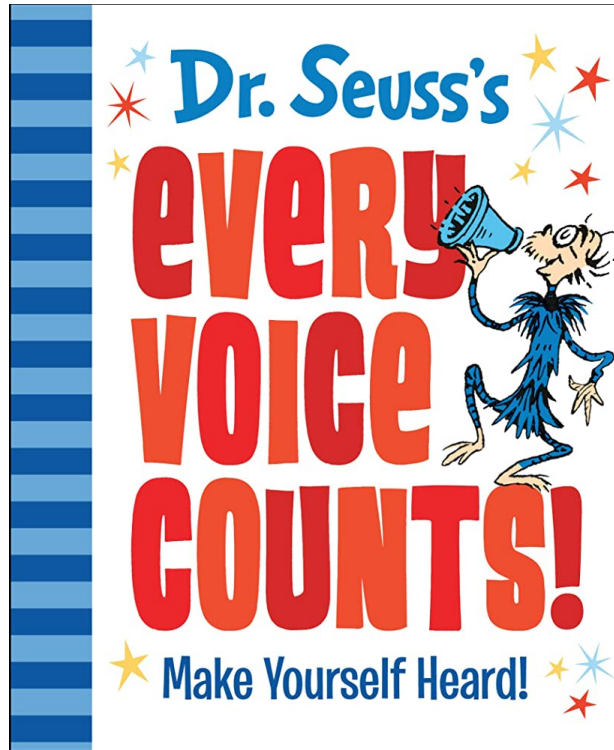


Greetings!

*Wisdom from Dr. Seuss*



It has been said many times that "**Democracy is not a spectator sport.**" Over the years we have watched the steady deterioration of our democracy as those in power attack and chip away at personal freedoms, voting rights, reproductive rights, and equal protection under the law. We have no sensible gun safety regulations. We have book banning and demonization of Others. We have suppression of dissent and gerrymandering to ensure Republicans stay in power. We see constant attacks on truth, justice and the fundamentals of American democracy. On top of it all, at the core of it all, we have a climate crisis that undermines our essential life on this planet. What'll it take to turn the tide?

**It is way past time for every small and loud voice to speak up and out. It's time to take a stand.** We have seen over the years that when people organize and unite change happens. We are at that kind of time now and we can see people rising and hear voices calling for change. Let Dr. Seuss be our guide!



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**

[Yes! magazine](#)  
[The Optimist Daily](#)

[350.org](#)

[Climate Reality  
Project](#)

[The Small Planet  
Institute](#)

[Local Futures  
Chop Wood, Carry](#)

[Water](#)

[Reasons to be](#)

[Cheerful](#)

[Future Crunch](#)

\*\*\*

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

~ ~ ~

# Make Change



## The message from Dr. Seuss via YouTube

Enjoy and take in the unique illustrations and voice of Dr. Seuss's *Every Voice Counts: Make Yourself Heard!* as narrated by Mrs. F. Here are the opening lines: *Every voice counts. You can talk... or sing... or shout. Loud or soft your voice counts. You are unique. Your voice is unique. And when you join your voice with others, big things*

*can happen. Use your voice to make change.* Dr. Seuss was a 20th century storyteller so I would add to the list of things you can do to make yourself heard: write letters and postcards and emails; sign petitions to legislators, phonebank, donate to worthy causes, show up to vote, resist and protest. [Watch here.](#)

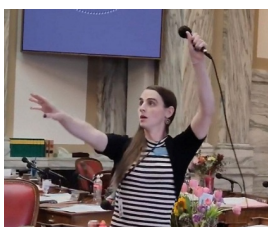


## The U.N. is negotiating a treaty that could solve the plastic problem. Here's what you need to know, and do.

As per The Story of Stuff Project, "175 countries are currently negotiating a legally-binding, international treaty on plastic pollution that could change the world. It's a big deal. But at the same time, the question

remains whether this treaty will be strong enough, or if certain countries or companies will derail the progress that could be achieved." Sign the attached petition to make yourself heard. [Here's the article, 3 minute video and petition.](#)

The Story of Stuff Project works to build a world focused on "better" instead of "more." Learn more about them [here.](#)



## "The suppression has begun. But we can stop it."

In this edition of [The Status Kuo](#), author Jay Kuo says, "Silence or indifference by the larger public will only embolden more bad actors in other states. Now is the time to speak out and speak up for free speech." Kuo is referring to incidents of suppression of dissent in Tennessee, Florida and Montana by Republican-controlled state

governments. Pictured here is Democrat Zooey Zephyr, a trans member of the Montana House of Representatives, who spoke out against a bill that would ban gender affirming health care to minors. She was barred from the rest of the legislative session.

# Good Earth News



## An online marketplace for recycled plastic

**Cirplus.** The company name for the world's first global recycling platform for plastic is a

wordplay, meant to indicate both the need to move to a circular economy and the waste of a usable product. Cirplus connects companies that collect recyclable plastic with manufacturers who want the stuff. The US tops the world at 287

## Take a look at the climate cost of air travel, private jets and superyachts



**The Amsterdam Airport is banning private jets.** The airport said that private and small business travel that takes off from Amsterdam burns around 20 times more climate-warming carbon dioxide per passenger

pounds of plastic waste per person per year,  
[Read more.](#)



### Plastic bags turned into pavers

An Egyptian startup is tackling ocean pollution by turning plastic bags into outdoor paving tiles that are tougher than cement. To date, the company has recycled five million bags and hopes to increase that number tenfold by 2025. It's good news for the Mediterranean Sea, which suffers from 74,000 tonnes of waste every year from Egypt alone. [Read more.](#)



### Plastic bottles in exchange for tuition

The Morit International School, located in a densely populated area of Nigeria, has launched an initiative that allows students to pay their tuition fees using plastic bottles. This initiative is not only helping to keep the environment clean, but it is also promoting awareness about the importance of sustainable living, recycling, and reducing plastic waste. [Read more here.](#)

than commercial flights. Climate activists said that the airport was the largest single source of emissions in the country, releasing approximately 26.5 billion pounds of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere each year. [Read more here.](#)

**As for yachts: "The Superyachts of Billionaires are Starting to Look a Lot Like Theft."** According to this article the diesel fuel powering Mr. G's boating habit spews an estimated 16,320 tons of carbon-dioxide-equivalent gases into the atmosphere annually, almost 800 times what the average American generates in a year. [Read more about superyachts and private jets here](#)

## Wisdom for Our Time



*A vibrant, fair, and regenerative future is possible — not when thousands of people do climate justice activism perfectly but when millions of people do the best they can.* XIYE BASTIDA, 21 year old Mexican activist

### A Medley of Marimba Band Music



A while back I posted a joyful, fun, uplifting YouTube of South African school girls playing Vivaldi "like you've never heard it before!" It's my favorite, but I've found a few others that are also totally fun and unusual.

[My favorite.](#)

[The Goede Hoop Marimba Band](#)  
[Hillcrest College Marimba Band](#)  
[South African Marimba Festival 2009](#)



### My Column

This month I have listed the resources I rely on for current news and commentary; all are pro-democracy. I've also included the personal thoughts of one of those authors, which I share.

*Wishing you an active month and Happy Solstice*  
*Virginia / Gibi*

