

**ALW EARTHLINK
OCTOBER 2006**

In this issue.....

October Birthdays

A Special “Toast”

A Special “Tribute”

Birthday Bash a Huge Success!

And the Winners Are.....AND DON'T FORGET THE BEARS!

ALW's Make A Difference Day Project

Other Fundraiser Updates

Environmental News

And Finally.....

Sorry We're So Late!

The October 6-8 Birthday Bash really took A LOT of planning, facilitating and follow-up, so this month's Newsletter is very, very late. We apologize, and we'll make sure we're back on track in November – so you can expect another Newsletter in just a couple of weeks!

October Birthdays

Even though we are late getting the newsletter out, we want to send happy wishes to everyone who celebrates an October birthday – even those of you whose actual October date has already passed by!

Linda (Cofounder of ALW) – October 1

Aline – October 2

KEVIN (Honorary Chairperson of ALW) – October 3

Karen – October 5

Nichole – October 11

Diane – October 15

Ashley – October 17

Teela – October 21

Becky – October 29

Theresa – October 29

And Happy Halloween, too! (Boo!)

A Special “Toast”

At our October Birthday Bash, Linda wrote a beautiful toast honoring Kevin. She had me read it to those present, and let me tell you – there was not a dry eye in the room when I was done! The toast was very personal and was meant only for use at the Bash, but I really feel it should be shared here, so that every ALW Angel can see how much Kevin has influenced and inspired us. Here are Linda's words:

“Since I always write the Kevin toast and tributes, I told Wen she could have the honor of doing it this time, so she could tell you how she feels about him, too. Well, here I am again – telling y’all what Kevin means to me. Not that I mind, because all of you who know me know how much I love talking about Kevin to anyone who will listen.

Most of you already know how much Kevin means to both Wen and myself. I think in the course of all the years of ALW, I’ve used every word that I could think of to describe Kevin, and when I couldn’t think of one that quite fit what it was I wanted to say, I’d invent a word! (Think Richardson Religion!)

So this time, in honor of Kevin’s birthday, I’m just going to tell you something about him. Kevin’s accomplished more in his 35 years than most people have done or accomplished in a lifetime. He was the national spokesman for the Colon Cancer Alliance. He spoke on Capitol Hill, not once, but twice! He helped his high school build a much-needed field house. He performed on Broadway. He became an international superstar with the Backstreet Boys. He started an environmental organization named after his father. He has made hundreds of children smile through the “Make-a-Wish” Foundation. He encouraged kids by being a camp counselor in his younger years. He carried the Olympic torch. He started the Music Workshop. He helped start several record labels. He has restored historic homes in both Kentucky and California. He has made millions of people believe in their hopes and their dreams through his music and through his own personality. He has quietly helped countless people, places and organizations without wanting any kind of recognition.

And that’s just a small sample of what makes Kevin – Kevin.

Kevin stole my heart almost nine years ago – and he still hasn’t given it back. In those almost nine years, he has given me the strength and encouragement – literally – to be myself and to follow my dreams. He once told Wen and I that above everything else to keep smiling and to not pay attention to the nay sayers. We never forgot his words. He made me believe in ME! He taught me to be the person I always wanted to be and the person that I am today.

Because of Kevin, I am proud of who I am, what I have done, and what I know I can still achieve.

So tonight, please raise your glasses with me to wish a very special man a very happy birthday, and to tell him wherever he is at this moment that we, as ALW, are very, very proud of him.

Kevin, NO ONE will ever quite capture Wen’s or my heart the way you have. We will forever carry a piece of you everywhere we go. You helped make us what we are today. We hope you will be as proud of us as we are of you.

We love you, Kevin! You’re the best!

Linda

October 2006

Happy 35th Birthday, Kevin! (We wish you a ‘happily ever after,’ too!)

A Special “Tribute”

Linda celebrated her birthday on October 1, but she celebrates her LIFE every single day of every single year. Everyone who is blessed to know Linda is always

inspired by her caring attitude, her understanding heart, her honesty, her energy, her 'never-give-up' attitude, her ability to dream big and her drive to make those big dreams come true. Linda's bright smile and the 'mischievous twinkle' in her clear blue eyes instantly draw everyone to her. In a matter of minutes, she can make a roomful of strangers become friends! Linda has taught me (and many others!) that:

"Joy is not in things: it is in us." (R. Wagner)

Linda puts her heart and soul into everything she does, and the results are always amazing! She is the better part of ALW – and our Earth is a better place because she cares so deeply for it.

I can honestly say that I have never known a finer person or a more special friend. Happy Birthday, Linda! Keep dreaming! (Kevin says!) The best is yet to be!!

Wen
(October 2006)

Birthday Bash A Huge Success!

A very special group of ALW members and friends congregated at the Lexington Comfort Inn for a 2-day, 3-themed event marking the occasion of Kevin Richardson's 35th birthday! Everyone from the youngest fan (age 6) to the oldest participant (age 70) had an awesome time, and we are proud to say we made our goal of raising enough money to bring another group of Appalachian middle-school students to ALW's second annual summer environmental camp in July 2007!

Thanks to everyone who attended the activities, to everyone who purchased tickets for the raffles, to everyone who bid on the auction items, to everyone who made donations for candy bars, and to everyone who, in their own unique way, supported ALW's efforts with this HUGE event. Thanks, ESPECIALLY, to Kevin Richardson for allowing us to use his name, his photos, his quotes, his hometown of Lexington, etc., etc., etc. We couldn't have done this without Kevin's approval, support and encouragement.

Linda has written up a very detailed summary of the event, and we've posted it on our ALW message board. Go to www.alastingworld.com, under the News forum, to read Linda's review in its entirety. You can also add comments/compliments/suggestions/thoughts/ideas/etc. in that forum!

And the Winners Are.....

Here are the names of the lucky winners of our Birthday Bash Raffles/Auctions/Golden Tickets!

Golden Ticket – Kevin Talking Clock – Terri, Florida

Golden Ticket – Kevin "CHICAGO" Package – Juliana, Pennsylvania

Raffle Winners:

Kevin Shape CD – Betty, Canada

Ninja Turtle Package – Maddie, Indiana

BSB Laminate Passes – Sonia, Australia

BSB Lunch Box – Sonia, Australia

Rolling Stone Magazines – Darlene, Kentucky

Kevin Tank Top/BSB Tattoos – Marcella, Netherlands

Krystal Quilt/Krystal Signed CD – Lyssa, Kentucky
Kevin Pillow – Ilia, New York
BSB Around the World Game – Marcella, Netherlands
BSB Burger King Basket – Ali, Canada
Kevin Rainforest Package – Rochelle, Massachusetts
Estill County Sweatshirt – Meg, New Jersey
Kentucky Food Basket – Kizzy, Pennsylvania
Kevin Kentucky Basket – Betty, Canada
BSB Valentine Package – Ali, Canada
BSB Christmas Stocking and Stuffers – Lyssa, Kentucky
BSB School Folders – Darlene, Kentucky
Signed Howie Laminate Pass & Howie Pin – Meg, New Jersey
***University of Kentucky Birdhouse – Maddie, Indiana**
***Kevin Dog Tag Style Necklace – Amber, Indiana**
***These items were exclusive raffle items only for people who attended the**

Bash.

Auction High Bidders:

Brian Build-A-Bear – Audrey, France
Howie Build-A-Bear – Krista
BSB Tour Jacket – Terri, Florida
BSB Tour Books (Set of 4) – Jesi and Lyssa, Kentucky
Howie Replica Costume, Signed by Howie – Mary, Massachusetts
BSB Lunch Box – Sonia, Australia
BSB Comic Book/Keychain – Malinda, Virginia
Brian Littrell SIGNED, matted and framed photo – Lynne, Wisconsin
Pollyanna SIGNED CD – Vicki, Australia
Nick Basket – Ali, Canada
AJ Basket – Terri, Florida
Howie Basket - Lina
Brian Basket – Gino, Belgium
Kevin Basket – Malinda, Virginia
Kevin Pillow – Becky, Connecticut
Estill County Sweatshirt – Lynne, Wisconsin
Kevin Dog-Tag Style Necklace – Becky, Connecticut
Kevin Quilt – Malinda, Virginia
JWR Cookbooks (Set of 2) – Annie, Denmark
Cathedral Domain Sweatshirt & Cozy – Rochelle, Massachusetts
Brian & Leighanne Photo and HHC Cap – Jesi, Kentucky
EXCLUSIVE Kevin Print, SIGNED BY ANDRE – Stacey, Australia
EXCLUSIVE BSB Print, SIGNED BY ANDRE – Ali, Canada

Thanks again to EVERYONE who made this such an exciting, competitive, and great FUNdraiser!

.....and DON'T FORGET THE BEARS!!!!!!! Because we did not receive official confirmation on the voice recordings until the VERY LAST MINUTE, we wanted to

give everyone (not just the people attending the Bash) a fair chance at bidding on the following Build-A-Bears – who now have AUTHENTIC, RECORDED-JUST-FOR-ALW MESSAGES from each of the people they are named after!!!!

Nick Carter Build-A-Bear Item – Floppy Dog dressed like Nick, holding a guitar, and containing a personalized, recorded message from Nick Carter!

AJ McLean Build-A-Bear Item – “Psychedelic” Bear as colorful as AJ himself, holding an IPOD and containing a personalized, recorded message from AJ McLean!

Kristin Richardson Build-A-Bear Item – Cute, pink bear that blows kisses, dressed for a day of shopping in L.A., containing a personalized, recorded message from Kristin Richardson – with a ‘snippet’ of Kevin’s voice included in the message, too!

Kevin Richardson Build-A-Bear Item – An adorable teddy bear dressed in Kentucky overalls and holding birthday accessories, containing a personalized, recorded message from Kevin Richardson!

These four items can be bid on until midnight (CST) October 20, 2006. Winners will be announced on October 21. At Newsletter press time, the high bids on these items were as follows: Nick - \$475; AJ - \$235; Kristin - \$90; Kevin - \$400.

Up-to-the-minute high bids for each of these items can be obtained by e-mailing us at alastingworld@sbcglobal.net.

We’d LOVE to get Kevin up to \$500, since he did SO MUCH for us in making the Bash so successful. Tell ‘Santa’ you want a Kevin Bear for Christmas or as another holiday gift! It’s for a GREAT cause – and you KNOW you want to hear Kevin’s voice whisper in your ear!!!! Good luck!

ALW’S Make A Difference Day Project

For the past several years, ALW has committed to being part of the national Make A Difference Day campaign sponsored by USA Weekend Magazine. It is the nation’s largest day of service, and it has inspired over 3 million people to help 20 million others on the fourth Saturday of each October. People from all over the country put their own cares aside for one day to show care and love for someone else.

ALW’s project even extends beyond the USA. ALW Angels from all over the globe have already given us help and support! ALW’s submitted project is going to reflect a combination of the fundraisers we’ve done to bring needy middle school age kids to summer camp and to provide holiday gifts for younger children in the same, financially depressed area of southeastern Kentucky. We’ve named our project “Mountains of

Love,” and on Make A Difference Day, October 28, we will be delivering a ‘mountainous’ van-load of gifts to our friends in Appalachia – and also on that day we will be able to formally commit to bring another group of kids to camp next summer! Thanks to ALL of you who have helped us out with ANY and/or ALL of our fundraisers this year. Thanks to ALL of you who have spread the word about the mission of ALW and the dreams we have to help make the Earth a better place – especially for KIDS. Everyone who has made a monetary and/or tangible gift to ALW for the camp or for the holiday gift campaign is included in a list of names that will be submitted with our Make A Difference Day project. If you bought a raffle ticket, if you won an auction item, if you ordered candy, if you bought a K.E.V.I.N. tee-shirt, if you sent a holiday gift, gift card or other donation – each of those things has qualified you to be a part of this campaign – so – thanks! Last year we received ‘Honorable Mention’ for our efforts on Make A Difference Day. We hope to do the same – or better – this year!

Other Fundraiser Updates

On October 12, Linda and Wen set up an ALW information/fundraiser table at a local craft fair. We sold some cookbooks, some seeded cards, and some homemade baked goods. We raised just under \$100 – the total amount of which will be used to purchase holiday gifts for Kentucky children.

If you don’t have a JWR Cookbook yet – we still have a few available. They are a ‘steal’ for \$10 – and they make perfect holiday gifts for teachers, neighbors, coworkers, etc. People who buy the cookbooks always tell us how much they use it and how much they enjoy the tasty, but simple-to-make recipes! Get your copies today! Contact us at alastingworld@sbcglobal.net to find out how to order.

With the holiday season upon us, we also have a few of the exclusive ALW/JWR ornaments crafted by the famous Bronner’s Company of Michigan. There is a simple quote by Kevin (“Together...we can make great things happen!”) on one side, and the statement (“A Lasting World...is Just Within Reach”) on the other. We have them in blue mist and in green mist. They are only \$3 each. It’s a great way to make a statement about your environmental awareness – and it is also an opportunity for you to give a beautiful, but inexpensive gift to someone you care about! Contact us at alastingworld@sbcglobal.net if you are interested in ordering one (or more) of these ornaments.

We still have a FEW of the tee-shirts, officially approved by Kevin, that have the lettering K.E.V.I.N. (Keeping Everyone Vested In Nature) on them, along with Kevin’s photo and some beautiful shots of our Earth and our ALW mascot, Keby Bear! The shirts are \$19.71, plus \$4.50 for shipping and handling. They were organically printed by the same environmentally friendly company that did all JWR’s tee-shirts and mouse pads. Want one? Let us know!

Environmental News

Things to do in the Garden in October

Here are tasks to tackle and things to be concerned with in the garden in October:

In the edible garden – frost damage control! Frosts in the mid-west and northern part of the USA, which usually occur in mid-October, are often followed by a few weeks of good growing weather. Tender vegetables such as tomatoes and peppers can be protected from frost damage with layers of newspapers, blankets, tarps, sheets or floating row covers. Remove coverings soon after sunrise. Cabbage, broccoli, kale, collards and turnips can withstand light frosts. The cold will improve their flavor. After a killing frost, remove dead plants. If plants were not diseased, they can be turned into the soil or placed in a compost pile. Spread 2-3 inches of organic matter over the garden and dig it in.

Have soil tested. For a listing of soil testing labs, go to www.urbananext.uiuc.edu/soiltest or call 773-233-0476. Contact the lab ahead of time for information about cost and tests available.

Get a Halloween pumpkin!

Learn more. This is a great time of year to become a Master Gardener. Classes often start in the late fall or winter. The classes include botany, soils, woody ornamentals, vegetables, herbaceous plants, organic gardening and more. You can normally apply online! Check out your local park conservatory, arboretum or botanical gardens to find out about classes in your area.

In the ornamental garden:

Defend bulbs. To keep squirrels from digging up bulbs, plant in masses. Place the bulbs at their correct depth and cover with half of the soil you removed. Then cover with chicken wire. Cover the chicken wire with the remaining soil. The bulb foliage will grow through the holes.

Delay pruning trees and shrubs. Pruning now may not allow the plant to harden off before cold weather sets in. Prune in February or March.

Let perennials stand. Seed heads will provide food for birds through winter. Plants will also trap snow, which will help to insulate the plants from cold temperatures and will add some interest to the drab winter landscape. You can cut back plants next spring.

(Information by R.C. Wolford, University of Illinois Extension)

U.S. Coal Plant Boom Poses Huge Questions

A building boom that would add scores of new coal-fired power plants to the nation's power grid is creating a new dilemma for politicians, environmentalists and utility companies across the United States.

Should power companies be permitted to build new plants that pollute more but are reliable and less expensive? Or should regulators push utilities toward cleaner burning coal plants, even if it means they will cost more and are based on newer, yet still unproven, technology?

How those questions are answered will have huge implications over the next few decades. It could determine how Americans light, heat and cool their homes and business, the rate of return on utility investments and the potential environmental impact of the new plants.

Nowhere do these competing interests play out with such force as in Texas, where 16 new coal-fired plants are proposed – 11 of them by Dallas-based TXU Corp., the state's biggest power company.

The scope of TXU's five-year, \$10 billion plan is considered bellwether and is being closely watched by industry analysts, lawmakers, competitors and environmentalists across the U.S.

"TXU put its stake in the ground and said it will build the plants faster and cheaper than anyone else," said Daniele M. Seitz, an analyst with investment firm Dahlman Rose.

The company hardly is alone, however. About 154 new coal-fired plants are on the drawing board in 42 states. Texas and Illinois are the only states where 10 or more plants are planned, according to the National Energy Technology Laboratory. Energy analysts say factors driving coal's resurgence are soaring power demands, volatile natural gas prices and a favorable investment market.

(Associated Press)

Note: ALW opposes the building of more coal-fired plants. There is no such thing as "clean" coal, and these plants will adversely affect the communities in which they are built. Also, the practice of mountaintop removal mining will be used to obtain the coal which will be burned in these plants. MTR destroys entire ecosystems. ALW is working with other environmental groups to find alternative solutions to the energy crisis.

Global Warming Already Taking A Toll On Parks

Global warming is jeopardizing the health and natural beauty of Yellowstone, Yosemite and more than a dozen other cherished national parks, according to a report released in July by NRDC and the Rocky Mountain Climate Organization. Millions of park visitors will notice that rising temperatures, prolonged droughts, severe wildfires and diminished snowfalls are already disrupting skiing, fishing, hiking and other recreational activities – and putting the parks' fragile ecosystems at risk. But the worst is yet to come. Warming temperatures threaten to melt every glacier in Glacier National Park during the next 25 years. In Yosemite National Park, pikas, marmots and other wildlife will continue to lose critical habitat as global warming pushes the foods they eat uphill or northward. Warmer, drier conditions in the Rockies will diminish Rocky Mountain National Park's iconic tundra, while threatening wildlife, wildflowers and winter sports. Increased pest outbreaks, less snow and more wildfires will jeopardize grizzlies, bison and other Yellowstone wildlife. Rising seas will inundate the habitat for seals and sea lions at Channel Islands National Park. Park visitors will feel the impacts of global warming as more frequent and intense wildfires and floods overwhelm wildlands, destroying historical sites, eroding snowpack, drying up rivers and forcing the parks themselves to close for periods of time.

The report warns that without coordinated action at the local, state and national levels, these national treasures may be lost. NRDC is urging the National Park Service to collaborate with local and federal agency partners and speak out about the grave dangers facing our parks. Meanwhile, NRDC is leading the fight at the state level and in Congress for urgently needed legislation that would set mandatory limits on heat-trapping pollution from power plants and vehicle tailpipes. (From Nature's Voice, NRDC Publication)

And Finally.....

*“Look deep, deep into nature,
and then you will
understand everything better.”
(Albert Einstein)*

*“Rivers and rocks and trees have
always been talking to us,
but we’ve forgotten how to listen.”
(Michael Roads)*

*“Climb the mountains and get their good tidings:
Nature’s peace will flow into you as
sunshine into flowers, the winds will
blow their freshness into you, and the storms,
their energy and cares will drop off like autumn leaves.”
(John Muir)*

See you November 1!

Love,

Linda and Wen

