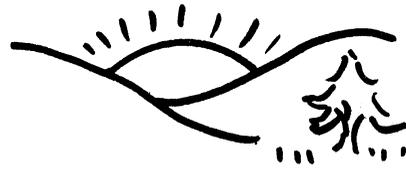

*Concerned
Educators
Allied for a
Safe
Environment*



CEASE NEWS Vol. 35: Spring 2014

55 Frost St., Cambridge, MA 02140

Phone 617-661-8347; www.peaceeducators.org

CITIZENSHIP AND PARTICIPATION



“I’ve never sung anywhere without giving the people a chance to join in- as a kid, as a lefty, as a man touring the U.S.A., and the world, as an oldster. I guess its kind of religion with me. Participation. That’s what is going to save the human race.”

Pete Seeger

Remembering Chris Lamm, 1948–2013

CEASE Legacy for Peace Award to Chris Lamm

Chris, our friend, leader and sustainer for many years, leaves her legacy with CEASE, and many, many others. She taught us the true meaning of collaboration. She challenged us to take on the difficult work of changing our communities, our workplaces, the world and even ourselves. She never wavered in her determination that everyone should be included, every voice heard. She modeled speaking truth to power and gave us courage. Her humor and spirit kept our times together bright. Now we hope to keep her spirit alive in all we do going forward. Thank you, Chris! We miss you and honor all that you achieved.



CEASE Peace Award to Karel Kilimnik

A relentless advocate for children and their schools

For years as a teacher you struggled to give the children in your care all that they deserved despite daunting conditions. You explored as far away as South Africa and brought to your classroom: resources, knowledge and dreams. In your passionate commitment to their growth as readers you wrestled with the closing of your school's library. Now in retirement you continue as a forceful advocate for children and families, citywide, while the Philadelphia School establishment continues to let them down year after year. We are inspired by your determination for justice in education.



CEASE Peace Award to Fran Roznowski

Devoted to Empowering Children, Parents, and Communities

Your work focuses on the wellbeing of children in their families and school rooms. Looking deeply at their circumstances you help teachers and parents find better ways. In your community you are the best possible friend and among the most committed of workers for justice, the peaceful resolution of conflicts and empowerment for those who lack power. You see those who are hidden from view in our prisons and work to better their lives and those of their children. We are strengthened in our work and inspired by your example. We thank you and honor all you do.



Editorial

Remembering and Carrying on the Spirit

“Citizenship” and “participation” are words you don’t often hear in early childhood classrooms or EC circles. But this is why many of us teach. We want to involve young people not only in their own learning but also in the life of the community and the world. We ask a lot of them.

In Washington, DC at the NAEYC Conference in November, 2013, the CEASE seminar was on citizenship and involvement from infants (my piece) to kindergarten and elementary age. We based our talk on Dan Gartnell’s book, *Education for a Civil Society: How Guidance Teaches Young Children Democratic Skills*.

This newsletter is about “Citizenship and Participation.” We highlight the lives of Chris Lamm, who passed away in June, 2013, and Frank Petrosino, our CEASE “lawyer”, who died of ALS (Lou Gehrig’s disease) in August. Both led lives of involvement, participation, and joy. We also celebrate the life of Pete Seeger with reminiscences by Susan Hopkins and Karen Kosko, CEASE activists who actually spent time learning about citizenship from Pete.

I, too, lost someone close to me last year, Jay Simpson, my brother. He was involved in getting children to participate in society. He was a high school history and civics teacher and guidance counselor in Edison, New Jersey. He later got his goddaughters involved in the formation of the Dream Act while living in San Diego. As a high school teacher he worked with reluctant teenagers to become involved in Special Olympics, Hand in Hand (for special needs children), and Safe Rides for teenagers dealing with alcohol and drugs. Some of his students later became Special Needs and Early Intervention teachers themselves.

After retirement in San Diego, he befriended an immigrant family from Mexico while teaching English. He became a godfather to the young twins, Yessica and Saray. He raged about the injustice that they couldn’t be citizens and participate fully in democracy. He started bringing them to immigration rallies and meeting organizers who told him if he really wanted to get rights for young immigrant children he should write a bill. And that’s what he did. He and

Please Help CEASE!

Return the postcard enclosed in this newsletter.

We plan to begin sending our two annual publications to members by e-mail.

Paper mailings will continue for those, who do not have e-mail, or do not want to receive them by e-mail. This will continue for at least the next two years.

E-mail will save us postage expenses and decrease the amount of paper consumed.

Whatever your decision about the publications, we would like to have your e-mail for occasional communications.

So, please respond to the queries on the postcard and return it to us.

We look forward to hearing from you

the twins went to California legislators for the girls to speak about their lives, and to college meetings, and immigrant rallies. Eventually it caught on. Compromises were made and now we have “the Dream Act” before Congress. My brother and the twins were part of a whole movement for this to become law. In the state of NJ it passed a month after he died. He believed in democracy and the involvement and participation in that process by young people.

We can make a better world with more people like Chris Lamm, Frank Petrosino, Pete Seeger and Jay Simpson, and early childhood teachers from CEASE and other places. Let’s get organized!

Craig Simpson, Somerville MA

P.S. For a full “In Memoriam” of Chris Lamm, see the home page of our website: www.peaceeducators.org

Remembering Frank Petrosino, 1968–2013

His wife, Heidi Smith, writes:

I started to write an obituary for the newsletter and it seemed so dry. I want to share with you the Eulogy I gave for him. I think this speaks more to who Frank was and how we are carrying him in our hearts. The church was packed with over 400 people and they gave me a long, standing ovation. It was such a powerful experience! I want to share it with CEASE folks - life should be celebrated



and death is a natural part of life that comes to us all. I also believe that we in the West do not handle death well - too many people are afraid of talking about it. It is a real gift that we shared the whole experience with the boys. Now that would be a good article. Someday I would like to write about that.

Here are excerpts from Heidi's Eulogy: (The whole piece is on our website, www.peaceeducators.org)

A few weeks ago I asked him if there was anything he wanted me to tell all of you, he smiled and said, "No Blubbering!" We will do our best to honor his wish but I gave him no guarantees.

Frank's comment about No Blubbering is a great example of how Frank lived and how he was choosing to die. He danced and sang his way through life, carrying all of us with him. He saw death as the next great adventure.

His energy was endless - at weddings I would dance with him for a bit and then needed others to come and take over because I couldn't keep going. One of the great things about having kids was that there was always someone to play with Frank. During our annual marshmallow roasts Frank would be running around with the kids while the rest of the grown-ups were sitting around the fire. Kid's from the neighborhood would knock on the door and ask if Frank could come out to play and he always took the opportunity to go.

Frank found life exciting and helped others to enjoy it too. This did not end when we got the devastating news that he had ALS - The next day he bought the Mini Cooper convertible and started planning our amazing trip to Italy.

We all know Frank was so much more than ALS but this illness had a significant impact on our lives. Yes there are the obvious terrible changes to Frank's physical body, yet there were also many blessings that came our way. The love that has surrounded us has been incredible. There are so many people that have come into our lives that wouldn't have and it helped all of us appreciate our precious gift of life even more.

People have been saying to me, "Let me know if there is anything I can do for you." I'm going to tell you two things that you can do for us.

The first is the Spartan Racers to Conquer ALS - we would love to have you join our team because it's really fun but if crawling through the mud is not your thing you can make a donation in honor of Frank.* He believed so strongly in doing everything he could to find a cure for this disease that he participated in a drug trial and a nutrition study knowing he wouldn't get the benefit but others would. And his final act was to rally enough to sit up and be part of the interview with the WCAX Channel Three reporter. He was having a terrible day so I asked him if he wanted to stay in bed - he said no. He wanted to be a part of it because we have to find a cure for this horrific disease so other families don't have to go through this.

The second thing that you can do for us, for Frank is to think of something that you always wanted to do but never did because you didn't make the time or it cost too much or you were afraid. Think of it and go do it. Do it because you can and there are so many people like Frank who can't. As Frank used to tell us go out and "Embrace your lust for life!"

Since the memorial, so many people have come up to me to say, "I finally did this because of what you said at Frank's funeral." Or "I thought of Frank when I did this really fun thing."

* To see what the Spartan Race is all about go to "Spartan Racers to conquer ALS 2013" on YouTube. Heidi and Frank made this video with partial support from a CEASE mini-grant.

Heidi and her team will be doing the Spartan Race again this year. You can make a donation in Frank's honor to the ALS Association of Northern New England. Send a check to ALSANNE, attn. Amy Coyn and note that it is to go to their Spartan Fund Raising effort. ALSANNE, 10 Ferry St. Concord NH 03301

Remembering Peter Seeger, 1919–2014

Participation... from Susan Hopkins

Whether it was participating in music... or teaching... or storytelling, Pete Seeger always brought out the best in us as we sang along with the songs we all knew, as we learned from his wisdom, and as we cherished his stories. Because Pete promoted participation, we grew and learned from his inspiration.

I knew Pete from The Children's Music Network where he used to join with us... never to perform, but come together to share the music. Pete participated, he inspired, he led by encouraging others. As our cover quote says, "Participation. That's what is going to save the human race."

Speaking of saving the human race... a passion of Pete's... here's another quote that accompanied a picture of a peace quilt on one of the Syracuse Cultural Workers calendars which reads: "The patchwork quilt is really a symbol of the world which must come: one new design made out of many old designs. We will stitch this world together yet. Don't give up."

Notice the word "we," always the "we," always including everyone. Music wasn't as much fun for Pete if he didn't get us to participate! And, notice also the optimism!!!

When it came to participating as citizens, he told the stories that would inspire, that would unsettle, that would bring people together to make change. "The key to the future of the world," he said in 1994, "is finding the optimistic stories and letting them be known."

We, as teachers, parents and grandparents can use the lessons Pete taught us to make our parts of the world better places for children and families. The role we can all play is to promote participation... to bring about inclusion of all. We can make Pete proud!

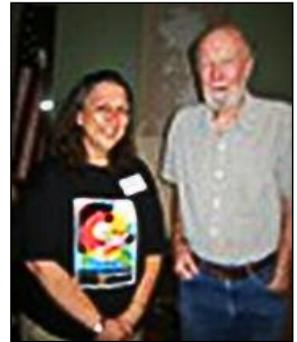
Craig Simpson remembers:

There are many things to be said about the life and commitment of Pete Seeger, but one thing I admired about his genius was the way he reacted to one of his darkest hours. In the 1950s he was blacklisted by the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) and not allowed to appear on television. He turned to singing and teaching young children the joy of singing. Small or large audience, he was always enthusiastic about children's future. He wrote songs and books for children, for example *Abiyoyo*.

From Karen Kosko

In 2006 I took a week-long seminar on the "History of the Hudson River."

Each day we had a chance to meet at key places north of NYC, Yonkers, Tarrytown, Beacon and Hyde Park. Pete Seeger met with our group of teachers for an entire day to talk about the present and future of the River. There were lots of discussions on the state of the pollution and he gave us the history of his work on his boat the Clearwater. <http://www.clearwaterfestival.org/>



He led us in songs about the environment and told several anecdotes about his work with civil rights. Pete Seeger was a generous spirit who answered all our questions and posed even better questions about teaching the children the history of our shared past so they can lead us into the future.

Book Review

Karen Kosko has brought a video of Pete Seeger reading and singing *Abiyoyo* to our attention. Find it on YouTube at *Abiyoyo from Reading Rainbow, 1986, Pete Seeger*. He tells how he came to write the adaptation from a South African folktale and a lullaby for his children 1956.

Abiyoyo Returns,

Pete Seeger, Paul Dubois Jacobs, and the original illustrator, Michael Hays 2004

Karen reviews this sequel to *Abiyoyo*. The same town 30 years later, needs a dam before it gets washed away. Sitting right where the dam should be is a boulder too large to be moved by anyone except *Abiyoyo*.

Father still has his courage. Grandfather still has his magic wand, and his granddaughter knows he can bring *Abiyoyo* back, then make him disappear.

Is *Abiyoyo* still dangerous? People believe the giant will eat them.

Will food & songs keep *Abiyoyo* happy long enough to move the boulder & once again leave the town in peace? The story dramatizes transformation is possible.

Helping hands: Connecting Across the Sea

Our family was headed to Jamaica for a summer vacation and I had a need to somehow connect with a preschool there. I haven't done anything like this before, but I wanted our 4 year old daughter, Olivia, and the children in our community at the Kentucky Flat Community Preschool to have an idea of what it feels like to offer supplies, love, and connection to others in other parts of the world. So I began asking around and found a basic school (ages 2-6) that offers services to low income families in Kingston.

It was Jamaica's Independence Day and the weather was hot. There were no cars available to rent and the only way we could get to Kingston was to hire a taxi service. We saw so much of the beautiful lush land of Jamaica and many of the celebration activities during our 4 hour round trip to and from Kingston from Ocho Rios. Before coming I had been in brief contact with Didi Gunamaya about our visit, but she was in the classroom with children like me so our phone conversations were short and sweet. Many of the details for travel were left unknown and yet somehow I knew that it would all work out and we would get the art supplies to those children. Once we arrived in Kingston our driver was very nervous and had to call someone many times to get directions. He ended up asking the police who gave us our own personal escort to the school! We finally arrived at 12 Criffe Rd. in Kingston 6 Jamaica.

Olivia rolled the suitcase of supplies through the open gate as we walked up to the front door where Dada greeted us with a glowing warm smile and welcoming arms. He expressed his extreme gratefulness for our journey and art supplies. Olivia rolled the art supplies in and handed them to Dada who responded, "Oh, I am so happy you are here!"

He offered us water and snacks as we sat at his desk in the office and visited for a moment. I spoke on the phone with Didi Gunamaya who was wanting to cook for us and wanted us to stay for the afternoon.

Unfortunately, our taxi driver had to get back to pick up



Helping Hands continued on page 7

Why Do I Teach?

"Why do you teach?" I was asked yesterday.

"It's such hard work for such low pay."

My answer came fast, "It's what I love to do."

They said, "Well, you're amazing." I said, "Thank you."

But if I can express this more clearly

Maybe others will hold this work more dearly.

I have a passion for living in a world where we all care for one another,

Where the planet we live on is respected and loved as our mother,

Where we can see the interconnectedness and the impact we make,

And how good it feels to act out of kindness with nothing to gain.

I teach because I care and because it is the role I can play

To make a positive difference in the world today and everyday.

I see all the pain in our world and when I feel sorrow

My heart bursts with the hope of a new tomorrow.

The more love and care we put out for the world to heal,

The more love we receive and the better we feel.

Teaching is an honor and sometimes that is misunderstood.

So in the end, I teach because it makes me feel good.

It feels good to create a community and instill hope in hearts.

I'm not able to solve all of the world's pain today,

But to teach is a start.

Jen Norris, Rough and Ready CA



Helping Hands *continued from page 6*

another client and then he also had plans to celebrate his country's independence. She understood and we agreed to keep in touch with one another.

Dada began to show us around the school and he opened a door to a meditation room. Olivia went right inside and sat down to meditate. Dada put on a song with a mantra meaning love is everything called Baba Nam Kavalam, and Olivia and Dada did kiirtan (dancing) together.

Then Olivia grasped Dada's hand while he showed us to the kinder classroom and around the courtyard. The classrooms were being painted and furniture was being repaired for the new school year in the courtyard. We ended our tour back in the office where we exchanged hugs, email addresses, and promises to stay in touch. Our hearts were full of gratitude for the opportunity to extend a hand across the sea to help make a better world you and me. Thank you to all of the parents and teachers at KFCP who donated art supplies for the children.

Jen Norris, Rough and Ready CA

Statement of purpose

This revised Statement of Purpose was adopted at the CEASE Annual Meeting November 21, 1996.

CEASE is a network of parents, teachers and other concerned individuals who are dedicated to creating a safe world for our children. We seek to end the violence that permeates our society to an ever increasing degree and to remove the root causes of this violence by advocating for peace, justice, economic opportunity and sustainability

We are committed to:

- Raising public awareness about both the origins of violence and the disastrous effects violence and injustice have upon children, families and communities.
- Eliminating the acceptance of violence which is created by mass media conditioning.
- Ensuring the abolition of nuclear weaponry, and other weapons of mass destruction, and an end to the proliferation of conventional weapons.
- Putting a stop to the dangerous degradation of our natural environment by supporting the development and use of reusable, non-polluting resources that protect the health and safety of future generations.

Central to the solution of these problems is the redirection of national priorities and funding from the military and corporate interests to human services and environmental preservation.

We work towards these goals through the following activities:

- Providing a supportive network for teachers and parents who share our concerns.
- Educating the early childhood community through the publication of **CEASE NEWS**, creating periodical informational fliers, giving workshops and developing peace education materials.
- Advocating for a government that is committed to improving and expanding quality child care and child development programs.
- **Fostering a society that focuses on the well being of young children and their families through all our work.**

YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE CEASE NETWORK

Date _____

- Enclosed is my \$15 subscription. new subscription renewal
 Enclosed is my \$5 student subscription. Here is an additional gift to help defray expenses.
 Enclosed is a gift membership for:

Name _____ Phone number () _____

Address _____

_____ e-mail _____

Do you want to receive our publications by e-mail? Please give us your e-mail above.

Do you want to continue to receive paper mailings? Paper mailings will continue for the next two years.

Check here if you would like to receive occasional email updates.

For tax deductible contributions over \$50 make check payable to Survival Education Fund

Return to CEASE, c/o Lucy Stroock, 55 Frost Street, Cambridge, MA 02140

E-mail: info@peaceeducators.org

Susan Hopkins Joins CEASE



Susan is one of the most devoted and long-term members of our CEASE organization. The story about how that came to be is quite remarkable.

Susan and I met in a wonderful, little Thai restaurant in our nearby town, Grass Valley, California. She shared a transcript of an interview she had years ago with CEASE founder, Peggy Schirmer and her husband, Boone.

Susan laughs that dialogue from the transcript reveals how Peggy enticed her into taking on a leadership role in CEASE:

Peggy: *“How did you get involved? What was the issue then?”*

Susan: *“Well, the issue was a conference proposal. I got a call on Martin Luther King weekend from Peggy Schirmer, (chuckles) who enticed me . . . to write a conference proposal for a conference which I had never attended. (both women laugh). . . I’d been subscribing to the Newsletter. . . and the conference was in Anaheim. So, you looked down the membership list – who’s in Anaheim, or nearby? Who can we “, , , “Snag” says Peggy*

Susan: *“Snag. There you go! And I was so green, that I said yes.”*

Peggy assured Susan she would have help in completing the task of writing the proposal for the CEASE seminar at the 1986 NAEYC conference in Anaheim. And thus enticed, Susan attended her first CEASE working retreat to prepare. In the 1980’s CEASE was primarily focusing on opposing nuclear weapons. Susan’s primary interest, however, was in peace education and a shift of interest for this presentation was honored by the group.

Susan was quite taken by how CEASE members engaged collaboratively in all of their work. Susan received help on writing the proposal from Mary Daniels, Sunny Wallick and others. Susan remembers at the conference CEASE brought in a lot of teachers; they held small group sessions on conflict resolution and other peace education curriculum. Everyone was very happy with the outcome.

CEASE is lucky that Peggy Schirmer was such a convincing and persistent “snagger,” as CEASE has been blessed by Susan Hopkins’s significant contributions over the past 30 years.

Sharon Davisson, Nevada City, CA

