



A CURRICULUM OF
HOPE FOR A
PEACEFUL WORLD

A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter

VOLUME XXXVIII
ISSUE I
WINTER 2024

Dear Readers—

This is a difficult issue to write. As most of you know, our leader, mentor, and friend Jeanne Morascini, passed away peacefully on September 3rd, 2023 at the age of 94.

This newsletter was Jeanne Morascini's passion and it is her legacy. She was a tireless advocate for peace and human rights. Jeanne had a tattered and well-loved quote from Mahatma Gandhi hanging on her fridge – "If we are to reach real peace in the world... we shall have to begin with the children."

Jeanne was the mother of six children, an elementary teacher, a veteran of the Korean War, an Honorary Life Member of Temple B'Nai Israel in Willimantic, CT, and a third-generation Life Member of Hadassah, who honored her with the Hand of Healing Award. She was also honored with The Human Rights Award by Church Women United and the Mahatma Gandhi Award from the Connecticut Education Association.

Jeanne was a 55-year member of the Delta Kappa Gamma International Society for key women educators. Jeanne founded A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Committee, a standing committee of DKG Connecticut, in 1985. Our committee has provided teachers with resources, materials, curriculum guides, ideas for projects, and still publishes two/three newsletters per year. The committee has hosted conferences, workshops, art exhibits, permanent remembrances and funded speakers for adults and students. The committee and Jeanne's mission has always been to promote critical thinking, conflict resolution, cooperative learning and caring for our planet at the local, state, national and international levels. In each of our newsletters, readers have found information focused on global peace, human rights, environmental issues, education, and a sustainable planet. Jeanne devoted her life to the causes she believed in.

In 1994, Jeanne founded the Hochberg Holocaust and Human Rights Education Committee at Temple B'Nai Israel. That committee branched out to form an Interfaith Working Group, a refugee resettlement group, an area interfaith ministry group, and a group to provide housing. They awarded grants to schools and public libraries to expand their collections about the Holocaust and social justice issues and to fund speakers.

To quote Jeanne: "I know this for sure; the hope for a peaceful world depends on each and every one of us. Education leading to interfaith understanding, belief in human rights for all, and respect, caring and compassion for everyone is vital to our survival. Every person on this planet is going to have to stand up and fight the evil that is trying to overtake the good."

Jeanne will be greatly missed.

A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Committee
Anita, Jackie, Pat, Sue, Carol, Lisa, Ann and Ann, Joyce, Linda, Dottie, Sharon, Karen and Janice

"We can find meaning and reward by serving some higher purpose than ourselves, a shining purpose, the illumination of a thousand points of light. We all have something to give."

—President George H.W. Bush, Founder of Points of Light.



Actions for the New Year

2024 2024 2024 2024

- * Add some volunteering to your life. Helping others increases happiness and reduces stress.
- * Pay it forward. When you're at the drive-thru window, you can pay for the car behind you. When the person gets to the window to receive their order, it will be a pleasant surprise to find out it is already paid for.
- * Declutter and donate. Recognize that you need to take it slow.
- * Keep a gratitude journal. You may be able to find someone who needs to hear they are appreciated.
- * Spend time in nature. Bring a trash bag and gloves—just in case.
- * Promote good causes and important issues over social media.
- * Ask someone how you can help them.
- * Smile and be nice—even to strangers. Say “good morning”.
- * Use your manners, say please and thank you. Be patient, caring, observant, and considerate. Treat people with respect, even those you don't particularly want to get to know. Offer help and assistance when someone needs it. Be courteous, polite, and helpful.
- * Break-up with one thing plastic—like plastic sandwich bags. Don't buy them so you won't be tempted to use them.
- * Reconnect with a family member or old friend. Start by sending a card or email and see what happens.
- * Of course you can always try an “oldie but goodie” - exercise regularly, eat better, get more sleep and/or work on breaking a “bad” habit.

“Trust yourself.

**Create the kind of self that you will be happy to live with all your life.
Make the most of yourself by fanning the tiny, inner sparks of possibility
into flames of achievement.”**

— Golda Meir



Book Choice

“Book banning is the act of removing materials from a school or library’s collection as a result of objections from groups or individuals who say they need to protect others—typically children—from the difficult information or ideas contained in the books”. American Library Association

The first recorded instances of this censorship practice in Colonial America focused on religious and political texts deemed too dangerous for the general public. This censorship continued throughout the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries.

The most commonly banned books in America today include children’s books, teen books and titles written for adults that address topics like race, mental health, LGBTQ+ issues and politics, and/or include offensive language, gun violence or sexist content.

Many feel that book banning will have a lasting negative effect on our society, including limiting the ability for students in schools to learn from the discussion of issues in order to face them appropriately in the future. There is a lot to read and learn about this topic.

[Book Banning: Definition, Meaning & Societal Impact | Trusted Since 1922 \(rd.com\)](#)

[2023 Banned Books Update: Banned in the USA \(pen.org\)](#)



The classics you read in high school aren’t exempt from challenges. Authors like Maya Angelou, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Alice Walker and Judy Blume have all faced bans. These titles are among the classics that have come under fire in recent years:

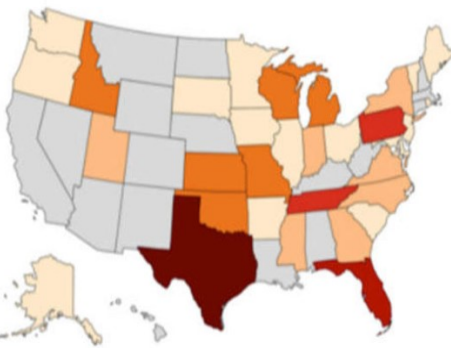
- 1984** by George Orwell
- The Color Purple** by Alice Walker
- The Catcher in the Rye** by J.D. Salinger
- The Great Gatsby** by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** by Maya Angelou
- Lord of the Flies** by William Golding
- Of Mice and Men** by John Steinbeck
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest** by Ken Kesey
- To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee
- Forever...** by Judy Blume
- The Giver** by Lois Lowry
- Beloved** by Toni Morrison
- Lady Chatterley’s Lover** by D.H. Lawrence
- Brave New World** by Aldous Huxley
- Ulysses** by James Joyce
- Gone With the Wind** by Margaret Mitchell
- Animal Farm** by George Orwell

**“Banning books gives us silence
when we need speech.
It closes our ears
when we need to listen.
It makes us blind
when we need sight.”
— Stephen Chbosky**



School Book Bans by State

July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022



Data from PEN America Index of School Book Bans, July 1, 2021-June 30, 2022.

*There are no states with 51-250 bans

Book Choice

A Child's Right to Choose What They Read

A twelve-year-old boy who is an active reader, is exploring many types of literature. When his mother is given a collection of possible books for him to read, she is asked by the donor if she thinks they are appropriate for him. His mother responds by saying, "He has the right to choose what he reads." What happens when he goes to school? Who will be involved with the boy's choices? Will the boy have the right to choose what he reads?

This is a question our society, our school systems, and our classrooms are facing today. We believe that in a democratic society everyone has the right to choose what they read. We also understand there are other beliefs at work here. Teachers, parents, and community leaders have the responsibility to help children realize their right to choose what they read. Providing inclusive texts in classrooms and libraries is an essential part of addressing that right.

We hope this article will start a conversation about the importance of having inclusive books available for all children. We do not claim to be experts in this field, but we do have an opinion. There is so much research going on about this topic right now. We are however, concerned that many forces are forming to deny the right for children, schools, and libraries to provide inclusive books. We argue that having an understanding of the lives of others, gives children the first steps to valuing differences.

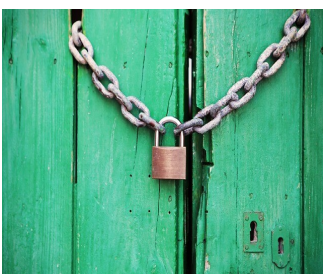
Young children see identity in physical things. How they see themselves becomes part of their personality development. When they see themselves as different than others in books, their personality development becomes stagnant. They need to see themselves and their life experiences in books as well as to also see others in order to develop views of the world.

A book that is a mirror for a child is one in which a child sees himself and his life experiences in the content. A book is a window when it allows a child to see others who are not like them. One example is *Don't Touch My Hair* (Miller, 2018). This book serves as a mirror for a child that has an afro hair style and a window for children that have other hair styles. It also serves as an example of respecting personal space for all children. That's an inclusive book.

Inclusive texts capture identities and experiences spanning race, ethnicity, class, culture, language, religion, and gender. It also includes orientation, ability, family structure, and other facets. (Inclusive Texts in Elementary Classrooms, Developing Literacies, Identities and Understandings, Heineke & Papola-Ellis, 2022). Making inclusive texts available is necessary to provide children a comprehensive view of the world.

Let us return to the twelve-year-old boy whose mother places trust in her son to make good choices, choices made only by him. Can we live with that or is there a need to monitor children's reading choices? We hope you will continue to think about how inclusive books can be and perhaps should be relevant for all children.

Dr. Jackie Abbott, Pat O'Connell—Buckley and Anita Satriano



The **American Library Association** sponsors a banned books week in October each year. On their site they have tons of information and resources. ALA documented 1,269 demands to censor library books and resources in 2022, the highest number of attempted book bans since ALA began compiling data about censorship in libraries more than 20 years ago. [Banned & Challenged Books | Advocacy, Legislation & Issues \(ala.org\)](#)

Calendar

January

15 Martin Luther King Day

Download a step-by-step Guide for Educators in English and Spanish on using Flip all year long with starter ideas for elementary, secondary, and higher education learners utilizing the King Collection timeline. Flip (formerly Flipgrid) is a free web and mobile app from Microsoft that schools around the world use to record, edit and share video assignments.

[King Holiday 2024 - The King Center](#)

Information for elementary students.

[Martin Luther King Day for Kids: Understanding the Legacy and Lessons \(kidswholearn.com\)](#)

[5 Creative MLK Day Activities to Celebrate Dr. King - The Butterfly Teacher](#)

27 International Holocaust Remembrance Day

On this annual day of commemoration, the UN urges every member state to honor the six million Jewish victims of the Holocaust and millions of other victims of Nazism and to develop educational programs to help prevent future genocides. – www.ushmm.org

[Teaching International Holocaust Remembrance Day to Children | Woo! Jr. Kids Activities : Children's Publishing \(woojr.com\)](#)

February

February is Black History Month

Here are a few resources.

[Welcome to Blackpast](#) African American History: people, places, groups and organizations, events, and primary documents

[AAME : Home \(inmotionaame.org\)](http://www.inmotionaame.org) The African—American Migration Experience

www.learningforjustice.org

10 Chinese New Year: Year of the Dragpm

Activities for PK—grade 5 children can be found here at [Chinese New Year Activity Ideas | Scholastic](#)

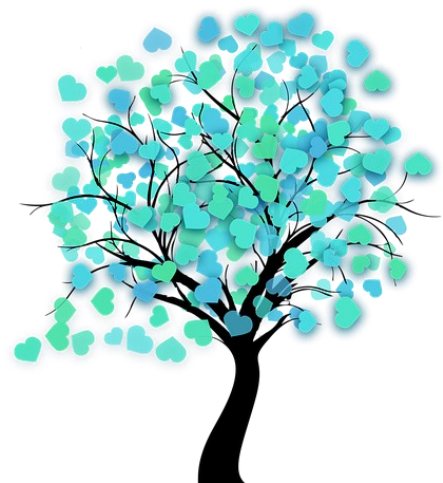
[13 Easy To Make Chinese New Year Crafts For Kids - SoCal Field Trips](#)

19 Presidents' Day

A day to honor the birthdays of George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. Some creative ideas can be found at <https://www.educationworld.com/a/lesson/lesson223.shtml>

“Gratitude can transform common days into Thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.”

—William Arthur Ward



March

March is Music In Our Schools Month

[Music In Our Schools Month® \(MIOSM®\) - NAFME Learning From Lyrics ©1996-2012](#)

Check this activity calendar for every day of the month of March [Indiana Music In Our Schools Month Activity Calendar - Google Slides](#)

March is Women's History Month

<https://womenshistorymonth.gov>

2 Read Across America Day

[Read Across America](#), created by the National Education Association (NEA), began in 1997. See also: [29 Unique Read Across America Activities for All Ages \(parentingnest.com\)](#)

8 International Women's Day

Celebrating women's achievements and promoting equality—this site has great resources for high schoolers.

www.internationalwomensday.com

22 World Water Day

Started in 1993, World Water Day celebrates water and raises awareness of the 2 billion people living without access to safe water.

www.worldwaterday.org

May

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Awareness Month

[Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage - Telling All Americans' Stories \(U.S. National Park Service\) \(nps.gov\)](#)

5 Cinco de Mayo Cinco de Mayo is the annual celebration held on May 5, which commemorates the anniversary of Mexico's victory over the French Empire at the Battle of Puebla in 1862.

[The Best Sites For Teaching & Learning About Cinco de Mayo | Larry Ferlazzo's Websites... \(edublogs.org\)](#)

April

7 World Health Day

World Health Day remembers the 1948 founding of the World Health Organization. The theme this year is "Health for All".

www.who.int/campaigns/world-health-day/

22 Earth Day

<https://www.earthday.org/>

For Earth Day 2024, EARTHDAY.ORG is committed to end plastics for the sake of human and planetary health, demanding a 60% reduction in the production of ALL plastics by 2040.

22-26 National Environmental Education Week

Watch this site for 2023 updates. [https://](https://www.neefusa.org/environmental-education-week)

www.neefusa.org/environmental-education-week

29 Arbor Day

America's first Arbor Day took place toward the start of the 1870s — right around the time Congress established Yellowstone National Park.

<https://www.arborday.org/>

<https://nationaltoday.com/arbor-day/>

www.stateforesters.org/

June

19 Juneteenth

Juneteenth is a federal holiday in the United States commemorating the emancipation of enslaved African Americans.

<https://www.history.com/news/what-is-juneteenth> (woojr.com)

[The Top 6 Ways to Celebrate Juneteenth with Kids - Crafting A Fun Life](#)

Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter Subscription Information

Dear Readers,

First, thank you to those of you who contributed to our committee in memory of Jeanne. We have plans to erect a new peace pole in her honor at Heritage Park in Willimantic. We will keep you updated!

Second, after much discussion and years of consideration we have decided to only send our newsletter by email. It is sent as a PDF. Our reasons are financial. The choice is a sustainable one for our planet and saves a lot of money, which can be spent on other projects.



This being said, if you do not use email, or know a reader that can only access the newsletter in print, please let us know. We are committed to mailing to anyone who needs it. Please send your name and address to Sue Moon.

Finally, It is that time of year when we ask each one of you for your continued support. We greatly appreciate those of you have contributed to our work. While we hope to no longer need to purchase paper, toner, labels, and postage, we do have several projects we will continue to pursue. We are blessed with 25 or so patrons whose generosity has helped to sustain us throughout the years. Now, in our 38th year of continuous publication, we will continue the work Jeanne held so close to her heart. We are thankful for your generosity.

Any questions or comments, contact Sue sue@racespot.com or Jan jmckusick@charter.net.

In advance, we thank you very much.

Current email subscribers will continue to receive the newsletter until you request to be removed. Please send all monies to Sue Moon: 41 Indian Spring Rd. Woodstock, CT 06281

_____ I would like to be a **Patron for Peace** to support your work.
(Any amount is greatly appreciated.)

_____ Please remove my name from your mailing list.

If you would like to be added to our email list, please email Linda Shea: hshea@snet.net

Name _____ Email _____



The Last Word

Controlling Anger [20 Best Short Moral Stories for Kids \(Valuable Lessons\) - MomLovesBest](#)

Once, there was a young boy. This boy had problems controlling his anger. When he got angry, he would say the first thing that came to mind, even if it affected people.

One day, his father gifted him a hammer and a bundle of nails, then said, “Whenever you get mad, hammer a nail into the backyard fence.”

The boy used up half of his nails in the first few days. Over the following weeks, he used up fewer nails until his temper was under control. The father then asked the young boy to remove a nail for each day he didn’t lose his temper.

On the day when the boy had removed his last nail, his father told him, “You have done good, boy. But can you see the holes in the wall? The fence is never going to be the same. Likewise, when you say mean things in anger, you’ll leave a scar.”

Moral: Anger is like a knife — one of the most dangerous weapons. When you use it, the wounds will heal, but the scars remain.

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