

P.E.A.C.E. News for June 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

Reflections on Uvalde



Photo courtesy of Unsplash.com

Firstly, I would like to say how deeply saddened I am to hear of all the children and educators whose lives were taken last week. I hope that their families find peace and I hope only but the best for their healing. While I am saddened by this event, I also am extremely angered by the news of it. I am angry at our nation's leaders for continuing to let gun violence and school shootings occur due to their lack of efforts to make any changes. We have had gun laws on the table waiting to be voted on for years, yet they are cast aside and forgotten. Gun laws in our country are not consistent nor are they

effective in the sense that they allow for individuals to own guns who should not be allowed to own them. As a senior in high school, I have been participating in lockdown drills since elementary school, and it is unsettling to think that instead of working towards solving the issue at hand we are instead only focusing on preventive measures. Arming teachers, teaching about lockdowns, etc. — all these methods are only preventive and do nothing to work toward eliminating gun violence. Unless changes are made on a systemic level, shootings and violence caused by guns will only continue to occur. It is crucial that we continue to contact our legislators, urging them to make changes instead of idly watching as the same chain of events will continue occurring. This is beyond politics; this is about working toward a better and safer future for our country's children and educators.

Natasha Pavelek (17)

Action Alert

New Child Care Proposal Going Forward

Senators Murray (WA) and Kaine (VA) have put forward a [new proposal](#) as part of a bipartisan Budget Reconciliation Bill, that would triple Federal child care subsidies under the CCDBG, add grants to open new child care centers, increase child care pay, and fund quality improvements, as well as piloting expansion grants to raise family income limits and cap family child care expenses at 7% of income, on a sliding scale. The proposal also would increase state preschool grants and raise Head Start salaries. This proposal should be coming up soon in the Senate. Please contact your Senators' offices at (202) 224-3121 to express your support, letting them know about the troubles you, your childcare colleagues, and the families you serve and can't serve have been having.

The proposal would give good care for more than a million new children, according to a [recent study](#). In addition, a [recent poll](#) in seven Senate battleground states found support for the proposal by 66 percent of the likely voters, outranking other budget alternatives.

In Loving Memory Bill Dorman



Picture courtesy of statehornet.com

When Pat Dorman joined our happy P.E.A.C.E. community, Bill Dorman was close by. Many of us met him after he retired from being a professor at Sacramento State University. We lost him in April of this year suddenly to cancer and COVID. Bill was a real part of P.E.A.C.E. He was of course the willing and joyful host when Pat and he put us up before P.E.A.C.E. retreats. He was an amazing conversationalist. He knew all things political. He knew how to spin a good story. He and Pat took me to Donner Pass on a pre-retreat field trip and he knew everything about the Donner Party and had been at all their stops in the West before they were caught in the snowstorms of California. Bill was an avid fly-fisherman and had wonderful tales of the hard-to-find stream in the wilderness where he would always catch and release the fish he caught. Bill was a happy presence for all in personal conversations and as company at a James Taylor concert.



Pat and Bill Dorman. Picture courtesy of Jan Haag

We will miss Bill. Not just because of his good male presence in P.E.A.C.E., but for his warmth and positive outlook on life. CEASE/P.E.A.C.E. men such as Bill have an important role to play as peace educators, early childhood workers, and allies to strong women leaders of our movement.

Craig Simpson, Dorchester, MA

Resources

Upcoming PEACE Retreat

We would like to announce P.E.A.C.E.'s Annual Retreat to be held at Mercy Auburn Retreat Center (Northern California) from Thursday, June 16 to Saturday, June 18. Thursday to Saturday morning will be the P.E.A.C.E. meeting. Saturday afternoon there will be a joint meeting with P.E.A.C.E. and EPCC (Educators for Peaceful Classrooms and Communities).

We'd be happy to see you all at this lovely retreat center in June! Please contact 1peaceeducators@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.

We're planning to have a way for those who can't be at the retreat physically to join us virtually — let us know if you'll be attending virtually so we'll have your email address!

Hope to see you there!

Juneteenth

June 19th, known as Juneteenth, is a day of celebration for the African American communities around the United States. This day symbolizes freedom and is shared through different festivities such as people enjoying art, food, and music. There are many ways we can educate children about this day as well as the tragedy of enslavements and racism.

On the [Learning for Justice website](#) (formerly known as *Teaching Tolerance*), educators and parents can find numerous resources emphasizing celebrations of culture, activism, and the humanity of people. Please continue reading more on about [Juneteenth](#).

Picture courtesy of Unsplash.com



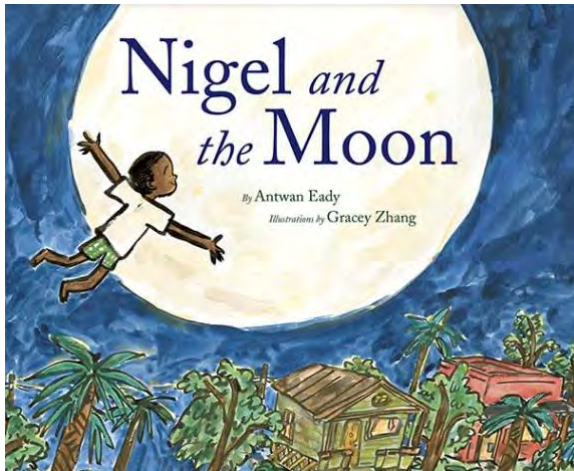
Little Gems 2022



Little Gems 2022 is a small collection of mosaic works from [New England Mosaic Society](#) members. The exhibition showcases the different techniques, materials, and styles used in their designs. The mission of this art society is to encourage members to grow through education, sharing of information, and involvement in exhibitions and community events. Read more on this society and [mosaics as fine art](#).

Mosaic Peace Art from the Little Gems collection, 2022

Book Review



Nigel and the Moon

Antwan Eady, author
Gracey Zhang, illustrator
Harper Collins, 2022.

This is a timely tale of learning how to 'Dream Big' and demonstrate courage and confidence. Each night when Nigel looks up at the moon, his future is bright.

He imagines himself as an astronaut, AND a dancer, AND a superhero. The radiant art is done with bold brushstrokes and saturated colors of ink, gouache, and watercolors.



During the day Nigel is shy about sharing his dreams and displays a worried face. At school, it is 'Career Week' and Nigel still can't find the courage to share his dreams with his classmates. It's just easier to whisper his ideas to the moon. "What if I wish to be too many things?" He tells the moon "My parents don't have fancy jobs. Will my class laugh if I tell them?" His parents may not have "fancy jobs" — Mom delivers mail and Dad drives a truck — but they are very supportive of Nigel and his dreams. Coming to speak to his class, they highlight the value of their jobs, and confess that parenting Nigel is "the best job we've ever had."



Readers of all ages may empathize and see their own anxious experiences within this book. Nigel does find the courage to share his true self, a quiet power.

Educators could facilitate an endless discussion surrounding pride related to jobs within their community and direct awareness for any person that has ever held dreams close to their hearts, whispered them to the sky, and has made them real.

[Antwan Eady](#) is from Savannah, Georgia. He spent many years imagining a world without limitations.

[Gracey Zhang](#), from Vancouver, is also the writer and illustrator of [Lala's Words](#).

Book dedication: To all yet to be realized dreams: the moon is listening.

Submitted by Karen Kosko

Days of the Month

June



Picture courtesy of Unsplash.com

LGBTQ Pride Month

[The Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network \(GLSEN\)](#) Curriculum helps ensure that LGBTQ students see themselves reflected in lessons and creates opportunities for all students to gain a more complex and authentic understanding around them.

Caribbean American Heritage Month



[Caribbean American Heritage Month](#) is designated to celebrate the history, traditions, and culture of Caribbean Americans. To get involved or read more visit <https://caribbeanamericanmonth.com/>

June 4 — [UN Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression](#)

According to the United Nations, June 4th has been commemorated each year as the International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression Day.



Picture courtesy of Unsplash.com

June 16 — [International Day of the African Child](#)



June 16th is the International Day of the African Child. It was first established by the Organization of African Unity in 1991. The day aims at raising awareness for the situation of children in Africa, and on the need for continuing improvement in education. (World Health Organization)

Picture courtesy of Unsplash.com

June 18 — [Autistic Pride Day](#)

On June 18th, organizations from around the world celebrate Autistic Pride Day. The purpose of this day is to raise awareness among those who are not on the autism spectrum to see people who are on the spectrum as unique individuals and not as people in need of treatment.



Picture courtesy of Unsplash.com

June 19 — [Juneteenth](#)

Please see [our discussion of Juneteenth](#) in the Resources section above.

Quote of the Month



Picture courtesy of Unsplash.com

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!

