



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

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

Tribute to Peggy Schirmer



During this time of raging war, honor Peggy Schirmer and her vision of a world without the threat of nuclear armaments. Contribute to Peace Educators Allied for Children Everywhere Inc., formerly known as CEASE - Concerned Educators Allied for a Safe Environment.

Photo of Peggy Schirmer in Truro, Cape Cod



Tribute to Peggy Schirmer at the Peace Abbey Memorial Park, Sherborn, MA

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

Donate

Action Alerts

Please Keep Up the Pressure for Decent Early Childhood Funding!

Congress is still dithering about Federal Budget Issues, now involved in a Budget Reconciliation Bill. Child Care is in a promising, mostly favorable position in these negotiations. Your Senators, particularly, need to hear about your own difficulties, and the issues faced by the parents that are using or can't afford to use your services. We need to nudge Senators particularly toward prioritizing Child Care Funding now. Please call (202) 224-2131, and ask to speak to your Senator's office, then their Budget staff. Thanks!

Please Get Vaccinated ASAP!



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. Kids from the ages of 5 to 11 are eligible for vaccinations. We might expect to see vaccines for

children 5 and under in June.

Picture courtesy of covidfactsnow.com

Resources

Sunny Wallick Memorial Award



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

Sunny Wallick was a long-time peace activist, loving friend, early childhood advocate, and P.E.A.C.E. (formerly known as C.E.A.S.E.) member. In memory of Sunny, our organization has created a new award, the **Sunny Wallick Memorial Award**.

All P.E.A.C.E. members working with young children or working towards careers in Early Care and Education, are eligible to apply for this wonderful new award opportunity. If chosen as a recipient of this award, you will receive the following:

- One-year premium membership to the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC)
 - This membership offers 4 printed books, one e-book, a subscription to Teaching Young Children (TYC) and Young Children (YC), two training options, and many great resources.

[Fill out the application](#)

Frost Street

A poem by Sunny Wallick, Cambridge 2002

ivy.

reaching for the skyx
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

P.E.A.C.E. Membership Meeting

All members of P.E.A.C.E. were invited to a meeting on Zoom held on April 23rd.

Information shared at the meeting included the announcement of the Sunny Wallick Memorial Award. All members of P.E.A.C.E. are eligible to apply for the award. Those chosen will receive a premium subscription to NAEYC for one year. [See the details above](#)

The dates for the 2022 Annual P.E.A.C.E. Retreat are June 16 – 18, to be held in Auburn CA. Contact Joyce Daniels if you plan to attend.

A form for reimbursement for P.E.A.C.E.-related travel expenses is available. Ask for it at 1peaceeducators@gmail.com.

John Surr urges all who are members of NAEYC to consider [joining the ongoing dialogues on HELLO](#), which appears on the [NAEYC website](#).

Fran Roznowski explained options for finding a treasurer from our membership or hiring an accountant to take on the responsibilities when she completes her term in June. More on these options after the Executive Committee Meeting on May 16th.

A discussion followed addressing the topic, "How are young children affected by war." [See the list of books below](#). They are annotated for different ages and to consider how they address the topic appropriately.

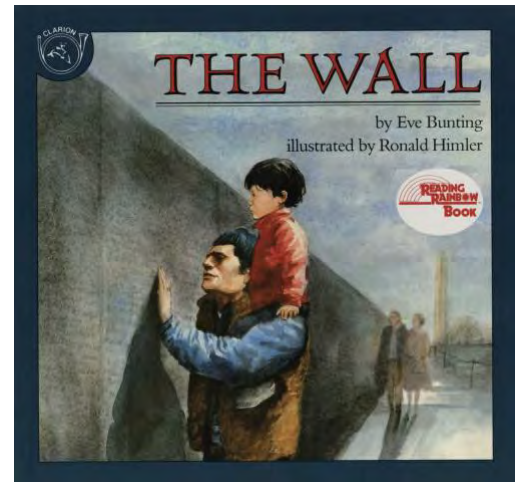
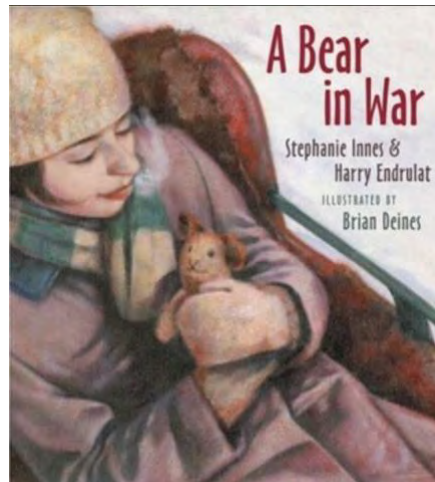
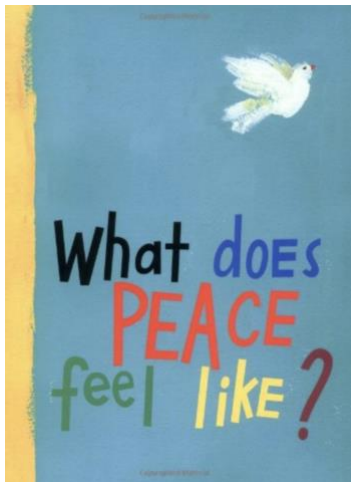
A further recommendation was for [the podcast now offered by Defending the Early Years.](#)

A second membership meeting will be held later in the summer or fall. Watch for the invitation. Each one, bring one!

Books About War for Young Children

The website [One Time Through](#) provides families and educators with a wonderful list of powerful books regarding the topic of war for young children. This site provides families and educators with short descriptions of the books, as well as questions to ask when having a discussion. Some of the books recommended:

- [The Peace Book](#) by Todd Parr
- [We Share One World](#) by Jane Hoffelt
- [What Does Peace Feel Like?](#) by Vladimir Radunsky
- [Can You Say Peace?](#) by Karen Katz
- [Peace Is... : A Child's Reflection Book](#) by Susan Fraser
- [A Bear in War](#) by Stephanie Innes
- [The Wall](#) by Eve Bunting



Book Review

The Boy with Flowers in His Hair



The Boy with Flowers in His Hair

by Jarvis, author/illustrator,
Candlewick, 2022.

Ages 3–7

What better time of year to read and share this new book. In this unusual story, everyone likes David, the boy with flowers in his hair. “He’s sweet and gentle”, just like the colorful flowers on his head. David and his best friend [the story’s narrator] always have a great time together, finding the good puddles, creating art, and making up songs.

One day David comes to school wearing a hat. “He was quiet. David was never quiet”. Students, of many different ethnicities, don't think David is strange until the flowers start to fall out. Jarvis crafts a book about friendship, compassion, and acceptance. The story becomes an extended metaphor about how good friends can share the burden of bad times, perhaps illness or trauma, with examples of how to be a kind and true friend to a classmate who is struggling.

Once upbeat and talkative, David grows quiet, uninterested in play, and the flowers fall out of his head. He starts wearing the hat to cover his “twiggy, spiky,” head. His loyal friend stays right by his side and begins crafting painted paper flowers for David’s hair, and other children quickly join in.

Everybody likes David. Even Mrs. Jones,
and flowers make
her sneeze.

He's sweet and gentle. Just like his petals.



Caregivers/educators will want to talk about empathy, kindness, differences, changes to people, respect, and equality. This is definitely a story that has to be read aloud and discussed with students. The whimsical art depicts a lively classroom, including someone who varies from the usual, has challenges, and triumphs. These beautiful digital illustrations are engaging and full of warmth.

[Jarvis](#) is a talented author, illustrator, animator, and designer from the U.K. Jarvis says, “The way I work is always visual. I will have an image or character in mind and I pull a story out of it. I doodle and doodle and doodle until I get it right.”

Submitted by Karen Kosko

Days of the Month

May

Mental Health Awareness Month

The month of May is dedicated to raise awareness for millions of Americans, who live with a mental illness. The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) is a strong advocate in fighting the stigma and provides the public with support resources through their website. Click to [read more and learn how you can get involved](#).



Picture courtesy of Unsplash.com

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month



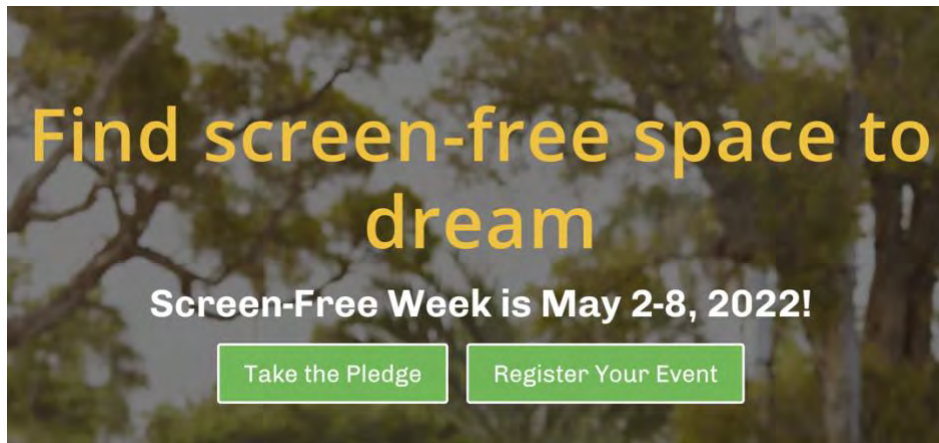
Lunar Festival Philadelphia

Picture by Dyana Wing So, courtesy Unsplash.com

A great resource for parents and caretakers is the article [*How to Teach Children about Cultural Awareness and Diversity*](#), by Christy Tirrell-Corbin. We need to start having conversations starting at the age of two, in order to build cultural competence in young children. According to the author, *“By helping your child understand and respect similarities and differences you will also help your child to understand who he is in the context of your race, ethnic group, culture, religion, language and familial history.”*

The website [*Learning For Justice*](#) provides us with some wonderful free teacher resources regarding Asian American and Pacific Islander heritage.

May 2 – 8 - [National Screen-Free Week](#)



The website *screenfree.org* provides us with a library filled with activities and other resources as well as how to take the pledge and commit to this event.

May 3 - [National Teacher Appreciation Day](#)



Picture courtesy Unsplash.com

May 8 - [Mother's Day](#)



Picture by Ketan Rajput, courtesy Unsplash.com

Mother's Day in the US was designated a national holiday in 1914 thanks to a campaign by Anna Jarvis, carrying on her mother Ann Reeves Jarvis's efforts to establish an annual celebration in honor of mothers and dedicated to peace.

May 15 - International Conscientious Objection Day



War protest in Germany. Picture courtesy Unsplash.com

[International Conscientious Objection Day](#) takes place on May 15th every year, to raise awareness of those who resist war. Conscientious objectors are those who, for moral or religious reasons, refuse to participate in armed conflict or join the armed forces.

In March of this year, *War Resisters International*, which has been campaigning for the Right of Conscientious Objection and the ending of all war, published the following statement: [Solidarity with all those nonviolently resisting the war in Ukraine](#). We would like to share the following message from their statement:

We call upon people everywhere to express their opposition to war in any way they consider it possible. From a single post on social media or a small symbolic action, to organizing or participating in a protest against the war, every action creates a mosaic of the war resistance throughout the world.

STOP THE RUSSIAN INVASION IN UKRAINE!

STOP THE NATO EXPANSION!

STOP ALL THE WARS, INVASIONS AND OCCUPATIONS WORLDWIDE!



Ukrainian Protest. Picture courtesy Unsplash.com

P.E.A.C.E. is an affiliate of the *War Resisters International*, based in London, UK.

Quote of the Month

*"Education is the most powerful weapon
which you can use to change the world."*

Nelson Mandela



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!

