



Greetings!

## The Soul of America It's in Our Hands. Our Time is Now



### Cave of the Hands

The Cave of the Hands (Cueva de las Manos) is a series of caves in Argentina dating back to 7300 BC. Seen in the context of the convergence of many crises in this country and the world I find multiple ways to interpret these hands: people raising hands asking for help, for recognition and acknowledgement; people expressing despair, outrage; people expressing hope and power; people raising their hands to speak. One big way we can speak out is by voting.

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### Voting for the Soul of America



Stories, insights  
and action  
for a world that works  
for all of us



*Justice is what love looks  
like in public.*

Cornel West

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*When the people lead,  
the leaders follow.*

Gandhi



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### UPLIFTING STORIES & INNOVATIONS



New Jersey will be the  
first state in the U.S. to  
require a climate change  
curriculum in K-12 grades.

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## The Next Election

I want to focus on one of our many crises--the fight to take back our democracy, or as author Bruce Berlin calls it, "The Struggle for the Soul of America." What we do in this next election will determine the outcome not only of our country's democracy, but the evolution of every other pressing issue of our time: the climate crisis, racial and social justice, wealth inequality, health care.

**Who will we vote for?** Will we vote for a person to be president who honors the Constitution and our democracy? A president who will restore environmental protections and take our climate crisis seriously? A president who is civil and truthful? A president who genuinely cares about all Americans and who will listen to all of us? A president who can be an effective leader in a time of upheaval? A president who does not blame others for failures.? You understand my drift . . .

**One of the perks and responsibilities of living in a democracy--of living a democracy--is that we vote at every election.** We've all assumed that we had leaders and representatives that were looking out for the best interests of all of us, not just the wealthy and the powerful. Given what's happened in the last 3 years it's vital to our future, as a country, as a democracy, as a species and as a planet that each of us do a little more than we would normally do to ensure that we elect a president who will respect and work with science, restore values and democracy to this country, and care about all of us.

### HERE'S WHAT WE CAN DO



There is justifiable concern (and outrage) over the administration's efforts to undermine the postal service of this country. It is recommended we verify our registration to vote and request an absentee ballot as early as possible, or to vote early. **Excellent resources:** [Vote.org](#), [Plan Your Vote](#), and [When and How to Vote in All 50 States](#).

**Here are other resources to guide you in getting more involved.**

My choice has been to sign on with [VoteForward.org](#) to write Get-Out-The-Vote (GOTV) letters. 5 letters, 15 minutes.

[Vote Forward.org](#)  
[Vote Save America](#)  
[Voter Protection Corps](#)  
[Fair Fight](#)  
[Nonprofit Vote](#)

**This is an important article to read:**

["Where the Post Office Goes, So Goes America,"](#) by Chris Winters.

"The USPS doesn't 'lose' money, it costs money, because it's a service, not a corporation."

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### "The Next Election is About the Next 10,000 Years"

Our vote is our chance to have a say. In the case of the climate, that is not just about what will happen for the next four years. It's about



### [Paved with Plastic](#)

A California highway is the first in the U.S. to pave in part with recycled plastic. 150,000 bottles per mile.

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### [South Korea's Green New Deal](#)

"I want to de-carbonize Korean Society. This is my personal mission. This is why I went into politics. . . . It makes economic sense." Soyoung Lee, Member of Parliament

## FAVORITE RESOURCES

[350.org](#)  
[Climate Reality Project](#)  
[The Small Planet Institute](#)  
[Local Futures](#)  
[Network of Spiritual Progressives](#)  
[Yes! magazine](#)  
[The Optimist Daily](#)

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

### [My Column](#)

includes the GOTV (Get Out The Vote) letter I'm writing to urge unlikely voters to VOTE. Also some wise words about how we can calmly and



what will happen for the next 10,000 years.  
[Read the article by Bill McKibben.](#)

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effectively engage and endure the next two months before the election.

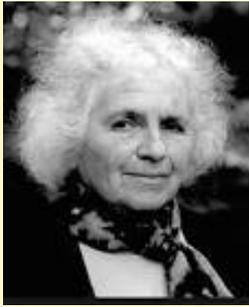
[Read more.](#)

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## WISDOM FOR OUR TIMES



*Democracy is not a state/ It is an act, and each generation must do its part to help build what we call the Beloved Community, a nation and world society at peace with itself. --John Lewis*

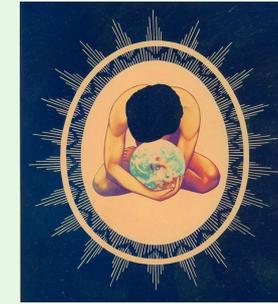


*The only recognizable feature of hope is action.*

*Let us go forth with fear and courage and rage to save the world  
--Grace Paley*



*Justice will not be served until those who are unaffected are as outraged as those who are.  
--Benjamin Franklin*



## PASS IT ON VOTE VOTE VOTE

You know this is the most important election of our lifetime. We need to engage ourselves, our family and friends and our communities to bring as many people as we can into the democratic process of voting.

If this newsletter has contributed to your life in some way, please send it along. We all have a unique part to play in making change so that there is a healthy Earth for all.

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## "Wettstreit zu viert"



Salut Salon is an all-women chamber music quartet from Hamburg, Germany founded in 2002. In "Competitive Foursome" they entertain us with masterful music and fun. [Watch and enjoy here.](#)

Wishing you all a safe and spirited month of September  
*Gibi / Virginia*

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