HUMANE EDUCATION QUARTERLY

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FROM THE PRESIDENT'S PEN

Inge Koopman-Leyva

Dear APHE Members, Friends and Supporters,

What an incredible feeling and experience to finally all be able to meet in person for the 2023 APHE National Humane Education Conference. If you're anything like me, you are still feeling the pure joy and excitement that came with meeting so many new and returning humane educators. It is evident that the landscape of humane education is expanding and cultivating new professionals. It was a true pleasure to see so many people learning from one another, feeling inspired, and sharing ideas, successes and challenges. It was encouraging knowing that we are not alone in our passions, struggles and achievements. It feels like we are finally able to turn the page and move forward in full capacity.



Thank you to our incredible presenters who made this conference possible and shared their expertise. We are grateful for your kindness and willingness to continue to grow humane educators from across the country. While we had an incredible array of presentations from many different backgrounds and fields

of expertise, there is still plenty of work to do as it relates to expanding the diversity of our membership and presenters. We will continue to work towards this means with open ears and minds and strive to learn from our BIPOC peers and colleagues.

For our board of directors it was also the first time for all of us to be together in person since 2019. The conference is also when we have our biyearly inperson meeting in which we elect our new executive committee. My term as president has come to an end, however I leave APHE in the hands of our new fearless leaders Melissa Logan, President and Ashley Stanley, Vice President.



2023 APHE National Humane Education Conference



I would like to thank each board member, Senior Advisors and Advisors for their support and guidance over the last two years, especially my right hand woman, Heather Grogan, former Vice President and all around amazingly talented and passionate leader. Thank you for your dedication, vision and passion for the field and helping APHE reach and surpass new milestones.

All of this to say, I am thrilled to continue to be a part of the APHE family. What an incredible group of humans who are not only here for one another but for each and every living being we share the planet with.

With continued admiration,

Inge Koopman-Leyva



CONFERENCE Minnesota Motivates

By Darlene Blackman, Director of Community Engagement, Marin Humane

When I summarized the conference in 2022 and said "we will finally SEE you in 2023," I did have my doubts. Thankfully we were together for this year's conference. It was a great success and many new ideas were brought to life along with our traditional activities. Our annual conference is the highlight of our year and an opportunity to learn, share, inspire and network while being together.

This fabulous conference would not have been possible without our generous sponsors! Their dedication to our work supported the conference and financed the Nathania Gartman Memorial Scholarship Fund. With the generous support of Best Friends, APHE was able to not only increase the scholarship fund and grant 19 scholarships. Our sponsors allowed us to reach 88 attendees; joining from across the United States, Canada and the United Kingdom.





RECOMMENDED SUMMER READS

To challenge and expand your thinking on animals

By Melissa Logan, Director of Education, Alberta SPCA

With summer around the corner, you might be looking for some interesting books to enjoy while you are on holiday, relaxing in your backyard or at a local park. Here are a few suggestions that will challenge your understanding and thinking about animals, people and the environment, and our connection to them.

Do you have a book suggestion to share with APHE members? Add your book recommendations to our GroupSite.

Wild Souls: Freedom and Flourishing in the Non-Human World by **Emma Marris**

This book takes a fascinating look at the ethics and philosophical ideas about animals and our relationship to them. It questions what "wildness" really is, and what duty we have to the animals of whom our lives are intertwined with. The stories of animals and the ideas in this book will stay with you – and change the way you think about the "natural" world.

Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge and the Teachings of Plants by **Robin Wall Kimmerer**

Robin Wall Kimmerer is an Indigenous woman and botanist and her background and experiences provides her with a unique lens with which to view the natural world and our connection to it. The book provides stories, teachings and insights that will inform and challenge your ideas about how we interact with the environment.

An Immense World: How Animal Senses Reveal the Hidden Realms Around Us by **Ed Young**

Ed Yong is a Pulitzer Prize winning science writer who can disseminate technical information in a very palatable and often

humourous way. According to the book's website, An Immense World "coaxes us beyond the confines of our own senses," to consider how other animals experience this planet, and explores some of the mysteries that we have yet to solve. Readers will gain an appreciation for the ways that other creatures are intelligent and sentient in ways we humans are not.

Purr: The Science of Making your Cat Happy by Zazzie Todd

A follow up to Wag: The Science of Making your Dog Happy, Zazzie Todd, an animal behaviour expert, explores the ways in which we can help cats thrive in our homes. The book is loaded with evidence-based advice from veterinarians, researchers and animal trainers, and good for people who just got a new cat, to those sharing their homes with senior felines. Learning what is important to cats supports not only their well-being but also nurtures the bond that we share with them.

Are We Smart Enough to Know How Smart Animals Are? By Frans de Waal

Ethologist and primatologist Frans de Waal explores animal cognition and intelligence throughout the animal kingdom in this very digestible book that marries research and antidotes. This thought provoking read will challenge what you think you know about animals! This is also a great listen on an audiobook.

Note: Views expressed in recommended content do not necessarily reflect the views of the APHE.





SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS: 2022 BEST OF AWARD WINNERS!



We are thrilled to extend our warmest congratulations to the winners of APHE's Best of 2022 competition! This is an incredible achievement, and we are delighted to see the hard work and dedication of these individuals being recognized.

It's important to note that these winners were not selected by APHE, but rather by members and nonmembers throughout the field. This truly demonstrates the impact that they have had on their communities and the broader field of humane education.

Humane Education is a growing field, and these winners have made significant contributions towards promoting compassion and responsibility towards animals, the environment, and each other. Their work inspires and empowers people of all ages to make positive changes in the world.

Nominations for APHE's Best of 2023 will open in January of 2024! Mark your calendar!





Meet Heather, a passionate and dedicated humane educator who has been working hard to improve the field for over a decade. Heather is an influential member of the APHE Board, serving as chair for multiple committees over the past five years, and acting as Board Vice President the past two years. Her efforts to recruit new members, switch the APHE membership over to the now popular Groupsite platform, and renovate the APHE website demonstrate her ingenuity and devotion to improving the organization.

In addition to Heather's role on the APHE Board, she is also part of the team who developed the first-ever Maddie's Fund Humane Education Apprenticeship, providing opportunities for educators and animal welfare professionals of all levels to thoroughly immerse themselves in the field. The team at Charleston Animal Society was awarded the opportunity to develop this apprenticeship due to their prominence in the field and their vast humane education offerings. Their programs would not be where they are today without Heather's significant contributions over the past 10 years.

In particular, Charleston Animal Society's thorough and rigorous Teen Club program, allowing teens under 18 years old to become full-fledged volunteers upon graduation, is fully credited to Heather Grogan. Over the years, Heather has trained teens to become some of Charleston Animal Society's most helpful, dedicated, and effective shelter volunteers. She has also taken her vast knowledge of veterinary medicine from her previous role in a surgery clinic to create a myriad of engaging and educational veterinary lessons and activities.

Heather's creative approaches to humane education have kept her constantly working with her team to recreate their curriculum, ensuring that students are always engaged and in an inclusive and kind learning environment. Heather's commitment to improving the lives of animals and humans alike is nothing short of inspiring.

Heather's not just an educator; she's also a speaker at conferences nationwide and has contributed articles to several different publications over the years. Her passion and expertise make her a true standout, inspiring others to join her mission of building a more compassionate world for all.

With her sincere and witty approach to teaching, Heather is loved by students and colleagues alike. Her infectious enthusiasm for humane education is sure to make anyone want to join her cause. Heather is truly a powerhouse within the field of humane education and is dedicated to making the world a better place.









F AWARD WINNERS SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS



Meet Louie - the cutest, sweetest tripod ever! Louie's journey began in 2011 when he arrived at the Charleston Animal Society as a severely ill pup-malnourished, afflicted with heartwo disease, an embedded collar, and a severe leg injury that ultimately led to amputation. Despite his hardships, Louie's unwavering spirit and determination to thrive were undeniable, and he very quickly captured the hearts of everyone around him.

For over a decade, Louie has been an invaluable member of Charleston Animal Society's education team, nurturing compassion in over 150,000 children. His big brown eyes and tranquil demeanor have a profound effect on all who meet him, from comforting nervous children to playfully stealing students'

It's not just children who have been impacted by this pup's lessons. Louie's cute hop has become his signature mov instantly bringing a smile to all that see him. Adults, children, and even other animals see Louie bouncing down the hallways at schools or on the beach and make it a point to get to know him This perfect pup embodies what Charleston Animal Society teaches - resilience, determination, and the power of second chances. It is no wonder that Louie has inspired compassion and empathy in countless individuals, and it's easy to see why he has been named APHE's most accomplished animal ambassador.

Follow Louie's antics on Instagram at @louie3legs, and prepare to be captivated by this tripod's goofy personality and adventurous













Animalearn works to end the harmful use of animals in science education by providing non-animal resources to make positive change. We offer humane dissection alternatives, expert information, and advocacy tools. Animalearn's one of-a-kind lending library, The Science Bank, is home to hundreds of high-quality, animal-friendly humane science education products that can be borrowed for FREE.

Innovate your humane ed. programs with FREE teaching tools in The Science Bank. Borrow, Learn and Return from a variety of resources, including CPR trainers, animal anatomy/life cycle models, as well as AR/VR technology, to help create a more animal & environmentallyfriendly program experience! Go to TheScienceBank.org for more information.



EDUCATION RESOURCES **BEST FREE HUMANE**

OF AWARD WINNERS SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS 2022 BEST OF AWARD WINNER



BEST HUMANE EDUCATION WEBSITE FOR INSPIRATION



Inspiring **Youth Action**

Empowering Educators

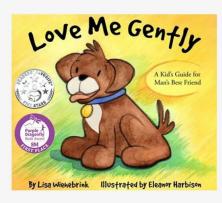
Catalyzing **Humane Education**

Looking for lessons and activities suitable for any age range from Pre-K - 12? HEART has you covered at https://teachheart.org/library/ HEART's comprehensive approach is inclusive of issues facing animals, humans, and our planet. A wide array of free resources are available, from in-depth learning experiences to SEL activities, blogs, interactive lessons, webinars, a book list, and even a video game. Please share with anyone you know who may benefit from these free resources!

If you want to stay tuned in to fresh new resources as they are added to the HEART library, you can sign up here: https://teachheart.org/join-us/







Love Me Gently, A Kids Guide For Man's Best Friend, is a compassion-centered book that helps children understand kind and responsible care of pets through a lesson-based story of a boy and his rescue pup. Kids learn simple lessons such as allowing the dog to eat and sleep uninterrupted, patience in training, gentle handling, and safety around the house for both child and animal. Young readers are encouraged to make good choices and empowered to be responsible for their actions while respectfully caring for

The books, available in English and Spanish, are donated to humane societies around the country and serve as terrific supplements for community outreach efforts, including humane education, school visits, camps, scout programs, shelter tours, shelter reading, and adoption packets. The Tails That Teach mission is to inspire kindness and encourage literacy. Our book donation program ensures that every child participant receives a free book to take

For more information, visit www.tailsthatteach.org





SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS F AWARD



BEST HUMANE EDUCATION PROGRAM FOR ADULTS: P.E.T TALKS

P.E.T. Talks

PET Talk:

Community...

We discuss bringing Community Veterinary Services directly into...







PET Talk: Shop

they mean, and how.

Cruelty Free



PET Talk: Disaster Preparedness fo...

You can never be too prepared in case of emergencies and...

San Diego Humane Society offers an adult education program called <u>P.E.T. (Pet Education Topic)</u> Talks covering all things related to pets and pet parenting. The P.E.T. Talk series used to take place in person, but now is conducted live virtually over Zoom. We've hosted both in-house and guest speakers to present a variety of topics such as behavior and training, veterinary, grooming, pet safety, human animal support services and even specialty topics like pet massage and animal communication! Presentations typically take place on a week-day evening for an hour and a half. Attendees have the opportunity to ask our speakers questions live, and all P.E.T. Talks over Zoom are recorded and posted on our organization's YouTube channel for anyone to view.

P.E.T. Talks (originally called Happy Hour Lectures) have been taking place at San Diego Humane Society for more than twenty years, and Amelia Curtis, Education and Training Manager, has been planning and facilitating the program for the past nine years.





"Thinking Critically About Stories with Animals," was an article written for the <u>APHE publication HEQ</u> by Melissa Logan, Director of Education for the Alberta SPCA.

The Alberta SPCA helps teachers, parents, and fellow humane educators foster critical thinking and perspective taking when reading stories or consuming media that features animals. Their website for teachers contains considerations when selecting books about animals as well as a list of animal books with accompanying resources, many of which are popular in classrooms.





Visit their website to learn more: https://everylivingthing.ca/animals-in-literature/how-to-choose-books-about-animals/

everylivingthing.ca
INSPIRING COMPASSION FOR ANIMALS, PEOPLE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

BEST HUMANE EDUCATION ARTICLE THINKING CRITICALLY ABOUT STORIES WITH ANIMALS BY MELISSA LOGAN

F AWARD WINNERS SPECIAL CONGRATULATIONS





Meet Justin, former Humane Education Manager at the East Bay SPCA in Oakland and APHE Board Member. Justin Kurup is the winner for APHE's Best Presenter catagory. Justin spends his days teaching in the Ethnic Studies, Language Arts, and Performing Arts departments at James Logan High School in California. As the Director of Speech & Debate, he has coached numerous national and state champions in several competitive performing arts categories since he started at the school in 2017. Justin grew up in the same city that he teaches in and felt it was important to give back to the community that helped

He is a proud alumni of University of California, Davis studying Animal Science where he further developed his love for companion animals. Justin later earned a masters from the University of San Francisco in his true calling; Urban Education & Social Justice. Though he has many passions, Justin enjoys writing poetry and traveling the world. He doesn't go anywhere without his ride-or-die, a playful pit bull mix named Meeko. With a commitment to social change rooted in humor and compassion, Justin sees his students as storytellers, truth seekers, and the ones we have been waiting for to set us all free.

2022 Presentation at APHE's National Humane Education Conference Curageous Conversations: The Duty of an Educator

The work we do is difficult. We are often asked to be counselors, nurses, social workers for our students, but also fundraisers, marketing strategists, and event planners at our organizations. Let's keep it real; most Humane Educators are unprepared for the challenges our urban communities face. This introspective discussion is not for the faint of heart – it's for the educators who strive to create brave spaces for the marginalized populations we serve by having courageous conversations every day. Through analysis of the three "I's" of oppression, we will discuss tangible tools and tactics to become culturally competent educators.

Missed the presentation? Past conference recordings are available for purchase in the



PRESENTER: JUSTIN KURUP

BEST HUMANE EDUCATION

The Teen Club volunteer program at Charleston Animal Society is a dynamic program designed to help young people betw the ages of 14-17 learn about animal care, welfare, and advocacy. Participants in this program learn valuable leadership skills, critical thinking abilities, and how to safely interact with

The program is led by experienced staff members who guide participants through a structured curriculum that covers topics such as animal behavior, shelter operations, and basic veterinary skills. Graduates of the program are eligible to become volunteers at the shelter before they reach the age of 18, providing them with valuable experience and an opportunity to give back to the community.

The program is highly in demand, with a growing number of applications being submitted each year, which is very exciting for the staff at Charleston Animal Society. Shelter staff members cherish the Teen Club volunteers and appreciate the enthusiasm and dedication they bring to the program. Overall, the Teen Club volunteer program is a fantastic opportunity for young people to develop important skills, gain practical experience, and make a positive impact in their community.

For more information, visit: https://charlestonanimalsociety.org/teen-club-program-









BEST YOUTH HUMANE EDUCATION PROGRAM: TEEN CLUB



ROOKIE OF THE YEAR ROBIN O'BRIEN

Meet Robin O'Brien, the rising star of the humane education world! Despite being a rookie, Robin has already made her mark with her exceptional talent and drive to make a difference. As the editor of HEQ and Membership Secretary of APHE, Robin has already shown her skill in organizing and communicating with others. Her current work as a Conference Operations Assistant for the ASPCA shows that she's not afraid to take on big challenges, with the upcoming 2023 Access to Veterinary Care Conference being just one of many events she's making a difference in.

Robin's creativity and drive are truly inspiring. She's always looking for new ways to make a positive impact on the world and is never satisfied with the status quo. So watch out, world - with Robin on the scene, anything is possible!





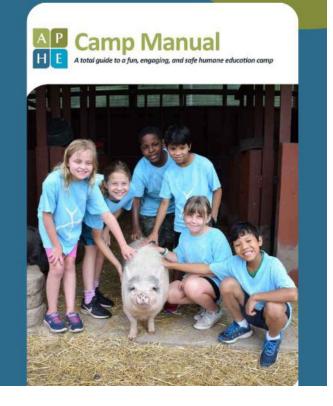


SUMMER CAMP IS ALMOST HERE!

APHE'S Camp Manual is an invaluable resource with 200 + pages of helpful documents.

It is a helpful tool for setting up a new camp program or refining an existing one!

Purchase your copy at APHE.org in the APHE STORE.



TEACHING TIPS

By Bailey Serica, Education Manager, Progressive Animal Welfare Society (PAWS)









Engaging teen leaders in your community through service-based learning is a powerful way to not only develop leadership skills in young people but can also make a positive impact on the community. Service-based learning programs combine academic instruction with community service, giving students the opportunity to apply their classroom learning to real-life situations while also making a difference in their communities.

Here are some tips for engaging teen leaders in your community through service-based learning:

- i. Identify community needs: Start by identifying community needs that align with the interests and skills of teen leaders. This can be done through community surveys, meetings with community leaders, or by simply observing the community and identifying areas where help is needed.
- ii. Develop a **plan**: Once the community needs have been identified, develop a plan for how teen leaders can make a difference. This plan should include specific goals, timelines, and resources needed to complete the project.
- iii. **Recruit** teen leaders: Reach out to local schools, youth organizations, and other community groups to recruit teen leaders who are interested in making a difference. Be sure to provide information about the project and the benefits of participating, such as developing leadership skills, gaining volunteer experience, and making a positive impact on the community.
- iv. Provide **training**: Before beginning the service-based learning project, provide training for teen leaders. This training can include leadership development, communication skills, project management, and safety protocols.
- v. **Foster** teamwork: Encourage teen leaders to work together as a team to accomplish the project goals. This can help them develop communication and collaboration skills, as well as learn the importance of working towards a common goal.
- vi. Provide **support**: Throughout the project, provide ongoing support and guidance to teen leaders. This can include regular check-ins, troubleshooting any issues that arise, and providing resources and materials as needed.
- vii. **Celebrate** success: Once the service-based learning project is complete, celebrate the success of teen leaders and the impact they have made on the community. This can be done through a community event, recognition ceremony, or other means of celebration.

Through this process, teens can learn the importance of civic engagement and the value of giving back to their communities.

BOOK REVIEW

I Begin With Spring: The Life and Seasons of Henry David Thoreau

Written by Julie Dunlap; Illustrated by Megan Elizabeth Baratta

Reviewed by Debbie Duel, Director, Humane Education, Humane Rescue Alliance



Henry David Thoreau's legacy is still relevant today, more than 160 years after his death. In Julie Dunlap's new book, *I Begin With Spring*, readers are introduced to Thoreau, an American naturalist, essayist, poet, and philosopher. Thoreau's simple and inspiring life is chronicled through the many wondrous and reoccurring changes in the natural world. From his early report writing as a boy to his death in 1862, the seasons of Thoreau's own life are beautifully documented with expert attention paid to details great and small. Dunlap's melodic text is complimented by Megan Elizabeth Baratta's simple drawings of plants and animals and the accompanying observation footer that runs at the bottom of every page.

Dunlap's extensive research, as well as her admiration for Thoreau, shines through carefully chosen quotes, and thoughtful storytelling highlighting the importance of Thoreau's work as a dedicated naturalist and early climatologist. Thoreau lived in a time of crisis when people were willing to wage civil war rather than end the

horrors of slavery. His social and political activism demonstrated a call to action like many of the alarms that are sounded today.

The book encourages readers to use their senses to experience the outdoors; observe the buds on the trees, listen to the birds' songs, collect plant specimens, and taste the sweet berries that are plentiful in the summer months. *I Begin With Spring* urges middle-grade readers to conduct their own research and document the many changes of the seasons as they experience them. Dunlap suggests that readers head outside with a pencil and notebook to chronicle their own observations. For those young naturalists who prefer a technical approach, she suggests apps such as eBird and iNaturalist to record and analyze their data. Reporting the seasonal changes with curiosity and wonder, as Thoreau did, can lead to discoveries that foster a deeper connection to the planet and encourage environmental and climate activism during this crucial time.

Highlight: Book Talk!

By Debbie Duel, Director, Humane Education, Humane Rescue Alliance

Julie Dunlap shares some of her thoughts on why Thoreau is relevant in 2023 during a recent chat.

Why write about Henry David Thoreau?

I first read Walden as a teen. Thoreau's famous assertion, "In wildness is the preservation of the world," brought me comfort and direction then, and it still does today. One reason to write about him is to help young readers find him as a source of solace and joy throughout their lives.

As I learned more about Thoreau's own life, as a natural scientist as well as writer, and philosopher, and as a social and political activist—even risking his own freedom to help at least one person escape from slavery—I wanted to find ways for young readers to see beyond Walden Pond to Thoreau's full legacy.

Why is Thoreau's life and life's work relevant 161 years after his death?

In all my writing, I try to engage readers in both loving and actively caring for wildlife and the natural world. Thoreau's devotion to understanding the plants, animals, and natural processes around him is an ideal example of how deeply meaningful nature study can be. He went out in every season, in every weather, in defiance of social conventions that told him to turn his hand to making money.

And today, the records that he made based on the intimacy of his knowledge are tremendously valuable to science. In particular, Thoreau made pioneering observations of the timing of natural events, such as plant blooming, tree leaf-out, or bird arrivals during spring migration—a science now known as phenology. Ten years of notes meticulously recorded by Thoreau have become the basis of a major study by ecologist Richard Primack, who has used them to document how climate change has disrupted natural timing for birds, flowers, and insects in Massachusetts.

Reading about climate change can frighten children. But studies show that the best way to cope with feelings of alarm is to take action. Children can make significant contributions to phenology by participating in community science projects. Most importantly, their connection deepens to the world and to our collective effort to resolve the climate crisis.

One little-known fact is that Thoreau loved cats; he sought to understand his pets' behavior just as he did birds and foxes. In an era when most people saw cats as mouse control instruments, he wrote, "What bond is it that relates us to any animal we keep in the house, but the bond of affection?"

HUMANE EDUCATION QUARTERLY **Editorial Notes**



President's Pen

Inge Koopman-Leyva **Humane Society of** Southern Arizona

Minnesota Motivates

Darlene Blackman Marin Humane

Recommended **Summer Reads**

Melissa Logan Alberta SPCA

Teaching Tips

Bailey Serica Progressive Animal Welfare Society

Book Review & Book Talk Debbie Duel

Humane Rescue Alliance

Edited by Robin O'Brien Design by Jen Kennedy

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