

Sowing a Culture of Peace with the Elders Climate Action

Sue Blythe, Elders Climate Action member and creator of the FutureFlash! Project

When did I become a peacemaker? I think it was in an air raid drill in first grade. There I was, hunched under my desk, hands clasped behind my neck, eyes closed tight to protect them from the nuclear blast that could destroy New York City in an instant. I knew that duck-and-cover wasn't going to do the trick.

In college, I mourned the loss of President Kennedy and the Camelot vision. I was not one of those out protesting the war in Vietnam, nor was I fighting for civil rights. I put flowers in my hair and sang songs of peace, love and harmony.

Years later, as a young mother, I presented [The Promise of World Peace](#) to Congressman Dante Fascell with a delegation of Baha'is in the International Year of Peace. That was the first time I felt the power of being part of a global movement that could really make a difference. I felt that I had my marching orders, to carry the vision of the human family living at peace in a global society. I wanted to teach the principles that I later found so eloquently stated in the Earth Charter:

Recognize that peace is the wholeness created by right relationships with oneself, other persons, other cultures, other life, Earth, and the larger whole of which all are a part.

I taught my three young daughters and their friends songs of peace. The kindergarten class marched into the International Dinner to Red Grammer's Teaching Peace, and the elementary school sent folded paper cranes to Sadako's monument in Hiroshima's Peace Park. We greeted the dawn with song for the World Sing Out for Peace. In 1988 I took more than 100 songs for peace to a Women's Peace Conference.

Now, as an elder, I'm still teaching peace through song, stories and games. My six grandchildren [Sing for the Climate](#) and do the [Connected Dance](#) with Pacha and her friends around the world. They're building a [Sustainable World Game in Minecraft](#).

We play with the characters that I'm writing into a story. [FutureFlash! 2050: Pacha and the Game](#). I'm co-authoring this as a sequel to [Pacha's Pajamas: A Story Written by Nature](#), from Balance Edutainment. Young people, and those who care about their future, tell the story of how Florida

(and YOUR part of the world) came to be a leader in the Climate Challenge -
- Priority One of the Sustainable World Game.

In January we will launch the FutureFlash! Climate Challenge with Pilot Partners in Florida. Our Climate Collaborators include schools, universities, businesses and organizations. We are building a Sustainable Living Library of real-world and online activities, courses, and trainings.

Elders have a special role to play in sharing stories and age-appropriate activities with children, youth, adults and other elders. On behalf of the FutureFlash! Project and the Florida Earth Charter Initiative, I invite the members of Elders Climate Action to learn how they can participate as individuals and as an organization. We are Sowing a Culture of Peace -- with the Earth Charter as a guide.

Let ours be a time remembered for the awakening of a new reverence for life, the firm resolve to achieve sustainability, the quickening of the struggle for justice and peace, and the joyful celebration of life. - [The Earth Charter](#)

Sue Blythe is creator of the FutureFlash! Project and lives at the Sustainable Living Center of the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice in Hampton, FL. For more information contact Sue Blythe <sue@futureflashproject.org>. Preview YouTube video planet





Preview YouTube video Do the Connected Dance - "We Are All Connected" #weareALLconnected"



Preview YouTube video Earth Charter Minecraft 20160415

