



# EQUITY

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Think Globally, Act Locally

INSTITUTE FOR GLOBAL EDUCATION

April 7, 2013

## IGE Re-Design

### Strategic planning meetings re-focus IGE leadership for what's next

By Whitney Ehresman  
Office Coordinator

Strategic Planning is underway at IGE! Board members and volunteers have been busy at work conceptualizing ways IGE can become a more profound instrument for positive change through furthering the organization's ultimate goal of establishing true, lasting peace.

Among new changes include a logo re-design and new brochure, which the board of trustees saw key to public perception and outreach. Upcoming changes will include filling the role of a Public Relations intern, extending 'Equity' content, more frequent IGE open-houses/events, and earmarking more funds for programs.

Some of the biggest challenges IGE has faced in recent years is the need for extending office hours by having more consistent hours of operation that are flexible to meet



The inside of the new IGE Brochure, which will become available soon for distribution.

the requests of the public.

Additionally, IGE has had many ideas for fundraising ventures but oftentimes struggles to find a variety of venues for these events that would facilitate a larger audience. IGE is also looking for ways to increase membership and attendance at events. Sub-committees have been established in order to better address these challenges and concerns, and feedback from membership regarding how to address these challenges is always welcome.

### Logo Facelift

Among new changes include a logo redesign, with will incorporate some of the same elements from the old logo.



The biggest change will be incorporating a new globe/world into the overall logo design.



## MARK YOUR CALENDARS: IGE FUNdraiser

On Monday, April 29th, Wine and Canvas is hosting a public painting event, with \$5 from every attendee going to IGE! Whether you are a seasoned painter, want to learn or have fun trying, this is a great way to support IGE while having tons of fun! More details on Pg. 3 of this issue.



# Results Tallied from IGE Member Poll

By Whitney Ehresman  
Office Coordinator

*Last fall, IGE membership was polled in order to gauge member preferences. Here's what the results show:*

## Which issues are most important to you?

- Nearly all respondents ranked "Environmental Issues/Recycling/Great Lakes" among their top priority areas.
- Education and co-existence were also ranked high among membership.
- Some respondents opted to include more specific details when they ranked the importance of Community and Social Issues, including details such as: safer streets, child development projects, gardening, and immigration, with multiple mentions of gardening and neighborhood issues ("safer streets," and "being a neighbor.")

## Attendance at IGE Events:

About half of the respondents do not regularly attend IGE events. For those who attend IGE events, the following areas were outlined

as the top three areas of attendance/interest:

- IGE Talks
- Celebrations/Open Houses
- Civil Rights

There was also a high interest in the following areas:

- Bicycle-friendly events, networking with other groups, movie nights and/or book clubs, and events centered on bringing community together and/or family friendly events.

The following areas were of little interest to the majority of respondents:

- Parenting for Peace
- Church Affiliated
- Protests and Petition Drives (unless designated as "anti-war")
- Speaker Series/Panelist

## Program Awareness:

The following programs were well-recognized by respondents: IGE Talks, The Equity Publication, Circles of Peace/Peace Festival, Ongoing potlucks, The presence of IGE with Move to Amend and IGE Presence on Facebook.

The following were not well-recognized by respondents: Military Recruitment Dialogue, Left Forum, WMPC, Youth Task Force for Peace

## Ares of interest:

Volunteering

The majority of respondents were not interested in volunteering time at this time. For those who were interested in volunteering, the following were strong areas of interest:

- Writing for Equity
- Fundraising Ventures
- Serving on a program and/or planning committee
- Volunteering with IGE working group

\* Respondents interested in volunteering seemed most interested in being involved with a working group or serving on a committee that may not meet as frequently.

\*Current board members expressed an interest in continuing their role as a board member.

\*Several respondents considered a donation as a volunteer contribution.

## IGE Seeks Public Relations Intern

The Institute for Global Education is currently looking for an energetic and self-motivated individual to fill the role of the Public Relations Intern. This is an unpaid intern position, but a great opportunity for professional development.

IGE is looking for a college student who is able to commit their time for a period of 12-18 months. The Public Relations Intern will work hand-in-hand with the Coordinator and Board of Trustees.

Duties/responsibilities may include:

- ⊙Assisting in the development of a marketing campaign

⊙Attending monthly board meetings and Strategic Planning meetings

⊙Volunteering for a minimum of four hours per week at the IGE Office (flexible schedule)

⊙Assisting in the development of a SWOT analysis of the non-profit organization, which includes in-depth investigation of internal strengths/weaknesses and external opportunities and threats.

⊙Helping maintain the IGE social media pages and website

⊙Assisting in program development and fundraising, with a special focus on community and media outreach.



**Deadline for applications:** May 1st  
**Start Date:** Internship will begin after the Spring Semester of College

**Submission Guidelines:** Send Cover Letter and Resumes to Whitney Ehresman, Office Coordinator by email: [coordinator@instituteforglobaleducation.org](mailto:coordinator@instituteforglobaleducation.org)

# Wine and Canvas Selects IGE as Featured Non-Profit of the Night

By Whitney Ehresman

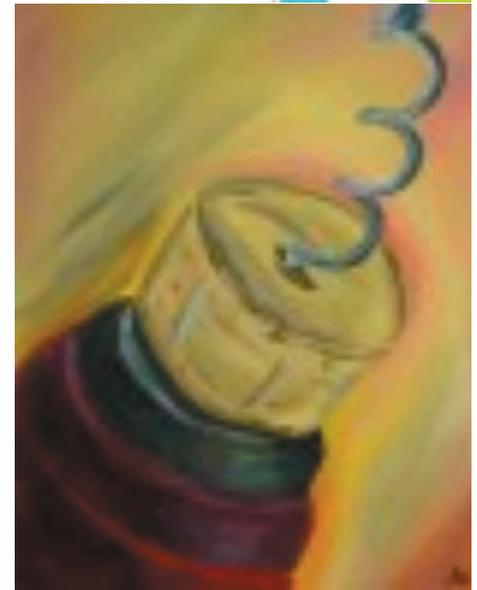
Wine and Canvas is new to Grand Rapids, and is already finding ways to invest in the community by offering fundraising opportunities for non-profit organizations.

On Monday, April 29th Wine and Canvas will have a public event at Noto's on 28th St. from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Attendees will be provided with a canvas, paint, an apron to use, and a professional artist that will teach everyone how to paint the selected painting of the night step-by-step. No painting experience is necessary to attend – the paintings selected for these events have varying levels of difficulty, and experienced artists always have the option of adding their own touches and color variations. The painting selected for the night is a rendition of "Uncorked Art."

Wine and Canvas has selected IGE as the "featured non-profit of the night" and will donate money to IGE from each ticket sold for the night. Space is limited to 35-50 attendees, but there are options for space expansion if Wine and Canvas gets positive feedback and a large amount of early RVSPs.

Wine and Canvas has hit the ground running in Grand Rapids and has had a full calendar of events and painting opportunities, and they post photos from each event online on Facebook.

Attendees also have the option of purchasing wine or appetizers from Noto's throughout the course of the event. The cost per person is \$35, with \$5 from each ticket going to the IGE. Attendees are required to RSVP online at wineandcanvas.com, under the Grand Rapids, MI events calendar.



Uncorked Art: The above painting will be the model-painting of the night that attendees will learn how to paint.

Courtesy Photo.

## Equity

### Spring 2013

Board of directors: Katie Villaire, Chester Lowe, Amy Bennington, Laura Casaletto, Mike Franz, Gerard Akkerhuis, Ron Irvine, Ted Ambrose, Tom Burke, Vince Schumacher and Wolfgang.  
Page layout and design: Whitney Ehresman with design inspiration from Chuck Neller.  
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## IGE Supports

The nonviolent resolution to conflicts and the pursuit justice as the best way to achieve true, lasting peace through conscientious individual and group education and action.

### Letters to the editor and other submissions

Questions or comments? Please contact Whitney Ehresman, Office Coordinator, at coordinator@InstituteForGlobalEducation.org.

Editorial Policy: The editor reserves the right to determine if submitted articles shall be printed, and reserves the right to edit as necessary. The opinions and viewpoints expressed in Equity are those of individual writers and not necessarily those of the Institute for Global Education and Board.

## Would you like a subscription to 'The Equity?'

Please fill out and mail this form to IGE at 1118 Wealthy St. Grand Rapids MI 49506.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to become a member or renew my membership! Enclosed is my membership donation of:

- \$\_\_ low income or student
- \$25 Regular membership
- \$35 Family membership

# Working with the Enemy

By Diane Baum

Recently, in early March, 2013, Republican Senator Rand Paul spoke for 13 hours trying to hold up John Brennan's nomination to lead the Central Intelligence Agency. Senator Paul wanted to bring attention to Brennan's role in drone warfare and at the very least, force the Obama administration to clearly state that our government is not permitted to assassinate American citizens on American soil.

Many Democrats and progressive leftists, including writers for progressive sites like Alternet, ridiculed Rand Paul's action, or grudgingly admitted that the filibuster was sort of OK but other viewpoints held by Senator Paul made this action irrelevant if not ignorable and laughable.

I saw posts from progressive Democrats such as "10 reasons Why Rand Paul is a Terrible Person Despite his Old-School Filibuster Antics" and "Paul is an Idiot." And this is what a leftist Democrat "friend" wrote about me personally on my facebook page when I defended Senator Paul's filibuster: "If you seriously feel threatened by the US military then not only are you paranoid but you are beyond reason. Or in al Qaeda." Yeh, that must be it.

But not all on the progressive left felt this way. Code Pink, a group with whom many of us anti-war activists are familiar, delivered a bouquet of flowers to Rand Paul's Senate office - pink, we assume. Matt Rothschild, editor of The Progressive Magazine, defended Rand Paul's action in two of his daily podcasts.

Jim Hightower, a lefty if there ever was one, praised Rand Paul and his courage. Both Amy Goodman of Democracy Now! in a piece for The Guardian and Van Jones on CNN called Senator Paul "a hero." Locally, Jeremiah Banister of Paleo-Radio commended Rand Paul for

the filibuster and castigated the many on the left who dissed Paul's action. "Give credit where credit is due" Jeremiah said of Senator Paul on his radio show, heard locally on WPRR, 95.3 FM.

The American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) was an organization that praised Rand Paul's filibuster. On March 25th, 2013, a few weeks after Paul's filibuster, Kerry Moss, the Michigan Director of the ACLU, was in Grand Rapids for an event at the Wealthy Theater, hosting our local Congressman Justin Amash for a public conversation about civil liberties. The ACLU is officially bi-partisan but has never been considered right wing.

Like Rand Paul, Justin Amash is a conservative Republican with Tea-Party backing. During the evening, both Congressman Amash and Director Moss complemented each other for being easy to work with on civil liberties issues and lamented the state of radical partisanship that we see in this country, particularly between government representatives and advocacy groups.

Congressman Amash reported how he could be in agreement with a group on 99% of its points, but if he differed on 1%, that group would refuse to work with him at all. Not so the ACLU, who will work with anyone to advance civil liberties regardless of affiliations or other viewpoints held.

At the Wealthy Theater that night, Justin Amash called his "wing" of the Republican Party, "Libertarian Republicans." In general, Libertarian Republicans are against gratuitous wars and military adventurism, including US military bases around the world, our bloated defense budget, and torture. They want to end corporate subsidies. They try always to safeguard civil liberties and want a free Internet. They advocate for privacy and are against wiretapping American citizens, wishing to

keep government surveillance to a minimum. They want to keep protesters out of jail, be these protesters from the Tea Party or Occupy or IGE.

As a longtime resident of Grand Rapids, I am happy to see a Libertarian Republican representing me as opposed to a "regular" Republican (in this district, we just don't seem to be able to elect Democrats or third-party candidates to national office).

Congressman Amash practices transparency - he lists all his office expenses publicly and explains every vote and the reasoning behind it. He posts upcoming legislation on facebook so constituents have a chance to give input on bills important to them, and I've seen him change his mind with a good argument by a constituent.

Glenn Greenwald, in his piece in The Guardian, praised Senator Paul's filibuster and castigated almost all Democratic Senators who, as Greenwald wrote "voted to confirm the torture-advocating, secrecy-loving, drone-embracing Brennan as CIA chief." Only two Democratic Senators and one Independent voted against the nomination.

The Institute for Global Education is an organization that has often critiqued mindless militarism, both here and around the world. It is my fervent wish that on many issues, including drone warfare, "kill lists," torture, and state repression of protesters, individuals would be able to feel that they can support all actions that promote the goals of justice and peace. In this way, we can minimize partisanship and promote unity, another worthy goal.

*Please note: The viewpoints expressed in this article are those of the individual writer and does not necessarily reflect the viewpoints expressed by the Institute for Global Education and Board of Trustees.*

## New Perspectives

# “Keep your guns, but act like a man. Act Responsibly.”

By Meg Sorensen  
Guest Writer

The loudest cry we hear from the gun owners is, “They want to take away our guns.”

If that is their strongest argument, I won’t address it. Never fight a tyrant with his strongest weapon.

So we say, “Keep your guns, but act like a man. Act responsibly.”

Cars can kill. Cars have to have a license. Drivers have to have a license. We have to take training and pass tests. We have to register every year. You have to have insurance.

You have to have a license for your bicycle. You have to get a license to fish. There is nothing intrusive. Just common sense.

The fee for a gun license would

be based on its possible harm. One hundred dollars for a pistol, and much more for the bigger and bigger ones. These have to have the license renewed each year, just like a car. We have the formula in place. We just follow that. Every sale has to be registered, just like a car.

If this could be implemented, think of the revenue. There are so many guns! Maybe some people would hesitate to have so many guns if they had to pay for them each year.

Another thought I have is about my property rights.

If I have a grocery store, I can tell someone that they cannot come in barefoot. As a restaurant owner, I can say, you must wear a jacket.

Any store can say, you may not

come in with drinks or food. Why does a church not have the property rights that say, you may not come in wearing a gun? Even in the Wild West days, saloon keepers could make men take off their guns at the door.

And one more thought. The rude person who wore a gun to our City Commission meeting. In my view, guns kill. Their only function is to kill. If you wear a gun, you look like a killer. That is offensive. The Commission should have the right to require rational discussion in their meeting and outlaw offensive behavior.

I would like to discuss gun control. I would like to outlaw war toys. I don’t think children should practice killing.

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## Anti-Nuclear Activist to Speak in West MI

By Corrine Carey

On Thur, April 11, the speaker and anti-nuclear activist of the Union of Concerned Scientists, David Lochbaum, will be in Michigan with current information on the seriously hazardous palisades plant seventy miles upwind of Grand Rapids.

You have probably heard the hopeful news that the highly embrittled plant, perpetrator of many violations and maintenance delays may, I repeat, may close in 2017.... a date already extended from

2014; with question that it will not become another Fukushima before then.

IGE has sponsored the recent speaker, Cecile Pineda, author of the Nuclear Updates Book – “Devils Tango: How I learned the Fukushima Step by Step.” She was attended by audiences at Aquinas College and Raybrook and will be broadcast on GRTV Ch. 25 on “Speaking Out: Grand Rapids and Global Issues,” on Mondays at 8:30 p.m., Wednesdays at :30 p.m., and

Fridays at 10 a.m.

Dr. Lochbaum will speak at Western Michigan University at noon, and again at the South Haven meeting of Local Concerned Citizens. Carpool is available with Corrine Carey, who will be leaving Grand Rapids at 10:30 a.m. and attending both speaking engagements, and potentially stopping for the first Lake Michigan beach time of the season! Please call 616.361.6169 for more information or carpool details.



*Thank you for Making our 2012-13  
Holiday Fundraising Campaign a Success!*

*Sincerely,*

*The IGE Leadership Team*

# Upcoming Events: Earth Day 2013

Monday, April 22nd



## Highlighted Event: Edible Tree Walk

By Laura Casaletto

Because we have such easy access to food, we have forgotten how to forage for food growing all around us in the natural environment. We are so distanced from nature that most of us are uncomfortable with non-sterile environments. A mulberry tree laden with purple edible fruits and happy songbirds is but a nuisance. Not so! Trees may be sloppy, but that is a feature of efficient fine-grained utility.

Spring is an interesting time to add to your knowledge of edible plants. Under your feet, look for basal rosettes of very early dandelions, chickory, shepard's purse, burdock, and curly dock. If you recall their location from one year to the next this becomes simple. The aforementioned plants are all good boiled and very nutritious. Think about the soil they are in and be leery of roadsides and other contaminants.

How about nibbling on sweet flowers? Try raw redbud, basswood/linden, and black locust tree flowers. Look inside the tulip tree flower and drink the sweet nectar there. And decorate your Mother's Day breakfast in bed with edible violets.

I'll be hosting an Earth Day (April 22) tree eating tour in Garfield park at 6 p.m.

Why walk through the park on the cement? Be part of something more sustaining and satisfying.

## The One Million Pound Challenge

By Whitney Ehresman

Local West Michigan non-profit organizations and businesses are partnering together to participate in the One Million Pound Challenge — an environmental initiative centered on diverting one million pounds of electronics from landfills for Earth Day.

Advanced Technology Recycling, a nationwide electronics recycling company, aspires to recycle several tons of e-waste in one week, from April 15th-22nd. One way the company hopes to accomplish this is through offering free opportunities for businesses and residents to go green for Earth Day this year.

ATR is a zero-landfill company and does not export e-waste out of the United States, and they have processes in place to offer guaranteed destruction of data and data bearing devices.

Companies can sign up with ATR to have an employee e-waste drive or partner to host a community recycling event. Public collection sites for free recycling include:

1. ATR Grand Rapids,  
702 Hall St. SW, Grand Rapids.
2. Habitat for Humanity Restore,  
5701 S. Division Ave.  
Grand Rapids.
3. Habitat for Humanity Restore,  
5920 Alpine Ave.,  
Comstock Park.
4. In the Image,  
1823 S. Division Ave.  
Grand Rapids.

## Blandford Nature Center Events

On April 13th from 1-3 p.m. Blandford Nature Center will be hosting a gourmet mushroom log workshop— learn how to inoculate a log with shitake and other edible mushrooms, yum! This is a hands-on activity, and participants can even take a log home.

If mushrooms are not your thing, but you do not mind the great outdoors, then Blandford will have another opportunity to get out in the woods for their Fitness in the Woods six-week sessions, with sessions beginning April 18th (pre-registration required).

On April 20th Blandford is welcoming Earth Day with an afternoon of hands-on activities, especially geared towards students and families. This Earth Day event will take place from 2-3:30 p.m.

On April 27th learn how to make art with nature with the guidance of Blandford nature staff! From 2-3:30 p.m, staff will show families and children how to find artistic elements in nature.

Last but not least, Blandford will be partnering with the West Michigan Environmental Action Council (WMEAC) on May 2nd for a Rain Barrel workshop from 6-7:30 p.m. (space is limited so RSVP early!)

For additional info on events or to RSVP, check out: [BlandfordNatureCenter.org/events](http://BlandfordNatureCenter.org/events).