
www.mirasmovement.org
jointhefight@mirasmovement.org
www.curesearch.org



© F. A. Ecker

Hope in Bloom Sets Roots

DEDHAM, MA - Roberta Hershon shared a lot with Beverly Eisenberg in 50 years of friendship, including love of gardens, so when breast cancer weakened her friend, she organized a team to keep the woman's garden blooming.

Three years later Ms. Hershon continues gifting others through her Dedham-based charity, Hope in Bloom. "It's quite lovely," Rebecca Stephenson says of the charity's handiwork at her Main Street home, where a patch of woods leading to the water was planted and landscaped so she could have a pleasant view during her recovery from a trying year of breast cancer recovery.

The healing power of gardens can be traced to early Asian, Greek and Roman cultures. Healing gardens have been proven to be therapeutic sanctuaries offering both comfort and hope to meet the emotional and psychological needs of patients and their families. Hope in Bloom can help breast cancer patients keep the sights, sounds and smells of nature in their lives.

Hope in Bloom provides indoor or outdoor
 Positive News Winter 2009

gardens free of charge at the homes of women and men in treatment for breast cancer. Each garden is tailored to the recipient's residential situation and lifestyle. Indoor gardens are available year round while outdoor gardens are seasonal.

Hope in Bloom gardens offer people beautiful, tranquil places to sit, reflect, and escape from the world of doctors, hospitals and sickness. For many the garden becomes a powerful image of the positive way their own body and spirit can continue to flourish. "My garden is a symbol of my personal survival," says Sue Gieraj. "The doctors saved my life, while my Hope in Bloom garden rejuvenated my spirit. Each healthy new blossom I see this year fills me with positive energy that keeps me strong."

The gardens are currently available in Massachusetts and the group plans to expand to other states as soon as possible.

Contact: Hope in Bloom
www.hopeinbloom.org
 Tel: 781 381 3597

Another World is Possible

Dare to Hope

by Lee Riddell

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

That by paying kindness forward we are collectively creating a resounding wave everywhere that is eradicating some of the horrors we see today

~ Adrian Paul, Founder of PEACE Fund



I am hopeful that we all want the same things: enough to eat, a place to rest, the love of family and friends, the right to lead a life that holds meaning. That we talk openly about our differences, let them take up space and work and live with each other anyway.
 ~ Kris Holloway-Bidwell, Author and Advocate of a Dining for Women Charity

What I find hopeful in the world today is that Barack Obama became president-elect.

When Obama became president-elect, everything seemed more alive.

Jonah Garbino, Kung Fu Student



I'm hopeful that people have stopped being passive and stopped accepting conventional wisdom and that people are getting more engaged in democracy and I think the web is really supporting that. Tools such as Wikipedia, Google Earth, and blogs are giving people tools around the world democratizing access to information.

~ Rebecca Moore, Founder of Google Earth Outreach



William's Windmill



© Tom Reilly/TED

William Kamkwamba stands at the top of his homemade windmill.

MALAWI - At any age, designing, building and further adapting your own fully operational, power-generating windmill from scratch is quite amazing. However, if you are only 14, living in a remote village in Malawi, with no electricity, it is an astounding achievement.

When he was 14 years old, William Kamkwamba found he would have to leave school because his parents could no longer manage the fees but he did not give up hope. "An organisation called the Malawian Teacher Training Activity contributed a large quantity of books to the primary school library near my home," he said. "One of the books was called 'Using Energy'. Inside there were plans for a windmill so I decided to build one to provide power for my family."

William's motivation to succeed was also born out of deep concern for his sister's health. "She was coughing from the candles," he explained. "They smoke and they are dangerous." With no supply of electricity in his village, the only light source came from paraffin wax candles, which emit carcinogens and soot, filling a small house with the same toxins produced when burning diesel.

"When I was making it, all these people were mocking me, saying I was going mad," he explained, "but I had confidence in what I was doing because I knew that if it was written in the book, then it was true and possible."

Following the book's diagrams and instructions, he set to work. However, the only materials readily available were just some wooden poles, broken pipes, old shoes, copper wire and his father's old

bicycle. As the structure started to take shape, he utilised anything that looked like it might work and when he could not find the right component, he just made it out of something else instead. The blades for William's windmill were fashioned out of old PVC pipes - cut, heated and pounded down until flat and then attached to a rotor.

From a mish-mash of recycled bits and bobs, William's first working windmill generated enough energy to light one room. This however, was only the beginning - he would need more power. He asked a local tinsmith to cut more efficient steel blades out of an old oil barrel, which helped boost the energy production to power several light bulbs. In fact, enough for the whole house plus two radios, two mobile phone chargers and a car battery for the purpose of backup power.

"Africa means a great many things to a great many people," wrote Wendy Jewell and David Kemker from the My Hero Project - an educational website that celebrates the best of humanity. "Many of us in the West hear only the disturbing parts - famine, war, epidemics - but there's another story to be told about Africa; the story of Africans who aren't waiting for government or foreign aid or NGOs to solve their problems. They are the Africans who are standing up and saying: the change begins with me. I am the answer. William Kamkwamba is one such African."

Contact: William Kamkwamba, www.williamkamkwamba.com
Story from Positive Living

Standing Up for Mothers

by Ruth Robertson

Have you ever heard someone say "Oh, she don't work, she just takes care of her kids"? Pat Gowens and fellow volunteers at Mother Warriors Voice want to change that common perception of what is really the very important job of child rearing. They are getting the word out that Motherwork IS work and that it should be paid and prioritized by the community and in the workplace.

"We actively protest the devastation caused by cruel welfare reform," says Pat Gowens, who talks to mothers nightly on a Mom's hot line run by the Mother Warriors. Pat also speaks at conferences internationally to help change policies affecting families in poverty; sometimes Pat peppers her speeches with songs about the cause she holds dear, inviting her audience to join in.

*We take care of Mother Earth
The sick, the young, the old
But our work has no value still
At least that's what we're told!*

Pat can sing songs like this in the first person voice because she is a single mom of three, now grown, boys. Having struggled for years when fi-



Pat to help slice through, but Pat is more humble about what she does. "It's the three-step plan, and the voice of encouragement to execute that plan that we provide that makes it possible for women to strike out on their own and get what they deserve."

Mother Warriors Voice helps women with children find their voice and get the services they are entitled to. You can visit their website for songs to sing on the street, call their Mom's Line for advice, and find out more about their newspaper full of support for mothers. Mother Warriors honor all women, regardless of income, for the important work they do... raising the next generation!

Contact: Mother Warriors Voice
2711 West Michigan Ave
Milwaukee WI 53208
www.welfarewarriors.org
Tel: 414 342 6662

"Mother Warriors Voice helps women with children find their voice and get the services they are entitled to.."

nancial support from her sons' father was denied her by a court, she now advocates for the creation of a US federal program to guarantee that all children have support to the age of 18.

Recently Pat guided a great-grandmother of three through the system to get her public benefits restored when they were inexplicably terminated. Mother Warriors say that budget cuts have led to a tangle of red tape that it often takes someone like

Ecuador's Historic Vote

Continued from Page 1

President Correa has already proposed a ban on drilling in the Yasuni National Park. The Ecuadorian government has appealed to the international community to find innovative ways to recompense their country for the estimated 4.6 billion dollars income which will be lost. "We offer to forsake oil revenue for the sake of humanity," Rafael Correa said, "but we need the international community to share the responsibility, by providing... compensation in recognition of the environmental benefits

for first-time home owners and free seeds for growing crops.

Ecuador's extension of legal rights for Nature may also represent a wider shift in how humans view their place in the world. The Legal Defence Fund has been fielding calls on the subject from Italy, Australia, South Africa and Nepal - also in the throes of its first constitution.

Some religious leaders, including the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Dalai Lama, have recently declared that caring for Nature is a spiritual duty, while the Catholic Church has incorporated: 'thou shalt not pollute the environment' into its

"We are still on time for our laws to recognise the right of a river to flow and to prohibit actions that will destabilise the Earth's climate..."

~ Alberto Acosta

we will generate for the entire planet."

The new constitution of 444 articles has been created democratically. It incorporates proposals put together by the 70,000 citizens, who were present at the Assembly in Montecristi. Along with the rights for Nature, it also contains social reforms, aimed at improving the quality of life for the 38 percent of Ecuadorians who live below the poverty line.

New provisions guarantee collective rights to water and food, free education for all, increased spending on health, the availability of low-interest micro-loans, building materials

revised list of Seven Deadly Sins.

"We are still on time for our laws to recognise the right of a river to flow and to prohibit actions that will destabilise the Earth's climate..." said Mr Acosta. "It is time to stop the mad commodification of Nature, as it was in previous years time to prohibit the buying and selling of human beings."

Contact: Community Environmental Legal Defence Fund
675 Mower Road,
Chambersburg, PA 17202,
www.celdf.org
www.pachamama.org
Story from Positive News UK



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

Kellie Ryan LMT

Integrative Massage
 JOURNAL OF MASSAGE &
 Therapeutic Practitioner

SOMA Living Arts
 409 State St
 Ithaca NY
 607-342-5509

Expanding Awareness Through Bodywork

Healing Tree Studio
 Advanced CranioSacral Therapy
 Therapeutic Massage
 Energy Balancing

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

**Health care costs got you down?
 We can help!**



- Ithaca Health Fund provides grants and loans to help you pay for health care.
- Ithaca Free Clinic is open regularly, offering traditional and alternative care, at 225 S. Fulton St.
- Our Education Programs include a newsletter and a lending library through community partners.
- Community grants are available to help organizations develop health and wellness programs.
- \$100/yr for general members
- \$50/yr per child
- Discounts available

Visit www.IthacaHealth.org or call 607-330-1253 to learn more!!

The CRESP Center for Transformative Action

is embodying a model for social change that breaks the traditional *us versus them* approach. This model, inspired by Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mahatma Gandhi's non violent action, seeks to turn *adversaries into allies, competition into cooperation, and anger into goodwill*. Our goal is to train and equip our project leadership, student activists, and local, national, and international social change agents with the most effective strategies and methods for an inclusive rather than polarizing activism.



The CRESP CENTER for Transformative Action

www.cresp.cornell.edu
 117 Anabel Taylor Hall
 Cornell University
 Ithaca, NY 14853
 607-255-5027

sustainable technology

agile worry free web

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

Go Beyond Just Coping
THE JOY WITHIN

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

Stress Management • Meditation • Reiki

Israel • Mexico • Peru • Scotland • Senegal • USA

Living Routes

Study Abroad
 in Ecovillages LivingRoutes.org



For advertising rates visit www.PositiveNewsUS.org

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



Dr Kasia
 helping you heal

chiropractic
 yoga
 massage

607 342 1662
 ithaca ny

renovus energy

Be the change you wish to see

Light is sweet, and it pleases the eyes to see the sun.
 ~ Ecclesiastes 11:7

102 Cherry Street, Ithaca renovusenergy.com

PHOTO NEWS SERVICE

Documentary and event photography for government, news media, not-for-profits, campaigns and business.

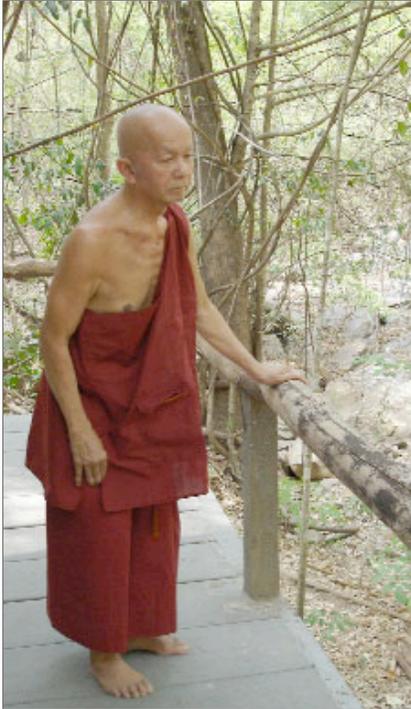
www.photonewsservice.com
 email:
info@photonewsservice.com
 Tel (607) 279.2904



A Forest for Life

In Thailand, a forest monk teaches villagers about the importance of trees

By Ling Yue-bun & Daleena Samara



About three decades ago, Phra Ajahn Pongsak Techathammo, a Thai forest monk, began to observe the loss of trees and top soil on the mountains of northern Thailand. The high altitude watersheds that fed the streams and rivers below were being denuded, causing the rivers to slowly dry up.

He took a radical step to reverse the desertification by mobilizing the villagers to regenerate their barren lands and restore the watersheds. He taught them how to grow fruit trees and vegetable products that would enable them to make a living, and to plant and nurture the type of trees that would restore forest cover. He began to advocate the Buddhist precepts of living in harmony with nature.

"The balance of nature is achieved and regulated by the functions of the forest. Harmony is dependent on the survival of the forest. It's all interdependent. When we protect the forest, we protect the world. When we destroy the forest, we destroy the balance," he said.

In 1983, he founded the Dhammaaat Foundation for Conservation and Rural

Development, an organization to support forest conservation and regeneration according to Buddhist precepts. He said those who made a living from the forest also had a duty to protect it.

Under his guidance, the villagers, beginning with those who lived in lowland Mae Soi River Valley, southwest of Chiang Mai, began to work as a collective, making communal decisions and donating their labour to maintain tree nurseries, terraced hillsides, plant thousands of seedlings and build reservoirs and canals. By 1985, he had won the support of 274 villages and replanted half a square kilometer of forest. By 1992, more than 1,000 villages and about 97,000 people were involved in reforestation projects. There are more, now.

Ajahn Pongsak was born in 1932, in the village of Tamop in central Thailand. After completing his education in Buddhism, he retreated to the forest for meditative practices for more than 20 years. Meditating in the forest taught him the root causes of environmental destruction there, which other efforts at reforestation had failed to address.

Much of Thailand's forest cover has been lost to slash and burn cultivation, development, and commercial and illegal

logging. Prior to World War II, 70 percent of Thailand was covered by forest; today, most of the country's primary cover has disappeared.

Today, the dry yellow dessertified lands that he has been protecting have been greened with fruit trees. Importantly, they have also begun to grow indigenous forest trees to protect the soil and restore the ecological balance over the long term. He says this effort will re-establish lost tracts of forest over a period of about 70 years. Once re-established, the watershed will once again nourish the lowland rivers.

In 1990, Ajahn Pongsak was included in the UN Environmental Programme's Global 500 Roll of Honour. That year, he founded the Monks for the Preservation and Development of Lives and Environment, a group that works to protect ecologically threatened forests. Monasteries have followed his example by acquiring land for reforestation.

According to Heenayana Buddhism, a monk may not cut a tree. Compassion, he says, is but a thousandth part of Buddhism. To solve problems, you have to couple that compassion with true wisdom.

Story from Positive News Hong Kong

Bicycles for Anyone in Putney, VT

by Donna Beckwith

If you go to Putney, Vermont, you are welcome to use a bicycle. The brightly-painted green bicycles are available at four locations. You may use one as long as you need that day, and then return it when you are done.

"All we ask," said Daniel Hoviss, chair of the Putney Energy Committee, "is that you have the bikes back before dark, and wear a helmet." Helmets are available - also painted green - in the basket attached to each bike. The Putney Bike Project is completely run by the honor system. Only one bike has disappeared during the two summers this program has operated.

The Putney Energy Committee - which stewards the green bikes - is an ad hoc volunteer organization with one goal: to diminish the effects of climate change. They work with education, consciousness raising, and practical programs. Not only do they encourage you to ride a bike, they provide the bike! And the bike program coordinates beautifully with the No Idling Program. Rather than driving

around town, people are encouraged to drive to town, park, use the bike to run errands, and then drive home after returning the bicycle.

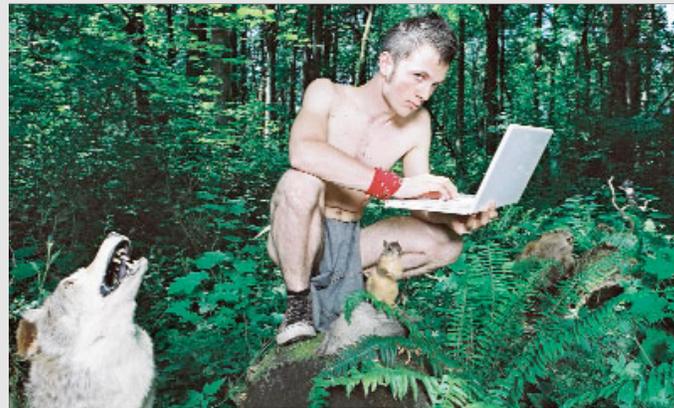
The Putney Energy Committee is currently coordinating about 15 projects. The Bike Project began about one and a half years ago when Daniel realized he had quite a few bikes in his basement. As the former owner of a bike store, he also had a lot of bicycle parts. He refurbished 6 or 7 bikes last year with the help of volunteers. Then, people started donating bicycles, the transfer station donated helmets, and the town bike shop donated parts. This past summer there were twelve bikes in circulation.

The next goal for the Putney Bike Project is to build bicycle shelters and install racks. Daniel would love to see each town across the U.S. have bicycles available, painted with distinctive colors. He encourages anyone to use this idea!

Contact: Putney Bike Project http://pec.putney.net/project_detail.php?progID=11
Tel: 802 387 4141



On the Trail of the Urban Scout



© Melanie Brown
Left: Urban Scout in his element.

by Sarah Wilkinson

Urban Scout, aka Peter Bauer, is a fourth-generation native of Portland, Oregon. He has a deep ancestral relationship with the land and not just because his great, great grandfather lies buried there.

At 16, he started reading books on the structure, history and future of humankind. It dawned on him that civilisation could never reach a point of sustainability because the planet's resources were being squandered beyond their rate of replenishment. From this seed of realisation, he began a life-long journey to rewild - a process of 'dismantling' that he believes is vital for the continued development of 'us'.

"I decided to walk away from this culture and learn to hunt, gather and garden for all of my

necessities," he says, referring to his previous city-slicker lifestyle. "In short, I'm a hunter-gatherer wannabe in search of meaning and tribe in a time of ecological and cultural collapse."

"I have a duty to mythologize the process I'm going through and inspire others to join the rewilding renaissance," Urban Scout explains. "So I write stuff, make videos, take pictures, design things, teach classes and maintain a blog that's a public exhibition space."

Now 25, Scout has pioneered an internet community for fellow rewilders or for those who want to learn more worthy 'living' skills - an online field-guide, gathering and providing valuable information on primitive or sustainable practices.

Visitors to the forum can learn, for example, how to organise their own rewilding camp, how to seek

out water and test for heavy metals, or find out which native plants are edible and, more importantly, which are not. They can search for courses on subjects such as foraging for wild fruits, nuts and vegetables or how to extract oil from plants.

Scout also offers a more hands on experience through organized camps and workshops.

"Urban Scout's out there exploring and inventing rewilding and contemporary tribal skills with style," says Toby Hemenway, author of Gaia's Garden: A Guide to Home Scale Permaculture. "I admire that he doesn't claim to know it all. Scout always takes me down an unanticipated path. We civilised folk have forgotten what he's trying to remember for us."

Contact: www.rewild.info and www.urbanscout.org
Story from Positive Living



at GreenStar these aren't the latest buzzwords. They're just what we do...and have been doing for 36 years.

GreenStar

Cooperative Market

Central New York's largest community-owned natural foods grocery
visit us at www.greenstar.coop or call 607 273-9392

We know good food.

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 give Peace a place to grow.
Give Peace a Space in Your Life.

The Dayton International Peace Museum has a resource center, exhibits and programs dedicated to the world's rich, and often overlooked, history of Peace and Nonviolence.
Located in downtown Dayton, Ohio, birthplace of flight, in a beautiful, historic, 3-story, Italianesque mansion.

937-22PEACE (227-3223)
www.DaytonPeaceMuseum.org
a 501c1 non-profit corporation

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
Mammi's Burritos
There's something about Salads, desserts too...

Catering
607-254-6206
MANNILLI@ESPRESSO.COM
Mammi's off, not your average catering

great for eating!
MANNILLI@ESPRESSO.COM

35 years and still cooking! 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

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

P.O. Box 512, Kattelville Rd.
Chenango Bridge, NY 13745
607-648-3021 • Fax 607-648-919

Proud Printers of Positive News

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

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



Music Meets Ecology in SOIL

by Jennifer Jupiter Benorden

In Haiti, music and ecological commitment have come together to bring hope and inspiration to the people of this beautiful country. In a land ridden with hurricanes, malnutrition and poverty, Haitians seem to be surrounded by music: konpa, reggae, and voodoo - a style of music that accompanies the predominant traditional religion of the country. It almost seems as though music is keeping the people alive.

"In the summer of 2007 a young Haitian singer and an American ecologist met and formed a powerful alliance of music and social change..."

In the summer of 2007 a young Haitian singer and a US ecologist met and formed a powerful alliance of music and social change, just as a nation-wide talent search began throughout the land in Haiti's first "American Idol"-style competition.

Dr. Sasha Kramer, an ecologist who lives and works in Haiti, co-founded the organization SOIL (Sustainable Organic Integrated Livelihoods), dedicated to bringing sustainable "green" solutions to Haiti's rampant health crisis. She met Rosemond Jolissaint at a

radio station in Cap Haitien, where Rosemond was standing outside singing one of his original songs with a guitar.

The ecologist immediately recognized Rosemond's talent and encouraged him to enter the national talent search competition. In September, 2007, with songs such as 'Ti moun yo se lespwa (Children are the hope)', 16-yr-old Rosemond became the first winner of Haiti's now annual talent search.

Sasha invited the young musician to perform at community events put on by SOIL, such as inaugurations for the composting toi-

lets which are the cornerstone of SOIL's work in Haiti. The project addresses the reality that 80 percent of Haitians live without sanitation. These toi-

lets are a huge success, welcomed by schools, families, and villages grateful for the resources to clean up ground water, reduce disease, and create fertilizer for future gardens.

Rosemond continues collaboration with SOIL, forming a new program called, "Fatra Pa Egziste" (Garbage Does Not Exist), where kids are challenged to create something useful or beautiful out of something someone else has discarded. For a country without widespread garbage collection, this is truly a transformational project. The music of



© Sasha Kramer

Rosemond performs a spontaneous show for a spellbound crowd in Shada, one of the most impoverished communities in Haiti.

Rosemond and the forward-thinking programs of SOIL are planting seeds of hope and change in Haiti!

Contact: www.oursoil.org
To watch a film about SOIL visit www.4directions.tv/shows.html

Parrots Last Perch

COLOMBIA - American Bird Conservancy and partner group Fundación ProAves, have recently established the first private protected area to help the critically endangered Fuertes's Parrot. The species only exists in a small area of Colombia, heavily impacted by deforestation.

In 2002, Fundación ProAves' President, Alonso Quevedo, discovered a flock of 14 parrots. The species had not been spotted since 1911 and were thought to be already extinct. To date, their numbers have grown but only to 160.

"By conserving these remaining patches of forest and taking other steps to help, we are giving this species a new lease on life," said Paul Salaman, the American Bird Conservancy's Director.

A management plan for the new 5,000 acre reserve - the parrot's only remaining refuge - is being developed and an outreach programme is underway. "Since 2005, the 'Parrot Bus' has taken the conservation message out to local communities across the Central Andes - the priority zone for all threatened parrots in Colombia," said Alonso Quevedo.

The bus, a mobile environmental classroom, has proven to be a practical way of reaching remote rural communities. It has already reached over 70,000 children and adults, hosting workshops and supplying information about bird conservation and biodiversity.



© Fundación ProAves

Contact: Fundación ProAves,
Website: www.proaves.org
Story from Positive Living

A Reason to Turn on Your Tell+A=Vision

by Lee Riddell

Realizing her upstate NY community needed a gathering place to network and share gifts, talents and visions with others, Journey Blue Heaven founded Woodstock Tell+A=Vision in 2005.

Co-producer and host Journey believes the media have a responsibility to create outlets that dispense useful information in all shapes and sizes. "It's the first interactive 'tell a vision,' good news, grass roots gorilla program of its kind."

Journey declares: "There are things that happen here that can never happen on any other media."

Recorded live in local studios, Woodstock Tell+A=Vision aims to air conversations that matter, monologues that inspire, and impromptu encounters that create visions of new realities. Anyone can contribute to the show - the viewers are the show. If someone feels strongly about an issue, they can drop in and talk about it. From the mundane to the expert, personal experiences become practical guides to learning and helping communities' foster creativity and prosperity.

In one segment, viewer Laurie Kirby asked

the question, "Is Woodstock building weapons of peace or destruction?" In another, local activist David Gross told how the Woodstock Environmental Commission plans to ban plastic bags. And a panel of three students discussed what the local government is doing for the community.

One regular segment of the show, The Transvolution Times Gazette, informs viewers about windmills, dandelion wine, and not-to-be-forgotten weeds. Music is plentiful and featured

artists include poets, visionary activists, astrologers, and more.

"If

you really want to get involved," says Journey, "start a gathering place in your own community. Check out local cable access channel and jump through their hoops. Or find a techie, get a web cam, and search out enthusiasm everywhere. We are interested in media that gets people connected and involved - instead of zoning them out or putting them to sleep."

Tell+A=Vision comes on WoodstockTV.org on Wednesday nights at 9:00 p.m. Eastern time.

Contact: WoodstockTV.org

"We are interested in media that gets people connected and involved..."



Share this copy of Positive News with your friends and family



Life's Mysteries

A Message of Innermost Truth unveiling the essential Oneness of all religious aspirations and Unity of all life in the Divine.

The Order of the Cross

Founded in 1904 by John Todd Ferrier

Inquiries welcome:

www.orderofthecross.org • 1.800.611.1361

*Ithaca's Woman-Owned and Woman-Run
full service automotive repair shop*



OFFERING COMPLETE
AUTOMOTIVE REPAIR FOR
FOREIGN & DOMESTIC AUTOS
FULL AND SELF SERVICE GASOLINE



Centrally Located at the CITGO Station
435 West State Street, Ithaca, NY 14850
607-272-AUTO (2886)

www.SafeSand.com



SAFE SAND™
It's a fine white sand that does
the trick! It's the only sand that
lets you wash your car with
hardwater. **Safe Sand™**,
sandboxes and info online.

Please support our advertisers ☺ They support Us!

"If every home in the United States replaced just one incandescent light bulb with an Energy Star qualified Compact Fluorescent Light bulb, in one year it would save enough energy to light more than 3 million homes and prevent greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of more than 800,000 cars."

Frequently Asked Questions: Information on Compact Fluorescent Light Bulbs (CFLs) and Mercury by Energy Star in April 2008



This message sponsored by



www.beckequipment.com
607-749-7950

Communication Can Foster Social Change

At Honest Insight we specialize in communications initiatives that seek to inform the public, change perceptions, affect public policy and open debate to protect the health and well-being of our world.

Our advertising can help your business do more than talk to your consumers about your product. Call us today to find out how we can help you show your commitment to change.



215 N. Cayuga Street Ithaca NY 14850
www.honestinsight.org
607-272-2320



Hungry??
NEXT TIME TRY



Fresh Healthy Mexican Food

The Taqueria

Burritos, Tacos, Salads & more packed to go. Call ahead for takeout.

Fast...
Cheap...
& Delicious

277-1752 www.vivataqueria.com

Corner of State & Aurora at the top of the Commons
Open from 11am - 10 pm every day

The Cantina

We make every ingredient, every day. Come experience fun, festive, Mexican food

Delicious Food
Fine Margaritas
Great Price

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 welcome@positivenewsus.org

SERVICES

RUBY-DOO. Remodeling + Repair is offering a free French door refrigerator with your full kitchen remodel. Visit www.ruby-doo.com to learn more, or call 351-6468.

ALTERNATIVES LIBRARY. a community resource free and open to all. Progressive, Alternative, Independent. 127 Anabel Taylor 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.**

insulation available. www.vegparts.com

SONGS OF WILL FUDEMAN- listen to heart-felt, funny and inspiring songs from activist acupuncturist. www.cdbaby.com/all/wfudeman. In Ithaca, buy from Ithaca Guitar Works or Small World Music. "Green Tree" and "Only One Sky".

HOUSING

Conscious **HOME EXCHANGE** International. www.CH1homexchange.com. "Free accommodations with good vibrations". Free listing! Build international yoga/meditation/sustainable living community.

FOR SALE

VEGE DIESEL Vegetable oil conversion kits and

Positive News

Positive News Welcomes Volunteers!

We are looking for distribution help **EVERYWHERE** and especially in **California** and **Vermont**.

We are also starting a *California Edition of Positive News*.

To find out how You can join us, contact:

607 330-4330

ilonka@positivenewsus.org

EARTHDANCE
Workshop & Retreat Center

Improv Dance
Community
& Contact
Improv

Inspiring the Art of Improviation

Plainfield, MA, USA
www.earthdance.net

Magical Garden Preschool

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

351-8809



GIVE YOUR TELEVISION A REST!

Enjoy the outdoors with a new R/C Car or plane, fly a kite, or launch a rocket.

Have fun indoors with a board game, build a model, or collect cards and miniatures games.

Can't find something? We can get it for you!

PROVIDENCE HOBBIES

Where the fun is!

113 W. State St Ithaca
Next to the State Theatre
(607) 273-4251

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 _____
address _____

telephone _____
contact person _____

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.....your address.....
.....telephone.....

Where did you pick up this copy of Positive News?.....



Sponsor a Bundle!



Penny-Wise Growing

Recognising key factors in community wellbeing, this year, the UK Royal Horticultural Society have launched new exciting campaigns



© Michael Hughes/RHS

A blooming bicycle.

The Royal Horticultural Society, RHS, are encouraging people to start growing their own food and are using the rapidly increasing price of it as leverage.

Along with sponsors NS&I, National Savings and Investments, the RHS have calculated: if one person grows enough veggies to provide for their lunch each day – for example, lettuce, salad leaves and tomatoes – over their working life, they would save about £38,000! That is over 56,000 USD - more than a lot of us earn in a year.

Richard Hunt at the RHS explained: "Getting people growing is at the heart of this campaign and we hope we're able to show that even a space as small as a hanging basket or window box can reap rewards in terms of fresh tomatoes or lettuce, which will save you money in the shops. The campaign is much more than just growing 'veg' though," he continued. "It's about healthy lifestyle, having fun and saving money at the same time."

John Prout of NS&I added: "Everyone can gain rewards from producing vegetables for the dinner table or interest for the savings pot. By working with the RHS, we aim to help the nation achieve healthy finances as well as a healthy diet."

People are starting to get the message. According to seed producer,



© Derek Gordon

Rachel Steell in a wildflower meadow in the Highlands of Scotland.

Thompson and Morgan, the sale of vegetable seeds have risen by 40 per cent in the past two years. The RHS Grow Your Own Survey revealed that, besides lettuce and salad leaves, the easiest vegetables to grow are beans and potatoes. Coincidentally, the United Nations has

named 2008 as The International Year of the Potato, hailing it as the 'food of the future'. You do not even need a garden: potatoes grown in big pots give excellent results. Contact: www.rhs.org.uk/vegetables Story from Positive News UK

More US-ers Grow Their Food

In response to soaring food prices, the number of gardeners in the U.S. is on the rise. George Ball, the owner of the W. Atlee Burpee Company, says sales of vegetable and herb plants and seeds are up 40 percent compared to last year. A \$100 investment in a garden can produce \$1000 to \$1700 worth of vegetables, he says.

Community gardens across the nation report long waiting lists,

while Yahoo says searches for "vegetable," "organic," and "container gardening" have more than doubled since last year.

Food prices rose 4 percent in 2007. The U.S. Department of Agriculture predicts they will rise another 4.5 to 5.5 percent in 2008.

Report by Layla Aslani from the Fall 2008 YES! Magazine: www.yesmagazine.org



© Brian O'Donnell

Yay! We finally have our t-shirts.

You can get one at www.positivenewsus.org or 607-330-4330

\$15 Small, Medium, Large

SUBSCRIBE TO POSITIVE NEWS US EDITION

Name _____	NEW SUBSCRIPTION <input type="checkbox"/>	ADDITIONAL DONATION	<input type="text"/>	\$
Address _____	RENEWAL <input type="checkbox"/>	TOTAL \$ <input type="text"/>		
Tel# _____	<p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">1 Year US Subscription - \$15.50 - outside of US - \$24</p> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;">2 Year Subscription - \$28 - outside of US - \$45</p>			
<p style="font-size: small; margin: 0;">WHERE DID YOU PICK UP THIS COPY OF POSITIVE NEWS?</p> <input style="width: 100%; height: 20px;" type="text"/>	<p style="font-size: x-small; margin: 0;">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:</p>			

Positive News US, 115 The Commons, Ithaca NY 14850

Visit our website to order online www.positivenewsus.org