



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

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

ACTION ALERTS!

Stimulus Funding and Federal Budget

Call your Senators at (202) 224-3121 now.

As of this writing, the Senate still hasn't even looked at a package of pandemic relief funding needed **now** to meet the growing needs of the growing number of unemployed and under-employed Americans for real help in paying rent and other bills, getting public services, and getting food on the table. The House of Representatives is willing to include in this package about \$57 Billion for child care, because almost half of the child care providers in the USA are out of work, many parents have had to quit their jobs to look after their children, and nobody except child care providers are paying for the health and safety requirements brought on by the pandemic. The Senate and the lame-duck President are dragging their feet. Please put pressure on your Senators at (202) 224-3121 to **act right now on a comprehensive pandemic relief package**, for the good of our country and everyone's future.

In addition, if Congress doesn't authorize the current year's Federal Budget by December 11, the Government will have to shut down. They need to make some deals quickly!

***Please keep using your mask, with social distancing
& hand washing, until we're all safe again.***



Resources

International Children's Peace Prize 2020 Recipient Sadat Rahman



Picture courtesy of kidsrights.org

The organization [KidsRights](https://kidsrights.org) awarded Sadat Rahman to be the winner of the 2020 International Children's Peace Prize. Sadat is 17 years old and lives in Bangladesh. The prize was presented digitally by Malala Yousafzai, winner of the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize.

After a 15-year-old girl in his country committed suicide due to cyberbullying, Sadat decided to take action. He created a Cyber Teens mobile app together with some friends, and started a social organization called *Narail Volunteers*. The app provides support for teenagers on how to use the internet safely. Sadat wants to develop the app further with state support from Bangladesh and add a platform for psychologists to offer psychosocial support to people in need.

P.E.A.C.E. Peace Awards 2020

At the virtual online in November Peace Educators Annual Meeting and the NAEYC Peace Educators, we gave our three awards for the work of peace education in the early education field. Here are the three recipients:

Ana Page, Trustee, Orange Unified School District Governing Board

A Peace Educator for life and for all...



“You became a Peace Educator as a teenager, a Youth Leader, mentored by Chris Lamm to guide the campers at the Orange County Peace Camp each summer. One year you took on the role of presenter for our Peace Workshop at NAEYC in Dallas. Explaining and supporting Peace education has been your mission ever since! Your leadership grew as you trained other teenage campers to create the programming for the camp. Central to this mission was to bring alive the campers’ commitment to work and play together peacefully. As teacher and Director of the Fullerton College preschool you spread the practice of a peaceful community to the children, their teachers and parents. Continuing on this path you brought your leadership skills to the presidency of the Orange County NAEYC. Now, this very week, as the mother of school age children, you were elected a Trustee to the Orange Unified School District Governing Board. We celebrate you and all you bring to the children and community you serve!”

Amy O'Leary, Past President, NAEYC

An advocate devoted to bettering resources for young children



“You have made a career focused on ensuring access to high quality education for children, birth to 5. Those of us who work in early education programs know the needs the children and their teachers face. From our daily attention to young ones in a preschool classroom, you moved on to the policy and advocacy efforts required to enhance the world where children spend their days. This work always needs funding. You helped to build the Worthy Wage Campaign to support underpaid teachers. This did not work miracles, but gradually moved to the real issue, the budget for education. As Director of Early Education for All, you learned how to pressure the legislators into taking children’s needs seriously, though the dollars are never enough. The work is never done, and you have never stopped pushing for the needed changes. From Massachusetts you moved on to the national level, working with NAEYC and, most recently serving as its President. Dollars are still needed, but quality needs policies, too. You directed efforts to advance our field in equity and celebrating diversity. You have been the cheering section as we all are learning to advocate and lobby for the needs of children in local and national budgets. We are grateful for your persistence and inspiration. Thank you!”

Rodney West, Co-Facilitator, Men in Education Interest Forum, NAEYC

A mentor for African American boys, men in classrooms, and gardeners



“Men in childcare are scarce and often not given the recognition they deserve. Luckily the Men in Education Interest Forum of NAEYC has Rodney to facilitate its programs and offer leadership to its members. He brings experience as a teacher, an administrator, a mentor and a speaker. He shares his insights on African American Culture to African American boys and his community through storytelling. Children at the Jackie Robinson YMCA have the benefit of his mentoring. As an active Master Gardener in San Diego he enhances his community and shares gardening skills with children and adults. Look for him in the listing of workshops at future Conferences. We are missing his workshop at Anaheim this year. Thank you, Rodney, for all you offer!”

TRUCE Guide for Playing with Babies



The organization [*Teachers Resisting Unhealthy Children's Entertainment \(TRUCE\)*](#) released a guide for families, caretakers, and teachers filled with healthy activities, games, and ideas that will delight babies while enhancing growth and development. Some of the general guidelines for playing with infants named in this guide are:

- Talk about what you and they are doing;
- Sing and dance with your baby, and help them to laugh with you;
- Present only a few toys or objects at a time;
- Simple toys are best for babies' development;
- Babies need to interact with 3-D objects;
- Babies need a break when they get overstimulated.

To read more about the guidelines, activities, and games please click [here](#)



Picture courtesy of theimaginationtree.com

Loose Parts: Providing Endless Play Opportunities for Children

By Karin Pavelek

With the holidays ahead of us, we would like to emphasize the idea of providing open-ended materials for our children that encourages endless play opportunities. We see the term “loose parts” evolving in the world of child development; open-ended materials that children can manipulate, move, transform, combine, take apart in unlimited ways. Most of these materials can be found around the house or even outdoors in nature, and are of no cost. Examples of categories you can create with your child(ren):

- Nature category: leaves, seed pods, rocks, bark, dried flowers, pinecones, moss, shells, acorns, feathers, and sticks
- Wood category: wood scrap pieces, dowels, clothespins, golf tees, spools, napkin rings, and wood people
- Plastic category: bottle caps, empty jars, PVC pipes, cups, buttons, bubble, wrap, marker caps, straws, hair rollers, and plastic beads
- Metal category: magnets, keys, washers, nuts and bolts, foil pieces, hair clips, metal lids, bottle caps, and key rings
- Recyclable materials category: cardboard, wine corks, baby food jars, bottle caps, tubing, foam pieces, and plastic containers.
- Combination category: combining materials from the different categories mentioned above



Examples of “loose parts” materials

The company *Community Playthings* provides a great resource for educators, caretakers, and parents online that provides information on the numerous developmental benefits, what these “Loose Parts” entail, and how the term was originated by the British architect Simon Nicholson, in 1971. For more information please click [here](#)



Child making a design with loose parts materials at the CDES Lab School, Fullerton College CA

Loose Parts Safety Recommendations

Watch closely while the baby inspects, mouths, and explores the objects. For toddlers who are no longer mouthing, you can begin with smaller objects like those listed above. Present your toddler with the objects in a basket or drawer organizer. This is a great station to include in your toy rotation or playroom.

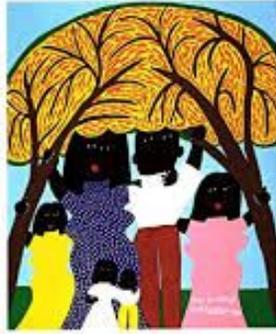
As a rough test to determine if an object is a choking hazard for children under 3, take a toilet paper roll and cut it to be 2 1/4” tall. If an object fits inside, it is a potential choking hazard. Batteries, magnets, plastic bags, and balloons should *never* be used. (Via [Babyplayhacks.com](#))

Poetry for Children

Under the Sunday Tree

Paintings by Mr. Amos Ferguson

Poems by Eloise Greenfield



That Kind of Day

by Eloise Greenfield

It's that kind of day
and that kind of season
when the breeze is sweet
and the cool air calls
"Come Out!"
It beckons the folks
Who come out of doors
and wander about
pretending at first
to look for chores
although they know
they just want to walk
In the breeze and the pale
sunlight
It's that kind of day

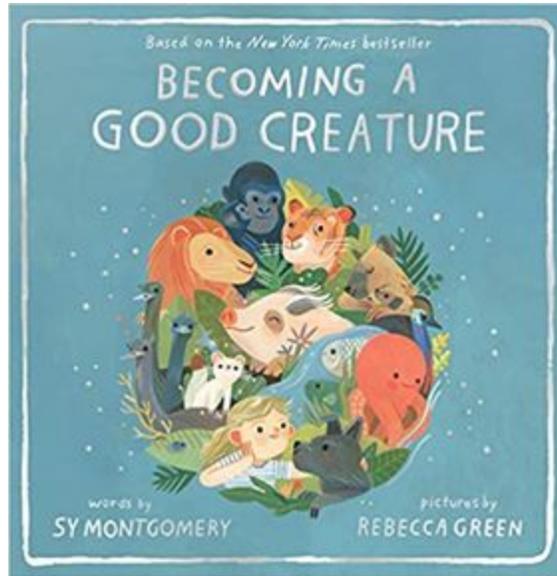
From Under the Sunday Tree - poems by Eloise Greefield,
paintings by Mr. Amos Ferguson (1988)

Welcome Back, Storyteller *Jackson Gillman*



Jackson knew some of P.E.A.C.E.'s founding members and has recently rejoined us. In doing so, he shared with us his [2020 Oracle Award-winning performance for the National Storytelling Network](#). Jackson tells stories about how we all can help to make peace. We commend its moving message for children and adults, and are encouraged to spread the enlightening entertainment to others. [See more information about Jackson.](#)

Book Review



Becoming a Good Creature

Sy Montgomery, Author; Rebecca Green, Illustrator,
Houghton Mifflin Harcourt, 2020

This picture book is a kid's version of the 2018 best-selling memoir *How to Be a Good Creature: A Memoir in Thirteen Animals*.

Author Sy Montgomery, a naturalist, begins her text with *"School is not the only place to find a teacher.... When I was a little girl, I wanted to be a dog. I wanted to run really fast – and see in the dark."*

We learn the many surprising lessons animals have to teach us about friendship, compassion, and how to be a better creature in the world. Her mentors have had two legs, others with four, or even eight legs! Some teachers have had fur, feathers, or hooves. But they've all had one thing in common: a lesson to share. And Sy is sharing her true adventures with us all.

Ms. Montgomery, newspaper columnist and scriptwriter, reveals that gorillas, dogs, octopuses, among other creatures have shown her that there are no limits to the empathy and joy we can find in each other if only we take the time to connect.

“What could we possibly have in common? We both liked to play! As different as we were, we became friends.”

Montgomery observed the actions and behaviors of her first pet, a dog, which inspired her to learn more about different animals. Through observation and research, she expanded her curiosity, and with her travels, she explored the world. {India Australia, South America, Africa} Sy lived in tents, spent time in jungles and deserts learning lessons and publishing her new book for the youngest readers.

Rebecca Green's illustrations depict gentleness within the natural habitats on every page with gouache. With skillful work, she demonstrates the connections between humans and the amazing animals that will spark discussion. Ms. Green includes a page of photos of Sy meeting these teachers.

Book topics include: Discover Your Passions, Respect Others, Don't Be Afraid, Wait Patiently, Make Your Own Family, See for Yourself, Love Little Lives, Learn Forgiveness, Find Common Ground, and Trust Tomorrow. A free activity kit is available [here](#).

Submitted by Karen Kosko

Days of the Month

December

December 1 - International Prisoners of Peace Day



December 1st is dedicated to the Prisoners of Peace Day. For over 60 years, War Resisters' International (of which P.E.A.C.E. is an associate member) have on this day, announced the stories and names of those imprisoned because of their actions for peace. In the goal for refusing to join the military, many are conscientious objectors. Others have taken nonviolent actions to disrupt preparation for war.

This day provides for a great opportunity for you to demonstrate your support for those individuals and their movements, by writing to those whose freedom has been taken away from them because of their work for peace. To read more on this important day, please click [here](#)

December 3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities



The International Day of Disabled Persons was established in 1992 by the United Nations. This day has become an annual observance day to celebrate and support the rights and well-being of people with disabilities, to raise awareness when thinking about political, social, economic and cultural life involvement.

In 2006, the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was adopted, after many years of UN's work in the field of disability. This convention has furthered the rights and well-being for people with disabilities, through the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other international development frameworks, such as the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action. To read more about this important day, please click [here](#)

Picture courtesy of [UN.org](https://www.un.org/)

December 21 - Soyal

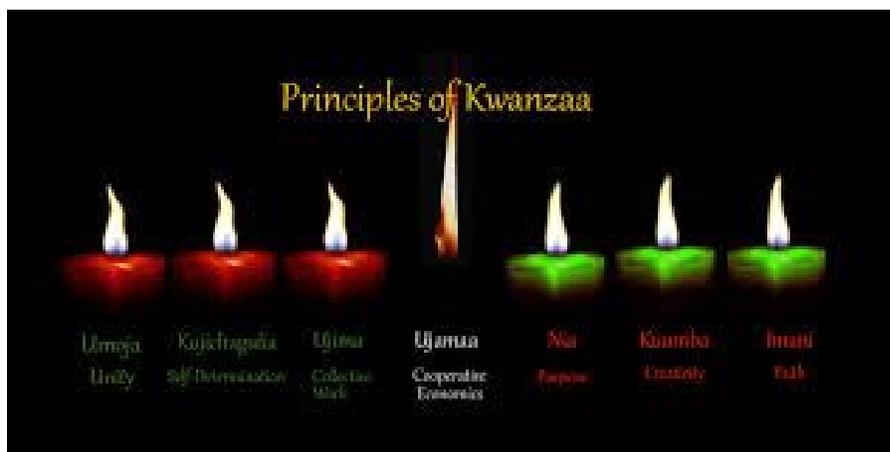
On December 21st, the shortest day of the year, the Hopi and Zuni Indians celebrate Soyal: a winter solstice ceremony, *The Peaceful Ones*. This ceremonial ritual is intended to bring the sun back from its long winters.

Per the website, this ceremony is celebrated over a period of 16 days which starts with prayers and supplications and ends with a feast and Kachina Dance. The Native American name for this important ceremony is 'Soyalangwul' from which the term 'Soyal' is derived.



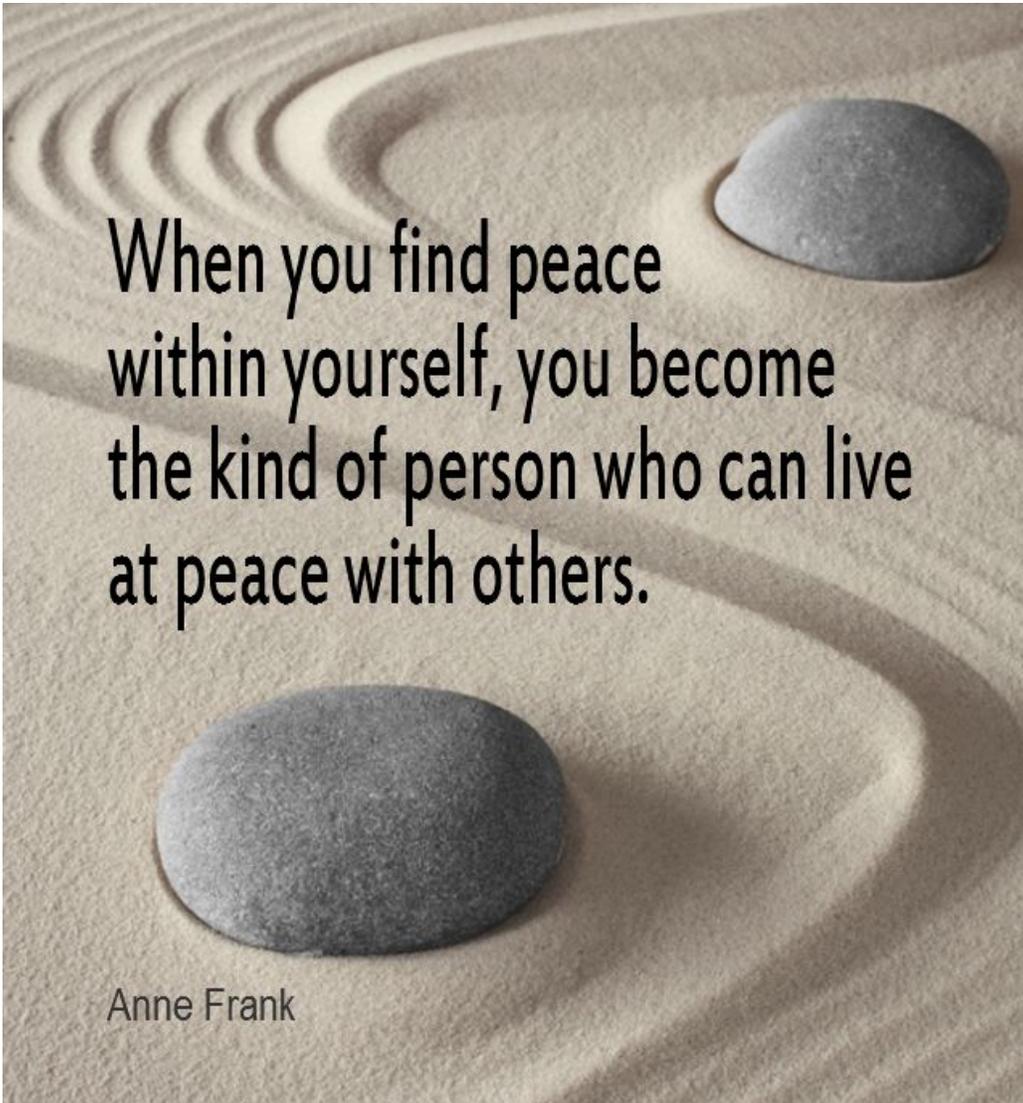
Hopi Kachinas on a kiva rooftop.
Painting by Valentino Anton

December 26 to January 1 - Kwanzaa



For ideas on celebrating Kwanzaa with children, click [here](#)

Quote of the Month

A photograph of a Zen garden. The sand is raked into concentric, wavy patterns. Two smooth, dark grey stones are placed on the sand, one in the upper right and one in the lower left. The lighting creates soft shadows, emphasizing the texture of the sand and the smoothness of the stones.

When you find peace
within yourself, you become
the kind of person who can live
at peace with others.

Anne Frank

You're Important to Us!

Annual Appeal 2020

Please click on the [Donate Button](#) to contribute to P.E.A.C.E.'s End of Year Fundraising Appeal.

You may wonder why we need fundraising since so much of our communication is now on-line. There are costs to produce the Newsletter each month, before it reaches you. Two skilled web designers are paid modestly to get it in shape for the Internet. We hope you appreciate it and explore all the content it offers.

Look for the Action Alerts which focus on our advocacy efforts. For Childcare to survive, all of our voices need to be heard for government funding at all political levels, and we need some financial support to be able to help in these efforts. There are articles by experts in our field of peace studies who contribute their thinking about classroom innovations. The Peace Projects we have described in the Newsletter are continuing this year.

In 2021 we plan to hire a student intern media specialist to reach out on social media to more young people. Our hope is that these young people will assume leadership roles within P.E.A.C.E.

Our organization's work depends on the connections we make with one another, and we count on your support in the coming year to make this possible.

Help us keep in touch!

Please contribute to our future as we support the peaceful world we and the children need to thrive.

Join Now

Donate

Follow us on Facebook

Join the NAEYC Interest Forum

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.

Particularly on NAEYC's HELLO open forum [<https://hello.naeyc.org/home>] 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 sign up 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.

Visit our Website, www.peaceeducators.org!

