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Did your organization do something amazing this year?

Denny Hurtado is retiring as Washington Director of Indian Ed

Mayans Protest Government Sponsored Apocalypse Party and Slam "Doomsday Myth"

Beyond Recycling: On the Road to Zero Waste

Time to nominate businesses

The University of Nevada School of Medicine is inviting community participation

Tribe bashes federal officials; claims they're endangering salmon

Letters: Water and dust at Owens Lake

Ward 5 Nonprofit Workshop Series

Increases in College Costs for 2012/2013 Continue to Outpace Inflation

Social Justice Pedagogy in an Urban Garden Project

Did your organization do something amazing this year?

Every year, AASLH bestows the Leadership in History Awards in recognition of excellence in the field of state and local history.

The Leadership in History Awards was established to encourage standards of excellence in the collection, preservation, and interpretation of state and local history in order to make the past more meaningful to all Americans. By publicly recognizing superior and innovative achievements, the Leadership in History Awards serve as an inspiration to others in the field.

AASLH recognizes excellence in the following areas:

- Projects, including programming, civic engagement, exhibitions, restoration projects, etc.
- Individual Achievement
- Organizational General Excellence
- Publications

Applicants can self-nominate or nominate another project.

Organizations of all sizes are encouraged to apply! Deadline for nominations is March 1, 2013.

For more information, [visit the website](#) or contact:

Bethany Hawkins 615-320-3203 hawkins@aslh.org

Upcoming Events:

[Basics of Archives](#)

[Online Training](#)

November 16
Annual Meeting Call for 2013 Session Proposals
Deadline

December 12
Alderson Internship Grant Program Deadline

Denny Hurtado is retiring as our Washington Director of Indian Education on November 30th. if you haven't heard yet. His tenure as an educational leader is to be saluted. Don DeVon Oroville, WA

Started by Don DeVon, Don DeVon Educational Counseling Services

Mayans Protest Government Sponsored Apocalypse Party and Slam "Doomsday Myth"

By **JG Vibes** theintelhub.com October 28, 2012

For years the Mayans have been fighting against the doomsday myth surrounding the incorrect reading of their ancient calendar.

As the date of December 21, 2012 approaches the hype has caused an increasing amount of distress for the indigenous Mayan people, especially with their homeland in Guatemala being turned into a cheap tourist attraction for the coming "apocalypse".

Just this week, Guatemala's Mayan people accused the government and state sponsored tour groups of perpetuating the myth that their calendar predicts the end of the world, so they can benefit financially from tourist revenue.

The Culture Ministry of Guatemala is hosting a massive event in Guatemala City, which as many as 90,000 people are expected to attend, all being promoted under the pretext of a "doomsday" celebration.

Felipe Gomez, leader of the Maya alliance Oxlaluj Ajpop protested this week with other Mayans, urging the Tourism Institute to rethink the doomsday celebration, which he criticized as a "show" that was disrespectful to Mayan culture.

"We are speaking out against deceit, lies and twisting of the truth, and turning us into folklore-for-profit. They are not telling the truth about time cycles" Gomez told the AFP news agency.

In a statement released by Oxlaluj Ajpop, the end of the mayan calendar simply means that "there will be big changes on the personal, family and community level, so that there is harmony and balance between mankind and nature."

Last year, a Mayan elder named Carlos Barrios interviewed over 600 other senior Mayan elders to get the clearest possible understanding of the situation.

In an online interview representing the Organization for Mayan and Indigenous Spiritual Studies, Carlos made the following statement:

“Anthropologists visit the temple sites and read the inscriptions and make up stories about the Maya, but they do not read the signs correctly. It’s just their imagination. Other people write about prophecy in the name of the Maya.

They say that the world will end in December 2012. The Mayan elders are angry with this. The world will not end. It will be transformed. We are no longer in the World of the Fourth Sun, but we are not yet in the World of the Fifth Sun.

This is the time in-between, the time of transition. As we pass through transition there is a colossal, global convergence of environmental destruction, social chaos, war, and ongoing Earth Changes.

Humanity will continue, but in a different way. Material structures will change. From this we will have the opportunity to be more human.”

As the Mayans believe, and as many modern researchers also believe, the human species has already went through many different changes during their history on the planet earth.

Those changes have many times been difficult, but have also been followed by rapid leaps in understanding, compassion and social advancement.

As I discussed in my book *Alchemy of the Modern Renaissance*:

“The doomsday theory is unlikely and overused by power hungry governments that wish to keep their populations in fear.

As we have seen quite recently in the past decade in the United States, the establishment constantly uses fear to manipulate the minds of US citizens. This technique is not new either, it has been used for centuries whether it be the fear of economic collapse, natural disaster, the enemy, or the fear of god, fear has been used by the few to dominate the many for ages.

When the Spaniards were conquering the Mayan empire they learned through missionaries that 1698 was the end of the Mayan time cycle.

So the Spanish waited until 1698 to invade and the Mayans took it as a sign and fled without resistance.

One of the most celebrated of all doomsday predictions was made by astrologers who predicted a great flood that would end the world on February 20 1524 based on the conjunction of all the planets in the heavens mercury, Venus, Mars Jupiter and Saturn.

We have also seen quite recently with the media hoax Y2K, which threatened us with a “cyber Armageddon” at the turn of the millennium. In both cases obviously, the world continued to turn.”

The end of the world has been predicted many times and has yet to come, the last time that this kind of hysteria swept the world was just over a decade ago, around the change of the millennium with the y2k scare.

The world didn't end last time, and it is not going to end next time. However, there may be some truth that we are on the verge of some sort of societal transition, looking around the world all of the signs are certainly there.

Oxlajuj Ajpop is holding events it considers sacred in five cities to mark the event and Gomez said the Culture Ministry would be wise to throw its support behind their real celebrations.

However, there it is not likely that the government tourist agency and the ministry will change their course.

If you have any questions or disagreements feel free to email me at jgvibes@aotmr.com

J.G. Vibes is the author of an 87 chapter counter culture textbook called [Alchemy of the Modern Renaissance](#), a staff writer and reporter for The Intel Hub and host of a show called Voluntary Hippie Radio.

You can keep up with his work, which includes free podcasts, free e-books & free audiobooks at his website www.aotmr.com.

Beyond Recycling: On the Road to Zero Waste

By Beverly Bell

Zero waste is both a goal and a plan of action. The goal is to protect and recover scarce natural resources by ending waste disposal in incinerators, dumps, and landfills. The plan encompasses waste reduction, composting, recycling and reuse, changes in consumption habits, and industrial redesign. The premise is that if a product cannot be reused, composted, or recycled, it just should not be produced in the first place.

Just as importantly, zero waste is a revolution in the relationship between waste and people. It is a new way of thinking about safeguarding the health and improving the lives of everyone who produces, handles, works with, or is affected by waste -- in other words, all of us.

Zero waste strategies help societies to produce and consume goods while respecting ecological limits and the rights of communities. The strategies ensure that all discarded materials are safely and sustainably returned to nature or to manufacturing in place of raw materials. In a zero waste approach, waste management is not left only to politicians and technical experts; rather, everyone impacted -- from residents of wealthy neighborhoods to the public, private, and informal sector workers who handle waste -- has a voice.

Practicing zero waste means moving toward a world in which all materials are used to their utmost potential, in a system that simultaneously prioritizes the needs of workers, communities, and the environment. It is much like establishing zero defect goals for manufacturing, or zero injury goals in the workplace.

Zero waste is ambitious, but it is not impossible. Nor is it part of some far-off future. Today, in small towns and big cities, in areas rich and poor, in the global North and South, innovative communities are making real progress toward the goal of zero waste. Every community is different, so no two zero waste programs are identical, but the various approaches are together creating something bigger than the sum of their parts: protection of the earth and the natural riches which lie under, on, and over it. Here are a few examples of what is working:

* Through incentives and extensive public outreach, San Francisco has reduced its waste to landfill by 77 percent -- the highest diversion rate in the United States -- and is on track to reach 90 percent by 2020;

* A door-to-door collection service operated by a cooperative of almost 2,000 grassroots recyclers in Pune, India -- now part of the city's waste management system -- diverts enough waste to avoid 640,000 tons of greenhouse gas emissions annually;

* Aggressive standards and incentives for both individuals and businesses in the Flanders region of Belgium have achieved 73 percent diversion of residential waste, the highest regional rate in Europe;

* In Taiwan, community opposition to incineration pushed the government to adopt goals and programs for waste prevention and recycling. The programs were so successful that the quantity of waste decreased significantly, even as the population increased and the economy grew;

* An anti-incinerator movement in the Spanish province of Gipuzkoa led to the adoption of door-to-door waste collection services in several small cities, which have since reduced the amount of waste going to landfills by 80 percent;

* In the Philippines, a participatory, bottom-up approach has proven that communities have the ability to solve their own waste management problems;

* A focus on organics in Mumbai, India and La Pintana, Chile has produced real value from the cities' largest and most problematic portion of municipal waste;

* In Buenos Aires, Argentina, grassroots recyclers focused on cooperatives and took collective political action. As a result, the city began separating waste at the source, an essential step toward its goal of 75 percent diversion by 2017.

While few locations are bringing together all the elements of a comprehensive zero waste plan, many have in common a philosophy driven by four core strategies:

1. Moving away from waste disposal: Zero waste moves societies away from waste disposal by setting goals and target dates to reduce waste going to landfills, abolishing waste incineration, establishing or raising landfill fees, shifting subsidies away from waste disposal, banning disposable products, and other actions. Government policies

that promote these interventions are strongest when they incentivize community participation and incorporate the interests of waste workers.

2. Supporting comprehensive reuse, recycling, and organics treatment programs:

Zero waste is about creating a closed cycle for all the materials we use -- paper, glass, metals, plastic, and food among them. Such a system operates through separating waste at its source in order to reuse, repair, and recycle inorganic materials, and compost or digest organic materials. Separate organics collection ensures a stream of clean, high-quality material which in turn enables the creation of useful products (compost and biogas) from the largest portion of municipal waste.

3. Engaging communities: Zero waste relies on democracy and strong community action in shaping waste management. A lengthy initial consultation process can pay off with better design and higher participation rates. Residents must actively participate in the programs by consuming sustainably, minimizing waste, separating discards, and composting at home.

A successful zero waste program must also be an inclusive one. Inclusive zero waste systems make sure that resource recovery programs include and respect all those involved in resource conservation, especially informal recyclers whose livelihoods depend on discarded materials. The workers who handle waste should be fully integrated into the design, implementation, and monitoring processes, as they ultimately make the system function. In some communities, where waste workers come from historically excluded populations, this may require ending long-standing discriminatory practices.

4. Designing for the future: Zero waste emphasizes efficient use of resources; safe manufacturing and recycling processes to protect workers; product durability; and design for disassembly, repair, and recycling. Once communities begin to put zero waste practices in place, the residual fraction -- that which is left over because it is either too toxic to be safely recycled or is made out of non-recyclable materials -- becomes evident, and industrial design mistakes and inefficiencies can be studied and corrected.

Reducing or substituting toxic materials, reducing packaging, and environmentally preferable purchasing are some important strategies.

Each of the communities discussed in these case studies is enjoying significant environmental, climatic, social, economic, and sanitation benefits as a result of its moves to zero waste. Together, the successes offer models we can all build from, regardless of context. Let us all learn what is environmentally possible, and begin turning the possibilities into reality.

This article was published at NationofChange at: <http://www.nationofchange.org/beyond-recycling-road-zero-waste-1351920016>. All rights are reserved.

Don't forget! The deadline to nominate outstanding Nevada businesses is November 23rd. (It's quick. It's easy!)

SBA Small Business Week Awards 2013. We need your help to nominate outstanding businesses throughout Nevada in each of our categories!

- Small Business Person of the Year
- Nevada Small Business Exporter of the Year
- Nevada Young Entrepreneur of the Year
- Nevada Entrepreneurial Success Award
- Nevada Microenterprise Person of the Year
- Nevada Woman Owned Business of the Year
- Nevada Minority Owned Business of the Year
- Nevada Rural Business of the Year

You can help by encouraging local organizations to nominate companies from their membership or clients **and** you can nominate deserving individuals and companies you know personally. Let's recognize Nevada companies which have weathered the economic storm and demonstrated excellence in their chosen industry.

The nomination form and eligibility guidelines can be found with this link to our website:

<http://www.sba.gov/about-offices-content/2/3133/news/352541> .

For additional information you may contact Delia Gomez at delia.gomez@sba.gov, 702-388-6674.

[University of Nevada School of Medicine focus groups](#)

Public Event · By [University of Nevada School of Medicine](#)

The University of Nevada School of Medicine is inviting community participation in focus groups to offer comments on marketing, communication and branding that will be held 4-5:30 pm on Tues., Nov. 13 and Thurs., Nov. 15, at The Chamber's Reno office conference room (free surface parking available). Refreshments will be provided. Sessions will be professionally facilitated; in Reno, the facilitator will be Liz Christofferson, CEO of Empower Consulting Group. Las Vegas sessions will be scheduled in December. We are seeking representation from across business and community interest sectors.

[Tribe bashes federal officials; claims they're endangering salmon](#)

Government says migrating fish in Klamath River are OK

Damon Arthur, Redding Record

Officials with the Hoopa Valley Tribe are claiming federal officials are illegally harming threatened coho salmon by reducing water flows in the Klamath River.

Letters: Water and dust at Owens Lake

Los Angeles Times

In 1999, I moved to Mammoth Lakes. While traveling on the road that skirts the Owens Lake bed, I encountered a massive dust storm that chipped the paint off my truck. From afar it looked like a regular storm, but from within, it was dark and breathing was nearly impossible.

Be sure to **RSVP today** for Part 2 of the **Ward 5 Nonprofit Workshop Series** that is scheduled for Saturday, Nov. 10, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., in City Hall Council Chambers at 495 S. Main St. I am partnering with nonprofit expert Amber Wynn to provide this free workshop to everyone interested in working at or with nonprofit agencies. This workshop will include a panel discussion of important contacts and conclude with a light mixer. Participants will leave with helpful action items for funding their organizations. RSVP by e-mail to ward5nonprofit@lasvegasnevada.gov.

Increases in College Costs for 2012/2013 Continue to Outpace Inflation

Every October, the College Board releases its *Trends in College Pricing* report that highlights college cost increases for the current academic year along with trends in the world of higher education. While costs can vary significantly depending on the region and individual college, the College Board publishes average cost figures, which are based on its survey of 3,500 colleges across the country.

To read the *Trends in College Pricing 2012* report, visit www.collegeboard.com/trends.

Following are the highlights for four-year public colleges (for both in-state and out-of-state students) and four-year private colleges. Note that the total average cost figure includes tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, transportation, and a small amount for miscellaneous expenses. This figure is often referred to as the "cost of attendance." In each category, college costs outpaced general inflation, which is currently 2.1% through September 2012, according to Consumer Price Index figures published monthly by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Public colleges (in-state students)

- Tuition and fees increased an average of 4.8% from last year to \$8,655
- Room-and-board costs increased an average of 3.7% from last year to \$9,205
- Total average cost for 2012/2013 is \$22,261

Public colleges (out-of-state students)

- Tuition and fees increased an average of 4.2% from last year to \$21,706
- Room-and-board costs increased an average 3.7% from last year to \$9,205

- Total average cost for 2012/2013 is \$35,312

Private colleges

- Tuition and fees increased an average of 4.2% from last year to \$29,056
- Room-and-board costs increased an average of 3.7% from last year to \$10,462
- Total average cost for 2012/2013 is \$43,289



Cost trends







The *Trends in College Pricing 2012* report also noted that "The data in this report confirm the widespread perception that published college prices are rising more rapidly than the prices of other goods and services. This is not a new phenomenon, but one that has persisted over the entire 30-year period documented here ... Another very significant issue is that ... incomes have declined over the past decade for families at all levels of the income distribution. In addition, families have not been able to plan for the fluctuations in the value of the assets they have saved to pay for college."


FEATURED ARTICLE

Not a Chain Link or a Picket Fence: Social Justice Pedagogy in an Urban Garden Project [read full version online](#)

By TARA AFFOLTER

There was a flurry of activity as I stepped into the urban garden that students from my college were helping construct at the Bronx Academy of Letters (BAL). Ben was attempting to set up boards to roll the wheelbarrow up the steps; Kenny was kicking a soccer ball with his siblings (waiting for the next load of dirt to arrive); Janet was checking the radish plants and Jacob began ushering me to the garden beds. A tour began and the four students pointed out the raised beds, different plants, and the barrels they had acquired and sawed in half to use as planters. Their stories bounced off of each other, overlapping into an excited and slightly more adult version of  show and tell. 

I was just about to praise the work when one of the students asked,  Has anyone talked to you about the fence?  This was soon followed by a barrage of things that needed to be discussed during my brief check-in at the garden.  The cucumber miracle,   the strawberry compote demonstration,  and various tensions between four intensely dedicated and equity minded young people approaching the work with overlapping, but sometime divergent lenses. In the exchanges that followed I glimpsed the complexity and challenge these students had truly undertaken in building a garden at an urban middle school.

"Environmental justice is seeing the environment as this piece of a very large puzzle in establishing equality and equity  but it is the glue that ties in everything. It establishes health and it establishes core human needs that will help anyone pursue whatever

empowerment or whatever betterment they need to beyond the physical needs. But we first need the environment—the air we breathe, the food we eat, in order to function as human beings. Once we are at that level we have what we need humanly in order to pursue what we need socially."

*Kenneth Williams, Middlebury College
student and founding member of the BAL garden*

Building a sustainable urban school garden (which had been initiated by a few of the dedicated teachers at the school) and creating meaningful environmental educational programming was certainly an important goal, but the project was far more than that. These students had committed to approaching all of the work by centering equity and utilizing social justice pedagogy and practices in all lessons. Each of the founding members had made connections to the intersections between environmentalism and issues of race, class, and poverty. There was an eagerness to do more than ponder these connections but instead enact environmental justice at a local and personal level. In the following pages, using journal entries and interviews with the students, I seek to chronicle and analyze social justice pedagogy that took place in this garden project.

Participants and Community

The four teachers featured in the study were all rising seniors at Middlebury College when they helped found the garden. With backgrounds in environmental studies, education, economics, geography, sociology, and political science the four students attempted to bring multiple perspectives to address this absence in their studies. This, coupled with a deep need to connect college life to home, led them to secure grants that would allow them to physically and monetarily support of the garden project.

Ms. Rodrigues

Janet Rodrigues is a multi-racial woman who identifies strongly with her Mozambique heritage. She also stresses that she is a New Yorker. Janet attended The Beacon School with Kenny. As to her identity in the garden she felt, "the students saw me as a woman of color, but I think being a woman was probably the most important part of that to them."

As the only woman in the program and the person who happened to have the least amount of gardening or environmental studies experiences, Janet felt isolated at times and yet adamant that her voice be heard in terms of not creating a top down structure in the garden. She stated,

"I guess was trying to honor the fact that not everyone needs to have these values and not everyone needs to have the attitude about the right things to eat—we shouldn't project these ideas onto the students. Yet despite the tensions and questions that emerged for Janet around the garden, her passion for the project was quite clear. For her, the garden provided a way to access some of the rich resources offered at Middlebury College and share those with the BAL students."

The Students

Most of the BAL students who participated in the garden during the summer lived in the subsidized housing across the street. Their ages ranged from 10 to 12. All the students came from an African, African American, Afro Caribbean, Latin American, or Latin Caribbean background.

The Mott Haven neighborhood of the South Bronx, where BAL is located, is a community that constitutes one of the poorest congressional districts in the U.S. The area is chronically under-served, with over half of the population below the poverty line and a plethora of health and nutritional issues. With only 12 grocery stores in all of the South Bronx serving 88,000 people, (a sharp contrast to the 35 grocery stores on the Upper West Side for 60,000 people) the neighborhood is a food desert. (Zelkha, 2011). According to Winne (2008), food deserts are places with too few choices of healthy and affordable food, and are oversaturated with unhealthy food outlets (p. xviii-xix).

Recognizing the enormity of the problem, the dedicated faculty and students at BAL committed themselves to a vision of establishing health and environmental education opportunities for their community. They procured a small grant to help facilitate the creation of a vegetable garden and begin a nutrition program. Kenny, Jacob, Janet, and Ben worked to attain more funding through grants, joined forces with BAL and the garden began to grow from an idea to a reality.

Show don't Tell: The struggle against top down knowledge

All of the teachers in the garden were very concerned about being outsiders and promoting a particular brand of environmental elitism. Thus, they approached each lesson with a critical lens and spent time reflecting on what they were doing and why. The need for this critical focus was brought into sharp relief much earlier in the project when the teachers observed a lesson and cooking demonstration from a local chef.

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