

Greetings!

## Considering Our Future Earthshots and Democracy



### Prince William Calls for Earthshots

Drawing inspiration from John F. Kennedy's "Moonshot" in 1961 Prince William gives a moving, inspiring, straightforward and urgent call for us to set and act on Earthshot goals.

[Transcript and 7 min. TED Talk right here.](#)

*"But now, rather than a Moonshot for this decade, we need Earthshots. We must harness that same spirit of human ingenuity and purpose and turn it with laser sharp focus and urgency on the most pressing challenge we have ever faced, repairing our planet. The shared goals for our generation are clear. Together, we must protect and restore nature, clean our air, revive our oceans, build a waste-free world and fix our climate. And we must strive to do all of this in a decade. . . . every single one of us has a role to play in harnessing whatever opportunity we have [to reach these goals]."*



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

~ ~ ~

*Justice is what love  
looks like in public.*

Cornel West

~ ~ ~

### Favorite Resources

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

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

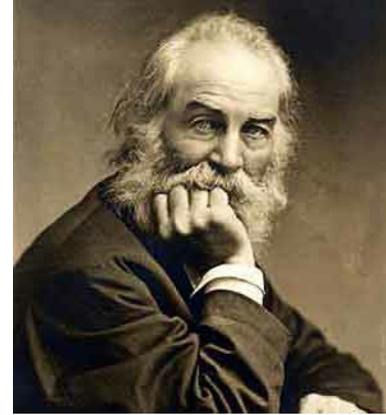
## What about the future of Democracy?

### Walt Whitman on Democracy

"I can conceive of no better service than boldly

exposing the weakness, liabilities and infinite corruptions of democracy. . . .

"I conceive of no flourishing and heroic elements of Democracy in the United States, or of Democracy maintaining itself at all, without the Nature-element forming a main part, to be its health-element and beauty-element, to really underlie the whole politics, sanity, religion and art of the New World." [Read the article here.](#)



## David Korten on "America is Not a Democracy, But We Must Become One."



"That we are not a democracy is a harsh reality we must recognize, confront, and change, irrespective of what the founders did or did not intend.

"Our future depends on our joining together to bring forth a new civilization that is truly democratic in ways that go far beyond periodic elections to choose among candidates offered by competing elite political factions.

"Given the challenges now before us, we must learn to organize as a democracy of all the people, by all the people and for all the people all the time. Such deep democracy will require crafting a shared vision of possibility, grounded in our reality as the people of a finite, interdependent, living Earth. "

[Read the article here.](#)

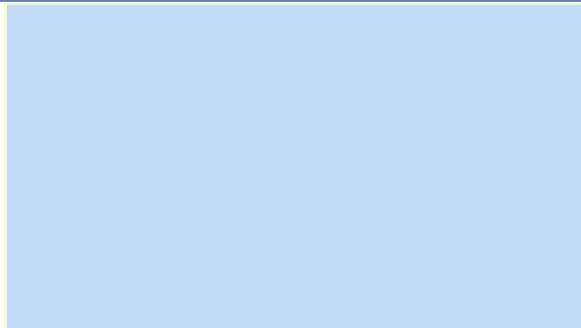
## Climate Literacy and Labels

"We should really slap carbon labels on everything." The author of [this article](#) proposes ways for us to "get the most bang for our buck," by informing each of us about the impact of our purchases and actions.

To this end, [Sweden has opened a climate-conscious store](#) that will guide buyers to make informed decisions. Prices of food items are based on their carbon footprint.



## Uplifting Stories & Innovations





## Food Waste

[A top chef in Brazil makes creative use of food waste](#)

This is a remarkable story of Chef Regina Tchelly whose food and teachings not only help eliminate food waste but also bring food justice and security to impoverished communities.

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40% of food produced worldwide is trashed and accounts for 8% of greenhouse gas emissions. [Here's what Vermont is doing to tackle this problem.](#)

## Climate . . . . Justice

[Reparations for Past Carbon Emissions](#)  
[Microsoft and Velux](#) are working to account for past emissions. "Looking beyond carbon neutrality and taking responsibility for historic emissions is a concrete expression of leadership through the 'polluter pays' principle," [Another article here.](#)

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[Why is a climate organization talking about racial justice?](#)

[Read why from Climate Reality Project](#)

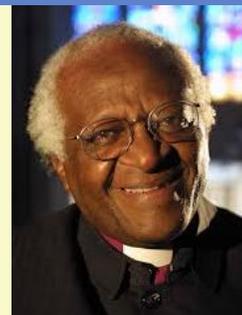
## Wisdom for Our Time



*Policies are the rules of the world we live in. Changing the world means changing the rules.*  
--Makani Themba-Nixon



*Vision without action is merely a dream. Action without vision just passes the time. Vision with action can change the world* --Joel A. Barker



*Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.*--Desmond Tutu

## Starry Starry Night



### My Column

This month I want to share with you some Big Picture thoughts



### **The Magic of Vincent Van Gogh**

The art and the artist come alive in a most extraordinary exhibit located in Atelier des

Lumieres, France. The music that

accompanies [this 3 minute film](#) is based on Don McLean's song, "Vincent," better known as "Starry Starry Night." McLean wrote the song in 1971 as a tribute to Van Gogh.

**Wishing you a brilliant and beautiful holiday season, even at a distance!**

**Virginia / Gibi**

from people I respect and whose wisdom speaks to the uncertain and chaotic times we are in. I share excerpts from Sister Joan Chittister, Robert Hubbell and the editors of *YES!* Their voices help to give us a vision of where we are at and where we are going.



## **One last thing . . .**



### **A NEW LOOK**

As you can see this newsletter is a bit different. Constant Contact is upgrading to a new, more standardized format that is geared to the predominant use of mobile devices. Figuring out the new program is a steep learning curve for me. I will miss the old style (I don't like change!) but hope we'll all get used to the new look!



### **Thank You!**

Over the years of these newsletters many of you have sent me news items, music, images, ideas, and other inspiring stories that I have in turn included in them. I want to thank you all and look forward to more in 2021.