



Message from Salt Lake City to Torino 2006



NANCY WAKE THE "WHITE MOUSE"

Following the Path of Most Resistance

Born in New Zealand in 1912, Nancy Wake moved to Europe, where she married a wealthy Frenchman, entering into a life of luxury filled with parties, travel and entertainment. With Nazi Germany's invasion of France in 1940, she could have continued her life as a socialite, using her privileged status to flee the horrors of the war. Instead, she used her wealth and power as an unexpected source of resistance and healing and was able to help smuggle more than a thousand prisoners of war out of France. She was so adept at evading the Nazis, the Gestapo placed her on the most-wanted list and nicknamed her the "White Mouse."

By 1943, she was forced to flee to Britain, where at the age of 31, she joined the French Section of British Special Operations. She learned how to transmit radio codes, handle explosives and firearms, and parachute at night. These skills provided her with the opportunity to return to France, where she led Resistance fighters against the Nazis.

Wake's sector gave the Nazis more problems in France than any other. As a result, the Reich tried, unsuccessfully, to obliterate them. Wake was awarded the George Cross, the U.S. Medal of Freedom, the Médaille de la Résistance, the Croix de Guerre, and she was made a Companion of the Order of Australia.

Nancy Wake's courage shows us how neither overwhelming opposition nor the power of privilege are able to keep a committed person from following the path of most resistance.



WANGARI MAATHAI THE "TREE WOMAN"

Planting Deep Connections

Small seeds grow deep roots, and, if cared for properly, spread across once barren land. This was the case in Kenya, where Wangari Maathai began small by planting a few trees in her own front yard. Since then, twelve million new trees have spread across Kenya.

Wangari Maathai saw connections where others did not – connections that could either result in health, peace and prosperity, or in death, war, and destruction. Recognizing that the health of all beings, including human beings, is inextricably connected to the health of the land, Maathai started the Kenyan Green Belt Movement in 1977.

When trees are cut down, the soil washes away, and farmers can no longer grow food to feed their families. When people do not have food, conflict occurs, and war divides communities and countries. However, if care is given to the soil by planting trees, the health of the soil improves, and people can grow food and be lifted out of poverty. Such a basic quality of life can help bring peace to the world. Maathai did more than plant trees; she planted peace and health. In the process, she earned the title of "Tree Woman."

In 2004 she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize, the first time that the Peace Prize was awarded to an environmentalist. Wangari Maathai helps us to recognize the far-reaching effects of simple things like caring for the earth. When the land is healthy, the people who are bound to it are more able to live in peace.



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Mayor Anderson's message to the Mayor and citizens of Torino calls on all of us, and especially our young people, to cultivate the knowledge that each one of us can be a hero in our own way by:

- **Being courageous**, even when it means taking an unpopular stand because it is just;
- **Taking action** to make the world more peaceful, just and environmentally sustainable; and
- **Offering compassion and assistance** for those in need.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

All of us have the power to be heroic by acting with courage and compassion, by helping people in need, and by taking action to stop injustice and to contribute to our community.

What makes a person heroic?

Have you ever done anything heroic?

Do you know someone who is a hero?

You can track the journey of the Torino message and email questions to the team by visiting www.slc2torino.com





RAPHAEL LEMKIN THE "NAME GIVER"

The Power of Words

Raphael Lemkin knew that there was power in words. As an undergraduate student he studied linguistics. As a lawyer, he used words to decry crimes that up until that point remained nameless and unacknowledged.

If there is not a word to describe something, people can pretend it doesn't exist. Lemkin fled his native Poland when Nazi Germany invaded in 1939. He left behind 49 close relatives. They were among the three million Polish Jews killed during the Nazi occupation. As Nazi armies continued to advance in 1941, Winston Churchill lamented that "whole districts are exterminated. We are in the presence of a crime without a name."

Lemkin created the name: *genocide*. He coined the term "genocide" from the Greek prefix *genos* (family, tribe or race) and the Latin suffix *-cide* (killing). Lemkin assumed the role of "Name Giver" in order to battle the Holocaust. When Lemkin had left Poland in 1939, the term "*genocide*" did not exist. But because of his work, by the time of the Nuremberg Trials of 1945, the word was well-known. With a word to describe the atrocity, people were finally forced to acknowledge the reality of crimes so horrific that they had seemed impossible. Millions of Jews, gypsies, homosexuals and others were murdered not for any *wrongdoing*, but for simply *existing*.

After years of relentless lobbying, Lemkin's *Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide* was adopted in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly.



PAUL FARMER THE "HEALER"

*Caring For the Whole Person
and the Whole Community*

In places where disease, squalor, and misery prevail, Dr. Paul Farmer gets to work. Many people believe these problems are unsolvable. Paul Farmer refuses to accept that view and, instead, shows how a few committed people can make a tremendous difference.

In 1987, Dr. Farmer helped found the non-profit organization Partners in Health which supports clinics in Haiti, Russia, Latin America and Roxbury, Massachusetts. Dr. Farmer has shown how to cost-effectively treat illness in poverty stricken communities. Relying on the support of generous donors, the dedication of the medical staff, and the belief that he is part of the community he is serving, Dr. Farmer has shown that one person can transform lives of wretchedness into healthy communities.

Dr. Farmer recognizes that to bring true healing, he cannot cure just the disease. To be healthy, his patients also need shelter, food, shoes, and education. In addition, he seeks to understand the challenges his patients face in their daily lives and the impact those challenges have on their health. Instead of assuming that patients are capable of coming to his clinic, for example, he knows that his patients may not be physically capable of walking to the clinic or of paying to ride a donkey to obtain medical care. As a result of such challenges, Dr. Farmer will often walk for hours to the homes of sick patients to give them the care they need.

Dr. Farmer treats the whole patient, not merely the patient's symptoms. In the process, he is transformed from a doctor into a "healer" – a healer of the body, mind and community.



RACHEL CARSON THE "WOMAN OF WONDER"

*Becoming Aware of our Human
Connectedness to the Natural World*

In 1962 Rachel Carson wrote *Silent Spring* and spawned a national debate over the use of synthetic pesticides and the harm they had on wildlife. She was a quiet hero, writer, ecologist, and scientist whose work gave birth to the environmental movement and sparked interest and wonder in our human connectedness to the natural world.

In *Silent Spring*, Carson challenged the current practices of spraying pesticides like dieldrin, taxaphene, heptachlor, and DDT on the land. The result of this unrestrained pesticide use was the mass death of wildlife. Carson feared that if such practices continued, then spring would arrive without a chorus. With no birds left to sing, spring would be choked of its voice.

With eloquence and precision, Carson called on the American people to change the way they interact with the natural world. This simple call was met with overwhelming corporate opposition. A well-funded attack was organized by agricultural giants and pesticide manufacturers, who accused Rachel Carson of being merely a "hysterical woman" sparking unmerited alarm. Carson responded to these attacks with calm dignity. Somehow the American people and government heard her quiet voice of reason amidst the thunder.

Rachel Carson's words transformed national policy. President John F. Kennedy read *Silent Spring* and became concerned about the use of pesticides. In 1963 Carson testified before Congress and called for policies that would result in increased protection of human health and the environment. Her testimony and the increased concern of American people helped to establish the Environmental Protection Agency in 1970.



CRAIG KIELBURGER "A CHILD ACTIVIST"

*Bringing Healing by
Seeing Oneself in the Other*

Even children have the potential to bring healing to the world. In 1995, at the age of 12, Craig Kielburger and his classmates in Ontario, Canada formed the organization Free the Children. Kielburger had read in a newspaper about a 12-year-old Pakistani boy who had worked as a slave since the age of four in a carpet factory in Pakistan. When the boy spoke out against the forced enslavement of children in carpet factories, he was murdered. The carpets produced by these enslaved children were being sold in Craig's native Canada.

Kielburger felt that by simply having knowledge about such atrocities, he was personally responsible for helping to solve the problem. With the help of his classmates, Craig organized garage sales, bake sales, and car washes to fund Free the Children. The group wrote letters to world leaders and helped to increase awareness about the horrors of slave labor and child prostitution that plagued children in developing nations.

By 1997, Free the Children had raised enough money to fund a Pakistani center for children who escaped from forced labor. This center was more than a shelter for impoverished youth, it was a place where they could gain an education and move away from forced labor.

Since then Free the Children has raised money to fund over 400 schools in developing nations, they have distributed education and health kits to children in 38 countries, and they have supported health and education projects in 21 developing nations.

By having the power to "recognize himself in the other," Craig Kielburger is working to give basic human rights to children all over the world.