

February 2008

Dear friends of the Alliance

We're gearing up now for the Human Forum in Costa Rica this March and can't wait to see you there! But for anyone who's still wondering why it's so important that we connect in this way and whether they can really make a difference in the world, here are some thoughts from Deepak Chopra on the shift in consciousness that the Alliance is working towards.

Why are we seeing this shift occur now?

The evolutionary impulse of the universe seems to be dictating the shift. We are now at a crossroads where we need, if we are to survive as a species, a shift in consciousness to perceive the universe as a unified field where everything is interconnected.

What is the biggest obstacle to its success?

We need to connect people who are beginning to wake up, and create a critical mass that will influence the adoption of individual and social behaviors that are aligned with the new consciousness. Our biggest obstacle in my view is fragmentation.

With all the bad news that dominates the media, how can we believe that we can make a difference?

Every changed heart becomes a source of inspiration to others. People are beginning to gather, to make a difference, to recognize their interconnected action based on the new awareness as the only solution to social problems and very importantly also to recover the meaning in their lives.

What is the single most important thing individuals can do to make change happen?

Becoming the change they want to see in the world, recognize the unified field of all life, make a difference in their communities, enterprises and countries by developing actions aligned with this recognition, and by sharing their stories and their passion for a new humanity with all they come in contact with.

See you in Costa Rica!

President

Alliance for a New Humanity

Join us at the Human Forum on 11-13 March

Join Nobel Peace Laureate Oscar Arias - President of Costa Rica, Deepak Chopra James O'Dea, Marianne Williamson, David Simon, with environmental, corporate, social action leaders and change agents. Together we will create a symphony of transformation.

For more information and to register online

Alliance Action

Peruvian Partnerships

Viana Muller has written an article especially for the Alliance about a new model of sustainable business practice that respects indigenous wisdom. Read the rest of the article online.

Whole World Botanicals (WWB) strives to produce premium quality certified organic and wild-crafted botanicals in the most ethical and harmonious way possible. The company was founded by a Peruvian midwife, Elena Rojas, and an American anthropologist, Viana Muller and as social entrepreneurs they take their mission to foster social justice very seriously.

As well as paying a guaranteed price for maca root which is above the market price, they have also started programs that are making a real difference to the lives of their Peruvian partners, including the provision of interest-free loans and the establishment of solar energy projects, to help improve the living conditions of these farmers in the High Andes.

Harvest Culture

Mark Boyle explains his moment of epiphany and how it motivated him to become a social homeopath.

“Have you ever had a moment of complete clarity, that nanosecond where all your thoughts come together as one indivisible whole? That moment for me was a lazy Sunday afternoon when I was having a soak in the bath of inaction.”

Mark’s “Eureka” moment made him realise that for years he had been trying to fight the symptoms rather than the cause of the world’s ills. “So I decided to become a social homeopath, and instead of looking at the rash on the skin, I looked at the deeper problem, thereby dealing with the cause, rather than the symptoms.”

Mark is now doing two things: he has set up the “Freecomony Community” which exchanges skills and time instead of money, and he has just embarked on a journey on foot from the UK to India, travelling without money, “planting a seed in each soul I meet about what it means to help just for the love of it, something I call “harvest culture”, where communities in the past would get together to bring in the harvest.”

Read the whole article online

Find out more about the Freeconomy Community

## The Counting Prayer

"The world now has the means to end extreme poverty, we pray we will have the will."

We invite every person, and every congregation in every faith in every country to join the historic St. Paul's Chapel at Ground Zero in NYC and [countingprayers.org](http://countingprayers.org) to offer The Counting Prayer everyday and/or at every service until the Millennium Development Goals are met. Tens of thousands of prayers will turn into millions then billions, and as the prayers are answered the repetition of words will turn into advocacy then action, and finally a miracle.

Stories of transformation are beginning to be told. One recently retired woman started tutoring inner city youth. Another congregation is beginning to discuss how they might find a sister congregation in Africa. We've only just begun.

Jon Denn

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

## The Gandhian Trinity

Satish Kumar examines how, through the principles of equality, self-governance and local economics, Gandhi set out the template for environmental sustainability, global peace and economic justice.

Satish's article presents a clear explanation of Gandhi's trinity: Sarvodaya, Swaraj, Swadeshi and how Gandhi's teachings can direct us to solutions to the current ecological crisis.

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## The Carbon Cycle

Kate Rawles takes a long, contemplative ride from Texas to Alaska to investigate climate change.

"This trip is making me more radical. After Aspen I think I reached the view that we simply shouldn't be allowed to use our resources and expend energy as much as we like, for any purpose we like, limited only by our own wealth."

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## BRAZIL: Films, Music as Damage Control in Prisons

By Fabiana Frayssinet

RIO DE JANEIRO, A Non-Governmental Organisation called BOCA is helping two very different musicians bring music, films and books into Brazilian jails in an attempt to combat the consequences of the appalling living conditions in prison.

Marcelo Yuka has always been an activist for peace. Six years ago he was left paraplegic when he was shot six times, going to the aid of a woman who was being mugged. From his wheelchair he continues his social activism, which began with the critical lyrics he wrote for his first band, Rappa, and now extends to a number of cultural activities, as well as his outspoken social criticism. "I think learning is easier through pain, and makes a deeper impression. But for that very reason, I prefer to learn through love. It's a very different way," he said.

The idea of taking live bands to prisons occurred to Rafael Kalil when he felt the need "to do something more than protest through our lyrics. We needed something more incisive, and that's when we decided to go and perform in jails," he said. At first they just played and left straight away, but after their departure "the prison routine went on." So Kalil and his group decided to start leaving books and raising funds to expand the library collections.

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## Alliance Updates

## Jaime Jaramillo (Papa Jaime) stirs hearts in Puerto Rico

The founder of 'Children of the Andes' the Bogota based Foundation that has rescued more than 30,000 children from the streets of Colombia has joined the Alliance in a successful joint fundraising event for the Foundation and the Alliance work. Papa Jaime addressed a hundred industry and corporate leaders of Puerto Rico promoting his message of service . He also gave an inspiring talk at the Puerto Rico Convention Center at the Expo Quality of Life sponsored by Natural Awakenings and the Alliance. He promoted the Human Forum in Costa Rica where he is going to be a panelist and conversation leader.

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In brief

## The power of hope

It has often been said that young people are the future &ndash; but it does appear to be a rather bleak future they face, with so many seemingly insurmountable problems looming, from climate change to extreme poverty. How can our young people become the inspired leaders of the future, when their present is so full of despair? This is where a remarkable youth programme called The Power of Hope comes in.

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## Waste not

India has long had a tradition of throwing waste food onto the roadsides for animals to eat. In small rural villages this was often a sensible thing to do, but in today's towns and cities it is causing a real problem. But BIOTECH India, a non-governmental organisation based in Kerala, has found a way to transform food waste into biogas &ndash; and it does so at a small-scale, local level which benefits ordinary people.

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## Guerrilla Gardeners

Last Spring, while out tending his Guerilla Shrubbery below his tower block home in London, Richard Reynolds was approached by some local children playing in the street. They asked him what he was doing. "Planting some giant yellow flowers," he replied. With little explanation they got the idea and Richard gave them each a sunflower seed, which they then excitedly prodded into the ground.

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## The Tree that could save the planet

A magnificent tree from Japan, the Kiri Tree, also referred to as the Japanese Empress Tree or the Paulownia, is being pioneered in Texas. Chris Sanders and Brittany Turner have started a "Kiri Tree Revolution". Their goal is to plant one million of these trees across the United States as a way to purify the soil and make it "green" again.

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## Eight Peaceful Resolutions

Peace has powerful means to bring people out of their distorted sense that violence is their only choice. Find peace with these resolutions.

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Sign up for Deepak Chopra's Soular Energy newsletter on the Care2.com website.