

YOUR GUIDE TO THE WORLD'S ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

# THE COMPENDIUM NEWSLETTER

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## GALLOP INTO THE NEW YEAR



*drawing by Robert Farkas*

The book **LEAD WITH YOUR HEART: LESSONS FROM A LIFE WITH HORSES** by Allan J. Hamilton, M.D. [Storey Publishing, 210 MASS MoCA Way, North Adams, MA 01247; 230 pp.; \$18.95 hardcover; ©2016] explores the transformative experience of working with horses. Written by a renowned neurosurgeon and pioneer in equine-assisted therapy, this collection of 112 short essays delves into the extensive emotional and physical benefits of close contact with horses. Hamilton explores the lessons that horses have taught him about forgiveness, leadership, courage, and love. Animals provide an invaluable service to humanity. To find out about his other award winning books, documentaries and consultancies for TV shows, please visit [www.allanhamilton.com](http://www.allanhamilton.com).

## EDITORIAL—THE STATE OF OUR PLANET

As I prepare each issue of *The Compendium Newsletter*, I review hundreds of pages of articles in magazines and on the internet. There are so many ecological problems and solutions that it is always hard to select which to feature. That is why when I come across the book ***WHAT'S REALLY HAPPENING TO OUR PLANET? THE FACTS SIMPLY EXPLAINED***, I delighted in having an easy-to-read reference work to give me the facts in short paragraphs with colorful and useful charts, graphs, and drawings. Author Tony Juniper (tonyjuniper.com) is a British campaigner, writer, sustainability advisor and leading environmentalist. He works with The Prince of Wales Charities' International Sustainability Unit and The Prince's Rainforests Project. He is also a fellow and member of the teaching faculty at the University of Cambridge Institute for Sustainability Leadership and a cofounder of the Robertsbridge Group which advises leading companies on sustainability strategies. Juniper has also headed the non-profit organization Friends of the Earth in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland. He is author of several books including *Spix's Macaw: The Race to Save the World's Rarest Bird* and *Saving Planet Earth*. A few years ago on my way to East Africa, I stopped in London, England, for a few hours to interview Juniper for my radio and television shows and about his book *What Has Nature Ever Done Us: How Money Really Does Grow on Trees* (on DVD, ask me for ECONEWS #3010).

It is sad to say that we are truly destroying our earth's resources at an alarming rate. Not only rainforests are being lost to palm oil plantations, but savannas are dying due to lack of water, and glaciers around the globe are melting and causing flooding and sea level rise. We use ten times more resources than we did in 1900. One-third of all land is at risk of turning to desert. Carbon dioxide levels are the highest they have been for more than 800,000 years. A major driver of change is the population explosion; since 1950, the global population has almost tripled to 7.4 billion in 2016. We have more people on the planet than we have the resources for them; in other words, we are past the earth's carrying capacity if everyone is going to have a decent standard of living with food and shelter and society's amenities (health, education, etc.). Economic expansion can no longer be determined by growing consumerism but by how stable the economy is by considering ecological stability. The rise of megacities and their urban pressures is intense and must require a shift to renewable energies and efficient transportation; more than half of the world's population now live in towns and cities.

Juniper explores many other change factors: our escalating appetite that has developed into agricultural abuse of the land by excessive farming and ranching and the use of chemical pest control methods; our water footprint requiring large amounts of scarce freshwater; and our wastefulness in product consumption. He examines the "consequences of change" and how we need to develop ways to have better lives for many by providing clean water and sanitation, having better education, stopping corruption, and dealing with displaced people. Even terrorism is a threat to the environment as well as to people. Our changing atmosphere must be confronted as all reputable scientists agree that there is climate change and that human activities are the key reason. Even the oceans are severely threatened by overfishing, acidification, and plastic pollution. There are always too many biological hotspots to list and invasive species and exotic species are causing extinction of native plants and animals. There is a tremendous value in preserving nature whether it is to keep the natural cycle of life which helps people through pollination of our food crops or by having air and watersheds for clean air and abundant water.

The state of our planet requires immediate action. Keep in mind what has been happening: There has been a fivefold rise in freshwater use. Mass extinction of animals and plants is gathering momentum. There has been more than a fourfold increase in fish capture. There have been record concentrations of greenhouse gases in the atmosphere. Human consumption of Earth's renewable productivity has doubled. There has been a tenfold rise in consumption of natural resources. And we have an acceleration in global integration via rise of the internet. In addition to noting global trends and showing how they are connected, Juniper articulates in his newest book how we can live more sustainably in the future. I certainly agree with him that we must develop a new mindset, must restore the current ecosystems for the future, and must develop a global plan. Nations and people must work together to protect our earth.

**ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIONS RADIO SERIES**

**ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIONS**, hosted by Nancy Pearlman, is Educational Communications' international, award-winning interview radio series airing on commercial, listener-sponsored, and college-operated stations as well as on the internet. The series has continued weekly since 1977 and is the longest-running environmental program in the United States. Shows are taped on location throughout the world or at facilities in the Los Angeles area provided by the Ecology Center of Southern California. If you wish to be a guest, simply telephone Nancy at (310) 559-9160 to schedule a time and place.

**Stations airing *Environmental Directions*:**

**KBPK, 90.1. FM out of Fullerton College in Southern California**

**Friday, 6:00 PM and Sunday, 7:30 PM, live simulcasts on [www.kbpc.fullcoll.edu](http://www.kbpc.fullcoll.edu)**

**KKMJ, 95.5 FM, KAMX, 94.7 FM, KJCE, 130 AM, out of Austin, Texas**

**Stations are part of Entercom Broadcasting and are hot new music, soft music, and talk formats; various times, usually on Sundays**

**YouTube: ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIONS WITH NANCY PEARLMAN**

**Dates below are for the first week of airing on KBPK:**

**#2025A, November 27, 2016, Noah Olsman**, Chief Analytics Officer, Seed Consulting Group, Control and Dynamical Systems Department and Control of Biological Systems Department, California Institute of Technology (CalTech), and **Ajay Bawa**, Vice President, LA Gauge Company; Founder & Executive Director, SEED Consulting Group (a non-profit)—legislation to change water pricing in LA County; social cost of carbon; having cities transition away from gas vehicles; consulting with data analysis to nonprofit organizations

**#2025B, November 27, 2016, Sarah Newcomer**, Marketing & Public Relations Manager, Fairmont Newport Beach—Fairmont Newport Beach in southern California's "Pollinator Menu" and "Bee Sustainable Program"; Backyard Bees; Drake Family Farms goat cheese; Newport Beach, California's Citrus Restaurant's use of local produce and the hotel's honey from their rooftop bees

**#2025C, November 27, 2016, Jan Hogrewe**—See: #2022C

**#2026, December 4, 2016, Dr. Allan Hamilton, M.D.**, Professor of Neurosurgery, Radiation Oncology, Psychology, and Computer & Electrical Engineering, University of Arizona, Tucson; Author, *The Scalpel and the Soul*; *Zen Mind, Zen Horse: The Science and Spirituality of Training Horses*, *Lead With Your Heart: Lessons from a Life with Horses*; Author, twenty medical textbook chapters and fifty peer-reviewed research articles; Winner, Nautilus Gold Award; Medical Script Television Consultant, "Grey's Anatomy"; Subject of Two Documentaries, *Playing with Magic* and *Consider the Conversation*—evolution of humanity and horses; toxins; cell phones; spiritual analysis between training horses and living one's life

**#2027A, December 11, 2016, Debbie Widerøe**, Visiting Professor of Communications, Pepperdine University; CEO, Widerøe Group; Consultant on PBS Environmental Specials; Recipient, Charles H. Sandage Excellence in Teaching Award; Author, *The Adventures of Camellia N.* series—Inspiring young people with stories; a young girl's adventures to every continent and underseas and into space

**#2027B, December 11, 2016, Colleen Stratton**—See: #2022B

**ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIONS RADIO SERIES CONTINUED**

#2027C, December 11, 2016, Deborah Eden Tull, Author, *The Natural Kitchen: Your Guide to the Sustainable Food Revolution*; *Relational Mindfulness: Reclaiming our Shared Power in an Age of Disconnect*; Founder, Mindful Living Revolution; Former Buddhist Monk—Mindfulness; sustainability; food sustainability and farming; making an impact through individual action; personal choices affecting the bigger picture

#2028, December 18, 2016, Ivan Huber, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus of Biology, Fairleigh Dickinson University, (New Jersey); German, Croatian, and Italian Translator; Senior Editor, *Cockroach Models in Neurobiology*; Member, Lorquin Society; Volunteer, Revolution Books—research on cockroach behavior and importance of studying these insects; over-population of people and their impact on the planet's changing environment

#2029A, December 25, 2016, Deborah Lindquist, Eco-clothing Designer/CEO, Deborah Lindquist Eco Couture and Green Queen—modern fashion designs made from repurposed fabrics and materials

#2029B, December 25, 2016, Dean Finnegan, CEO, Switchmate Home; Creator of the digital photo frame and the world's first android tablet—instant home automation product for home lighting

#2029C, December 25, 2016, Thijs Maartens, Built Environment Specialist, European Operations of the Cradle to Cradle Products Innovation Institute—Sustainability built into lifetime of products

#2029D, December 25, 2016, Zach Corbaley, Distributor Channel Manager, Altech Electronics—LED Lights; light emitting diodes

#2029E, December 25, 2016, Lenora Campos, Ph.D., Senior Manager, Public Relations & Marketing, Toto USA, Inc.—water conservation in plumbing; high efficiency faucets, toilets, showers and bathroom plumbing

#2030, January 1, 2017, Ben Zuckerman, Ph.D., Professor Emeritus and Research Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California, Los Angeles; Member, Board of Directors, Californians for Population Stabilization; Member, Board of Advisors, The Wildlife Waystation; Former Member, Board of Directors, Sierra Club; Member, Board of Directors, The Sea Shepherd Society; Co-editor, *Origin and Evolution of the Universe* and *Human Population and the Environmental Crisis*—solutions to the over-population crisis; tackling population growth in Los Angeles, California as generator for environmental injustice; using electric cars and photovoltaic panels; immigration concerns

#2031A, January 8, 2017, Karen Fiorito, Vegan artist and Activist; Participating Artist, Art of Compassion, (International Group of Vegan Art); Exhibitions Chair, Los Angeles Printmaking Society; President, Got Drought—art using animal figures and heads on Hindu & Buddhist images; designing billboards with water use information; animal agricultural water use vs. home personal water use; meat eating putting carbon into the environment

#2031B, January 8, 2017, Chad Carlson, Sales Representative, Composites; Lead Green Associate, Rosebung Company—composite wood & particle board; sustainable private forestry

#2031C, January 8, 2017, Sean McKnight, Pedestrian Infrastructure Coordinator, Duo-Gard—bike infrastructure and shelters; promoting bicycles for transportation

#2031D, January 8, 2017, Dean Hill, Director of Sustainability, Greenscreen; Member, American Society of Landscape Architects—trellises on architecture; self-standing green walls for buildings with 350 kinds of vines

## ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIONS RADIO SERIES CONTINUED

#2032, January 15, 2017, Sarah Brown, Co-Owner, Wild Thingz Eco Farm; Former Hollywood Stunt Woman, Actor, and Filmmaker; Massage Therapist—off the grid ecofarm; permaculture techniques; organic gardens; shipping container homes; free range chickens & goats; native plants as sustainable waterwise staple crops (mesquite, acorn, paloverde beans, holly leaf cherry seeds)

#2033, January 22, 2017, Ying Wang, President, Okapi Architecture, Inc.; AIA, Licensed Architect, LEED Fellow & LEED Accredited Professional (AP) for New Construction and Operations & Maintenance, and Lance Williams, Executive Vice President and Co-Founder, Okapi Architecture; Former Executive Director, LA Chapter, U.S. Green Building Council (USGBC); LEED AP, and Stan Klemanowicz, Principal and Project Manager Technical Review, Okapi Architecture; Member, American Institute of Architects, Project Management Institute; Member, Green Globes Professional; LEED AP; Member, USGBC; Member, National Institute of Building Sciences—savings by design, importance of an informed community to sustainability education; sustainability to become widely accepted; purpose of establishing an architectural firm focused on sustainability

#2034, January 29, 2017, Julie Andersen, Advisor, International Public Health and Nonprofit Management; Executive Director, Plastic Oceans Foundation, and Adam Leipzig, Producer of film, *A Plastic Ocean*; Former President, National Geographic Films; Former Senior Executive, Walt Disney Studios; Publisher, *Cultural Weekly*; Creator of over thirty films—documentary work; ocean pollution from plastic waste; new scientific studies regarding health and the environment; plastics found in marine animal's stomachs; creating an adventure documentary about serious pollution in the ocean from plastics

#2035A, February 5, 2017, Paul Hekimian, Director, Honey Love; President, Pacific Street, Inc.; President & Founder, Los Angeles Tri Club—bees for honey; protecting wild bees; collaboration with Dunne-Edwards for the color of the year in their paints being “honey glow”; environments that tri-athletes train and compete in

#2035B, February 5, 2017, Anna Spanton, CEO & Founder, Enchanted Slumber—organic baby blankets/sleeping bags, made in USA; use of “Global Organic Textile Standards” for fabrics; flame retardants in clothes

## REFLECTIONS OF LYCIA AREA IN THE ANATOLYA REGION OF TURKEY BY ROBERT PAYNE

Lycia

Infinite blue horizon

Blue horizon meeting blue Mediterranean

An ocean transparent to

Waves, vertical rocks, beaches, mountains, forests

Forests above waves of turquoise, blue, white

We walked pathways of ancient stones

Stones broken by rising pines, stones of cities ancient

Before the Greeks put pointed bronze to the stones

We walked past the tombs of warriors declared gods for their courage

Courage marked to stone, the writing now lost to centuries of rain, sun, wind

Centuries of forests breaking the cities to patterns of broken stones

Lost cities, above me in the forests, below me in the transparent sea

Wait for the images

A place of mythology

Unknown. Living.

## ECONEWS TELEVISION SERIES

ECONEWS, produced and hosted by Nancy Pearlman, currently airs on over 40 cable channels (governmental, educational, and public access stations) in more than 19 states reaching about 18 million homes weekly. Each show gets about 300 airings over a four-year period due to multiple plays and reruns. There are over 600 programs produced since 1984. Special documentaries have aired on the PBS satellite and in other countries and venues including film festivals. ECONEWS is provided free-of-charge to television stations via a distribution network of DVDS. Copies may be obtained for \$10.00 which covers dubbing, postage, and handling. Your tax-deductible donation allows us to continue to provide the ecological message to the public and to encourage ecotourism. Check the credits for the help by our volunteers. Titles are listed on [www.ecoprojects.org](http://www.ecoprojects.org). Our **YouTube Channel is: ECONEWS with Nancy Pearlman**. Featured are programs done by our professional camerapeople and editors as well as our student interns and volunteers. Reviews are by Max Meisler.

### #3106, AZERBAIJAN: LAND OF HOPE AND INSPIRATION

Host Nancy Pearlman explores the rich multi-faith cultural history, natural beauty, and stunning architecture of the oil rich Azerbaijan. Located on the Caspian Sea, Azerbaijan is bordered by Russia, Armenia, Turkey, and Iran. It is a secular Muslim nation that takes pride in its tolerance and support of ethnic minorities, the two largest being Christians and Jews. Following a montage of the nation's stunning urban and rural landscapes, we explore the Old City of Baku. The historic Maiden Towers and the Palace of the Shirvan Shahs are fascinating. Baku, the capital and largest city in Azerbaijan, is a bustling, modern city with robust technological and financial industries and numerous important cultural sites. The word Baku is believed to come from an ancient dialect and means "wind-pounded city." After experiencing the harsh winds from the top of one of Baku's many architectural marvels, we go to Nergiz Restorani to taste traditional Azerbaijani dishes. A traditional Azerbaijani diet is composed of vegetables, herbs, kebab, dried fruits, nuts, and caviar, which is sourced from the adjacent Caspian Sea.

Following this delicious meal, we visit the Heydar Aliyev Center, an architecturally impressive concert hall that also features exhibits on the cultural history of the country. Architect Zaha Hadid created a structure that is entirely curved with no right angles. The Center is dedicated to former President Heydar Aliyev and exhibits artifacts from his administration, including a statue of a bald eagle gifted to Azerbaijan by U.S. President Bill Clinton. Azerbaijan is an extremely oil rich nation and was the site of the world's first oil well, in 1848. It has produced petroleum at an industrial scale since 1872. In the Caucasus Mountains, which serve to delineate Europe and Asia, we explore the beautiful, rugged mountain landscape and its flowers, waterfalls, rope bridges, and wildlife.

Then, we travel to Azerbaijan's most isolated village, which has a population of only 900 people. Situated deep in the Caucasus Mountains, the Village of Xinaliq is at the highest elevation of any village in Azerbaijan. The villagers graciously welcome us into their town. After visiting this popular tourist destination, we travel to the town of Oghuz, which is home to a population of around 80 Jews. Their

**ECONEWS TELEVISION SERIES CONTINUED****#3106, Continued**

synagogue, the Yuxari Mahalla Synagogue, was founded in the 1890s and has been restored with the help of the U. S. Jewish World Conference. Then we travel to the Red Town (Qirmizi Qasaba), in the northeast part Azerbaijan, which is one of the largest Jewish towns outside of Israel. Jews have lived in Azerbaijan for more than 2,500 years and are believed to have migrated there after the First Temple was destroyed in Jerusalem by Babylonian invaders in 587 BCE.

When the Iranian Shahs briefly controlled Azerbaijan, the Jewish population was concentrated in the Guba-Khachmaz region in the northeast of Azerbaijan. However, for most of the country's history Muslims, Christians, and Jews have peacefully and harmoniously coexisted. After touring the Red Town, we visit the Guba Memorial, which commemorates the 1918 genocide of 12,000 ethnic Azeris by the Armenians and see the symbolic gravestones, museum, and skeletons from the mass graves.

Leaving town, we visit the Gobustan Mud Volcanoes, which spew hydrocarbon and mud and—occasionally—shoot flames as high as ten feet into the sky. These are a result of the area's large petroleum deposits. Then we visit the Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape, an open space preserve that features more than 6,000 rock carvings that date back 40,000 years. At the Atashgah Zoroastrian Temple we learn that Zoroastrianism was the dominant religion in the region until 643 AD, when the Arab caliphate invaded.

**#3107 JEWS OF AZERBAIJAN: A MODEL FOR MUSLIM-JEWISH COEXISTENCE**

Host Nancy Pearlman visits the Euro-Asian country of Azerbaijan on the Caspian Sea where she visits Jewish settlements that date back to ancient times and interviews representatives of this secular Muslim nation's thriving Jewish community. The show begins at the Ashkenazi Synagogue in the capital city of Baku, where Rabbi Shmeor Segal, the Chief Rabbi of Azerbaijan's Ashkenazi community and a Chabad member, explains that this nation is extremely welcoming to its Jewish minority.

Though the Mountain Jews, or Caucasus Jews, have lived in Azerbaijan for over 2,500 years, the Ashkenazi population is relatively new, immigrating about 200 years ago during the oil boom. There are roughly 20,000 Jews in Baku, Azerbaijan's largest city, of which about 7,000 are Ashkenazi and 13,000 are Sephardic. Then we travel to the northern part of the country, where Milikh Yevdayev, the Chairman of the Religious Mountain Jews Community of Azerbaijan, explains that the Azerbaijani government, in its effort to embrace the country's ethnic minorities, funded the building of a new synagogue in 2011 for his community. They continue to fund the operation of the facility.

We then travel to the Red Town, which is one of the largest Jewish towns outside of Israel. We speak with Yevda Abramov, Ghuba's Member of Parliament and the only Jew serving in the

**ECONEWS TELEVISION SERIES CONTINUED****#3107 Continued**

national legislative body, in which he serves as the Vice Chairman of the Committee for Human Rights. He explains that he views his role as the sole Jewish Member of Parliament as unproblematic, since the government fully embraces multiculturalism. He argues that he is foremost a representative of his constituents, who encompass a diverse assortment of ethnicities and religious groups. Abramov explains that Azerbaijan's government has fairly represented the nation's many minorities since the first Muslim Democratic Republic began in 1918. While in Red Town, we also speak to Rabbi Elazar Nisimov, the Chief Rabbi of the Community.

We attend services at his congregation and discuss the impact of the Soviet era on the Jewish population. Rabbi Nisimov explains that the region had previously had a population of nearly 15,000 Jews, but that post-Soviet era the population had shrunk only 3,500 Jews. He contends that this is a result of encouragement to adopt secular lifestyles during the Soviet era, rather than outright suppression. However, Azerbaijan's oil wealth and geopolitical advantage have frequently made the Jewish population vulnerable to invaders. The Azeri community has protected and fought for their Jewish neighbors. While touring the town we hike up the hill to the ancient cemetery to pay homage to some of the early rabbis. Back at the plaza we watch the old men play backgammon and dance the horo with one of the ladies and her grandchild.

After our trip to the Red City, we go back to Baku to meet Yefim Leznik, the Director of the Jewish School of Baku. He explains that his school operates under the curriculum of the state Department of Education but awards students with a secondary degree in Jewish Studies so it can teach Jewish traditions alongside secular education standards. The school hosts programs designed to educate the non-Jewish community of Baku in Jewish traditions. Nancy joins with the young girls in the classroom who sing and dance with her. The close, harmonious relationship between Azerbaijan's many religious and ethnic groups is truly incredible.

**INTERN REPORT—BY MAX MEISLER**

Working with Educational Communications was an interesting, educational, and fulfilling experience. I also worked with Nancy Pearlman on her campaign for re-election to the Los Angeles Community College District, Board of Trustees, Seat 6, assisting her by drafting answers to questionnaires from political organizations from whom she was seeking an endorsement and writing outreach letters. Additionally, I attended rallies and marches to help Pearlman distribute campaign material to activists. I enjoyed my time working with Nancy Pearlman and learned a lot about the Los Angeles Community College District, local politics, and local environmental activism. The experience was rigorous and challenging.

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## WILDLIFE STATE OF AFFAIRS—THE AMAZON AND ITS FISHES

The John G. Shedd Aquarium, 1200 South Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60605, has a permanent exhibit "Amazon Rising: Seasons of the River." They point out that the Amazon flooded forest has undergone more environmental changes in the last four decades than in the preceding four centuries of European exploitation and colonization. Deforestation, damming, overfishing and mining have caused productivity of the natural ecosystem to continually decrease, seriously threatening large portions of the Amazon. The Amazon floodplain forest is the center of enormous biological diversity. It includes 1,700 identified species of fishes, more than any other freshwater system on the planet. Fishes are dependent on an intact ecosystem and live in connection with the Amazon's annual cycle of low water, rains, floods, and receding water. These fishes are necessary for the dispersion of floodplain tree seeds, and they provide vital nutrients to the forest topsoil. They are a critical link in the food chain.

More than 30,000 tons of fish are caught annually on the floodplain, providing protein for millions of people throughout the region. More than half of the floodplain forest has been destroyed through logging or burning to clear land for agriculture and cattle ranching. Each year, about 17,000 square kilometers of forest both upland and floodplain are leveled.

Since the 1970s, several large hydroelectric dams have been built across Amazon tributaries, others are planned for the main channel. While these dams bring electricity to remote areas, they disrupt the movement of fishes, whether for long-distance spawning migration or movement into the forest to feed. Damming destroys habitat and displaces villages by permanently flooding sections of the Amazon.

Local people have long fished these floodplain lakes in a sustainable manner. The growing demand for fish in Amazon cities has lured commercial fishers, who use trawlers to haul in large numbers of juvenile fishes that have never reproduced, a very short-sighted and unsustainable practice.

Gold mining has ravaged the headwaters of many Amazon tributaries, where most deposits are found. Riverbanks have been destroyed, leading to heavy erosion. But perhaps the worst long-term damage has come from the mercury that is used during the mining process. Tests on fishes and other aquatic animals downstream from mines have revealed high levels of mercury in their bodies.

The flooded forests of the Amazon River basin occur following the rainy season. The rainy season can cause the level of some rivers to rise 30 feet, which can cover large areas of the forest for up to eight months. Trees of the flooded forests have evolved special mechanisms for survival during the flooding, including the ability to switch to an anaerobic (without oxygen) metabolism, if necessary. Many Amazonian animals breed at the beginning of the rainy season, when the subsequent rise in water level will increase the abundance of food.

The arawana, a three-foot freshwater fish, is also known as a "water monkey." During the high-water season, these fish swim beneath the trees and can leap up to three feet out of the water to capture insects and spiders perched on tree branches. South American lungfish can survive the low-water season by digging into burrows in the mud until the floods (and food) return. Stingrays often conceal themselves from prey by settling under a layer of sand or mud. People who live along the Amazon floodplain (known as ribereños) fear stingrays more than piranhas due to the stingray's venom-filled spine. The diminutive Annual killifish (*Pterolebias* sp.) take refuge in small pools and puddles left on the forest floor as the floodwaters recede. They lay their eggs in the wet, muddy leaf litter. As standing water evaporates, the adult killifish are stranded and die but their eggs survive on the moist floor and hatch months later when the rains come again. Arapaima (*Arapaima gigas*) is one of the largest freshwater fishes in the world, growing to ten feet and weighing 330 pounds. An aggressive hunter, it prowls floodplain lakes gulping fishes and insects. The arapaima thrive in lakes which temperatures are rising and dissolved oxygen levels fall because they breathe atmospheric oxygen through their mouths.

## EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS REPORT—BY NANCY PEARLMAN

### ACTIVITIES BY NANCY PEARLMAN REPRESENTING ORGANIZATION

**Attended:** Design Fair; American Film Market; Israeli Vintage Dancing; Antioch University Endowment Luncheon; West Hollywood's Womens Empowerment Symposia; Anti-Trump Inauguration Rally; Carol Sucek King Salon; Progressive Democratic Club (in Carson); Anti-TPP Rally/March; Dakota Access Pipeline Standing Rock Demonstration; Tourism Ireland Holiday Presentation; North Valley Democratic Club; USC/UCLA Tailgate Party; Doo Dah Parade; Prop. 67 Victory Party; Vegan Thanksgiving Potluck at Rancho Park; East Los Angeles Christmas Parade; Hollywood Christmas Parade; SEIU LAX Demonstration for \$15 an hour minimum wage; Lake Geneva and Matterhorn Region, Switzerland's Tourism Holiday Extraveganza; Pilipino American Los Angeles Democratic Club Holiday Party; Progressive Democratic Clubs Holiday Dinner; Democrats for Israel Hanukkah Party; Las Vegas, Nevada, exploratory trip; Consul General of Azerbaijan event: "Stories of Heroism: Serving Your Nation with courage and Honor"; Talk by Harvey Wasserman regarding the November 2016 election; Black Panther reunion breakfast; Save Roe Rally at National Council of Jewish Women; Beth Shir Shalom: Home of the Song of Peace Synagogue program with Macedonia Baptist Church; Womens March; Night on Broadway (downtown Los Angeles); The ReUse People of America Board of Directors meeting; Kristallnacht Commemoration at the Museum of Tolerance; Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration by Beth Shir Shalom Synagogue and Macedonia Baptist Church; Puerto Vallarta Tourism Board Dinner; Westedge Design Fair; 128th Rose Parade; American Film Festival Pitch Panel; Talk by Harvey Wasserman on "California Green Power and Election Protection"; Los Angeles County Democratic Party 2016 Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Democrat of the Year Dinner; West Hollywood Womens Empowerment Conference; American Film Market Pitch Conference; Los Angeles County Democratic Party Meeting; 32nd Annual Kingdom Day Parade and its Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., VIP Breakfast; Opening of "Tending the Wild" KCET Documentary in conjunction with the Autry Museum of the American West's "California Continued" Exhibition; Idyllwild Arts Foundation Reception at Subliminal Projects Art Gallery; Azerbaijan Black Monday Commemoration

**Screened:** "We The People.2"; "Plastic Ocean"; "Jackie"; "Hooligan Sparrow"; "4.1 Miles" (Greek saving Syrian Refugees); "The Best Democracy Money Can Buy: A Greg Palast Investigation"; "Congressman John Lewis"; "Dark Fortune (Finsteres Gluck); "Untold Story of the Azerbaijani Refugee Children from Karabakh"; "Get in the Way: The Journey of John Lewis"; "Loving"; "Blayd's Holiday Taco Get Together"; "Tending the Wild: 'Cultural Burning' and 'Keeping the River'"; "Standing on Sacred Ground: Islands of Sanctuary"; Oscar submissions for best foreign language film: Switzerland "My Life as a Courgette (Zucchini); Israel "Sandstorm," Poland "After Image," Romania "Sierran Nevada," Norway "The King's Choice," Kazakhstan "Amanat"; India "Interrogation"; Denmark "Land of Mine"; France "Elle"

**Submitted:** Comments/Reactions to MS. Magazine about participating in the Womens March; Video of support for the "World Movement of Love and Reconciliation: A Celebration of Diversity" Gathering

**Visited:** Toured hotels and the strip in Las Vegas, Nevada; Watched the Rose Parade live in Pasadena

**Listed:** 211 LA County; Directory of Business Information Resources; SRDS Out-of-Home Advertising Source

**EDUCATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS REPORT CONTINUED**

**THANKS TO INTERN MAX MEISLER**—During the winter session for Bennington College (in Vermont), we were lucky to have Max Meisler as an intern. Sincere thanks for his help on many projects including writing most of the November-December 2016 and January-February 2017 issues of *The Compendium Newsletter*. He also assisted on writing television reviews, attending coalition meetings and rallies (such as the anti-Dakota Pipeline March), and aided in computer work. We wish him well in his college career and encourage him and other students to continue to do internships and to volunteer.

**DONATIONS**—Please send in a donation to support our many projects. We need your 2017 tax-deductible contribution. Thank you.

**ACTIVITIES BY NANCY PEARLMAN AS TRUSTEE FOR THE LOS ANGELES COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT (LACCD) (in addition to Board and Committee Meetings)**

**Attended:** East Los Angeles College Ribbon Cutting for G5; Prop CC Election Night Gathering; Trade Tech College Career Promotion Event; Pierce College Foster Youth Exhibit; Central City Association Holiday Party; Valley College's Student Union and Monarch Athletic Center's Ribbon Cuttings; Trade Tech Fashion Show; Los Angeles League of Conservation Voters Reception; Pierce College Foundation Holiday Gathering; AECOM Urbanas Finals Competition; 93rd Anniversary of the founding of the Republic of Turkey; 25th Anniversary Gala and Awards Dinner for Project Match; Gold Thimble Fashion show "Purple Rain" at Los Angeles Trade-Technical College; "Support a Dream" Dinner at LA Trade-Tech; "Waiting for Lefty" by the LA City College Theatre Academy; Los Angeles City College Foundation Gala; AFT Staff Guild annual membership meeting; Sunland-Tujunga Campus Groundbreaking Ceremony by Mission College; Harbor College Culinary Arts Department's Bistro "China Contemporary" Menu; Los Angeles College Promise Reception with Dr. Jill Biden; 69th Anniversary of Sri Lanka's Independence; Vincent Price Gallery Exhibition about Theater Costumes; Ribbon-Cutting for the Moreno Liberal Arts Building at East Los Angeles College; LACCD "Governance Institute for Student Success: Springboard to Strategic Planning" Workshop; Supervisor Don Knabe "Elected Officials of the Fourth District" Reception; ANCA-WR Annual Gala Banquet (Armenian National Council)

**Appeared:** Brad Pomerance Comcast Cable Government Television Show; Pierce College's *Roundup* Newspaper article about Foster Youth "#Notastatistic"; Photo in the Mission College Newsletter of the ribbon cutting at Health Care Center

**Served:** On Honorary Gala Committee of the 34th Annual "Building the Dream" Gala by Telacu Education Foundation

**Spoke:** Panelist at Green California Community Colleges Summit

**Presented:** Certificates of Recognition at the "World Movement of Love and Reconciliation's A Celebration of Diversity" Gathering

**ECOLOGICAL ACTION COMMITTEE—BY ANNA HARLOWE**

**URGED:**

- Kroger & Campbells to eliminate and safely substitute toxic BPG in their food cans
- Trader Joe's not to use palm oil from rainforests in their products
- Peabody Energy to drop its misguided lawsuit against the Clean Power Plan
- Gerber, Enfamil, Similac, and Well Beginnings (Walgreens) and other baby formula companies to recall formula containing nanoparticles
- National Parks and Wildlife Service to reject the inhumane cull of the Snowy Mountain horses and to catch and rehome them instead
- Wilmar to do as Cargill did and denounce the recent violence and environmental destruction caused by palm oil effluent spills in Guatemala's Pasion River
- Taiwan to join the worldwide movement to protect elephants and not allow ivory sales

**SUPPORTED:**

- Proposed 20-year mineral withdrawal for two areas in Southwest Oregon: tributaries of the National Wild and Scenic Illinois, Rogue, North Fork Smith, and Smith Rivers, headwaters of Hunter Creek and the Pistol River, two roadless areas of South Kalmiopsis and Packsaddle, and Rough and Ready and Baldface Creeks in the National Forest and Bureau of Land Management lands
- Protection of lands for the conservation of greater sage-grouse and sagebrush ecosystems
- Removing the sell-off of the Vieques National Wildlife Refuge from Puerto Rico debt legislation
- Canceling lease sales for oil drilling in the Gulf Coast area of the Gulf of Mexico
- Recovery of the endangered Red Wolves by reintroduction into traditional habitat (U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service ceased such reintroduction)
- Superfund cleanup at the Gold King Mine disaster area along the Animas River in Colorado
- Banning the use of chlorpyrifos, diazinon, and malathion which are harmful to wildlife
- Controlling motorized use across the Okanogan-Wenatchee National Forest
- Protecting the Andersoni moose population as an endangered species, especially in North Dakota
- Creating a national monument of the 1.9 million acres of public land in the Bears Ears area of Utah next to Canyonlands National Park
- Getting rid of toxic chemicals in food packaging with regulations by the Food & Drug Administration
- Ocean Noise Strategy plan by NOAA to reduce ocean noise from navy sonar, seismic oil and gas exploration, offshore drilling, commercial shipping vessels and other industrial activity
- Designating Maine Woods a National Monument
- Proposed rule to require all currently exempted shrimp boats using skimmer trawls, pusher-head trawls, and wing net (butterfly trawls) to use Turtle Excluder Devices which are 97 percent effective at saving sea turtles

**OPPOSED:**

- Nestle's water bottling in the San Bernardino National Forest in southern California due to its negative environmental impact
- Westside project a salvage operation involving 14 timber sales in the Klamath National Forest in California because it would impact 103 Northern Spotted Owls which are threatened

**ECOLOGICAL ACTION COMMITTEE CONTINUED**

**OPPOSED:**

- Decision to allow the cruise industry and other large shipping companies to dump partially treated sewage into our coastal waters
- Plans to strip grizzlies of federal protections
- Mine waste dumping in oceans and rivers in the Southeast Asia and the Pacific
- Drift gillnets to operate in one of the most important protected areas for Pacific leatherback sea turtles (opening a sea turtle protection area to the use of fishing gear with known bycatch problems threatens these endangered turtles; the Pacific Fishery Management Council should reduce unwanted catch in the West Coast swordfish fishery)
- Inclusion of anti-environment provisions in the National Defense Authorization Act and of the Vessel Incidental Discharge Act which would block Clean Water Act protections of U. S. waters
- Coral bleaching by coal mines of Australia's Great Barrier Reef
- Amendments that would prohibit the use of funds to prosecute or hold liable any person or corporation for violating the Migratory Bird Treaty Act
- Plans in the great Yellowstone area that would allow grizzly hunting
- Polar bear hunting in Alaska and elsewhere
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service extending permit duration for eagle take from five to thirty years
- Clearcutting of the easement on the Fellow Mortals Wildlife Hospital property by the American Transmission Co. in Wisconsin
- Corporate sponsorships within our national park system which would privatize our public lands
- Killing of a lioness and her cubs by the Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency in South Africa
- Use of oil wastewater to grow crops in California
- H.J. Res. 36 which is the "disapproval resolution" to reverse the U. S. Bureau of Land Management's regulations on venting and flaring (oil and gas companies should pay for resources from public lands)
- Ohio's legislature's recently passed 6-week abortion ban that allows no exceptions for rape, incest, or the health of the woman (urged the governor to veto it)
- S.J. Res. 18, which would allow the cruel slaughter of wolf pups and grizzly cubs in Alaska's National Wildlife Refuges
- Federalization of the California Drift gillnet fishery for swordfish
- Nominations of Scott Pruitt to head the EPA and Rex Tillerson to be Secretary of State
- S.J. Res. 15 which would overturn the U. S. Bureau of Land Management's "Planning 2.0" land-use planning rule, which gives the public a voice in large-scale planning for public lands and, if passed, would drastically limit public input in the management of our public lands
- Sale of elephant ivory (currently 30,000 African elephants are lost a year to poaching)

**COMMENTED:**

- EPA-HQ-OAR-2010-0505 and EPA-HR-OAR-2013-0685 to have stronger methane pollution rules especially at unloading operations, well sites, and storage vessels
- Federal government's steps to deny climate change by purging federal scientific data from websites

## CURRENT LAND USE

**JACARANDA PARK IN LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**—In South Los Angeles the City of Los Angeles' Department of Recreation and Parks along with Councilmember Marqueece Harris-Dawson (DC8), Los Angeles Neighborhood Land Trust, and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), broke ground this month on Jacaranda Park. Located on the corner of Avalon and 98th Street, the LADWP-owned vacant lot is being transformed into a public park. The 5.35 acre parcel will provide new recreational opportunities for approximately 12,321 youth and families in a community that lacks green space.

**UNITED STATES NATIONAL PARKS**—Some interesting facts and figures from IMAX's documentary "National Parks Adventure":

- \*In 2015 a record 292.8 million people visited the parks.
- \*The USNPS has 22,000 people employed and 220,000 volunteers.
- \*For 32 years, the first caretaker of the National Parks was the U. S. Cavalry, the 19th and early 20th century mounted forces of the U. S. Army.
- \*Wrangell-St. Elias in central Alaska is the largest National Park with 13.2 million acres, big enough to hold Switzerland or Costa Rica. The park includes 9 of the 16 highest peaks in the U. S. and one of the nation's largest active volcanoes.
- \*Thaddeus Kosciuszko Memorial in Philadelphia is the smallest National Park site with just .02 acres; it was once the personal home of the Polish freedom fighter who played a key role in the American Revolution.
- \*The protected areas under the USNPS totals over 84 million acres, the size of Germany.
- \*More than 1,000 threatened and endangered animal species make their homes in NPS sites including: alligators, bald eagles, bison, blue whales, grizzly bears, lynx, panthers, sea lions, turtles, and wolves.
- \*The highest point in North America, Mt. McKinley (or Denali), is found in Alaska's Denali National Park and the lowest point in the Western Hemisphere is in California's Death Valley.
- \*Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky is home to the longest cave system in the world, more than 3,454 miles.
- \*The world's largest gypsum dune field can be found in White Sands National Monument in New Mexico.
- \*Florida's Everglades National Park has the largest mangrove ecosystem in the Western Hemisphere.
- \*Sequoia National Park in California hosts the world's largest single-stem tree by volume: the 275 foot, 33 foot diameter General Sherman, estimated to be 2300-2700 years old, one of earth's oldest living trees.
- \*The National Park system includes two tropical rainforests in American Samoa, a coral reef in Biscayne National Park in Florida and 47 thermal springs.
- \*First State National Historic Park in Delaware celebrates the ratification of the U. S. Constitution.
- \*Golden Gate National Recreation Area in San Francisco is the most frequently visited site in the system followed by Blue Ridge Parkway in Virginia and the Great Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee and North Carolina.
- \*The least visited park is Aniakchak National Monument in the Aleutian Islands which had only 134 visitors in 2014 owing to its remote location.
- \*The National Parks feature a network of trails that span 18,000 miles, about 3/4 of the circumference of the earth.

**FISHERIES IN THE SOUTH AND EAST CHINA SEAS**—There are 2,500 types of fish in the South and East China Seas with over 20 million tons fished. There are many disagreements by the various nations that connect to the Sea: China, Taiwan, Japan, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia, South Korea, and The Philippines. In 2013, Taiwan and Japan signed an agreement to avoid violence, prompt release of fisherman, and share the resources and development of the South and East China Seas. Negotiations had begun in 1996 and China did not welcome the agreement. Taiwan maintains sovereignty claims over the area's islands but China flies over the area to obtain claims. It is a desirable area with 283 oil and gas fields near shore and 73 deep sea fields. There are 1000 oil and gas wells (50 million tons of oil equivalent). Various bi-national agreements have been signed but the area and its islands are still in dispute as far as ownership and who regulates the fisheries.

**BOOK REVIEWS/IMPRESSIONS**

***STORM IN A TEACUP***—by Captain Paul Green; Xlibris; 235 pp.; ©2016. Green, a New Zealander charter captain has led dolphin-watching trips for the past twenty years. He has travelled over 80,000 nautical miles in eighteen months and provides a great account of his mind-altering journey of people, places and the environment. According to the Ellen MacArthur Foundation, by 2050, oceans could have more plastics than fish by weight; Green is a personal witness to the complications associated with ocean pollution. He has said that even on the most distant islands, the sheer amount of pollution is stunning. The author delightfully opens readers' eyes to the wonders of nature while drawing attention to a significant environmental threat.

***URBAN FORESTS: A NATURAL HISTORY OF TREES AND PEOPLE IN THE AMERICAN CITYSCAPE***—by Jill Jonnes; Viking/PenguinRandom House, 375 Hudson St., New York, NY 10014; 394 pp.; \$30.00 hardcover; ©2016. The author provides a passionate, wide-ranging, and fascinating history of the tree in American cities over the course of the past two centuries. Trees, nature's largest and longest-lived creations, play an extraordinarily important role in our cityscapes. They are landmarks that define space, cool the air, soothe our psyches, and connect us to nature and our past. Today, four out of five Americans live in or near cities, surrounded by millions of trees that make up urban forests containing hundreds of species. Despite the ubiquity and familiarity of those trees, most of us take them for granted and know little of their specific natural history or civic virtues. Jonnes' survey ranges from early sponsors for the Urban Tree Movement to the fascinating stories of particular species, including Washington, DC's famed cherry trees and the American chestnut and elm and the diseases that almost destroyed them, to the institution of Arbor Day. As a National Endowment for the Humanities scholar, Jonnes brings a wealth of background to how trees are relevant in our lives; she also is the founder of the Baltimore Tree Trust. One example highlighted is how in 2006, U. S. Forest Service scientist Greg McPherson and his colleagues calculated that New York City's 592,000 street trees annually saved \$28 million in energy costs through shading and cooling or \$47.63 per tree. The many other examples in the book make for a fascinating read.

***BEEES ON THE ROOF***—by Robbie Shell; Tumblehome Learning, 201 Newbury St., Suite 201, Boston, MA 02116; 204 pp.; \$9.95 softcover; ©2016. Fun to read, educational, and environmentally-friendly, Shell encourages children in her middle-grade book to learn about their environment, to understand the key role bees play in our food supply and to appreciate the delicate balance of nature. Her book is part of an emerging trend in science education—environmental fiction. The entertaining narrative is about four seventh graders' determination to win their school's science competition by becoming beekeepers on the roof of a Manhattan hotel. Along the way she weaves in facts about bee culture.

***COFFIN ROAD***—by Peter May; Quercus/Hacette Book Group, 1290 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10104; 320 pp.; \$26.99; ©2016. This Scottish award-winning journalist and television dramatist has written a compelling eco-novel. He based his story from two sources: his love of the Outer Hebrides and his passion for bees and concern for the destruction of them by corporate forces. This is a great read about a murder investigation and the remote landscape where it occurs.

## ISSUES UPDATE

**DOMESTIC CATS**—The National Cat Groomers Institute of America, 701 Pendleton Street, Greenville, SC 29601, (877) 302-7430, [info@nationalcatgroomers.com](mailto:info@nationalcatgroomers.com), believe that cats need grooming to minimize shedding, hairballs, odor, dirt and matting. Cats have skin and hair and they do not wash themselves. Cats are susceptible to matting, fleas, dandruff, dander, ingrown claws, dirty behinds, and other unpleasanties. Either the cat will wash itself or a person must do it for them. One method involves licking with saliva and ingesting large amounts of shedding hair that later return in the form of a hairball. The other involves washing with sudsy shampoo, rinsing with clean, warm water, and drying the coat so that it doesn't mat. During the process, loose dead hair is removed so that shedding and hairballs are minimized or in some cases eliminated all together.

**GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND OUR FOOD CHOICES**—Animal agriculture is a leading cause of pollution and resource depletion. According to the United Nations (UN), raising chickens, pigs, cows, and other animals for food contributes nearly one-fifth (18%) of all global human-induced greenhouse gas emissions. A 2013 report by the UN's Environment Programme further states one of the "key actions" to produce more food with less pollution involves "lowering personal consumption of animal protein" as well as "a shift from animal-based protein to plant-based protein." Researchers from the University of Chicago report that a vegetarian diet is the most energy-efficient, and that the average American can do more to reduce global warming emissions by not eating meat, eggs, and dairy than by switching to a hybrid car. Additionally, Carnegie Mellon researchers found that we can do more for the planet by going vegetarian, even just one day per week, than by switching to an entirely local diet. Raising animals for food also causes immense animal suffering; every year in the United States, nine billion birds, pigs, and cows are killed for us to eat. [Source: [www.TryVeg.com](http://www.TryVeg.com)]

**FARMED ANIMALS, VEGAN DIETS, AND ANIMAL CRUELTY**—Nearly 80% of antibiotics sold in the United States are fed to farmed animals to help promote growth and to compensate for the filthy, overcrowded conditions. The amount of manure produced on factory farms each year is three times greater than the amount of waste produced by humans. It takes nearly 420 gallons of water to produce one pound of grain-fed chicken. More than 250 million egg-laying hens are crammed inside wire battery cages so restrictive that they can barely move. Each year tens of millions of pigs are raised for meat that spend their lives confined in barren concrete fattening pens. Meat consumption in the United States has dropped 12% since 2007. Fifteen million American (5%) are vegetarian and an additional 50 million people (16%) eat vegetarian foods about half the time. Compassion Over Killing, P. O. Box 9773, Washington, DC 20016, [www.cok.net](http://www.cok.net), (301) 891-2458 or (866) MEAT-FREE has a Vegetarian Starter Guide. [WWW.foodforthoughtcampaign.org](http://WWW.foodforthoughtcampaign.org), a program of Animal Place has postcards to give out that state "I did not attend your event because you served animal products." They also have information on how to adopt an animal-friendly menu policy. The Animal Cruelty Exposure Fund's mission is to raise funds to promote public awareness regarding animal cruelty issues through mainstream media such as television commercials, billboards, print ads, and social media. The Lisa Shapiro Awards for Unsung Vegan Heroes offers a cash gift of \$1000 to their chosen vegan hero and is part of [ThePollinationProject.org/nominate](http://ThePollinationProject.org/nominate). Competitive athletes share their vegan experiences in the booklet "The Compassionate Athlete: Athletes Tackle Questions About Plant-Based Eating"; it is available from [VeganOutreach.org](http://VeganOutreach.org). More information is available from [www.BeyondCarnism](http://www.BeyondCarnism), c/o Robin FLynn, 16 Harcourt St., Suite 3J, Boston, MA 02116. They have a booklet titled, "Have You Ever Wondered Why You Eat Some Animals But Not Others?" Other groups working on these issues are: Animal Equality, 8581 Santa Monica Blvd, Suite 350, Los Angeles, CA 90069, (424) 250-6236, Food Empowerment Project, P. O. Box 7322, Catati, CA 94931, (503) 848-4021, [www.foodispower.org](http://www.foodispower.org), and [www.AFWF.org](http://www.AFWF.org). Various groups have different focuses. Animal Recovery Mission, P. O. Box 403344, Miami Beach, FL 33140, (786) 877-2013, has many projects including their operations to stop the black market horse meat trade, bestiality, bear bile farms in Vietnam, thoroughbred racehorse abuse, Mexico's horse slaughter, fox and coyote penning games, and illegal animal fighting operations. [VeganSpirituality.com](http://VeganSpirituality.com) believe that compassion for all living being is fundamental to spiritual beliefs; they can provide connections with their "vegan spirituality partners."

## MATERIALS AND RESOURCES

**Switchmate** allows for **smartphone control of any light switch** in your home. This product allows you to set timers, automatically turn on your home's lights when you get home, and otherwise enjoy the convenience of controlling your lights from your phone. The magnetically attached switches communicate with your phone using Bluetooth technology and a free app, and will stay on the set timers even when the phone is disconnected. Contact: [www.myswitchmate.com](http://www.myswitchmate.com)

**Thinium** offers a **portable, rechargeable iPhone backup battery**. Allowing you to keep your phone charged on the go, this device has a built-in charging connector for iPhone 5 and later and 2 prong charger to plug into any wall outlet. It also features a USB outlet to connect any charger. This device's slim design makes it extremely portable and a must have for anyone in need of extra power for their phone. Contact: [www.Thinium.com](http://www.Thinium.com), (970) 948-1399.

**Breakaway Matcha** sells **Matcha Green Tea** mix, which can be added to water to make a delicious, traditional Japanese beverage. The product comes in a UV-blocking jar to preserve the quality of the Matcha powder. Contact: [eric@breakawaymatcha.com](mailto:eric@breakawaymatcha.com), [www.breakawaymatcha.com](http://www.breakawaymatcha.com).

**Personalogy** is "an absurdly provocative game for thinking people." A **card game**, Personalogy is a fun way to spice up any party or get together. It can be played by 2-20+ people. The gameplay is fun—players choose cards with descriptions of themselves, while the other participants must guess which of the five choices best answers the question about the cardholder. The game is a great icebreaker and fosters a sense of comfort between players. Unlike some party games, like Cards Against Humanity, that are rude and explicit, Personalogy is a fun, lighthearted way to relax with a group of people. Contact: Michelle Burke, Creative Director, [michelle@interactgames.com](mailto:michelle@interactgames.com), (310) 650-5130.

**Secur Sun Power Bank 6000** is a **portable solar panel-powered phone charger**. It is compact, at less than 1" thick, allowing you to carry it wherever you go in order to charge your phone. The battery can also be recharged through its micro-USB port to provide up to 6 full charges to any smartphone. The battery has two USB ports to allow you to simultaneously charge two devices. Contact: Maverick Industries Inc., 94 Mayfield Avenue, Edison, NJ 08837, (855) 452-8388, [www.securproducts.com](http://www.securproducts.com).

**Community College Educators Resource Booklets** from many different agencies. The Association of Community College Trustees, 1233 20th Street NW, Suite 301, Washington DC 20036, has *The Progress of Latinos in Higher Education: Strategies to Create Student Success Programs at Community Colleges*; *Trustee Quarterly: The Voice of Community College Leaders* with lead article, *Community Colleges of the Future: Making Good on the Promise of the Open Door: Effective Governance and Leadership to Improve Student Equity, Success, and Completion*; and *Protecting Colleges and Students: Community College Strategies to Prevent Default*. The Center for Community College Student Engagement (University of Texas at Austin, 3316 Grandview Street, Austin TX 78705) has *Aspirations to Achievement: Men of Color and Community Colleges*. From the California Community Colleges Chancellor's Office (1102 Q Street, Suite 4550 Sacramento, CA 95811) is *Student Success Scorecard: 2015 State of the System Report*. These booklets are great resources for anyone interested in the success of students in the Community College system.

## ENERGY SPECIAL REPORT

The following information is from a pamphlet initiated by the Converging Storms Action Network: Challenging the Crises of Energy, Capitalism, & Environment titled *In the Hands of the People: Campaign for Energy Democracy, Stage 1*. They begin with a summary of disastrous events which have in common the fact that they were caused by a for-profit, privately-owned energy enterprise whose profit-driven choices have caused an even worst disaster: climate change.

Porter Ranch, in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, had a Southern California Gas storage well (minus its safety valve) for four months spew 97,100 metric tons of methane gas into the air, forcing 15,000 people to move from their homes due to severe toxic reactions.

Santa Susana, also in Los Angeles' San Fernando Valley, in 1959 for weeks had a rocket-fuel plant release deadly radioactive waste into Los Angeles from a nuclear reactor meltdown. Radiation, as well as 70 years of toxic chemicals, still contaminate the soil, water, bedrock, and air, and are linked to high rates of cancer in the area.

Richmond, in the San Francisco Bay area, in August of 2012 had unsafe conditions at the Chevron Bay Area refinery which caused an explosion in a toxic fireball with poisonous smoke sending many of the plant's 1,200 oil workers, plus 15,000 area residents, to the hospital.

San Bruno, also in the San Francisco Bay area, in 2010 had eight people killed and 38 homes leveled when Pacific Gas and Electric's 30-inch, improperly-welded, natural gas pipeline exploded in this San Francisco suburb.

Vernon, in the south and eastern part of Los Angeles County, has some 10,000 properties of largely working people of color who are currently poisoned with dangerously high levels of lead, vented for decades from Exide's battery-recycling plant.

Kern County, in the central part of California, has had for 20 years, daily, Chevron selling 21 million gallons of recycled oil wastewater (toxic with acetone and methylene chloride) used by area farmers to irrigate 45,000 acres of food crops (tangerines, carrots, grapes, etc.).

Converging Storms Action Network believes that we cannot afford to leave energy (a basic human need) in private hands any longer. They explain that energy is "a principle in physics, a characteristic governing all matter and movement on Earth: the capacity to do work." Since all life needs energy, they point out that today's crises stem "not from energy use, but from the specific sources of energy on which we depend." It was the leap 150 years ago to fossil fuels that has so significantly altered the energy use issue. Fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, petroleum-based oil and propane are cheap, portable, diversely useful, and made of ancient solar energy. The U. S. energy use from fossil fuels is about 85% and these fuels provide for food, medicine, and even weapons. For example, feeding each American takes at least 400 gallons of oil yearly, to plant, irrigate, fertilize, pesticide, harvest, process, and transport; industrialized agriculture uses 85% of our country's fresh water, draining U. S. aquifers 160% faster than they are replenished. They go on to discuss the dangers of fossil fuels and how the Earth has been poisoned as well as having its climate system destabilized. To them, energy needs to be democratically controlled so we can develop an ecological and sustainable way to serve people.

**CORRESPONDENCE GROUP/ACTION ALERTS****#2069, PUENTE POWER PLANT IN CALIFORNIA**

Communities in Oxnard, California, are already fighting back against pollution from three power plants in their city and now there is another plant proposed. The Puente Power Plant would add more pollution in a low-income community of color while raising energy bills and contributing to climate change. A recent *Los Angeles Times* article highlighted the billions of dollars Californians have been forced to pay as agencies like the Energy Commission approve power plant after power plant that the state does not need. The plants which would burn natural gas is proposed to be build on a portion of the coast that is extremely vulnerable to rising seas driven by global warming. [Source: Sierra Club, Beyond Coal Campaign]

TARGET: California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth St., Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

**#2070, FOIDEL CREEK MINE IN COLORADO**

Peabody Energy wants to mine 310 acres of coal owned in Colorado by the American public. The company is currently bankrupt. Their Foidel Creek Mine would fuel the Hayden coal-fired power plant, which its owners have called "functionally obsolete." The American public should not bail out these energy companies. Even if Peabody can manage to mine the coal, with approval of the proposed expansion, and if built, the mine would continue to fill the atmosphere with carbon at a time when the world is working to curtail greenhouse gas emissions. [Source: WildEarth Guardians, 516 Alto St., Santa Fe, NM 87501]

TARGET: Office of Surface Mining Western Regional Office, RE: OSMRE  
1999 Broadway St., Suite 3320, Denver, CO 80202-3050

**#2071, BIRD PROTECTIONS**

Bird-related recreation contributes more than \$36 billion to the United States economy. Birds also act as the "canary in the coal mine" for our environment and provide valuable benefits to society, from pollination to pest control. But birds are in trouble with many declining in population or facing extinction. Therefore, the following laws need to be kept and not weakened: The Endangered Species Act which has helped recover many species including the Bald Eagle, our national bird, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act which safeguards most American birds and supports the federal Duck Stamp, one of the nation's most successful conservation programs. The Environmental Protection Agency must continue its vital work to protect people and birds from dangerous pesticides and toxins and should not be dissolved. In addition, our public lands should remain public and not privatized and our public lands should be properly managed for wildlife while maintaining recreational access. [Source: American Bird Conservancy]

TARGET: Your Congressperson, House of Representatives, Washington, DC 20515  
Your Senators, United States Senate, Washington, DC 20510

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**WHO AND WHAT WE ARE—WWW.ECOPROJECTS.ORG**

Educational Communications, Inc., a non-profit organization founded in 1958, is dedicated to improving the quality of life on this planet. Nancy Pearlman oversees its many environmental projects, including: the ECOLOGY CENTER OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA (a regional conservation group begun in 1971), *THE COMPENDIUM NEWSLETTER* (1971), ECONews television series (1984), ENVIRONMENTAL DIRECTIONS radio series (1977), PROJECT ECOTOURISM (1993), and EARTH CULTURES (2004). Other projects include: the ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES LIBRARY, CAMPUS GREENING, ECOVIEW newspaper articles, and HUMANITY AND THE PLANET (including Wells for Burkina Faso and Kenya in Need). The group works on all environmental issues from the local to international level. Services provided include a speaker's bureau, award-winning public service announcements, radio and television documentaries, and input into the decision-making process. Programs include clothes donations and folk dance performances. We educate the public about the problems and the solutions for saving all species and for preserving our earth. All activities are handled by volunteers.