

Just World Festival 2009

February 27th
2:00-7:00 p.m.

You must be the change you wish to see in the world.
- Mahatma Gandhi

Annandale High School is pleased to welcome students, teachers and guests from across Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia to celebrate the fourth annual Just World Festival. This event allows attendees to meet new people, learn new things, sample foods and dances from all over the world, and most importantly, understand the individual's role in making the world a better place.

It is often said that the first step to change is awareness. This awareness is one of the primary aims of the Just World Festival. We believe by learning more about the world, we will be able to "share our humanity", which is one of the themes of the IB community.

We hope you will enjoy the eclectic selection of food, dance and cultures represented here. But most of all, we hope that you return with an awareness of the interconnectedness of everyone's actions, and find some ways to take action and make a difference in the world.



Schedule of Events

2:00 – 6:00 **Registration, Exhibits, Bistro, Fair Trade Coffee Shop in the Cafeteria**

2:45 – 3:05 **Orientation in Clausen Hall**
Opening Keynote Speakers:
AHS Principal John Ponton
AHS IB Coordinator Erin Albright
Just World Student Organizer Aishwarya Venkat

3:15 – 6:00 Workshops

3:15 – 4:00 **Session 1**

4:15 – 5:00 **Session 2**

5:15 – 6:00 **Session 3**

6:00 – 7:00 **Closing Celebration with DC WritersCorps**
Make a pledge on the Promise Wall: How are YOU going to make a

Exhibitions

2:00 – 6:00

Auditorium Lobby

Africa Action

This organization dates back to 1953, when the American Committee on Africa was founded in New York. As recently as 2001, Africa Action formed as a merger of three of the oldest Africa advocacy groups in the United States. Representative Bomba Briggs will be presenting information about issues currently affecting Africa, and the political and social initiatives you can take to improve the country's current condition. Africa Action's mission is to change US-Africa relations to promote political, economic and social justice in Africa. They aim to provide accessible information and analysis. They mobilize popular support for campaigns to achieve this mission.

AHS Library

The library will display various books that relate to creating a more just and peaceful world. The books will include the ideas of caring for our environment and other themes that relate to the festival's goal. Students will be able to browse the selection of books and have their questions answered.

Beyond Nuclear

This exhibit will be showcasing banners, posters, pamphlets, maps, books, videos, etc. and the sustainable alternatives to such risks, such as energy efficiency and renewable energy to replace nuclear power. Beyond Nuclear aims to educate and activate the public about the connections between nuclear power and nuclear weapons and the need to abandon both in order to safeguard our future.

Building Bridges

Building Bridges is a newly initiated club at Annandale High School. The goal is to take students from all different nationalities and help them come together and branch out of their normal groups of friends. This club especially focuses on helping ESOL students become able to be interactive members of the community and helping them fully take advantage of the many new opportunities around them. The exhibit will educate others about the importance of being accepting and open to all types of people disregarding race, color, culture etc.

Blu Gnu

BluGnu is a fair trade organization that brings together skilled artisans in developing countries and global consumers by fairly compensating the artisans for selling their products in the global market. Their exhibit will be selling a variety of fair trade crafts and jewelry, and will also promote the idea of fair trade and sustainability. Items exhibited will spur questions and discussion concerning the materials and traditional techniques used by different artisans as well as their sustainability and the geographic origin of the items.

Darfur

The exhibit will have posters and pictures that have been taken of the conflict, displaying the faces of those who are affected. Brochures will include a brief history of the conflict. There will be knowledgeable volunteers managing the exhibit at all times dedicated to answering questions and sharing important information about this difficult issue.

Green America (previously Co Op America)

Green America is an organization that is dedicated to empowering individuals to make informed choices that promote social justice and sustainability. It also encourages green and fair trade business principles around the world, and was recently the host of the Green Festival 2008. This inspiring exhibit will provide information about harnessing economic power—the strength of consumers, investors, businesses and the marketplace to create socially just and environmentally sustainable society. Green America representatives Alix Davidson and Yochi Zakai will be available for additional information about this socially aware organization.

Green Atoms

The Green Atoms is a club at Annandale High School dedicated to raising awareness and taking action in the effort to make AHS and the community more environmentally friendly. They will be presenting various objects and show how much oil it takes to make them—What alternatives are there? The exhibit will include small quizzes.

Handicrafts from Around the World

This organization works with small-scale producers in Madagascar, Botswana, Ghana, Guatemala, Mali, Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines to promote the creation and distribution of marketable products that encompasses the use of traditional crafts. Items exhibited will spur questions and discussions concerning the materials and traditional techniques used by the artisans as well as their sustainability and the geographic provenance of the items.

Invisible Children: The Exhibit

*This exhibition takes the movie *Invisible Children* a step further, and informs and inspires students to be involved with the group itself. The exhibit, which will be presented by Aleena Inthaly, Angeli Espeleta, Nancy Ho from Robert E. Lee High School, includes flyers, brochures, posters and handouts about what students can do to end war and child soldier recruitment in Uganda.*

Metro Silver Diner

METRO Silver Diner is an organic and environmentally green restaurant. The exhibit will display the diner's environmentally green packaging and cleaning supplies. They will discuss how as a commercial business, it is so important to help the environment. Coupons will be handed out for visitors to have a chance to try Metro Silver Diner.

Mountain View High School

Posters and pictures will be shown to inform visitors of the ancient Chinese Culture and how it relates to justice and peace. The exhibit will introduce several famous thinkers in Chinese history and their main philosophies.

Paper to Pearls

This organization showcases and has available for sale wonderful paper bead jewelry made by women from the internal refugee camps of Northern Uganda. Representatives Barbara Moller and Megan McCann will be speaking with audience members about the project, how the jewelry is made and how people can support this initiative.

Play Pumps

Did you know that 1 in 6 people throughout the world lack access to safe drinking water? PlayPumps International is an organization dedicated to improving communities by providing them with clean drinking water, play equipment and healthy living conditions. Learn why clean drinking water is important, and how you can take part in this initiative.

Powershift 2009

Powershift 2009 is the largest conference on climate change activism ever held. The conference will be held from February 27 through March 2 in Washington D.C. Attendees will have a chance to personally learn from some of the world's leading scientists, advocates and organizers about global warming solutions. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Van Jones are some of the confirmed speakers, and the bands Santigold and ROOTS will also be performing in concert. After the training weekend, all the participants will lobby together on Monday, March 2nd. So sign up for the biggest youth conference on climate change in history!

Robinson Secondary

The purpose of this exhibit is to promote the idea of "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" and to encourage youth participation in the effort to be environmentally friendly. Startling statistics will be displayed regarding the amount of plastic used and discarded by Americans every day. You may ask yourself, what can I do to help the environment? All your questions will be answered here with "Go green" tips that will provide quick and easy ways to reduce your carbon footprint. One hundred percent biodegradable water bottles will be promoted as an alternative to plastic water bottles.

Rotary Club

The Rotary club is a humanitarian organization with more than 1.2 million members around the world. With its motto "Service Above Self," this organization has been part of many projects directed to making our world a better place and providing relief to those who need it. One of the main and first projects carried out by the organization is the eradication of Polio.

SAFE Club

Annandale High School's SAFE Club is part of NOVAM's YouthSpeak outreach. This exhibition will provide information about HIV/ AIDS and other STDs, and how you can raise awareness about these issues in your own community.

STAND For Conscience

Become informed about the genocide in Darfur and how you can take action against it. This Annandale High School club is dedicated to informing students and the community about the conflicts that have been continuing on.

Shelter Box

The Rotary Club of Springfield will be representing Shelter Box USA, an organization whose aim is to deliver humanitarian assistance to survivors of natural or man-made disasters anywhere in the world within 2-7 days. Each Shelter Box can provide shelter, safe water and basic needs for 10 people to survive for a minimum of 6 months. The organization, which first shipped Shelter Boxes in 2001, has responded to over 80 disasters in 50 countries around the world. Shelter Box Representatives Wayne Chiles and David Ogden will be involved in further discussions about disaster relief.

Student Conservation Association

This association builds the next generation of conservation leaders by providing youth the opportunity to perform hands-on community service in a variety of fields. Learn more about how you can become involved in everyday projects that positively impact the environment. The exhibit will include brochures explaining the program, small games and a representative from the SCA to answer questions about community service opportunities in the region.

Teens for Safe Cosmetics: Teens Turning Green

This program is an offshoot of Teens Turning Green, a national team of teens educating communities about safe, healthy and green lifestyle choices. Speaker Lisa Wertheim and other teens from around the region will be informing people about why alternative personal care products are better for the body and for the planet. Become educated about safe and healthy lifestyle choices that create healthier homes, schools and communities that are free from harmful chemicals and pollutants. Learn how to advocate for legislation that protects our health.

The Bistro (2:30 – 6:00 p.m.)

A delicious variety of food from all over the world will be available for purchase in the Annandale High School Bistro during the Just World Festival. Made especially by Chef Gloninger and her Culinary Arts students, these foods reflect the diversity of the world and show how healthy food choices affect the entire world. The plates these foods are served on are biodegradable and made of bagasse, a kind of sugarcane.

Fair Trade Coffee Shop (2:30 – 6:00 p.m.)

Hosted by members of the AHS Bistro, the Coffee Shop in the Cafeteria provides Fair Trade coffee throughout the Just World Festival. Drop by during a free session, or during breaks, to learn more about Fair Trade, why it is important, and where you can buy Fair Trade products. The Just World/Interact Club will also be selling Divine Chocolate and Just World t-shirts right next to the coffee shop.

Workshops

(Refer to schedule for session times and rooms)

400,000 Faces: The World Said, “Never Again”

Robinson High School senior and IB Diploma Candidate Alex Zorychta will be presenting an interactive PowerPoint presentation about the history of the conflict in Darfur. The session will include a role-play of the conflict to make the experience more personal. Zorychta has been working on this project to raise awareness about the crisis in Darfur since December 2006. After stumbling upon a Facebook group for the 400,000 and counting victims of the genocide, he soon became a representative of Robinson in the project 400,000 Faces that has held rallies in over 250 universities and high schools across North America. Today, over 300 t-shirts advocating the end of this crisis have been sold as a fundraiser, and serve as black and white reminders of the atrocities in Darfur.

Colombia: The Landmine Project

This workshop will be presented by Lehana Penaranda, who is also presenting Zimbabwe: Education for Precious. Lehana, who is 16 years of age, spent 15 weeks traveling through Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia on a partial scholarship with The Traveling School. The trip changed her life and she hopes to further her understanding on Latin American conflict in the future. Her goal is to spread consciousness on the situation in Colombia and raise money for Colombian landmine victims, something she has been doing on-and-off for the past two years. The workshop includes a jewelry-making session to Colombian music, and all proceeds will go to the United Nations' Adopt-a-Minefield program.

DC WritersCorps

DC WritersCorps is a non-profit community service organization that uses literature and media arts to highlight student creativity beyond the classroom. This workshop will focus on informing and engaging today's youth in slam poetry. The DC Slam Team will present samples of slam, explain the techniques involved in composing slam poetry, and teach audience members how to bring out their inner slammer!

Egyptian Dance

Annandale High School student Engy Hamouda will be presenting one of the most important aspects of Egyptian culture: dance. She will demonstrate techniques, variations and styles of Egyptian dance, along with traditional Egyptian music and dresses. This session requires a lot of audience participation, so be ready to move!

GSE to South Africa: What Kind of World do you Want?

This session will examine the future of Southern Africa through the eyes of a teacher's visit to the area in 2006. The workshop will compare the educational systems and community resources of a 2-3rd world country to Fairfax County USA. The presentation will also hope to inspire knowledge, understanding, empathy and motivation to do something to answer the question “What kind of world do YOU want?” as we are all citizens of the World and need to take care of each other. Presenter Michelle Peters is the IB-MYP Community and Service Leader at Glasgow Middle School. She graduated from Virginia Wesleyan College with a degree in Recreational Therapies in Psychiatry and Brain/Spinal Injury and a Master Degree from George Mason University in Special Education.

HIV/AIDS Jeopardy: Empowering through Knowledge

This interactive session will be hosted by Kimberly Jappell and Molly Willis of the Northern Virginia Aids Ministry (NOVAM's) YouthSpeak initiative, which provides high school students the opportunity to be trained as peer educators and leaders in their community. The session includes a game of HIV Jeopardy to increase students' knowledge about STDs, and an information session about how to proceed to share this information with others. Kimberly Jappell is the current Youth Speak Program Coordinator, and Molly Willis is the National AIDS Fund AmeriCrops member at NOVAM.

Hope in a Box

The ShelterBox project was created by a Rotarian in Cornwall, England in 2000. Now it is one of the most effective international disaster relief agencies in the world. Join Kim A. McLeLan as he discusses the history of the ShelterBox initiative, and how these boxes will help save lives. The complete Shelter Box will be on display, and participants are encouraged to ask questions to increase their knowledge about these initiatives. Kim A McLeLan is a local businessman, Rotarian and Scout volunteer, who is committed to the ShelterBox project because of his interest in world affairs.

Indian Dance

Annandale High School students Shriya Adhikary will be presenting an enjoyable evening of Indian dancing! Get acquainted with Bollywood music, dresses, jewelry and dance steps. Watch various demonstrations with a wide range of styles and techniques. This session requires a lot of audience participation so come ready to dance!

Invisible Children

Robert E. Lee High School's Peer Mediation group led by Aleena Inthaly will present an informative and engaging session on Ugandan child soldiers and the atrocities they have to face in order to survive. Invisible Children Inc. is a non-profit organization that encourages activism by informing people about war-affected regions and by partnering with affected communities to improve the quality of life of the people living in conflict regions.

Jewelry with a Mission

How can something as simple as a bracelet make a difference in the world? Barbara Moller, the President of Voices for Global Change, explains how. Voices for Global Change is an organization that is dedicated to giving marginalized groups the voice to fully participate and have a role in their communities and countries. Participants will learn more about conscious shopping, and how individual choices can lead to big change.

Latin America and US Policy: How you can make a difference!

2008 AHS graduate Sofia Vivero and Judith Quintal return to discuss about how teenagers can be involved in Latin American politics. This workshop will deal with three main countries that the Latin American Working Group works with: Colombia, Cuba, and Mexico and how they are affected by US policy. Social activism and networking ideas will be discussed as means through which young people can affect the United State's decisions concerning Latin America. Sofia is currently an intern at LAWG and is pursuing a degree in Latin American Studies with a minor in Anthropology at George Mason University. Judith Quintal, also a LAWG intern, is currently pursuing an International Affairs major and Economics minor at James Madison University.

Music for Peace

Music has always been regarded as the universal human language. Now learn how to use the power of music to promote world peace. This session will be conducted by Mary Shapiro, who performs and promotes Sounds of Hope benefit concerts and Dennis McDonoegh, performs with the Spook Handy Trio and lead singer with the JUNG WOMBATS! Attentive ears, active voices, creative minds and supportive souls requested. Learn how to turn your passion for music into a campaign for world peace!

My Time as an Over-Loved Guest in India

Annandale High School English teacher Niki Holmes recently returned from a two-month trip coordinated by Rotary International in Kerala, India. Join her to learn about the differences and similarities between Indian and American cultures, societies and ways of life. The presentation will include pictures and video footage from their trip. A Q&A session about how this adventure will follow the presentation.

Nuclear Power is NOT the Answer

Ever thought nuclear power was the answer to the climate crisis? Well, as Kevin Kamps of Beyond Nuclear shows us, it is not. This session tells us why expanding nuclear power would not solve the climate crisis, but would rather imperil the planet by risking nuclear warfare and widespread radioactive contamination of the environment. Kevin Kamps has served as Radioactive Waste Watchdog at Beyond Nuclear at the Nuclear Policy Research Institute since July of 2007. The organization, Beyond Nuclear, works with diverse partners and allies to provide the public, government officials, and the media with the information necessary to move humanity toward a world beyond nuclear.

One World Education

Students in this workshop will explore methods and strategies to reflectively write about their lives in relation to cultural, local and global issues under the guidance of Eric Goldstein, Founder and Director of One World Education. Eric Goldstein first utilized the concept of students learning from youth-written primary sources while teaching World Geography in Southeast Washington, D.C., where he earned a United States Department of the Interior Partners in Education Award. The exhibit will show students, teachers and other visitors the scope of OWED programs and highlight the Culture and Global Issues Reflection Contest.

Step in the Name of Love

Hosted by Gar-Field Senior High School students Sydney Waldon and Adilah Abdallah, this workshop will focus on the cultural significance of step dancing. Learn how to step, what techniques to use, and enjoy the ethnic diversity as you experience how dance can bring people together. Active audience participation is required!

Students for Fair Trade

This workshop will be presented by Learn Serve International Fellows Salma Mohammed and Mia Salans. Students will learn about Fair Trade certified products, how a simple purchase can make a world of difference and most importantly how two high school students have a plan to bring fair trade to their schools through Learn-Serve International. Learn how YOU can change the world (literally).

The Congo and Genocide

Annandale High School's STAND for Conscience is a student-led division of the Genocide Intervention Network, which trains, organizes and mobilizes students to educate the community about the horrors of genocide. Join President Jennifer Ibarra and her team to learn about genocide, its history, why it is relevant to today and what you can do to stop it. This club was established in 2006 and since then, the members have been involved in fundraising and activism campaigns throughout the community. Select STAND members are also Ambassadors to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum.

The World AIDS Epidemic 101

AHS Senior Erika Dyer, and Northern Virginia Aids Ministry's representative Lisa Oot, will be presenting an interactive, engaging workshop on STDs, focusing on HIV/AIDS. Learn why stopping this pandemic is important, and how you can help by providing your peers and community with the correct information. Participants are also encouraged to ask questions and dispel any myths and rumors about HIV/AIDS. The session is directly linked to NOVAM's exhibit in the exhibition hall.

Whole Foods

This workshop presented by Mark "Coach" Smallwood is the Green Mission Specialist of Whole Foods Inc. and the Regional Specialist of the Mid-Atlantic region. He was chosen as one of 1,000 people to train with Al Gore last year, and is now a messenger of the Climate Project. During this session he will speak about the environmental footprint of the region, including sustainable business practices, waste diversion from landfills, energy efficiency and education.

Zimbabwe: Education for Precious

Lehana Penaranda, the workshop presenter, is a 16-year old girl born in Bogotá, Colombia, and a current resident of Bethesda, Maryland. In 2008, she spent 15 weeks traveling through South Africa, Namibia, Botswana and Zambia on a partial scholarship with The Traveling School. While on the trip she bonded with Ngwena, the school's truck driver, and learned all about his home country, Zimbabwe. Lehana Penaranda's goal today is to raise enough money so that Precious, Poppa's daughter can finish high school and continue on to college. This session will include a discussion on the ongoing crisis in Zimbabwe and a jewelry-making workshop with all the materials provided. All funds from these jewelry sales go towards Precious's schooling.

Don't forget to get your passports stamped at every session! All the passports will be entered for a raffle, whose winner will be announced during the closing ceremony of the Festival!

Participating schools

*Annandale High School
Robert E. Lee High School
South Lakes High School
Annapolis High School
Robinson High School
Gar-Field High School
George Mason University
Glasgow Middle School
Rachel Carson Middle School
Mountain View High School
Baltimore City College High School*

... and many more!

Vote of Thanks

The Just World/Interact Club would like to thank the following organizations for their generous donation, contribution and involvement in the Just World Festival 2009:

- The IB Mid-Atlantic Association of IB Schools for the main sponsorship and donations without which the Festival would not have been possible.*
- All speakers, presenters and exhibitors who have presented at the festival for taking the time out and educating so many students about a variety of issues.*
- TS Designs, Lara Bars and Teens for Safe Cosmetics for their generous donations*
- Rotary International for their support and for their volunteers*
- The AHS Green Atoms for handling recycling throughout the Just World Festival*
- All volunteers who helped out with any and all aspects of the Festival.*
- The Just World/Interact Club sponsors Ms. Hedrick and Ms. Albright for their constant support and tireless organization through the planning process.*