



P.E.A.C.E. News for February 2021

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

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

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



This Newsletter Edition is Dedicated to
Sunny Wallick
Peace Activist, Loving Friend, and
Early Childhood Advocate



Frost Street

A poem by Sunny Wallick, Cambridge
2002

ivy.
reaching for the sky
 clawing clinging its way
 up the side of my red brick
building
 four stories high
you know the kind

birds.
filling the ivy with song
 singing the morning light.
 singing the joy of space, of
place
you've heard them

the ivy has to go, they said.
one morning here – the next morning
gone.

whispers remain.
 fragments of generations
 nests woven with string,
paper, leaves
 nests woven with songs.
 nests returning to earth

ivy.
it was an old root, they said,
big.
some left, they said,
maybe.

birds.
i miss them at my window
still i hear their cheerful songs here
there
they know what to do.

children.
so many everywhere
 clawing
 clinging
 supports gone
you've seen them
they don't know what to do

generations of nests shredded to bits
roots left
maybe

Shared Stories in Memory of Sunny

Gratitude to Sunny Wallick, Always With Us

By Irene Lipshin February 1, 2021

When I think of meeting and knowing Sunny, I remember those special moments that are turning points in our journeys. The beginnings of that journey of friendship and collaboration with Sunny, CEASE and so many others are woven into a beautiful tapestry of solidarity, love, respect, generosity, compassion, activism. I met Sunny at the CEASE table, Center for Social Change, 2003 CAAEYC Conference, Sacramento. My Pacific Oaks classmate and friend, Sharon Davisson, introduced me to Chris Lamm and then to Sunny Wallick. After a conversation of common passions and life choices, Sunny and I connected: teaching young children and adults, advocacy, social justice, peace and Poetry. She shared the group's philosophy and actions, then mentioned the annual retreat in Truro and that she would be staying at the home of member Lucy Stroock. I listened to details about the group and the retreat and wanted to join CEASE. I asked if it would be possible for me to stay with her at Lucy's for the week of the retreat. I can't believe I had the courage to ask and Sunny was quiet for a few seconds and said she would talk to Lucy and get back to me in a few weeks. Quite forward of



Sunny Wallick and her daughter Amber (top left) joined by their PEACE friend Irene Lipshin, Redlands 2014

me, but I felt CEASE was calling my name. We did connect and Lucy, who also didn't know me, generously agreed and that is how I ended up with CEASE in Cambridge and Truro. I met so many of you who are reading this, as well as member Karel Kilimnick, now a lifelong friend. In Truro, we stayed at Peggy and Boone's and I slept in the loft. The tapestry was in its beginning stages and I learned how all of us are connected. Take one person from that fabric and perhaps we are each walking a different path. Sunny taught me the importance of being the teacher/mentor and the student, and to pass that on through our work. The list is long of friends and colleagues I

have met and worked with since Sunny's and Lucy's "YES." And follow the thread in this masterpiece from going to school at Pacific Oaks to Sharon to Chris Lamm to CEASE and Sunny to Lucy to Peggy and Boone and to all of you. I will be forever grateful for the lessons I have learned from Sunny Wallick. Thank you, Sunny for teaching me how to weave.

Sunny

I'm not sure where I met Sunny but it must have been in the mid or late 1980s before I moved to Massachusetts in 1989. She seemed to always be around CEASE (Concerned Educators Allied for a Safe Environment- the predecessor of P.E.A.C.E.) activities. It might have been at a CEASE seminar at the NAEYC conferences in Los Angeles or New Orleans. It seems we just started talking and the conversation never ended. We picked up that conversation again when we would meet six months or a year later. We would walk and talk. It might be on a beach in Truro, Cape Cod or in a big city in the middle of a child care conference. We talked about Howard and Roslyn Zinn and political history, we talked about poetry and novels and her growing up in Massachusetts. I loved an article on lining up with preschoolers. It made so much sense—why do we need a straight line, a line leader, no moving. Preschoolers can't sit still. They can't keep a straight line even when it is fun! Sunny always made so much sense when she talked about children. She sent me avocados and pears from the trees by her house. She sent me a book of poems by Mary Oliver. We shared songs and articles, children's books, thoughts of peace and nonviolence. I once stayed overnight in a room in her house that was surrounded by children's books. I spent hours just reading the books. It is hard to believe that conversation has ended—but then I have all of you to talk to.

Craig Simpson
Dorchester, MA



Sunny Wallick and Craig Simpson, in front of the sign "No More Endless Wars"

Celebrating Sunny and her remarkable life!

Sunny Wallick continues to inspire us as an educator, peace activist, environmentalist, mom, grandmother, and elder. It is the last of this impressive list that I will address. While Sunny's many contributions in so many realms will be acknowledged, I found her grace and positive acceptance of aging to be a gift to me. Even as her eyesight became compromised, she remained in her home as long as possible... admittedly with great support from her family. She kept up her peace vigils. She kept up with her friends, reaching out frequently. She kept up with issues, making sure we did too. Her final communication to me, not long ago, was a handwritten letter along with a copy of a Mary Oliver poem. A treasure for me to cherish. And so now, it is up to us to practice these lessons... Sunny was our teacher!

Blessings, Susan Hopkins
Nevada City, CA



PEACE Retreat Massachusetts, 2013

Sunny was always an advocate for our Early Childhood Education programs for young children and their families. In the late 1970's after the passage of Prop 13, many of our subsidized child care and development programs were cut from the State of California budget. With Sue Brock Toigo, lobbyist, the CAAEYC Public Policy Committee and Pat Dorman, Publisher of On the Capitol Doorstep a statewide advocating telephone tree (no iPhones or computers) was organized. Sunny was part of this telephone tree system to call her local child care program contacts. The message was short to call and inform their local State Assembly Members and State Senators about the importance of their vote to support our subsidized child care programs. We only phoned as needed to inform the budget committees members or the Assembly and Senate members who voted to pass the legislation to restore the cut funds for child care and development programs. Yes, we were successful and she continued to keep informed . Sunny was also a member of the CAAEYC Public Policy Committee. I did visit her local programs and then we were reunited when I joined CEASE/PEACE. She sent me encouraging messages to continue our PEACE work. We thank her again for all the years of her ongoing support for funding for child care programs and PEACE for our world. We will miss her.

Pat Dorman

My story is a day Sunny came to visit me in Jamaica Plain, a neighborhood of Boston. Days previously we had taken a trip to Beverly, Massachusetts, the town of Sunny's birth and growth to adulthood. She gave a running history of her seaside town as we walked to Devereux Beach.

So when she came to J.P. I gave her a running history of the activism that created The Southwest Corridor... the park system we travelled to get to my house.

Boston in the early to late Sixties was a City On Fire. Urban Renewal was the governing force at that time! Eminent Domain and Evictions accompanied this force. In response an unconscious collective thought was percolating, "Hell No We're not going anywhere!"

People gathered together, banded together to stop I-95 highway that would have demolished a number of neighborhoods. They set up tents and camped outside for months. It was massive!!

Due to their activism and those who supported them, neighborhoods were saved. The highway became the linked park system with each neighborhood in the link having playgrounds, a basketball court, and picnic area.

Later, me and Sunny took The Orange Line to Back Bay Station. Across from the Back Bay T is an apartment building with subsidized units. It is known as Tent City. So named because of all the people who camped out to ensure Affordable Subsidized Housing was being built. In the lobby is a pictorial history of that hard fought struggle.

That was just one of several activism history walks we took when she visited.

Pat Landry



PEACE members at the East Coast PEACE Retreat, 2015

For many decades, Sunny was a pillar of strength and inspiration for me. She was a good friend, a treasured friend, and also one of the few people I've known who was so unwavering in her activism and commitment to peace and justice. As a friend, Sunny was generous and loving—sending me beautiful cards, gifting me seashells and photos—giving and not expecting anything in return. When I visited Sunny in Redlands and ate one of the oranges off the tree in her yard, she took note of my ecstatic response to the orange (most delicious I'd ever tasted!). After that, at various times, a box would arrive in Somerville of oranges she had picked from her tree, with a note inside saying, "From Sunny who loves you."

Sunny was dedicated to peace and to creating a nonviolent and just world for young children. She worked toward those goals tirelessly, with a quiet, confident leadership. Absolutely determined, quietly persevering, never getting discouraged. I feel so grateful for all that Sunny gave to me, to children and families, and to all of us. I will always miss her.

Nancy Carlsson-Paige



Front porch- Sunny and her daughters



Remembering long time peace activists (from left to right) Boone Schirmer, Sunny Wallick, Peggy Schirmer, and Chris Lamm

Sunny Could Not Stop!

Her lifelong activism, and advocacy for children and peace will continue as an inspiration in the lives of the many whom she loved and loved her, especially the extended family which she raised and cared for year after year. The example of her life of determined activism will support us as we must accept that she is gone. To her final years she wrote to us about standing on the street corner with her Peace friends holding signs saying “No More Endless War.”

Each message from her would end with “From Sunny, who loves you.” I think how much that promise meant to me and how much it must have meant to her children, grandchildren and the great grandchildren coming along. They all knew how truly she meant it for each one of them. She will always be a caring presence in their lives.

And she will always be an inspiring presence in the work we do as members of P.E.A.C.E. Sunny could not stop and with her example always in our memories we will not stop!

Lucy Stroock



Peace Activists demonstrating on the corner at Redlands, CA 2011

ACTION ALERTS!

Please Help the Feds Pass the Latest Stimulus Package, And Push Your State to Implement the Previous Ones!

Congress now is considering President Biden's proposal for a new emergency stimulus package of measures to enable America to emerge from the pandemic. The present package doesn't appear to include anything specific to child care, except for paid family leave for parents whose child care arrangements have fallen through. But it now has many provisions that would help the struggling child care profession, including small business grants and loans, extended unemployment insurance benefits, added low-income food benefits, money to help public schools, including their preschools, to open with safe spaces, additional child tax credits to enable parents to pay for child care, etc. ***Please urge your Representative, and especially your Senators, to provide enough money now so that things won't get materially worse before they get better.*** In addition, many State and local governments have received money destined for child care from previous Federal stimulus Bills that haven't yet found their way to child care programs and parents. Please contact your Governors and State legislators to get the money out. It's needed right now.

NAEYC Issues Guide to Getting/Using Federal Pandemic Aid

NAEYC just issued a new 10-page guide for child care providers on how to get financial help from the Federal (and often, State) Government based on the various pandemic relief legislation passed in 2020 and 2021. [Download this guide here.](#)

Resources

Coping Strategies for Children

Our children have experienced stressful times during the Covid-19 Pandemic. According to the article [15 Coping Strategies for Kids](#), children can feel anxious, sad, bored, scared, and embarrassed. Even though some schools have reopened offering support in mental health, there is still an increasing need for children to receive this at home as well.

We can offer support in two different categories when thinking about coping skills: emotion-focused and problem-focused. Here are some strategies when supporting children:

EMOTION-FOCUSED

- Label feelings
- Breathing exercises
- Daily exercise
- Creating artwork
- Readings books
- Playing games (i.e., board games, marbles, playing ball)
- Practice yoga

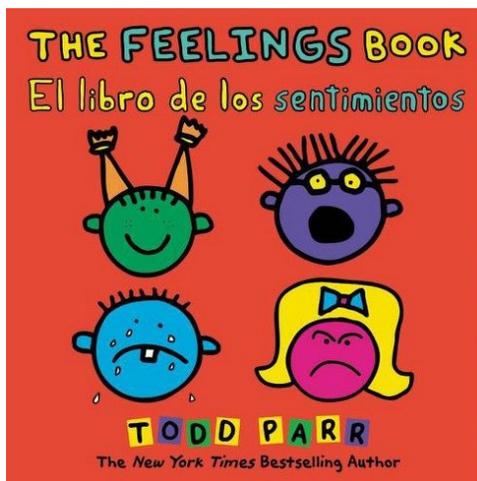


Example children's art, picture courtesy *Washington Post*.

PROBLEM-FOCUSED:

- Ask for help
- Engage in problem-solving (i.e., provide several examples your child can choose from or have them engage in the process by providing solutions themselves)
- List the pros and cons

As a parent or caretaker, discuss these strategies and how children can use them on their own in the future. Provide assurance in experiencing some of these feelings and support them in the process by modeling the strategies and answering questions they have. [Read more about these coping strategies here](#)



Book about feelings/ emotions
skateworld1.com



Exercise at home, picture courtesy of

Let's Do Sentimental Poetry for Children

To Friendship

by Eloise Greenfield

It's time for the party
And as we begin
Let's do a sentimental
thing
Let's lift our punch
to the bunch
(that's us)
we'll say that our
friendship is dear and
we'll promise to keep it from
year to year
and
this toast we'll repeat
each time we meet
and now my friends
let's eat.

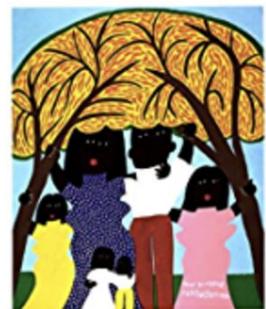
From *Under the Sunday Tree*



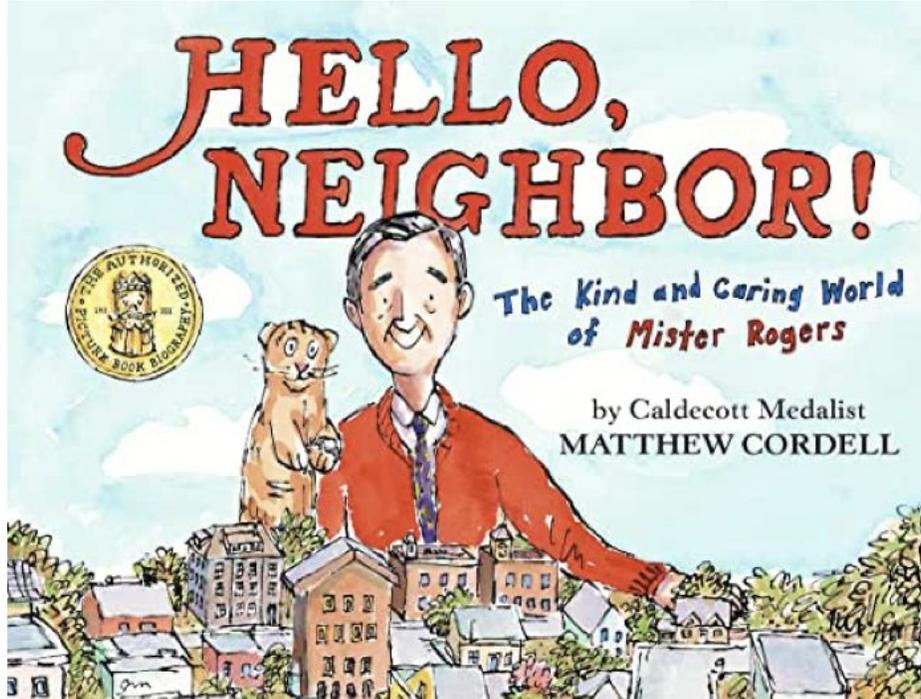
Under the Sunday Tree

Paintings by Mr. Amos Ferguson

Poems by Eloise Greenfield



Book Review



[Hello, Neighbor!: The Kind and Caring World of Mister Rogers](#)

by Matthew Cordell, Neil Porter Books / Holiday House Publishing, 2020

This new non-fiction book is the only authorized picture book biography of Fred McFeely Rogers. It cleverly provides a behind-the-scenes look at the world of "**Mister Rogers' Neighborhood**" while creating a delightful tribute to introduce Mister Rogers to the newest generation.

Did you know that his show debuted February 19, 1968 or that there are over 900 episodes of Mr. Rogers' Neighborhood? The detail in every image created by Mr. Cordell is remarkable. Facets of Mister Rogers' life are told with beautifully whimsical illustrations which include amazing details. Cordell has clear affection for his subject and includes fascinating facts, and quotes about compassion and patience.

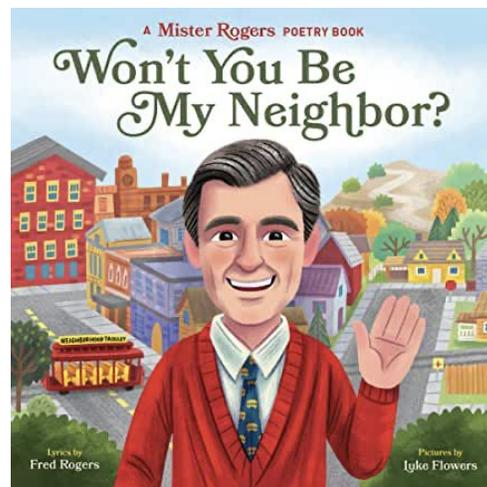
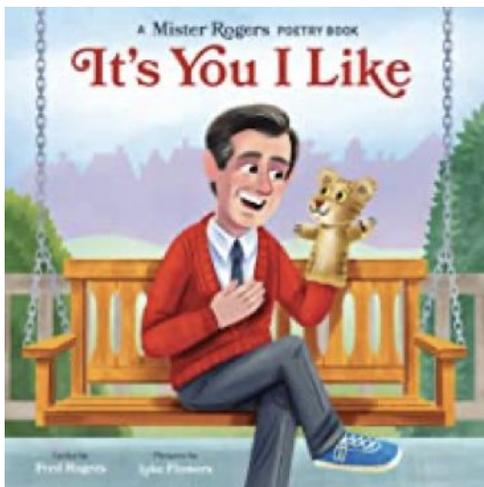
The book opens with Mr. Rogers playing a piano with the quote, "It's our insides that makes us who we are, that allow us to dream and wonder and feel for

others.” Rogers composed hundreds of songs for his series and as you enter the world of Make-Believe, you can see that this is not an ordinary neighborhood.

Fred Rogers started his career at the same time television was new, and he felt that TV could be used as an educational tool. He believed in inclusion and created his characters and puppets to join his family. This interesting biography also becomes a history book with a social-emotional-learning angle.

If Rogers specialized in anything, it was in simple and direct messages. Fred was a wonderful storyteller and through warm, almost nostalgic pen and ink and watercolor illustrations, Matthew Cordell captures this spirit. At the end of the books, I appreciated the actual photos of the TV program and a Visual Dictionary.

There are 2 recent board books published by Quirk Books, (2020) are part of the Mister Rogers Poetry series, **“It’s you I like “and “ Won’t you be my Neighbor”**.



Luke Flowers illustrates these two vibrant books which show the cast of characters exhibiting true kindness in their neighborhood. Both books are the lyrical poetry of the songs composed by Fred Rogers.

[Watch episodes and get more information on the “Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood” TV program here.](#)

Here’s hoping that his joy and curiosity will never go out of style. Won’t you be my neighbor?

Submitted by Karen Kosko

Quote of the Month

Won't it be wonderful when black history and native American history and Jewish history and all of U.S. history is taught from one book. Just U.S. history.

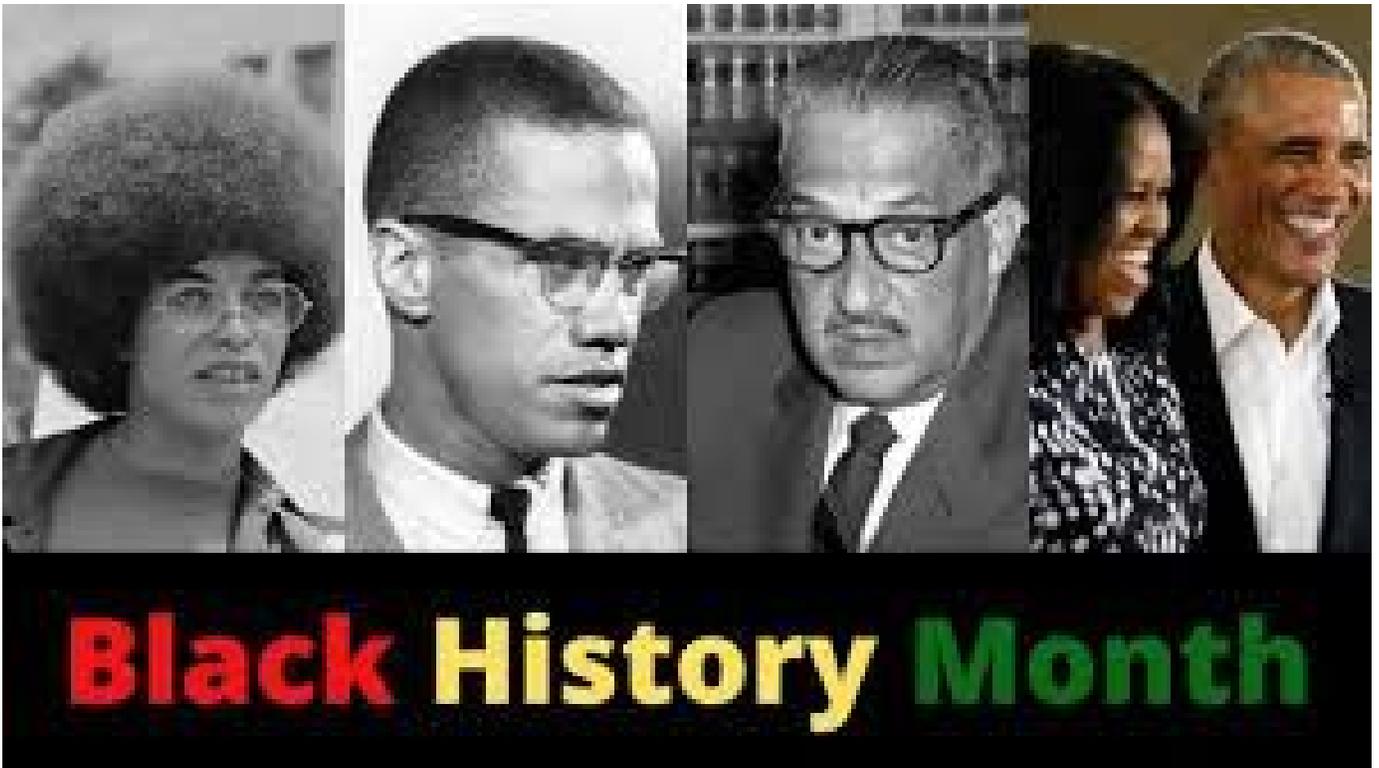


Maya Angelou

Days of the Month - February

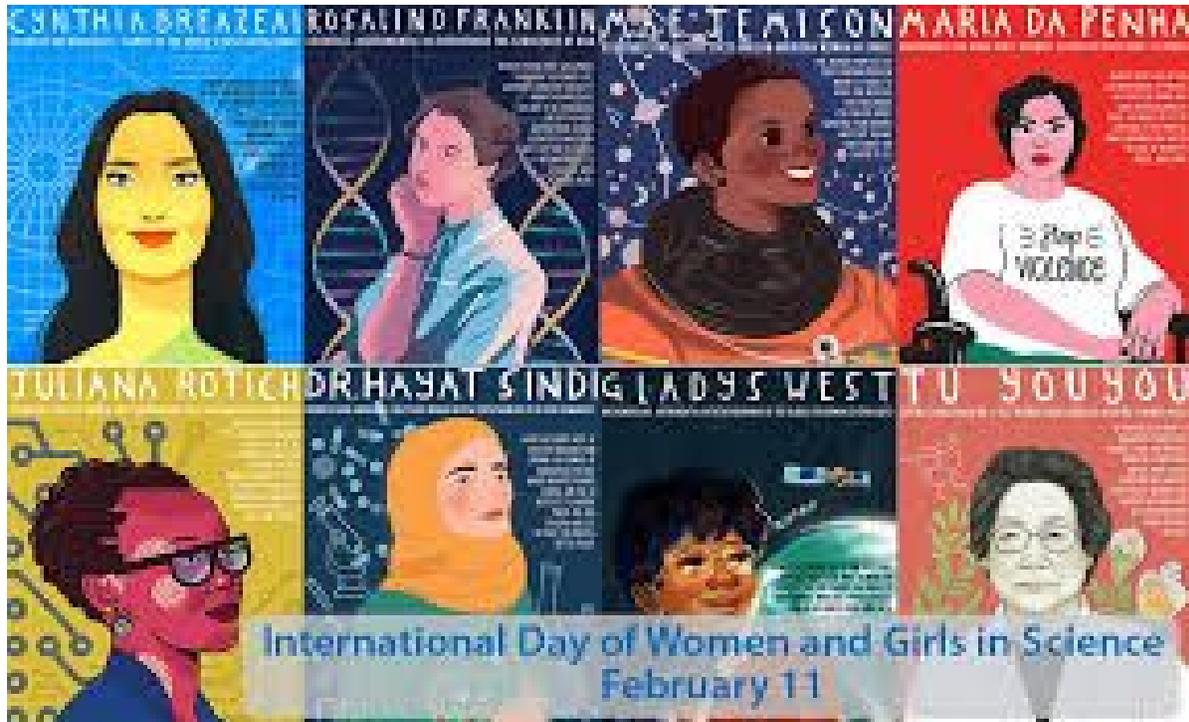
African American History Month

According to History.org, “Black History Month is an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history. Also known as African American History Month, the event grew out of “Negro History Week,” the brainchild of noted historian Carter G. Woodson and other prominent African Americans. Since 1976, every U.S. president has officially designated the month of February as Black History Month. Other countries around the world, including Canada and the United Kingdom, also devote a month to celebrating Black history.” To read more on this important month, please [click here](#).



Picture courtesy of wtkr.com

February 11 - International Day of Women and Girls in Science



“To rise to the challenges of the 21st century, we need to harness our full potential. That requires dismantling gender stereotypes. On this International Day of Women and Girls in Science, let’s pledge to end the gender imbalance in science.”

-UN Secretary-General António Guterres

[Read more on this important day here](#)

February 12 - Tet (Vietnamese New Year)

Tet is the most popular holiday in Vietnam. Tet marks the arrival of Spring based on the Chinese lunisolar calendar. Celebrations last at least three days and include people visiting friends and family and cooking special holiday foods.

[Read more on this important day here.](#)



Picture courtesy of journeyvietnam.com

Teaching Tolerance has a curriculum that highlights Vietnamese culture. [Click here to view the lesson plans.](#)

February 20 - World Day of Social Justice

“Social justice is an underlying principle for peaceful and prosperous coexistence within and among nations. We uphold the principles of social justice when we promote gender equality, or the rights of indigenous peoples and migrants. We advance social justice when we remove barriers that people face because of gender, age, race, ethnicity, religion, culture or disability.” - UN

[Read more on this important day here.](#)



February 21 - International Mother Language Day

At least 43% of the estimated 6000 languages spoken in the world are endangered. Only a few hundred languages have genuinely been given a place in education systems and the public domain, and less than a hundred are used in the digital world. For more information, watch the following video called [Youth Voices: Mother-tongue based multilingual education](#).

[Read more about this important day at UN.org](#)



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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](#) 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.



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www.peaceeducators.org