



JOIN US AS WE CELEBRATE THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Virtual International Day of Peace 2020 presented by Keeling-Puri Peace Plaza in Rockford, Illinois

Date: Anytime that works for you from September 14th – October 1st

Audience: Programming is targeted for students in 4th and 5th grades for use at school or with parental support

The 18th IDOP will be a virtual celebration of presentations by local and regional artists and performers (V-IDOP). These virtual experiences will be made available free of charge through YouTube on the (to be upgraded) [Peace Plaza website](#). Teachers/parents will be able to choose presentations and when to use them.

Options will include:

Books:

1. **“Mr Lincoln’s Way”** will be read by **Ms. Dorothy Paige-Turner**. Author of this book is Patricia Polacco. Important themes include: racial prejudice, developing self-esteem, principal student relationships, bullying and environment. Ms. Paige-Turner has provided music resources for the book themes which are included in the supplemental curriculum materials. Filmed with the support of the Rockford Public Library.

In this story read by Mrs. Paige-Turner, you will hear about a special principal and a seemingly not-so-special bully named Eugene Esterhause. Other students call Eugene “Mean Gene”. Do you think miracles can happen? Listen to this story and find out how Mr. Lincoln deals with Eugene’s behavior and helps him to get out of trouble. Who knows, maybe you will even get a few ideas of your own!

2. **“Bully”**, also by Patricia Polacco, with these themes: bullying, friendship, problem solving and courage. “Bully” is read by 2019-20 Campus Compact AmeriCorps Vista at Rockford University and current student at Loyola School of Law, **Ashni Gandhi**. Filmed by RU Graduate Assistant, Andrea Bent.

In this story, Lyla is a new girl at a new school, trying to find her place and fit in. As you listen to Lyla's story, think about what makes a good friend. Why did Lyla want to be friends with the “popular girls”? And what makes Jamie a loyal friend to Lyla throughout the story? Let's read to find out!

3. **“I’m New Here” or “Someone’s New”** by Anne Sibley Obrien tell the story of 3 immigrant children coming to a new school in a new country. How can students be welcoming and appreciative of what these new classmates bring to their schools? One book is written from the perspective of the new student and the other from the perspective of the current students. Read and discussed by bi-lingual elementary teacher in the Denver Public School System, Shelley Keeling.



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4. **“The House That Jane Built”** by Tanya Lee Stone tells the story of a wealthy, young woman named Jane Addams who, in 1889, moved into a lovely, elegant house. But instead of moving into a lovely, elegant neighborhood, the house she picked was in the middle of one of the filthiest, poorest parts of town. *Why would a wealthy, young woman do this when she could have lived anywhere?”* Jane Addams was one of the most influential women of the 20th century. Learn how the Hull House neighborhood she cultivated in Chicago changed that city and set an example for the nation. Sponsored by the SagAftra Foundation’s Storyline Online Program and read by actress Kiernan Shipka.
5. **“Say Something”**, read by author Peter Reynolds. This picture book explores the many ways that a single voice can make a difference. Each of us, each and every day, have the chance to say something: with our actions, our words, and our voices. Perfect for kid activists everywhere, this timely story reminds readers of the undeniable importance and power of their voice. There are so many ways to tell the world who you are... what you are thinking... and what you believe. And how you'll make it better. The time is now: SAY SOMETHING!

The first 40 schools to request books will receive one or both books, “Bully” and “Mr. Lincoln’s Way” for their library. To reserve your copies contact connect2peacerockford@gmail.com

6. **May 12, 2020** marked the 200th anniversary of the birth of **Florence Nightingale**, who will be portrayed by nationally known storyteller, **Megan Wells**. Students will hear of the 19th-century nurse who insisted on hand washing and cleanliness in hospitals and with patient care – especially timely as we seek to quell Covid19. The most prestigious award given to nurses by the International Red Cross is named for Florence Nightingale. This V-IDOP offering will include an interview with current public health nurse, Julie Green Dahmer.
7. **The Art of Storytelling** through **Stories of Peace** is being facilitated by nationally known storyteller, **Jim May**. He will engage and entertain students in the art of storytelling emphasizing the importance of listening in this creative process.
8. **“Constance Lane - Her Life and Legacy”** by author, **Dorothy Paige-Turner** chronicles Mrs. Lane’s achievements to become the first African American teacher and principal in the Rockford Public School District #205. Filmed at McIntosh Elementary School where Mrs. Lane was its first principal, and remained so for sixteen years and also at the newest Rockford school bearing her name; Constance Lane Elementary School. Mrs. Constance Lane worked tirelessly to instill in her students the message: “What You Learn, No One Can Take Away!”



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9. **Carl Towns as Lewis Lemon:** Can a black man who was enslaved become a city founder? Discover how Lewis Lemon gained his freedom and became one of the founders of the city of Rockford, IL in 1834. His story begins in Wake County, North Carolina on the Lemon Plantation, through Galena, Illinois, Kent Creek and the Rockford Settlement. In 1977, on the 100th anniversary of Lemon's death, students from Wilson Middle School in Rockford rediscovered his story. They raised money and placed a gravestone where he was buried in Greenwood Cemetery so future generations would know the name of Lewis Lemon and his story. That gravestone pays tribute to this important man, saying "Born Slave- Died Free" - "A Founder of Rockford". This is his story as written by Dorothy Paige-Turner.
10. **Sue Crandall as Jane Addams**, 1931 recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize, founder of Hull House in Chicago in 1889, and student at Rockford Female Seminary graduating in 1881 (now Rockford University). Introduced by Mary Weaks-Baxter director of the Jane Addams Center for Civic Engagement at Rockford University. Jane Addams was an American settlement activist, reformer, social worker, sociologist, public administrator and author. She was an important leader in the history of social work and women's suffrage in the United States and advocate for world peace.
11. Classroom teachers, PE teachers or parents can teach students the "**Peace Dance**". Choreography and Instructional video performed and sung by local students. It is currently available on the Peace Plaza and Connect2peace websites.
12. Music – 2 songs currently identified as: "**Comm-Unity-The People of the River**" written and performed by members of the Rockford Community and "**Changamano**" which means "Be United" in Swahili.
13. **Yoga and Guided Meditation** by Tami Bogard of Namaste Studios in Rockford.
14. **Interactive Art – Rockford Area Arts Council** will provide an activity to be determined.
15. **Burpee Museum of Natural History** will provide an interactive activity relating to peace with nature. Probably a guided instructional video on how to build a backyard birdfeeder (with supervision) using recycled materials. The Peace Coalition will provide bird seed to be available at Burpee Museum. This ties to the messaging in the book, "**Mr Lincoln's Way**".
16. **Midway Village** Immigrant Trunks from 1900 – what has changed and what remains the same for immigrants to our country.
17. **Introduction to the Peace Plaza** and Rockford's celebration of the International Day of Peace.
18. A video from **Jeremy Gilley, founder of the International Day of Peace** and Peace One Day explaining the International Day of Peace and its global reach.



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19. A special **Closing Ceremony** including a moment of silence, release of doves, opportunity to take the Peace Pledge, and challenge statements from community leaders encouraging personal responsibility towards the goal of peace and equity in our world.

Special Thanks:

WTVO and Eric Wilson for filming and on film commentary

Peter Keeling – film editor

Rockford University Jane Addams Center for Civic Engagement

All of the performers and organizations mentioned above

Feel free to share your comments.

Jim and Pam Keeling, Karen Bieschke and Lois Lutz

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