



John McConnell

March 22, 1915 - October 20, 2012



2007



HOIST THE SAILS!

By John McConnell

Four billion years ago
Our lonely Earth
Set sail on cosmic seas
Guided by an unseen hand
Of nature, God or chance.

As life evolved
Through endless eco-cycles
Man was born, destined
To destroy or enrich
the Precious Ship.

And now his hand
Has seized the tiller
But his ear has not
Yet caught the Captain's
Quiet command.

The sails are down, the ship becalmed,
Its fragile life at stake.
No longer do we ride the gentle swells of
Silent seas and breathe
The fragrant air.

Broken are the rhythms
Of our cyclic plants
And other living things.

But now the Captain speaks again
Our quiet thoughts at last reveal his voice.

“Hoist the sails, Earth Man.
Set them for celestial winds.
Hold the tiller firm,
The course ahead is clear.”

Be He nature, God or chance
His voice is heard
And we shall heed
The Captain's quiet command.

– Important Perennial Message from John McConnell –

John McConnell - “The Equinox Man”

Denver, Colorado wasn't the first time I heard about or had known of the Vernal Equinox and since March 21, 1970 when I first heard about “Earth Day” I have honored the man who proposed it. Fouad and I were truly privileged to meet John and Anna McConnell when we traveled to Denver for the unveiling of more than two miles of environmental murals. I knew about John McConnell but during my assignment as the Director of Human Resource Services with the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) in Nairobi in 1995-1996, it seemed most people there talked about April 22 as Earth Day. But some of my colleagues and I thought differently because of our knowledge of John's efforts long before. All of John's work and his wife Anna's devotion, his involvement and leadership with the Earth Society Foundation and all the work he did throughout his life caused me to think of him as the “Equinox Man”. His passion resulted in my faithful observance each spring (as the Persian New Year (Norooz) approaches) and the exact moment of the vernal equinox brings John McConnell to the forefront of my mind. His inspiration intensified every year because of our own devotion with Art Miles because of our common goal of teaching and living a “Culture of Peace”. Therefore, it was an easy tribute for us to create a mural to honor John McConnell in 2005 with a special tribute to him on Earth Day with then Mayor (now Governor) John Hickenlooper presenting.

John will be remembered for the greatness and activism and the advocacy he lived his life for, but I will always remember my feeling of how humbly he and Anna lived in their tiny little apartment there in the outskirts of the City of Denver, plugging away with daily correspondence and communications to the world by John with his Anna beside him. With a smile in my heart, I will always remember how honored I felt and how the two of them seemed so close together with almost one voice and the very special warmth and sweetness of sharing a cup of tea and Anna's home-made coffee cake with such incredible greatness.

I will continue to work with Ann Charles and the Earth Society Foundation to observe, celebrate and support the legacy of ringing the peace bell at the UN in New York City, and contacting bell ringers throughout the world to observe that special moment when the spring equinox and the “Equinox Man” are forefront in my mind and in my heart.

Joanne Tawfilis
Co-Founder, Art Miles Mural Project and
National Commissioner to the US National Commission of UNESCO

artmiles.org

John McConnell - by John C. Munday

After a half-century of activism, John McConnell, the true founder of Earth Day, here relates his global promotion of peace, justice, and Earth care. Following the Kennedy assassination, McConnell's Minute for Peace gained worldwide attention. This led to his Earth Day and other initiatives aimed at promoting people and planet. In this book, he shares the views that garnered support during the environmental movement from 1969 onward, and that have inspired followers for forty years at annual Earth Day ceremonies at the UN and cities across the globe.

John McConnell coined the term Earth Day in 1968, proposed its celebration on the spring equinox to the City of San Francisco in October 1969, and announced it in November at a UNESCO Conference. The City responded by hosting the first Earth Day on March 21, 1970.

Margaret Mead, UN Secretary-General U Thant, President Ford, and thirty-three Nobel laureates supported McConnell's Earth Day, and thirty-six worldwide dignitaries signed McConnell's Earth Day Proclamation, supporting Earth Day on the spring equinox, an annual planetary holiday linking people everywhere without regard to politics, culture, national border, or religion.

In 1957, after Sputnik, McConnell promoted the Star of Hope, a satellite devoted to peace. This effort sparked his origination of Earth Day, the Earth Flag, Earth Trustees, and the Earth Magna Charta. He worked with UN officials and other leaders to overcome differences and build common ground for peace, aiming to ensure our planet's future and human survival. This book chronicles his global mission, his life journey, and his unique contributions toward a peaceful and cherished planet.

Son of an evangelist, JOHN MCCONNELL has advocated tirelessly for global peace, and care of the Earth. Following years of leadership of the Earth Society Foundation in New York, he now resides in Denver. People all over the globe have responded to his appeals for peace, justice, and Earth care, and to be counted as Earth Trustees.

Dr. John C. Munday
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Regent University
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
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earthsites.org
earthsocietyfoundation.org

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FRIENDS AND GLOBAL SUPPORTERS
PRESENT

EARTH™
DAY

MARCH 20, 2007

THE VERNAL EQUINOX
- **JOHN MCCONNELL** -
(THE 91 YEAR YOUNG FOUNDER - MARCH 1970)
6:30 PM LIVE PRESENTATION
LAGUNA BEACH CALIFORNIA

*For More Information or
To Show your Support Contact*

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**EARTH TRUSTEE CITY
LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA**

MARCH 20, 2007

PROCLAMATION

(JON ELLOWITZ | CHARLES MICHAEL MURRAY)

When John McConnell founded Earth Day in 1969, he knew he was at the beginning of a process much needed by this endangered planet. He knew that to raise awareness of the Earth's deteriorating condition would be a long and difficult process. He also knew that he could not do the job alone. As his realization of the enormity of his task grew, so did that same awareness grow in many others around the world. The most frequently asked question was "What can I do?" This question has been asked by individuals, civic groups, municipalities, states and countries, all with varying degrees of dedication. As his own idea of stewardship evolved, McConnell began to answer that question, his answer varying with the entity asking. For us, the City of Laguna Beach and cities like us around the state, around the country and around the world, McConnell has proposed the concept of "Earth Trustee City." Knowing as he did that the problems and challenges of the Earth would vary from place to place, McConnell left the concept a fluid one. Because the challenges facing the city of Laguna Beach may differ from those facing other municipalities, the meaning of Earth Trustee City is left to us to define.

In a free society, acceptance of the most important policies must flow upward from those most affected. The City of Laguna Beach hereby proclaims, in furtherance of its Earth Day Proclamation of March 2006, that this City will define its own version of Earth Trustee City. This cannot be done without the participation of those who make this city what it is - its residents. We have been given unique gifts whose value are beyond measure. The Pacific Ocean, our rocky and sandy shoreline, our verdant hillsides and our magnificent canyons all define the treasures that are ours to preserve. But where we live does not define who we are; how we present, safeguard and preserve what we have, does.

We understand that our gifts extend beyond the physical landscape. How we raise and educate our children, support those less fortunate, and help each other meet the challenges of life all contribute to the definition of who we are as a community.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Toni Iseman, Mayor of Laguna Beach, hereby declare the City of Laguna Beach to be an Earth Trustee City and invite each and every one of us to help define what that means.

Toni Iseman
Mayor of Laguna Beach, California

Earth Trustee City

The Vernal Equinox



LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION

(JON ELLOWITZ | CHARLES MICHAEL MURRAY)

In 1969, former Laguna Beach area resident, John McConnell, proposed the creation of an event whose scope was both international and universal, an event that would not be tied to one particular place or holiday. This was McConnell's vision of Earth Day - a coming together of all peoples of the planet to recognize that the earth, magnificent, vast and mighty, is fragile. Earth Day was to be, and has become, a realization that the earth, its resources and its inhabitants, plant and animal, are finite. It is an acknowledgement that the older generation is only borrowing the planet from the younger and that the loan must be honored and the earth returned in a condition better than when inherited. Finally, it is a recognition that care must be taken and that without such care the magnificence of the earth and its inhabitants will dwindle, recede and, perhaps, disappear. McConnell and those of like mind around the world have celebrated Earth Day since its inception in a growing number to ensure the protection and preservation of this endangered planet.

WHEREAS, Laguna Beach is familiar with the fragile areas located within its boundaries and has fought for a way to preserve them and at the same time acknowledge the concept of urban growth; and

WHEREAS, Laguna Beach is known worldwide for the beauty of its canyons, hills and beaches and has dedicated itself to their preservation; and

WHEREAS, Laguna Beach recognizes its place among those cities, towns, states and nations worldwide who seek to join together in union and harmony in furtherance of John McConnell's vision for the protection of planet earth.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Elizabeth Pearson-Schneider, Mayor of Laguna Beach, hereby proclaim The Vernal Equinox, this year falling on March 20, 2006 at 10:26 AM (Pacific Standard Time) or 18:26 UTC (Greenwich, England), and The Vernal Equinox of all coming years, to be a day of celebration in Laguna Beach, California called Earth Day.



LAGUNA BEACH CA USA

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Laguna Beach



LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA
PROCLAMATION

(JON ELLOWITZ | CHARLES MICHAEL MURRAY)

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LAGUNA BEACH CA USA

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Montessori School - Laguna Beach CA



Children and instructors - Montessori School | Laguna Beach with John McConnell



Deepa Somasundaram - Director of Montessori School | Laguna Beach with John and Anna McConnell.



News Release

(for use at will after February 26, 2007 9:30am PST):
 Contact: Charles Michael Murray
 Endangered Planet — (949) 497-5690
 384 Forest Ave., Gallery 13, Laguna Beach, CA 92651

Earth Day Founder John McConnell to be honored at Vernal Equinox Celebrations in Laguna Beach March 20~21, 2007

LAGUNA BEACH, CA — A series of unique environmental and educational events are scheduled for **John McConnell**, the 91-year-old founder of **Earth Day**, when he and his wife **Anna** visit Laguna Beach in March to be honored by the City Council on the Vernal Equinox, March 20. The day following this "Earth Day" celebration, McConnell will participate in a panel discussion with a number of other noted environmentalists.

On March 20 at 6:00 p.m., at the Laguna Beach City Hall, McConnell and Endangered Planet Gallery will present a proclamation to the Mayor and City Council that designates the City of Laguna Beach as an "**Earth Trustee City**," a concept developed by McConnell during the decades since he and United Nations Secretary General **U Thant** first established International Earth Day in 1971.

On March 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Forum Theater at Laguna Beach's Festival of Arts, a panel discussion will focus on "Earth Trustee City" goals and future actions. In addition to John McConnell, the panel will include **Joanne Tawfilis**, executive director of the United Nations Association of the USA, San Diego chapter; **Greg O'Loughlin**, Environmental Committee of Laguna Beach; and **Charles A. White, P.E.**, Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Western Area of Waste Management. The panel will be introduced by Laguna Beach Mayor **Toni Iseman**. The panel moderator will be **Harry Huggins**, VP Director of Endangered Planet Foundation.

An environmental film and an appearance by flute prodigy **Evren Ozan** are also scheduled. The event is free and open to the public, but seating is limited and

MORE


 EARTH™
DAY

Tuesday March 20, 2007



Earth Day Celebrations at the Montessori School of Laguna Beach

The children will be celebrating Earth Day in a very special way in the month of March. In recognition of Earth Day and the Montessori Centennial Celebrations, the children will be involved in the *Art Miles Mural Project* by creating a mural based on Maria Montessori's curriculum "The Cosmic Education," in which the children are able to learn and observe that every thing in this world has a purpose and that we all are interdependent on one another.

On Wednesday, March 14th, we will create a 5'x12' mural with the support of Art Miles Mural Project and its founder Joanne Tawfilis and the Endangered Planet Foundation and its founder Charles Michael Murray (Oliver's dad). Both Charles and Joanne will be there and we would like parents to join us and help the children create this unique work of art. We will start at 9:00 am on the 14th and hope to be finished by noon. There will be a sign up sheet for all volunteers.



This will certainly be a wonderful experience!

On Earth Day, Tuesday the 20th of March (the Vernal Equinox), the founder of Earth Day John McConnell will be visiting with our children in the Bridge Hall at 10:00 a.m. The children will be making a presentation of the Art Miles mural to him. Please join us on this historic day. John is 91 years old and it would be an honor to meet him!

Please visit these web sites for more information on Endangered Planet, the Earth Day Celebrations in Laguna Beach, and the Art Miles Mural Project.

endangeredplanet.org
 the-art-miles-mural-project.org





Joanne Tawfilis - co-founder of Art Miles Mural Project with John and Anna McConnell.

Mural below was created by the children of The Montessori School for John and Earth Day - 2007.



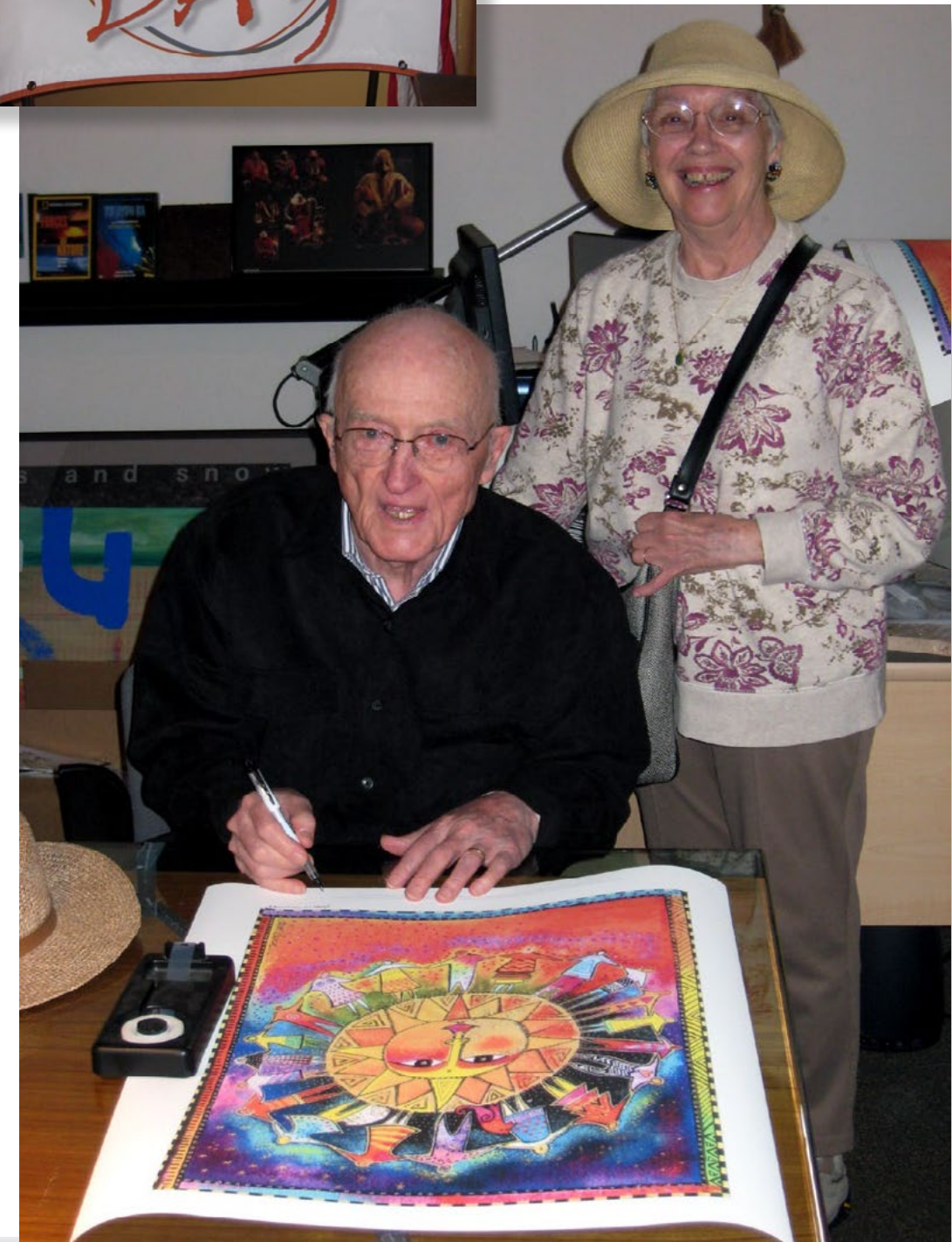


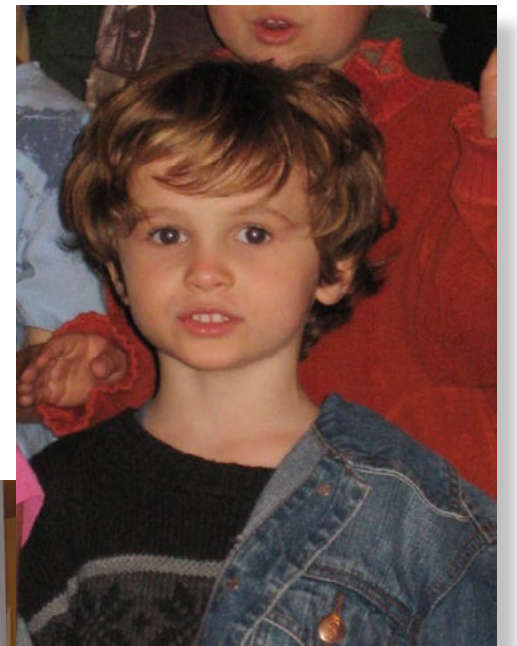
Pamela van de water (above) and Mark Edwards Murray (below) with John and Anna McConnell (mural by AMMP of Jacques-Yves Cousteau)





John and Anna McConnell -
John signing limited edition Laurel Burch giclees
"Hands Around the Sun"







John McConnell and Joanne Tawfilis - AMMP interview at the Montessori School.



Top - Pamela van de water , Mark Edwards Murray, Marion Meyer MMCA, Charles Michael Murray - (Endangered Planet Founder), Oliver Reese Murray, Renee Ralls, Whitney Ralls (writer); Lower - John and Anna McConnell

Endangered Planet Gallery- Laguna Beach CA (reception)



Earth Day - videographer
Michael Bratkowski



Charles Michael Murray, John McConnell, Toni Iseman -
(Mayor of Laguna Beach)



The Earth Society Foundation cordially invites you to participate in the celebration of the

37th Annual UN Peace Bell Ceremony on Earth Day

on Tuesday, March 20, 2007 at 7:07 p.m. EST (Equinox)


Ceremony will begin at 6:30 p.m. EST in the United Nations Peace Bell Garden

The annual tradition of ringing the UN Peace Bell at the exact moment of the Equinox on Earth Day (March 20-21) was initiated by John McConnell with the support of UN Secretary-General U Thant on March 21, 1971. This tradition marking the moment of the Spring Equinox in the Northern Hemisphere and Autumn in the Southern Hemisphere has been observed for 37 consecutive years at UN Headquarters.

To attend the ceremony, enter at the UN Visitor's Entrance at 46th Street and First Avenue by 6:15 p.m. EST. This invitation and picture identification are required for entry. **RSVP by calling (516) 398-3074 by March 9. Please include name and phone number.**

Please join us in acting globally... and locally!





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HONOR

EARTH DAY
MARCH 20, 2006

THE VERNAL EQUINOX
JOHN MCCONNELL - (FOUNDER) MARCH 1970
6:30 PM (POT LUCK)

*Together We
Support Local And Global Efforts
To Make Our World A Better Place
For Its Inhabitants*

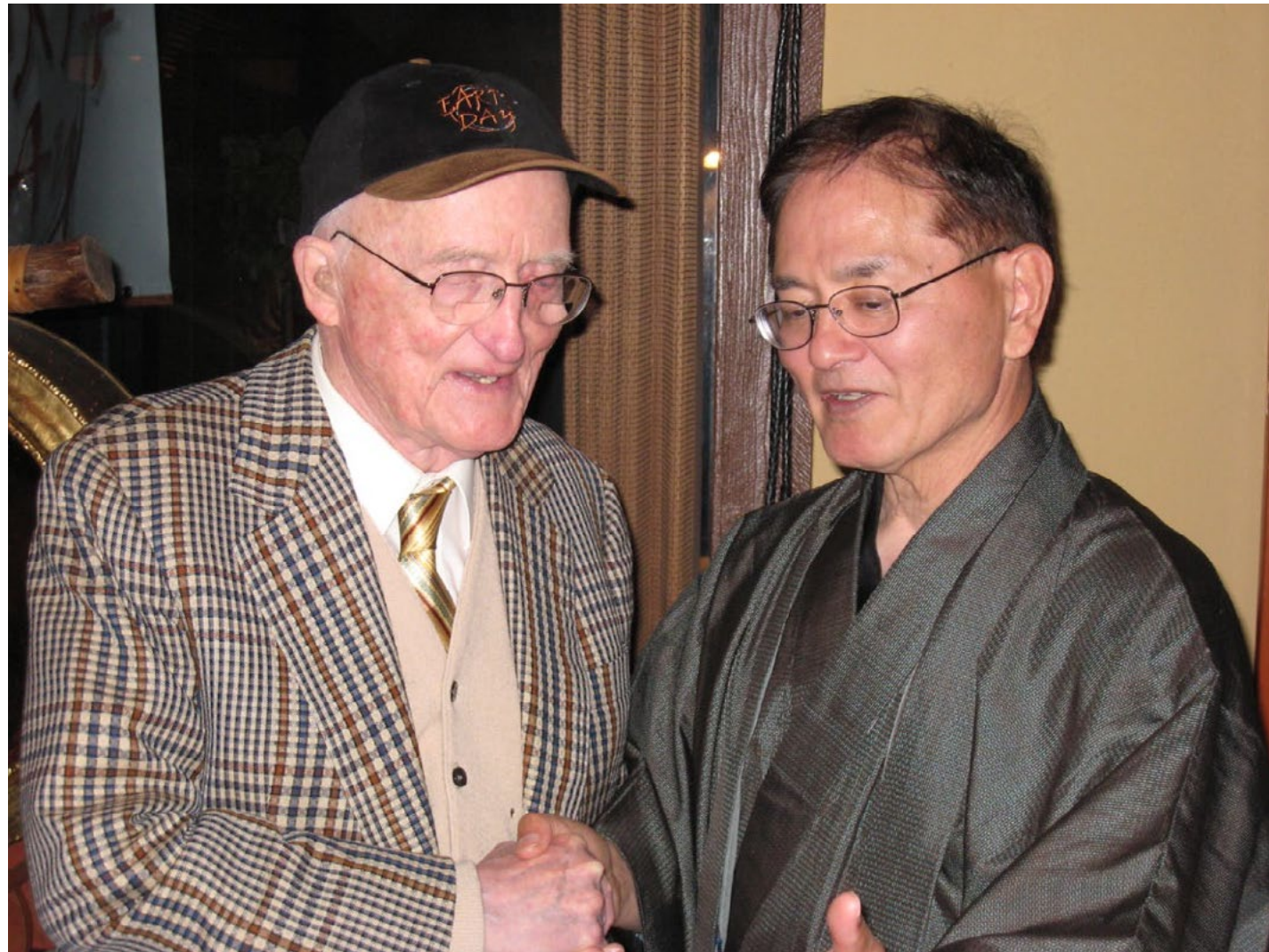
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SUE MARIE'S DAY SPA	ROBERT A. PETERSON
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THE COFFEE PUB	BILL ATKINS
RENEE RALLS	HARRY E. HUGGINS
OLIVER	PATTY WARD
CHARLES MICHEAL MURRAY	JUNE PHELPS ARTIST
MARK EDWARDS	PAM VAN DE WATER
CHRYSIANA SAILER	DONOVAN
LAGUNA LEATHER	HARUSHI
A J VAN DE WATER	JON ELLOWITZ
DICK WARD	BRENDA ELLOWITZ
CHRIS GUTZEIT ARTIST	ANTHONY R. SILVA
JIM RUSHING	HARRAH'S ENTERTAINMENT INC.
LINDA RUSHING	
TERRELL ANANSI ARTIST	

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(THE LUMBER YARD MALL)
LAGUNA BEACH, CA USA
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Friends just back from the Ringing of the Earth Day UN Peace Bell - San Diego CA.





In front of Endangered Planet and the global Peace Pole - Anna McConnell, John McConnell, Charles Michael Murray and son Oliver Reese Murray. Bagpipes rang-in the Earth Day events.

Laguna Beach City Council - Laguna Beach CA



John McConnell and Mayor of Laguna Beach - Toni Iseman at a packed fully attended City Council meeting with proclamation endorsing Earth Day on the Vernal Equinox.



Festival of Arts - (Forum Theatre) Laguna Beach CA

Producer

Endangered Planet Foundation

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Event Sponsors

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The Vernal Equinox | March 20 | 5:07 PM PDT
Earth Trustee City | Forum Theater | March 21

2007

Endangered Planet Foundation

Mission Statement

Endangered Planet Foundation is dedicated to ensuring the survival of the Earth through education, dialog, the dissemination of knowledge and the recognition that advances in technology can provide many of the answers which will lead to a sustainable future.

Board of Directors

Charles Michael Murray	Founder
Jon Ellowitz	VP
Harry Huggins	VP
Harushi Tetsuka	VP
Brenda Ellowitz	CFO

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Dennis Aubrey	Woods Hole Group President
Kathy Bonner	Educational Event Co-ordinator
Richard Henrikson, PE	Henrikson Owen and Associates
Mark Logan	Financial Advisor Consultant
John McConnell	Earth Day Founder
Marion Meyer	Marion Meyer Contemporary Art
Mark Edwards-Murray	Pacific Director
Scott V. Murray	Environmental Banners
Renee Ralls	Children Program Docent LACMA
Earl Richmond	Richmond Productions Documentaries
Joanne Tawfilis	UNA SD Art Miles Director WFUNA
Dick Ward	Art Communications

For inquiries, sponsorship, donations or event information, please contact below.

949.497.5690
EndangeredPlanetFoundation.org
info@endangeredplanet.org



Earth Trustee City - Laguna Beach Proclamation

(Jon Ellowitz | Charles Michael Murray)

When John McConnell founded Earth Day in 1969, he knew he was at the beginning of a process much needed by this endangered planet. He knew that to raise awareness of the Earth's deteriorating condition would be a long and difficult process. He also knew that he could not do the job alone. As his realization of the enormity of his task grew, so did that same awareness grow in many others around the world. The most frequently asked question was "What can I do?" This question has been asked by individuals, civic groups, municipalities, states and countries, all with varying degrees of dedication. As his own idea of stewardship evolved, McConnell began to answer that question, his answer varying with the entity asking. For us, the City of Laguna Beach and cities like us around the state, around the country and around the world, McConnell has proposed the concept of "Earth Trustee City." Knowing as he did that the problems and challenges of the Earth would vary from place to place, McConnell left the concept a fluid one. Because the challenges facing the city of Laguna Beach may differ from those facing other municipalities, the meaning of Earth Trustee City is left to us to define.

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Guest Panel

Toni Iseman	Mayor of Laguna Beach intro and close
Harry Huggins	MC VP Endangered Planet Foundation
John McConnell	Earth Day Founder Earth Trustee Founder Earth Trustee City Founder Earth Flag Founder Minute for Peace Founder
Joanne Tawfilis	WFUNA Director Executive Director UN Association San Diego Art Miles Mural Project Director
Greg O'Loughlin	Environmental Committee LB Photographer
Charles A. White, P.E.	Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Western Area of Waste Management
Richard Henrikson	Henrikson & Owen Engineering Advisory Director EPF
Tanya Susoev	College Student - UCSD San Diego

una vita terra | one life earth

Earth Day | Celebrations | Laguna Beach | Earth Trustee City

384 Forest Ave Gallery 13
Laguna Beach CA USA

Guest Panel

ENDANGERED planet
FRIENDS AND GLOBAL SUPPORTERS PRESENT

EARTH DAY

2007

TUESDAY - MARCH 20
The Vernal Equinox | 5:07 PM PST
- **JOHN MCCONNELL** -
Earth Day Founder
3:00 ~ 4:30 PM | **JOHN MCCONNELL**
Reception at Endangered Planet Gallery
4:45 ~ 5:35 PM | **MAIN BEACH**
[Endangered Planet Gallery if Rain]
6:00 PM | **LAGUNA BEACH CITY HALL**

WEDNESDAY - MARCH 21
ENVIRONMENTAL
- **TOWN HALL MEETING** -
Panel discussion and film
6:30 ~ 9:00 PM | **FESTIVAL OF ARTS FORUM THEATER | REQUIRED TICKETS AT**
Endangered Planet & Marion Meyer Contemporary Art

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LAGUNA BEACH CA USA
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EARTH DAY | TUES | MARCH 20
The Vernal Equinox | 5:07 PM PST
JOHN MCCONNELL
EARTH DAY Founder
4:45 ~ 5:35 P.M. | **MAIN BEACH**
[Endangered Planet Foundation if Rain]
6:00 P.M. | **LAGUNA BEACH CITY HALL**

EARTH DAY

WEDNESDAY | MARCH 21
TOWN HALL MEETING
Environmental Panel and Film
6:30 P.M. | **FESTIVAL OF ARTS FORUM THEATRE | TICKETS REQUIRED**
info | EndangeredPlanet.org





The Vernal Equinox | March 20 | 5:07 PM PDT
 Earth Trustee City | Forum Theater | March 21

2007

Earth Day | Celebrations | Laguna Beach | Earth Trustee City



Earth Day
Tues | March 20 | 5:07 PM PDT

Event Schedule

- 3:00 p.m. Gather at Endangered Planet Gallery
 Food and Beverages
- 4:30 Depart to Main Beach
 • (Endangered Planet Gallery if Rain;
 - Depart to City Hall 5:35 pm)
- 4:45 Main Beach Gathering
- 4:50 Plant Peace Pole
- 5:07 The Vernal Equinox | bells**
- 5:35 Depart to City Hall
- 6:00 Laguna Beach City Hall
 John McConnell
 Proclamation "Earth Trustee City"
 Jon Ellowitz | Charles Michael Murray
- 6:45 Depart City Hall | Gather
 Endangered Planet

Earth Trustee City
Panel | Wed | March 21

Event Schedule

- 6:00 p.m. Festival of Arts | Forum Theater
 doors open | tickets required [free]
- 6:30 Event Begins (promptly)
 • Charles Michael Murray | welcome
 • Altered Oceans | Film ~ 25 minutes
Reported by Kenneth R. Weiss and
 Usha Lee McFarling
 Photography and Video by Rick Loomis
 Los Angeles Times
- Evren Ozan | native flute solo
 • Harry Huggins - EPF Events | Intro
 • Mayor Toni Iseman | Introduces Panel
 • Panel Discussion
 • Public Input/Questions
- 8:35 Closing Statements | Toni Iseman
- 9:00 fini

Endangered Planet Foundation
 384 Forest Ave. # 13 Laguna Beach CA
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Tanya Susoen UCSD college student with John McConnell.

Moderator - Harry Huggins - director at Endangered Planet Foundation and Orange County Harbors Parks and Acquisitions directing the full star panel with environmental questions chaired by John McConnell - Earth Trustee One.

Evren Ozan - performed a native flute selection in harmony with mother earth.





John McConnell, Richard Henrikson - CEO Henrikson & Owen Engineering & Advisory Director Endangered Planet Foundation, Tanya Susoen CSUD student and Joanne Tawfilis co-founder AMMP and Executive Director UN Association of San Diego.



Mayor of Laguna Beach CA -Toni Iseman (standing), Greg O'Loughlin - Laguna Beach Environmental Committee / Photographer, Charles A. White - P.E. - Director of Regulatory Affairs for the Western United States of Waste Management, John McConnell - Earth Day Founder, Richard Henrikson - CEO Henrikson & Owen Engineering & Advisory Director Endangered Planet Foundation, Tanya Susoen CSUD student and (not shown) Joanne Tawfilis co-founder AMMP and Director of Endangered Planet Foundation.



Earth Day 2005 - Denver Colorado





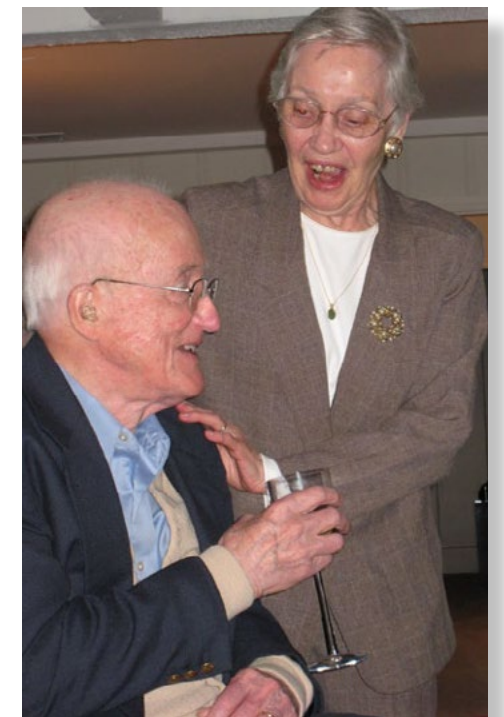
Earth Day Celebration and a Tribute Mural to John and Anna in 2005 with the Art Miles Mural Project (AMMP) and our attempt to break the Guinness Book of World Records for the "longest painting" at 2.8 miles of murals.



John McConnell's 92nd Birthday - Laguna Beach CA



This special birthday party was hosted and held at Tom and Marion Cudyer's home - Laguna Beach, CA



Video interview at John and Anna's home - March 2006 - Denver, CO



Earl Richmond - CEO Richmond Productions - (videographer) with John McConnell and the Earth Flag designed by John McConnell. (Denver Colorado in front of John's home.)



JOHN AND ANNA MCCONNELL
FOUNDER OF EARTH DAY | THE VERNAL EQUINOX
MARCH 15, 2006

EARTH DAY

LAGUNA BEACH, CALIFORNIA USA
THE VERNAL EQUINOX
(MARCH 20, 2006)

PROCLAMATION

Presented by: Endangered Planet Gallery, Laguna Beach, CA
Written/produced by: Jon Ellowitz | Charles Michael Murray

In 1969, former Laguna Beach area resident, John McConnell, proposed the creation of an event whose scope was both international and universal, an event that would not be tied to one particular place or holiday. This was McConnell's vision of Earth Day - a coming together of all peoples of the planet to recognize that the earth, magnificent, vast and mighty, is fragile. Earth Day was to be, and has become, a realization that the earth, its resources and its inhabitants, plant and animal, are finite. It is an acknowledgement that the older generation is only borrowing the planet from the younger and that the loan must be honored and the earth returned in a condition better than when inherited. Finally, it is a recognition that care must be taken and that without such care the magnificence of the earth and its inhabitants will dwindle, recede and, perhaps, disappear. McConnell and those of like mind around the world have celebrated Earth Day since its inception in a growing number to ensure the protection and preservation of this endangered planet.

WHEREAS, Laguna Beach is familiar with the fragile areas located within its boundaries and has fought for a way to preserve them and at the same time acknowledge the concept of urban growth; and

WHEREAS, Laguna Beach is known worldwide for the beauty of its canyons, hills and beaches and has dedicated itself to their preservation; and

WHEREAS, Laguna Beach recognizes its place among those cities, towns, states and nations worldwide who seek to join together in union and harmony in furtherance of John McConnell's vision for the protection of planet earth.

NOW THEREFORE, I, Elizabeth Pearson-Schneider, Mayor of Laguna Beach, hereby proclaim The Vernal Equinox, this year falling on March 20, 2006 at 10:26 AM (Pacific Standard Time) or 18:26 UTC (Greenwich, England), and The Vernal Equinox of all coming years, to be a day of celebration in Laguna Beach, California called Earth Day.

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one earth | one dream

In Memory

I met John over the phone and then in person with a great videographer Earl Richmond in Denver Colorado - March 2006. We interviewed John and his wife Anna. They made us at home for the day - made us lunch and the air was filled with talk about life and the big picture and the meaning of Earth Day. John thinks big - very big - yet talks and walks softly with his commitments and convictions that humankind must awaken and share our earth with every living thing... and realize to become an Earth Trustee - one must believe and live in harmony with all of humanity. This is truly the big picture of Earth Day - connecting people, avoiding the conflicts which cause more environmental waste and destruction of planet earth than all of the other “commercial human needs and wants” combined.

He spoke of how his faith of each other - (he is a very religious man), the creative spirit and how solving by talking to each other about what we have in common as we work through any differences that could evolve into local and global conflicts. I learned from him how simple it was to care for the earth - if we care for each other. He launched “A Minute for Peace” to embrace this quest.

I met some of the dearest people through John - and my very special friend and associate Joanne Tawfilis (AMMP) came from one of the numerous conversations via the phone or emails. He loved to send and receive emails... until he lost his eyesight a couple years later.

John’s Earth Day is a pillar that rises from the Earth on The Vernal Equinox; one of Earth’s annual cycles. He felt in the northern hemisphere this is a pivotal time to bring in the spring - not just plant life and the earths natural rhythm, but for human kind to “refresh” with a new spirit. These two things are to be as one... like two hands clapping, like a universal smile, like a child reaching for your hand. We must plant seeds of hope and understanding for each other - and desired fruit will come.

I called John and Anna early 2007 and said we would be honored here in Laguna Beach if they showed us how to celebrate Earth Day - March 20 -2007. They immediately said yes... with the reminder/reality that they are in their senior years physically but their hearts will not let that stop them. The Inn at Laguna Beach gave them a suite for a week. We started Earth Day early morning at the Montessori School - Deepa (the director) had open arms. My son Oliver was attending there. The children were wonderful and painted with Joanne a magnificent 5’x11’ mural together. The children sang songs for John and Anna (including Imagine) and an amazing connection to the cycle of life was in front of my smiling watery eyes... One of life’s special moments and treasures when harmony perpetuates the real feeling of namaste.

The day continued to a reception at Endangered Planet Gallery - simply wonderful and we paraded with bag pipes to the LB City Hall where John was honored by the Mayor - Toni Iseman. Later we did a Town Hall meeting that was a powerfully passionate delivery from the panel, chaired by John McConnell. The environmental topics always come back to the reality - that Earth Day is first about how we get along on this mother ship - then we can truly embrace environmental solutions with mutual goals and trust.

John realized that his original concept of Earth Day was loftier than what is annually practiced and understood - but believed the human touch will overcome any needed or excessive commercial adaptation that might stray from human and organic path. I embrace his spirit - it lives on: *one earth | one dream*

Charles Michael Murray - founder
 Endangered Planet Gallery | Endangered Planet Foundation | CMM Studio | Endangered Planet Outpost
 one earth | one dream



Earth Day 2007 Sponsors



A special appreciation to the sponsors and all that made these events happen - especially the dedicated commitment by the entire Endangered Planet Foundation Board of Directors and Advisors (listed on page 37) and friends to the spirit of Earth Day. cmm

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Peace, Justice, and the Care of Earth