



P.E.A.C.E. News for August 2020

***Peace Educators Allied for Children Everywhere, Inc.
(P.E.A.C.E., Inc.)***

ACTION ALERTS!

Save America's Child Care Now!



Picture Courtesy of Getty Images

The competing demands of public, regulatory, private, parental, and safety pressures have made a disaster for child care and education programs in the United States, leading to the closure of many of our programs. Due to COVID-19, new licensing regulations in many jurisdictions have made it financially impossible for many, if not most, child care programs to continue. P.E.A.C.E. is worried with and for you and all of us.

This is an all-hands-on-deck situation. If you care about child care (and we know you do!), then starting today, and continuing until the Senate & House agree, you need to reach out to your members of Congress and tell them that they must ask leadership to prioritize child care in the pandemic relief bill.

TAKE ACTION!

Thanks to your great advocacy, and the support of 8 in 10 voters who favor a federal child care stabilization fund, we have a strong foundation to build upon: A bipartisan majority in the House passed the **Child Care Is Essential Act**, which would provide **\$50 billion** for child care.

The Senate Republicans proposed the HEALS Act, which would provide \$15 billion. But \$15 billion is not enough to stabilize child care so that child care centers and family child care homes across the country can survive and allow parents to return to work over time. And it doesn't meet the needs of Head Start, either.

Congress needs to provide more, and members need to hear from you in order to provide substantial, meaningful support to families, children, educators, businesses and our communities across states and settings.

Don't let Congress overlook child care in the relief package.

Check out the newest [national](#) and [state-by-state](#) data to help you tell the story of how child care programs are barely hanging on—and how much they need Congress to prioritize \$50 billion in funding for them right now.

And then call, email, or tweet today, and every day, until Congress chooses to #SaveChildCare. We think they can and must.

This message came directly from NAEYC, which joins all other early childhood organizations in ChildCareRelief.org

Register and Vote!



NAEYC's [campaign to get voters registered and voting in every jurisdiction](#) is underway, aiming at convincing candidates and voters of both parties to take effective action to build a properly funded national system of high quality early care and education as a matter of the highest priority. September 22 is National Voter Registration Day, and November 3 is Election Day. Our choices and actions between now and then matter more than ever before. Urge friends to vote by mail, well in advance.



Our thanks to [Win Without War](#) for this animated image.

“Dear Olive Branch”

A P.E.A.C.E. Perspective on Practical Problems

By Marilyn Shelton,

The Olive Branch, July 30, 2020



Dear Olive Branch,

Q: I am nervous about hosting my first parent teacher conference. Do you have any advice on what I should do and how I should act?

A: Thank you for this important question because it shows that you are thinking deeply about how to create a trusting and helpful conversation with parents. The first priority, as you develop the relationship, is to build one of trust. Parents are often nervous when coming to a parent-teacher conference. Therefore, our primary role is to *listen* to them. Opening the conversation with a question that puts them at ease, sets the stage for a rich, honest discussion. I love to start out with the question, “What kind of adult do you hope (Sam) will become?” More often than not, parents look at me with surprise... and then the realization that (Sam) will one day be all grown up. The ice is broken, often with a smile and even laughter, and then the hopes and dreams of a parent are shared. Linking

those to what we can do in the classroom to move towards the goals set together creates the partnership. (S.H.)

A: Whether you are meeting in person or using something like ZOOM, your strategy should be the same. Using the “compliment sandwich” as a framework can be helpful, the following is an example of how it works. After a pleasant welcome and getting settled, begin the compliment sandwich with talking about the child’s strengths. Ask the parents what they see as their child’s strengths. Next, identify one or two things that the child is working on, and give the parents some ideas of how they can help support that learning at home. Have the parents explain how they think that would work. (You are checking for understanding and the ability to follow through with helping.) End the conversation with another compliment/strength of the child’s and give the parents some of the child’s completed “work,” or pictures of it. If you are doing the conference on zoom, you can show the parents the pictures, and then email copies to them. (M.S.)

NOTE: We chose “Dear Olive Branch” as the title for this column for several reasons – foremost as a sign of peace. Also olives come in many colors, sizes, tastes, uses – a sign of diversity just as there are many types of questions and those who send the questions. We hope “Olive’s” responses will help you, the reader – if you have a question for Olive send it to our email address. When Olive isn’t available to answer questions, members of EPCC and/or P.E.A.C.E. will step up to help.

Resources

Pillars of Peace



NAEYC's Teaching Young Children August/September 2020 issue had a wonderful article by Margaret Clark and Haleigh Harper, "[Pillars of Peace: Tips for Peacemaking in the Early Childhood Classroom.](#)" Both Clark and Harper recognize the importance of social and emotional development to success in school and (not said but implied) to being part of society throughout life.

I am retired now after 40+ years in the classroom, but I felt that this was my priority, and I felt academic skills will come. Clark and Harper see six skills for teachers needed as "Pillars of Peace:

- acknowledge children's peacemaking skills,
- make space for peace,
- model and label your own peacemaking skills,
- watch, listen and learn,
- respect the whole child,
- celebrate positive stories and share books about peace.

Thank you to these two authors and to NAEYC for printing their work. We can all learn from this — not only in the classroom with children, but in the wide world we live in.

Craig Simpson, Dorchester, MA

In Loving Memory

Civil Rights Activist John Lewis

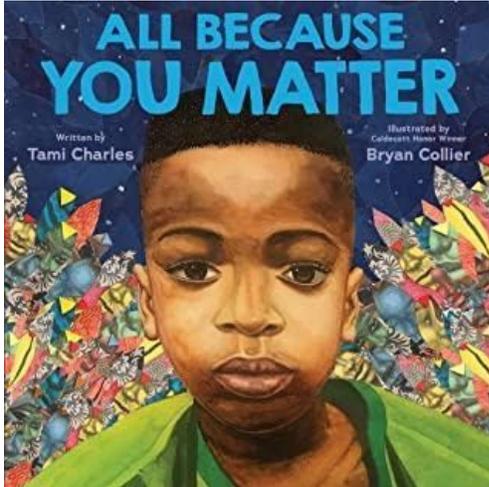


John Lewis, Congressman and Civil Rights Activist, died on July 17th of this year. He has inspired many people by being a Freedom Rider, leading demonstrations and protests against racial segregation in this country. He wrote one last essay which was published in the *New York Times*:

“While my time here has now come to an end, I want you to know that in the last days and hours of my life you inspired me. You filled me with hope about the next chapter of the great American story when you used your power to make a difference in our society. Millions of people motivated simply by human compassion laid down the burdens of division. Around the country and the world you set aside race, class, age, language and nationality to demand respect for human dignity.”

[Please read more of John Lewis’s essay...](#)

Book Review



All Because You Matter

By Tami Charles, author, Bryan Collier, illustrator, Orchard Books, 2020.

Submitted by Karen Kosko

A new and timely picture book for preschool to grade 3, written by a parent and former teacher, Tami Charles and dedicated to her son, Christopher. Ms. Charles explains that she wanted to create a book that reminds children where they come from, who came before them

and why the children continue to “matter”.

This affirmation of worth is truly a conversation starter in schools and in homes.

Opening with *“They say that matter is all things that make up the universe energy, stars, space... if that’s the case, then you dear child, matter.”*

There is a double page spread that shows a grandfather and child sitting in a living room watching TV and the grandfather is “explaining” the news where they *“see people everywhere take a breath, take a stand, take a knee.”*

Mr. Collier, multi-award winner, writes “I dedicate this book as a visual love note of welcome to all the children and their families on the planet here today, and to those who have yet to arrive.” From the endpapers to the design for the text placement on the pages notice the petals. They are creating the backgrounds and the flowers which will blossom as the child ages. His collages are vibrant and he remarks that he was raised by his grandmother who was a quilt maker.

The poetic text is personal and universal at the same time. It was written for “Christopher”, but generously includes everyone. *“Did you know that you are the earth? That strength, power, and beauty lie within you?”*

Also, the author notes and illustrator’s notes are poignant and help the adult reader with the professional perspective for using this wonderful book. Take the time to make a personal connection with this important book full of ‘hope, assurance, and love’.

[View a video introduction to this book by author Tami Charles and illustrator Bryan Collier](#)

Days of the Month of August

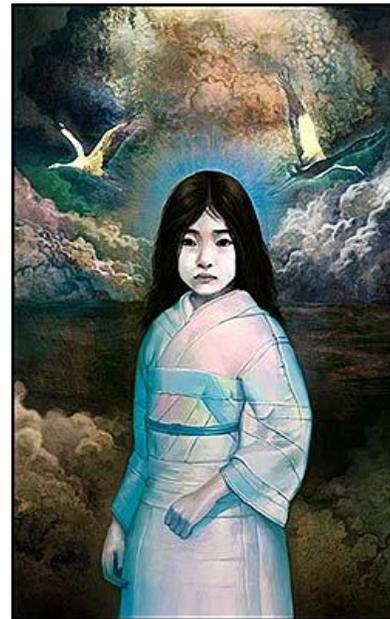
Why do we mark international days? International days are occasions to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity. The existence of international days predates the establishment of the United Nations, but the UN has embraced them as a powerful advocacy tool (United Nations, August Edition). We also mark [other UN observances](#).

75 Years After Hiroshima and Nagasaki

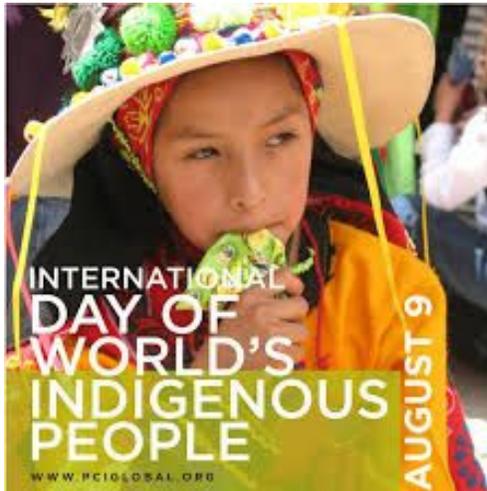
P.E.A.C.E. began in 1979 as an organization among early educators dedicated to stopping nuclear weapons testing. We continue this mission 41 years later.



Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park



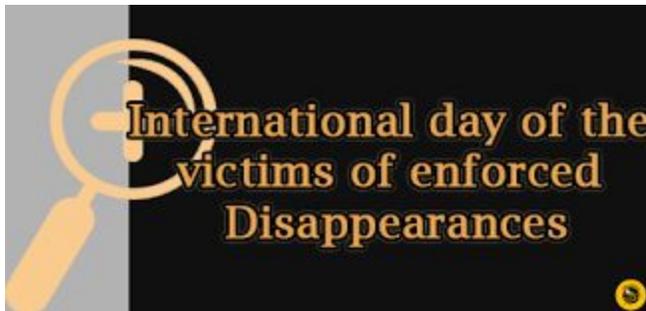
[*Here is the story of Sadako and how to make a Peace Crane*](#)



[August 9 - International Day of World's Indigenous Peoples](#)

[August 20 - Muharram Begins](#)

[August 23 - International Day for the Remembrance of the Slave Trade and Its Abolition](#)



[August 30 - International Day of Victims of Enforced Disappearances](#)

Quote of the Month

"I have a dream that my four children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character."

— Martin Luther King, Jr. /
"I Have A Dream" speech,
August 28, 1963



You're Important to Us!

We Have a New Donate Button!

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Join the NAEYC Interest Forum

Now you can help us more easily, by clicking the “donate” button above. We’re finally part of the 21st Century. We need your help in getting out the messages we share here every month, and we urge you to try out this new method of building our community. Thank you!

We are eager for new members, and active members. Membership is free, although you’re encouraged to help us as you can. Spread the word and let us know how you would like to be engaged at 1peaceeducators@gmail.com.

Help bring peace education to the profession and the public!

If you would like to bring P.E.A.C.E., Inc.’s perspective to more teachers on the ground working with young children, there are opportunities both in person and online. Email us at 1peaceeducators@gmail.com. Particularly on [NAEYC’s HELLO open forum](#) we have seen opportunities to engage on these issues.

Join actforpeace@googlegroups.com to follow our members’ recommended actions and share your own! You can request to sign-up by email at 1peaceeducators@gmail.com or directly through Google Groups. We hope you will spread the word about the actions by forwarding them on to others.

Since we don’t charge dues, **[we count on donations](#)** from those who are able to continue our work.

Visit our Website, www.peaceeducators.org

