

June 2007

Dear friends of the Alliance,

Spiritually, all the light being expressed through a human being is equal, at least in terms of quality. Why? Because light is a metaphor for the power of consciousness. Everyone's consciousness draws from the same underlying reality. But it doesn't really matter if history will remember you as a great soul. At this moment you are expressing the entire universe through your consciousness. The cosmic plan, whether we call it divine or not, doesn't need you or me to reach it's ultimate fulfillment. Yet the parts you and I play are unique. No one can duplicate them; we make our own cosmic history every second.

Deepak Chopra, Author

Peace is the Way

Published by Harmony Books

Latest News from the Alliance

We love hearing from you – keep the stories coming in!

Ambassadors of Peace

Miko Peled and Nader Elbanna came to the Alliance for a New Humanity Human Forum last December to let us know their incredible human story. They became close friends in the past six years as they have worked together on a project to send 1000 wheelchairs to Israeli and Palestinian children. "They are not just wheelchairs", Elbanna says "they are ambassadors of peace".

Born enemies, a Palestinian and an Israeli found friendship in their mutual support of a common cause. The two men wound up in San Diego County, California. Elbanna was in Escondido and Peled was in Coronado, and they met six years ago at a discussion group designed to move people like them beyond the hatred. It has worked. Last month Elbanna and Peled raised enough funds to send 1280 wheelchairs to Palestinian / Israeli children in Jerusalem, Nazareth and Bethlehem. Love in action from an awakening humanity.

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

AFRICA: Mobile Phones Revolutionise Banking

by Briana Sapp

Mobile phone banking is expanding across the region from South Africa to Kenya and is putting the poor directly in control of their own finances like never before.

The bottleneck in delivering microfinance services such as savings accounts, money transfers, and loans to the poor has been the cost of "making tiny little transactions" in sometimes rural areas using traditional banking practices. Yet mobile phones and other technology can cut the cost of such transactions and make widespread microfinance economically feasible.

More...

Argentina: Bringing Housing Hope to Slums

by Luciana Peker

Wearing blue coveralls with a picture of a white scarf, the symbol of the Madres de Plaza de Mayo, some 300 men and women from a slum in the Argentine capital are building new homes – and new lives – for themselves.

"I am building this with love," said Félix Narváez, the project's chief electrician. "I'm very proud, because I feel respected here, not exploited, and I like the fact that people listen to me."

More...

Cuba: From Dump to Growing Garden

by Patricia Grogg

When Irania Martínez said she would make that rubbish dump productive, people said she was crazy. Today the greenery, hundreds of trees and sense of order that reigns in the place confirm that she is in her right mind, and the project is a model that could spread all over the country. More...

The Good, the Clean and the Fair

by Marcela Valente

"Modernity as we know it has led the world almost to a state of collapse. The surprising thing is that such problems are largely caused by food production. If we restore food to a central role in our lives and interests, in our policies and our research, we may still be able to come up with real solutions to reverse a trend that appears increasingly unstoppable and ever likely to take us to the edge of the precipice."

Carlo Petrini celebrates the rise of the Slow Food movement and looks at how the knowledge and wisdom inherent in

local food communities can be a catalyst for ecological and economic transformation.

More...

Medicinal Roots

Sandra Hill reports from Ethiopia on how one pioneering woman is renewing traditional wisdom and preserving indigenous healing knowledge. "Although 80 – 90% of Ethiopia's population uses traditional medicine, research funding still goes towards funding top-down pharmaceutical solutions to medical problems."

The Deshet centre was established to preserve traditional systems of healing and provides an example of how indigenous knowledge of medicine can pave the way to secure the future health of local people.

More...

Soil for Life

A non-governmental organisation in Cape Town, South Africa is tackling poverty by providing skill and training to some of the poorest members of society, teaching them how to grow vegetables, prepare their own land and feed their families. The project has been so successful that in two years 1,200 people have been taught how to grow vegetables and herbs in small spaces.

The Soil for Life gardening project aims to create healthy families, develop creativity and build bridges of goodwill and understanding throughout communities.

More...

In brief:

Carrot Power

A new and revolutionary material made from the humble carrot could soon begin to replace materials such as glass fibre and carbon fibre in all sorts of things, from fishing rods to car parts. Through a special new process, nano fibres found naturally in carrots are extracted and combined with resins. The result is a tough and durable component that can be moulded to whatever shape, degree of stiffness, strength or weight required.

More...

I Hugged 80 People Today!

The "free hugs" movement sparked by Juan Mann has been spreading love across the world with wonderful consequences for both those giving and receiving the hugs. “This is the most life changing experience, except

giving birth, that I have ever had," says Lee Riddell after hugging people on the Commons in Ithaca, NY.

The Free Hugs campaign was started by Juan Mann, whose sole mission was to reach out and hug a stranger to brighten up their lives. He held up a handmade sign at the busiest pedestrian intersection with the words "Free Hugs" on both sides. Find out what happened next. . .

More...

Fairford Two

Two anti-war protesters have been acquitted of conspiracy to commit criminal damage on B-52 bombers on the eve of the Iraq war in 2003. Phil Pritchard and Toby Olditch, who were carrying bolts and screws which they intended to put inside the bombers' engines and pictures of smiling Iraqi children which they were to stick on payload doors, were wearing flashing headbands in the hope that they would look too ridiculous to be shot when they were caught on the RAF Fairford base. They argued that their actions were reasonable because they were trying to prevent the US bombers from committing war crimes and that all other means of legitimate protest had failed. The jury unanimously agreed.

More...

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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>