



GREENLEGACY

Fall 2020

Two Books that Changed my Life

Reading about whale killings moved me to action

By Nina T. Bell

PALO ALTO, California Back in the early '70s, when I was a newly minted college graduate, two books touched me deeply — *A Whale for the Killing* by Farley Mowat, and *Mind in the Waters* by Joan McIntyre.

The majesty and intelligence of whales were awe inspiring, and yet, they were being hunted and slaughtered. It broke my heart.

When I learned of a group of courageous souls who were willing to put themselves out there to call attention to the situation and stop the killing, I knew I had to support them. That was my introduction to Greenpeace, and I have been supporting them ever since.

Not all of us are comfortable being on the front lines, which is why I have such great respect and admiration for those at Greenpeace. I applaud them for their fortitude, their courage, their determination. I do what I can; I write letters to policy makers when asked and send donations to help support their work.

But now, with this Covid-19 pandemic and me being in the “critical age group”, I realized I needed to do something more.

It was time to make a greater commitment to the care of the Earth and the creatures

that live upon it. For me, that meant including environmental causes in my estate planning. Four organizations were selected to be the beneficiaries of my IRA. Each one has touched my life deeply in a special way.



A whale in the Beagle Channel, Argentina.

Greenpeace is one of those four. Why? Because of the dedicated people who have been willing to put themselves out there and say, “This isn’t right!” We need people like that. The Earth needs people like that.

It gives me great joy to do what I can. Thank you, Greenpeace!

Nina Bell is a long-time advocate of the Earth and the creatures that live upon it, and an avid Greenpeace supporter.



© Christian Aslund / Greenpeace

Chinstrap penguins nesting on the Antarctic peninsula.



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Orangutan at a rehabilitation center in Borneo.

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The International Year of Plant Health

Mother Earth needs a breather from human interaction

By Gwen Lynn

As designated by the United Nations, we are now in the “International Year of Plant Health.” Much has transpired since 2020 began, and events have changed drastically across the world wrestling with the Covid-19 pandemic.

In environmental science, we want to enhance our own safety in a sustainable way. And that’s where plants come in as we stay home.

Plants are a lifeline to cleaner air. Indoor plants, specifically, can lead to enclosed cleaner air, better health and mood.

Watering plants provide moisture into the environment and can help maintain indoor humidity, which should be around 30 percent. Some herbs, like mint, can help with digestion, and scents like lavender can calm and relax. And, according to some scientists, some plants, like spider plants and cacti, can even absorb electromagnetic fields emitting from wireless communications.

To help the environment, and your family, you could start an outdoor garden if you have the space. Or, at least consider getting a plant for your place the next time you are out running errands.



Gwen Lynn enjoys fresh fruits from her orchard.

Gwen Lynn has a Masters in Environmental Science, is an advocate for the Earth and a Greenpeace supporter.

Here Comes the Season of Giving

Maximizing your impact and your personal savings in 2020

As we enter the final months of 2020, you may be thinking about end-of-year giving and supporting the health and sustainability of our planet with a gift to Greenpeace. Now, we’re proud to share two powerful, tax-savvy giving options to maximize your savings and your impact on our world.

Donors age 70.5 or older are eligible to give tax-free gifts directly from their IRA, whether or not they itemize. These gifts are excluded from your annual gross income and reduce your overall tax burden, and make an immediate impact on vulnerable species and ecosystems. We have a free tool to help you complete the paperwork in 10 minutes or less. Get started at FreeWill.com/QCD/GreenpeaceFund.

Or, if you don’t meet those age requirements, but have appreciated assets, you can donate stock directly to Greenpeace. By donating appreciated stocks, you’ll avoid paying capital gains and can deduct the full current value on your returns, regardless of the price the stock was purchased at! Use our free tool to make the process easier than ever. Transfer stock at FreeWill.com/Stocks/GreenpeaceFund.



Consider one of these tax-saving gift options as you plan your EOY gifts to Greenpeace.

Leave a Lasting Legacy

Tax Deductible Giving

Greenpeace Fund, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt charitable organization. Contributions to Greenpeace Fund are tax-deductible to the fullest extent allowed under tax laws.

Legal Name and Address: **Greenpeace Fund, Inc.**
702 H Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20001

Federal Tax ID Number: 95-3313195

For questions or more information, please contact Rogelio Ocampo at 202-319-2413, rocampo@greenpeace.org or see our website at greenpeacefund.org.

Don't Let the IRS Tax Your IRA

By Corrine Barr

As you may know, the new tax law nearly doubled the standard deduction while eliminating or reducing many itemized deductions. The good news is, unlike most charitable gifts where the tax benefit depends on being able to itemize deductions, a charitable IRA rollover offers the same tax benefits whether or not you itemize. Best of all, donations from your IRA “count” toward your required minimum distribution — great news if you don’t need your IRA for income right now, but are forced to take it because of your age.

Important things to keep in mind:

- Individuals must be at least age 70½ on the date of the gift.
- Gifts can come only from IRAs, not 401(k) s or other retirement accounts.
- A maximum of \$100,000 may be given annually.
- The transfer must come directly from the IRA custodian.
- Can be made only to public charities like Greenpeace Fund, not to private foundations or donor advised funds.

If you are able to write checks from your IRA account, it’s important to mail those at least several weeks before the end of the year in order to qualify for the charitable distribution. Unlike other checks for charitable gifts, the date of the gift for IRA donations is when the funds are actually transferred by your IRA administrator not the date of the postmark when you mail the check.

Would you like to make a gift to Greenpeace in your will? Please check out our new FreeWill service for an easy way to create your legacy for the future of the planet at **Greenpeacefund.org**.

Corrine Barr is former Director of Gift Planning at Greenpeace.

Provided for informational purposes only and should not be considered legal, accounting, or other professional advice.



Exhausted panda rests during a heat wave at the National Zoo in Washington, DC.

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Washington, DC 20001
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Awarded "Best in America Seal" by Independent Charities of America. Of the one million charities operating in the USA, less than two thousand have been awarded this prestigious seal.

A rare lynx hunts in the Wisentgehege game reserve in Springe, Germany.