



A CURRICULUM OF HOPE  
FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD

# A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter

## Founder's Message

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WINTER 2010

The start of a new year always seems to engender optimism: a new beginning, another chance to get things right. As we reflect on the year just past, there is much room for improvement over what has been a difficult, down-turned, divisive 2009. For many the circumstances of our lives have changed. These changes require necessary adjustments. Difficult as they may be, these changes are usually not life threatening. It's important to keep perspective about what is fixable or temporary. We are more than ready to look forward with hope and resolve, yet circumstances do not abruptly change on the last day of one year to suddenly become something else on the first day of the new year just because we have a new calendar. Patience and effort are required to effect the desired changes. The essence of my message as we begin life in 2010 is one simple word: HOPE! Hope is uplifting to our human spirit. So long as one lives and breathes, there is hope.

Wake each day with hope in your heart and with a positive mindset that this will be a good day. Concentrate to make it so by focusing on all that you have rather than what you do not have. Slow down to watch life move forward one day at a time, even when you are unable to move yourself forward, until life eventually picks you up and carries you ahead. I often think of Nelson Mandela, Nobel Peace Prize recipient, who lived in this watch and wait mode for 23 years in prison before he could return to an active, fruitful, dedicated life. Be aware of the big picture. Remember the hundreds of millions of people in the world who live in total despair every day, whose only hope depends on someone with greater resources helping them.

Be of great hope for a better world in 2010 because there is a groundswell of good works taking place worldwide, at home and abroad. Several wealthy individuals have committed their resources, time and efforts, in remote areas of the world to help the most vulnerable among us elevate living conditions. Pharmaceutical companies are finally stepping forward to provide much-needed medications to combat life-threatening diseases. The World Bank is increasingly recognizing the need for debt forgiveness and for additional aid to indigent populations. Heifer International is providing animals and education to help hundreds of whole villages elevate their daily living, education, and self-sufficiency. Corporations are seeing the need to "give" in numerous ways.

Most important of all are the millions of people in all countries, just like you and me, who are caring, sharing and working at the grassroots level to improve the lives of others in our one human family. Ordinary people are working together to accomplish extraordinary results. **Can anyone know of all this goodness and not have confidence and hope for a better world?**

Your assignment (remember, I'm a teacher) for 2010 is to continue all your personal good works and seek additional ways to contribute to the goal of HOPE for a peaceful world. Remember that our main responsibility as adults is to teach the children about their human family and the importance of altruism. Help children be aware of others in need and give them opportunities to feel the warmth and glow and personal self-worth one experiences by giving and sharing.

If we concentrate on connectedness, community, generosity and the goodness in all of us as directed by the African concept of ubuntu, we can overcome the divisive political and religious misconceptions put forth by naysayers.

We are very proud to be starting our 24th year of publication, and we thank you for your support and encouragement. It is you who make our work worthwhile. Blessings on you all as you go about your lives doing your best. Teach the children well, for they are our future peacemakers. Most important of all have HOPE every day, and you will have peace in your hearts and in your homes.

Jeanne Morascini  
Founder



# United Nations Millennium Development

"...The more people know their own rights, and the more they respect those of others, the better the chance that they will live together in peace. Only when people are educated about human rights can we hope to prevent human rights violations, and thus prevent conflict as well."

*Kofi Annan  
Dec. 10, 2000*

*In adopting the eight Millennium Development Goals in 2000, the international community, all UN members, pledged to "spare no effort to free our fellow men, women and children from the abject and dehumanizing conditions of extreme poverty". The target date by which established goals are to be achieved is 2015—just 5 years from now. There is much to be accomplished!*

- ◇ **Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty**  
Reduce by 1/2 the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.
- ◇ **Achieve universal primary education**  
Ensure all boys and girls complete primary schooling.
- ◇ **Promote gender equality and empower women**  
Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education.
- ◇ **Reduce child mortality**  
Reduce by two-thirds the mortality rate among children under 5.
- ◇ **Improve maternal health**  
Reduce by three-fourths the maternal mortality rates.
- ◇ **Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases**  
Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other major diseases.
- ◇ **Ensure environmental sustainability**  
Reverse loss of environmental resources.  
Reduce by 1/2 the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.
- ◇ **Develop a global partnership for development**  
Commit to good governance, development and poverty reduction.  
Address special needs of least developed countries, as well as special needs of landlocked and small island developing States.  
Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems.  
Develop decent and productive work for youth.  
Provide access to affordable essential drugs.

For more information go to: [www.un.org/millenniumgoals](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals) and [www.millenniumpromise.org](http://www.millenniumpromise.org).

## Teaching about Human Rights

**The Advocates for Human Rights** offer a wealth of information for educators including human rights resources and lesson plans to help teach human rights in the classroom. Free quarterly newsletters are available. All educators should check out the **Framework for Human Rights Education**, which presents goals, concepts, practices, appropriate human rights problems, and educational standards according to developmental levels (Early Childhood, Later Childhood, Adolescence, and Older Adolescents and Adults).  
**[www.discoverhumanrights.org](http://www.discoverhumanrights.org)**

*More Human Rights Resources and Curricula...*

**Play it Fair** [www.equitas.org/toolkit/](http://www.equitas.org/toolkit/)  
Download more than 60 games to promote human rights values such as cooperation, respect for diversity, fairness, inclusion, respect, responsibility, and acceptance with children ages 6-12.

**UN Cyberschoolbus** <http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/>  
The United Nations Cyberschoolbus is a website about global issues and the UN for students ages 5-18 and their teachers.

**Human Rights Watch World Report** [www.hrw.org/world-report](http://www.hrw.org/world-report)  
- 2009/ Read a report that summarizes human rights conditions in more than 90 countries world wide.

**Rethinking Globalization:  
Teaching for Justice in an Unjust World**  
Edited by Bill Bigelow and Bob Peterson  
Rethinking Schools [www.rethinkingschools.org](http://www.rethinkingschools.org)  
This 402 page book includes readings, source material on critical global issues, teaching ideas, lesson plans and resources for students in grades 4-12.



"To live in the world without becoming aware of the meaning of the world is like wandering around in a great library without touching the books."

*The Secret Teachings*



**Think is MTV's Web site** for young people who want to make their life, their community and their world better. Think is a social networking site, and in order to join the user must be age 14 and over, and have received an invite from MTV or a current Think member or have a .edu address that they received from their high school or university. Or, the user must be able to answer a security question about their school or provide a verifiable cell phone number. Think is also a resource and opportunity for educators. The site encourages educators to use the tools and resources of the Think community to introduce the spirit of activism and media creation to young people. Educators are able to access MTV's award-winning pro-social programs and public service announcements on DVD through the shop site for free. Many of these programs have accompanying lesson plans at no additional cost. <http://think.mtv.com>

"In every community,  
there is work to be done.  
  
In every nation,  
there are wounds to heal.  
  
In every heart,  
there is the power to do it."  
  
*Marianne Williamson*



### Websites to Visit

**MDG Monitor** [www.mdgmonitor.org](http://www.mdgmonitor.org)

The MDG Monitor shows how countries are progressing in their efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals.

**USA Freedom Corp Volunteer Network**

[www.usafreedomcorps.gov](http://www.usafreedomcorps.gov)

The largest clearinghouse of volunteer opportunities ever created, currently offering more than four million volunteer opportunities both in the U.S. and abroad. This website also serves as a connection point for volunteer matching donation management in times of disaster both nationally and abroad.

**KIVA** [www.kiva.org](http://www.kiva.org)

At this site you can find out about lending to a specific entrepreneur in a developing world country, empowering them to uplift themselves out of poverty.

**FreeRice** [www.freerice.com](http://www.freerice.com)

FreeRice and its sister site, Poverty.com, are partners with the Berkman Center for Internet & Society at Harvard University and the United Nations World Food Program. FreeRice has two goals: to provide education to everyone for free, and to help end world hunger by providing rice to hungry people for free.

**Worldmapper** [www.worldmapper.org](http://www.worldmapper.org)

Worldmapper is a collection of world maps, where territories are resized on each map according to the subject of interest. Maps 1-366 are also

### Teaching Diverse Students Initiative Teaching Tolerance

Findings by the National Assessment of Education Progress, as found in the SPLC's Fall 2009 Report, show that eighty-eight percent of African-American 8th graders read below grade level, compared to sixty-two percent of their white counterparts. On average, African American and Hispanic 12th graders read at approximately the same level as white 8th graders. Diverse students now comprise forty percent of the U.S. school population. Teaching Tolerance has recently introduced free online tools to help educators improve learning in diverse classrooms and close the gap. TDSI is designed to be integrated into existing or emerging professional development programs at school and district levels, as well as in pre-service classrooms. It helps teachers understand how race and ethnicity should and should not inform their teaching. The facilitators' guides are designed to make it easier to get TDSI certified as a continuing education course. Included are case studies; learning activities; tools for understanding the influence of race; and videos. [www.tolerance.org/tdsi](http://www.tolerance.org/tdsi)

**Model United Nations** is a simulation of the United Nations General Assembly and other committees in the UN. Many elementary, middle, high schools, and colleges all over the world hold Model UN conferences. Excellent materials are available on the United Nations Association of the USA (UNA-USA) website: <http://www.una-usa.org> and at the United Nations Cyberschoolbus site: <http://www.un.org/cyberschoolbus/modelun/index.asp>.

**Heifer** can help teach elementary school children about the problems of hunger and poverty by incorporating supplemental materials which include lesson plans, video documentation, stories and ideas for activities written for national standards—free for downloading at [www.heifereducation.org](http://www.heifereducation.org).



## Caring for Our

In 2009 Sun Chips and National Geographic teamed up to challenge people to join the Green Effect movement by starting their own personal Green Effect. \$20,000 each was awarded to five people or groups with a great green idea. Tricia Elisara with Julian Elementary School in Julian, CA used their award money to create 100 Green Classroom Party kits for classrooms. Considering the amount of disposable plates, cups and cutlery used for classroom celebrations, the Green Party kit contains washable plates, cups, and silverware in an easy-to-store rolling container so students can take them to the teacher's room or cafeteria to wash them. It is Elisara's hope that schools will follow Julian's example and use similarly sustainable kits in their classrooms. You can view more winners and their ideas at <http://greeneffect.nationalgeographic.com/>

“As a society,  
we are raising the first  
generation of Americans  
to grow up  
disconnected from nature.”  
*National Wildlife Federation*

”As long as you live,  
keep learning  
how to live.”

*Seneca*  
4 B.C.—A.D. 65

**Super Natural Adventures** is created by the Jacobus family based on their real-life, first-hand experiences in nature, and with different cultures, in their adopted home of Costa Rica. The mission of Super Natural Adventures is to educate kids around the world about the importance of the environment and in particular, the tropical rain forest; to inspire kids to be passionate about nature and to empower them to be environmental stewards by providing practical tips to protect the environment; and to provide educators a teaching tool to augment their science, environmental education, social studies and/or foreign language curriculum. Online videos are available on topics such as the rainforest, volcanoes, chocolate, and many rainforest animals.

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



Free Exchange: Sites to Swap, Trade or Borrow from [Lazy.Environmentalist.com](http://Lazy.Environmentalist.com)

**Freecycle.org**— Facilitates a “gifting economy” in which local Freecycle Network group members give away household items to others in their community who want them.

**Neighborrow.com**— Lists items available for loan or trade, from media to kitchen items to power tools.

**PaperbackSwap.com**— Catalogs 2 million paperback and hardcover book titles available to browse and trade; upload owned titles to earn credits to use as site currency.

**SwapaDVD.com**—A collection of 58,000 new and classic DVD titles to trade.

**SwapStyle.com**— Swap accessories, cosmetics, and shoes with people around the world. The only cost may be shipping.

**Zaggle.com**—Signs parents up to receive Zwaggle Points to be used to trade baby and children's gear; the only cost is shipping.

### Websites for Kids

**Climate Change Kids Site**  
The EPA's climate change site:  
[epa.gov/climatechange/kids/](http://epa.gov/climatechange/kids/).

**Energy Kids Page**  
The Energy Information Administration's kids' page:  
[eia.doe.gov/kids/](http://eia.doe.gov/kids/).

**Kids For A Clean Environment**  
The mission is “to provide information on environmental issues to children, to encourage and facilitate youth's involvement with effective environmental action and to recognize those efforts which result in the improvement of nature.”  
[www.kidsface.org](http://www.kidsface.org)

**Kids Saving Energy**  
Games, tips, and facts from the United States Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Program.  
[eere.energy.gov/kids/](http://eere.energy.gov/kids/)

**Nickelodeon's green website**  
[biggreenhelp.com](http://biggreenhelp.com)

**Quest of the Ring Leaders**  
An environmental education program set in an adventure game format.  
[ringleader.com](http://ringleader.com)

**Smart Energy Use for Students and Kids**  
Children learn how to help their parents conduct a home energy audit.  
[energy.govforstudentsandkids.htm](http://energy.govforstudentsandkids.htm)

“The purpose of life  
is life  
with a purpose.”

“The Earth is like our body, and mankind is our mind; we can't take care of only one if we want to thrive as a civilization.”

*Jonathan Patzer*



“If you want to go fast, go alone, if you want to go far, go together.” We have to go far. Quickly.”

*Al Gore*



“It was not meant that the soul should cultivate the earth, but that the earth should educate and maintain the soul.”

*Margaret Fuller*

There has been an increasing interest in **organic fabrics**, going green with clothes that don't hurt the environment. Many major apparel manufacturers have committed to making sure they offer at least some sustainably made and organic clothing. Here are four sustainable fabrics to look for the next time you shop:

**Tencel:** Tencel is a trademark of lyocell, which is a natural material made from wood pulp that is breathable, absorbent, withstands high iron temperatures and has a good drape. Tencel is made in a closed-loop manufacturing system, which means the fabric is created with renewable energy and resources.

**Bamboo:** Bamboo is an environmentally friendly plant, but the chemical process often used to convert it to a soft fabric is toxic. A small percent of bamboo fabric is mechanically produced rather than chemically, making it into bamboo linen which is sustainable.

**Organic Cotton:** This is the leading organic fiber. Nonorganic cotton farming uses 25% of the world's insecticides and more than 10% of the world's pesticides. Check the label carefully.

**Wool:** By nature, wool is a renewable, natural fiber that keeps away moisture and keeps you warm. The segment producing organic wool is growing, but it is still a small part of the overall production. Look for “organic” on the label.

There are many online sites specializing in sustainable materials including ota.com, the organicpages.com and organicexchange.org.

### **Cell Phones Help Catalog Earth's Plants Before They Disappear By using your smart phone, you can help scientists.**

By Jaymi Heimbuch

San Francisco, CA, USA | Tue Dec 29, 2009

<http://planetgreen.discovery.com>

#### **The LeafView Project**

Dr. Sean White, in conjunction with Researchers from Columbia University, the University of Maryland, and the Smithsonian, is working on a project called LeafView, an electronic field guide that allows users to simply snap photos of a plant's leaves and automatically upload the information to a central database where it can be accessed for research. The app, and the citizen scientists using it, will help scientists follow what's happening with our natural world as the climate changes.

The project aims to start with plants from Central Park, then spread out to the northeast US, and will eventually spread on to more remote areas of the world as people travel to less explored areas of the globe, iPhone in tow. It can be a great way to utilize citizen science, while the users don't have to do much of anything except take a few great shots of interesting plants.

It may seem like a monumental task, but the LeafView project is making progress, and has even gained recognition from The Tech Awards as a Laureate. While specialized for identifying plants, the project hopes to have a broad impact on our knowledge of flora, before many plant species succumb to climate change. The project states: "By providing efficient access to a digital herbarium, we hope to greatly accelerate the discovery and identification of the remaining undescribed plants of the world. In addition, our tools can be used to improve speed and accuracy of plant census collection. Finally, we plan to provide a mobile phone-based system that can be used by a broad population of botanists and enthusiasts for plant identification and data collection." LeafView has already helped produce images of over 90,000 plant specimens.

## Opportunities

### CTAUN

Committee for Teaching  
About the UN  
"Who Needs the UN Now?"  
Candler School of Theology  
Emory University  
Atlanta, Georgia  
Friday, March 12, 2010  
For more information:  
contact Betsy Rivard  
crivard000@aol.com

### Responsive Classroom One Day Workshops

February 17: Memphis, TN  
February 25: Washington,  
DC  
March 9: Rutland, VT  
March 12: Mahwah, NJ  
March 23: Danbury, CT  
April 15: Langhorne, PA  
[www.responsiveclassroom.org](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org)

2010

### Ecumenical Advocacy Days

#### A Place to Call Home: Immigrants, Refugees, and Displaced Peoples

March 19—22  
Double Tree Hotel  
Crystal City, VA  
<http://advocacydays.org>

The US Forum  
of

The Delta Kappa Gamma  
Society International  
presents

### National Legislative Seminar

March 14—17  
Hyatt Regency Crystal City  
Arlington VA  
Registration deadline is  
February 10  
Contact  
[drroldan@comcast.net](mailto:drroldan@comcast.net)

The **Holocaust Educators Network** offers a ten-day summer seminar led by Dr. Sondra Perl to middle school, high school, and college teachers from rural sites and/or areas of critical need (as defined by a lack of local resources for teaching and learning about issues of social justice or by significant issues that contribute to problems of intolerance, prejudice or racism in nearby schools or communities). Teacher-consultants from within the National Writing Project as well as other interested teachers are invited to apply. Using an inquiry-based approach, the program encourages teachers to think creatively and collaboratively about methods and approaches to teaching the Holocaust. The seminar considers how to engage students with difficult material such as hatred, prejudice, state-sanctioned genocide, and atrocity, and how writing, dialogue, and inquiry can help to develop empathy and move learners toward action. While the focus is on the Holocaust, attention is also given to more recent genocides. Course content includes reading, writing, presentations by Holocaust survivors and experts in Holocaust studies, and excursions to museums and historic sites. More information can be found at [www.holocausteducators.org](http://www.holocausteducators.org)

### 2010 PEACEJAM

#### NORTHEAST YOUTH CONFERENCE

The 2010 PeaceJam Northeast Youth Conference will be held March 27-28 at the University of Hartford, in Hartford, CT. Hundreds of PeaceJammers in 8th through 12th grade will join Adolfo Perez Esquivel for a life-changing weekend, exploring issues of peace and social justice focusing on Adolfo's Global Call to Action area, *Breaking the Cycle of Violence*. Participants will be inspired by Adolfo's courageous struggle for fundamental human rights in Latin America, perform hands-on service projects in the surrounding community, attend thought-provoking and skill-building workshops, and present their Global Call to Action projects to Adolfo and their peers. Conference registration fees are \$125 for the weekend, including food, but excluding accommodations. Online registration will begin in January: [www.nextgenleaders.org](http://www.nextgenleaders.org).

### International Peace Research Association

Communicating Peace Conference  
The University of Sydney  
Sydney, Australia  
July 6—10  
[www.iprasydne2010.org](http://www.iprasydne2010.org)

### Bully-Proofing-Made-Easy Workshops

For mental health professionals,  
educators and parents  
For information and a schedule  
of workshops being held in  
MI, OH, IN and FL  
this winter go to:  
[www.bullies2buddies.com/Bully-Proofing-Made-Easy-Workshop-Schedule](http://www.bullies2buddies.com/Bully-Proofing-Made-Easy-Workshop-Schedule)

### Heifer International Volunteers Are Needed

You can help Heifer without having to travel around the world. Heifer volunteer groups are located in a neighborhood near you, or if not, you can start one. Volunteers share information about Heifer at community events, in such ways as setting up information booths at local fairs or speaking to schools, civic groups, and churches. Heifer will provide the training and materials you need. If you are interested in finding out how you can help contact: National Community Volunteer Manager Pat Keay, 216 Wachusett St., Rutland, MA 01530-2099, 1-508-886-5046 or go to [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

In 2011, The University of Connecticut will host the **World Youth Peace Summit**. The summit starts with the six-day World Scholar-Athlete Games for ages 15 to 19. After the games, the Peace Summit will begin and scholar athletes and scholar artists will participate in a one-week intensive academic program. The Summit's mission is to help current and former scholar-athletes and scholar-artists develop peace initiatives for their home communities or countries, and give them the tools to implement their programs successfully.

## Peacemakers at Work



### Hannah's Socks

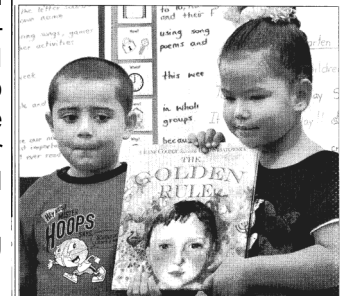
On a chilly Thanksgiving Day in 2004, 4-year-old Hannah Turner was helping serve dinner to the needy at Toledo's Cherry Street Mission. In the middle of the hustle and bustle of doing her part to fill plates, she tugged on her mother Doris' sweater. "Mommy, won't his feet be cold?" Hannah had focused on a man in line wearing shoes that had split open to reveal he had no socks on, and her small face reflected concern. Doris tried to reassure her: "His shoes will keep his toes warm." She didn't know how they could help with all staff focused on the meal, and she didn't want her daughter carrying a burden. Hannah — too smart, too big of heart — was unconvinced. "Mommy, he can have my socks," she said. The next day, Doris took Hannah to purchase and distribute socks to local shelters. In the following two years, they were able to collect and donate over 100 pairs around Toledo. Now co-founders Doris and Vic Turner are leading an energetic team of volunteers who are launching Hannah's Socks as a full-fledged non-profit organization serving NW and SW Ohio. They're seeking sock donations, people who can volunteer their time, and people interested in providing financial support with hopes of reaching the goal of donating over 60,000 pairs in 2009. You can learn more at [www.hannahssocks.org](http://www.hannahssocks.org), or call 419-931-4757 (NW Ohio) or 513-502-8168 (SW Ohio).



"What is required of us now is a new era of responsibility— A recognition, on the part of every American, that we have duties to ourselves, our nation, and the world, duties that we do not grudgingly accept but rather seize gladly, firm in the knowledge that there is nothing so satisfying to the spirit, so defining of our character, than giving our all to a difficult task."

*U.S. President Barack Obama*

**Sweeney School in Willimantic CT** launched a One School, One Read project in the fall of 2009 based on Ilene Cooper's book The Golden Rule. Kicked-off at a whole-school assembly featuring staff acting out a teaser from the book, each classroom was presented with its own copy, wrapped in gold paper. The message, "Treat others the way you want to be treated," is a whole-school focus this year. Students who are observed following the rule are awarded golden medals from adults in the school who announce the award over the public address system at the beginning or end of the day. Each classroom wrote and shared how they follow the golden rule during the school's annual Thanksgiving Feast. The program is making a difference in school climate, with all students and adults sharing a common language for behavioral expectations.



### Rachel's Challenge

Rachel Joy Scott was the first person killed in the Columbine High School tragedy on April 20, 1999. Immediately after the tragedy, her father Darrell began to speak around the nation and used writings and drawings from Rachel's many diaries to illustrate the need for a kinder, more compassionate nation. Today, Darrell and thirty other speakers honor Rachel's life by reaching the country with Rachel's simple but profound message. Now more than ever, it is important for people to know that hope can come out of challenge and adversity. There are many circumstances in this world over which we have no control. Rachel's Challenge is something we can all do – help change the world by starting a chain reaction of kindness. It's free, it's easy and it's empowering to realize that one person can make a difference. School programs include video/audio footage of Rachel's life and the Columbine tragedy, followed by an interactive 45-minute training session involving both adult and student leaders that shows how to sustain the momentum created by the assembly. The assembly creates the "want to" or desire for positive change. The training session teaches the "how to" and ensures that the positive impact will continue. During the evening the Rachel's Challenge speaker conducts another session with parents and community leaders. This session is similar to the assembly program and ends with a specific challenge to parents and community leaders, showing them how they can reinforce the decisions their youth are making. Entertainers, politicians, sports celebrities, educators, and even two Presidents of the United States have been impacted by Rachel's Challenge. However, students are the target audience and they have proven that they will respond with positive words, attitudes, and actions. Find out more about bringing Rachel's Challenge to your school at: <http://www.rachelschallenge.org>.

## Books

### have a little faith a true story

Mitch Albom  
Hyperion Books 2009  
A short, inspiring "must read" by the author of Tuesdays with Morrie. *Have a Little Faith* is a book about a life's purpose; about losing belief and finding it again; about the divine spark inside us all. It is one man's journey, but it is everyone's story.



### Hope is An Open Heart

Lauren Thompson  
Scholastic Press 2008  
Grades Pre K—5  
This is a useful book for children who have endured or are learning about some of the disasters that have rocked the world recently. Written by the author after 9/11 to give her son hope that life would get better.

### Give a Goat

Jan West Schrock and Aileen Daragh  
Tilbury House 2008  
Grades 3-6  
This is the real-life story of what happens to a fifth grade class one rainy afternoon when a teacher reads them a book that explains how Heifer International helps people be self-sustaining.

### Peace Jam: A Billion Simple Acts of Peace

Darcy Gifford  
Puffin 2008  
For young adults, this book traces the works of teens and their collaborations with Nobel laureates as they work on issues related to human rights, peace, the environment

### Stones into Schools: Promoting Peace with Books, Not Bombs, in Afghanistan and Pakistan

Greg Mortenson  
Viking Press 2009  
Mortenson's first book, *Three Cups of Tea* in 2006, tells of how a remarkable humanitarian campaign began in the 1990's with a promise to build a school in Korphe, Pakistan. **Stones into Schools** continues the fascinating story of how Mortenson's continuing efforts have resulted in the establishment of more than 130 schools, most of them for girls, in remote areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mortenson believes that the best way to peace is through education. If any nation is to become more prosperous, it will require the full involvement of its women. You can become involved by contacting the Central Asia Institute [www.ikat.org](http://www.ikat.org). Schools can become participants by contacting Pennies for Peace at [www.pennies](http://www.pennies)

### How to Stop Bullying and Social Aggression: Elementary Grade Lessons and Activities That Teach Empathy, Friendship, and Respect

Steve Breakstone, Michael Dreiblatt, Karen Dreiblatt  
Corwin Press 2008  
A comprehensive curriculum for elementary grades with lessons and activities that teach empathy, friendship and respect. The curriculum helps educators engage bullies, victims, and bystanders in

### Energizers!

#### 88 Quick Movement Activities That Refresh and Refocus

Susan Lattanzi Roser  
Northeast Foundation for Children 2009  
Grades K-6  
Looking for ideas for one of those two or three minute activities to give children some movement between long instructional blocks or testing periods? This collection is a mix of old favorites with new twists and originals written by the author. Visit the bookstore at [www.responsiveclassroom.org](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org)

### Rethinking Early Childhood Education

Edited by Ann Pelo  
Rethinking Schools 2008  
This book shows how educators can nurture empathy, ecological consciousness, curiosity, collaboration, and activism in young children. It invites readers to rethink early childhood education, reminding them that it is inseparable from social justice and ecological education. An outstanding resource for childcare providers, early-grade teachers, as well as teacher education and staff development programs. [www.rethinkingschools.org](http://www.rethinkingschools.org)

For middle and high school...

### La Linea

Ann Jaramillo  
Square Fish Books 2008  
A thought-provoking novel about 15 year old Miguel and his dream of crossing the California-Mexico border to be with his parents.

### The Truth About My Bat Mitzvah

Nora Raleigh Baskin  
Simon & Shuster Books 2009  
A moving story about fitting in and finding one's self.

### Marble Mountain

Wayne Karlin  
Curbstone Press 2009  
Reads like a detective story; this is the tale of Kiet Hallam, an adopted daughter of African American and Vietnamese descent searching for her true

Peace Love JOY Peace Love JOY

## Ideas for 2010



### January 17: World Religion Day

The day emphasizes that the religions of the world must strive for unity among people. [www.worldreligionday.org](http://www.worldreligionday.org)

### January 18: Martin Luther King Jr. Day of Service

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

### January 25-29: No Name-Calling Week

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

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



### February 1-5: National Green Week

Green Education Foundation (GEF) is mobilizing two million children to participate in environmental educational programs during National Green Week 2010 (Feb. 1-5, 2010). The objective is to empower students to become environmental stewards within the context of their own lives. [www.greeneducationfoundaton.org](http://www.greeneducationfoundaton.org)

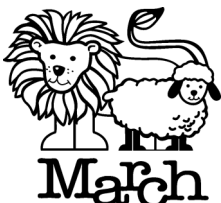
### February 14: Lunar Chinese New Year

To celebrate the major holiday, people clean their homes, buy new shoes and clothing, get new haircuts, and hold a New Year dinner that celebrates family ties. 2010 is the Year of the Tiger. Printable Chinese folktales can be found at <http://www.apples4theteacher.com/holidays/chinese-new-year/short-stories/>

**February 15: President's Day** is a good opportunity to look at not only Presidents, but those who are leaders in working for the "common good". Activities for children can be found at <http://holidays.kaboose.com/presidents-day/presidents-day.html>

### February 21: International Mother Language Day

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



### March is Music In Our Schools Month.

Check out <http://www.cultureofpeace.com/songs/> and [www.learningfromlyrics.org](http://www.learningfromlyrics.org)

**March 8: International Women's Day** <http://www.internationalwomensday.com/>

**March 22: World Water Day** UN-Water has chosen "Communicating Water Quality Challenges and Opportunities" as the theme for World Water Day 2010. The overall goal of the World Water Day campaign is to raise the profile of water quality at the political level so that water quality considerations are made alongside those of water quantity. Lesson plans for all grade levels can be found at [www.water.org](http://www.water.org) and more information can be found at [www.worldwaterday.org](http://www.worldwaterday.org).

**April 10: World Health Day**

World Health Day 2010 will focus on urbanization and health. With the campaign "1000 cities - 1000 lives", events will be organized worldwide calling on cities to open up streets for health activities. Stories of urban health champions will be gathered to illustrate what people are doing to improve health in their cities. <http://www.who.int/world-health-day/en/>

**April 11: Yom HaShoah Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust**

Outstanding educational resources can be found at Holocaust Museum Houston, [www.hrh.org](http://www.hrh.org).

**April 11—17: National Environmental Education Week**

National Environmental Education Week (EE Week) is the largest organized environmental education event in the United States. EE Week increases the educational impact of Earth Day by creating a full week of educational preparation, learning, and activities in K-12 classrooms, nature centers, zoos, museums, and aquariums. By participating in EE Week, you encourage your students to make a difference in their schools, homes, and communities. Visit [www.eeweek.org](http://www.eeweek.org).

**April 22: Earth Day**

Many ideas are available on the web. Try the Earth Day Network for a year's worth of lesson plans on sustainability, climate, natural resources and wildlife, civics, organics and food and more. <http://www.earthday.net/node/12>

**April 30: Arbor Day**

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

**MAY Asian America Awareness Month**

Visit <http://www.nps.gov/history/nr/feature/asia/>. This site showcases historic properties listed in the National Register and National Park units highlighting important aspects of the Asian and Pacific experience in America. You can also visit [www.free.ed.gov](http://www.free.ed.gov) for more links to historical information

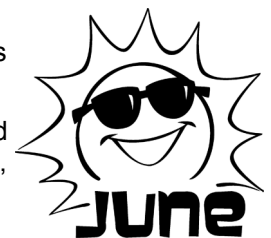
**May 5: Cinco de Mayo**

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

**June 5: World Environment Day**

World Environment Day is one of the principal vehicles through which the United Nations stimulates worldwide awareness of the environment. [worldenvironmentday@unep.org](mailto:worldenvironmentday@unep.org)

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



## What Kids Are Saying

### 10 Reasons

There are ten reasons I have to say  
to save the Earth and do it today.

This place where we live  
is starting to die

If we start now, we won't say goodbye!

There's reason one:

now here's number two

To stop the smoke and turn the sky  
blue

Now here's important number three  
To plant or save a precious tree.

Now here's reason four, so listen up  
To reuse or recycle your plastic cup.

Lend all ears for number five  
To start to help save animal's lives.

Now reason six is coming up

To clean up your town  
for you and your pup.

Here's reason seven, get ready to fight  
To save the rainforest and its rights.

Now here's lucky reason eight

To clean the Earth and make it a date!

Reason nine is coming around  
To reuse that unused stuff you found.

Last reason ten is finally here

To help the things you hold most dear.

Now use those ten things

I taught you today

To save the Earth while saving the  
day!

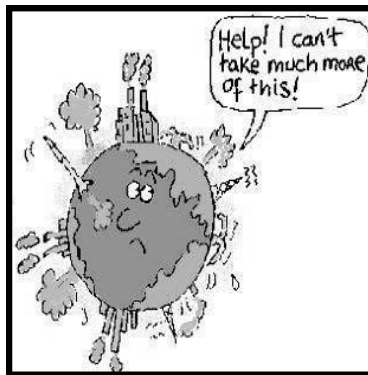
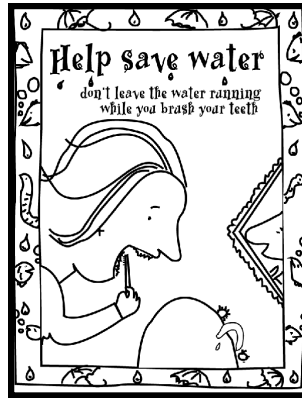
Samantha LeBlond

Grade 6

Capt. Nathan Hale

Middle School

Coventry, CT



### Protect Her

We're polluting the Earth now  
can't you see  
We're turning our home into a tragedy.

Mother Nature needs help these days.  
For this is not just a short phase.

It's time that we see,  
Earth is losing its beauty.

She needs help to live beyond.  
Now its time that we respond.

Now let's clean up Earth's wonderful  
face,  
For this could become a beautiful place.

The time we have is wasting away.  
Now it's time we make it OK.

It's time to reduce, reuse, recycle.  
Instead of a car, take a bicycle.

Recycle bottles and cans,  
So we will have some beautiful lands.

Let's be nice to the Earth.  
And give it a wonderful rebirth!

In the future, I can see it now,  
Our Earth is so clean, I can only say  
"wow".

The grass is green,  
It feels so clean.

Let's have our Earth looking like this,  
Let's keep it clean so we won't miss!

We have to remove this entire blur,  
All we have to do is protect her...

Just protect her!

Jordan Butler

Grade 6

Capt. Nathan Hale

Middle School

Coventry, CT

### Announcing a 5th Grade Essay Contest: "Celebrate America"

The American Immigration Council and the AILA are sponsoring the 13th annual "Celebrate America" creative writing contest. The topic is "Why I am Glad America is a Nation of Immigrants". Any written entry (essay, poem, story, interview, etc.) that reflects the theme is accepted. Entries are judged on theme, presentation, creativity and message. Up to 500 words. Deadline: March 12, 2010. For more information visit:

[www.communityeducationcenter.org/community/essay-contest](http://www.communityeducationcenter.org/community/essay-contest).

*In late summer 2009, we were saddened by the news of the deaths of two amazing women who were long time subscribers and supporters of our newsletter, and sporadic pen pals over the years.*

*Elizabeth Hyde of Norwich, CT was a high school teacher for over 30 years. She was a brilliant, ethical, committed woman who was a vocal environmentalist as well as an advocate for many progressive causes. She died at age 93.*

*Marion Leonard of Rochester, VT was a lifelong advocate for the earth, peace and healthy food. She was an educator in Putney, VT and a champion of many local and national issues. She was the co-founder of Save Our World Long Island and founder of Save Our World Vermont. She died at the age of 100.*

**May the memory and lasting good works of these two activists be a blessing to us all.**

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

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