



# Groundswell News

Newspaper of The Go-Back Club, a Simple-Living/ Action Brigade

*We Are A Global Family. News By and About Climate Activists.*

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

*A Celebration of Youth. [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org). Issue No. 54: September 2019*

## Iona's Column: Honoring My Husband



Dear Reader,

My champion of justice husband, John Conner, died in my arms August 18 after courageously dealing with multiple health problems. I received dozens of beautiful condolence messages from his enormous network of friends and am publishing them (plus those from my own friends) on our Messages pages.

I'm going to be selling our home and moving back to New Jersey where my family lives. In clearing out his desk, I found two notes I'd like to share with you.

First, he had saved a little book I had given him years ago called *I Love You Because*: and inside I had written, "...you give your all to make the world a better place."

Second, he had also saved another little book I had given him in 2000 called *True Love: How to Make Your Relationship Sweeter, Deeper, and More Passionate*. Inside that one I found these notes in his bold handwriting:

1. Lifelong loving relationship.
2. Rich and full lives and worthwhile.
3. Grow together in our quest for Justice and Truth.
4. Respond to physical and spiritual needs.
5. Work together till environmental justice comes.

I invited our friends to come to our home the weekend after his death and made a display on the mantle over our fireplace of some of my favorite photos and reminders of his life. You'll find those pictures inside here, too.

Now that he's gone and I'm nearly 74, you cannot imagine the joy and relief I find in Greta and all the younger people springing wholeheartedly into the climate movement, including most of you.

For the Earth Always,

*Iona*



## Greta Sailing to U.S.

Greta Thunberg's Facebook post August 14, 2019

Submitted by Fran Staret, Pennsylvania USA

We are on our way!  
Leaving Plymouth and heading for New

York. Follow our journey here on Facebook and track us live through this link <https://www.borisherrmannracing.com/a-race-we-must-win/>

**Sailing** continued on page 3

# What on Earth is The Go-Back Club?

## A Simple-Living/Action Brigade

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

**Founder/Editor:** Iona Conner

**Wire Editor:** Allen Hengst

**Established:** September 2013

**Web site:** [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org)

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

**Contributors:** Ann Cognito, Paulin Nti-hemuka, Rituraj Phukan, Ssendendo Yasin Siginalaminat

### Mission of Our Newspaper

The mission of *Groundswell News* is to be a beautiful, inspiring, uplifting newspaper which educates and enlightens people about climate change through scientific articles and stories by and about activists who are working to protect life on Earth and preserve natural resources.

### What is The Go-Back Club all 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 im-

pacts 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 invite them to join our Club. Please tell your family and friends about us. They can go to [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org) to learn more.

### What are we trying to achieve?

We want to rapidly increase the number of serious climate activists in the world and inspire them through stories from other activists. Our goal is to keep their spirits up, their energy strong, their hearts open, and their eyes bright and alive.

### Our Values

This newspaper is based on love for Earth, all people, all forms of life plus air, clouds, rain, snow, weather, oceans, forests, etc. We love Nature. We respect everyone and are willing to share our experiences, both

good and bad, with others who may profit from them.

We are a global family.

### Guidelines for Submissions

I do not get directly involved in fundraising. To submit a story, you need to write a regular article about your work and submit it in a Word document with 2 or 3 photos, including captions and photo credits and then email it to me at [gobackclub@pa.net](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net). If you need funding, mention that in your last paragraph and be sure to give your contact information.

Since *Groundswell News* is a climate change activist newspaper, please be sure to mention how your work connects with fighting global warming somewhere.

I can't promise when your story will be published. Don't worry too much about punctuation or spelling since I proofread everything, just give me the history, heart and soul, dreams, and current project description plus your contact information at the end. I'll be eager to see what you submit. Thanks so much.

## Fair Use Law: <https://copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>

Fair use is a legal doctrine that promotes freedom of expression by permitting the unlicensed use of copyright-protected works in certain circumstances. Section 107 of the Copyright Act provides the statutory framework for determining whether something is a fair use and identifies certain types of uses—such as criticism, comment, news reporting, teaching, scholarship, and research—as examples of activities that may qualify as fair use. Section 107 calls for consideration of the following four factors in evaluating a question of fair use:

**(1) Purpose and character of the use, including whether the use is of a commercial nature or is for nonprofit educational purposes:** Courts look at how the party claiming fair use is using the copyrighted work and are more likely to find that nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair. This does not mean, however, that all nonprofit educational and noncommercial uses are fair and all

commercial uses are not fair; instead, courts will balance the purpose and character of the use against the other factors below. Additionally, “transformative” uses are more likely to be considered fair. Transformative uses are those that add something new, with a further purpose or different character, and do not substitute for the original use of the work.

**(2) Nature of the copyrighted work:** This factor analyzes the degree to which the work that was used relates to copyright's purpose of encouraging creative expression. . . .

**(3) Amount and substantiality of the portion used in relation to the copyrighted work as a whole:** Under this factor, courts look at both the quantity and quality of the copyrighted material that was used. If the use includes a large portion of the copyrighted work, fair use is less likely to be found; if the use employs only a small amount of copyrighted material, fair use is more likely. . . .

**(4) Effect of the use upon the potential market for or value of the copyrighted work:** Here, courts review whether, and to what extent, the unlicensed use harms the existing or future market for the copyright owner's original work. In assessing this factor, courts consider whether the use is hurting the current market for the original work (for example, by displacing sales of the original) and/or whether the use could cause substantial harm if it were to become widespread. . . .

Please note that the Copyright Office is unable to provide specific legal advice to individual members of the public about questions of fair use. See 37 C.F.R. 201.2(a)(3). For further information, see <https://www.copyright.gov/fair-use/more-info.html>.



Fair Use Logo



Sailing *continued from page 1*

# HERE SHE COMES!

**Grace Kelly's Grandson, Pierre Casiraghi, Is Sailing with Climate Activist Greta Thunberg**

*Casiraghi owns one of the few carbon-neutral racing boats in the world.*

By Chloe Foussianes (*excerpt*)  
Town and Country: August 22, 2019

Teenage environmental activist Greta Thunberg has made worldwide headlines for her carbon-neutral journey to the UN Climate Action Summit in New York. Her willingness to spend two weeks aboard a boat, eating astronaut-style food sachets and living without a real toilet, is undeniably impressive. But the person who's made it possible is perhaps even more surprising: Monegasque royal Pierre Casiraghi, Grace Kelly's grandson.

Casiraghi is a sailboat racer and owner of the *Malizia II*, a boat recently outfitted to be carbon-neutral. "We are probably one of the few boats in the world that is totally zero fossil fuel," the royal said in an interview with the *Times*. . . .

**Source:** <https://www.townand-countrymag.com/society/tradition/a28785126/pierre-casiraghi-grace-kelly-grandson-greta-thunberg-sailing/>

**"STRONG WINDS ARE PUSHING US WEST. WE EXPECT TO ARRIVE AT NORTH COVE MARINA IN MANHATTAN, NEW YORK SOMETIME TUESDAY AFTERNOON OR EVENING (8/27)."**

(quote and photo) Greta Thunberg's Facebook post August 25, 2019  
<https://www.facebook.com/gretathunbergsweden/>



# *This Issue of Groundswell News is Dedicated to John Bruce Conner*

By Iona  
August 16, 2019

I met John August 26, 1989 when I was giving an environmental talk at a conference at the ocean for children in a summer program. I was working for the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection and had become a spokeswoman for the Bureau of Community Relations. We had a mutual friend who wanted us to meet.

After the program, John and I walked along the shoreline talking excitedly about our work. He had started the Ecumenical Coalition for Peace and Justice Throughout the World. Who couldn't love that?

We had a few complications. He had a girlfriend and I had a husband but we fell in love anyhow, untangled ourselves, and I moved to Maryland to be with him May 11, 1990. We had an environmental wedding July 28, 1990 and started the still-existing Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice non-profit 501(c)(3).

I was amazed at his passion, vision, energy, dedication, brilliance, and enthusiasm for working tirelessly to make this world a better place in every single way he could think of. His goal was to create a process based on people globally forming Social Justice Communities so that members working hard under daunting circumstances would have the moral support of their friends, thus increasing their power.

John's health is failing. He has endured years of medical treatment and struggled to keep his vision alive. That is all ending now and I already miss him.

Here's his brief biography.

## **John Conner's Past** (written by John)

**Jesuits.** I spent the first 16 years (1953-1970) of my adult life in the Society of Jesus, where my principal focus was theology. I taught in high school in Baltimore, Philadelphia, and Washington and in college in Scranton.

**Housing Department in Baltimore.** After I left the Jesuits I spent 10 years working in the inner city of Baltimore, overseeing the implementation of projects funded by



**John Bruce Conner**

the Federal Government (Community Development Block Grant funds). The other City Departments did not go out into the community for regular meetings as the Housing Department did (twice a week), so in effect I represented the City and tried to help people with their needs from all City Departments.

**Cold War.** In 1982 I read a book about nuclear war, *The Fate of the Earth* by Jonathan Schell, and was so appalled that I left my job and sold my house and began to facilitate exchanges between American and Soviet people, hoping to undermine the hostility between the two governments. I organized several exchanges between Baltimore and its sister city in the Soviet Union, Odessa, with the help of the U.S. State Department, and facilitated collaboration among many U.S. cities with sister cities in the Soviet Union.

**Economic Injustice.** As the Cold War was winding down in the late 1980s, I began to read political science, economics, and sociology, in order to learn how the world really works. I began to see that the people who run the major corporations have an inordinate say in what goes on in this country. So my wife and I decided to focus on one area of the economy, the clothing industry, and we began to go to churches and colleges in the Northeast, Mid-Atlantic, and Midwest, urging people to switch from sweatshop clothing made in Third World countries to clothes made from

organic cotton in the U.S. by workers who earn a decent living. We brought along samples of such clothing to show that it is possible to find and buy this kind of clothing in the U.S. We worked with the Union of Needletrades, Industrial, and Textile Workers, the garment workers union.

**Climate Change.** This continued until 2006, when I read another book, *The Revenge of Gaia* by James Lovelock, about Climate Change, and was again so appalled at the prospect of the coming great loss of life, that I decided to focus primarily on Climate Change. I saw the need to inform people about its nature, causes, and consequences, going back to churches and colleges in the same parts of the country, to encourage them to take appropriate actions.

I have been providing up-to-date information about Climate Change regularly to approximately 9,700 people in churches, universities, labor unions, and social justice organizations. In addition to reaching out to Americans, we provide information to a good number of people across the globe. We live in one world, with the same injustices that afflict the United States afflicting the peoples of the entire world, the prime example being Climate Change, which calls for unified action by all of humanity.

**Organized Labor and Social Justice Organizations.** Climate Change is no different from the other major injustices that afflict our society (nuclear weapons, poverty, racism, vanishing democracy, sexism, destruction of the environment) in one respect: too few people are involved in resolving it. The U.S. as a whole has evolved in many ways since the Constitutional Convention in 1787, but our form of government has failed miserably to change in ways that involve the citizenry in government. Most passively accept what their rulers decree, with calamitous consequences.

Thus this appeal to the members of labor unions and social justice organizations to become knowledgeable and active in the struggle to rescue the world from the coming calamities from Climate Change.





**Photo: Iona**

*My all-time favorite picture of John. He loved being outdoors, he loved nature, and he loved planting trees. He planted hundreds of them. In this picture, you can see the little tree he has just planted behind him. He just watered it. Notice how happy he was.*



**Photo on left by Iona, photo on right by Billie Nadler Hnatt**

*(left) John was an avid reader. He's sitting in his favorite chair in our living room. (right) My son's family came to visit us with their two youngest children. John had built us a fireplace in the woods for cookouts and he's preparing the fire for them to join us in an outdoor meal. My daughter-in-law took that picture.*



## For Whom the Bell Tolls

By John Donne  
(One of John's favorite poems.)

**No man is an island,  
Entire of itself.  
Each is a piece of the continent,  
A part of the main.  
If a clod be washed away by the sea,  
Europe is the less.  
As well as if a promontory were.  
As well as if a manor of thine own  
Or of thine friend's were.  
Each man's death diminishes me,  
For I am involved in mankind.  
Therefore, send not to know  
For whom the bell tolls,  
It tolls for thee.**



Photo: [https://www.google.com/search;  
the Verdin Company](https://www.google.com/search; the Verdin Company)

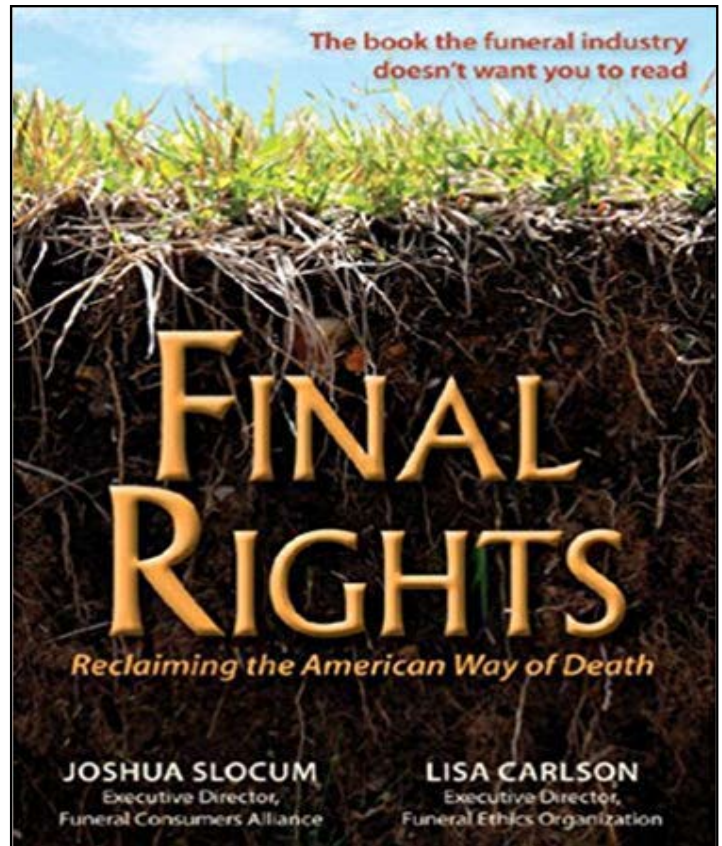


Photo: <https://www.amazon.com/Final-Rights-Reclaiming-American-Death-ebook/dp/B0052BQTXE>

Decades after Jessica Mitford stunned America with vivid accounts of corruption and abuse in the death industry, not much has improved. Families are manipulated into buying expensive goods and services they don't need or want. Prepaid funeral money vanishes into thin air. Body parts are sold on the black market. Eight states force families to pay a funeral director even if they conduct a home funeral with no need for help. But a consumer movement is now awakening, and Americans are asserting their rights over a key part of life, just as they did in the past with the natural childbirth and hospice movements. The two most prominent leaders of that movement are the authors of this book: Joshua Slocum, executive director of Funeral Consumers Alliance, and Lisa Carlson, executive director of Funeral Ethics Organization. The book includes state-by-state summaries of laws, regulations, services, and consumer concerns.



## Tributes to John

I am so sorry Iona, and very sad. Hard to believe John is gone.  
With much love,  
**Glow DeSousa**, Vermont USA

The world will miss your warrior.  
**M. R.**, California USA

My heart goes out to you right now. It is an enormous loss to you. We think of all of the people who John has helped over the years, putting their needs first.

He is a model for all humans, as he strove to bring sense to the world, fighting for justice and working tirelessly to address the most important issue of climate change.

He will not be forgotten.

Glen and I are with you in our thoughts and prayers.

With Love,

**Tyla Matteson**, Virginia USA

Infinite love & deepest peace to you, beloved friend. Clink to John. Godspeed.

He was a good man with a good heart. He'll be missed greatly and remembered warmly:

*May the Air carry your spirit gently,  
May the Fire release your soul,  
May the Water wash you free of pain, suffering and sorrow,  
May the Earth receive you,  
Source embrace you and welcome you home.*

Iona, you went above and beyond. Moon and stars pour their healing light upon you, comfort you, brighten your way, and guide your way on in the days ahead.

Holding you in deepest heartspace, girlfriend,

**Fran Staret**, Pennsylvania, USA

*Peace, perfect peace, in this dark world of sin,  
The blood of Jesus whispers peace within.*

*Peace, perfect peace, by thronging duties pressed,  
To do the will of Jesus, this is rest.*

*Peace, perfect peace, with sorrows surging round,  
On Jesus' bosom naught but calm is found.*

*Peace, perfect peace, 'mid suffering's sharpest throes,  
The sympathy of Jesus breathes repose.*

*Peace, perfect peace, with loved ones far*

away,

*In Jesus' keeping we are safe, and they.*

*Peace, perfect peace, our future all unknown,*

*Jesus we know, and He is on the throne.*

*Peace, perfect peace, death shad'wing us and ours,*

*Jesus has vanquished death and all its pow'rs.*

*It is enough: arth's struggles soon shall cease,*

*And Jesus calls us to Heavens perfect peace.*

*There are some rays of hope divine,  
To cheer the darkest heart, around the cross they ever shine,*

*Where life anew may start.*

My deepest sympathies go out to you and your family. May God give you the peace that you seek. May my condolences bring you comfort and may my prayers ease the pain of this loss.

I offer you my love, thoughts, prayers, and well-wishes during this dark time in your life. No one is meant to live forever. We have to say goodbye to every last one

of our beloved friends, family members, and dearest ones. This is the saddest truth of life. It is often hard to find words to express our feelings when our closest one departs forever.

Take heart, he's in a better place.

**Ekwe Chiwundu Charles**, Nigeria

So sorry to hear this. John was to us a modern day prophet trying to educate people to the seriousness of climate change and so many other injustices in our world today. We always admired his perseverance (and yours) and the ability to keep on working despite many peoples' lack of interest. He never seemed to get discouraged!

We hope his passing was peaceful. Please take care of yourself and keep us posted on any memorial plans.

**John and Mary Brinker**, Maryland USA

I will always remember John as the warrior he was. His spirit is now dancing with kindred spirits and watching over you, Iona. Now he can more freely guide you as he is full of light and loving it!! My heart is with you Earth sister. Many challenges ahead, I know, but you are one of the strongest women I know! God bless you.  
**Christine Maccabee**, Maryland USA

I'm sorry for your loss, Iona.

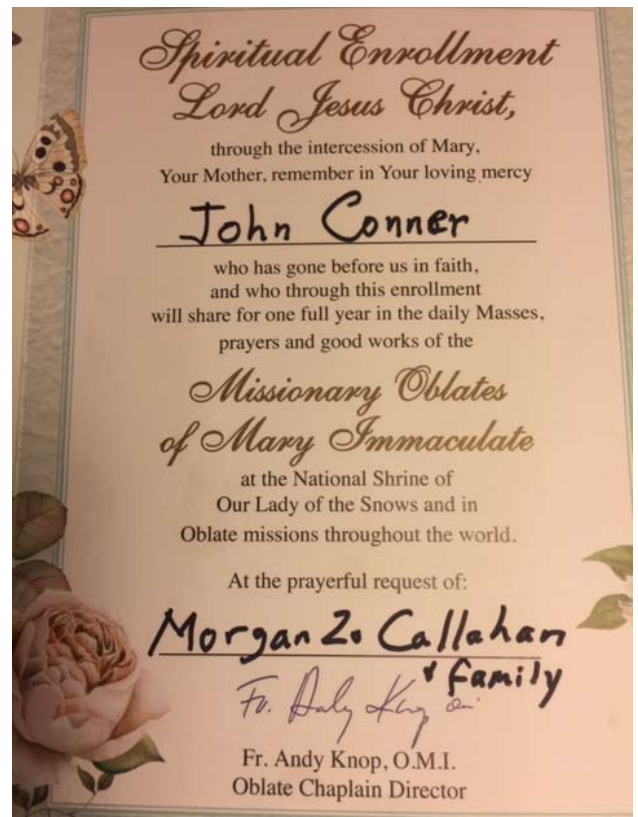
John was, indeed, a prophet for our time.

I am one of the 9,700 recipients of John's e-mail messages and of his passion for justice. I'm very sad to learn of his death. He was such an unquenchable spirit. I pray for him, but even more so for you. I cannot imagine your heart-break, but I do hope his energy and commitment will sustain you. I pray that God will welcome John with open arms and stand with you as you continue on the important work of peace and justice for all.

In peace,

**Rosemarie Pace**, Director Pax Christi Metro New York

**Tributes continued on page 19**



Votive Candle lit at the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Snows for the departed.



# The Canadian Expedition: Walk to Waken the Nation

By Ann Cognito, Climate Hiker

Our planet is in a state of total ecosystem breakdown and this is when we learn what being human really means. I am making my way from Calgary to Ottawa to raise awareness about the climate crisis and demand change from our government, so that we can take responsibility for what we've done and make all the difference we still can.

I am a 50-year-old woman with no roots on a disability pension and I refuse to believe humanity will walk quietly into oblivion, taking everything with us. I have spent my life as a weirdo and I'm done trying to fit into boxes... I've been reclaiming my life from my past and from my disabilities for many years now, reconnecting with myself and with the Earth.

Now, I am using my oddness and my greenness to make this journey, because I can, and because I can't live with myself if I don't do what I can to break down the comfort barriers and help waken people to our situation and our responsibilities.

I started walking from Calgary, Alberta, on April 20 of this year, with my service/support dog – world famous climate gypsy puppy, Mr. Myrtle Sir (MMS, a particularly beautiful and dear Jamaican Shepherd with supersonic radar Mogwai ears). With the exception of the few times I hitched a short ride due to injury or similar reasons, I have walked about halfway to our capital, where I will present our prime minister with a gift, a request, a petition, and a piece of my mind.

In person and in my petition, I am asking our political leader to take responsibility. I am making the Extinction Rebellion demands, as follows:

1. That our government tell the truth about the situation we are in;
2. That our government take immediate steps to reduce carbon emissions to net 0 by 2025; and
3. That we have citizens' assemblies to co-govern.

The first demand calls for transparency and honesty. We cannot proceed under a cloud of untruths, ulterior motives, and lack of accountability or clear responsibilities and possibilities. We need our government to not just toss out an empty declara-

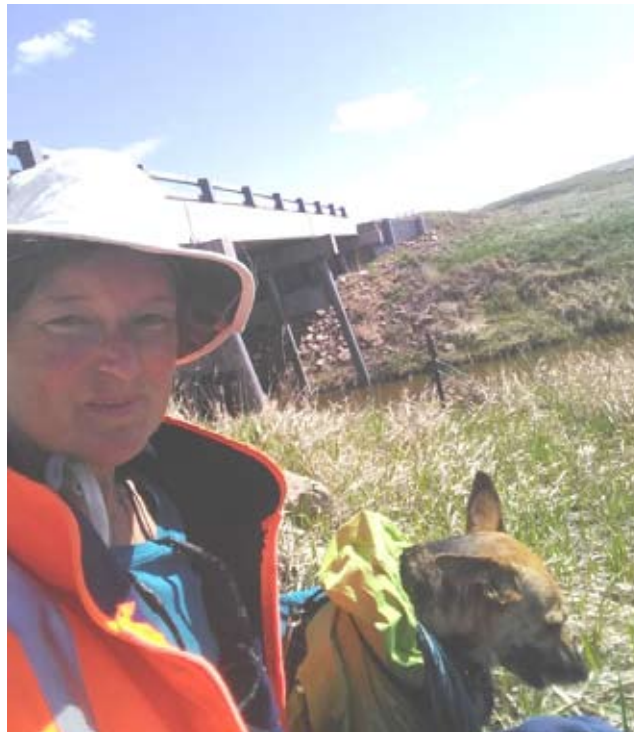


Photo: Ann Cognito

*Ann had just done a radio interview over the phone. She was under that bridge because the wind was so loud she needed a little shelter for the interviewer to be able to hear her. This was just east of Swift Current, Saskatchewan in Canada.*

tion undermined by new pipelines, but to truly acknowledge that the planet and all on it are in a state of total ecosystem breakdown, that we caused this, and that we can still make some small difference – enough that some life will continue on this planet, and that its healing can begin.

We need our government to acknowledge its own responsibility for the state we are in, for allowing greed (in the form of economics and politics) to take precedence over life itself.

The second demand includes addressing all possible facets of the total systems breakdown and now escalating exponentially around us. Cutting emissions to 0 so quickly will be mindbogglingly hard but we no longer have the option of comfortable ways to change. The IPCC report last fall (October 2018), and ensuing articles with more realistically brief allowances for possibility, leave no doubt that we simply have to quit. Now.

This will entail not only incredible difficulty for all, and much loss, but total changes in culture, lifestyle, governance... absolutely everything.

The third demand will work to ensure that these changes happen, and continue. With a process like the sortition process used in Ireland (sortition is the selection process... a bit like how potential jurors are selected... rather than who has deeper pockets and 'better connections') – a representational body of the people will be a bridge until we have time to change how governance works, because although that is necessary, we simply don't have time for that right now.

All we have time for right now is changing the world, and the way we live with it.

On a daily basis, this Expedition shows me again and again how very possible all of this is. I see the innate goodness of human beings constantly and ongoingly. I hear their fears and confusion and hopes and broken hearts. I believe that we are good, that we are waking up, that we can and will reconnect with our world and our responsibility to her. I believe in what we are and can become and can do. I want us to waken to that, across this nation and around

the world.

And I do see people waking up to our situation... some already are before I meet them, some because I've met them. I've had an entire family come out to the highway after I left a town, to tell me they'd been reading and learning all night... they were so scared, and I felt so awful to have handed them such a can of worms, but we do all need to know, in order to be able to rise up against our own extinction. They were grateful to be learning truths, so they can learn to be part of the change.

In another town, a table full of truck drivers who didn't believe in the climate crisis and refuse to talk about that kind of thing ended up talking about it anyways for over an hour, and as far as I know, they still are.

A self-professed redneck began by telling me it's all a pile of hooey... 20 minutes later, after regaling me with tales of calves, and even this year a small cow, being found dead in trees because of the incredible wind storms, he sent me off to give our government hell because this isn't right.

At one stop, a large angry retired man

**Expedition** continued on next page



Expedition *continued from previous page*



Photo: "A very sweet and kind couple in Whitewood, Saskatchewan"

*Ann, Mr. Myrtle, and their gear. She wrote, "I do see people waking up to our situation...some already are before I meet them, some because I've met them."*

came over to me to tell me how stupid my scooter is, because it doesn't use either gas or electricity. He got even angrier about my mission. When he ran out of cusses and stomped off across the parking lot, his meek and quiet wife spoke up – "I don't give a f\*\*\* what you believe! What about our children!?" I'd be happy to bet that family, and town, are still talking about the responsibility we have to put aside our own ideas for the sake of what is right.

I'm trying to create ripples, to spread awareness, to plant seeds. I'm trying to waken people to the direness of our situation, but also to give them possibilities. I send them to look up various articles and groups that can help. I send them to each other. I send them to Extinction Rebellion, to TreeSisters, to whatever resources seem appropriate for them to learn and to build on. I try to talk about ways we can change how we live, in large scale ways and in ways close to home. We talk about how to live differently, and the value of what is simple and real.

This isn't just for the purpose of this Expedition. I do live as greenly as I can. I have never had a license or gas vehicle. I do my best to make nutritional and lifestyle choices that respect our Earth.

Travelling means compromises – I can't

carry the weight of food as I had initially intended to, so there are French fries and salads and eggs in truck stop diners, and whatnot. But for the most part, and as much as I possibly can, life is still simple and green on the road.

While travelling, Mr. Myrtle and I mostly camp, or are guests in graciously opened homes. We've had to take a room more than once, and there's been all kinds of issues and even trouble along the way. I am doing this with constant pain due to my disabilities. I navigate C-PTSD, anxiety, panic, agoraphobia, and more as I navigate these roads. Many things have been stolen.

But I wouldn't hurt less if I were doing nothing, I'd just hurt differently, plus I'd be angry and frustrated and useless, so here I am.

Here, for now, is Winnipeg, Manitoba. I've been on pause a few weeks and will be for maybe a few more. It turns out (backed by extensive personal research and consultation) that Mr. Myrtle and I cannot walk the decrepit Ontario highways with turning into roadkill, so I am looking into every alternative and eco-friendly way to continue from here...

I could walk to the Ontario border, but then I'd be stuck there, hitch hiking with MMS and this whole little caravan of

ours...not a viable plan. So, I am working on manifesting a way to at least Barrie, Ontario, where I could start walking again.

Meanwhile, I've also finally written this piece, which Iona honoured me by requesting several weeks ago and which I've been remiss about providing. Thank you, Iona, for your patience and for caring so much and doing all you do, and for allowing me to be a small piece of it in this way.

And now I shall return to figuring things out... this Expedition will continue, one way or another, or probably a few ways pieced together... that's all any of us can do right now, is to simply choose to keep following the best road we can...because now, we really do have everything to lose, and our own future to gain.

With sincerity and determination,  
**Ann Cognito**

Please support this Expedition by finding The Expedition – Walk To Waken The Nation on facebook, and signing the petition at <https://www.change.org/p/justin-trudeau-the-expedition-walk-to-waken-the-nation> and seeing her comments on Facebook at <https://www.facebook.com/wakenthenation/>.



Image: Sébastien Goldberg on Unsplash

*All the evidence points to the fires (many inside protected areas and national parks) being deliberately started by land grabbers, ranchers, and farmers, to claim the land, once cleared of forest, as theirs.*

## Brazil's President Bolsonaro's Legal Bonfire Fuels Amazon Inferno

By Jan Rocha  
Climate News Network: August 26, 2019

Amazonia, globally important, is losing its protection through the actions of Brazil's government.

Brazil's president has destroyed the protection enacted by his predecessors, leaving an Amazon inferno to torch the rainforest.

SÃO PAULO, Brazil – The dry season in Brazil is only just beginning, but fires are raging throughout the rainforest, leaving an Amazon inferno and heavy palls of sooty smoke engulfing towns and cities.

The images of huge patches of Earth's largest tropical forest being reduced to charred ashes and blackened tree stumps have alarmed the world as the planet's biggest carbon sink is transformed instead into a source of carbon emissions.

President Jair Bolsonaro, who has deliberately weakened public policies which were in place to protect the rainforest and

punish illegal loggers and farmers, tried to blame NGOs and indigenous peoples for the fires.

His foreign minister, Ernesto Araujo, decided it is all a leftwing plot to destroy Brazil.

The truth is less exotic. All the evidence points to the fires, many inside protected areas and national parks, being deliberately started by land grabbers, ranchers, and farmers, to claim the land, once cleared of forest, as theirs.

### **The Amazon is our common good.**

Encouraged by the president's openly pro-development, anti-environment agenda, they are so confident that they will not be punished that in one small Amazon town, *Novo Progresso*, the local paper published a call by local farmers for a "Day of Fire" with the declared aim of showing Bolsonaro they were ready to open up the land for agriculture.

The day chosen was August 10. The following day INPE, the government's institute for space research, which monitors the Amazon daily, recorded an explosion of

fires, with over 200 in the immediate area, including some in the Jamanxim national forest and the Serra do Cachimbo nature reserve, both protected areas.

INPE recorded over 72,000 fires all over Brazil during the first seven months of this year. The INPE system of deforestation alerts in real time, Deter, showed an increase of 278% over the year before. From August 2018 to July 2019 it showed a total of 6,833 square kilometers (4,246 square miles) of cleared forest, up from 4,572 square kilometers (2,841 square miles) between August 2017 and July 2018.

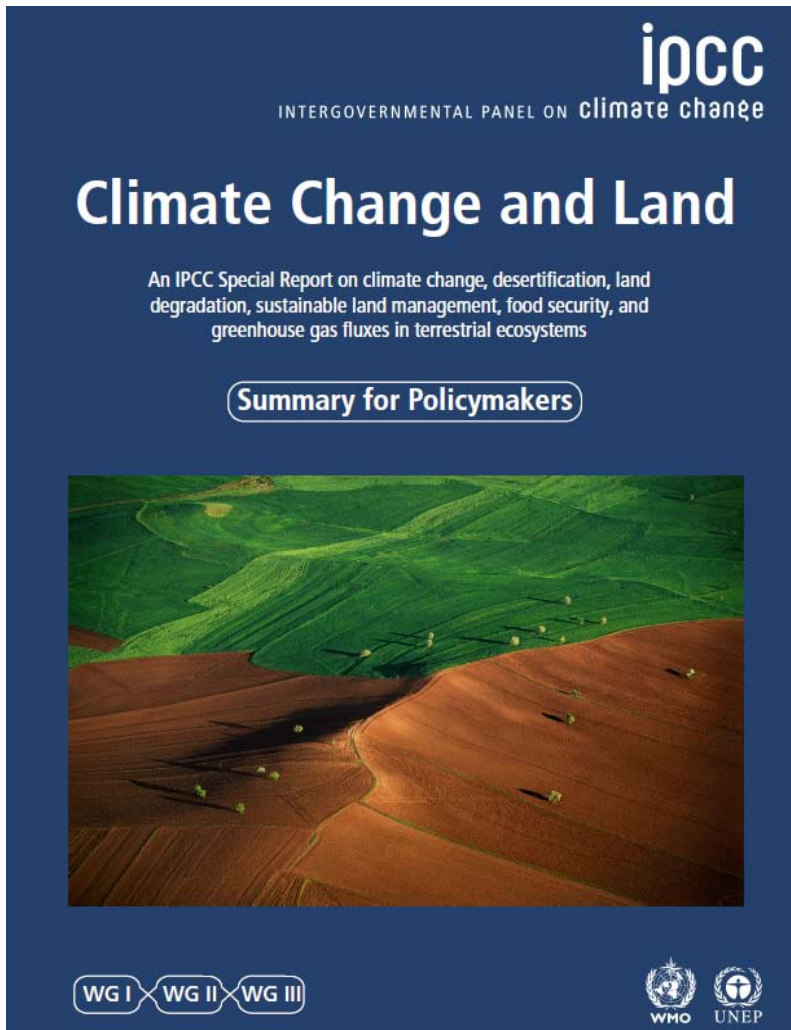
When confronted with these statistics, instead of taking steps to halt the fires and the deforestation, Bolsonaro declared the numbers were "lies" and forced the director, Ricardo Galvão, a highly respected scientist, to resign.

### **Day Becomes Night**

However, what caused the shockwaves that turned the fires into an international crisis was the huge black cloud of smog which descended on São Paulo, Brazil's

**Amazon** continued on next page





# Latest IPCC Report

## Introduction from Summary for Policymakers

This Special Report on Climate Change and Land responds to the Panel decision in 2016 to repair three Special Reports during the Sixth Assessment cycle, taking account of proposals from governments and observer organizations. This report addresses greenhouse gas (GHG) fluxes in land-based ecosystems, land use, and sustainable land management in relation to climate change adaptation and mitigation, desertification, land degradation, and food security. This report follows the publication of other recent reports, including the IPCC Special Report on Global Warming of 1.5°C, the thematic assessment of the Intergovernmental Science Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES) on Land Degradation and Restoration, the IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services, and the Global and Outlook of the UN Convention to Combat Desertification. This report provides an updated assessment of the current state of knowledge while striving for coherence and complementarity with other recent reports.

This Summary for Policymakers is structured in four parts:

- A) People, land and climate in a warming world;
- B) Adaptation and mitigation response options;
- C) Enabling response options; and
- D) Action in the near-term.

Read the full report at <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/srcl/>.

### **Amazon** *continued from previous page*

biggest metropolis, on Monday, August 19, turning day into night.

Scientists, with the aid of satellite images from NASA, concluded that the cloud came from fires in Brazil's mid-west and north, as well as from neighboring Bolivia and Paraguay.

INPE researcher Saulo Ribeiro de Freitas, quoted by FAPESP, São Paulo's scientific research institute, said that the mass of polluted air generated by the fires in these areas was pushed to a height of 5,000 meters (three miles) by the winds blowing from east to west, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, until they hit the Andes mountains.

Then the air was blown south by the anticyclone system. De Freitas explained that, "The convergence of this mass of polluted air coming from the north with a cold front coming from the south" produced "a river of soot which mingled with other pollutants in the atmosphere, like carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, ozone, nitrous oxide, and methane, to form a smog."

For the first time, inhabitants of São Pau-

lo were feeling the direct impact of the Amazon fires, over 2,000 miles away. Even so, it took the government several more days before it reacted, ordering Air Force planes into the air to spray water, and boosting local firefighting teams with units of the national guard.

### **Forest Defenses Sabotaged**

This belated action was triggered by the international repercussions, with the Amazon fires making their way onto the agenda of the G7 meeting in Biarritz, thanks to French president Emmanuel Macron, who said, "The Amazon is our common good."

France has a physical stake in the Amazon region because of French Guiana, officially a regional department of France. Nine countries include a part of the Amazon basin in their territories.

It is not the first time that the G7 has put the Amazon and its role in global warming on its agenda. In 1991 it established a U.S. \$250-million Pilot Programme (PPG7) for the preservation of tropical forests in Brazil, which funded the demarcation of indige-

nous reserves and sustainable development projects.

More recently, Norway and Germany set up the Amazon Fund to prevent, monitor, and combat deforestation through grants to local authorities and NGO projects. Due to interference by the environment minister, Ricardo Salles, who tried to discredit the NGO projects, Norway and Germany have suspended some of their funding, leaving local authorities without the money for firefighting activities.

Through its own actions, the Bolsonaro government has not only encouraged the assault on the Amazon rainforest, but deliberately sabotaged the public policies put in place by previous governments and other countries to defend it.

*Jan Rocha is a freelance journalist living in Brazil and is a former correspondent there for the BBC World Service and The Guardian.*

**Source:** <https://climateneetwork.net/bolsonaros-legal-bonfire-fuels-amazon-inferno/>



Photos Courtesy Raj Phukan

*Eighty-six people from 27 countries traveled to the Arctic to study the effects of climate change and collaborate on solutions.*

## **The Arctic: Melting Affects Us All** ***Climate Force Arctic Expedition Report***

By Rituraj Phukan, India

The Climate Force Arctic (CFA) Expedition to the north polar region was led by Robert Swan, OBE, F.R.G.S, and the first man in history to have walked to both the poles. Climate Force International Director and Robert Swan's illustrious son Barney, who last year became the first person to reach the South Pole powered solely by renewable energy, and The Explorer's Passage Founder Jeff Bonaldi were among the Team Leaders.

The CFA team comprising of 86 scientists, naturalists, corporate leaders, writers, filmmakers, civil society leaders, and other experts from 27 countries first met at Oslo, the 2019 European Green Capital of the Year award-winning city. The acclimatization period included leadership sessions, workshops, and presentations, with David Hone, author and Chief Climate Change Advisor at Shell, leading the discussions on climate change scenarios and solutions.

On the second day, I was invited to deliver an audio-visual presentation about

the proposed Marine Arctic Peace Sanctuary (MAPS) for all marine areas north of the Arctic Circle and make a forceful case for MAPS as an immediate and effective response to today's global ecological and humanitarian crisis. I also talked about the water crisis and the human-wildlife conflicts in India and the challenges for the survival of rhinos, elephants, and tigers.

From Oslo, the CFA team was flown to Longyearbyen, the world's northernmost town, which is located only 800 miles from the North Pole. It was disconcerting to learn that the Svalbard archipelago had warmed by over 5 degree Celsius in the past 20 years, threatening the lifestyles of the people and biodiversity of the region.

At Longyearbyen, the CFA team boarded the National Geographic Explorer expedition ship. The daily schedule was hectic, with interactive presentations on warming impacts in the arctic region interspersed with field visits to various fjords, glaciers, and biodiversity-rich areas. There were zodiac cruises, shore landings, and

hikes, kayaking, and wildlife observation trips throughout the expedition.

We experienced 24 hours of daylight, with the sun shining overhead even at midnight. In fact, there was never a moment of darkness during the entire duration of the expedition.

The team was extremely lucky with sightings of Arctic wildlife. Some of the memorable encounters include the Bowhead whale, Beluga whale, Fin whale, Polar Bear, Walrus, Svalbard Reindeer, Atlantic Puffin, Great Skua, Arctic Skua, and Ivory Gull. The CFA team learnt about the changing dynamics of predator and prey interactions in the warming arctic ecosystems from wildlife biologists with decades on research in the polar regions.

My book, *Fin Del Mundo- Lessons from the End of the Earth*, was launched by Robert and Barney Swan during the expedition. The book chronicles my journey from having grown up in a climate-change-impacted region to the firsthand experi-

**Arctic** continued on next page



Arctic continued from previous page



(top left) Polar bear. (top right) Walrus. (bottom left) Svalbard reindeer. (bottom right) Unique climate change. (below) Raj Phukan holding the MAPS flag.

ence of warming during the International Antarctic Expedition in 2013.

The CFA team also completed the 'Leadership on the Edge' program curated by Robert Swan, with focuses on environmental leadership development, understanding of the latest climate science, scenarios and country-specific solutions and sustainability education, with onboard sessions with experts and field work in the pristine Arctic.

The entire Arctic region is warming twice as fast as the rest of the planet and scientists say it could be free of sea ice during the summer by 2030. During our visit, we saw several islands where the ice cover was record low. Animals like the seals, walrus, and polar bears were facing survival threats because of the loss of sea ice. Several of the fjords had ice-free spaces and we were told that the volume of ice had shrunk considerably every year.

At 80-degree North, we encountered an endless expanse of sea ice, blocking our passage further into the north polar region. The loss of sea ice is of utmost concern, as it has implications for global weather and is vital for the survival of animals like seals and polar bears. Therefore, the decision to turn back without disturbing the sea ice, even though the National

Geographic Explorer is an ice-strengthened vessel capable of breaking through sea ice, was made.

The Arctic ice cools our planet and regulates weather patterns; what happens in the Arctic affects us all, with global impacts on the weather systems. The evidence is clear that the accelerated melting of polar ice is already changing global weather. As a result, a humanitarian crisis is unfolding

with floods, droughts, famine, and rising sea levels all over the world. The predicted disruption of the South Asian monsoon due to the accelerated melting of sea ice could be catastrophic for India, which is already facing extreme weather and an unprecedented water crisis.

Source: <https://www.mahabahoo.com/with-rituraj-a-face-to-face-interview/>







Photos Courtesy Ssengendo Yasin Signalaminat

*Ssengendo, owner of the Jinja Church Children Home, is in the red pants flanked by three of the orphans he cares for on land they would like to buy to grow food.*

## Orphans in Uganda Still Need Help: Food, Rent, School Supplies, and Land

By Iona Conner

I have tried to help Ssengendo and his 35 orphans for months, mostly by publishing his situation and photos but once in a while saving coins and a few spare dollars. My friend Jeannette contributed \$25 a few months ago. On August 5, 2019, I sent \$40.34 via Western Union. I can't keep doing this right now so I'm hoping some of our readers will help. I have sent money three times but it's barely enough to buy some food and never enough for rent. I'm publishing some of Ssengendo's emails and the beautiful photos he sent me with the darling children, whom I love from afar.

Another friend named Scott has built them a beautiful website, which you can see at <https://spiritualfamily.net/groups/profile/12714/jinja-church-children-home>.

My heart goes out to Ssengendo and the children. I hope yours does, too. If I can help connect you in any way, I'll be happy to do that.

By Ssengendo Yasin Signalaminat, CEO and Director of Jinja Church Children Home

We are just still in problems with the land lord. Am trying to see if we can shift to another place of rent; our landlord is tough. But am so stressed mother pray for me. I need your support and prayers. We really pray that we get at least a monthly support of feeding and rent. The children need school supplies and books.

When you bless someone else, that person receives your blessing, and God blesses you for a blessing that other person.

Part of God's mercy to us when we take this to refresh others is that booming effect talked about in Proverbs 11:25 where it says, "He who refreshes others will himself be refreshed." It's an old story of reaping what you sow. Do you want your relationships to be more refreshing to you? Then find away to bless the orphans and God will in return refresh your heart!

Nice day.



Nakimuli Rashidah Shubee





Ssengendo Yasin Signalaminat

# New Green Youth-Led Group in Rwanda Looking for Partners

## Greetings from Rwanda,

I hope this email will find you well. I am Paulin Ntthemuka, the founder and the executive director of the We Do GREEN Organization.

We Do GREEN is a not for profit, non-governmental, youth-led organization legally operating in Rwanda since August 2018. We Do GREEN envisions for a cleaner and healthy environment, climate resilience, and the wellbeing of people and biodiversity achieved through a collaborative effort. Our mission is to constantly involve youth, community, and activists and leave none behind in key acts for environmental conservation and climate

change mitigation while contributing to clean water access, food security, clean energy, and climate resilience.

Find below the one-page profile for your reference and let me know for any clarity. We got approval last week and legal documents to start operation.

We are a team of youth and students in different fields in Rwanda and we are establishing everything starting from zero but we hope we will make it through collaborations and partnerships. We are establishing a board of directors and advisors, possible partnerships, looking for donors for our noble cause activities, and establishing everything required for us to

operate well.

I would like to request of you if there might be collaborations, partnership opportunities so that we can work together constructively in one way or another. We are open to any collaboration and partnership opportunity and how we can get involved in what you are doing.

I am looking to hear from you. Have a good start to the week

With Gratitude,  
**Paulin Ntthemuka**

Mobile/WhatsApp : +250788621353 ;  
Skype: PaulinNTTHEMUKA



**We Do GREEN**  
*Saving Our Planet*

## Profile

### About us:

We Do GREEN is a not for profit, non-Governmental Youth-led organization legally operating in Rwanda since August, 2018.

Climate Change is a global threat and will continually be harming people and biodiversity if we do not act now before it is too late, the effort needed to keep the temperature rise below 1.5 Degree Celsius as well as achieve zero carbon emission calls for joint contribution in a more pragmatic way.

Our 4 thematic areas interlink with SDGs 6, 7 and 13 which are: Clean Water and Sanitation, Affordable and Clean Energy and Climate Action respectively.

### Vision:

We Do GREEN Organization envisions for cleaner and healthy environment, climate resilience and wellbeing of people and biodiversity achieved through collaborative effort.

### Mission:

To constantly involve youth, community, and activists and leave none behind in key acts for environmental conservation and climate change mitigation while contributing to clean water access, food security, clean energy and climate resilience.

### Key areas of focus:

- Environmental conservation & education
- Clean Energy & waste management
- Clean water & Sanitation
- Modern Agriculture & Community empowerment.

### Special intervention:

WDGO rigorously prioritizes its efforts and resources to the on-ground implementation by engaging community environment in its activities to make sure it attains measurable and sustainable impacts.

### Team:

WDGO is a team of highly passionate conservationists, activists and philanthropists' dominantly energetic and devoted youth to drive green growth for the climate resilience and wellbeing of people.



### Main Activities:

- Fruits & Forests trees nursery beds raising and planting
- Environmental awareness/education
- Clean energy to impoverished families, off-grid schools, hospitals and refugee camps
- Modern farming and greening activities
- Community empowerment activities
- Rain water harvesting and clean water distribution.
- Waste -to- wealth initiatives

### Collaboration with our partners:

- WDGO closely collaborates with National and International NGOs, Institutions, Philanthropists Conservers and Environmentalists to drive hard for climate resilience and wellbeing of people and biodiversity.
- We enable the community to fully involve in our activities hence ensuring sustainable and inclusive Green Growth.

### Reach us:

 npaulin2015@gmail.com  
emmganza@gmail.com  
 +250788621353/787900024



Attention: Address Change for All Humans

Our New/Old Address is "EARTH" – ADDRESS EARTH



CHILDREN AND ADULTS  
ADDRESS EARTH  
T-SHIRTS – STAMP DESIGN

Ocean Blue T-shirts with Earth Green logo. "It's the Address we all share – PLANET EARTH – Handle With Care." T-shirts 20.00; XL is 25.00 and XXL is 30.00. ADDRESS EARTH – Available to order: Children (S, M, L) Adult (S, M, L, XL, XXL). PayPal available at [www.addressearth.com](http://www.addressearth.com). See all products and pricing on Facebook: Address EARTH apparel cool T-shirts. Shipping (2-3 weeks): First Class: \$5.00 per shirt. Priority Mail: \$7.50 for shipping up to three shirts. XL and XXL Shirts: please add 1.50 for shipping.

ADDRESS EARTH  
TRAVEL TUMBLERS

8-ounce hot and cold travel tumbler that shows your passion for your planet: "It's the Address we all Share – PLANET EARTH – Handle With Care"

Cap colors vary. SHOW YOUR SUPPORT message wherever you go! Makes the perfect Gift!!! See all products on Facebook: Address EARTH. \$7.99 (\$2.99 shipping). BUY NOW at [www.addressearth.com](http://www.addressearth.com). PayPal or debit/credit card.



JOIN US! "IT'S THE ADDRESS WE ALL SHARE – PLANET EARTH – HANDLE WITH CARE."  
HELP SHARE THE EDUCATION.

Each of us can play a role in the sustainability of our planet. Fossil Fuel emissions and accidents caused by fossil fuel drilling/fracking are a few of the issues compromising our clean air and water. Our actions to reduce fossil fuel consumption by embracing renewable energy and urging townships to incorporate green infrastructure ordinances, can lead to a healthy sustainability for our children and their only address: Planet Earth. These products are designed and sold by Diane Christin Zenchenko-Esser. See <https://addressearth.com/shop> for details, sizes, and ordering. Details similar to those with shirt on upper right.



BLUE MARBLE T-SHIRTS  
COMING SOON  
Artwork by Kevin-john

**THE PESSIMIST COMPLAINS ABOUT THE WIND;  
THE OPTIMIST EXPECTS IT TO CHANGE;  
THE REALIST ADJUSTS THE SAILS.**

- William A. Ward -

<https://philosiblog.com/2012/11/23/the-pessimist-complains-about-the-wind-the-optimist-expects-it-to-change-the-leader-adjusts-the-sails/>

# Consumer Liberation

**Use it up, wear it out, make it  
do, or do without.**

***Join The Go-Back Club today!***

***Email Iona at [gobackclub@pa.net](mailto:gobackclub@pa.net) and she will put you on our email list to receive monthly issues of our climate activist newspaper.***



## **Groundswell News**

An activist publication bringing readers struggles and successes as well as climate-change news in the U.S. and around the globe. People everywhere are working to make change. Our beautiful newspaper will inspire and encourage you. Sign up today at [www.gobackclub.org](http://www.gobackclub.org) or email [ionaconner@pa.net](mailto:ionaconner@pa.net). It's free but donations are gladly accepted. A project of the 501(c)(3) Grassroots Coalition for Environmental and Economic Justice. Photo <https://www.google.com/search>

## ***Groundswell News Now Accepting Ads***

Please consider placing your ad with us. As we are an alternative newspaper, we have an alternative ad policy. Send me your material and pay what you feel is reasonable, depending on how much space your ad needs. If your ad requires some of my time to create it for you, there will be an extra charge. If you can afford \$50 for half a page and \$100 for a full page, that will be wonderful. Our distribution is small now but we hope to grow quickly and our readers are wonderfully supportive people!

*Thank you.*





*Remember your dreams.*



## Messages from Our Friends



### Tributes *continued from page 7*

My sincere condolences on the passing of your beloved, John Conner. I never met John but did receive and read the information on Climate Change and other information on our environment.

I will miss John and the important information he sent to me. May the good lord bless you and your family at this time.

It has been a privilege to partner with John and you through the years. He has been a real champion of causes that have world significance. Even in eternity, he will still fight on for all that was dear to his great soul.

Special peace surround you as you grieve this incredible man and partner.

The Lord always raises up special people to do battle with forces opposed to the good of all. He has fought the good fight and now a crown of glory awaits him.

Thanks so much for letting everyone on John's extensive email list know of his passing. I learned a lot from him and used his materials to educate others on the problem of climate change. May he rest in peace. My condolences to you and your family.

I'm so sorry to hear about John's passing. I'm sending thoughts of comfort to you as you endure this grieving time. And will be sending thoughts of love as you take up your work without him. I hope you find many co-workers for justice along your path as you move forward.

Blessings and Peace,  
**Gladys Tiffany**, Omni Center for Peace, Justice & Ecology, Arkansas USA

We are so saddened by the news of John's death. He was & always will be a Champion for the Poor. His amazing dedication to economic justice and climate justice will live on forever with those of us who had the privilege to know him and you.

You and John came to brunch at our home in Southampton, Massachusetts a couple of years ago.

We have shared John's well written essays with many people. We hope some of those seeds will grow tall & strong to help heal our battered world.

We will send a donation in John's memory to Grassroots.

We will remember him and you in our prayers.

May he rest in Peace.

My prayers are with you at this time of loss. He was a very dedicated person to promoting justice and I admired his enthusiasm in his work.

**Sister Betty Sundry**, Pennsylvania USA

Sending sympathy for John's passing and thanks for his work in behalf of peace and Justice.

I am one of many who received John's communications, although I never met him. He was a valiant warrior for justice. We are the poorer for his passing.

I will pray especially for this "dedicated warrior for justice."

In Africa we say that he is now one of our ancestors in Christ.

Nairobi, Kenya

Please know of my sadness at the news of John's death. Though I never met him, we did share the Maryland Jesuit connection. I entered in 1977 and left in 1996. I very much appreciated his engagement with the world. It will be a bit quieter and not for the better, with his passing.

I hope you are faring well, all things considered. Be well.

May John share in the fullness of kingdom life! And may God grant you comfort and consolation! This is sad news indeed. I never met John, but I admired him nonetheless. You are right – he was "a dedicated warrior for justice."

I am sorry that I cannot be there this weekend. Too bad, but I was in Aspers, Pennsylvania, only a few miles away, visiting an old friend whose wife has died, driving home early yesterday morning, when I got your message. Simply said, I am too old to try driving down there again

tomorrow . . .

I will, however, be there in spirit. I will miss John, who was indefatigable, and I am pleased to see that you intend to soldier on.

Please accept my best wishes at this difficult time.

Thank you for letting us know of John's passing.

May the love you shared in this one wild and precious life continue to shine on in all those who were touched by him. Our thoughts and prayers are with you during this bittersweet time of mourning and celebration.

As always, many thanks and please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions/concerns.

Peace,

**Rubén Álvarez Silva**, M.Ed.

Assistant Director | Irwin W. Steans Center for Community-based Service Learning & Community Service Studies | DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois USA

My deepest sympathies on the loss of John. Many of us will mourn the loss of such a passionate and dedicated man. I am filled with gratitude for the life he lived, the changes he helped bring about, and for the 30 years the two of you had together, and all the good that came from your combined forces. It is not so common that you meet such a lifemate. I am also grateful that you were with him when he died.

Nothing can fill the space left by such a loss, but may you and others have the strength to carry on this great work that we all must do.

Again, my condolences,

My sincere condolences. I was just recently acquainted with John and did not know him well, but each interaction was one I cherished. I will make one of the gatherings if I am able.

Please be well... and carry on.

**David Gibson**, Organizing Director Peace-home Campaigns; Peace, Justice, Sustainability Florida, Associates of National Peace Action

**Tributes** *continued on next page*

**Tributes** *continued from previous page*

Many blessings and prayers this day. I am so sorry to hear of your loss of such a wonderful and dedicated man whose influence and connections reached across the country. I live in New Mexico and was on a list for his climate efforts. I am sending prayers and light to you, family and friends. John is now part of the communion of saints working with us on the other side.

Much peace, grace and prayers  
Blessings. So sorry....Indeed he was special...  
New York USA

My profound sympathy to you. My heart has a deep respect and love for John. Your union in doing so much together for the care of creation is a model of what love means.

My Prayers are with you both.  
**Fr. Ted Cassidy**, Ohio USA

I am so sorry to hear about John passing. He was a beacon of hope and inspiration. We will miss his depth of knowledge and compassion.

Thanks, Iona for your email and I'm so sorry for your loss. Thanks for all the hard work you and John did together.  
Connecticut USA

The world will be less because of the loss of John. I join with all the many others who share your loss. May you feel the comfort of our prayers.  
With love,  
**Sr. Mary Elizabeth Clark**, SSJ, Pennsylvania USA

Sorry to hear that. I liked his emails.  
Colorado USA

Thank you for your gracious and touching notice of the death of your beloved husband, John.

I shall remember both of you in my prayers.

May he rest in peace.  
May you cherish the memories of the time you spent together.

John was a true pacifist. He accumulated and promulgates information, ideas, plans. He will definitely be missed. I was a pastor in the Bronx and received his letters and emails regularly. I too am now retired and living in New Jersey. John is in my prayers this weekend. May he roam with the holy spirit and keep inspiring us to change the course and welcome Christ's love. Thank you sending me this notice – may you and his family rejoice in his mission of peace.  
New York USA

You gave John the structure and comfort that sustained him over these many long years, and I am so grateful that the miracle of your coming together came for this good man. John was not an easy presence, ever, but you understood his good heart and his holy aspiration. He was always a priest, a holy man of the preservation of the Earth, having “married” her as well as you. I loved and admired John, as did Frank, for his uncompromising faith in the human intellect.

How good to know that John died in your arms.

Here is a poem by Rumi that my mind returns to, translated by Coleman Barks in a book of sacred poetry, *The Enlightened Heart*:

*Don't grieve. Anything you lose comes  
'round  
in another form. The child weaned from  
mother's milk  
now drinks wine and honey mixed.  
God's joy moves from unmarked box to  
unmarked box,  
from cell to cell. As rainwater, down into  
flowerbed.  
as roses, up from ground.  
Now it looks like a plate of rice and fish,  
now a cliff covered with vines,  
now a horse being saddled.  
It hides within these,  
till one day it cracks them open.*

May you be well, Iona.  
**June Heintz**, Virginia USA

Thank you for sending out the news of John's death and for sending the obituary. It was filled with the same unrelenting spirit, outrage, and hopefulness that characterized John as I knew him. He would have liked it – I'd say he does like it, although now he's contemplating bigger things. I suppose he'd brush off anything that sounded like praise of him. “Let's get down to business; there's no time to spare, after all.”

I was grabbed by John's periodic summary notes about climate change and got to know him during several of his visits to New London, Connecticut and Connecticut College. No nonsense, prickly, a force and a wonder. It was easy to like and admire him. I can think of no better way to honor John than to pray for his soul and at the same time decide to engage in the fight for solutions to our enormous problem of climate change and the complex systems that are producing it. John taught us well.

Connecticut USA

I'm so sorry to hear about John's death; he was an honest and persistent voice in the struggle for environmental justice. We all grieve with you.

May we help say a sad, but thankful, goodbye to John. Unable to join you, we will remember him with a gift to Environmental Coalition.

**Art Milholland and Luann Mostello**  
Maryland USA

I'm so sorry for your great loss; I admire you and John so much. God bless you.  
Abrazos, Morgan

*Give THEM BACK  
We seem to give them back to you,  
O God, who gave them to us.  
Yet, as you did not lose them in giving,  
so we do not lose them by their return.  
Life is eternal and love immortal  
and death is only a horizon,  
just the limit of our sight.  
Lift us up, strong Son of God  
that we may see farther.  
Cleanse our eyes  
that we may see more clearly.  
Draw us closer to yourself  
that we may know ourselves  
to be nearer to our loved ones  
who are with you.*

**Morgan Zo-Callahan**, California USA

Thank you for sharing the news of John's passing. I never met your beloved John, but I heard from him in 2016 and we exchanged emails over the years.

My heart is with you as you grieve this great loss and transition in your life.

I celebrate his courage and unflagging commitment to stabilizing the climate and averting climate catastrophe.

May he rest in peace and rise in glory. And may God's unfailing love embrace and strengthen you as you grieve his death and celebrate his life.

Blessings, and with sympathy,

**The Rev. Dr. Margaret Bullitt-Jonas**  
Missioner for Creation Care  
Episcopal Diocese of Western Massachusetts, USA

John spent his life helping others in need, putting their welfare above his own.

He worked tirelessly to inform people of social injustice and in particular of the dangers from climate change. He read extensively, wrote extensively, and traveled extensively, speaking to individuals, groups, at places of worship and schools, of the problems and solutions for a more just world. He is a true hero.

**Tyla Matteson and Glen Besa**, Virginia USA