



P.E.A.C.E. News for August 2022

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.*

[Donate](#)

In This Issue

[Action Alert](#)

[Revitalizing P.E.A.C.E.'s Council](#)

[Resources: Let's Play Outside!](#)

[Dear Olive Branch: Peacemakers in Our Everyday Lives](#)

[Book Review: Firsts and Lasts: The Changing Seasons](#)

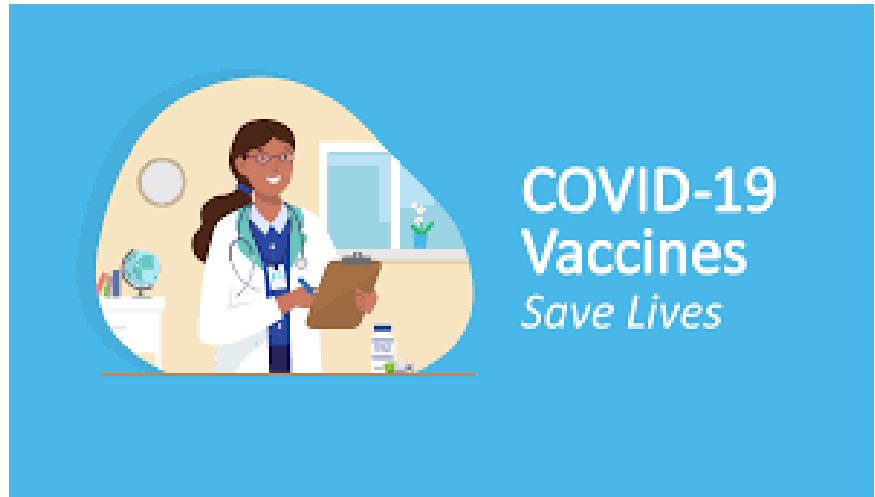
[Days of the Month: August](#)

[Quote of the Month](#)

Action Alert

Get Your Young Children Vaccinated!

Everyone 6 months of age and older is now eligible to get a COVID-19 vaccination. Kids from the age of 5 and older are now eligible for a booster. It's good for your health, it's good for the health of the children in your care, and it's good for their families too. The more eligible people we can get vaccinated and boosted, the easier it will be for life to return to normal for all of us.



Picture courtesy of covidfactsnow.com

Revitalizing P.E.A.C.E.'s Council

P.E.A.C.E. is a Massachusetts non-profit corporation. Because of the pandemic, our organization's decisions, which normally are made by our Council (formerly our "Worker Bees"), have been made for the past two years instead by our Executive Committee, usually meeting monthly.

Now we need to revitalize the Council and return to our normal functioning. The Council will be meeting by Zoom quarterly, and it will also continue to adopt decisions without meeting through email communications. We also need to include more younger P.E.A.C.E. members in the Council, as our leadership is aging.

We plan, through the existing Council, to elect a new Council before our annual Membership Meeting this November at the NAEYC Conference in Washington, DC. If you would like us to consider you for election to our new Council, please get in touch by September 30, 2022, with our Nominating Committee: Ana Page and Marilyn Pearce by email at 1peaceeducators@gmail.com. If you know of peace educators of young children who you'd recommend for this position, Ana and Marilyn would love to hear from you as well.

Resources

Let's Play Outside!

By Karin Pavelek

Due to the pandemic, we have seen an increase in depression and anxieties amongst our children resulting in sleep deprivation, increased stress levels and health problems. August is a perfect month to explore the outdoors and all the play opportunities nature provides for us. Research shows the numerous benefits outdoor play has on our children especially when thinking about cognitive and social-emotional gains. Children develop skills such as critical thinking, conflict resolution and problem-solving while also gaining a sense of empowerment leading to a healthy mind-set and self-esteem. I am sharing some play activities you can engage in with young children, at no cost:



- **Making designs with natural loose parts and pieces:** Go on a nature walk with your child and collect natural materials such as rocks, twigs, seed pods, leaves, pinecones, shells, and bark. These open-ended materials will provide endless opportunities for children to make designs, transform and manipulate them, changing their play accordingly.



- **Creating a fairy house:** Find a designated space in the outdoors where you can create a fairy house or village with your child. This can be done in the garden, underneath a tree, or even inside an old tire. Gather natural materials such as pieces of bark, logs, and rocks and add some miniature items such as spools, acorns, buttons, and small toys. Let your child's creative mind take over!



- **Designing a mud kitchen:** A mud kitchen provides endless play opportunities for your child when making mud pies and creating new recipes. A child's brain development is stimulated when using all their senses. Simply add water, dirt, clippings from the garden, old pots and pans, and utensils for mixing.



- **Engaging in mud play:** The tactile stimuli of the outdoor environment greatly enhances a child's perception of the natural elements they are surrounded by. Mud simply makes you happy!
- **Constructing with recyclable materials:** Collect large recyclable materials for your child to build and create with. Think about collecting crates, large tubing, left over gutter pieces, wood pieces, and old tires. Your child will have endless hours of fun!

All pictures courtesy of the Child Development & Educational Studies Lab School, Fullerton College CA



Dear Olive Branch

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

Topic: Peacemakers in Our Everyday Lives



What does it mean to be a peacemaker? How can we help children gain the skills needed to be a peacemaker? There are many visions of making peace, with weft threads weaving through the warp threads, building a tapestry for the future including knowledge of self and connection to others, joy in diversity, creative conflict resolution and a sense of justice, imagination and playfulness, care and love of nature, and global awareness binding all together.

Rosmarie Greiner (childpeacebooks.org), with her vision tweezed out these ideas, and then anti-bias views became interwoven into the fabric to include young children in the effort needed to build our future peacemakers. Learning to have healthy responses to adverse situations, and overcoming fear of the unknown, while strengthening the resolve to build a new way of life that supports fairness within socioeconomic variances, neurodiversity, gender, ethnic and individual identity.

Together, as activists, we can build courage and confidence, when we intentionally practice, within ourselves and with the next generation, standing up to people to say something when we feel strongly that there is a better way to solve problems. It takes time to build the windows and doorways in historic walls, where new perspectives can change life for the better globally. As we look forward, our society needs to remember the past. Acknowledging those who were stewards of the land, and who cared for the trees before written history is important. Respecting culture, respecting indigenous knowledge and languages, and helping each other understand that both newcomers and those who were here before, all now make homes, have families, and are concerned about the future of our planet, so that those who come in seven generations will still have hope for the future. All of us are more alike than we are different, so collaboration, working together, and sharing what we know, while building trust may help us learn to listen to each other and to the wind. [DS]

So, what does it take to be a peacemaker and to start a collaborative conversation? The following paragraphs are highlighting peacemakers in our everyday lives:

Lulu's Lemonade helps raise money for relief

Since the age of 9, Lulu Cerone has taken an active interest in bringing water to international communities in need. After the earthquake in Haiti, Lulu decided to raise money for relief with a lemonade stand at a local park and challenged her friends to do the same. Together, they raised \$4,000 in two weeks.

With local publicity that was picked up nationally, Lulu was able to bring her cause to a much wider audience. She even bottled her lemonade and gave all the profits to work on the water crisis, this time in Africa.

Jane Addams Peace Camp campers were introduced to Lulu as a great example of how an ordinary young person can make a difference. A local health food store donated bottles of Lulu's Lemonade to us so we could taste it while we heard her story.

Lulu celebrates her 13th birthday with a Water Walk to raise money for the African water crisis. She has rallied a group of friends to walk two miles of Ventura Blvd., in Studio City, carrying jugs of water. She hopes that this act will encourage others to help save lives by giving money to build fresh water drinking wells.

Today she and her organization, Lemon AID Warriors, encourages young people to throw parties that raise funds for worthy causes. You can meet her on YouTube or go to her website to see what she is involved in now. [GL]

Basic concepts/themes of peace

As we writers of the "Olive Branch" column were pondering the theme "Everyday Peacemakers," my thoughts turned to a dear friend from the 1980's who opened the door for me to peace education for young children. I had been struggling to find ways to support children in their need to get along better with their friends. Rosmarie Greiner showed us how peace education could be woven into our programs in ways that were appropriate for young children through quality children's literature.

Rosmarie put together the *Peace Education: A Bibliography Focusing on Young Children* that I used to plan curriculum. It integrated six themes and children's literature so that the teacher or parent could bring the themes of peace education together. The themes are: Self Awareness, Awareness of Others, Conflict Resolution, Love of Nature, Global Awareness, and Imagination.

In my struggle to think about the complexities of peace, Rosmarie defined these basic concepts so that they could be the framework of a program for young children. These themes became the roadmap for me. Stories by authors such as Ezra Jack Keats, Tomie DePaola, Charlotte Zolotow were the beginnings of discussions that led to further activities to explore the concepts and practices of peace.

Today one can explore the [Rosmarie Children's Peace Library](#) at Cabrillo College online. Do enjoy the beautiful collection of books about peace that has evolved and grown over the years... so that we may support our youngest to become everyday peacemakers!

[SH]

Community Unity Walk



On April 2 many peacemakers walked together in my community. At the Unity Walk, which began in the parking lot of my church, families (some with their dogs!), single people (some with their dogs!), people of many cultures, people of various religions, people straight and gay, old, and young people, all walked together in the common bond of humanity. And that was the purpose — people joined in the common bond of humanity, no matter what their beliefs.

We started with prayer and water and snacks for the journey. We walked with old friends and people we'd never talked with before. Halfway along the journey we stopped for snacks at the local Sikh temple. A few years ago, the temple had been attacked with graffiti, and the local community had come together to erase the biased words. The members of the Sikh community still remembered that with gratitude.

There were people in cars and trucks who stopped to ask the walkers along the way, "What are you walking for?" The responses were various forms of unity — humanity — together in our community. I saw a woman whose children I had met in a preschool program long ago. She and her husband were standing in her yard with masks on. I went up to talk with her — she held up her hand to keep my distance. She was in treatment

for cancer. We caught up on the years. I asked if I could pray for her. She said yes — I do every day. I walked with another member of my church as we discussed hearing aids. We remarked on the beauty of watching a younger member of our church walking slowly and keeping company with probably the oldest person on the walk.

We ended up back at my church — laughing, reflecting on how so many different people could do this thing together — in unity and peace for the morning. [JD]



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, email it to us at 1peaceeducators@gmail.com with Olive Branch in the subject line.

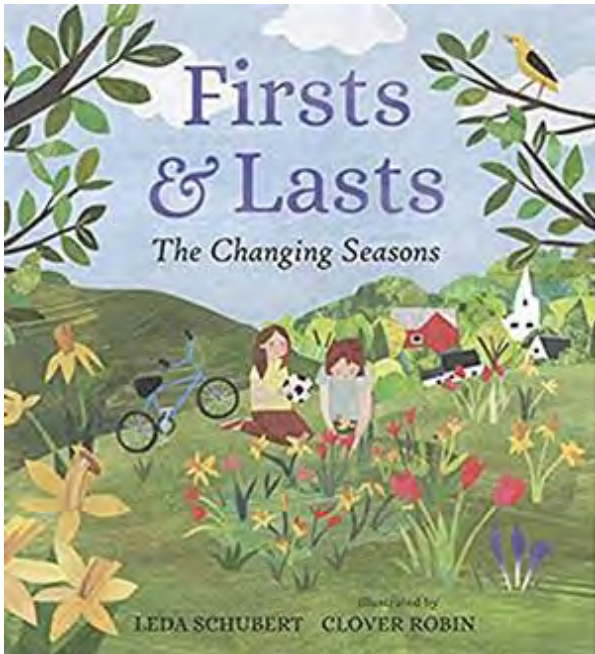
Olive’s Next Topic: **Living with Uncertainty**

We are looking for your questions and/or short stories regarding freedom.

Please submit your ideas by October 1, 2022, to Marilyn Shelton by email at 1peaceeducators@gmail.com (length 150-300 words).

Please put OLIVE BRANCH in the subject line.

Book Review



Firsts and Lasts: The Changing Seasons

Leda Schubert, author
Clover Robin, illustrator
Candlewick Press, 2022.
Pre-1st grade

This is a book about transitions.

You will enjoy this clever journey through the cycle of our seasons, anticipating the rituals a young child observes when each season ends and another arrives.

In reading this new book, you will want to add familiar everyday activities that are important to seasonal changes in your life. I feel that children will be inspired to make lists of their own to share, noting those "lasts" and looking forward to more "firsts" in their lives.

Leda Schubert lives in Vermont and shares her winter that includes snow and plow trucks. Spring brings the first sighting of new grass; summer sees the last night for sleeping with the window closed, and "the first time we hear June bugs hitting the screens."



What makes your year go around? What are your beginnings and endings?

In your part of the world, what are the signals of the seasonal cycle?

Clover Robin's cut-paper collages, introduces each season with a spread of small images that will appear in larger scenes for that particular season. The story begins with a collage of soft colors of late March before spring bursts out, a glimpse of the "lasts" of winter's grasp: snows melting and mud, but also the excitement of green sprouts pushing up, and as spring arrives, the first game of catch, and the first flowers. Textured collages bring wonder to daily experiences as she uses color palettes that shift with the seasons.



Leda Schubert is the author of numerous books for children, including *Dogs Love Cars*, and *Monsieur Marceau*. ledaschubert.com^[1]_[SEP]

Clover Robin is a collage artist and the author and illustrator of several books for children. She lives in London. cloverrobin.com

Submitted by Karen Kosko

Days of the Month

August

August 6 — [77th Anniversary of Atomic Bombing of Hiroshima, Japan](#)

August 9 — [77th Anniversary of Bombing of Nagasaki, Japan](#)

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



According to the UN, there are over 476 million indigenous people living across the world (about 6.2 % of the global population). Indigenous people have special relationships with their land and are holders of a unique culture including traditions, languages, and knowledge systems.

Photo courtesy of pixabay.com

August 12 — [International Youth Day](#)

August 12th gives us an opportunity to celebrate International Youth Day, celebrating young people's actions and initiatives, as well as valuing their universal and equitable engagement. This year's theme is "Intergenerational Solidarity: Creating a World for All Ages".

Photo courtesy of Unsplash.com



Quote of the Month

Let's Love Each Other

Let's love each other,
let's cherish each other, my friend,
before we lose each other.

You'll long for me when I'm gone.
You'll make a truce with me.
So why put me on trial while I'm alive?

Why adore the dead but battle the living?

You'll kiss the headstone of my grave.
Look. I'm lying here still as a corpse,
dead as a stone. Kiss my face instead!

— Rumi, translated by Haleh Liza Gafori

July 26, 2022 *Pace e Bene*

You're Important to Us!


Help us keep in touch!

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

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.

Join Now

Donate

 Follow us on Facebook

Join the NAEYC Interest Forum

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.

Visit our Website, peaceeducators.org!

