



P.E.A.C.E. News for July 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](#)

[P.E.A.C.E. Retreat 2022](#)

[History Corner: Male Presence in P.E.A.C.E](#)

[Poetry: Pity the Nation by Lawrence Ferlinghetti](#)

[Book Review: Mommy's Hometown](#)

[Days of the Month: July](#)

[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 ages 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](https://www.covidfactsnow.com)

P.E.A.C.E. Retreat 2022

P.E.A.C.E. and E.P.C.C. members at the Mercy Center, Auburn, CA



Report from the P.E.A.C.E. Retreat, June 2022

P.E.A.C.E. members met in person, and digitally, at the Mercy Center, Auburn CA, for our annual Retreat. The agenda covered a variety of topics over a day and a half.

We decided that our annual meeting for all members should continue to be held at the NAEYC Conference each year. It had been proposed to move it to the June Retreat, but our hope is that we will have more participation at the conference in person and add Zoom coverage to increase the number who can attend.

This Year's conference will be held in Washington DC from Nov. 16 to 18. Watch for the announcement of the date and timing of our annual meeting. A Committee has been formed to plan the meeting and other Conference activities.

We also deliberated and chose 2022 Peace Awardees: Hannah Thompson, Josh Golin, of FairPlay, and, we hope, an indigenous group who create educational materials on native topics for Minnesota schools. The awards will be presented at the annual meeting.

A decision was confirmed to provide the newsletter on the website in its complete form. A monthly notice sent to members by Mailchimp in an email will include a list of the contents, and a link will take members to the website.

Fran Roznowski announced that she is willing to continue in the treasurer's role in its new limited capacity. She will oversee the member of the Book Keepers Collaborative who is being hired to keep our monthly records and meet other formal financial needs. The address for P.E.A.C.E will not change at this time.

We will meet again next year for the Retreat at the Mercy Center and share the time from June 16–19, 2023 with Educators for Peaceful Classrooms and Communities, EPCC, as we did this year.

The Peace Projects played an important role at the Retreat. The reports from each of the six projects were shared. They provided a fine window into the work that the programs had accomplished this spring. We look forward to more inspiration from future projects and hope you will follow the accounts of the 2022 efforts as they appear month by month in the newsletters to come. Please also consider becoming a project leader or sponsor for the next round of awards coming this fall.

We encourage you to [donate](#) and contribute to the continuation of this good work!

History Corner

Male Presence in P.E.A.C.E.

Last month we lost **Bill Dorman**, husband of Pat, and always supportive of our work of P.E.A.C.E. It is a good reminder that men can be part of this organization. (See June issue of this newsletter.) There hasn't been much of a male presence in P.E.A.C.E. (formerly CEASE) over the years I have been involved.

Photo: CEASE members Sunny Wallick and Boone Schirmer



When I first joined CEASE in the mid-1980's there was always **Boone Schirmer** (a.k.a. Peggy's husband). He held an amazing presence. He told stories of the McCarthy era and being underground in Roxbury, Massachusetts. He was very active in the demilitarization of Okinawa and the Pacific Islands. Every year at the CEASE retreat he would give the annual talk to the 20 or so attendees in summer shorts and t-shirts in Truro (Massachusetts) on the state of the US Military and its effects on children, families, and the world! He only showed aggression when he chased the squirrels away from the bird feeder. He was funny, present, and committed to CEASE and the world.



Frank Petrocelli and Heidi Smith used to come regularly to retreats before and during the birth of their two sons. Frank was our CEASE lawyer, straightening out our bylaws, and Heidi an infant toddler coordinator in Boston. It was always a joy to have Frank at these meetings with his joyful spirit and charismatic smile. We

lost him to ALS way too soon. They both gave us so much.

Photo: Heidi Smith and Frank Petrocelli with sons Tristan (left) and Talan (right).

Patrick Romero and Cheryl Horney have been a great presence first in Massachusetts and now California. Both were involved in writing articles and speaking at NAEYC and California AEYC and leaders in their childcare community. Patrick has been involved with Men in Child Care and MenTeach-New England. Now they are parents and continue to spread the P.E.A.C.E. message.



Left: Patrick Romero and his wife Cheryl Horney. Right: P.E.A.C.E. members Lucy Stroock and John Surr.

Of course, **John Surr** and I have been a male presence in CEASE and P.E.A.C.E. for many years. John, then a retired lawyer with tie-dye shirts volunteering in child care centers at the border and in hurricane disasters, is still very active on the Peace Council in the center of NAEYC politics and volunteering weekly at an outdoor nature preschool center near his home. I have been part of CEASE/P.E.A.C.E. for many years now as a retired infant/toddler teacher and involved in nonviolent politics of all kinds.

Craig Simpson, Dorchester, MA

Poetry

Pity the Nation

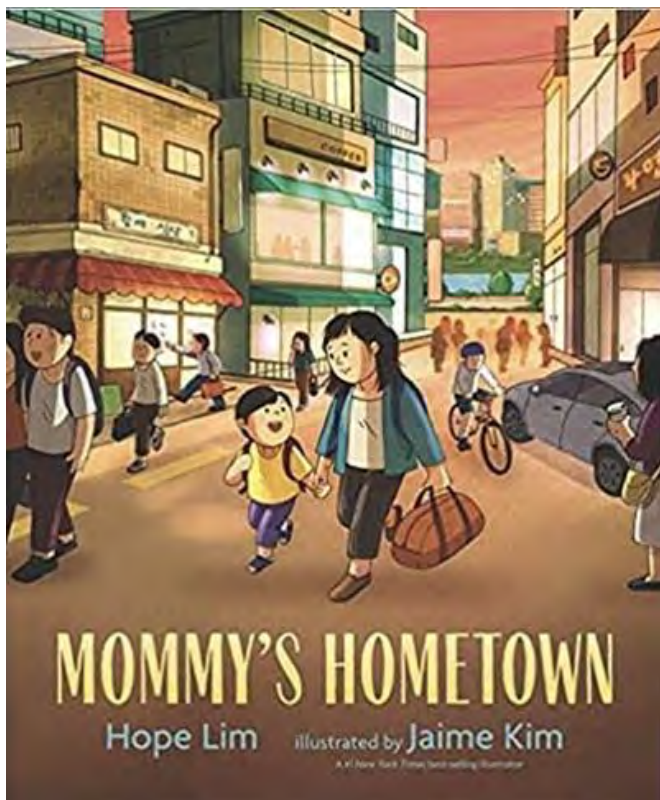
Pity the nation whose people are sheep
And whose shepherds mislead them
Pity the nation whose leaders are liars
Whose sages are silenced
And whose bigots haunt the airwaves
Pity the nation that raises not its voice
Except to praise conquerors
And acclaim the bully as hero
And aims to rule the world
By force and by torture
Pity the nation that knows
No other language but its own
And no other culture but its own
Pity the nation whose breath is money
And sleeps the sleep of the too well fed
Pity the nation oh pity the people
who allow their rights to erode
and their freedoms to be washed away
My country, tears of thee
Sweet land of liberty!

By Lawrence Ferlinghetti

(after Khalil Gibran)

2007

Book Review



Mommy's Hometown

Hope Lim, author

Jaime Kim, illustrator

Candlewick, 2022.

Preschool – Gr2

This summer I am sharing a new uplifting, intergenerational family tale inspired by the author's visit to her childhood home in Korea.

Mommy spends time sharing her stories of growing up with her young son. Her vivid stories have let the boy visit her homeland in his thoughts and dreams *"At night, Mommy would tell me about where she grew up."* She gives details of the

adventures and games she shared with her family and friends. Fortunately, they have an opportunity to travel to Mommy's hometown to visit her mother.

Hope Lim wants the readers to imagine how over time her hometown has changed while some things have stayed the same. *"Everything is different from her stories."* Seeking the differences is part of the visit to Mom's hometown as is finding and sharing a piece of her childhood in the modern landscape. Mom helps her son appreciate the stories they have shared.

A misinterpretation can happen between a parent's memories of a place and the current reality. The young son is confused about the changes that he witnesses. Where she described a village along a river, surrounded by mountains, now there are paved roads, concrete sidewalks and the skyscrapers block their view. He feels a connection with his mom and her memories, and discovers that even though time brings change, the important things can still be present, especially in the spirit of community and family. *"I imagine Mommy playing as a girl under the red sky. And I am there, too."*



The story unfolds to a child's-eye view, honors the immigrant experience and the timeless bond between parent and child. The urban progress doesn't mean they can't enjoy their time together as they explore her hometown creating new stories.

Jaime Kim's digital illustrations with the deep color backgrounds enhance the text showing the differences between the new and nostalgic.

The book is universal even while the story has a uniquely Korean setting. Readers will have a rich discussion on connections between generations and how towns develop and expand. Can you go home again? What is the meaning of home? Maybe going home again can never be exactly as you remember.

Hope Lim, the author of *I Am a Bird*, was born and raised in South Korea. She now lives with her family in San Francisco.

Jaime Kim was born and raised in Korea before moving to the US at the age of eighteen. Her books include *La La La: A Story of Hope* by Kate DiCamillo. She currently lives in North Carolina.

Submitted by Karen Kosko

Days of the Month

July

July 2 — [International Day of Cooperatives](#)

Since July of 1923, the annual celebration of the cooperative movement has taken place on the first Saturday of this month. The United Nations together with International Cooperative Alliance, have established themes for the celebration of this special day, to increase awareness and the emphasis that cooperatives are people-centered, not capital-centered and thus community-based. The theme for this year is “*Cooperatives Build a Better World*”.



Community cooperative in Kathmandu, Nepal. Picture courtesy of Unsplash.com

July 4 — In celebration of Independence Day

July 9 — Eid al-Adha - begins at sunset (Islamic holiday)

July 16 — [Ida B. Wells](#) born

Ida B. Wells was born on July 16th, 1862 in Holly Springs, Mississippi. She was an avid activist, journalist, and researcher who battled racism, sexism, and violence during her lifetime.

July 18 — [Nelson Mandela International Day](#)



Please mark July 18 as Nelson Mandela International Day, a day to make a difference in your communities. We all have the ability and responsibility to make changes for the better. Like Anne Frank said, “How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world”. Mandela Day is an occasion for us to become proactive and inspire change.

Picture courtesy of Unsplash.com

July 30th — [International Day of Friendship](#)



Picture courtesy of Unsplash.com

In 2011, the UN General Assembly declared the International Day of Friendship. The idea is that friendships between people, countries, and cultures support peace efforts and can build bridges between communities. The Assembly emphasizes the importance of involving young people in community activities, promoting international understanding for diversity and respect for others.

Quote of the Month

“Nonviolence is the constant awareness of dignity and humanity of oneself and others; it seeks truth and justice; it renounces violence both in method and in attitude. It is a courageous acceptance of active love and goodwill as the instrument with which to overcome evil and transform both oneself and others. It is the willingness to undergo suffering rather than inflict it. It excludes retaliation and flight.”

—**Wally Nelson** 1909-2002 — World War II draft resister, member of first Journey of Reconciliation — first freedom ride 1947 (photo below, second from left), tax resister, former organizer for Congress for Racial Equality, Peacemaker, farmer, partner with Juanita Nelson



*Journey of Reconciliation 1947. Wally Nelson is second from left.
Photo courtesy of Nelson Homestead <https://www.nelsonhomestead.org/>*

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

f 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!

