

**ALW EARTHLINK  
JULY 2009**

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**July Birthdays**

**We hope these ALW Angels have a ‘firecracker’ celebration on their July birthdays!**

**Patty – July 3**

**Stephanie – July 3**

**AMERICA – July 4**

**Mandy – July 8**

**Robert – July 12**

**Elizabeth – July 14**

**Malinda – July 14**

**Marian – July 17**

**Jennifer – July 17**

**Amber – July 26**

**Declaration of Independence**

*“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”*

**These powerful words are taken from the Declaration of Independence. Most of us American ALW Angels have not read the Declaration of Independence since history class in school, and our ALW Angels from other countries have probably never read it! In case you want to reflect on all the words of this important document, go to: [:www.usa.gov/topics/independence day.shtml](http://www.usa.gov/topics/independence_day.shtml).**

**Happy Birthday, America!**

**Camp H.O.P.E. 2009**

**By the time you read this newsletter, the two of us (with ‘transport help’ from Linda’s son Rick!) will be on our way to Kentucky to unpack, to organize and to do last-minute preparations for Camp H.O.P.E. 2009. 15 underprivileged students from southeastern Kentucky will spend an entire week with us exploring nature, participating in environmental workshops, listening to guest speakers, hiking,**

swimming, rappelling and more. We want to thank EVERYONE that helps make this truly life-changing experience possible for these very, very deserving children. We'll have a full report and (hopefully!) some photos from Camp H.O.P.E. in the August newsletter.

### **Fundraiser Updates**

We'll be out at the Fourth of July Festival in Lexington, Kentucky, so if you're down that way, hook up with us!

Our children's book is well into the final production stage. We hope to be able to give you ordering details in September or October!

We are planning a special event in Kentucky at the end of October. The FUNdraiser will benefit both ALW and the Cathedral Domain. More details to come soon, but if you like to EAT and want to take a little 'road trip,' mark Saturday, October 24, 2009 on your calendars now!

### **Someone You Should Know**

If you have kids (or if you're a big kid yourself) and if you want to have global warming explained to you in a clear, educational and pictorial way, then pick up a copy of A Kid's Guide To Global Warming by Glenn Murphy. Mr. Murphy VERY GENEROUSLY donated a PERSONALLY SIGNED copy of this book for every one of our 15 campers! He also sent us several copies of some of his other books for kids (we will use these copies as reference guides for topics to be covered at camp). Here is a little about Mr. Murphy, taken from his official website:

**"In 2003, Glenn received his Masters in Science Communication from London's Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine. He wrote his first popular science book in 2006, whilst working at the Science Museum, London. There, he managed the Interactive Galleries' Explainer Unit, and also wrote and edited science shows for live stage performances and for a monthly show on BBC radio.**

**He wrote his first book, he says, "to give kids interested in science what they really wanted: answers to the questions that they (rather than I) wanted to talk about. I wanted to steer them from their own musings into those of science itself, and in so doing get across the rudiments of astronomy, anatomy, genetics, engineering, and more. But rather than simply provide the "answers", I wanted to show children that when it comes to science, it's not just about what we know – it's about how we know it. Above all, the process of science grows from a spirit of inquiry – one which most children innately possess, but not all are encouraged to foster."**

**"I believe that it's critically important for children to grow up with a true and passionate appreciation of what science is, and what it does for us and the world. I write my books to encourage children to take ownership of science, to inspire them to learn more, and – even if they don't actually become working scientists – to help them embrace science as a part of their education, knowledge and worldview."**

**In June 2007, he moved to the United States. He now lives and works in Raleigh, North Carolina, with his wife Heather and an increasingly large and ill-tempered cat."**

**We thank Mr. Murphy for his part in helping Camp H.O.P.E. 2009. We encourage all of you to check out/purchase his awesome books!**

## **ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS**

### **Congress Passes Landmark Act**

**Last week, on a 219 to 212 vote, the U.S. House of Representatives passed the landmark American Clean Energy and Security Act, the most important environmental and energy legislation in our nation's history. Environmental Defense Fund President Fred Krupp released the following statement: "Today's vote is a huge achievement for the country and the climate, and we applaud Speaker Pelosi, Chairmen Waxman and Markey, and all members of the House who helped craft this landmark legislation and get it passed. The bill that emerged from the House has the fundamental structure we need to significantly reduce carbon pollution while growing the economy. It puts strong cap on emissions and reorients our energy market to make low-carbon power the goal. It ensures that utility rates will stay affordable and a competitive playing field for U.S. companies. Today's vote opens the door for President Obama to sign comprehensive climate legislation into law this year."**

**This is definitely great news for all of us! Find out how your Congress representative voted, and send him/her a thank-you note if he/she voted "YES"!**

### **10 Ways To Use Summer Heat To Save Energy**

**The thermostat is climbing, and all you want to do is crank up the air conditioning and hide until the temperature finally drops again. But this summer, don't let the heat work against you. Take advantage of the sizzling weather and find new ways to save energy even as it gets hotter.**

- 1. Seek swimming holes. Turn off your AC, lather on some sunscreen and visit your neighborhood pool or a nearby lake or beach. Finding**

somewhere else to cool off can save energy and money and be fun at the same time!

2. **Air-dry your laundry.** Home appliances are a major factor in the energy consumption of homes, but summer weather gives you an opportunity to use them less. After you finish washing a load of laundry, take it outside instead of dropping it in the dryer. Hot summer air can dry your clothes just as well as an electric appliance.
3. **Grill out.** It will be hard not to turn up the air conditioning if you cook on the stove during the summer. Luckily, summer is grilling season and you can avoid filling your house with excess heat. Grill outside and enjoy the day as the heat morphs into a mild evening.
4. **Upgrade and weatherproof.** If you don't feel like you're getting the most out of your air conditioning, it might be time to make some investments in your home. Some modifications are as simple as changing your AC unit's air filters. A slightly more expensive but worthwhile investment is to weather strip your home so that cold air (and heat in the winter) is not escaping through the cracks.
5. **Buy a reusable water bottle.** It seems too simple to matter, but a reusable water bottle will keep you hydrated at the peak of the season. A good metal bottle is better for the environment and will ensure that you always have water by your side.
6. **Make use of fans.** A ceiling fan will cool the room by circulating air, but it will use considerably less energy than the AC. A whole-house fan is a worthwhile investment that uses a fraction of the energy used by a central air conditioner.
7. **Properly shade your house.** Sunlight will warm your home and make your air conditioning work harder. But awnings, blinds and reflective films on windows will reduce the effect of the sun on indoor temperature. If you have an AC wall unit, it will run better if it is shaded.
8. **Use CFL bulbs.** According to the U.S. Department of Energy, CFL bulbs give off 75% less heat than incandescent bulbs, use 75% less energy and last six to 12 times longer. You now can purchase these bulbs in many different sizes and shapes to fit almost any light fixture.
9. **Use less hot water.** The humidity from a scalding hot shower will only make a hot house worse. A lukewarm shower will keep the steam from warming your whole house and will save water, as you won't have to run the faucet waiting for the water to heat up. You can also increase the amount of water you save by installing low-flow showerheads.
10. **Landscape wisely.** You can't always count on rain, so when you do get some precipitation, use a rain barrel to collect it. Then, when your yard or garden dries out, you don't have to rely on the spigot

(By Brianna Bishop, GateHouse News Service)

### **Home Garden Help**

Though it is targeted to those designing for public spaces, the EPA website also offers plenty of great information for home gardeners. Check things out at [www.epa.gov/greenacres/toolkit](http://www.epa.gov/greenacres/toolkit).

### **Summer Bird Watching**

Late May, June and July are great times to bird watch because lots of birds are nesting. For information and ideas on how to create a bird habitat in your own backyard, visit [www.scottswildbirdfood.com](http://www.scottswildbirdfood.com).

### **Summer Driving?**

Park your car in a shaded spot. A hot car allows gas to evaporate. Fuel up in cooler early-morning hours or in the evening. Heat causes gasoline to expand, meaning you are actually getting less in your tank when you fill up in midday.

### **Don't Forget!**

1. Turn off everything that's not in use. That includes energy-hogging computers and monitors if they won't be used for two hours or more. "You're not going to wear it out by turning it on and off," says Ronnie J. Kweller with the Alliance to Save Energy.
2. Air-dry dishes. Turn off your dishwasher's heat drying cycle and allow dishes to air-dry.
3. Unplug cell phone chargers. According to [www.change.org](http://www.change.org), perpetually plugged-in chargers could eat up enough electricity daily to power about 100,000 American homes.
4. Install a programmable thermostat. Kweller strongly encourages this \$100-or-less investment. Set the thermostat for a moderate temperature when no one is home, and program it for a more comfortable temperature for evenings and weekends. "You come home to a comfortable home, but you've saved that money all day and saved that pollution all day," Kweller says.

(by Sharon H. Fitzgerald, American Profile)

**Did you know.....**

**If every American converted to one of the four most efficient cars in each class, it would save 13.1 billion gallons of gas!**

**\$30 in energy is saved for every light bulb replaced with an Energy Star bulb.**

**A year's worth of papers from a big-city daily weighs nearly a half-ton. Every ton of paper that gets recycled saves the equivalent of 17 trees, saves enough energy to power an average home for six months, saves 7,000 gallons of water and keeps 60 pounds of pollutants out of the air.**

**It can take as long as 500 years for a plastic water bottle to disintegrate.**

**Trees are like giant air filters. One mature tree takes care of the pollution caused by 13 cars**

**It only takes one person to start change.**

**AND FINALLY.....**

*Believe and achieve,  
Reach high, journey far,  
Trust in your dreams  
And follow your own star!*

**See you in August!**

**Linda and Wen**