

# Hiya Kids, hiya hiya!

Well, it's April already - late April at that! - and you're just getting this newsletter now. Why so late in the month? Simple: We were waiting for the much vaunted April showers you've been hearing about. And though they showed up late, they were welcome. Thanks, Mother Earth! At the same time we celebrate the joy that is spring, we would like to take a moment to acknowledge those who lost so much in the mid Atlantic, Tennessee, and other places by the same storm system.

Nature having been acknowledged, let's turn our attention to nature of a different kind, and one reason so many of you are reading this: Human nature. Specifically, [SONG'S FOR AMERICA'S CHILDREN](#) (a lousy segue we admit, but a segue nonetheless!) As promised last month, we have in fact seen the first proofs, and they have been color corrected, copyedited, and returned for revised proofs and blueprints. The book is still on schedule for the end of the school year (a far cry from last winter, we know, but at least it hasn't slipped any further in the past two months). There have been some changes: The foreword will not in fact be by Peter Yarrow. We're not exactly sure how this dematerialized, but it did. However, we DO have a foreword, and in fact it was contributed by someone who will, with all due respect, have an even bigger impact on sales and level of relevance to the issue. Ready? Drumroll, please...nuh nuh nuh nuh nuh nuh nuh...[Senator Patrick Leahy](#)! That's right, the honorable Senator (and Chairman of the Judiciary Committee!) has already delivered a full page foreword and it is beautiful. Thanks, Senator!

For those of you who are Vermont residents, remember when he's up for re-election: Vote early, and vote often! If you're not yet residents of Vermont, please consider relocating. We're thinking of gathering all five hundred of you, and your friends, neighbors, and relatives, road-tripping to Vermont, and buying a farm to establish residency. Okay - maybe this paragraph is a bit extreme, but we hope it is representational of how thankful we are.

There is other news to report: First off, quotes on the back of the jacket come from various big wigs, including: Ken Dashow of Q104.3 Radio, New York City; Tom Chapin; Bill Ayres (co-founder and Executive Director of [WHY](#)), [Smithereens](#) lead guitarist [Jim Babjak](#), and [Jen Chapin](#) ([Harry's](#) daughter, musician, and Chair of Board of Directors for [WHY](#)). There is a lot of firepower under this book, folks, so please, if you haven't ordered yet, this is a great time to! If you have already ordered, it is no longer premature to pay for your books if you haven't yet done so, and we will be sending out email reminders of your orders shortly. FYI, so nobody thinks money is sitting around, we have already sent the printer \$1500; thus far, we have actually collected only \$1349.55 of the more than \$3200 worth of books ordered. We need to send them at least another \$1000 in the next three weeks, so please consider ordering and paying for your copies now!

Other financial particulars (a tad dry, but it is important to us that you are in the loop): We want to remind everyone as we have stated from the very beginning that we will be taking 6% of the price to cover our out of pocket expenses. These look to be about \$5000 although it is premature to stick to a number at this point because we have not even started on publicity yet, which will entail big postage and courier costs, not to mention all the review copies etc..., which must be paid for. However we wish to assure everyone that we are intending to put a cap on the amount we take as we do not want more than our outlay. We can tell you even as of now EXCLUDING both design & production costs we have incurred over \$1000 of out of pocket expenses; as you further see by the paragraph above we are NOT paying ourselves back first, but sending out the money to the printer. All told, folks, this project is almost 1/3 paid for, and don't get us wrong, we do NOT take that for granted! The books aren't even in yet and you're really answering the call. THANK YOU! But we have more work to do, and think of this: Once we get twice the number of orders in from what we have now, 100% of the SELLING PRICE - not profit, but every dime you spend on the book - goes to [WHY](#). It's like feeding & educating the impoverished and getting a book for free! However we have to reach that goal first. So we thank you for your ongoing support.

Wondering how else you can help? Here's one way: If you know anyone attached to newspapers, radio news, or in the TV game, let them in on this project. It IS newsworthy, people, and without help in the form of publicity, it cannot fulfill it's potential. There will be other ideas coming in the next newsletter but we don't want overwhelm you all at once - a little at a time is so much more fun! Seriously though if you know of any reporters of any kind, turn them on to us. You'll be glad you did! Didn't see a preview of the cover yet? If you want to, along with some accompanying notes, click on this [Songs For Americas Children](#) link. While you're there you can hop around to other areas of our site and catch up on the latest news, appearances, etc. There WILL be further additions in the next month, including more activities, images from [Songs For Americas Children](#), and hopefully either then or in June the title song to the book will be completed and posted as a free download!

What's that you say? You need more? OK, we aim to please!

Rachelle has been a busy little bee lately: Science fair, cello lessons, talent show (and oh, is she talented); she has really been displaying her desire to see what the world has to offer and to try out new things. Viva! You go, girl! Of course, her biggest passion remains reading, but we are happy to announce that she seems to also enjoy classic rock. Someone must be doing something right. We humbly admit, it is us!

Joshua has earned his seventh stripe as a white belt in Tae Kwan Do; three stripes from now, he moves up into Gold Belt category. He's really working for it, too, and it's a great talent to see him develop. The hardest part for us is juggling his classes with his baseball team, but you

know what? That should be the biggest problem we ever encounter.

And as for...ouch! ...Maxx,...yee-owch! Maxx, cut it out! Stop it! No, really! WE MEAN IT! MAAA-AAXXXXXX!!!!

\*sigh\*

Need we say more? OK, we'll say more: HE'S TERLIT TRAINED! YEA, TEAM! Believe us, that makes it worthwhile! Well, most of it anyway...

As for Kim and Danny, we are back in second place in our bowling league. It appears the slump is over, but then again, we all know appearances can be deceiving. We are working on a few more projects, but we don't want that cat out of the bag until SONGS...is completed. We ARE looking forward to the summer, barbecue season, a vacation, and of course repeated trips to Six Flags; for now, we are content to enjoy all of the promise of spring. Let's hope it delivers!

This month's site of the month: <http://www.jenchapin.com/>

[Jen Chapin](#) is a great independant musician, educator, and all around swell human being. She was nice enough to have given us a lovely quote for our book; the least we can do is return the favor by turning you onto her. Check her out, and tell her where you heard of her!

As for this month's closing rock-n-roll quote, we offer you something so simple and yet so often taken for granted, courtesy of U2 "...Don't say that later will be better."

love and peace, and we'll have more exciting thangs to tell you about next month!

- danny & kim, and the clan

PS: As we are duty bound to remind you,if you don't want to receive this unobtrusive, fun to read, non-invasive and not more than once monthly newsletter, secure in the knowledge that we NEVER give out email addresses, just let us know. We'll take you off the list, although what good could come of that?

\*\*To read any of our previous newsletters, just click this [News of the Past](#) link

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