

**ALW EARTHLINK
OCTOBER 2008**

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October Birthdays

Wishing everyone who celebrates a birthday in October a very 'bewitching' day of happiness!

October 1 – Linda, ALW Founder

October 2 - Aline

October 3 – Kevin Richardson, ALW Honorary Chairperson

October 11 – Nichole

October 16 – Diane

October 17 – Ashley

October 21 – Teela

October 29 – Becky

October 29 – Theresa

October 31 – Happy Halloween! ☺

A Special Birthday Tribute

"Dreams Do Come True."

Every year I get the honor and privilege of writing Kevin's birthday tribute. Every year I write from my heart and I talk about what Kevin means to me. This year I thought I would do something a little different. This year I'm going to write about Kevin's accomplishments.

As a small child, Kevin sang with his parents at church. As a young boy, he helped his father and his brothers build the log cabin home at the Domain where Kevin spent much of his childhood. During his years at the Domain, Kevin was also a camp leader and he taught himself how to play the piano.

As Kevin grew older and went to high school, he became involved in various high school activities. Kevin had the leading role (Conrad Birdie) in the school musical "Bye Bye Birdie," and he was involved in chorus, in talent shows and in the chess club. Kevin played many different positions on the high school football team, including kicker, punter, linebacker and fullback, tight end and quarterback. Kevin was named "Player of the Week" in his junior year, and he was named "Athlete of the Month" in his senior year. He scored the most points in several

games. During senior year, Kevin was also the most sought-after male by all the high school girls!

After high school Kevin moved to Orlando, Florida, where he worked at Disney World. He played many Disney characters, including Aladdin, Sweet'ums, Goofy, Tigger and a Ninja Turtle. He performed in dinner theater and also worked as a ballroom dance instructor. It was during his time in Orlando that he became a member of the now world-famous Backstreet Boys.

Throughout his years as a Backstreet Boy, Kevin attained many other goals and accomplishments. He flew with the Blue Angels, he opened the Music Workshop, he carried the Olympic Torch, he spoke before Congress in Washington, DC, he was a spokesperson for the Colon Cancer Alliance, he founded his own environmental organization Just Within Reach, he was voted 'Sexiest Pop Star' by People magazine, he modeled for Versace, and he started Ronin Music.

Kevin continues to write, to produce and to sing. He is co-writing the soundtrack for the "Spirit Bear" movie, and he just wrapped up his first movie role in the film "Loves Take Wing." Kevin also starred in the role of Billy Flynn in a theater production of "Chicago." He performed that role on Broadway, in London's West End, in Canada and in Japan.

Besides all of the above accomplishments (and he's only 37!), Kevin is a devoted husband, father, son, brother, uncle, grandson, nephew and friend. He is the most amazing, caring, generous man I have ever met, and I am very proud of him. Kevin is the very reason that I believe that "Dreams Do Come True."

Kevin has been and will continue to be a HUGE inspiration to both Wen and me. He will always hold a very, very special place in our hearts. We are so proud to have him in our corner. We have nothing but the utmost respect for Kevin, and we wish him the happiest birthday ever.

We love you Kevin. Happy Birthday!

Another Special Birthday Tribute

ALW Founder Linda celebrates her birthday this month, so I'd like to take a moment for all of us to celebrate HER!

Linda is such a unique, wonderful, caring, giving individual!

She's small, but she's mighty! She's honest and sincere. She believes in the impossible. She understands a person's deepest feelings. She lifts up spirits with her smile, her sense of humor and her love of life. She accepts others right where they are, expecting no more or no less from them. She's not afraid to dream or to try. She always sees the positive in any situation! At times she may fall, but she gets right up and gets back into the game again. She's a devoted mother who would do anything in the world for her children. She's a loyal, supportive and encouraging friend. She's made a difference in many, many lives – and I'm one of the lucky ones who can attest to that! She's so many things to so many people! She's hope for the Earth and she's love for the world! So -- to "Sprout," to "Sundance," to "Think (not Thunk!)," to "Lucy," and to God's #1 Angel – Happy Birthday and Happy Forever and Always, Linda! We all love you! ☺

'Mountains of Mittens' Project

Make A Difference Day is celebrated each year on the fourth Saturday of October. Started by USA Weekend Magazine, it has become the nation's largest day of volunteering, and it rallies millions of people in a single day to help change the world.

Since our inception in 2001, ALW has consistently participated in Make A Difference Day, and our projects have been awarded 'Honorary Mention' status for three of those years!

This year on Make A Difference Day, October 25, 2008, ALW will sponsor a 'Mountains of Mittens' drive. We will be teaming with a local school district, and we will be setting up a collection tent to accumulate as many mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, socks, and blankets as we can! We'll also be hosting a bake sale at the collection tent, and any money we raise from the sale will buy MORE winter items! We really do want to collect a MOUNTAIN of mittens! ALL the items will be delivered in December, along with our holiday toys and gifts, to underprivileged Appalachian children in Eastern Kentucky.

YOU can be a part of this project! You can send us any of the items underlined and mentioned above – or – you can send us \$2.00 and let us do your shopping! You can send the \$2.00 via Paypal (our address is alastingworld@sbcglobal.net) or you can send us a check or money order, in USA funds only, to our mailing address – A Lasting World Inc., 2999 Husking Peg Lane, Geneva, IL. 60134. We need your items and/or donations NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 25, so that it can count as a part of our volunteer project. The first 12 people who send in items and/or donations will receive an official Make A Difference Day lapel pin!

THANKS for helping MAKE A DIFFERENCE in the lives of some very deserving, very needy children.

A LASTING WORLD INC.!!!!

We are pleased and proud to announce that ALW is now officially INCORPORATED! Our Articles of Incorporation went into effect August 27, 2008. We are in the process of working with an attorney to submit a request to the IRS to gain 501©(3) status (so that all your donations will be tax deductible!). Cross your fingers that the application goes smoothly and quickly! It's hard to believe how far ALW has come in the past 7 years, and we truly believe that 'the best is yet to be!' Thanks for ALL your encouragement and support!

Fundraiser Updates

YANKEE CANDLE FUNDRAISER – 'SHINE IN '09!'

Yankee Candle Company has graciously partnered with us to bring you some great holiday gift items – gifts that are perfect for anyone on your shopping list! Go on line to www.yankeefundraising.com, and take a look at the Fall Fundraising catalog. From now through October 15, you can order ANY of the products in that catalog, and when you do, Yankee Candle Company will give ALW 40% of the total price of each and every item you purchase! Orders must be placed NO LATER THAN OCTOBER 15, 2008, so that we can assure deliveries before Christmas!

Again, you can order using Paypal (our address is alastingworld@sbcglobal.net) or you can send us a check or money order in USA funds only, to our mailing address. When you place your order with us, make sure that you CLEARLY STATE your item number and write a description of what you are ordering!!!

IMPORTANT NOTE: Please add an additional \$6.00 to your order, to cover shipping and handling charges. Those charges are not included in the price of the item you see in the catalog.

Happy shopping, and thanks for the support!

(By the way, the company representative working with us assures us that the hybrid paraffin wax Yankee Candle uses is Earth-friendly and has a very low impact on the environment!)

HOLIDAY “GIFT-ING PROJECT”

Another reminder – ALW will be taking a TRUCKLOAD of brand-new holiday gifts to deserving young children in Appalachia, Kentucky. We plan to make our big “Santa Stop” the first weekend in December. If any of you would like to send an unwrapped, new holiday gift for a child, from an infant to a child the age of 10, you can ship it to us from now until November 15. Our address is: A Lasting World Inc., 2999 Husking Peg Lane, Geneva, Illinois 60134. A coloring book and a box of crayons, an educational game, a story book, a kids’ CD – whatever you want to send will be happily received and will be gratefully delivered! (And don’t forget our goal to deliver a MOUNTAIN OF MITTENS! ☺)

A HUGE thank-you and lots of ((((((hugs)))))) to ALW Angel Becky for sending us a brand-new, 12” bicycle for a little boy! WOW! What a generous donation!

Focus On.....

Since it is football season, we thought it would be very appropriate to recognize one of the very generous athletic groups who always make an in-kind donation to Camp H.O.P.E. This month we salute and thank the CHICAGO BEARS! The Bears’ management staff annually presents us with a signed Bears football or a signed, miniature Bears helmet for one of our boy campers. These items have always been a huge hit with the lucky recipients! So – cheer on the Bears this season! They are truly ‘on the ball’ when it comes to sharing and giving!

CAMP H.O.P.E. 2009

Thanks to some very generous ALW Angels and ALW friends, we are pleased to announce that 13 out of 15 children have been ‘adopted’ so that they can attend Camp H.O.P.E. totally free of charge! We’re off to such an awesome start!!!!

If you would like to adopt or sponsor a Camp H.O.P.E. student, contact us at alastingworld@sbcglobal.net, and we’ll give you all the details of what an ‘adoption’ or what a ‘sponsorship’ means. Thanks!

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

Great Lakes Pact Is On stream

The United States House of Representatives gave final approval to a measure aimed at preventing the distant diversion of water from the Great Lakes, which contain

about 20% of the world's supply of fresh water. The Great Lakes Compact, which President George W. Bush has promised to sign into law, establishes strict guidelines for the use of Great Lakes water. It was negotiated by eight Great Lakes states and grew out of fears that states outside the region's water basin – and even foreign countries – would try to tap into the lakes. Two Canadian provinces that border the lakes, Ontario and Quebec, have approved similar measures. Michigan Governor Jennifer Granholm applauded the vote, saying “Congress has acted in a historic manner to ensure that the Great Lakes are protected for future generations.”

(T.M. Jones, Chicago Tribune)

Bike-Friendly Cities Worth A Visit

Consider renting a bike when you visit one of America's bike-friendly cities. The League of American Bicyclists has given 84 cities the title of “Bicycle-Friendly Community.” These are places ‘that have made impressive, measurable efforts to integrate bicyclists into the community,’ says League president, Andy Clarke. What four award winners offer:

Portland, Oregon – 272 miles of bike lanes, bike boulevards and paved trails

Madison, Wisconsin – scenic routes, including a 17-mile Capital City State Trail

Tucson, Arizona – 475 miles of bike lanes in the metro area

Minneapolis, Minnesota – 40 miles of bike lanes, 82 miles of off-road trails

Check out www.bikeleague.org to find out about other bike-friendly cities. Maybe your home town is one of them!

(Everett Potter)

10 Things You Should Never Buy Again

1. Styrofoam cups
2. Paper towels
3. Bleached coffee filters
4. Teak and mahogany
5. Chemical pesticides and herbicides
6. Conventional household cleaners
7. Toys made with PVC plastic
8. Plastic forks and spoons
9. Farm raised salmon
10. Rayon

To find out why, visit www.coopamerica.org, and click on unshopping.

10 Fair Trade Products To Look For In The Grocery Store

1. Tea
2. Chocolate
3. Bananas
4. Sugar
5. Rice
6. Vanilla
7. Spices

8. Wine
9. Olive Oil
10. Coffee

If your local stores don't carry these items, you can find places to buy them in Co-op America's National Green Pages. Go to www.coopamerica.org to find out more about Co-op America.

5 Things You Should Always Buy "Green"

1. Paint – look for low or, ideally, no-VOC paint.
2. Paper – look for paper products with a high post-consumer recycled content.
3. Light bulbs – look for compact fluorescents.
4. Appliances – look for appliances with the Energy Star label.
5. Fruits and Vegetables – look for organic, local, in-season produce. Most important to buy organic to avoid pesticide residue: apples, bell peppers, celery, cherries, imported grapes, nectarines, peaches, pears, potatoes, raspberries, spinach, strawberries.

Go to www.coopamerica.org for more information!

Recycle Old Catalogs for Unique Crafts

Going green isn't just about recycling; it's also about 'up-cycling' or reusing an old material in a new and improved way.

Even if you just start with newspapers, magazines and catalogs, you might be surprised at the vast array of projects.

Gift Boxes – Grab a catalog and tear out pages of fabulous photos featuring holiday wares. Fold these into gift boxes of all sizes and shapes. When Christmas or Hanukkah rolls around, you can drop an intended gift into an equally special box.

Advent Calendar – Use pages of a magazine or catalog to make 25 small gift boxes, with each forming a cube of roughly 1 ½ inches. Decorate the lids with red and green geometric patterns. Number each from 1 to 25. Fill each box with candy or another tiny present, and you will have a calendar your kids will love.

Reusing the pages of magazines and catalogs to create thoughtful gifts can be the beginning of a little up-cycling for the whole family.

(Scripps Howard News Service)

Officials Say: Take Your Children Outside!

A large group of well-meaning officials from several states had a message for families: Go take a hike.

They urged moms and dads to take their kids away from the television and go outside for some fresh air as part of "Take a Child Outside" week, held September 24-30.

The special week began last year in North Carolina, and has now spread throughout much of the United States. About 250 organizations in the USA and in Canada took part this year.

Did children really need a themed week to encourage them to play outside?

Supporters said it certainly helped. With child obesity on the rise and children

spending more time playing electronic games or surfing the internet, supporters of the effort extolled the virtues of getting outside of the house.

“There’s just a disconnect with the natural world around you,” said Sue Hoist, a spokeswoman for Missouri’s Department of Natural Resources, which oversees the state parks. “Today’s children do not seem to have the same connection to the outdoors.” Liz Baird, director of school programs with the North Carolina Museum of Natural Sciences in Raleigh, agrees: “When I was a kid, you had to come inside when the street lights came on.” Baird, who came up with the idea of “Take A Child Outside” Week, said now parents often have to tell their children they must go outside for 30 minutes.

(Betsy Taylor, Associated Press)

If You Missed The September Outdoor Event – Why Not Make Tracks This Month?

When is the last time you and your family stretched your legs and enjoyed some time in the great outdoors? Well, now is the time! Exploring a trail is a great way to spend time together, while discovering the wonder of nature and getting some exercise to boot! (Hiking pun intended!) It’s also a great way to explore your community resources and discover new green spaces near you.

On Columbus Day weekend (October 11-12-13), grab your kids, family members and friends and MAKE TRACKS! Take a hike down a favorite trail, or discover a new trail with a new window to the world. Join the National Wildlife Federation’s national movement to MAKE TRACKS and get kids outside again! Go to www.maketracks.org, and find out how to register your ‘trackers’ for this fun event! (www.nwf.org)

Fetch A Few Recipes for Organic Dog Biscuits

What’s in that dog biscuit you tossed to your canine companion this morning? Bleached flour? Filler? Additives?

One way to be sure what your pet is getting is to make your own goodies, and a pretty useful source is “The Organic Dog Biscuit Cookbook,” by Eric and Jessica Disbrow Talley (Cider Mill Press). The Talleys, founders of the Bubba Rose Biscuit Co. in New Jersey, have collected more than 100 recipes, ranging from the basic (liver and bacon) to the more exotic (garlic aioli).

The recipes are not overly involved and use fresh, natural ingredients, as well as some items you don’t typically find in dog treats (yams, dried cranberries, rosemary, etc.). Definitely worth a try! (Chicago Tribune)

Lawn Mowers Must Go Green By 2011, EPA Says

Gasoline-powered lawn mowers that are a big cause of air pollution will have to be dramatically cleaner under rules issued by the Environmental Protection Agency. The long-awaited regulation requires a 35% reduction in emissions from new lawn and garden equipment beginning in 2011.

Big emission reductions are also required for speedboats and other recreational watercraft, beginning in 2010.

The reductions will be the equivalent of removing one out of every five cars and trucks on the road, according to Bill Becker, executive director of the National Association of Clean Air Agencies.

The EPA estimated the cost of implementing the reductions at \$236 million a year, which will likely make its way to consumers in the form of more expensive lawn mowers and other machines.

Industry groups said exact figures were difficult to calculate, but the California Air Resources Board has estimated that walk-behind mowers would cost 18% more under the new regulation, while the price of commercial turf care mowers would rise about 3%.

EPA said approximately 190 million gallons of gasoline will be saved each year when the rules take effect, and more than 300 premature deaths prevented annually. “These standards help fight smog in our neighborhoods and waterways as we continue to improve the environmental landscape,” said EPA Administrator Stephen Johnson.

The regulation had been delayed for years by opposition from Sen. Kit Bond (R-Mo.), who took up the cause of small-engine manufacturer Briggs & Stratton Corp., which builds many of its engines in Missouri. The final rule was issued more than a year after the draft rule came out in April 2007.

(Erica Werner, Associated Press)

“A” For Eco Efforts

Wonder what universities and colleges are doing to help make their campuses greener? The National Wildlife Federation surveyed more than 1,000 school administrators for *Campus Environment 2008: A National Report Card on Sustainability in Higher Education*. See www.nwf.org/campusreportcard to find the results of the survey. (NWF Magazine)

Teens Tackle Warming

To bring the issue of global warming from the big screen to the classroom, National Wildlife Federation partnered with the makers of *An Inconvenient Truth* to develop a curriculum for high school educators. “The teaching materials focus on climate change and what teens can do about it,” says Jan Nelson, NWF Project Manager. “Taking action is the most effective way for students to apply knowledge learned.” The partners awarded grants for teen-led projects promoting local solutions to the climate crisis. See www.climateclassroom.org for more information. (NWF Magazine)

And Finally.....

*“In nature we never see anything isolated,
but everything in connection
with something else,
else which is before it, beside it, under it and over it.”
(Goethe)*

***“Stop trying to
fit in
when you were born to
stand out!”
(Anonymous)***

***“The Good Lord gave us MOUNTAINS
so we could learn how to climb!”
(Lonestar)***

See you in November!

Linda and Wen