

**ALW EARTHLINK
DECEMBER 2006**

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December Birthdays

Wishing a very Happy Birthday to our December-born Angels!

Pat – December 1

Tracy – December 2

Debra – December 8

Christina – December 16

Lisa – December 18

Jim Hanna (Honorary Angel!) – December 20

Rochelle – December 24

Marcella – December 30

Sonia – December 31

Fundraiser Updates

Mmmm!

Only 24 more days until Christmas!

Only 15 more days until Hanukkah!

Only 25 more days until Kwanzaa!

**BUT ONLY 14 MORE DAYS TO ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY CANDY FROM
ALW!**

Here's what you get: A 2x2x3 white confectionary box filled with two brightly foil-wrapped, solid chocolate coins engraved with the name of your favorite Backstreet Boy, PLUS a half dozen candy-coated pretzels (your choice of white or milk chocolate covering). The box is tied and decorated with a beautiful ribbon, a silver, heart-shaped "Love" charm and a keepsake tag from ALW and from your favorite Backstreet Boy! The box is only \$2.50, plus \$1.50 for shipping and handling. Special price – buy 4 boxes and get the 5th one FREE!

Everyone who makes a donation to this fundraiser is automatically included in a raffle drawing for a special ALW Holiday Package – and 100% of your donation (this does not include the shipping and handling fee) will go directly to an environmental charity of Kevin Richardson's choice.

Don't miss out! The boxes are cute – the candy is tasty – the price is right – and it's a great little 'extra' surprise to let someone know you love them – and to let someone know you love the Backstreet Boys! Don't delay – order TODAY!

Cookbooks Make Great Gifts!

For just \$10 (plus shipping and handling), ALW/JWR Cookbooks are the perfect gift for the 'culinary experts' in your life! The very unique "Down-Home Kentucky Grub" section of the book is filled with pages of "Southern Hospitality" meal ideas – and some are from Kevin Richardson and his family! Order your cookbooks today to get them in time for Christmas! (We've had people order one of these books and put it in a basket with a couple of kitchen gadgets, placemats and/or kitchen towels, and they tell us the gift has always been very, very well-received!)

Holiday Ornaments

Only \$3.00 (plus shipping and handling) gets you a beautiful, boxed, green mist ball (designed for us by the famous Bronner's Company of Michigan, USA), elegantly and simply decorated with the following inscriptions:

(Side 1) "Together we can make great things happen." (Kevin Scott Richardson)

(Side 2) A Lasting World.....is Just Within Reach.

Add 'sparkle' to your holiday celebrations, or give one of these limited edition ALW/JWR ornaments as a hostess gift, teacher gift, neighbor gift, etc. The price is right!

Seeded Cards

Send a greeting that will grow loving thoughts of you long after it's been delivered! Our blank greeting cards are embedded with wildflower seeds – after the recipient reads your personal message, the card can actually be planted! What an environmentally-friendly gift to give your favorite gardener! Only \$3.00/card (plus shipping and handling).

Contact us at alastingworld@sbcglobal.net if you have questions about any of the above items, or if you want to know shipping and handling charges for overseas mailing, quantity purchasing, etc.

And – for two more VERY UNIQUE 'experience' gift-giving ideas – read on!

Camp H.O.P.E. (Helping Our Planet Earth) 2007

Our school liaisons are busy making selections (from well over 65 interested applicants) to fill the 14 available spots for Camp H.O.P.E. 2007, to be held July 15-21, in Kentucky.

Our 14 campers will all come from homes where the average annual income is less than \$11,000. The students will all be on the federal lunch program at their school. Most of them will have never been to any type of camp experience and all of them would not be able to attend a week-long camp like ours without 100% of their tuition paid for by ALW.

Because of the generosity of ALW Angels and many others who have supported our fundraisers, we are pleased and proud to announce that the \$4200 needed for tuition, room and board for our 14 campers is covered. Our next goal is to have each of the 14 students 'adopted.' 'Adopting' a child means that a person (or persons) pays the full amount (\$100) to provide for one child's personal needs for his/her week at camp. The list of items we provide for the students includes bed

linens, pillow, bath towel, beach towel, sunglasses, flashlight and batteries, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, art supplies, personal gifts, and more. Here is

ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING IDEA #1!!!!

New for 2007! If you are interested in 'adopting' a child as a holiday gift for someone else, please contact us ASAP. You will receive a special, framed certificate and card to give your gift recipient at holiday time, plus information on how the person can send his/her 'adopted' child a message. After July's camp closes, the recipient of your gift will receive a letter from his/her 'adopted' child, plus a special hand-crafted gift from his/her 'adopted' child (made at camp)!

Remember – the BEST gift is one that keeps on giving. This beautiful 'adopt a child' gesture is sure to please even the most hard-to-buy-for person (people) on your holiday list! NOTE: We must have your payment by DECEMBER 10 to insure that you receive the certificate and card by Christmas. Contact us TODAY if you are interested in making this type of a gift!

LOTS more information about Camp H.O.P.E. next month!

Roots & Remembrance 2007

We have the dates confirmed, we have the locations booked, we have the activities planned – now all we need is YOU!!!!

ALW's annual Roots & Remembrance Weekend will take place in Lexington, Kentucky May 4-5, 2007. Our theme this year is "KENTUCKY BLUEGRASS!" Friday will be "Taste of the Bluegrass," with all of us taking the official, guided "Bluegrass Tour," listening to an environmental presentation, and having dinner at the Golden Corral Restaurant. Saturday will be "Hands On The Bluegrass," with a special 'make and take' workshop, an in-depth tour of a working horse farm, a tour of Kentucky Horse Park, a tree-planting ceremony, and dinner and entertainment at "Old Kentucky Night!" We'll end the weekend with our annual luminary candlelight ceremony and solemn reading of names of all those remembered with a candle. (This event has become a highlight of our R&R weekend, and it is always beautiful and memorable.) We'll be sending each of you a special e-mail with much more information about R&R, but because May 5 will be Kentucky Derby Day, you'll want to make your hotel reservations ASAP – NOW is NOT too early to reserve your room(s)! If you are thinking of coming to this year's R&R – contact us TODAY and we will give you the hotel reservations information! And here is – **ADDITIONAL HOLIDAY GIFT-GIVING IDEA #2!!!!**

As we mentioned above, as part of R&R each year, ALW holds a special luminary candle ceremony, where literally HUNDREDS of candles are lit to remember those we love, living or deceased, as well as to remember all the Earth's natural gifts to us. The names of those remembered are solemnly read aloud, with soft acoustic guitar accompaniment. For a small donation of \$3.00 (plus shipping and handling fees), we will send you a souvenir candle wrapped in a ribbon-tied organza gift bag. The bag will also come with a special card explaining your gift. Besides family and friends, this gift is also nice for teachers, ministers, rabbis, neighbors, babysitters, Scout leaders, soldiers, etc. If you would like to order these candles for holiday gift-

giving, please be sure to send your donations BEFORE December 15, to insure that the gifts arrive to you in time for holiday giving.

If you prefer to wait and make candle donations after the holidays , we promise that this will be an ongoing fundraiser from now until May.

Environmental News

Al Gore's Film Now on DVD

“An Inconvenient Truth” is now out on DVD. If you have not had a chance to view this powerful, thought-provoking film, rent it or buy it now! It's definitely worth the time spent viewing it!

Book Review

For some eye-opening, relevant, environmental reading, check out the book entitled Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children from Nature-Deficit Disorder, by Richard Louv (Algonquin Books of Chapel Hill, 2005)

Richard Louv, a journalist, the father of two boys, and a strong advocate for children, “directly links the absence of nature in the lives of today's wired generation to some of the most disturbing childhood trends: the rise in obesity, attention disorders, and depression. This is the first book to bring together a body of research indicating that direct exposure to nature is essential for healthy childhood development and for the physical and emotional health of children and adults. More than just raising an alarm, Louv offers practical solutions to heal the broken bond.” Check out the author's website at www.thefuturesedge.com, to read more about this thought-provoking book. We recommend it!

Green Giving Ideas

After you make donations for some of ALW's wonderful holiday gifts (☺), if you still need more ideas to complete your shopping – here are some other ideas!

1. Give things people need and can use, rather than products plucked from the shelves simply because they look good.
2. Choose gifts made of sustainable materials – bamboo rather than wood, hemp, organic cotton and wool, fleece made from recycled soda bottles, post-consumer recycled paper, natural cosmetics and organic, fair-trade chocolates and coffees.
3. Buy locally made products, as the energy used to transport goods to the stores is one of the huge, hidden environmental costs of the holidays.
4. Look for used things with a provenance. Old books and maps, retro clothing, antique jewelry and the like are one-of-a-kind gifts that collectors and aficionados will appreciate.
5. Give things that reduce energy usage, such as commuter bicycles, solar-powered products, battery rechargers and carbon offsets.
6. Avoid excessively packaged products. The packaging wastes resources without adding value and, if made from plastic, can release toxins after being discarded.

7. Give tickets for concerts, shows, museums, sporting events, outdoor activities or parks (or to ALW events!)
 8. Give a party rather than presents – and tell your guests that the party is gift-free.
 9. Give of yourself. Promise a shift of babysitting or dog-walking or a service that uses your special talents or skills, such as a webpage, a bridge lesson or home improvement help.
 10. Try sending your season's greetings electronically this year.
- And remember that the greatest gift of the season is the holidays themselves. It's the one time of year when society permits you – indeed, encourages you – to escape from the daily hurly-burly and experience the meaning and poetry of life. Don't miss the chance!
- (by Sheryl Eisenberg, NRDC)

This Green Life

This Green Life is a monthly online publication of NRDC, the Natural Resources Defense Council. NRDC is the nation's most effective environmental action organization. NRDC uses law, science and the support of more than 1.2 million members and online activists to protect the planet's wildlife and wild places and to ensure a safe and healthy environment for all living things. For more information about NRDC or how to become a member of NRDC, please contact them at Natural Resources Defense Council (NRDC), 40 West 20th Street, New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212/727-4511. Fax: 212/727-1773. Email: thistreenlife@nrdc.org. Website: <http://www.nrdc.org>.

Amazing Solar Facts

More than one million homes worldwide now get their electricity from solar.
More than 99% of the world's energy comes from the Sun.
All the energy needs of the United States of America could be satisfied with solar panels covering only a 100 mile x 100 mile area in the Nevada desert.
Solar is growing on average more than 40% per year (over the last eight years).
1.7 billion residents of the Earth have NO electricity and solar is the cheapest alternative.
To retrofit an existing home with solar in a state with rebates frequently provides a return on investment greater than 10% - possibly the best investment in America today!
Going solar today offers a positive step toward building a sustainable future.
(from Gaiam Real Goods Magazine)

And Finally.....

*“You cannot love something you do not know.
So get to know nature, and then you will love it.
You cannot destroy something you love.*

*So love nature, and then you will not destroy it.”
(Author unknown)*

*“Let there be peace on Earth
and let it begin with me!”
(Old Church Hymn)*

*“God Bless, Peace and Love!”
(Kevin Richardson, ALW’s Honorary Chairperson)*

Both of us wish you and those you love the happiest, most peaceful of holiday seasons. Enjoy this special time of year, and know that we will carry you in our hearts during our own celebrations. Because of each of you, the world is a better place. Because of each of you, ALW is STRONG and ALW is HELPING TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE ON THIS EARTH!

Thanks, Season’s Greetings and -- see you in the NEW YEAR!!!!!!

Blessings and love,

Linda and Wen