



A CURRICULUM OF HOPE  
FOR A PEACEFUL WORLD

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# A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter

## Editor's Message

*Educators must be "consciously striving to educate their successors not for the existing state of affairs but so as to make possible a future better humanity."*

John Dewey in *Democracy and Education*

Peace Education is a term I can't wrap my head around. The term just doesn't seem to fit in today's classrooms. Mandated by No Child Left Behind that all students will demonstrate academic proficiency by 2015, as measured by yearly tests, districts are anxiously striving to reach that goal. While the Act's overall purpose is to ensure that children in every classroom enjoy the benefits of well-prepared teachers, research-based curriculum and safe learning environments, the punitive aspects are counterproductive. The consequences of not making adequate yearly progress, doing better than the year before (even though you are testing a different group of students), makes test preparation the core of probably every school in the United States. Peace Education implies a separate focus, another curricular area. There is no yearly test in Peace Education, though its impact is apparent every day as students interact with each other and the real world.

It is vital that students develop personal responsibility, tolerance, respect, empathy, non-violent conflict resolution skills, critical thinking and social skills. These attributes are necessary life traits, and are critical to effective citizenship and the future of our planet. Students must have the life-long skills and competencies that enable them to work together for a healthy environment, a strong world economy and an equitable society which celebrates every culture, and provides social justice for all by respecting human rights and human dignity. This is Peace Education, but I propose it should be called "Education for the Future".

What would it take to ensure that all students, in every classroom, are prepared to assume their responsibility as keepers of our planet and its inhabitants, as well as reaching high achievement levels in reading, writing math and sciences?

I propose that it has to begin with dialogue. That's why we have to give Peace Education a more up-to-date moniker. I can't imagine any school district, with that NCLB goal year of 2015 looming in the distance, allowing themselves to spend time talking about Peace Education. It connotes a separate entity. However, I can see districts taking time to discuss how they are providing for their students an Education for the Future and asking themselves how they can interpret the standards and infuse into their curriculum global understanding, human rights and environmental awareness. I can see dialogue around creating classrooms that are models of the good citizenship skills we want our students to emulate. I can see colleges and universities ensuring that future educators are equipped with the skills and mindset to teach Education for the Future as well as academics and teacher preparation pedagogy. I can even see politicians jumping on this viable "addition" to the focus of education. Imagine the change that could occur if local, state, and national legislators began to talk about the importance of Education for the Future!

As always, we hope this issue will give you ideas and resources to continue your individual efforts. Let us also push to begin the dialogue. The goal of education can not be to develop a nation of test-takers. Our goal must be to ensure that all students are equipped with both the knowledge of academics and the skills and attitudes needed to achieve "a better humanity."

Janice McKusick  
Editor

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**"Are we  
preparing our  
students for a  
life of test  
taking or for  
the tests of  
life?"**

Bena Kallick,  
co-author with  
Arthur Costa,  
*Habits of the Mind*

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**Education  
FOR THE FUTURE**

# Ideas



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**International Day of Peace**  
Celebrate the International Day of Peace on **September 21<sup>st</sup>**. Since 2002, this day has been observed each year on the opening day of the regular session of the United Nations. For ideas and links to ways you can join in the Peace Day campaign go to [www.InternationalDayOfPeace.org](http://www.InternationalDayOfPeace.org), [www.CultureofPeace.org](http://www.CultureofPeace.org), [www.un.org/events/peaceday](http://www.un.org/events/peaceday), or [cyberschoolbus.un.org/](http://cyberschoolbus.un.org/). To find an event near you go to [internationaldayofpeace.org/particpatefind\\_an\\_event.html](http://internationaldayofpeace.org/particpatefind_an_event.html)

**National Public Lands Day**  
This program of the National Environmental Education Foundation is the largest, nation-wide volunteer day for public lands. Modeled after the Civilian Conservation Corps, its purpose is to improve publicly held lands for the greater enjoyment and enrichment of all Americans. Get involved on **September 27th!** [www.publiclandsday.org](http://www.publiclandsday.org)

**WORLD FOOD DAY**  
Established in 1979 by the United Nations, World Food Day, **October 16th**, is a worldwide event designed to increase awareness, understanding and informed, year-around action to alleviate hunger. <http://www.worldfoodday.usa.org/>

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**National Character Counts Week**  
**October 19-25**, this event is about universal values, celebrating the Six Pillars of Character. Opportunities to connect with others around the globe are available. Over 5 million kids in 51 countries took part in 2007. Free resources are available at [www.charactercounts.org](http://www.charactercounts.org).

**United Nations Day**  
The UN website [www.un.org](http://www.un.org) provides teachers and students with fascinating facts and is an excellent reference for older students about world issues. See [cyberschoolbus.un.org](http://cyberschoolbus.un.org) for curriculum, ideas and information for UN Day, **October 24th**.. There are also many lesson plans for global awareness at [www.crayola.com/calendar](http://www.crayola.com/calendar).

**Make a Difference Day**  
For 18 years, Make A Difference Day has been celebrated on the **fourth Saturday in October, this year on October 25th**. This national day of helping others is a celebration of neighbors helping neighbors. Project ideas can be found at [www.usaweekend.com/diffday/](http://www.usaweekend.com/diffday/).

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**Mix It Up Day**  
Mix It Up seeks to break down the barriers between students, improve intergroup relations and help schools create inclusive communities where there are fewer misunderstandings that can lead to conflicts, bullying or violence. Mix It Up provides tools, resources and ideas to help youth and their adult allies take action, not only on Mix It Up at Lunch Day, Thursday, **November 19th**, but all year long. [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org).

**Bullying Awareness Week**  
The idea for a Bullying Awareness Week, **November 16-22nd**, began with a Canadian father and educator Bill Belsey and is spreading throughout the world. [www.bullyingawarenessweek.org](http://www.bullyingawarenessweek.org)

**The International Day for Tolerance**  
Celebrate The International Day for Tolerance on **November 16th**. This day began in 1995, when a world-wide campaign for tolerance and non-violence grew out of the United Nations Year for Tolerance. Ideas can be found at [www.unesco.org](http://www.unesco.org).



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**Human Rights Day**

Celebrate Human Rights Day on **December 10** to commemorate the signing of The Universal Declaration of Human Rights. [www.ohchr.org](http://www.ohchr.org). 2008 is the 60th anniversary of this most important document.

**Watch for a New Teaching Kit from Teaching Tolerance to Be Released in September!**

*Viva la Causa!* was created to share with millions of school children, one of the nation's greatest movements for social justice, the grape strike and boycott led by Cesar Chavez and Dolores Huerta in the 1960's. As part of the kit, a new documentary film chronicles how Chavez, Huerta and their colleagues, inspired by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., created a mass movement to improve the lives of farm workers who labored for meager wages under appalling conditions in the fields of California. [www.tolerance.org](http://www.tolerance.org)

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**Martin Luther King Day**

Civil Rights, democracy, symbols of freedom and issues of Human Rights can all be included in a study of this peacemaker.

**THREE free video-based kits from Teaching Tolerance** are available for teaching about Dr. King's legacy and the Civil Rights Movement; *America's Civil Rights Movement*; *Mighty Times: The Legacy of Rosa Parks*; and *Mighty Times: The Children's March*. [www.teachingtolerance.org/resources](http://www.teachingtolerance.org/resources). Also recommended: *Putting the Movement Back into Civil Rights Teaching* (\$25) a resource guide for K-12 is available at [www.teachingforchange.org](http://www.teachingforchange.org). Available on line at [www.splcenter.org/crm/resources.jsp](http://www.splcenter.org/crm/resources.jsp), is *40 Lives for Freedom* (free) describing individuals who lost their lives during the Civil Rights Movement.

**Opportunities**

**CTAUN Conference  
(Committee for Teaching about the UN)**

**January 30, 2009**

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

Greg Mortenson  
Author of *Three Cups of Tea*

Online registration will be available by November 1st at [www.teachUN.org](http://www.teachUN.org)

*"The closest I ever came to angry violence is in the presence of someone who says he will not bother to vote because it doesn't make a difference...He's typical of those who don't understand that nobody has a right to ride on the bus without making some contribution to the cost of the journey...It is a moral obligation to participate in the work of society."*

Robert Fulghum  
from *Words I Wish I*

**[www.AtlantaPeaceTrails.com](http://www.AtlantaPeaceTrails.com)** is dedicating a Peace Pole for the International Day of Peace, Sept. 21st, at the Georgia Aquarium,

We want to publish your students! Please send us your student's work and share their voices with those around the

**Heifer Announces New Global Opportunity**

Fall 2008  
Heifer Global Village at Shepherd's Spring Sharpsburg, MD

Four programs through seven country sites, including Kenya, Guatemala and Thailand  
[www.heifer.org/globalvillagesponsors](http://www.heifer.org/globalvillagesponsors)

**Be Sure to Vote! It's An Opportunity!**

In 2008, of the 194 countries in the world, only 54 are judged to be non-democratic and authoritarian, the remainder have partial or fully democratic regimes. One of the important reasons for this spread of democracy is a "realization" that a large group accountable to an electorate can have the power to offset or negate the selfishness of an ambitious ruling clique. (World Goodwill Newsletter 2008, No. 2)

Readers who are citizens of the United States in November 2008 will be involved in the act of selecting a new President. It is a right and a responsibility to vote. Take this opportunity to have your voice heard.

**One-Day Responsive Classroom Workshops**

Friday, October 17th	Oakland, CA
Thursday, October 23rd	Rutland, VT
Thursday, November 13th	Taunton, MA
Friday, November 14th	Freeport, ME
Tuesday, November 18th	Mahwah, NJ
Thursday, December 4th	Langhorne,

**Overview for Administrators**

Thursday, October 23rd  
Rutland, VT  
Thursday, December 4th  
Langhorne, PA  
[www.responsiveclassroom.org](http://www.responsiveclassroom.org)



## Books and Resources

**Rachel Carson**, author of the then controversial book *Silent Spring*, which was a call to action for ecological awareness and responsibility, died in 1964. Last spring, communities, schools, and organizations all over the world held commemorative events in honor of what would have been her 100th birthday. Bill Moyers Journal (9/21/07) featured the life and legacy of Rachel Carson and the start of the modern environmental movement. You can watch the video and find lesson plans at [www.pbs.org](http://www.pbs.org). You can also find 2008 events and legacy resources at the Rachel Carson Homestead web site [www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org](http://www.rachelcarsonhomestead.org). The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service also has information [www.fws.gov/rachelcarson/](http://www.fws.gov/rachelcarson/) as does [www.rachelcarson.org](http://www.rachelcarson.org).

**Jonathan Bird's Blue World** is an educational "magazine style" underwater adventure series with short, 7-10 minute segments. Each is a complete story about marine animals, research and researchers, underwater exploration and recent discoveries. Each segment includes a downloadable study guide for teachers. Current episodes explore the behavior and biology of blue sharks; the amazing social abilities and social lives of sperm whales, and the manatee. Many more are available to share with your students on your classroom computer. Go to [www.blueworldtv.com](http://www.blueworldtv.com).

"Go placidly amid  
the noise and haste  
and remember what peace  
there may be in silence."



**GET IT!** Global Education To Improve Tomorrow is a curriculum based global education and service learning program that teaches students and teachers about sustainable solutions to world hunger and poverty. Students act as investigative journalists to research, write about, and act on issues surrounding consumer choices and international trade. The program is designed for middle and high school students.  
[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)



"In today already  
walks tomorrow."

Rachel Carson



### **Paths to Peace: People Who Changed the World**

**Jane Breskin Zalben**

Dutton Children's Books—a division of Penguin Group, 2006.  
Grades 4-8

Profiles of 16 peacemakers, one-page biographies on individuals who have worked to improve conditions for others including Gandhi, Einstein, Wiesel, Sadat, JF Kennedy, E. Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Anne Frank, The Dalai Lama, and Princess Diana. It is beautifully illustrated by this award-winning author-artist.

Subscribe to **My Wonderful World E-Newsletter** and give kids the power of global knowledge. This is a National Geo-

### **2008 International Peace Pals Art Exhibition Winners**

[www.wppspeacepals.org](http://www.wppspeacepals.org)  
See the winning art on line or in person at Beacon High School, Beacon NY, 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, September 21st.

### **Teaching The Levees**



Developed by the faculty at Teacher's College, Columbia University, "Teaching *The Levees*, is a curriculum that addresses the issues of citizenship, race, class and poverty that were raised in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina. It was created to accompany the HBO Documentary Films Event, Spike Lee's *When the Levees Broke: A Requiem in Four Acts*. In September 2007, through a generous collaboration between The Rockefeller Foundation, Teachers College and HBO, this teaching tool was distributed to schools, colleges and community educators. You can now buy the curriculum book without the DVD at [www.tcpspress.com](http://www.tcpspress.com) (\$13.95). The DVD can be purchased at HBO's Watch It and Learn web site: [www.hbo.com/watchitandlearn](http://www.hbo.com/watchitandlearn).

### **Three Cups of Tea**

Greg Mortenson and David Oliver Reilin  
Penguin, 2007

A fascinating true accounting of Greg's experiences building more than 60 schools in some of the most remote parts of Pakistan and Afghanistan. Mortenson, a former mountaineer rescued on K2 mountain by Pakistanis, has forged extraordinary relationships with tribal leaders, mullahs, and imams.

*"The first cup of tea, you're a stranger; the second cup, a friend; and the third cup, you're family. And for the family, they're prepared to do anything, even die."*

**The Story of Stuff** is a 20-minute film, released on line in December 2007. It exposes the connections between a huge number of environmental and social issues and calls us to create a more sustainable and just world. "It'll teach you something, it'll make you laugh, and it just may change the way you look at all the stuff in your life."  
[www.storyofstuff.com](http://www.storyofstuff.com).

JPIC Report, April

2008

## Caring for Our

### Did you know...

◆ Downloading songs is actually good for the environment. CDs and DVDs are made from mined metals with petroleum-derived plastics, lacquers and dyes. They are almost impossible to recycle and most end up in the trash polluting groundwater. Those willing to pay a small processing fee can send CDs and DVDs to a small number of private companies that are set up to recycle them into high-quality plastics used in auto parts, office equipment, alarm panels, street lights, and other specialized items.

◆ Americans go through 2.5 million tons of paper towels a year. Two stay-at-home moms have created an Earth-friendly alternative, the Skoy cloth, made from cellulose, which is derived from wood and cotton. The 7-inch cloths are unusually absorbent and easier to manage than larger microfiber cloths. They can be washed either in the dishwasher or washing machine and freshened in the microwave. When one has outlived its usefulness, you can just toss it in the compost pile, as it is biodegradable. A four pack of Skoy cloths costs \$5.99. Go to [www.skoycloth.com](http://www.skoycloth.com). One cloth is estimated to save about 15 rolls of paper towels.

◆ The British manufacturer Vegware, has come up with biodegradable or compostable alternatives to plastic cutlery, plates, cups and ice cream spoons—made from 80 percent potato starch and 20 percent vegetable oil. A mixed pack of knives, forks and spoons (10 each) costs \$5.80 and is available at [vegware.co.uk](http://vegware.co.uk).

◆ Plastic flotsam, 100 million tons of it, litters the oceans of the world. The build up of plastics in the North Pacific gyre, 1000 miles off the coast of California, is estimated to span 5 million square miles—an area equivalent to all fifty United States, plus India. Some of the debris floats on the surface, some is suspended just below, and some is even deeper. Water bottles, balloons, and degraded buoys are recognizable, but in time these objects break down into smaller pieces, small enough to be ingested by fish and filter feeders. About 80 percent of the plastic debris in oceans gets there by land. It washes from our beaches, streets and highways through storm drains and into streams and rivers.

◆ Built by the Norwegian government for \$10 million, Norway's Svalbard Global Seed Vault is a 400 foot-long tunnel drilled into the side of an Arctic mountain on the remote archipelago of Svalbard, 620 miles from the North Pole. At the end of the tunnel are three 32 by 88 foot air-locked chambers, each designed to hold 1.5 million foil packages containing the crop seeds of every imaginable type from around the world. Many of the seeds are expected to last 1,000 years within the minus 0.4 degrees Fahrenheit vaults. Even if the refrigeration breaks down, officials say the vault would stay frozen for 200 years.



◆ You can put a stop to junk (bulk)mail. When you subscribe to a publication, place a credit card order, order items through the mail or Internet, join an organization, donate to a charity or enter a sweepstakes, your name is probably added to a mailing list of some kind. There are companies who sell these lists to other companies who believe you may be interested in their products. Several Junk Mail Reduction Kits are available to help you reduce the use of 62 million trees and 25 billion gallons of water used in one year to produce this country's bulk mail. [www.stopjunkmail.org/kit](http://www.stopjunkmail.org/kit).

◆ The tapping of wild rubber nearly disappeared when the Amazon's ancient rubber trees were cut in the 1980's to make room for cattle grazing. Most rubber is no longer made the traditional way—tapping trees every five years and letting them rest for another five—so demand for the wild variety dropped. Yet preserving this tradition is important for the people of the Amazon. Treetap, a Brazilian company is making wild rubber into design products such as handbags. Their web site is coming soon. [www.treetap.com.br](http://www.treetap.com.br).

◆ You can turn a pizza box into a solar oven! [http://infochangeindia.org/kids/doityourself\\_01.php](http://infochangeindia.org/kids/doityourself_01.php)

◆ How long does it take to decompose?  
 banana peel... 2 months  
 cardboard milk carton... 5 years  
 wooden baseball bat... 20 years  
 leather baseball glove... 40 years  
 aluminum can... 350 years  
 plastic sandwich bag... 400 years  
 glass bottle... maybe never  
 foam cup... maybe never



# Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter Subscription Form

We believe that none of our modern-day technologies quite matches the sensory immediacy and intellectual interaction of a printed page as you hold it in your hand and sit in your favorite spot and read. Thus we remain committed to providing a printed publication. We hope to continue to publish our Newsletter in the traditional way, so that it arrives in your mailbox at regular intervals, just like an old friend. We want to be able to continue to connect with each of you with issues and ideas that help you be an active peacemaker.

Our 2008-2009 subscription fee remains at \$5.00. This covers only our cost for paper, printing, and postage. All tasks associated with creating, compiling, editing, and the mailing process are done by volunteers.

Some subscribers forget to send their renewal regularly and then send a generous check. Others send extra money each year with notes valuing our work and wishing to help sustain it. Yet others send no money, but pass our Newsletter on to many others. We value all of you!

Your subscription fees are augmented by an ongoing monetary commitment from the Connecticut State Organization of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International. Thanks to their generosity, and your help, we have been able to continue our work for over 22 years and distribute over 900 copies to readers in 21 countries per issue, even while occasionally on the brink of financial insolvency.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you enjoy and use our Newsletter and wish to continue receiving it, please send your \$5.00 renewal fee.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you do not find our Newsletter useful, please ask to be removed from our mailing list by writing or sending an email to [Jeanne Morascini, jemora@aol.com](mailto:Jeanne.Morascini@jemora@aol.com). We will not remove your name without a request from you.

\_\_\_\_\_ If you value our work, and wish to sustain our efforts, thank you for sending an additional contribution!

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Not necessary if information is on your check

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

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

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## Top Ten Ideas for a Green Holi-

**10** Buy organic. It is healthier for your family and your home. An organically grown tree will not have been sprayed with as many as 40 different chemicals used on regular trees.

**9** Use nature. Branches from an evergreen bush, pinecones and fruit can be used as table decorations. Old-fashioned popcorn and cranberries can add a "new" look to your tree.

**8** Rethink lights. When you need new lights, replace them with LED's which use 90 percent less energy than standard mini-lights. A string of 1000 LED lights illuminated for six hours a day uses about 50 cents worth of energy a month, compared to \$5 for the same number of mini lights and \$50 for the larger incandescent lights.



A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World  
9 Old Willimantic Rd.  
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**7** Cut back on cards. Of the 2.6 billion holiday cards sent each year, most end up in the garbage. Choose cards made of recycled paper, send e cards and recycle cards to make gift tags. Each ton of recycled paper saves 380 million gallons of oil and 17 trees.

**6** Save on shipping. Send gift cards or lightweight items.

**5** Reuse. If every family in the United States reused just two feet of ribbon we would save 38,000 miles of ribbon—enough to tie a bow around the earth. Invest in a tub to collect bows, ribbons, gift tags and bags to be reused next year.

**1** Keep a peaceful mindset. Seek that inner calmness that comes from the joy of giving. Make the fullness of your life a good fullness. And remember (or make it your mantra if you need to), "It is what it is." and "What ever is, is right."

**4** Use no wrapping paper. Make this the year that you invest in gift bags to be re-used, or wrap in fabric scraps, grocery bags, or newspaper. If every family wrapped three gifts in alternative wrappings we could save enough paper to cover 45,000 football fields.

**3** Recycle your tree. But if you use a plastic bag to get the tree out of the house, don't forget to take it off once the tree is outside. Tired of your artificial tree? Donate it.

**2** Give. Involve your family now to choose one organization to commit to. Heifer, KIVA, Habitat for Humanity, your local food pantry, soup kitchen or animal shelter are some of the many groups that will appreciate your ef-