



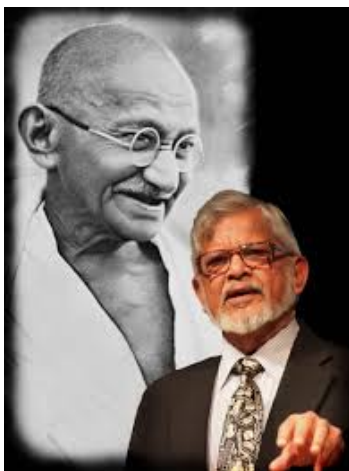
Greetings!

What can a pencil stub teach us?

In the story below a pencil stub is the main character and, through Mahatma Gandhi, speaks to us of many things: awareness, the use of natural resources, and care for other people. It captures how we need to live on a finite planet.



Lessons from Mahatma Gandhi by his grandson, Arn Gandhi



I lived with my grandfather from when I was 12. I was coming home from school one day and I had a little pencil about three inches long and I decided it was too small for me to use and I threw it away. I was sure my grandfather would give me a new one. But when I asked him, instead of giving me one, he subjected me to a lot of questions. He wanted to know how the pencil became small and why and where did I throw it away. I couldn't understand why he was

making such a fuss over a little pencil until he told me to go out and look for it. "You must be joking," I said. "You don't expect me to look for a little pencil in the dark." He said: "Yes, I do. Here is the flashlight." "I must have spent about two hours searching for that pencil and when I finally found it, I brought it to him.

"I want to you to sit here and learn two very important lessons," he said.

"The first lesson is that even in the making of a simple thing like a pencil we use a lot of the world's natural resources and when we throw them away, we are throwing away the world's natural



Good news, insights and action for positive change

~ ~ ~

**PERSIST
INSIST
PROTECT
DEFEND
DEMAND
DEFY
DISRUPT
GUIDE
CREATE**

~ ~ ~

**"Imagine"
John Lennon**

***Justice is what love looks like in public.*
Cornel West**

~ ~ ~

***Because I always have a choice, I choose love.*
Deepak Chopra**

***Come, Come, whoever you are.
Ours is not a caravan of despair. --Rumi***

resources and that is violence against nature. And the second lesson is that because in an affluent society we can afford to buy all these things in bulk, we over-consume the resources of the world and because we over-consume them, we are depriving people elsewhere of these resources and they have to live in poverty and that is violence against humanity."

[Read the full text](#) in which Arun Gandhi speaks of the "grain of wheat" he got from his grandfather. It's a beautiful story. [This is the second of two articles from *The Optimist*. Scroll down the page to find this article.]

CLIMATE ACTION: Connecting Carbon Offset Credits & Local Communities



Did you know that Delta Airlines purchased 2.5 million carbon credits in 2017 to offset their carbon emissions? Generally these credits go to reforestation and clean energy projects around the world. Now, thanks to an intermediary company

called Urban Offsets, Delta is able to partner with a major customer, like Duke University, to direct those offset credits into tree-planting projects in Duke's local community, Raleigh, North Carolina. [Read more.](#)

CLIMATE ACTION: Chile Phases Out Coal

Chile's Environment Minister says this is the "*beginning* of the end of coal." This is especially significant because Chile gets 35 - 40% of its electricity from coal. [Read more.](#)



Have you heard of B Corp?



No, this is not a military battalion! Quite the opposite. B Corp stands for "Benefit Corporation." These are mission-based companies who are not only serving the financial interests of their investors, but also benefitting their communities, employees and the environment. They receive certification by a non-profit organization called B Lab. B Corps is to

business what Fair Trade certification is to coffee, or USDA certification is to milk. This is akin to the Environmental and Social Responsibility Amendment proposed by the Network of Spiritual Progressives which seeks to charter corporations based on their ability to prove responsibility to

Every single person on this earth has the power to change the world.
Emma Thompson
Actress and Activist

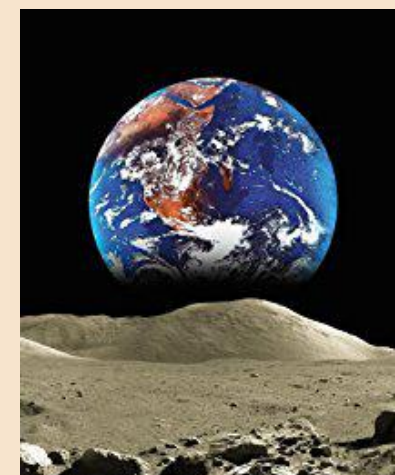
When the people lead, the leaders follow.
Gandhi

~ ~ ~

FOR THE LOVE OF EARTH

A LIVING EARTH ECONOMY

CLIMATE CHANGE



[For the Love of Earth](#)

David Korten

A new way to look at how we might heal and regenerate our Earth

Such a good article

[Our Global Ecological Footprint and Earth Overshoot Day 2017](#)

David Korten

[Climate Change or](#)

social and environmental issues. There are over 2000 companies worldwide that are certified B Corps. Patagonia, Kickstarter and Etsy are familiar B Corps companies. If you would like more uplifting information on B Corps try these:

[FAQ about Benefit Corporations](#)

[List of B Corps](#)

[B the Change](#)

[Will Wall Street Embrace B Corps?](#)

Your Good News for the Month



I am always heartened to learn of big corporations changing how they do business in order to be more environmentally and socially conscious. Here we have Nike's Chief Sustainability Officer, Hannah Jones, talking about how she sees social responsibility as an opportunity to innovate. The article and video are encouraging. She says, "It doesn't matter what the U.S. administration is doing; we are all moving to renewable energy. Nike will be at 100% renewable energy in all our facilities in the Americas within the next couple of years. And it's not just because it's an act of benevolence. It's because it's good for business." [Read and watch the video.](#)



And check this out! McDonald's will stop foam packaging by the end of 2018. Shareholder and customer activism does count! [Read the article.](#)

AGELESS WISDOM

*I think it's pointless to be hopeless.
You waste your present and your future.*
--Malala Yousafzai

[System Change?](#)
by Local Futures

UPLIFTING STORIES & INNOVATIONS



[What's a WET Plant?](#)

WET stands for waste-to-energy. In Dubai this facility will turn 60% of its annual garbage production into energy for 120,000 homes. China is building a similar plant.



FAVORITE RESOURCES

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality Project](#)

[The Small Planet Institute](#)

[Local Futures](#)

[Network of Spiritual Progressives](#)

[Project Heaven on Earth](#)

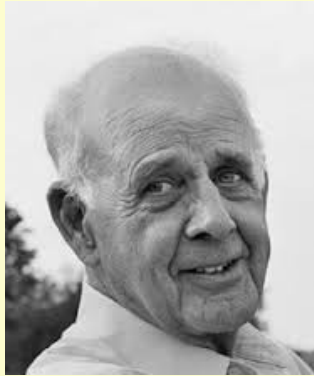
[Yes! magazine](#)

[The Optimist Daily](#)

[The Shift Network, Catalyst e-zine](#)



[VirginiaMudd.com](#)
[Desert Rose Press](#)

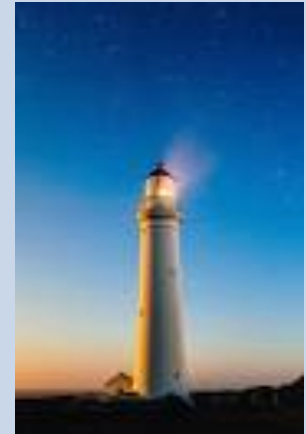


*In the dark of the moon,
in flying snow,
in the dead of winter,
war spreading,
families dying,
the world in danger,
I walk the rocky
hillside, sowing*

clover.
--Wendell Berry



**Holding Heartbreak
and Hope at the
Same Time**



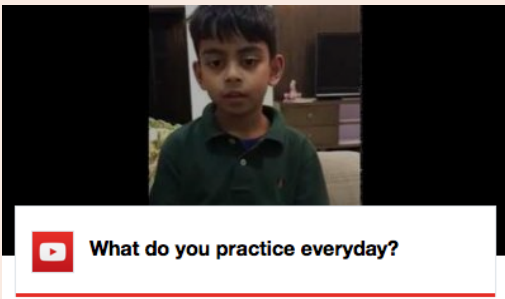
[In this month's column](#) I reflect on this extremely challenging time of great change in our lives. As historian and author Diane Butler Bass says, "Exponential change creates exponential fear along with exponential hope."

So how do we navigate such a stressful time?

[Read on. . .](#)



A YouTube to Change Your Days



"What do you practice everyday?" This 2 minute video will captivate and delight you, and maybe even inspire you to change something in your life as it did mine.

"What do you practice everyday?" Because what you practice you will get good at."



May your inner and outer travels this month bring

**Make Tracks. Where
Will Yours Go?**

The title of the painting on the left is "Make Tracks. Where will yours go?" Seeing our tracks on the snowy road made me think of Australian explorer, Robin Davidson, who crossed Australia with her dog and 4 camels in 1977. We are all

meaning and joy to your life.

Virginia - Gibi

explorers on this
adventure of Life.