

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

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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.

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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