

**ALW Earthlink
November 2007**

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November Birthdays

Happy Birthday to the following ALW Angels who celebrate their special days in November:

Rhonda – November 1

Anita – November 4

Andrea – November 5

Kriss – November 10

Pat – November 11

Wen (ALW Founder) – November 13

Lisa – November 20

Juliana – November 26

And to all our Angels who celebrate the USA holiday of Thanksgiving on November 22 – may you enjoy a peaceful, memorable day with family and friends you hold dear!

P.S. Well, look whose birthday it is this month! What can I say about Wen? She's already been named an "Unsung Hero" and that title fits her perfectly. Wen is a hero in so many ways and to so many people. Of course, she will adamantly deny it, but it is the truth. Wen does so much for so many people, and yet she never wants to be put in the 'spotlight.' She's always so happy just staying in the background. Wen's biggest passion is the children in Appalachia. She adores those kids, and those kids adore her, too. I wish you could all see them up at the camp. Wen's always encouraging them and cheering them on. She smiles from morning until night when we are there, and I swear she's even smiling in her sleep. Wen always seems happiest when we get to go shopping for the kids. She's always saying 'Look at this for so and so,' or 'Let's buy this for so and so.' But she's like that with everyone. She always wants to buy or do for everyone else, but when I suggest we do something for her, she shies away. To me, not only is Wen a truly amazing hero, but she's also a truly amazing friend. It would take me the entire newsletter and then some to explain why she means so much to me. I couldn't find a more devoted, loyal and giving friend than Wen. I treasure her with all my heart. I know that GOD works in mysterious ways, and I thank MY GOD for Wen every day. Please

help me in wishing her the best birthday ever. Send her an e-mail on November 13 and tell her how much YOU love her and what she means to YOU! I love you, Butch! Love, Linda (Sundance)

Happy Anniversary, ALW!

On Thanksgiving Day 2001, A Lasting World was officially 'launched' by three excited (but naïve), dedicated, enthusiastic dreamers who had the grand vision of wanting to make a difference on the Earth by raising environmental awareness, especially in young people. Now, six years later and along with 120 more members from all over the globe, we are celebrating the 6th anniversary of our small, but strong and extremely active environmental organization! We've learned a lot, we've grown a lot, we're a little less naïve, and we're more determined than ever to make ALW an environmental education alliance that will help make our planet a better place!

What's ahead? We've updated our Mission Statement, we've set new goals, and we'll be working to update and rejuvenate our website. Be watching for a separate e-mail with more information about all of these things.

As we move into another year of environmental activities and environmental action, we thank each and every one of you, our ALW Angels, for your undying support, for your generous giving, and for your assistance in helping make dreams come true. We specifically thank Jerry Marcec for being so generous, so understanding and so tolerant! We want to thank Rick, Roxanne, Matt, Rita, Dan and Ruth for giving us the most important reasons for saving the Earth for future generations. And finally, we want to add a VERY SPECIAL THANK YOU to Kevin & Kristin Richardson and to Jim and Vicki Hanna. These four wonderful individuals recognized things in ALW that no one else bothered to look deep enough to see. They encouraged us when others told us 'it can't be done.' They taught us when others weren't patient enough to help us understand. They guided us past obstacles and through tough situations when others told us to give up. They helped us laugh when we felt like crying. They believed in – and they STILL believe in -- ALW and in all our dreams for the future. There wouldn't be an ALW if there hadn't been a JWR.....and we wouldn't have held onto our dreams if those four friends didn't tell us that our dreams could come true.

We have much to be thankful for – and we have much to look forward to! “The best is yet to be” for ALW – and we hope you'll all stay on the path with us as we journey onward!

ALW/ECMS Recipients of Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive Rewards

It is a holiday custom for all Barnes & Noble bookstores to host a book drive for local charities and organizations during the holiday season. New books are donated to local schools, hospitals, help centers, etc. This year, at the request of ALW, the Barnes and Noble store in Lexington, Kentucky has chosen Estill County Middle School to be the recipient of all books donated at their store during the holiday book drive. We thank the personnel at Barnes and Noble for their generous assistance in providing NEW books for the ECMS library and for the students who attend the school! If you live in the Lexington area, stop by and pick out a book from the

suggested donation list – or purchase and donate a copy of your favorite book for a very worthy recipient!

And the Winner Is.....

As we announced in a recent e-mail, someone kindly nominated Wen during a Chicago radio station's contest to name a local "unsung hero." We are proud to announce that Wen won the contest! Because all of you voted for Wen, ALW will be awarded \$500 to help bring more underprivileged students to Camp H.O.P.E. 2008! Thanks to EVERYONE who cast a vote in Wen's favor. She is completely overwhelmed by everyone's support and says she shares the honor with ALL of ALW!

FUNDRAISER UPDATES

Thanks to all of you who participated in our recent two fundraisers: "We're WILD(cat) about KEVIN" and "FALL Back in Love With the Backstreet Boys!" Because of your generous participation, we raised a total of \$1280 for both fundraisers! This amount will help bring four additional students to Camp H.O.P.E. 2008! Whoo hooo!

We'll be hosting a Fall Bake Sale outside a local supermarket this coming Saturday, November 3. We have lots of homemade goodies in holiday containers ready to be purchased by anyone with a sweet tooth! Wish us luck! Every penny helps!

And speaking of pennies.....be watching for a special fundraiser idea to be coming soon to a mailbox near you! ☺

Environmental News

George Clooney on Executive Board for Energy Company

Actor George Clooney (who was born and raised in Kentucky!) will become an executive board member of a new Swiss energy company that will develop environmentally friendly techniques for car motors and other devices, the billionaire who is setting up the firm said. The new company will have different branches doing research and development in the clean production of hydrogen, solar energy and fuel cells, said Nicholas Hayek, chairman of the Swatch Group. (Kane County Chronicle Newspaper)

White House Edited Global Warming Statement

The White House significantly edited testimony prepared for a Senate hearing on the impact of climate change on health, deleting key portions citing diseases that could flourish in a warmer climate, documents obtained by the Associated Press showed.

The White House denied that it had 'watered down' the congressional testimony that Dr. Julie Gerberding, director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, had given to the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

But a draft of the testimony submitted for White House review shows six pages of details about disease that might flourish if the Earth warms were not delivered at the hearing.

Gerberding downplayed the significance of the changes made to her prepared text, saying she never felt she was being censored and that she was free to go beyond her text – and did when testifying.

Two people familiar with the documents told the AP that after the Senate hearing, the White House Office of Management and Budget removed specific scientific references to potential health risks in the testimony. (Associated Press)

Not All Products Are As Green As They Claim

Most ‘green’ products live up to their label claims to some degree, but an investigation by Consumer Reports into this growing segment of the marketplace shows that the term is sometimes relative.

For example, Seventh Generation Automatic Dishwashing Gel calls itself ‘biodegradable.’ However, the product turns out to contain a petroleum derivative that does not easily break down in the environment. A Seventh Generation spokesman told the magazine that the company would remove the claim and review its labeling.

Consumer Reports became interested in the topic because products that make environmental claims can cost 10-30% more than their conventional counterparts, yet the government has no specific performance standards for many such labels.

“If you’re paying more for products, you want to know they’re worth it,” said senior editor Doug Podolsky, who wrote the article in the September edition. “We wanted to put the claims to the test and see what’s behind them.”

The magazine sent ‘secret shoppers’ into stores around the country, checking labels and taking notes.

“We put the information in a data base and started calling the companies” to see what proof they had to back up their claims, said Podolsky.

“We found that most companies had some back-up, but not all were as green as could be.”

Among the findings:

If You Care 100% recycled aluminum foil has research to confirm that it uses 5% of the energy used to make regular foil. Its claim that the product ‘can be recycled again’ might be read to imply that other foils cannot be. In fact, any clean aluminum foil can be recycled.

Green Forest paper towels are said to be 100% recycled, with 40% of the content previously used and 60% manufacturer scrap. The Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC) – www.nrdc.org – told the magazine those numbers are better than most paper towels, but that other brands use even more post-consumer ingredients. An ‘acute’ hazard was listed on the chemical disclosure form for Biokleen laundry detergent. But the company told Consumer Reports that the listing was wrong and had been corrected.

Consumer Reports has a free website with more information on ecolabels at www.GreenerChoices.org.

New Role for Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.

Robert F. Kennedy Jr., who has served as President of Waterkeeper Alliance since founding the organization in 1999, now takes the helm as Chairman of the Board. Mr. Kennedy is one of the world's most accomplished environment advocates and the nation's leading voice for strong environmental and public health protection. As Chairman, Mr. Kennedy will expand his strategic leadership for the Waterkeeper movement and increase the visibility and reach of Waterkeeper Alliance. "The Waterkeeper model of citizen action is in high demand around the world," says Chairman Kennedy.

On 161 waterways on 6 continents around the world a local Waterkeeper is on patrol, monitoring their waterway and enforcing the laws that protect our waterways and our communities. Waterkeepers serve as investigator, advocate, scientist, educator and lawyer – the voice of their waterway. Waterkeeper Alliance supports and connects these local citizen advocates into a unified force for environmental protection. The Alliance strengthens our local Waterkeepers – bringing their clean water campaigns to the national and international level. Everyone has the right to clean water. For more information on Waterkeeper Alliance, go to www.waterkeeper.org. (Waterkeeper Alliance)

REMEMBER:

Recycle everything you can.

Close the HVAC vents in rooms you seldom use.

Install a programmable thermostat and program it to reduce the air/heat when you are at work or away.

Turn the heat down and wear a sweater.

Switch to compact florescent light bulbs.

Install a timer or light sensor on outdoor lights so they turn off during the day.

Install an insulation blanket on your old water heater.

Take a shower instead of a bath.

Lay mulch in your yard to reduce watering needs.

Use reusable plates, utensils and napkins, rather than disposable ones.

Bring your own bags to the grocery store or reuse old bags.

Replace old appliances. Newer appliances are much more energy efficient.

Purchase those with a good Energy Star rating.

Teach children to respect the environment. Take them camping or hiking. (AT&T)

And Finally.....

**“Children are 1/3 of our population
and all of our future!”**

(Unknown)

“Nothing happens unless first a dream.”

(Carl Sandburg)

for one day you'll realize **“Enjoy the little things in life,
they were the big things.”
(D. Grant)**

See you in December!

Linda and Wen