

**ALW EARTHLINK
APRIL 2007**

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April Birthdays

Let's help these ALW Angels celebrate as they enjoy their April birthdays!

Haily – April 7

Meg – April 10

Diane “d” – April 12

Nikki – April 16

Lynne – April 23

Fatima – April 25

Petra – April 28

Have cake and candles and all that's FUN!

ALSO – EARTH DAY IS APRIL 22!!!!

NEW ADDRESS!

From now on, please send any correspondence, donations, love letters (lol), etc. to our mailing address (do not use our P.O. Box number – we are going to discontinue our P.O. Box). Our address is: A Lasting World, 2999 Husking Peg Lane, Geneva, Illinois 60134. THANKS!

Roots & Remembrance 2007

Our first ‘Remembrance’ candle ceremony was in a small, crowded ballroom at a fan convention in Md. – remember? Our first ‘Roots’ event took place in a park in Georgetown, Ky. and in Stanton, Ky. – remember? It hardly seems possible that we’ve been doing this project/event for 6 years! We’ve put our hands on the Earth, we’ve given candle donations to many of our environmental friends and we’ve remembered many, many of your heroes, your family and your friends with glowing candles and reverent reading of names.

It will be hard to let go of this annual weekend.....but time marches on and we’re being led down new environmental paths.

We’d love to have ALL of you share our LAST Roots & Remembrance Weekend with us. Although it’s too late for you to sign up for the entire weekend, we do have a FEW openings for the “Old Kentucky Night” celebration! The cost is \$35 per

person for a full evening (4 hours!) of food, entertainment, tours, music and fun at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Ky. Over 20 other ALW Angels and friends will be celebrating with you! We MUST have advance reservations, and we MUST have a final count by April 5 – so – if you’re going to be in the area that evening – please consider joining us! E-mail us for all the details at alastingworld@sbcglobal.net.

The candlelight ‘Remembrance’ ceremony starts at 8 p.m. at the Horse Park, and that part of the evening is FREE! There are NO reservations needed to attend the candle ceremony – so – c’mon down, y’all!

Last Chance to Help Light Up Lexington!

The beautiful, outdoor ‘Remembrance’ candle ceremony is always a highlight of our Roots & Remembrance Weekend. This year, we’ll be lighting up a brick walkway surrounding the Man-O-War Memorial at the Kentucky Horse Park in Lexington, Ky. It seems fitting to be there on Kentucky Derby Weekend! This year, ALL donations for candles will be used to help build a new nature center at the Cathedral Domain, the camp where Kevin Richardson grew up. The center will provide environmental education and workshop facilities for HUNDREDS of kid campers from all over the USA.

The minimum donation to have a candle lit is \$3. (For \$5 you receive a souvenir keepsake candle.) You have until April 25 to get your donations/names to us! You can send a donation via Paypal (our address is alastingworld@sbcglobal.net) or you can send a check or money order (in USA funds, please) to A LASTING WORLD, 2999 HUSKING PEG LANE, GENEVA, IL. 60134.

Update on Camp H.O.P.E.

Exciting news! We have been able to secure the \$\$\$\$ for an off-site field trip, so we’ll be taking our adopted campers on a one-day environmental outing to Lexington, Kentucky (they’ve NEVER been there!).

We are also bringing a live “Reptile Zoo” to the camp, so that the kids can be up close and personal with six different reptiles, 3 of whom are native to their area! We are partnering with Eastern Kentucky University staff, who will be presenting two separate environmental workshops for the kids, one of which is outdoor nature photography!

We’re still working hard on getting in-kind donations so that we have supplies, arts/crafts, etc. to supplement what the campers are learning every day.

It’s going to be an awesome week, and we are grateful to each and every one of you who have donated to the success of this camp in some way!

Help Needed!

While our 15 campers have all been ‘adopted,’ we still need a few talented volunteers to make twin-size blankets or fleece throws for their beds! If you can do this for us (fleece is no-sew and we can give you very easy directions, as well as the fabric dimensions, suggested colors, etc.) – please contact us ASAP!!!! We don’t

want any child to be without one of these very special items. Last year, the kids loved the very personal touch of having their own, special blanket/fleece throw on their bunks!

Upcoming ALW Activities

Where we live, Spring is in the air! That means it will be the season for outdoor fairs, farmers' markets, festivals, etc. ALW will be hosting informational/educational booths at some of these places, and we'll have the cookbooks, baked goods, and other items available for purchase. We'll also be hosting a HUGE garage sale on two different dates in May. All the money will go directly to our "Camp 2008" fund!

Speaking of garage sales – be watching for an announcement of a 'basement clearance sale' for ALW Angels only! We've got some AWESOME 'close-out' deals for y'all this Spring and Summer!

Environmental News

Something for the Kids!

In addition to caring for animals, the Smithsonian's National Zoo has been educating the public about sustainable practices and conservation.

As part of its Earth Day celebration throughout the month of April, the zoo is holding a children's "Stomp Out Carbon!" contest. Through April 30, kids ages 6-14 are invited to send in tips on how we can shrink our 'carbon footprint' – that's a measurement of how much our activities affect the environment.

The tips can be on such topics as conserving water, recycling, generating less trash and reusing materials. Each idea should be presented on an 8 ½ by 11 inch piece of paper and include an illustration. Children are encouraged to reuse materials and incorporate recycled components (as well as scan their entries and submit them online).

The zoo's judging panel will select one winner in the age 6-10 category, and one winner in the 11-14 category. Both winners will be treated to round-trip air transportation to Washington, D.C. for four on United Airlines, and they will stay for two nights at the Omni Shoreham Hotel. The Friends of the National Zoo (aka FONZ) will buy a renewable energy pass from TerraPass to offset the carbon from the flight. Winners and their families will visit the National Zoo and receive an exclusive VIP tour to meet the animals at the new Fujifilm Giant Panda Habitat and Asia Trail. They also will get to meet the zoo's staff members, who are developing new ways to incorporate Earth-friendly materials into exhibits and making choices every day to reduce the zoo's carbon footprint. In addition, the winners will each get a Fujifilm digital camera and a basket filled with eco-friendly gifts.

After the contest, the zoo will be compiling the best of the tips received into an e-booklet (which also will include the zoo's own sustainable practices, plus ways to create a green garden) that can be downloaded in late May from nationalzoo.si.edu. USA Weekend Magazine last partnered with National Zoo on their Name the Panda contest in 2005. More than 200,000 entrants voted to name the newborn cub Tai Shan from a selection of five names.

To enter the contest: Kids, it's time to put on your thinking cap and tell us all the simple ways we can preserve the planet. You can enter by picking up a form at one of the 185 Whole Foods Markets across the country or by logging onto www.nationalzoo.si.edu. Contest entries will be judged based on creativity and clarity of message.

Good luck, kids! (From USA Weekend Magazine, March 30-April 1, 2007)

Ban on Plastic Bags Likely To Become Law

City leaders in San Francisco approved a ban on most plastic grocery bags after weeks of lobbying on both sides from environmentalists and a supermarket trade program. If Mayor Gavin Newsom signs the ban as expected, San Francisco would be the first USA city to adopt such a rule. The law, passed by a 10-1 vote, requires large markets and drugstores to give customers only a choice among bags made of paper that can be recycled, plastic that breaks down easily enough to be made into compost, or reusable cloth.

(From the Chicago Tribune)

Energy Proofing Your Home

Consider switching off your computer monitor during long periods of non-use. The monitor itself uses more than half the system's energy.

Unplug battery chargers when they are not in use. Chargers for cell phones, laptops and other wireless devices use lots of energy even when they aren't charging their devices.

Don't leave the lights on. Turn off lights any time you are not in the room, or install timers or motion sensors to reduce the amount of time your lights are on.

Carefully positioned trees around the perimeter of a home can actually save up to 25% of a typical household's energy for heating and cooling. You can also deflect winter winds and reduce heating costs by planting evergreens and shrubs on the north and west side of your house.

Installing a programmable thermostat lets you lower the thermostat during periods when no one is home or when people are asleep. You can save as much as 10% a year with this device.

(From the Kane County Chronicle)

Green Festival

Go to www.greenfestivals.org to find out if a Green Festival will be held in your area this year. Chicago, Illinois is hosting theirs April 21 and 22 at McCormick Place/Lakeside in Chicago. The festival is one of the anchors of the City of Chicago's Earth Month celebration. You can also check out Chicago's upcoming green events at www.cityofchicago.org/environment.

If you come into Chicago for any of these events, make sure you give us a call!

Earth Day!

Remember Earth Day is April 22, and remember to celebrate/cherish/care for our Mother Earth EVERY day!

And Finally.....

*“It’s not that the American people don’t care about the environment. They care deeply...the dots are not being connected for them by the media.”
(Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., exclusive interview on Link TV)*

*“Some of the environmental problems now facing our planet seem so dire and extreme that it would be easy for people to just throw up their hands in despair or to deny those problems entirely – as some have. But we choose to believe in the art of the possible. We are convinced that in these challenges there are great opportunities, despite the severity of the crisis.”
(John Kerry and Teresa Heinz Kerry)*

*“Fear is never a reason for quitting.
It is only an excuse.”
(Norman Vincent Peale)*

The May newsletter will be a few days later than May 1, due to Roots & Remembrance. But --we’ll see you in May!

Linda and Wen