



The Go-Back Club

Newsbooklet of the Simple-Living Brigade: September 2014

This is OUR paper: www.gobackclub.org

Our members live in 15 states, the District of Columbia,
Canada, Korea and Nigeria.



Photo by Iona Conner

The Snowflake Youth Team of Canada performed The Song of Dawn. (See interview with Chris Yuen on page 6 and words to the song on page 14.)

7th International Nature Loving Festival and Nature and Humanity Seminar, Korea

**It is an honor and a pleasure to
bring a view of Asia
to our American readers.**

The 7th International Nature Loving Youth Festival 2014 and a Nature and Humanity Seminar were held in Daegu, Korea from August 1st to 3rd and I was blessed to have been invited as a foreign correspondent to a wonderful week of being with 1,500 others who share my passion for the Earth.

Twenty-six teams from 16 nations (Korea, Indonesia, Canada, Madagascar, Myanmar, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Brazil, China, Cambodia, Chinese Taipei, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, Nepal and Hong Kong) danced and sang and smiled throughout the entire event in the most brilliant display of Earth energy I've ever seen.

This festival and the seminar were billed as Celebrating the Joy of Nature. There were 500 volunteers helping to make it a success.

The organization INLA (International Loving Nature Association; www.the-inla.org) was started in Hong Kong in 2006 by Wang Tzu Kuang with these aims: "...To nurture true person, true family, true society, true nation and true world in harmony with beautiful nature."

Introductory literature states, "Teenagers, who are to lead their lives in the 21st century in harmony with the beauty of nature, must grow to be true human beings equipped with insight called 'World is already one,' so that they become talents who are wanted by the century. Believing that talents nurtured by such an educational project can become pillars of the future, the International Nature Loving Federation [*over-arching organization*] is taking such a belief into action... The Federation also tries to enhance the quality of life full of happiness and pleasure by combining arts and culture with our daily lives and tries to create a new culture

of the 21st century that is joyful, pleasant and happy with the 'World is already one' spirit."

In his congratulatory speech at the Nature and Humanity seminar, Wang Tzu Kuang said, "We hope to unite people from around the world, using nature loving culture as a platform to improve the quality of our lives and enhance the essence of spiritual attainment. Let us walk hand-in-hand to create a world where humankind and nature survive in perfect harmony. Let the people of the world become united. Let the Earth and humanity flourish, allowing a brighter future to prevail."

"Sow the seed of Joyful Exercises; help build a new generation of healthy, happy and energetic youth."

(From the brochure for The International Nature Loving Association of Kuala Lumpur and Selangor, Malaysia.)



Map Courtesy Korean Air, a fine airline

What on Earth is The Go-Back Club? A Simple-Living Brigade.

Our Motto: Use it up, wear it out, make it do or do without.

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Contact: The Go-Back Club, c/o Iona Conner, 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, Pennsylvania 17255; 814-259-3680; gobackclub@pa.net.

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What is The Go-Back Club about?

We want to change people's hearts. Our members live simply (or try to) so that our collective carbon footprint grows smaller and smaller every day. We are working toward a

common goal of reducing our individual impacts on climate change to protect future generations and all life.

Who are we trying to attract?

We hope to reach people who are concerned about global warming and realize that they are part of the problem but don't know what to do. We are inviting them to join our Club.

What are we trying to achieve?

Our members are part of the global movement of people who know that global warming is an immediate threat and who want to prevent further harm and even reverse the situation. We look for Earth Teachers to train who can show others that living simply and peacefully is far preferable to living in the fast lane amidst a pile of junky products and extravagant status symbols. These Earth Teachers include "Show and Tell" forums in their

talks to illustrate their ideas while helping audiences develop deep conservation habits which include consumer liberation (stop shopping), cutting fuel consumption drastically, fixing up old things to give them new life and eating less meat — so that we stop hurting each other and our environment.

We look to others for inspiration.

People are "like a blind man walking randomly toward a cliff. The only thing that will save him is to go backwards." Michael Mann (climate scientist and member of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change), to John and Iona Conner about climate tipping points on a visit to Penn State, where Mann is director of the Earth Systems Science Center
"Our life is frittered away by detail. Simplify, simplify, simplify! Simplicity of life and elevation of purpose." Henry David Thoreau

Save the Date: October 11th for our next Go-Back Club Meeting in Shade Gap with a special program by GBC member and photographer, Doug Davis of Ohio, Healing With the Mountains.

This is an experiential workshop. We would love to have you join us for Doug's presentation. Lunch is at noon, GBC briefing at 1:00 and the workshop from 1:30 to 3:30. Doug will teach us how to receive healing energy from Mother Earth and the trees through 'Earthing' exercises, meditations. You can expect wonderful healing results if practiced regularly. We will be outside, weather permitting. Dress warmly. This workshop is free of charge, although donations are welcome. **RSVP ASAP**

Background

It was Go-Back Club board member Dr. Pyong Roh who recommended that I be brought over as a foreign correspondent for this wonderful event. To this day I have no idea who paid for my ticket and expenses, and that uncertainty adds to the mystery and wonder of the entire journey. I had no fear or further thoughts other than to pack modest clothes, plenty of writing material and my camera and get on the plane.

The dancers' costumes were modest and the dances very professional and beautiful, full of youthful energy and joy. Other dances propagate a hero but, in these performances, everyone changes positions so no single person dominates; there are no solos, no stars. Everyone gets a chance to be out front.

These young people dance with full emotion; I got chills watching their rehearsals and, later, their actual performances. It's all about teamwork. "Let us come together to bring this wonderful together," INLA volunteer Vivien See told me. The dances are universal, calling everyone to come. "It's a marching song for the youth... The Universe needs you, the countries need you, families need you, everyone needs you. We are the youth of Nature."

The opening ceremonies reminded me of the Olympics; bells and gongs, a video

of fireworks, a light show with music thumping through our bodies. There was a gigantic screen above the stage with two smaller screens for close-ups on either side so the audience could see the dancer's faces and views from above.

Dr. Chung-Whan Byun (founder of Daegu Haany University and our host) delivered the welcome message in his strong voice: "One thousand young people with hopes and dreams, bright and twinkling buds coming out of frozen ground to motivate and awaken people, 26 teams from 16 countries ... You are the future of the world. Let us move forward in love. Sing and dance for a better future revitalizing this planet, loving Mother Nature and moral rearmament."

The Mayor of Daegu said these problems of the world cannot be solved in traditional ways. "The Nature Loving Association of Korea is to spread the message of Mother Nature to every corner of the world with music and dance."

The first Congratulatory Dance (Ceaseless Fortune of Nature) was performed by the White Cloud and the Fragrant Blossom Youth Teams of Indonesia. It was so much like our Native Americans' drum beat, movement, headdresses and long, black hair that I had tears in my eyes — we are one!

Fifteen minutes before the performances on the second day, I had the privilege of doing a mini Go-Back Club talk to about

40 English-speaking youth from Indonesia, ages 19 to 25. This was definitely one of the highlights for me as they all listened intently with their beautiful smiles and wonderful costumes. See photo on page 4.

Last Event of the Week for Me

I was videotaped on the last night. In answer to a question about future communications across the oceans, I answered, "My newspaper is my voice."

I received the following email message from Pyong after I arrived home.

Dear Iona, sister in the Universe,

Thank you so much for your kind and warm words. You know what? There were about 500 volunteers working for the two international events and they were the backbone of the system. And they took care of the guests from domestic and foreign countries. I really appreciate the volunteers.

I asked the person in charge of guests to take care of you. You deserve being well treated. I am glad to hear that you did not have any difficulty in communication.

Amazon River! I met two gentlemen from Brazil at the dinner. And I cheered them. Let us save trees.

Take a solid rest.
Pyong, brother in the Universe

My Support Team



Hyesu Lim (left) helped me navigate everywhere we went with her ready smile and helping hands. She was a delightful companion. When I was busy, Su was the one who grabbed my camera and took photos for this newsbooklet.

Dr. Pyong Roh (top right) with his wife, Young, made this whole trip possible. Hyesu ("Su"), left, a 20-year-old college student, was my Guardian Angel, roommate and translator who saw to it that I understood conversations in Korean and helped make the entire trip easier. INLA volunteers Collin (left, bottom right) and Vivien from Malaysia made sure we got where we needed to be and did Chinese translations for Su and me. We four spent many happy hours together. Vivien has been a member of INLA for 10 years and she used to be one of the dancers. She also taught me that there are three goals for the performers: sing, smile and dance. "We are young and love to sing and dance," Vivien told me. "The more you sing, the more you feel happy inside. Eventually they change their thoughts and work together. Everyone has their own arrogance; they learn to be patient and tolerant. I notice that when I go out to work, I become a better person."





All photos were taken by Hyesu Lim, a team of INLA volunteers and Iona

I was fortunate to be able to give a mini Go-Back Club to the White Cloud and Fragrant Blossoms dance teams from Indonesia just before their performance. They listened intently and it was one of the highlights of my trip. Such bright, concerned, young people are always an inspiration and motivation to me. I loved working with them for a few minutes. In my notes I wrote, "My kids" although they are young adults, not "kids." They danced Cradled in Mother Nature's Arms and it was "goosebumpy beautiful." There were about 60 dancers; Indonesia had a few teams. Total joy in the dance, words — full, strong body movements; they were dancing and singing with their hearts and souls.

INLA Goals

- To jointly enhance a nature-loving culture and the expression of the beauty of humankind, a defined culture, which will induce harmonious unity and mutual coexistence of all beings and things in Heaven and on Earth. *One should take Heaven and Earth as parents; the seven billion people of the world as family members; the birds, marine species and all other animals as brothers and sisters; together with the flora and fauna as part of the family.*

- To assist in revealing "the inborn values of Man" and "the respectability for Life." *Make preparations to depart from darkness, pain, worries and sin and to bring happiness to self and others as well.*

- To intensify and go in pursuit of "Protecting life, loving life and glorifying life." *Protecting your life and Protecting the Life of others; Loving your Life and Loving the Life of others; Glorifying your Life and Glorifying the Lives of others.*

- To ensure "Universal Unity of the human race." *Heighten harmony between Man and Family; Compel harmony between Man and Society; Enforce harmony between Man and Country; Bring about harmony between Man and the Universe.*

The Spirit of a Nature Loving Culture

The Nature loving Culture gives much regard to the spirit of mutual sharing. The ten major areas include mutual existence, glory, wealth, happiness, serenity, understanding, ownership, possession, prosperity and success.

To uphold this spirit, people must have great concern over their family, society, their country and the Universe. In this way the whole world will survive in the natural garden of peace, harmony, affection, good fortune and Joy.

These two men from Brazil performed their love songs to the Amazon both days of the festival. The photos on the large screen to the back helped us feel the Amazon. My notes for the first song read: Slow, beauty, Amazon River and forest scenes, Happy Habitat. For the second: Amazonia, more lively, a duet like a round; SO BEAUTIFUL; two friends in love with the Amazon and bringing that love to thousands of us from their hearts. By the time we heard the songs on the second day, we were clapping and singing along softly. We love them and the Amazon River/Rainforest!



Nature and Humanity Seminar

Harmony Between Nature and Humanity: Respect for Life, Recovery of Humanity, Conservation of Nature
(This conference honored the 34th anniversary of the founding of Daegu Haany University.)

Opening Remarks:

- Dr. Byun Chung-Whan, Founder and Honorary President of Daegu Haany University
- Ki Woo-hang, Chairman of the Board of Jehan Academy
- Muhammad AS (sic) Hikam, Former Minister of Research and Technology, Indonesia; President University, Indonesia
- Prof. Dr. KIRasae Chanawongse, Founder Phon Commercial & Technical College; Founder of College of Asian Scholars, Thailand; Chairman Asian Disaster Preparedness Center; Chairman Naresuan University; Founder College of Asian Scholars and Former Minister of Foreign Affairs.
- Iona Conner, President of NGO 'Go-Back Club,' USA

Iona's Congratulatory Speech for Daegu Haany University

Annyeong haseyo! [Are you at peace?]

It is an honor and a pleasure to congratulate Dr. Byun and those who have worked together over the years to make this university the great institution it is today.

In connecting Nature and Humanity, we have a lot of work to do — a lifetime of work on behalf of Planet Earth and all living creatures.

Wherever life leads you, whether it's to become a doctor, a scientist, a professional or a laborer, a teacher or a parent, a nurse or a healer — in everything that we do from now on, we must consider unborn generations.

We are preparing the way for them and our goal must be to do the best we can in all of our daily decisions to build a glorious future.

I've been in the environmental movement for 48 years, figuring out what I must do to protect my sons so that they would grow to be healthy and wise human beings.

A young student of mine summarized this way of life many years ago: THINK AND ACT. THINK AND ACT.

I have also learned how important the spiritual element is to support us as we meet

obstacles — and we will meet obstacles.

We are more than consumers and money-makers; we are a species with the ability to love and protect our home planet, each other and the children.

You will meet many wonderful people as you start (or continue) your lifelong environmental work — like my friend Dr. Pyong Roh, whom I met 28 years ago when we were studying Public Health and Environmental Law.

I hope you learn a lot during this event and will carry this knowledge in your hearts as you greet each new day.

The future is here. Right here! Right now! Thank you for being here to share my joy of working toward a better future.

What follows is taken from the booklet distributed at the event or excerpted from my notes.

Keynote speech: Zhang Hwe-ik, Professor Emeritus, Seoul National University

(Abstract) "The T'ai-chi t'u shou (Explanation of the Diagram of the Supreme Ultimate), written in the 11th century by Chou-Tun-yi, is an East Asian answer of the ultimate question required for the life of a human being, namely, "Who am I, located in what world, and how should I live with what attitude?" According to modern science, a contemporary version of this answer can be cast in the form of T'ai-chi t'u shuo as follows, "Chaos and symmetry."

Subjectivity [Knowledge] appears in a human being and the Ultimate Directive establishes within the consciousness of Global Life. The Global Self cultivation enjoys good fortune while lesser selves violating it suffer misfortune. ...

A Regimen of Korean Medicine Leading to a 100 Year-life for Human: Kim Kwang-jung, Professor of Korean Medicine, Daegu Haany University

"Most of the diseases currently arising are caused by a human body's abnormal self-healing ability rather than external factors. The human is an organism with its own regulatory structure; however, there are problems when a human body cannot process its mechanisms by itself. Therefore, it is necessary to be aware of accommodating the self-repair ability in real life in order to live healthier in the near future. A regimen of Korean medicine is the guidance which helps to have a healthy lifestyle.

"It is presumed that a 100-year life can be possible for humans if a regimen of Korean medicine is appropriately applied in real life.



Dr. Chung-Whan Byun (right) was our gracious host who made the whole event so special. Nearly every time he saw us, he gave everyone fine gifts, including his autobiography, The Long, Hard Road to Korean Medicine. Dr. Byun founded Daegu Haany University and the first hospital for Korean medicine. He is an amazing man whose speeches about the environment were delivered in a strong, passionate voice.

Consequently, a 100-year life for humans is possible when humans follow the three aspects: adherence to the laws of Nature, abstinence from desire and a lifestyle in harmony with the natural self-repair mechanism."

Respect Nature and the value we derive from Nature, realize value as a way to gain health; we are very confused about various regimen theories; increase self-healing abilities; the body has a dynamic to heal itself; the natural life with self-discipline promotes enhanced self-repair ability; follow the rhythm of Nature; make heart and mind empty. 1. Fasting increases body control; 2. Work out; 3. Supplements.

Our body type has inherent features and characteristics: align body movements, which foods we like, which weather we like; which colors we like. We can be healthier even if we're already healthy. Wait till our bodies adjust; try not to do everything right; diseases arise from external factors; be positive and active; minimize desires; make our bodies ready for better health.

Leisure: take relaxation only when we are tired; avoid artificial environments (indoors); practice with commitment. Chi exercise, not food. Mornings, exercise lightly five to 10 minutes to increase flexibility (arms and fists out straight, bend knees and move up and down like riding a horse). ...

Interviews with Dancers



Chris Yuen from Canada (left): Thirty-one-year-old Chris joined INLA in 2004 and had no dance experience before although he had played basketball and soccer. He is in broadcasting and initially thought it would be fun to go on a trip with a bunch of people to Taiwan. Once he learned the meaning of the dances, he understood the essence of it all and has been a member for 10 years. He gathered a group of about 20 young people in Vancouver.

Here at the 2014 festival, he said the gentle feelings are evident and the “funnest” part is meeting a lot of other young people around the world who share Nature Loving. He’s becoming a better person and is looking at Nature differently now. Bringing a smile to others makes them feel welcome, even if they have never met before. “We are one big family.” The team work is very inspiring and very important.

Chris’s group has dancers with different work schedules every year and working to develop the team is the best way to make it grow. “Since we’re doing something meaningful and wonderful, we shouldn’t be arguing. We can be friends with our groups” and this helps the world be more harmonious as they become better team players. In order “to bring peace and harmony, we need to work together,” he said. It’s not just about



dancing.

His 24-member Snowflake Youth Team (page 1) started technique classes in November to get in shape for the festival and then regular practices began in January, once a week for three hours at a time, usually on a weekend when they were not working at their normal jobs. He also practices at home.

Christina from Singapore (center): Christina is a 35-year-old lawyer who works in the legal department of a bank in China. She dances with the First Rays Youth Team from Singapore. Her team has 19 women and eight men. Like Chris above, she started out 10 years ago at the 2004 festival in Taiwan and, like Chris, had no previous dance experience. (See photo page 12.)

INLA has changed her life. She didn’t know she could dance but, more importantly, she loves getting together with other members in a “very natural, very simple, very healthy” way — the way “a human is supposed to be,” she added.

These dancers are very happy, like young kids, Christina said. She used some of her leave to come to Korea and, back home, the team practices seriously. The newer members started preparing two years ago by practicing on two weekdays plus weekend



sessions on Saturdays and Sundays (to which the seasoned dancers came). Christina considers herself fortunate to meet lots of other young people from around the world.

Cheong Hoi Leong from Malaysia (right): Cheong is a 26-year-old hand-drip barista from Malaysia with no dancing background, either. The dancers in The Radiant Pond Youth Team range in age from 15 to 32 with 24 women and 18 men. He explained that, through these dances of Nature, he uses body movement, mind and spirit to reach happiness more easily back home when he feels overworked. “By singing out loud and dancing happily, I can really relax and calm myself.” He returns home and uses this good spirit in his daily life.

“Life means fortunate,” Cheong explains. This joy “is not found in materialism; it’s from an inner feeling that touches my heart.” Through Nature-loving dance, he found happiness and wants to share this with people around him.

Like most of the others, he pays his own way and uses his leave to come to the festivals but says parents pay for teenagers. His group started practicing Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays two months ago but increased to five days a week before their performance.



One of the best parts: we all dance! Young and old, many nations. Having a great time together, led by the coaches. Photo page 19



My new friends from China and me posing at the Daegu, Korea convention center, which INLA took over for a few days.

What is INLA?

Foundational Purpose

In modern society, a materialism-driven life and the human-centered view of nature damage the environment and cause various problems in the global village.

The International Nature Loving Federation (INLF) was founded by Mr. Wang Tzu Kuang in 2006 in Hong Kong. It is an international, non-profit organization dedicated to solving these problems by practicing respect for life and love for Nature.

How Does INLA Work?

Interview with Arlene Wang

Director, External Affairs, The INLA Hong Kong

I asked Arlene how the Federation (INLF) finds people to be volunteers for this event — The 7th International Nature Loving Youth Festival 2014.

During the past six months, INLF members had been visiting 10 Korean universities ahead of time to draft volunteers and made sure they would be willing to be vegetarians during the course of the event. The INLA Korea staff had started the event promotion six months in advance.

The INLF Founder President, Mr. Wang Tzu Kuang, says you can do anything but you must do it right. The main target of the entire Foundation is that we are all one family; there is no difference between any of us no matter what culture, race, nationality, language or religion we are; this philosophy extends to all life — plants and animals, too.

Arlene told me that she and her friends came early to help the Koreans as volunteers.

The INLF has branches all over the world where youth teams are

trained. Dances are choreographed by professionals but retain the essence of the lyrics.

The Hong Kong branch has around 1,000 members. Approximately 30 volunteer teachers are presently travelling to different cities in China to teach Joyful Exercise for free. Their living and traveling expenses are supported by the INLA Federation.

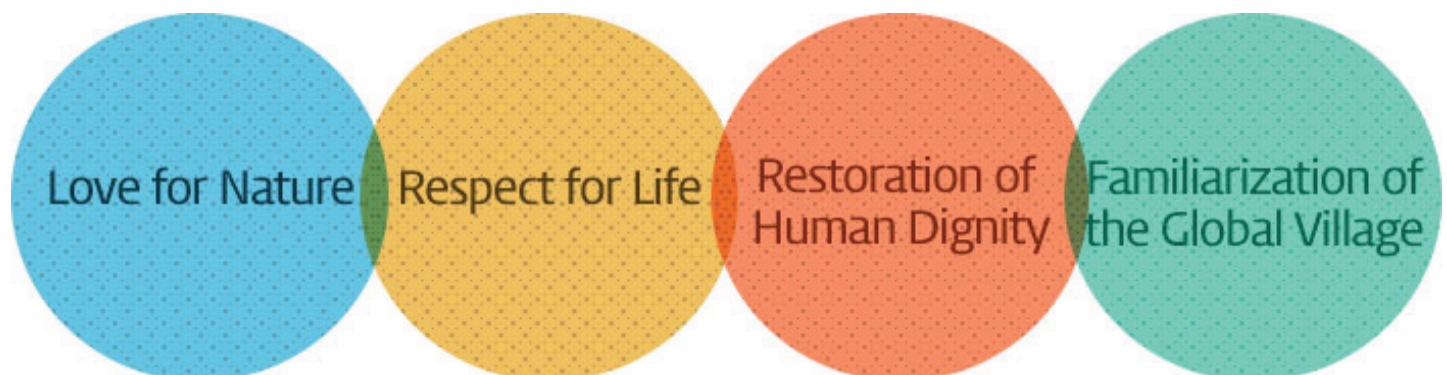
Arlene told me that the Joyful Exercise Training Program covered China cities like Daqing, Jilin, Dalian, Beijing, Shanghai, Shandong, Waifang, Jinin, Shouguang, Wuhan, Jiangsu, Jiangxi, Guangzhou, Fuoshan, Shenzhen and Hong Kong. In China, they have volunteer teachers going to different school districts to talk with principals and teachers about the Nature Loving Culture. If there is interest, they start working with them at the primary, middle and high school levels. Young ones learn about Nature Loving Culture through the lyrics and movements in which children's actions match ecological words to songs. They explain the meaning of Nature loving songs via joyful exercise (for the younger children) and the expression of Nature loving songs via dance for the older students.

In Daqing, a city in northern China, more than 35 schools have join the INLA Joyful Exercise training program each year. Most schools there have around 4,000 students, who will be dancing in outdoor playgrounds, even with under minus 30°C (just below 0°F) temperatures in winter. But still enjoying it!

Volunteer teachers live in one place for two weeks to a month, create a class schedule and either attend a morning assembly with the whole school to start the day or work with a team of teens. As dance team members, the older students will be responsible to teach the younger ones. The INLA volunteer teachers also teach school teachers for future co-ordination.

The Hong Kong INLA group invited professionals from Chinese schools to this Korean event so that they could FEEL the atmosphere.

Arlene's husband, Danny Lui, Chi Wah, is president of INLA (Hong Kong). They are both full-time INLA volunteers.





The Nan Hai Youth Team of China danced for the ocean with gentle waves and movements reminiscent of water; images of seagulls flew on the large screen behind them. They ARE the ocean as they dance *Echoing Love from the Blue Sea* so gracefully.

Seminar continued from page 5

Vegetarian Diet & Health (Relationship Between Lipid Metabolism and Diabetes, Hypertension, Angina Pectoris, Cancer): Jung In-kwon, Director of Ulsan New Morning Internal Medicine Hospital

“...Since 30 years ago, nutritionists have been consistently claiming that their disease can be successfully cured only by changing food habits. Therefore, by completely avoiding the consumption of animal food but choosing to eat inartificially treated vegetable food, humans could be saved from the disorders which need endless intake of medicine...”

Nature and Environment (Receptor Oriented Environmental Policy and Human Health): Jung Hoi-seok, Director of Management of Waterworks and Sewerage, Ministry of Environment

“... There are numerous conditions for life to exist on a planet: a size that creates appropriate gravity, an atmosphere that contains oxygen, abundant water that circulates from ocean to inland and from higher to lower land, and finally a food chain that supports all lives...”

Chemical substances which are toxic, explosive or corrosive have a direct effect on human health. Carcinogenic, mutagenic

and reproductive-toxic substances have long-lasting damage. Contaminated water and air can influence human health through ecosystem damage and contaminating natural edibles.

“Population growth and poverty are also sources of environmental degradation... Chemical accidents and ocean oil spills cause large casualties and ecosystem damage. Climate change also has harmful health effects with extreme weather such as heat-waves and snowstorms and widespread infectious diseases.

“Ecosystem health and biodiversity are important. That is why “Sustainability” is crucial in maintaining and guaranteeing human health on Earth.

Hope and Relationship in Depopulating Japan; “Well-Being” and Social Capital in Japan; Focusing on the Role of Japanese Religion: Sakurai Yoshihide, Professor of Literature Studies, Hokkaido University, Japan

Organized as follows:

1. Introduction
 - A. Depopulating society and stratified society
 - B. Personalization and creation of relationship

II. Research on “happiness” and “well-being”

- A. Definitions of “happiness” and “well-being”

- B. Features of “happiness” and “well-being” (chart showing Change of Life Satisfaction and GDP per person from National Survey for Nations’ Preference)

- C. Human relations to create hope

III. Social Capital and Religions

- A. Attention to social capital

- B. Japanese religions and social capital

IV. Concluding remarks: Maximization of “well-being” rather than “happiness”

Comprehensive Discussion moderated by Go-Back Club board member, Dr. Roh Pyong-ui (Consultant for WHO). Pyong amused us by ringing a little bell softly four minutes before each speaker’s time was up and then a little louder when his time ended at five minutes. It sounded to me as if he rang it extra loud at 6:00 — dinner time! Right on schedule. He was a great moderator.

Vegetarian dinner — excellent food prepared and served in a beautiful manner, as were all the meals — Menu: Grain bread, broccoli chowder soup, fresh seasonal salad, (vegetarian) bean “beef” steak, hot vegetables, pecan pie and coffee.

More on Mermaids

By Iona Conner

It's been interesting seeing the responses of our readers to last month's article on Mermaids. When I gave a Go-Back Club talk at the McConnellsburg Library shortly after sending out that newsbooklet to our members, the librarian recalled a book she had seen mentioning Mermaids, The American Discovery of Europe, by Jack D. Forbes. She immediately went to the shelves, got the book and looked up "mer-person narratives."

The book is really about how Native Americans arrived in Europe before Columbus travelled to North America. Forbes spend over 20 years researching early activities and archives. I only read the parts referring to Merpeople and here are a few excerpts. Oh, by the way, there are excellent photos Forbes took of East Greenland ice floes, glaciers and a river of ice in 1987.

Back to Mermaids...on pages 134 to 136 he writes: "But first I would like to suggest that the widespread reports of the existence of "mer-men" and "mer-women" (sea-men or sea-women) in northwestern Europe be considered as possible evidence of early Inuit or other American arrivals. Early descriptions of Inuits in their kayaks seem to suggest the appearance of a "fish-man" or a "finn-man" because the navigator is enclosed in skins that are actually part of the craft, and sailor and craft would appear to viewers to be one and the same..."

"There are many mer-person stories. For example, in 1187 it is recorded that a "man-fish" was kept for six months in Orforde Castle in Suffolk, England. Radulphus de Coggeshale wrote: "In the time of King Henry I...the fishermen took in their nets a wild man, having the human shape complete, with hair on his head, a long and picked beard, and a great deal of shaggy hair on his breats (sic); but he stole away to sea



Artwork by Al Fry

Al wrote this note on his painting: 18+ million years ago, Waaroom fled to ocean after land toxic. Vraanim and Oonim still survive. Oonim can breathe both in and out of water. They help ecosystems of ocean. Many migrate with the whales. Sharks are a menace and now Navy sonar. From "The Gift of the Unicorns," Almine, P.O. Box 300, Newport, Oregon 97365

privately, and was never seen afterwards.

In 1430 after a storm an alleged "wild woman" came through a dike near Edam, Holland, and lived for many years in Haarlem. She reportedly learned to spin but never learned to speak the local language. The woman (called a "nimphe" or "Feme marine") was rescued by some young women of Edam who were passing by Purmerend in a boat. The woman eventually returned to her first and natural element."

Forbes also states that in 1751, Erich Pontopiddan, referred to many examples of "mer-men" seen by Norwegians and people in Iceland. He then makes a disclaimer that perhaps people got confused by seeing skilled kayakers and thinking they were a species like us living in oceans. I find it hard to believe that so many seafaring people could not distinguish between the two.

On page 142, another historian (Pontopidan) tells us that a fisherman brought a mer-man to King Olaf and he sang "an un-

musical song" to the king. Moving along in Forbes' book to page 160, another odd creature was described as a "marine monster" resembling the human form and showed its head, neck, torso and "stumps of arms" above the water yet the rest of its body was not revealed, although it was noted that the body tapered downward.

After reading these pages a couple of times, I began wondering if Forbes was merely trying to transpose concrete things with which he was familiar with the unexplainable in his limited world view to appease his brain.

Surely it is unusual to consider that there are mer-people in the oceans that we don't know about yet for thousands of years, there have been traces of them all over the world either in artwork, legend or written examples like these.

I will keep exploring this as much as I can. Would you like to join me?

Save the Ocean's Mammals, Stop U.S. Navy Sonar Testing!

Sponsored By Participants Helping To Save The Oceans at <http://www.petitiononline.com/sonar1/petition.html>

The author wrote: I created this petition on behalf of Earth's mammals, creatures that can't speak for themselves. Their cries for help are never heard. So I would like to speak for them! I believe Navy Sonar Test-

ing should be put to an end. It's wrong and it's killing our oceans' beautiful creatures. Can you hear the dolphins cry? Imagine your cries not being heard. Can you imagine living underwater, depending on your hearing for survival? Then hear a sound that deafened you? This also causes internal bleeding. This is killing our sea creatures. It's wrong and it's an act of violence. Join me,

and let your voice be heard! Please sign this petition and get as many people as you can to help try to put an end to the killing of Earth's mammals.

Other sites are Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Stop-Navy-Sonar-Testing/369040376527922> and <http://forcechange.com/18462/stop-sonar-tests-in-whale-inhabited-waters/>



Song of Shiny Sky with The Shiny Sky Youth Team of Cambodia; very unusual, undulating movements; each dancer had gold-colored extensions on their fingers creating a vivid impression. This was the first group of dancers I "met" after 23 hours of travelling as I got on the bus for an additional five-hour ride to our dorm rooms at Daegu Haany University. They greeted me with waves and smiles which warmed my heart and endeared them to me instantly. It was my first taste of INLA joy and friendliness

After each day's programs were finished, the teams lined up on stage and received robust applause for their wonderful and hard work.



FROM AMERICA

*Submitted by
Carole Baker,
Blairs Mills, PA*

In work of love, the body forgets its weight. And once again with love and singing in mind, I come to what must come to me, carried as a dancer by a song. This grace is gravity.

*The Selected Poems of Wendell Berry
"Elegy"*



Sign up now for our free, online newsbooklet at www.gobackclub.org or email Iona at gobackclub@pa.net.

Paper copies are \$20 a year and you can send a check payable to "The Go-Back Club" to Iona at 21431 Marlin Circle, Shade Gap, PA 17255. Thank you!



The Songhua Youth Team of China danced the Heavenly Family dance. This represented the main message of INLA: WE ARE ONE FAMILY!

The Exuberant Forest and Prismatic Light Youth Teams of Indonesia danced about the forest.

They also danced The Spirit of the Mountain in different costumes and I was reminded of our

Native Americans with headdresses and the beat of drums. This felt very ancient, like a prayer with body and hands; this does NOT feel foreign at all. It was a mountain dance;

I understood the movements, rhythm and facial expressions.



The Beauty of Love dance by the Tuning Current and Wide Sea Youth Teams of Korea. The dancers put their whole selves into this dance with super aerobic moves.



The Green Meadow Youth Team of Indonesia danced 'Distorted World'

Imagine the sky gray and black
What if the ocean is spoiled and mad?
Why must the heart be cold and sad?
The world wasn't meant for that.

What if the sky isn't blue?
And water loses its hue?
Withered trees fill our sight
And mountains lose their might.

What if Earth is no longer green?
And grasses are never seen?
If the world is filled with crime.
No one cares to share their time.

Love that's never being revealed on time.
What if violence floods the world?
Morals gone and disappear.
The heart in everyone has died.

Distortion! Distortion! Distortion!

If the ozone disappears.
If all creatures lose their homes.
Where will this lead the fate of life?
What if we don't realize
All that we have denied?
If we never come to sacrifice.

Distortion! Distortion! Distortion!



The First Rays Youth Team of Singapore performed The Universal Family dance while singing and smiling for peace and environmental restoration. The lyrics I got were: People are far under the sun, beliefs may differ, we are family; cultures differ, we are a family; language may differ, we are family. Everybody is different, we are family. You and I share one family. Nations differ, we are family; ethics differ, we are family; customs differ, we are family.



The Song of World Peace was danced and sung by Myanmar's Glowing Brook Youth Team. Many of these costumes reflected the traditional, national dress of each culture.

“The International Nature Loving Association aims at promoting “Life Education, Health Education, Moral Education and Liberal Arts” through its many classification of nature loving activities. This charitable body serves internationally and places its emphasis on values education, which is accented by different Art forms, revealing its cultural core.”

(INLA brochure from Malaysia)

Brief Interlude with Sand Animation

This was something I'd never seen before: Sand Animation. Someone had a tray of sand somewhere behind us and made transitions from one picture to another with only hands and fingers, moving grains of sand, each movement forming a new picture; this was displayed on the gigantic screen above the stage. The flow of sand was set to music. It was amazing.



The Jade Prairie Youth Team of Hong Kong practices. They wore multi-colored, rainbow headbands with earthy costumes and the words I captured were, “Let's get together, let's go.” When their arms were raised, rainbow-colored fabric resembling bird or butterfly wings was visible.

The Morning Sun Youth Team from Madagascar danced and sang Song of the Morning Sun with very lively moves unlike the rest.

“The embryo of INLA triggers off through the Compassionate incentive of Mr. Wang Tzu Kuang, founder of

INLA, who is concerned with the misplaced value of the people of this world. Men build their values based on fame, status, wealth and power.

Hence they completely discard the pertinent existence of the conscience.

For reasons of personal greed they cause damage to Nature and force the world to face its unresolved damnation. Humans of today seem to lose

‘the value for self and the respectability for life.’ Much concern

has yet to bear upon the younger generation who is not aware of the need to treasure life and the possible prosperity of a better future.

How sad can this be!”

(INLA brochure, Malaysia)



Words to the ‘Song of Dawn’ Dance by The Snowflake Youth Team of Canada (page 1, excerpt)

The early morning air is crisp and cool,
the world still slumbering in dreams.
Let’s wake up, walk on the beach,
watching the crashing of the waves.

I yell “Good Morning” to the early rising sun.
With my bare feet on the cool sand,
I feel blessed with love.
In the dawn of every moment.

I am ready to welcome the dawn.
Dawn reflects its love, in the shimmering sea.
I can feel the dawn, its beauty within me.

Sitting on the sand, the gentle breeze and rolling
waves are a blessing of the beauty of dawn.

Mother Earth shows her love, by bringing us the day.
The dawn leads us from darkness into the light.
In the dawn of every moment,
I am ready to welcome the sun...

Sitting on the sand, the gentle breeze and
rolling waves are a blessing of the beauty of dawn...

The early morning light is nature’s love.
The early morning light is nature’s love...



Rehearsal: The skirts and gracefulness of the dancers were lovely.

MESSAGE FROM INLA: Sow the seeds of Joyful Exercises. Help build a new generation of healthy, happy and energetic Youth! We welcome all parties - schools, clubs and community groups. Please do not hesitate to contact us: The International Nature Loving Foundation, 17/F Federal Centre, 77 Sheung On Street, Hon Chalwan, Hong Kong, (tel.) 852-2806-22255; www.the-inla.org.

We got an excellent idea of Korean culture as the women wore white dresses with hoops floating in Rice Stalks Dance in the Wind as the men accompanied them. On the screen were photos of rice paddies, mountains and a rainbow.

“This association continues to promote Nature loving activities locally and internationally pertaining to the Songs of Nature, the Dance of Nature, the Joyful Exercise of Nature, the Drama of Nature, Health Diet workshops, talks on Ethics and Nature Loving related products etc. The activities are creative in Nature with singing combined with movement (a team function, which is suitable for all age groups).”



The Blue Sky Youth Team of Indonesia entered the stage with their World of Harmony dance. This reminded me of Aladdin's Lamp — fantastically ornate costumes. “The emphasis is centered on the spirit, dynamic and aesthetics nature of movement. “It is hoped that those flourishing smiles will influence the inner disposition of an individual and others alike so that negative feelings of distress, deceleration, arrogance and isolation will be dismissed.” (INLA brochure, Malaysia)

Note from the Editor

I tried to capture every dance team with my camera but got a little confused once I got home and started working on this. If I missed a team and someone can send me their photo, I'll be happy to publish a supplemental page in our next issue of this newsbooklet. Please accept my apologies if I have omitted your dance team. I loved every one equally.

The Lofly Peak Youth Team of Nepal, was one of the few dance troupes with more men than women. Their costumes also reflected their cultural heritage. “The words display the expressions of ‘Protecting life, loving life and glorifying life.’ The motive is to let participants gradually submit to what the words imply, changing the intended negative emotions to a purity at heart. (INLA brochure, Malaysia)





Rehearsal: When The Sweet Coconut Youth Team of the Philippines performed Mother Nature's Love, everyone wore black gloves and pineapple headgear, again with drums. This music resembled American rap.



The Song of Nature is the conscience of the songs, nature songs, harmony songs, happy songs, righteousness songs; celebrating the United States, the land of beauty, beauty of all things, human beauty songs, extolling filial piety, gratitude, joy. The song is a message of "love for the new culture of nature, respect for the dignity of all life, new civilizations, to promote a new moral world and certainly the new value of the intrinsic value of their own people," with four new campaign songs.

The World Federation of INLA, for nature lovers and the general public, helps young people with

the right values, outlook on life, survival and aesthetic concept, especially through a series of original songs of Nature, the beauty of Nature, places in the United States, people's beauty and the beauty of all things woven into the lyrics, which are full of optimism and struggle, positive, progressive, and are on the daily, local, national, social and family levels revealing love of all things and all life with the creation of vibrant, energetic and youthful melodies.

From <http://the-inla.org/songof-nature/songofnature1.php>. These songs are supremely calming.

Mother Nature's Love

(Sung and danced by the team above.)

**Breeze so gentle and fair blossoms sweeten the air.
 Refreshing water and juicy fruits.
 Breeze so gentle and fair, blossoms sweeten the air.
 Refreshing water and tasty greens.
 Come and rest by the cool mountain springs.
 Sit and listen to the musical streams.
 Take in the fresh air on mountain tops.
 These are the gifts of love, the gifts of love.
 Mother Nature's gentle love.**

A wonderful INLA web site is www.naturelovingwonderland.org. Take a few moments to listen to the songs even though you may not understand the words; you'll understand the feelings.



The Cluster Pine and Lofty Cloud Youth Teams from Korea with their Song of Thunder. The stage looked and sounded like a thunderstorm with lightening on the screen above. This team seemed like cheerleaders for Earth with their black hats, vests, pants and glittery silver "K"s on the backs of their costumes.



This is one of several teams from Indonesia during rehearsal. Everyone practices hard to make their performances glorious and uplifting. There were five judges who evaluated these qualities: Best Movement, Best Aesthetic, Most Delightful, Best Team Spirit, Best Spontaneity, Most Outstanding Performance, Best Harmony, Best Energetic, Best Vitality, Distinctive Participation, Most Benevolent, Best Creativity, Best Choreographic and Best Music Arrangement.

The Seagull Youth Team of Sri Lanka did a graceful dance (The Age of Light).

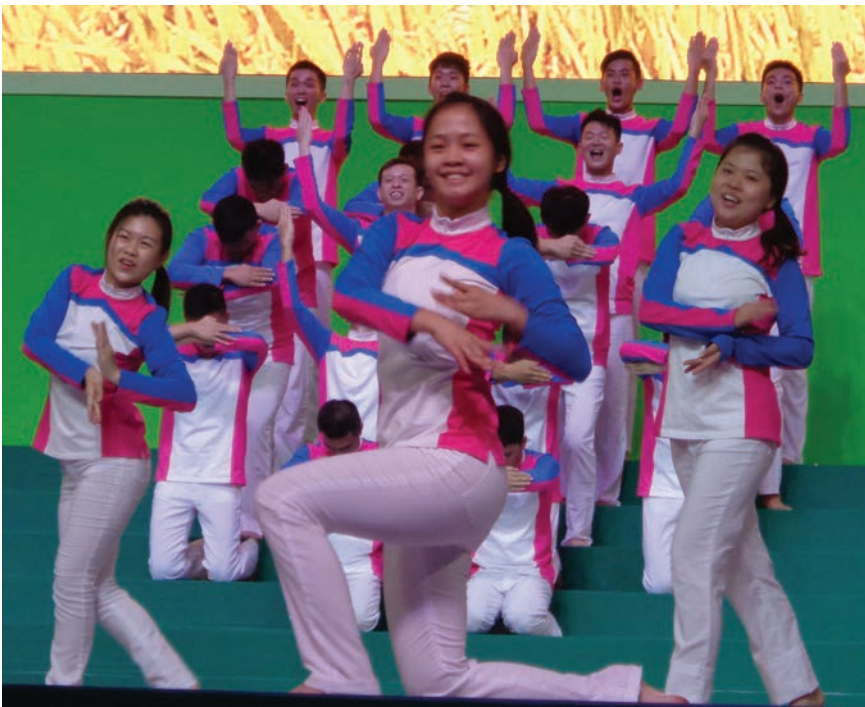
The lyrics included: Journey beyond the dark; let your conscience intensify, harmony, fill all hearts with joy, the heart of light, Earth is Harmony.



This youth team is paying close attention to their coach during the rehearsal. It takes a lot of work to produce such wonderful, meaningful and energetic dances.

The Alishan Youth Team of Chinese Taipei danced Step Forward Nature Youth. It was like a prayer to Earth and much better than watching a football game.

Wholesome, modest costumes, nothing sexy was worn by any of the teams or adult INLA members — long sleeves, long pants. These were their rehearsal clothes.



The photo on the left is from a rehearsal and the photo below is at a curtain-call. These young people dressed in uniform wherever they went as a team, even on our tours of historical sites (see pages 20 and 21). Their joyful smiles greeted us everywhere we met them.

“Responding to the needs of the time, the association has been working in cooperation with environmental institutes and civil society both home and abroad to protect Nature and improve living environments and has been engaged in various activities of education, culture, environment and volunteer work to help the leaders of the next generation like young students to realize the value of Nature and join us to love Nature. The association is committed to building ‘The Earth in Harmony’ by helping all others realize the value of ‘the One Earth.’ To maximize and magnify our little effort, we need bigger support from individuals, society, nations and eventually the entire world to help others realize the value of life on Earth and make the utmost efforts to recover the environment at risk. When all the stockholders join hands to get this done, we will be able to enjoy happy lives living in harmonious grand nature.”
(From the Introduction of the INLA, Korea)

Words to one of the songs jotted down by Hyesu Lim: “I was no better than others and lived without realizing it. I somehow got to see the tree and nature and birds singing and assimilated myself into Nature. Nature taught me freedom and happiness. I will be someone who can help others and share this with them... .





“INLA activities aim at creating a harmonious relationship between Man and the Nature. This is to bring about the condition of a healthy family, society and country.” (INLA brochure, Malaysia)

The coaches led us all in dance. Over 1,000 people got a chance to get up and dance with them twice during each program. It was unbelievably fun joining all ages having a great time dancing together.



Volunteers Behind the Scenes Worked Hard, Too



We All Went on Field Trips



Yangdong Village

Yangdong Village is a 600-year-old settlement still inhabited but maintained as a Folklore Material Preservation Zone. Beautiful lotus ponds were in the valley and most of the homes were on the forested hillsides. There are approximately 150 buildings of historic or cultural value. It is a serene community. Yangdong is a remnant of the Joseon Dynasty (1392 to 1897). Since the 1400s, it has been primarily populated by members of the Son and Yi families., who still farm the land. "Confucian tradition is evident in its architecture and in the writings of its most famous native son, Confucian scholar Yi On-jeok." (Moon Handbook on South Korea)



Food and Flowers

Most of our breakfasts were huge buffets displayed elegantly with many choices but lunches in the midst of activities were served on trays (like the one at the left) with a wide variety of vegetables, fruit, sometimes nuts and, of course, rice with every meal. The bottom right section of my tray held lotus root, like the photo below on the right. It was one of my favorites — pretty and delicious. The lotus photos were taken at Yangdong.





Dabo-tap, Pagoda of Many Treasures, representing the feminine, was carved from granite. Its antithesis, Deokga-tap is the male counterpart, severe, austere, stark in comparison. (Moon tour book)

Bulguk-Sa Temple

After a scrumptious, vegan breakfast, we “VIPs” and the dance teams were loaded onto 38 buses and driven to the gymnasium of Daegu Haany University for a powerful, environmental speech by Dr. Byun followed by traditional Korean dancing and drumming.

Then we visited the historic, Buddhist Bulguk-sa Temple (one of the oldest and most respected temples in the country from

the Silla Dynasty, 57 BC to 935 AD) and went exploring up the hillside to one incredible building after the next. This was an amazingly beautiful, peaceful and wooded site with many pagodas and Buddha statues. Throngs of people were there.

This temple was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1995. I especially loved the hand-painted designs under the

roofs (photos above left) and the enormous gold Buddha (below left). Being fond of silence, I was glad to see a sign outside the entrance to one of the worship halls reading “No word hall.”

The Buddhist *Dharani Sutra* was found at this site and is claimed to be one of the oldest wood block imprints of text in the world.



This huge Buddha resides at Bulguk-Sa. About 1,450 years ago, King Beopheung, the first king of Silla to adopt Buddhism as a state religion, had a temple built. During its peak, there were 80 wooden buildings but, during the Imjin War (1592 to 1598), most of them were burned down. The Korean War did further damage. By 1972 about 24 buildings were completely restored to blend harmoniously with the hillside and the site was designated Historic and Scenic Site #1. Inside the temples, stillness prevails and one temporarily forgets the hustle and bustle of everyday life. (Historical facts from Moon’s Handbook on South Korea and Wikipedia.)

Daegu National Museum



We had a short tour of the Daegu National Museum where an English-speaking guide described two parts of the first hall: Buddhist and Confucian artifacts. The dress was spectacular, as was its accompanying crown.

Wilderness More Important Than Ever

Email from The Guardian, Wilderness Watch: July 18, 2014

A July 6th opinion piece in *The New York Times* by Christopher Solomon argued that the 1964 Wilderness Act is facing a midlife crisis. Due to climate change, he charged, “We need to toss out the ‘hands-off’ philosophy that has guided our stewardship for 50 years.” Mr. Solomon in effect proposes to toss the Wilderness Act out the window. Wilderness Watch’s Kevin Proescholdt and Howie Wolke wrote the following rebuttal.

Christopher Solomon got it wrong in so many ways in his July 6th *New York Times* editorial, “Rethinking the Wild: The Wilderness Act Is Facing A Midlife Crisis.” The history of the Wilderness movement and of the 1964 Wilderness Act shows how wrong and myopic he was. In fact, the visionary Wilderness Act is needed now more than ever.

Solomon bases his argument on a fundamental misunderstanding of the meaning and value of Wilderness. He argues that since all Wildernesses are affected by anthropogenic climate change, human manipulation of Wilderness is now acceptable — even desirable — since the genie is already out of the bottle. Intervene and manipulate without constraint, he proclaims. But this approach contradicts the very idea of Wilderness.

Mr. Solomon obviously confuses wilderness with absolute pristine conditions. Congress never intended to set the bar so high that only entirely natural and pristine areas could qualify for Wilderness designation. Humanity’s global imprint is not new. Climate change is but the latest in a long history of human impacts to every corner of the planet, from smog and acid rain to habitat fragmentation and widespread human-caused extinctions.

A basic understanding of the Wilderness Act helps us understand the value of the uniquely American Wilderness idea. A half-century ago, Congress defined Wilderness as “an area where the Earth and its community of life are untrammelled by man, where man himself is a visitor who does not remain.” Untrammelled means un-manipulated or unconfined, requiring humility and restraint, to allow Wilderness to function



High Uintas Wilderness

Photo by Ken Straley

without the heavy-handed human manipulations that characterize most of the world.

Human impacts have never disqualified areas from becoming Wilderness. But once Congress designates a Wilderness, manipulations and interventions must cease. Fortunately, there still remain large untrammelled landscapes where human impacts are “substantially unnoticeable” and where “Wilderness character” dominates.

The Wilderness Act’s primary author was Howard Zahniser. His thoughts and writings are central to what the Wilderness Act means and Solomon would benefit by studying them. Zahniser wrote, for example, that (unlike Solomon’s contention of the central importance of absolute pristine conditions) it is wildness that is central to Wilderness. “We must remember always that the essential quality of the Wilderness is its wildness,” Zahniser explained and his choice of “untrammelled” in the poetic definition of Wilderness in the 1964 law was intended to protect that core character of Wilderness.

Solomon also repeats the misconception that Zahniser and other Wilderness System founders never anticipated threats to Wilderness like climate change. On the contrary, Zahniser anticipated the very calls like Solomon’s for manipulating Wilderness when he wrote, “Such tracts should be managed so as to be left unmanaged.” And he defined Wilderness as a place where human impacts are “substantially unnoticeable”, not entirely absent.

Change is constant in wild nature; Mr. Solomon is obviously unaware that Wilderness enthusiasts have long acknowledged this. Once again, Howard Zahniser provided the needed guidance: “In the Wilderness we should observe change and try not to create it!” Even though changes may occur in Wilderness that we humans may not like, the true test of our commitment to the Wilderness idea is to exercise that humility and restraint and eschew intervention.

Zahniser anticipated calls to manipulate Wilderness, even for seemingly beneficial-sounding reasons such as some of those Solomon

proposed. That’s why Zahniser famously wrote, “With regard to areas of Wilderness we should be guardians and not gardeners.”

So while modern human impacts certainly tempt us to try to “fix” whatever we perceive to be wrong or undesirable, let us not forget that such efforts often backfire, simply because nature is far more complex than we can perceive. And such efforts in Wilderness would eliminate wildness and the contrast between Wilderness and the rest of the planet.

On this increasingly human-dominated planet, un-manipulated wild Wilderness now has more value than ever. Solomon concludes that Wilderness manipulation is a “necessary apostasy to show how much we truly revere these wild places.” Yet if we follow his suggestions and manipulate the wildness out of Wilderness, there will be no wild places left. And that is exactly what the Wilderness Act guards against.

Letters and Emails from our Members



Dear Iona,

Thank you so much for last night! You give an inspirational program and make me want to do better. I will be eager to see your TED talk. I'm glad we found the mer-people stories. That is a fascinating topic. Take care and have a wonderful journey to Korea!

Jamie Brambley, Pennsylvania

Iona:

It was great that you were able to be here Wednesday. And it was good having a chance to talk with you afterwards; many thanks! And when you get back from your trip, you'll have to let us know all about it. I hope it works out to be a nice visit.

Dan Adams, Pennsylvania

Iona,

Great newsletter! Hope summer is going great. I enjoy reading them and it is all so very interesting! I love the Newsletter! Definitely keep writing — love your newsletter, so do Steve and Ashley! Have a great trip to Korea, very exciting, can't wait to see how your trip went! Send pics of Korea when you get back — can't wait to hear about it! Till next month.....

Caroline Ross, Maryland

Hi Ms. Conner!

This is 'Su.' And I would like to subscribe to your newspaper and share your loving nature. It was a great opportunity for getting to know about true meaning of love and love for nature.

I had a great time and I will have a great time with you for the remaining few days. I hope you make amazing memories in Korea!

Hyesu Lim, Daegu Korea

Hi, Iona.

Wow! What a wonderful experience! I never thought Korea was so much in to Mother Earth & Nature. I am very happy for you that you're there and can participate in this. I will look forward to reading all about it in your next newsbooklet!

Doug Davis, Ohio

Dear Iona,

Thank you for the beautiful copy of the "News"! I liked the picture of you in the hammock — well-deserved. I will get it into the library here — and spread the word.

There are anti-fracking signs up on the coast of Cape St. George and Lark Harbour, where I travel. Fishermen and conservationists are concerned and one area



Photo by Doug Davis

How would you like to see this spectacular mountain view everyday from your back bedroom window? Someone in the town of Indian Lake in the Adirondacks does! Visit <http://www.healingmountains.blogspot.com/>

that is being entertained for development is adjacent to a national park — or even in it! Gros Morne National Park is a United Nations World Heritage Site because it is one of the few places on Earth where magma has formed a tableland. It flies the U. N. flag. The U. N. has threatened to take away that status if fracking is done in the park.

That killing of dolphins was a terrible sight (The Cove film).

I'm glad you were a VIP — you deserved it!
Sandy Chilcote, Newfoundland, Canada

Iona:

I'm hoping you had a successful trip to Korea. I'll bet it was exciting to be there — and I want to hear all about it.

Do you think you'd be available to give a brief summary of your visit to the first session of our group the evening of Sept. 3 at the library community room 7:00 PM?

Dan Adams, Pennsylvania [answer=yes!]

Hi Iona,

Fascinating and intriguing...the Mermaids piece has got me wondering now...thank you!
Mare Cromwell, Maryland

Hi Iona,

You do a great job on this, and I know how much work it must be to put it together. I think you should do what works best for you — if taking July and August off next year makes your life more enjoyable, then go for it!

Ann Pinca, Pennsylvania

Dear Organizational Leader,

...The point of this letter is to strongly encourage your organization to focus on the connection between meat consumption and the climate emergency that we are in.

There is nothing on our precious planet more important than saving it from runaway heating of our atmosphere. Nothing else matters if this is not controlled, the best way being strict limits on animal food consumption.

I am sharing this idea with many other organizations that have yet to get on board. It will also be shared with my many vegetarian and vegan friends who are likely to support you. Should you need solid information about the connection between livestock and climate change, Google those three words.
Len Frenkel, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania

Hello Go-Back Club Members,

Neil Young and Willie Nelson will team up for a benefit concert protesting a proposed Keystone XL pipeline that would cut through the historic Ponca Trail of Tears in Nebraska. September 27th, the two will stage their Harvest the Hope concert near Neligh, Nebraska, with all proceeds going to Bold Nebraska, the Indigenous Environmental Network and the Cowboy and Indian Alliance. \$50 on sale at Bold Nebraska's official site.

<http://www.rollingstone.com/music/news/neil-young-willie-nelson-nebraska-farm-concert-pipeline-20140819>

Allen Hengst, Washington, D.C.

Here Come the Wee Ones

Moms Raising New Generation of Climate Activists

Moms Clean Air Force

PLAY-IN FOR CLIMATE ACTION BRINGS MOMS AND KIDS TO WASHINGTON

Submitted by Allen Hengst
Washington, D.C.

...with this note: Hi Iona, I missed attending this unique protest for climate action but there are some great photos posted at www.momscleanairforce.org/play-in-photos.

By Ronnie Citron-Fink: July 14, 2014

We thank Moms Clean Air Force for letting us use the language and photos posted on their web site.

With heart and soul, mothers and children from across the country rose to a momentous challenge — to ask Congress to take meaningful action against climate change.

Over 200 parents joined Moms Clean Air Force and partners — Alliance of Nurses for Healthy Environment; Climate Parents; Healthy Child, Healthy World and The Mothers Project United for Sustainability — on the U.S. Capitol grounds for a historic PLAY-IN for Climate Action.

Moms know that kids can't sit still, so we created a PLAY-IN, chock-full of fun activities for kids, a kid-friendly press conference with U.S. Senators, inspiring speakers and a march to the Capital, where parents delivered a message from families across the country: Make a commitment to our country's children — get serious about climate change and fight for cleaner, safer energy.

The overwhelming success of our PLAY-IN proves that there's movement is afoot — a Mom Movement to end climate change. Be on the right side of history; Join Moms Clean Air Force and let Congress see the true face of climate change — our precious children.

Moms Clean Air Force is a community of moms and dads united against air pollution — including the urgent crisis of our changing climate — to protect our children's health.

We arm members with reliable information and solutions through online resources, articles, action tools and on-the-ground events.

[*Editor's Note:* This group has 340,000 members so far; please consider joining them at momscleanairforce.org.]



(above)
Adding
handprints to
state legislator
letters telling
Congress to
protect children
from climate
change.

(below)
“Dear EPA:
Thank you
for protecting
America’s
children.
Support Clean
Power Plant
Rule.”

Photos
Courtesy
Moms Clean
Air Force