



A CURRICULUM OF
HOPE FOR A PEACEFUL
WORLD

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A Curriculum of Hope for a Peaceful World Newsletter

Founder's Message

2017 has started with humankind tiptoeing forward apprehensively, trying to extend the usual New Year feelings of optimism and hope while knowing the reality that this new year will challenge us all. We are facing the uncertainties brought about by significant changes around the world. Changes that have been precipitated in several countries by the individual votes of citizens dissatisfied with the policies and actions of their governing officials and no faith in existing government institutions.

"Once upon a time," as many fairy tales are started, national changes would be contained within the borders of each country and absorbed by whatever countermeasures were needed to maintain national stability. But in 2017, our lives are not based in fairy tales. We are faced with the certainty of gained true scientific knowledge that the survival and flourishing of our planet home, Earth, with its abundant but limited life sustaining resources, is dependent upon every inhabitant's environmental actions. True historical knowledge teaches us that governing political leaders' economic decisions have often knowingly resulted in adverse consequences for the general masses while benefitting the elite. And sadly, today's trends of corruption lead to the same unfair, unjust decisions. Of the utmost importance are political leaders' actions toward nuclear policies with possible dire consequences for all on Earth.

So 2017 is not going to be a year of "business as usual" for any thinking caring person: it's going to be a year of total commitment for each of us. This is the task ahead: first we must be aware and ever mindful of what our political leaders everywhere are espousing, putting forth for approval and even acting on unilaterally. Our political views may be divided, that is not the important issue. Second, we must be alert and focused on learning the true facts of what is happening AND the ramifications that will reverberate locally, nationally and internationally. Then we must be activists for what we believe to be the right thing to do to protect the human rights of all. The most frightening and disconcerting actions are non-actions: we learn of policies boldly put forth that are harmful to any faction of our citizenry; we wait for the outrage to take shape; it is spoken of briefly, then no one makes the commitment to take on and reveal the subterfuge! In each country where the populace is represented by elected officials, the populace, that means us, must call, write, email, tweet, etc. their officials and demand action. Elected officials, afraid of not being re-elected, will respond to constituent pressure. This is a universal known condition: voters have more power than lobbyists if they organize, pressure and threaten! The sad statement of fact is that we do not make the necessary commitment to be effective. Commitment requires making time to do something when there is no time in our busy lives. Coming through time after time, year after year, believing in our individual power to change the results for all. Commitment is the stuff character is made of!

Today we are living what will become tomorrow's history. We, each one of us, are in control of how it will be written. Please believe in your individual power and believe that collectively we can create what will be our future, the future of all mankind. It evolves one step at a time. Remember the three A tasks: Be ALERT and mindful, be AWARE of the truth, and be an ACTIVIST, pressuring your representatives and political leaders to do the right thing. If you are reading this, YOU are a PEACEMAKER. Please believe it and join us in controlling how the history of our time will be written. Keep focused on our name "Hope for a Peaceful World." Where there is hope there is always the possibility for betterment. Be one of the hundreds of millions working everywhere with hope in their hearts as a positive moral compass. May 2017 and beyond bring you feelings of accomplishment as together we support, nurture, and provide comfort and security to everyone we meet: it's what peacemakers do.

Thank you for your continued interest in our work and for your comments and encouragement.

Jeanne Morascini, Founder



The best
way to
predict
the
future
is to
create
it.

Abraham
Lincoln



Be aware, alert and active...

Keep helpful, hopeful and positive

Believe us when we tell you of the hundreds of millions of people worldwide who are peacemaking every day in their own ways. Through the worldwide web we can be connected as if we are close neighbors. From those in the largest cities and the smallest villages, with those in our surrounding towns as well as faraway hamlets, we can share ideas and resources and work together to help make life better for all. Here are links to a few sites and publications where you will receive good news and factual information from around the globe.

Happy News

Happy News believes that virtue, goodwill and heroism are hot news. They share up-to-the-minute news, geared to lift spirits and inspire lives.

<https://www.happynews.com/>

TED

TED is a nonprofit global community, welcoming people from every discipline and culture who seek a deeper understanding of the world. They believe in the power of ideas to change attitudes, lives and, ultimately, the world.

<http://www.ted.com/>

Good News Network

Since 1997, people have turned to the Good News Network® as an antidote to the barrage of negativity experienced in the mainstream media.

<http://www.goodnewsnetwork.org/>

South Africa Good News

The Good News is a news website that highlights the positive developments in South Africa and has good news for everyone.

<http://www.sagoodnews.co.za/>

Good News Agency

Published in English, Italian and Portuguese, this newsletter carries positive and constructive news from all over the world relating to voluntary work, the work of the United Nations, non governmental organizations and institutions engaged in improving the quality of life.

<http://www.goodnewsagency.org/en/home.php?mt=en>

Culture of Peace

The culture of peace and non-violence is a commitment to peace-building, mediation, conflict prevention and resolution, peace education, education for non-violence, tolerance, acceptance, mutual respect, intercultural and interfaith dialogue and reconciliation.

<http://en.unesco.org/cultureofpeace/>

Daily Good

DailyGood promotes positive and uplifting news around the world to more than 100,000 subscribers through daily and weekly newsletters. Readers receive a news story, an inspiring quote, and a suggested action that each person can take to make a difference in their own lives and the world around them.

<http://www.dailygood.org/>

sunny skyz

<http://www.sunnyskyz.com/good-news>

I will never understand all the good
that a simple smile can accomplish.

Mother Teresa



Caring For Our Planet



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Repurpose!

Repurposing, also known as upcycling, is a great way to be creative and keep waste out of landfills. Here are just a few of the simpler ideas you can find on internet—perfect projects for a cold winter day. The website **Upcycle That** has some incredible ideas and stories about people around the world who are giving items that are no longer being used a second life and a new purpose. <http://www.upcyclethat.com/>

Make An Earring Tree

All you need is a picture frame with the glass broken out of it. String picture wire across the area where the glass used to be. You can make as many rows as you want and space the rows to accommodate different sizes of earrings.



From Kevin and Amanda

<http://www.kevinandamanda.com/tutorial-shabby-chic-dangly-earring-display/>

Turn Old Keys into Hooks

Bend old keys and turn them into wall hooks.

From Popular Mechanics

<http://www.popularmechanics.com/home/how-to-plans/how-to/g2343/smart-ways-to-reuse-old-junk/?slide=4>



Old Sweaters = Infinity Scarf

All you need is a couple of old sweaters, a hot glue gun, some painter's tape, scissors that will cut fabric, and a piece of card stock. Use the cardstock to create a size template, cut the rectangles out of flat pieces of sweater, and glue them together, creating a scarf. You then glue the two ends together.



<http://www.brit.co/sweater-circle-scarf/>

T Shirt into Tote Bag

You don't even have to sew to turn an old t-shirt into a reusable, washable grocery bag. You can put a piece of cardboard in the bottom to make it sturdier. <http://www.momypotamus.com/no-sew-t-shirt-tote-bag-tutorial/>



Or try this idea for a bag with fringe!

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gj-B_-qiLj8

And just for teachers....



Spray paint old cookie sheets with bright colors and use them for magnetic letters and numbers.

<http://blog.maketaketeach.com/how-to-paint-a-cookie-sheet/>



Repurpose laundry detergent tops or even frosting containers into pencil holders adhered to desks with Velcro.

Frosting containers also make great storage for bulletin board borders!



Use paint stirrers and ABC stickers for classroom libraries.



Glue pompoms onto dry erase markers to make built-in erasers.



Use Home Depot aprons for chair pockets.



Turn binders into clipboards.



Human Trafficking

In Iceland, 85 anonymous women from all walks of life joined forces, in what came to be called “Operation Big Sister.” The sisters created an innovative, grass roots campaign to end human trafficking. As a result of their effort, the Icelandic government assigned 25 million Kronur to build a special police task force to investigate and prosecute perpetrators of prostitution and human trafficking. The Reykjavik Police closed down 13 brothels posing as champagne clubs. The “Snow Club,” a multi-million dollar international child and adult pornography conference to be held in Iceland, was blocked at the border.

According to the UN Office of Drugs and Crime, human trafficking is growing faster than the arms trade and drug trade, and is expected to surpass the drug trade as the number one criminal enterprise worldwide. It is estimated that there are 31 million trafficked slaves in the world, mostly women and children.

The Fryera Foundation is collaborating with the Big Sisters to tell their story in a feel-good feature film about one of the world’s worst feel-bad subjects. The film, a companion documentary, and an educational curriculum will be produced to help stop human trafficking worldwide.

<https://www.crowdrise.com/operationbigsister>

What’s Going On in Mexico Related to Refugees

According to what has been said, the new U.S. President Mr. Trump will be sending back to Mexico thousands of immigrants and there is no way to solve this problem, mentioned Ms. SANA GÜEZMES GARCÍA, United Nations Representative in Mexico.

Besides what she mentioned there are some other problems; one is there are no funds to establish more shelters and there are hundreds of Haitians and Africans in Tijuana waiting to cross the border and Tijuana does not have more space for them. The other problem is that migrant women are traveling by themselves as heads of the family looking for better economic conditions (UN Women in Mexico)

Next year Mexico will present its 3rd report as a country to the UN Committee with reference to laborers and their families and also will report before the Committee of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) who supervises the compliance of this.

The State of Jalisco, Guadalajara City (where I live), has established a shelter for migrants who are on their way to the U.S. and they are just waiting for the train that goes to the border (Nogales). This shelter offers to a maximum of 80 people, food, rest, clean clothes, a telephone call to their families, medical and legal advice. They may stay three or four days while some others may stay for months according to their law procedures. In this shelter there are about 140 volunteers who are giving special attention to the migrants all through the year.

Water

The “Hippo Water Roller Project” was established in 1994 in response to needs of rural women and children across Africa.

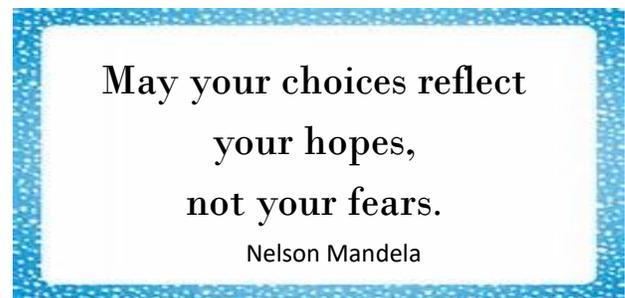


The impact of this project has been felt in more than 20 countries, with a total distribution of 50,000 Hippo Water Rollers, has reached close to half a million people.

<https://www.hipporoller.org>

Oceans

Bryan Slat founded The Ocean Cleanup at the age of 17. Today he is working on the first feasible method to clean up the ocean garbage patches. Based on the idea that coastlines catch plastics, the company is developing floating barriers attached to the sea bed that would act as a trap for ocean plastic. www.theoceancleanup.com



May your choices reflect
your hopes,
not your fears.

Nelson Mandela

Hilda Díaz Y Borbolla
Guadalajara México

Maria Katharina Heimbach wrote to us regarding an interesting program for refugees .

Closlieu - Paint and Play - An Integration Project of Delta Chapter of The Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Germany

“Closlieu” (from the French "clos", meaning enclosed or enclosure, and "lieu", place).

Arno Stern was born in Kassel/Germany in the summer of 1942. At the age of nine he was forced to leave Germany together with his parents. The persecution and murder of Jews under the Nazis gave the family no other alternative but to flee, first to France. For ten years the family faced the risk of detection. The family was then held at a detention camp in Switzerland for three further years. In 1946, at the age of 22, robbed of his childhood and early youth, Arno Stern was assigned to a home for war orphans in Paris. His job was to look after the children. He let them paint.

Aware of the special nature of his assignment, Arno Stern went about creating the conditions necessary for the children to be able to paint. In due course he created the so-called “palette table,” offering an array of special Gouache paints and brushes and a “protective ambience,” first in 1949 in his living-room, and then around 1950 in a studio in St. Germain des Pres. This was the room where the children, with the help of paint and brush, were able to give free and playful expression to their inner needs. He created a space – the “Closlieu,” a place to paint, where there was no criticism, no evaluation, no grading. What’s more, the pictures stayed in the room and were kept in folders. The aim here is not the picture itself but feeling good within the secureness of the room. After 60 years of experience with the Closlieu and a wide range of fieldwork with nomads in Africa, Peru, Mexico, Niger, Afghanistan, Guatemala, Ethiopia, New Guinea, Arno Stern refers to “Formulation,” a universal capacity that activates people’s ability to play and allows them to find a form of expression emanating from organic memory. This is where painting/playing children, young people and adults can enjoy moments of tranquility by expressing themselves on paper. Here, they are at one with themselves. In recent years research in neurobiology and embryology has drawn on the results of Arno Stern’s work. There are over 500,000 filed samples.

The initiative to develop an integration concept based on Arno Stern’s Closlieu has evolved as a result of the growing number of refugees coming to Europe. The idea is that refugees together with non-refugees, primarily women and children, discover anew within the sheltered ambience of the Closlieu their ability to play, without evaluation or criticism, and to find expression for their inner needs by drawing on organic memory. “A stroke of the brush, a chance moment to express innermost needs enables someone to find his true self again.” (Arno Stern). Being together helps bring down language barriers and offers the opportunity not only to overcome traumata but also to regain dignity and identity. A “sponsorship contract” between refugee and non-refugee women/children guarantees that a part of the annual costs are covered, and it caters to mutual responsibility. The “sponsorship contract” opens up opportunities for other activities offered to refugees, such as learning to deal with the new language. The paint-play concept not only helps deal with traumata and fears, it also bolsters self-esteem. And this all provides a long-term motivation to learn the German language. A regular group structure offers orientation and a sense of security. This again supports the notion of helping people to help themselves within the family and within society. Other forms of help involve medical and therapeutic care, filling in forms, leisure activities, etc. Most of the refugees are male. This integration model is intended to give refugee women and children an opportunity to integrate and partake of education.

Committing to attending the Closlieu at least once a week for one year creates an opportunity for the paint/play concept in the Closlieu to make an impact. According to Arno Stern people need a specific length of time to feel the benefits of this form of painting. One year creates the opportunity of getting to know each other. Voluntary interpreters, therapists and doctors are there to support the project.

The Closlieu has been established in association with the Oldenburg School of Art, an officially supported facility. The Oldenburg School of Art provides room and overhead costs. Delta Chapter of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society International Deutschland is responsible for providing equipment and materials, for personnel (voluntary work of DKG members) and transportation of refugee participants. Helga Reinders, retired art teacher and member of Delta Chapter, attended an intensive, educational two-week course in Paris with Arno Stern. Helga is the manager and leader of the project.



Be An Agent for Peace in 2017 for Gun Violence Prevention By Becoming A Sandy Hook Promise Leader In Your School and Community

Work for peace in our world must include work for gun violence prevention. With homicides, accidents, and suicides killing at least 1 child in the U.S. every other day in the first 6 months of 2016 and 33,000 Americans a year, as well as countless people worldwide, we must be vigilant and relentless in preventing further gun related tragedies.

In the United States, Connecticut is one of the leading states in gun violence prevention and has the fourth lowest rate of gun deaths. The massacre of 20 first graders and 6 staff at Sandy Hook Elementary School, in Newtown, Connecticut in 2012 was impetus toward common sense legislation being enacted. Senator Chris Murphy from Connecticut has been an advocate and leader in this necessary work for smart gun laws that prevent unnecessary deaths.

The greatest hope for gun violence prevention is educating youth beginning with preschool. Providing students with conflict resolution skills, developing a sense of self-worth and an understanding of others, can potentially reduce gun violence.

SANDY HOOK PROMISE offers a no-cost downloadable violence prevention program that is easy to implement, and in the upper grades is student-led. START WITH HELLO, a program for 8—18 year olds, promotes social inclusion and community connectedness. SAY SOMETHING, a program for 9 year olds to adults, teaches students to look for warning signs and threats, especially in social media, from an individual who may be a threat to themselves or others, and to say something to a trusted adult. There are 3 simple components to each program. Anyone can become a Promise Leader and take the message to family, educators, houses of worship, YMCAs, Scouts, and camps.

Join over 2,000 people who have been trained and you will receive ongoing support, turnkey instruction and tools to take actions in your community, be invited to join our online Promise Leaders discussion group, receive quarterly newsletters packed with tips and ideas, and receive invitations to participate in events and trainings. SANDY HOOK PROMISE is sponsoring a week designated "Start With Hello," February 6 -10, 2017. Registration for your community/school is free and stickers and complete digital resource guides, with activities and events to ensure sustainability and integration into the school culture, will be available.

Investigate this opportunity and a chance to make a difference in gun violence in 2017 and beyond at http://www.sandyhookpromise.org/promise_leaders and <https://www.facebook.com/SandyHookPromise/>. You can also watch KNOW THE SIGNS on YouTube.

Commit to the promise: "I promise to do all I can to protect children from gun violence by encouraging and supporting solutions that create safer, healthier homes, schools, communities."

Karen Dibala,(KDibala@gmail.com)
Member-DKG, Theta Chapter, Alpha Kappa State, CT
Planning Team "Step-Up Step-Out to Prevent the Culture of Violence"
Asylum Hill Congregational Church, Hartford, CT

"Individually, we are one drop. Together, we are an Ocean."

~ Ryunosuke Satoro ~



Resources

Elementary School

The Smallest Girl in the Smallest Grade

Justin Roberts, Author
Christian Robinson, Illustrator
2014

Scholastic, Inc.

www.amazon.com

A read-aloud with a great message on how one child can begin a chain of change.

Perfect Pairs

Using Fiction & Nonfiction Picture Books to Teach Life Science in Grades 3-5

Melissa Stewart & Nancy Chesley
2016

Stenhouse Publishers

www.stenhouse.com

Next Generation Science Standards partnered with ELA Common Core lessons designed to help children understand life science concepts in a way that is literacy-based and highly engaging.

Dream Walkers

Mentor Texts That Celebrate Latino Culture

Ruth Culham
Foreword by
Pam Muñoz Ryan
2016

Stenhouse Publishers

www.stenhouse.com

A wide-variety of ideas to teach the six traits of writing using high quality, culturally diverse children's books. Eleven original essays by the authors of some of the books are included.

Each Kindness

Jacqueline Woodson, Author
E.B. Lewis, Illustrator
2012

Nancy Paulsen Books

www.amazon.com

Another powerful story about bullying and kindness, by the author of **The Other Side** and **Locomotion**.

Discovering My Identity

A lesson from **Teaching Tolerance** in which students will describe aspects of their identities such as race, gender, class, age, ability, religion and more. They will watch two video clips featuring Marley Dias, an eleven-year-old girl who started the #1000BlackGirlBooks campaign, a book drive with the goal of collecting 1,000 books featuring African-American girls. After learning about the campaign, students will review illustrated books in their classroom and school library and analyze whether the characters in the books reflect their own identities or the identities of their families and friends. Finally, students will write a book review on one of the books and examine how the book's characters are similar to or different from them. <http://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources>



Middle School/High School

Progressive City Planners

In this lesson from **Teaching Tolerance** students create their own imaginary cities, deciding where to place amenities such as parks and libraries, as well as drawbacks such as environmental hazards. Then they will compare their cities to the real world – where resources and hazards often aren't distributed fairly.

<http://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources>

The New Mad Men

"The New Mad Men" explores how changing demographics in the United States have changed the face of advertising. In particular, the focus is on the purchasing power of the 54 million Latino people currently living in the United States. The episode visits the headquarters of LatinWorks, an advertising agency in Austin, Texas, with a specialty in multicultural advertising. <http://www.tolerance.org/classroom-resources>

An Olympic Dream: The Story of Samia Usuf Omar

Reinhard Kleist
2016

SelfMadeHero

www.amazon.com

The compelling story of a female Somalian athlete determined to flee to Europe for better opportunities for training, but she must rely on human traffickers to get her there. Her journey is rough and dangerous, and there is no happy ending. It emphasizes the need for immigration reform and personalizes the plight of refugees.

Dramathemes, Fourth Edition

2014
Larry Swartz
Stenhouse Publishers
www.stenhouse.com

Caring Hearts & Critical Minds

Steven Wolk
2013
Stenhouse Publishers
www.stenhouse.com

This book shows teachers how to integrate inquiry learning with contemporary literature in order to teach social responsibility across the curriculum. Five full units are included as is a guide to designing inquiry-based literature units on topics that students will care about. It includes recommended resources. A free companion website is offered.

Simple, engaging strategies for exploring literacy in new and innovative ways show how to weave picture books, novels, poetry, scripts, photographs, and other interactive strategies into effective literacy instruction.



Two Wolves

One evening an old Cherokee told his grandson about a battle that goes on inside people. He said, “My son, the battle is between two wolves inside us all. One is evil—it is anger, envy, jealousy, sorrow, regret, greed, arrogance, self-pity, guilt, resentment, inferiority, lies, false pride, superiority, and ego.

The other is good— it is joy, peace, love, hope, serenity, humility, kindness, benevolence, empathy generosity, truth, compassion and faith.”

The grandson thought about it for a minute and then asked his grandfather

“Which wolf wins?”

The old Cherokee simply replied,

“The one you feed.”

A Cherokee Story

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

Linda Shea, Subscription Manager 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.

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