

**ALW EARTHLINK
JULY 2006**

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July Birthdays

Wishing 'star-spangled' celebrations to the following ALW Angels who have July birthdays!

Patty – July 3

Stephanie – July 3

Mandy – July 8

Robert – July 12

Liz – July 14

Malinda – July 14

Marian – July 17

Amber – July 26

Family Environmental Camp

It's now only days away!! From July 16-22, 2006, ALW will hold its first annual Family Environmental Camp in the southeastern Kentucky Mountains! We are pleased and proud to announce the name of our camp – Camp H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Planet Earth) for Kids! We think this acronym is fitting, but the other reason we used the word "hope" in the camp name is because HOPE is the gift we want to give our participants – we want to fill them with the dreams, the expectation and the enthusiasm to go out into the world with a purpose and with the confidence that they truly can make a difference.

MANY of our ALW Angels have been extremely generous with their outpouring of supplies, gifts and well wishes for our 13 needy kids. We've taken two extra trips to Kentucky, just to place ALL the equipment and donations for the kids in our ALW "office" (storage unit) there. Special thanks to Angels Tabitha and Whitney for helping us fill duffel bags, go over checklists, etc.!

Planning and preparation for the camp has taken lots of time and effort! We've had days full of laughter and joy (the 'yes' from Jive Records, the extra night lights for each child, the statement of support from Kevin, the financial backing from Jerry so we could make those needed trips to Kentucky) and we've had days full of frustration and disappointments (the 'gloom and doom' talk from people who told us we'd never be able to pull this off, the hours of time spent on HOLD on the phone, the 'run-around' and then the 'no' from some of the big companies we met

with). The planning took lots of twists and turns, but every single moment spent working on this “adventure” has been well worth it, and we are more than just a little excited to realize the fruits of our work and to stand on that mountain and welcome our inaugural group of campers!!

Thanks again to EVERYONE who had a part in making this dream of ours come true. We will have a full report in the August newsletter and we will be putting photos and reviews on our website.

If anyone still wants to make a monetary donation to help us cover the cost of camp snacks, admission fees for our field trip, etc. – we’ll still GLADLY accept your offering! Contact us at alastingworld@sbcglobal.net if you’d like to help in some small way. (Your name will go in the Camp yearbook as a sponsor!)

October FUNdraiser!

With the camp ALMOST under our belts, we can now turn our thoughts towards – raising money for NEXT YEAR’S CAMP!

And what could be a better FUNdraiser than a Birthday Bash for our Honorary Chairperson, Kevin Richardson?!

If you’ve never been to KEVtucky, and if you’ve never celebrated with ALW Angels – this is your chance to do both at once! We’ll all be gathering in Lexington, KEVtucky on October 6-7, for the first annual KEVIN RICHARDSON BIRTHDAY BASH!

We’ve already sent out packets to 28 people who have expressed a serious interest in attending our event. We’d like to see 100 of us par-taying in honor of Kevin! The cost is reasonable, the activities are creative and unique, and most of all – it’s for KEVIN!

Here’s a ‘preview’ of what’s in store:

Friday Evening, October 6

Football Frenzy Tailgate Party

\$10.03 per person

Includes tailgate foods (including the special Richardson chili recipe!), football games, contests, raffles and prizes

Saturday Afternoon, October 7

Picnic in the Park

\$19.71 per person

Includes a Kevin “brown bag lunch,” carnival-type treats, games, raffles and prizes

Saturday Evening, October 8

A Celebration in Honor of Kevin Richardson’s 35th Birthday

\$35.00 per person

Includes dinner, cake and ice cream, Kevin birthday

games, trivia contests, Kevin Bingo, auctions, raffles, a Kevin tee-shirt, a Kevin button, a goody bag, a special exhibit and a special presentation called “Kevin Richardson: This is Your Life!” and more!

All events will be held in the Ballroom at the Comfort Inn, Lexington, KEVtucky. ALW has a block of rooms reserved for people who wish to stay at the hotel for the weekend.

For more information on this very special FUNdraiser event, contact us at alastingworld@sbcglobal.net and tell us you would like a registration packet.

Remember, this event is OFFICIALLY APPROVED by Kevin himself, and he supports our efforts to raise money to give needy Kentucky kids the opportunity to attend an environmental camp!

Environmental News

Two Reviews of “An Inconvenient Truth”

1. By Kevin Crust, Los Angeles Times

Critics have labeled Al Gore and his decades-long crusade to curb global warming as ‘alarmist.’ But if you’ve been warning people the sky is falling for more than 20 years and it really is falling (or at least heating up), don’t you have an obligation to sound an alarm?

The highly persuasive documentary “An Inconvenient Truth” captures Gore delivering a multimedia presentation he has given an estimated 1,000 times since 1989. The talk is augmented with an impressive array of graphs, animation, anecdotes and statistics that convey a flurry of facts, projections and conjecture, all pointing to the ill effects the present rate of emissions have on the environment. A film with a clear point of view (and little room for others), it is the inspiration of producers Laurie David and Lawrence Bender, who attended Gore’s lecture, decided it had to be made into a film to broaden the reach of its message and recruited director Davis Guggenheim to shoot it.

Real and projected catastrophes reveal what exactly is at stake. Glacier erosion, the threat to various wildlife and the spread of deadly viruses make for some truly terrifying scenarios. Hurricane Katrina and other weather-related disasters that occurred in late 2005 are included, giving the film a sense of timeliness and a powerful visual element, which Gore compares to ‘a nature hike through the Book of Revelations.’

The other strong point that Gore makes is to dispute the ‘either/or’ argument presented by big business when it comes to making the necessary changes. He uses Upton Sinclair’s quote, “It is difficult to get a man to understand something when his salary depends upon his not understanding it,” to not-so-subtly stress the motivation behind this line of thinking.

The film’s title, “An Inconvenient Truth,” refers to politicians’ apprehensiveness in addressing the problem. Attempts at strict environmental reform have long been met with gloomy projections from the right of economic disaster in the form of lost

jobs and factory closures, and Gore refutes this by suggesting that green business can be good business.

Although the message of the film sounds bleak, it is actually quite rousing. Gore offers measures that can be taken on personal and community levels, but also stresses that major changes require a larger response. The film's ultimate significance is that this requires political will – which Gore labels a 'renewable resource' – and that if our present representatives are not up to the challenge, we elect men and women who are.

2. By Marsha Fishman, Texas Resident and friend of Wen

“If you have not seen ‘An Inconvenient Truth’put it on your list.

I promise that Al Gore will not bore you. He may frighten you.....but that will be a good thing.

If we don't get started now and change the way we live.....well, let's just say planet Earth won't be a very comfortable place to live.....and it will happen in our lifetime!

Go see the movie.....I promise you will be glad you did!

Need An Idea For A Place To Vacation? Try One of Our National Parks!

What makes a national park great for families? Action – lots of action. Good thing, then, that America's 52 million acres of national parks offer loads of guided adventures! Here are six majestic parks (there are 58 in total) that will sizzle with activities this summer! Many of the activities are FREE!

1. Voyageurs National Park, Minnesota

Glaciers were responsible for exposing this extensive area of lake basins and bedrock.

More than a third of this park is water, so the vehicle of choice is a boat!

Ideal for families – the guided excursions aboard 26-foot replicas of the canoes used by 18th century French-Canadians for fur trade. Interpreters, outfitted in period dress, combine history with bird-watching, pointing out bald eagles, pelicans and other water birds. Families can also paddle their own rented aluminum canoes on ranger-led tours, including night excursions.

2. Acadia National Park, Maine

For much of the fall and winter, this park's Cadillac Mountain has the earliest sunrise in the United States.

Easygoing boat cruises provide some of the best views of the high cliffs, ocean beaches, pine forests and offshore islands that make tiny Acadia one of the most diverse – and popular – national parks. You can try a ranger-led day trip in search of harbor seals, porpoises, osprey and the occasional bald eagle. Younger children especially will have fun exploring pond life. The park's nightly campfire programs are open to noncampers as well.

3. Carlsbad Caverns National Park, New Mexico

Bones from early jaguars, lions, camels and other Ice Age animals have been found near some of the entrances to these caves. Bats, bats and more bats – 400,000 of the flying mammals – are a big draw at these vast caves, which Will Rogers once called the “Grand Canyon with a roof over it.” Outside the natural entrance of the main bat cave, a giant amphitheater with stone seats provides a roost for watching the bats’ nightly mass exodus in search of insects. At dusk throughout the summer, as many as 18,000 Brazilian free-tailed bats swoop out of the cave per minute, looping back and forth all night.

4. Mammoth Cave National Park, Kentucky

This is the longest explored cave system in the world. More than 360 miles have been mapped.

Creep and crawl on knees and bellies 240 feet below the surface, outfitted in knee pads and lantern-equipped hard hats provided by the ranger guide. You’ll climb down 300 steps – past stone walls dramatically sculpted by dripping water – then advance through cracks and crevices for 1 ¼ miles before emerging at the stalactite-adorned exit.

5. Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado

A stamp to honor this park’s centennial was issued June 29.

This was the first national park created to preserve the works of human beings – the ancient cliff-dwelling Ancestral Puebloans. New this summer: ranger-led hiking and horseback riding tours to explore these excavated ruins. You can scale the steps and ladders used to enter the elaborate 13th century stone villages.

6. Badlands National Park, South Dakota

In 1993, hikers in Badlands Park came across a pit of fossilized bones of prehistoric rhinoceroses, which are now being studied.

Test your night vision – no flashlights allowed – on the guided Night Prowl tour. As you walk, your eyes will adjust until you’re able to behold the majesty of a sky ablaze with stars. A naturalist will point out Cassiopeia, the Dippers, Scorpius, Cepheus and the Northern Lights. You’ll also learn how to identify coyotes, porcupines and other nightlife by the color of their glowing eyes.

Tips for Traveling to National Parks

Consider getting a \$50 National Parks Pass – good for the family for a year – if you are planning trips to several parks.

Pack clothes for the extremes – super hot summer days and cool nights.

Do not feed the animals! Feeding wildlife can make them aggressive and dangerous!

Judi Dash in Parade Magazine wrote the above information. For more information on all the USA’s national parks, go to www.nps.gov.

[Check out ALW’s Website!](#)

Go to ALW's forums and find more environmental news on just about every topic that might interest you!

Both of us (but ESPECIALLY Linda!) work hard to update our site and keep you informed of all things pertaining to our Earth and its environment.

July Angel of the Month

Linda happened upon a series of night lights in a local store, showed them to Wen, and we both decided that they would make a great addition to the 'Welcome to Camp' bag we are providing to each of our needy campers. Our own budget didn't really allow us the funds to purchase a night light for each child, so we contacted the company – Salamander Graphix, Inc. Melody Jordan, Manager of Field Sales, quickly responded to us and offered to supply each child with his/her personal night light! We're sure the cabins will be glowing warmly as our campers use their lights during our week-long adventure in Kentucky! Not only did the Company donate the night lights – they also sent us a few extra items to be used as prizes for our camp games! We honor Melody and her company by naming them July Angel of the Month! Here's a little more about Melody and Salamander Graphix, Inc.

Name of Company: Salamander Graphix, Inc.

**Address of Company: 10 Hangar Way,
Watsonville, CA. 95076**

Your Name: Melody Jordan

Your Position in the Company: Manager of Field Sales

Overview of Company's Products/Mission/Goals:

Salamander Graphix is a manufacturer of fine gifts that range from Impressionist artist umbrellas to quirky fish hats and slippers.

How Many Does the Company Employ? In the United States, about 40 employees

How did you hear about ALW and why did you want to help with ALW's camp?

I first read an e-mail from the general e-mail box here at Salamander. I then decided to e-mail and ask about the camp, how many kids, boys/girls, etc.

Does Your Company Make Other Charitable Donations?

From time to time, depending on the agency or the request.

What Does Your Company Do For the Environment?

We recycle all cardboard, plastics and office paper.

How can ALW Angels purchase/order your products?

Call me, 1/800-451-5311, extension 127, or e-mail me at Mjordan@salamandergraphix.com.

Any Other Thoughts/Comments?

I think your camp is a great idea to give these kids

a boost of life to see that there is a different world
out there beyond what they know and live every
Day.

Thanks again to Melody and Salamander Graphix!

And Finally.....

*“Everything that is done in the world is done
by hope.”*

Martin Luther King, Jr.

*“Find purpose –
the means will follow.”*

A billboard somewhere in India

Ode to ALW

Eyes like a river

Nice and strong

Quiet and peaceful

I remember the trees that were dead

Like to help and protect Nature

Dislike those who cut down trees and blow up mountains

Heart like a lion

Save the world from harm

Some people say thank you for the help

And I say, “It’s ok, helping is what I do!”

Stephanie Long, young ALW Angel

*“I’m honored that A Lasting World has decided to do this event, I hope everyone
enjoys this mountain. I had a lot of wonderful memories growing up here.*

Peace and Love!”

(Kevin Richardson’s statement for this year’s Roots & Remembrance
Celebration)

*“Every child should have the opportunity to experience the things I did growing up
surrounded by nature!”*

(Kevin Richardson, giving ALW approval to hold our Camp at the
Cathedral Domain)

See you in August!

Linda and Wen