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April 2007

Dear friends of the Alliance,

If Hope is your guiding beacon, you must be willing to view it metaphysically. Rumi, the most assured of metaphysical poets, says &ldquo;There is a field beyond right and wrong. Come, and I will meet you there.&rdquo;

In India this is called Vedanta. Veda is the truth, the good life as handed down from God, but all this good in the world can&rsquo;t make it a peaceful place. We have had goodness for a long time, and yet the world is a sinkhole of violence, intolerance, famine, war, and greed. Vedanta means the end of the Veda, in other words, looking beyond goodness. You may call this a form of radical hope, and I would agree, but what will make it a reality? Realizing that only a spiritual solution will work. These solutions only come about with a change in consciousness.

Deepak Chopra

Author, Peace is the Way

Pub. by Harmony Books

Human Rights in South Asia; a meeting of minds and hearts

Nandita Das, former member of the Board of the Alliance and present member of the Advisory Board

A 3 day conference of SAHR (South Asians for Human Rights) was held in Lahore, Pakistan from March 16th - 18th attended by representatives from Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Maldives and India. Unfortunately people from Bhutan and Burma were denied visas, so they could not be part of it. The conference provided a platform for minds and hearts to meet. Complete strangers that are often times perceived as being from enemy countries became friends spontaneously. We all shared stories of anguish, depravity, struggles and the violations of the most basic human rights. But there were also stories of unimaginable courage and compassion in the midst of such atrocities.

The topics that were discussed included the need for Right to Information, Transparency in Governance, Issues of the Minorities, Gender bias across the region and South Asian identity. There were heated debates and deliberations that were about the problems and solutions of our respective countries. In India we complain about a hundred things going wrong, but begin to appreciate what we have, only when we step out of the country and hear stories of the struggles that our neighbors are going through. I realized how we take it for granted the space to protest, to sing and dance, to watch films in theatres, to express our many views. I realized that even a bad democracy is better than a military rule! We celebrated the spirit and the unity in diversity of South Asia.

Sometimes the scenarios in our part of the world sound so dismal that it feels like no change is possible. This dismal perception is probably true of the whole world. But we now live in a global village and every part of the world has become our neighborhood and so it&rsquo;s imperative that we go beyond our nationalistic identities and become citizens of the world. There is no time and space for cynicism and optimism is our only hope.

## Alliance Action

The New Humanity Forum Lots of great stories from you this month, so we've decided to do them justice by publishing as many as possible. Please keep them coming! We also now have an Events Diary - so if you need to publicise an event, please write in. The next issue is out in May.

## Caravane de la Paix

Caravane de la Paix is an innovative peace project in Haiti run by Bill Brookman Productions a street theatre company in the UK, and the Bill Brookman Foundation, a very small, UK-based NGO, which uses arts projects for reconciliation and rehabilitation after trauma. Haiti is a very troubled land, where everyday life is threatened by the power of armed gangs who terrorise the population by frequent kidnapping and shooting. The UN is there, but keeping the peace is very difficult in a land where there has been no war, but a constant state of insecurity, where people believe they need weapons for personal security.

Caravane de la Paix consists of 12 Haitian performers, recruited and trained by Bill Brookman, who go out unarmed into the city and the country, including the most troubled areas, taking a message of peace, using drama, music, thrilling aerial, fire and circus shows, and workshops and discussion with local communities and schools.

## Katherine Darton

Bill Brookman Foundation volunteer

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ps Bill Brookman is now in the process of setting up other projects, including an educational ecopark and circus school in Port-au-Prince. See this website [www.billbrookmanfound.ik.com](http://www.billbrookmanfound.ik.com).

## The Tomorrow Trust

"I awake tears just to realize that my pillow is very wet, cried through my sleep Because I had an expensive dream and poor people Can't afford to dream expensively. Whenever you are given something you can't criticize because Beggars can't be choosers. All kids all over the world pray for cars and expensive jewelry While we pray for our parents When you are at school you don't wanna go home Because there is no electricity and nothing to eat We wash our own clothes, do domestic chores and cook for ourselves And study at the same time" Letter from Thomas in the Tomorrow Publication

The Tomorrow Trust is a registered non profit organization that is dedicated to providing post secondary education to children orphaned and or affected by AIDS. This is done through three main initiatives:

1. Tomorrow Publication which acts as a fund raiser and an awareness campaign allowing these children a voice to the world to tell their stories. The Tomorrow Project was designed and collated into a book written and drawn by the Orphans themselves.

2. The Holiday School Program has been created and implemented due to the lack of effective education that the children are faced with. During the April, June and September school holidays the children from various areas are

bussed into selected private schools and taught by the private school teachers. The subjects focused on include English, Afrikaans, Zulu, Maths, Biology, Science and Accountancy. By improving their final matric results the Tomorrow Trust will have a greater opportunity to assist these children with post secondary education and a brighter tomorrow.

3. The post secondary education sector of the Tomorrow Trust includes all spheres of post secondary education such as university, college, apprenticeship and learnership qualifications. The Tomorrow Trust is not limited to university students and takes on children who are interested in a variety of careers in all sectors, such as academic, trades, sport and the arts. Each student taken on by the Tomorrow Trust is provided with a food and transport allowance.

Kim Feinberg

Founder and CEO The Tomorrow Trust

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[www.tomorrow.org.za](http://www.tomorrow.org.za)

### Farming for the Future

Our family has linked with another to establish Conneaut Creek Farm. Our combined properties of nearly 100 acres boast woods and wetlands as well as farmland, with nearly a mile of river running through them. We have gathered an enthusiastic group of people who want to help create a sustainable, organic farm and education center, and are forming a Limited Liability Corporation under which to work. We also plan to create a natural space for meditation and other contemplative and healing practices.

This spring will be our first planting season, and we are guided by the idea of nourishing the soil and managing our resources according to the principles of permaculture. We intend to weave transformative learning opportunities in with our farming, and provide workshops for children of all ages. We would also like to work with a local refugee resettlement institute to provide a natural setting for those new to America, so they may share their knowledge and learn new skills.

We hope our farm will serve as a model of sustainable living for others, as well as a place for people to rejuvenate their souls.

Beth Bracale

Conneaut Creek Farm

Conneaut, Ohio

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### Action in Puerto Rico

We lead 'Green Therapy' treks as part of the Sierra Club tours. This entails a walk through a river inside the el Yunque mountain complex, which is not reachable by the usual tourist routes and so has to be a guided walk. We specialise in the enjoyment of nature and its ability to assist us through our fears. For example, many people have a fear of swimming in a wild river, or walking through a rainforest. As our tour progresses, we assist them to decide

for themselves what steps to take to go beyond this fear. By the time we return, participants are transformed and joyful from this natural connection.

You may see the pictures on <http://hometown.aol.com/delcanofoto/index.html>.

Victor A Marcial-Vega,MD

Marcialvegamd@aol.com

Hacienda Verde

Miguel Rico is looking for partners to help him develop a new project.

I am Miguel Rico, a member of the Alliance and was a designated change agent for the 2005 Conference in Puerto, as ReviBe my non profit organization dedicated to conservation. I am an environmentalist, a University professor, Director and founder of the Institute of Environmental Education in Puerto Rico, with funds from the MaCarthur Foundation. The concept of Hacienda Verde matches perfectly in the vision of the Alliance. I have been developing this concept for seven years and I am looking for partners to join me to develop the concept.

Let me briefly explain: Hacienda Verde is a magnificent property of 370 acres. 75% is continuous forest and it has 146 acres of old original forest, which is extremely rare now. This forest has a live spirit. It is a tropical forest at 2,500 high feet, which creates a magnificent temperature all year and it has spectacular views towards the ocean and to the highest mountains in P. Rico. It has 40 acres of agriculture, mostly, shade coffee (planted by me and my workers) which is the goal of ecologists since it sustains wildlife and, has oranges, plantains and others. In short I have worked this place for conservation and for sustainable agriculture. I also have agreements with several universities, for education and have several facilities to rent it for workshops related to personal or spiritual growth.

Uniting with other people from the Alliance in a place like Hacienda Verde, we can create a show case for the concepts of the Alliance. A place to:

Act what we talk

Connect us with Nature

Personal, spiritual, social and political transformation Express all green technologies

Sanctify life

A place for Healing.

I am the owner of the property; I need the connection with other people in the same mind and a capital investor to do this. In my experience we need both, non-profit and profit corporations. But corporations with consciousness. I have already the approval for building a community of 40 houses plus hotel, plus healing centre. That will be in 35 acres only; the rest will be forest preserved forever and some acres for agriculture. I am very open and flexible to co-create with you the Dream. The Alliance needs a place to focus our vision. A place to Show, Inspire and Connect.

I like to invite any interested person of the Alliance as a potential investor or business person, to visit here. I will be in

Spain from the 9 of April to the 5th of May, and I would love to share with you before April 9. Please visit our web site [www.haciendaverde.org](http://www.haciendaverde.org) for more details.

All the best for you and us!

Miguel

787 602 7040

[www.haciendaverde.org](http://www.haciendaverde.org)

Mind Imaging

Mind Imaging Technology has had a more profound impact on my life than any other technology designed to unlock the human potential. It has been more valuable for me overcoming my limitations and achieving my dreams than 30 years of meditation and over \$50,000 of self-development and spiritual courses. Beyond the skewed interpretations of science presented in the Bleep, and beyond the beliefs presented in The Secret, Mind Imaging is based on verifiable, measurable and tested cognitive neuroscience. My personal belief is that Mind Imaging is a tool to accelerate Human Evolution and I would love to let as many people know about it as possible.

Don McKinnon

[mindimaging@cox.net](mailto:mindimaging@cox.net)

<http://www.bleepingherald.com/feb2007/brain>

<http://www.mindimagingtechnologies.com>

Educreate Update

I thank you dearly for acting as a springboard for this important shift in education. The emails have been coming in, with loads of support and suggestions. I am blown away by the sheer courage and determination of all the change agents whose hearts are in the right place. It is indeed a blessing to connect with these rays of light who are already transforming education from the inside out. Well done and may you continue on the wings of Grace!

An update on the EduCreate project: the website is [www.kreativityatwork.org](http://www.kreativityatwork.org) (I've registered it as a non profit organisation now). The website offers you information on our Global Education Conference which will be held in Shimla, India, and allows for online registration.

Jayshree Mannie

[jayshreemannie@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:jayshreemannie@yahoo.co.nz)

Disclaimer: The Alliance for a New Humanity is not responsible for the content of external internet sites.

## US: Who Says Halal and Kosher Don't Mix?

by Adrienne Appel

BOSTON (IPS) If you happen to visit Fredericksburg, Maryland soon or other U.S. towns, you may find yourself invited to a local mosque for dinner -- especially if you are Christian or Jewish.

"Our community is getting more and more involved in bringing neighbours in," Zahid Bukhari, director of the American Muslim Studies Programme at Georgetown University, told IPS. "It is a new phenomenon that is becoming more common," Bukhari said.

It's a way to serve up understanding and tolerance together with the delicious food that can be shared among local Muslims, Christians and Jews, Bukhari said.

[More...](#)

## U-Turn

Tear down urban monstrosities.

"There aren't many 'happily ever after' stories when it comes to urban rivers," but John Vidal brings us "an astounding tale of ecological rehabilitation". Read how the Mayor of Seoul pledged to restore a river running through the centre of the city by tearing down a motorway and creating a 1,000-acre park in its place.

According to one expert, the 160,000 cars a day that used the motorway "just disappeared, drivers changed their habits . . . some of them gave up their cars and others just found different routes."

An inspirational achievement that is capturing attention in other cities such as Shanghai and Tokyo.

[More...](#)

In brief:

## Big Picture TV

A new site, Big Picture TV, is streaming free video clips of leading experts, thinkers and activists in environmental and social sustainability. "We offer a general audience analysis and commentary from a growing number of world leaders including scientists, journalists, economists, businessmen, designers and politicians."

[More...](#)

## Funny money

"Chiemgauer or Euro?": a question you are likely to be asked in Bavaria, Germany, when you buy anything in a shop. The Chiemgauer is an alternative, or community, currency which provides an income to non-profit organisations and which encourages residents to buy local products and services. The currency is good for small businesses and for the non-profit organisations which have received 36,458 Euro since 2003 when the currency was set up.

More...

#### Nobel Laureates Declaration

Nobel Peace Prize Laureates, meeting in Rome at the 7th World Summit, have committed themselves to collectively working towards achieving the complete elimination of nuclear weapons, which they say are 'unworthy' of civilisation. Their Rome Declaration states: "Nuclear weapons are much more of a problem than any problem they seek to solve. In the hands of anyone, these weapons remain an unacceptable and morally reprehensible, impractical and dangerous risk."

More...

#### Man of Peace

Genesis front man and long term human rights campaigner Peter Gabriel has been named Man of Peace for 2007, at the 7th Summit of Nobel Peace Laureates. Peter Gabriel has made many contributions to furthering world peace: his anthem Biko was written to raise awareness of the murdered anti-apartheid South African Steve Biko, he founded WOMAD, a world music festival, and in 1992 launched Witness, a not for profit organisation that supplies human rights activists with cameras and computers to help them document human rights abuses in their countries.

#### A Peace More Active than All Wars

This June, Medellín in Colombia will host its sixteenth International Poetry Festival. The festival was created in 1991 by Fernando Rendon and Angela Garcia to "oppose terror with beauty and confront poetry and death" in a city where the drugs and organised crime had drained all the culture and public arts from the community. The annual event transforms the city, and is respected by most of the armed groups. Last year was the biggest event yet, with over 200,000 attendees, and the festival was awarded the Right Livelihood Award - often referred to as the alternative Nobel Prize. The festival's motto is "for a peace which is more active than all wars"

More...

Send us your news!

Are you a change maker? We want to hear from you!

We'd like to share your stories of positive change in this newsletter. If you have a story to tell, email it to Rachel Marsh, editor of The Alliance e-newsletter, Resurgence: <mailto:rachel@thecupoftea.co.uk>