



A CURRICULUM OF  
HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL  
WORLD

# A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter

VOLUME XXXII  
ISSUE I  
SPRING 2018



## Founder's Message

On February 14, 2018, Valentine's Day, a day that is supposed to be focused on love, 17 innocent people were murdered in a school in the United States of America. That tragedy was one of several mass shootings in the US in the first 45 days of 2018. Unbelievable...mind boggling...beyond depressing...frightening ...heart breaking...as all senseless shootings are. But this time, due to the outrage, anger, courage and firm conviction of the young survivors, coupled with their commitment to civic responsibility, we are all witnesses to and participants in life-changing events that will become an important part of American history. On March 24, in 832 places across the United States and in other countries, millions of ordinary people gathered to March for Our Lives, calling for immediate change toward a more just and peaceful world. I personally have developed enormous pride in the character and passion of all those who are willing to speak up and show up to express their vision of a better and safer America.

U.S. history reminds me that the United States is like no other country, in that it is a grand experiment in the melding of a diverse population of immigrants from every continent coming here in search of freedom and a better life. In 1774, 13 colonies came together at the Continental Congress to protest new taxation by the Crown. In 1776, the 2nd Continental Congress signed the Declaration of Independence basically founding the United States, and eventually ratifying a Constitution in 1787, on the principles of justice, liberty, and domestic tranquility. Imagine the passion, courage, activism and determination required to establish a new country! Since that time, whenever there has been true progress made to improve the status of citizens and protect their rights, it has been accomplished through legislation often demanded by the activism of ordinary citizens, united and passionate about their cause, and only after great turmoil and peaceful revolt. Two major examples: Women's Right to Vote (19th Amendment) in 1920 and the Civil Rights Act in 1964. History shows the same pattern in other democratic countries when governments often are only moved to social justice action by citizen revolt and persistent demand. It seems that Utopia is difficult to achieve. The novel Utopia by Sir Thomas More published in 1516 tells of a place of ideal perfection, defined in dictionaries and even in the novel as "visionary and impractical." Even so, it must be pursued. Will you join me as a visionary wherever you live in the world?

STEP ONE: Maintain a Peaceful Mindset by focusing on your own inner peace. You were born with it, bring it forth!

STEP TWO: Focus on the many positive events currently occurring. Recall the 2018 Olympics gathering in South Korea where over 3,000 athletes from across the globe competed, won or lost, yet over 17 days mostly supported and cared for each other. Equally encouraging are the huge peaceful protest marches across the world on March 24th.

STEP THREE: Believe in the personal power of each and every single voice which, when united with many others, is compelling. Add YOUR powerful voice.

STEP FOUR: Choose a cause you are passionate about and committed to, one you want to help accomplish. Make a contact and get involved.

STEP FIVE: Choose a mantra from visionaries of the past, post it in a prominent place to remind you of your mission. There are hundreds of poems, song lyrics, and quotes we all know well. You will find a few in this issue or make up one of your own. You may already have one.

STEP SIX: Be courageous. Be determined. Be an activist to help heal our broken world. STEP UP AND JUST DO IT!

Together, we can persist and influence and guide the future toward peace. Your involvement is crucial. Be the peacemaker you were born to be.

Jeanne Morascini, Founder

**“When injustice becomes law: resistance becomes duty.”**

**David Morascini 2017**

(my peacemaker son)

## Ideas

After end-of-the-year testing is completed it can be difficult to stay energized and focused. Here are some ideas to help you and your students finish the year strong.

### Hold a Random Acts of Kindness Week

While Random Acts of Kindness Week is officially held in February, what a great project for the end-of-the-year. Classrooms can adopt other classrooms, and then hold a special reveal celebration. Or classrooms can adopt an adult in the building and shower them with appreciation. The possibilities are endless, and the enthusiasm will be contagious. Ideas can be found at <https://www.randomactsofkindness.org>.



### Apps Teachers Love!

**Bloomz** is a free parent communication app. Families are given a code to access. You can post messages, photos and more.

**TalkingPoints** is another app for parent communication. Messages can be sent in more than 25 different languages.

**GoNoodle** videos are great for whole-class brain and movement breaks.

**Prodigy** can be used for math review. It is a video game where students become wizards and answer math questions to learn spells, win duels and get equipment.

**Bookopolis** is a social media site all about reading. Students have the opportunity to get and give recommendations and to create and participate in book discussions.

**ChatterPix** combines oral skills, art, and writing by having students bring their drawings to life.

**Kahoot!** is a game-based learning and trivia platform used in classrooms, offices and social settings. Sign up to create, play and share engaging quizzes on any topic.



### Create a Culture

In the picture book *Westlandia*, a boy on summer vacation creates his own civilization. There are many takes on the following project, but one idea is to give your students a latitude and longitude and have them create a culture. They can draw conclusions and find evidence about the climate, geography, shelter, clothing, food, economy, traditions and values of their civilization.

### Create a Galaxy

In Disney's *A Wrinkle in Time*, Meg travels to a variety of planets invented by the author Madeleine L'Engle. Each of these planets poses unique challenges and requires different problem-solving skills.

In this interdisciplinary project, students will develop a galaxy as a class, with each student contributing a planet. Each lesson will focus on one aspect of the project—the planet's makeup, the planet's dimensions, the distance between planets, and the social aspects of the planet. Each lesson can also be taught individually, and the activities can be tailored to your students' grade level and individual needs.

[www.scholastic.awrinkleintime](http://www.scholastic.awrinkleintime)

### Do Something Good

This is a perfect time to visit [www.dosomething.org/](http://www.dosomething.org/) and discover how 5.5 million young people in 131 countries are making positive change, both online and off. Who knows what summer project you may inspire?

“Go the extra mile. It’s never crowded.”

Author Unknown



## Resources

### *Black History Heroes*

#### **Lift Your Light a Little Higher:**

**The Story of Stephen Bishop: Slave-Explorer**  
2016

Heather Hensen, Author

Bryan Collier, Illustrator

Atheneum

Ages 4 to 8

#### **The Youngest Marcher: The Story of Audrey Faye Hendricks, a Young Civil Rights Activist**

2017

Cynthia Levinson, Author

Vanessa Brantley Newton, Illustrator

Atheneum

Ages 5 to 10

#### **Life in Motion: An Unlikely Ballerina**

2016

Misty Copeland (Young Readers Edition)

Aladdin

Ages 8 to 12

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

### **United States Holocaust Memorial Museum**

Visit the website to find Holocaust education resources tailored for classroom use—films, lesson plans, and curricular materials, including victims’ and survivors’ personal stories. In addition, there is guidance on teaching strategies and information about professional development opportunities. University faculty teaching about the Holocaust can use *Experiencing History: Holocaust Sources in Context*, which presents letters, diary entries, film clips, and other items, with an explanation of the context in which they were created, an English translation if needed and historical references. [www.ushmm.org](http://www.ushmm.org)

**UNITED STATES  
HOLOCAUST  
MEMORIAL  
MUSEUM 2018 25**

“Let’s equip our students with the tools necessary to steer their own ships as they navigate the online world.”

## Teaching Tolerance

### Digital Literacy

The Teaching Tolerance Digital Literacy Framework offers seven key areas to support the development of digital and civic literacy skills for students in grades K-12.

1. Students can locate and verify reliable sources of information.
2. Students understand how digital information comes to them.
3. Students can constructively engage in digital communities.
4. Students understand how online communication affects privacy and security.
5. Students understand that they are producers of information.
6. Students understand their role as customers in an online marketplace.
7. Students can evaluate the value of the internet as a mechanism of civic action.

<https://www.tolerance.org/frameworks/digital-literacy>

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/publications/learning-the-landscape-of-digital-literacy>

<https://www.tolerance.org/magazine/presenting-teaching-tolerances-digital>

“To make a deep  
mental path,  
we must think over  
and over the kind  
of thoughts  
we wish to  
dominate our  
lives.”  
Henry David  
Thoreau

# Caring For Our Planet

## Graduation Gowns

“Zero Waste” commencements are part of the movement toward more sustainable campuses. Oak Hall Cap & Gown, a leading manufacturer of academic apparel, makes gowns and caps made of 100 percent, post-consumer recycled plastic bottles.

Oak Hall introduced GreenWeaver sustainable caps and gowns to higher education in 2009. GreenWeaver is made of fabric spun from molten plastic pellets. It takes an average of 23 bottles to make each gown.

After first experimenting with a mix of bamboo and polyester, Oak Hall eventually turned to recycled plastic bottles – already used to make sweatshirts and other clothing – to change the way academic regalia are made and worn.

For every 100 students wearing these gowns, 2,300 plastic bottles are diverted from landfills. The gowns are softer to the touch than traditional polyester, lightweight, and wrinkle resistant. They can be recycled after graduation. The gowns are available for both college and high school commencements. All of the company’s caps and gowns are made in Virginia.

<https://oakhalli.com/GreenWeaver-Recycled-Gowns.html>

## Plogging

Plogging is a trend coming out of Sweden and is a combination of jogging and *plocka upp*, which is Swedish for “to pick up” While exercising, ploggers quickly stop to pick up trash. Ploggers bring a pair of gloves and a trash bag. The concept is catching on in other countries such as France, Germany and Australia. Proponents say it’s a great way to make a difference for the outdoor spaces they love.

<http://www.onegreenplanet.org/environment/what-is-plogging/>



## Coffee Cups

Freiburg, Germany, has come up with a solution to the problem of to go-coffee cup waste and human forgetfulness. In November 2016, it launched the Freiburg Cup, a hard plastic to-go cup with a disposable lid that’s provided to businesses by the city. Customers pay a €1 deposit for the cup (\$1.25 U.S.). Used cups can be returned to any one of 100 stores in the city center. These stores will wash, disinfect and reuse the cups, up to 400 times. Businesses that are participating have an identifying green sticker in the window. The dishwasher-safe cups are made in southern Germany from polypropylene and do not contain BPA or plasticizers.

<http://www.remondis-aktuell.com/en/012017/recycling/freiburg-cup-replaces-disposable-cups/>

## LEDs

LED is a highly energy efficient lighting technology, and has the potential to fundamentally change the future of lighting in the United States. Residential LEDs -- especially ENERGY STAR rated products -- use at least 75% less energy, and last 25 times longer than traditional incandescent lighting. No current incandescent bulb comes close to meeting the standard set by the federal government in 2007, when it passed a law mandating that by the year 2020 lightbulbs must be three times more efficient.



LEDs cost more but use less energy. Widespread use of LED lighting has the greatest potential impact on energy savings in the United States. By 2027, widespread use of LEDs could save about 348 TWh (compared to no LED use) of electricity: This is the equivalent annual electrical output of 44 large electric power plants (1000 megawatts each), and a total savings of more than \$30 billion at today's electricity prices. LEDs last about 25,000 hours, which if used for five hours a day, is more than 13 years. Incandescent light bulbs last about 1,200 hours and compact fluorescents about 8,000.

<https://www.energy.gov/energysaver/save-electricity-and-fuel/lighting-choices-save-you-money/led-lighting>

# Caring For Our Planet



Courtesy of Earthjustice

However for the past several years the significant impact of neonics, a class of neuro-active insecticides chemically similar to nicotine has been in question. Neonics are pesticides that are absorbed into all parts of the plant making the entire plant toxic to insects. The graphic on the right explains the effect neonics have on bees.

**Earthjustice** has been fighting the use of neonics on crops and recently won two court cases which caused the EPA to put nationwide restrictions on the use of sulfoxaflor.

Follow the link to read an excellent article, which includes a caution about planting flowers in your yard that have been treated with these chemicals.

<https://earthjustice.org/features/the-perfect-crime>

## Bees

Honeybees are the pollinators of more than one-third of our nation's crops. Researchers continue to zero in on what has caused colony collapse disorder, which has a huge impact on our agriculture production. The prevailing theory among scientists in EPA, USDA and the global scientific and regulatory community is "that the general declining health of honey bees is related to complex interactions among multiple stressors including:

- Pests, pathogens, and viruses.
- Poor nutrition (e.g., due to loss of foraging habitat and increased reliance on supplemental diets).
- Pesticide exposure.
- Bee management practices (e.g., long migratory routes to support pollination services).
- Lack of genetic diversity."

<https://www.epa.gov/pollinator-protection/pollinator-health-concerns#factors>

## HOW NEONICS HARM HONEYBEES

Repeated exposure to neonics starts to change a bee's life and impact the entire colony. The science shows there are a number of different outcomes after exposure:



### ILLNESS AND DEATH

Neonics make it hard for bees to groom themselves, making them susceptible to disease and mites and weakening their immune systems.

### LOST & CONFUSED

Neonics affect bees' ability to navigate back to the hive. Unable to find their way home, they die. Worker bees supply the colony's food. If they don't come back, the entire colony can starve.

### COLONY CONTAMINATION

If a bee is able to return to the hive, they return covered in contaminated pollen. As other bees store the pollen, they all become contaminated.



Courtesy of Earthjustice

## Opportunities

**Discover Human Rights:  
A Human Rights Approach to  
Social Justice Training Series**

May 3-4, 2018  
Minneapolis, MN

[www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/2018\\_dhr\\_training.html](http://www.theadvocatesforhumanrights.org/2018_dhr_training.html)

**Responsive Classroom Workshops**

are held throughout the summer  
in a city near you.

New courses this year:

Strategies to Prevent Bullying  
Connecting Morning Meeting to  
Academics

Communication Strategies That Work  
Focused Learning from Beginning to End  
Special Area Teachers

Find out more at

<https://www.responsiveclassroom.org/workshops/course-descriptions/>

NYU School of Professional Studies offers a **MS in Global Affairs**. Find out more at <http://www.scps.nyu.edu/academics/departments/global-affairs/academic-offerings/graduate/ms-in-global-affairs.html>

**Summer Solstice and  
Celebration of National Pollinator Week**

La Vista Ecological Center  
Godfrey, IL

Saturday, June 23, 2018, 2:00 – 4:00 pm  
Vernon DePauw will lead us in making bee nesting structures to take home and install in our yards and in the Pollinator Garden at La Vista. There will also be bee nests for sale. Cost: Donations to support our programming are always welcome.

Register by calling 618-466-5004  
or e-mail [info@lavistaelc.org](mailto:info@lavistaelc.org)

<https://www.lavistaelc.org/current-programs>



**International Literacy Association's  
Annual Conference**

July 20—23, 2018  
Austin, TX

General Session Speakers:  
Nadia Lopez  
Cornelius Minor  
Adan Gonzalez

<https://literacyworldwide.org/conference>

**National Association for Multicultural  
Education Conference**

#NAME2018

November 27—30, 2018  
Memphis, TN

How Many More 'Til We Rise Up?  
Multicultural Education, a Radical  
Response of Love, Life and  
Dr. King's Dream

[https://www.nameorg.org/name\\_conference\\_info.php](https://www.nameorg.org/name_conference_info.php)

**National Council for the Social Studies  
98th NCSS Annual Conference**

November 30—December 2, 2018  
Hyatt Regency Chicago  
151 E. Wacker Dr.  
Chicago, IL

<https://www.socialstudies.org/conference>

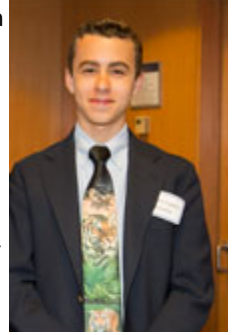
**Creative Play Grants** were developed by KaBoom! to help provide all kids with access to great playgrounds. Grantees will be awarded an innovative playground for their U.S. based school or community. Funding for Creative Play grants is limited to specific times of the calendar year and to specific geographic or organizational parameters. Viable applications will be kept on file indefinitely and applicants are only contacted when funding becomes available in their area. To learn more go to [https://kaboom.org/grants/creative\\_play](https://kaboom.org/grants/creative_play)

“We are on spaceship Earth—we are all on the same team and must work together to solve Earth’s problems. I wish our leaders who are fighting with each other could come into space. They’d get a different perspective and would work together.”

Scott Kelly, Astronaut

## Peacemakers at Work

**Adam Crellin-Sazama** is a student at Boston Latin School and a volunteer at the Franklin Park Zoo. His passion is raising awareness of climate change. He has worked on many climate change projects, such as stopping gas leaks, trying to get the City of Boston to divest from fossil fuel companies, and helping to organize a group of students from Boston to attend the climate march in New York City in September 2014. Seven busloads of Boston Public Schools students went to the march. In November of 2015, he traveled to Paris as a youth representative to the NGO part of COP21, the international climate conference. He has created a presentation to show people the connection between climate change and the threat to wildlife. In November Adam gave a talk about climate change and why he's hopeful that his generation can be the next greatest generation by confronting the causes and effects of human-driven global warming and climate change.



Adam shared this presentation with hundreds at TEDxBeaconStreet, and it marked another step forward in getting the message out that youth care about the environment and that they will be the ones to change the world. Visit his website: Youth United for Animals and the Planet at [www.yuap.org](http://www.yuap.org)

**Rachel Lloyd** has been nominated for the 2017—2018 World's Children's Prize for her work spanning over 20 years to tackle domestic trafficking and commercial sexual exploitation of children in the United States (CSEC). Rachel is a survivor of mental and physical abuse during her childhood in the United Kingdom, and was exploited in the sex industry as a teenager in Germany. At the age of 22, Rachel moved to the USA and was shocked to see girls as young as 12 being sold on the streets of New York City. Rachel founded GEMS (Girls Educational and Mentoring Services) at her kitchen table with just 30 dollars and a borrowed computer. Since then, she and GEMS have transformed the lives of thousands of girls by offering love and practical support.

Rachel and GEMS have also pushed through more child-friendly laws and systems, including The New York Safe Harbor Act – the first law in the US giving children who have been forced to sell sex the right to support and protection, instead of punishment. Rachel's fight has brought about a change in society, from treating the girls affected as criminals, to seeing them as victims, and then survivors and leaders.

Every year, 400 girls and young women receive direct services from Rachel and GEMS. Some 1,500 girls are reached via preventive programs, and over 1,300 professionals including social workers and police officers receive training about CSEC and girls' rights. [worldschildrensprize.org](http://worldschildrensprize.org)

“I alone cannot change the world,  
but I can cast a stone across the waters  
to create many ripples”.

Mother Teresa



As the founder of the organization Polished Girlz, **Alanna Wall** has changed the lives of so many adults and her peers with her creativity, caring heart, and a little glitter. In February 2011 at the age of 10, Alanna decided to get some friends together to do something special for girls with special needs. In the words of Alanna, “glitter makes everything better.” That is exactly what she set out to do – change the lives of others – and thus Polished Girlz was formed. With the help and tremendous support of her mother, Ms. Valerie Ragland, Polished Girlz began contacting local nonprofit organizations to see if they could cheer up clients by polishing their finger nails and teach them about the importance of hand washing. The Polished Girlz have already touched the lives of hundreds of clients with disabilities from various organization. What started as a way to do something special for a couple of girls with special needs, has transformed into a revelation of what one person can do to change their community and the world. <http://polishedgirlz.org>

## A Scorpion Moment

**by: Author Unknown, Source Unknown**

There was this Hindu who saw a scorpion floundering around in the water. He decided to save it by stretching out his finger, but the scorpion stung him.

The man still tried to get the scorpion out of the water, but the scorpion stung him again.

A man nearby told him to stop saving the scorpion that kept stinging him.

But the Hindu said: "It is the nature of the scorpion to sting. It is my nature to love. Why should I give up my nature to love just because it is the nature of the scorpion to sting?"

Don't give up loving.

Don't give up your goodness.

Even if people around you sting.

<https://www.inspirationalstories.com>

If you would like to receive a color PDF version by email, please contact

**Linda Shea**, Subscription Manager [hshea@snet.net](mailto:hshea@snet.net)

Our newsletter can be found online at: [HTTP://dkgct.weebly.com](http://dkgct.weebly.com)

Curriculum of Hope is a Standing Committee of Alpha Kappa State Connecticut.  
Our intent is to promulgate resources and information, not to endorse products.

**Sue Moon**  
**Committee Chair**  
41 Indian Spring Rd.  
Woodstock, CT 06281  
[sue@racespot.com](mailto:sue@racespot.com)

**Janice McKusick**  
**Editor**  
102 Chaffeeville Rd.  
Storrs, CT 06268  
[jmckusick@charter.net](mailto:jmckusick@charter.net)

**Jeanne Morascini**  
**Founder**  
9 Old Willimantic Rd.  
Columbia, CT 06237  
[Jemora@aol.com](mailto:Jemora@aol.com) 1-860-228-9293

A Curriculum of Hope  
for a Peaceful World  
9 Old Willimantic Rd.  
Columbia, CT 06237

