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Newsletter #2, October 1, 2020

During September, a number of items have been added to the website. You can read, see, and/or listen to them by going to the website listed above. Or you can click on the links below to connect to the new additions directly or by sections on the website.

SHARING IDEAS: September Question: **Who do you know and what do they do for and with others to make this a more hopeful and better world?** Below are responses to that question:

1. David Rhoads is a friend of mine who started two environmental sustainability groups in the Racine Metro area. Here is a link to his background and experience <https://www.lstc.edu/academics/faculty/david-rhoads> One group is Greening Greater Racine (GGR) <http://greeninggreaterracine.weebly.com/> Greening Greater Racine is an inclusive environmental movement of people, organizations, businesses, and government leaders working to inspire, educate, and motivate people to take action to make a healthier and sustainable Greater Racine area now and in the future. The group began forming in 2014. The second is Racine Green Congregations <http://greeninggreaterracine.weebly.com/ggrfaith.html>
2. Newspaper article by Alexa Haigh, President and CEO of United Way of Racine County https://journaltimes.com/news/opinion/commentary/how-i-became-comfortable-talking-about-race/article_21583d4a-8b47-5702-90d0-8c449f9a93e8.html Later in this Newsletter, under Hope-Filled Organizations, there is some information about the United Way of Racine County, WI
3. In Memoriam: Legendary Labor Priest Jack O'Malley: Fr. Jack O'Malley was a familiar face to those in the Western Pennsylvania labor movement... or employers embroiled in labor disputes with Pittsburgh workers. He'd already acquired decades of experience expressing solidarity with working men and women, from steelworkers to farmworkers, when he helped establish the Catholic Labor Network in the 1990s. Submitted by a retired priest who is active in the labor movement. <https://www.post-gazette.com/news/obituaries/2020/09/14/obituary-Father-John-Jack-OMalley-champion-labor-civil-rights-Pittsburgh-unions-workers/stories/202009120089>
4. Jim Schatzman is a friend of mine who is Executive Director of Racine Vocational Ministry. <https://www.rvmracine.org/> He is also the founder and Director of the Chorale Arts Society of

Southeastern Wisconsin. <https://choralartsonline.org/> Here is a link to a recent newspaper story about him and the hope inspiring work he is doing.

https://www.kenoshanews.com/news/local/schatzman-building-community-with-hope-faith-and-music/article_2a25ac08-e892-51c2-a958-1567e7277ba5.html

5. Submitted by a Wisconsin woman: I have a woman friend who is a retired teacher. She volunteers for the NAACP and she is White/Caucasian. She works for Equal Rights, Social Justice and ending systemic racism. My friend primarily does this by writing letters for new legislation and by making phone calls to legislative staff in her state of MI. She participates in her Local Chapter NAACP meetings. She's an inspiring woman, has a wonderful heart and a terrific sense of humor.
6. Tom Rutkowski, a friend of mine, is one of the founding members of the Clean Power Coalition of Southeast Wisconsin <https://cleanpowerwi.org/> Here is the start of the article he submitted. "Just a few weeks ago 900 fires were consuming vast areas of the western United States. At the same time hurricanes lined up in the Atlantic like flights waiting their turn to land, so many, in fact, that all the letters in our alphabet had been used to name this season's hurricanes.

Just last week, as if in response to those catastrophes, Walmart announced their target of zero emissions by 2040, following a target set by Google of becoming carbon free by 2030. In that same week, General Electric announced that they would no longer be in the business of building coal-fired power plants. On Tuesday of that week, Tesla announced plans for a million mile battery as well as plans to hit the \$100 per kilowatt-hour for batteries, a goal that will make electric cars competitive in price with combustion engine vehicles. To complement that announcement Gavin Newsom, the Governor of California, announced that only electric vehicles will be sold in the state in 15 years.

Walmart and Google and Tesla aren't exactly models of "bottom up" change, but they do represent a powerful response to climate change when leadership and action are lacking from the top down.

[Read More](#)

STORIES OF HOPE

1. "Everyone around you has a story the world needs to hear." TED Talk by Dave Isay about Story Corps and the positive impact and hope one on one conversations between people who see each other as different.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QKHk_UiQboA&feature=youtu.be Sent to me by a man in Wisconsin.

2. **The Time for Hope is Now** from Action For Happiness, 17 Aug 2020 | Louise Hall



The past few months have made us realize that change is inevitable and though we are encouraged to embrace change, sometimes it is not so easy. (Sent to me by a man in Wisconsin)

“Change can be sometimes cruel and make your world spin out of control. It can affect people in a multitude of ways. We might experience anxiety, low moods, night sweats, exhaustion or worse. The emotional pain can manifest into physical pain. The world can seem out of sync and instill a feeling that everything is not alright. We can lose all hope and feel that there is nothing to look forward to.

I know this. I have been there. I am not alone. And neither are you.”

To read more go to: <https://www.actionforhappiness.org/news/the-time-for-hope-is-now>

3. “Winnetka Riders Welcome Black Bicyclist at Pier” Group makes clear that views of white woman not shared by Jennifer Smith Richards, Chicago Tribune, September 6, 2020

<https://digitaledition.chicagotribune.com/html5/desktop/production/default.aspx?&edid=9724312d-bdc3-4438-9598-2a8aeaae6125>



4. Column: Show some love. Be good to each other. A Park Ridge cafe owner inspires us on Labor Day by Mary Schmich, September 4, 2020 Chicago Tribune

<https://www.chicagotribune.com/columns/mary-schmich/ct-met-schmich-labor-day-20200904-fckha27pxvbpfgu5wyqc2igihm-story.html>



5. “100 years after suffrage: Racine County women who have made a difference”
By Caitlin Sievers, the Racine Journal Times, September 6, 2020



Corrine Reid-Owens is one of many women in Racine County who have made a positive difference over the last 100 years. To read more, click on the following link:

https://journaltimes.com/news/local/100-years-after-suffrage-racine-county-women-who-have-made-a-difference/article_09e25d42-b80a-5c16-bb96-5b78cbcaa34c.html#utm_source=journaltimes.com&utm_campaign=%2Fnewsletter-templates%2Fnews-alert&utm_medium=PostUp&utm_content=01bd8f4bbd87b1b8e02791bc07ac6336d5dd61a8

HOPE FILLED ORGANIZATIONS

United Way Racine of Racine County



United Way
of Racine County

<https://www.unitedwayracine.org/>

The United Way of Racine County is a key contributor to hope and success from the bottom up in our communities. They are part of the United Way of America which is based in Alexandria, VA. It is a nonprofit organization which works with almost 1,200 offices throughout the country and forms coalitions of charitable organizations to pool efforts in fundraising and program support. United Way's focus is to identify and resolve pressing community issues and to make measurable changes in communities through partnerships with schools, government agencies, businesses, organized labor, financial institutions, the faith community and many others.

Wherever you live in the U.S., there is a United Way organization where you can volunteer your time and contribute financially to bring hope to people. [To read more about the United Way of Racine County, click here.](#)

The Catholic Labor Network

<http://catholiclabor.org/>



The Catholic Labor Network is a place for Catholics — lay, religious and clergy — who find inspiration in Catholic Social Teaching on labor and work.

On this site we come together to exchange information about the Church and social justice and to support working people in their struggles. We promote the cause of workers and Catholic social teaching in our labor unions, parishes and other organizations. To read more about the Catholic Labor Network, click on the link above.

THE FUTURE

Items to be added next month.

QUOTES

Our work is to build the capacity of citizens to be responsible and to become builders of community –
Peter Block

THE ARTS

One of the thousands of remarkable works of art that inspire me. I would read the poem first. Submitted by Jim Schatzman

Across the Vast Eternal Sky – Ola Gjeilo (Norwegian born composer /Julliard grad – lives in the US now) on an poem by Charles Anthony Silvestri on the theme of rebirth and using the mythical phoenix as a metaphor. Stunning! Link to Gjeilo selection- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=61FaBI-5R_k

Across the Vast Eternal Sky

Sunlight shines on my face;
This is my grace, to be
Restored, born again,
In flame.

When I was young I flew in the velvet night;
Shining by day, a firebird bathed in light!
Grey now my feathers, which once were red and gold;
My destiny to soar up to the sun

Sunlight shines on my face;
This is my grace, to be
Restored, born again,
In flame.

Do not despair that I am gone away;
I will appear again
When the sunset paints
Flames across the vast, eternal sky.

PRAYERS & SPIRITUALITY

“Out of Many One” and “The Power of Shared Heartbreak: are two reflections sent to me by a friend of mine who is a nun. The source of the reflections is the Leadership Conference of Women Religious. The reflection is attached to this email.

SHARING IDEAS New Question for October: Do you belong to any hope-filled organization? If so,

- **What is the name of the organization?**
- **What does it do/What is its Mission?**
- **Why do you do it?**

Please submit your response through the Sharing Ideas section of the website.

<https://hopefromthebottomup.com/news>

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