



S.A.V.E. NOTES

News from the Science Alliance for Valuing the Environment

VOLUME 35, ISSUE 4

SPRING 2025

In Search of Hope

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You may be wondering if **hope** is possible in today's world. We are at a pivotal point in civilization where we can choose to make life more loving and compassionate on Earth, or the opposite. Climate change is not a distant threat. Severe flooding, wildfires, intense storms, atmospheric turbulence and volcanic eruptions are here right now. All living things suffer and many institutions such as National Parks, National Wildlife Foundation, the Smithsonian and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) are losing federal funding and being forced to reduce their staff even from key positions that require great expertise. If you follow the news, you know the various actions being taken to reduce the federal budget. We all feel the significant changes being made by the present Administration, including weakening emissions standards, moving away from renewable energy and pulling the U.S. out of the Paris Agreement.

So, what can we do to feel HOPE and to balance the coming transitions?

There are a few thoughts that are helping me that I would like to pass on to you. The thought of "angels" is entering my consciousness lately. Angels! Do you believe in them? They are very powerful messengers for leading us through life's perils. I recall when I was a little girl there was a picture on my bedroom wall of two children walking across a bridge with an angel behind them. That was my "guardian angel." You have one, too! We all do!

I bought a book called "The Physics of Angels: Exploring the Realm Where Science and Spirit Meet" by Rupert Sheldrake and Matthew Fox. The premise is that **angels have more energy than we have to do things we can't**. Then I saw a webinar advertised - "Archangel Healing Activations" by Alexandra Wenman on The Shift Network (www.theshiftnetwork.com) -- which says that archangels have energy to **activate our spiritual gifts** and help us **create a life of clarity, purpose, inner peace and love**.

Angels are beings in the spiritual realm given to each of us regardless of who or what we are. Maybe they can help us find hope and give us additional energy to protect the Earth we have and give us love and support as we move forward into a more peaceful future!

Sister Rosine Sobczak, OSF
S.A.V.E. President

S.A.V.E celebrates 35 years of service



S.A.V.E. was established in August 1990 by a group of concerned citizens who wanted to make a difference and promote a love and appreciation for our natural world. It is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization.

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Charlene Czerniak, Ph.D
Linda Penn (deceased)

S.A.V.E. Notes is published quarterly in January, April, August and October. Submit newsletter items to save@lourdes.edu.

In 1989, SAVE was but a dream (literally) when three women, Linda Penn, Charlene Czerniak and Sister Rosine Sobczak met for the first time to plan “something” for the environment. We never began anything like this before, so we gathered a few like-minded individuals who felt as we did and got to work: applying for a federal tax-ID number, becoming a 501©3 non-profit, writing a Code of Regulations, finding seed money to get started for stationary and envelopes, setting a budget and communicating with the State of Ohio banks, for starters. Officially, we began August 10, 1990. The focus was always on environment, spirituality and sustainability and it is through education that we have spread the message.

The time then was very different than it is now. In 1990 we wanted to do our best to educate others to appreciate the marvels we have been given and celebrate the gift of planet Earth. Today these basic tenants still are adhered to, however, we need to defend the Earth and prevent its deterioration from opposing forces. It is more or less a rescue mission to keep it pristine and protected. Those of us on the S.A.V.E. board forge ahead into the future to help our members stay connected to what is most meaningful and to continue to support us and work with us for Earth in the years ahead. A celebration of S.A.V.E.’s 35th anniversary will take place at a later date. Stay tuned!

-Sr. Rosine Sobczak OSF

Connections Between Animal and Plant Worlds

Many species, such as apes, bees, elephants, bears, porcupines and birds have an innate ability to find plants that aid in their healing as reported by Isabelle Laumer, a primatologist at the Max Planck Institute of Animal Behavior in Germany and published in the *Scientific Reports* journal. An orangutan used juice from a plant, *Fibraurea tinctorial* to heal a wound under his eye and then used the hard part of the leaf to cover the wound to prevent an infection. A month later, the wound healed completely. Honey bees laden with a parasite will lay their eggs on a healing milkweed with high cardenolide, a compound toxic to predators. They lay eggs and when the eggs hatch, the caterpillars eat the leaves which are non-toxic to them but toxic to their predators. Elephants chew leaves of a certain plant to relieve gastric upset. Swallows and finches line nests with cigarette butts and the nicotine in the leaves will minimize mites. No one knows how animals acquire this knowledge about plants, but scientists are observing them to learn how they can be effectively used to treat human diseases such as breast cancer, PTSD and traumatic brain injury.

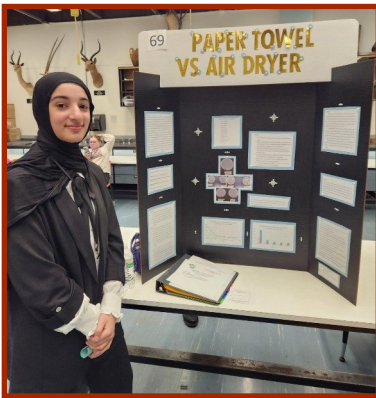
-National Wildlife Federation (NWF) journal, Winter 2025

Announcing Planet Earth Sustainability Award Winners

S.A.V.E. presents the Planet Earth Sustainability Award annually to students in grades 7 to 9 who demonstrate exemplary scientific exploration in addressing some aspect of a sustainability challenge or opportunity. This year, our board members Susan Perzynski and Eileen Kerner judged Science Fair projects at the Regional Science Day at Ohio Northern University in Ada, Ohio.

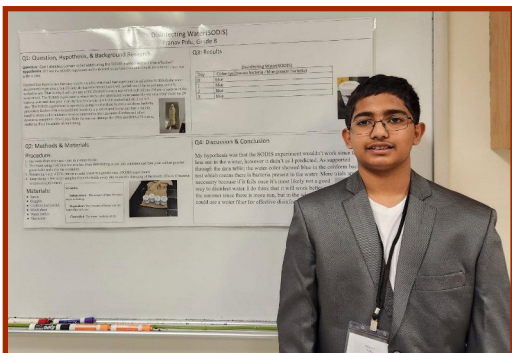
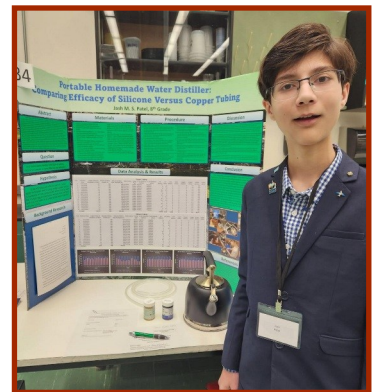
Our three winners and their guests are invited to join us in person or by ZOOM for our annual Awards Night on May 13 to share their projects and be presented with a \$100 prize and a certificate. S.A.V.E. offers our encouragement and support to these outstanding students as they begin high school! We hope you will join us in person, on Zoom or later on the S.A.V.E. website recording to hear their presentations.

-Susan Perzynski



Retaj Aljabouri attends the Toledo Islamic Academy. Her project, *Paper Towel vs. Hand Dryer*, asks which is better for drying hands with less germs. This question is of interest to many people from the aspect of waste or cost effectiveness. But for Retaj and others with compromised immunity, the question is one of personal health. Drying hands after washing is a crucial part of hygiene, since bacteria tend to transfer more on wet or damp hands than on dry hands. Although Retaj proposed that air dryers would leave fewer bacteria, her experiment showed that paper towels, in fact, left the hands with fewer colonies.

Jash Patel, from Incarnation Catholic School in Dayton, explored homemade water distillers. His project, *Portable Homemade Water Distiller: Comparing Efficacy of Silicon vs. Copper Tubing*, tested which type of tubing was more effective. The experiment showed that both types consistently removed contaminants. While silicone tubing is cheaper and easier to distribute, the copper tubing distilled more water. Both types consistently removed contaminants. Jash recognizes that many world communities lack clean water, and hopes that easily built water distillers will ease this dire need.



Pranav Polu attends Perrysburg Junior High. His project, *“Disinfecting Water (SODIS)”* also explores a method to clean water, but with sunlight. After collecting water from the Maumee and confirming the bacterial contaminants, he put the water in bottles and under a metal sheet in a greenhouse (the SODIS method). Pranav concluded the decontamination did not work well due to the lack of winter sunshine, but believes this method can be an affordable and effective method for people lacking clean water, if it is used where there is a lot of sunshine.



Start your spring cleaning with S.A.V.E.

Cleaning out those old electronics that have been on the shelf for awhile?

S.A.V.E. partners with the “Cartridges For Kids” program to collect and recycle items that would normally end up in a landfill. We accept for recycling, cell phones, laser and ink jet cartridges, laptops, MP3’s, PDA’s and tablets, readers and notebooks. Items for recycling can be brought to a S.A.V.E. meeting or lecture and given to any board member. Recyclable materials can also be dropped off at the office of Sr. Rosine in St. Agnes Hall (room 166) on the campus of Lourdes University. In addition to support from “Cartridges for Kids” we also rely on the Toledo Zoo and their efforts to receive and reuse printer supplies rather than dispose of them in the trash.

S.A.V.E. would like to thank Vision Associates, one of our recycling partners. Vision Associates saves their used toner and ink jet cartridges and donates them to S.A.V.E. We invite other corporate and business partners to accumulate materials and then donate them for recycling. S.A.V.E. would provide a receptacle for the deposit of recyclable items. Pick up of quantities can be arranged by contacting David Sandys at 419-385-3987. Please share this information with your colleagues, friends and neighbors!

-David Sandys



Honey & Maple Syrup Fundraiser



Photo courtesy of jimages.inc

mission! See the Spring 2025 issue of the BUZZ book for an article about S.A.V.E.

If you are looking for a way to support S.A.V.E., All Good Things Art & Gifts on the campus of the Sisters of St. Francis of Sylvania sells pure honey (\$11) and maple syrup (\$10) produced by our community partner, Nature’s Health Food. S.A.V.E. receives a percentage of the proceeds. Call 419-824-3749 for current store hours.

The latest report from All Good Things for sales from fourth quarter 2024 showed we are well below where we stood at the same time the year prior. S.A.V.E. thanks all of you who purchased products to help our

-David Sobczak, Treasurer

“ Today the human species is at a critical point of awakening.”

-Nancy Sylvester, IHM, Founder of the Institute for the Communal
Contemplation and Dialogue

S.A.V.E. Financial Report

This report reflects the fiscal period that ended 02/28/24.

For the first six months of this fiscal year, membership dues revenue should be at 100 percent but we are only at 68 percent. **Thirty-two percent of our members have not renewed yet.** Please do so ASAP via PayPal, check or cash. Two new individual members joined this year. We received a significant number of memorials for Kevin Kerner, the deceased spouse of one of our board members. Our major expenses are for the lecture fees and this newsletter. S.A.V.E. also renewed our web hosting agreement with Weebly for 2 more years.



We are now signed up with the [Pledgeling Foundation](#), a national entity in California that accepts donations from individuals across the country and grants them back to S.A.V.E. after deducting their fee. We have received over \$1,000 thru this entity.



KROGER COMMUNITY REWARDS

Kroger reported a \$9.44 reward balance for S.A.V.E. so far with six participating households. We need at least \$25 before we receive any cash benefits. Do you shop at Kroger? If you enroll in the Kroger Community Rewards with a Kroger Plus card and select S.A.V.E. (Science Alliance for Valuing the Environment) as the Community you want to sponsor, S.A.V.E. will receive a contribution from Kroger every time you shop and use your Kroger Rewards card. This won't cost you anything. See previous issues of this newsletter or our [website](#) for detailed instructions to sign up. Our organization number is **HQ539**. This won't cost you anything but customers must have a free, registered Kroger rewards card account to link to S.A.V.E.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS

The S.A.V.E. board has instituted a new effort to support other entities that share our mission. In doing so we voted to dedicate approximately \$200 per year to this effort. This fiscal year we made a \$50 donation to each of these entities:

Earth Justice, National Park Foundation, Lucas County Sustainability Commission, Back to the Wild and Sylvania Area Family Services, Inc. We did the same for four different entities last year.

-David Sobczak, Treasurer

JOIN S.A.V.E. TODAY!

Members receive a quarterly newsletter, fliers for upcoming lectures and events, announcements concerning local opportunities, scholarship opportunities and more. Membership term runs from Sept. 1-Aug. 31. Fill out the application on page 12 or [submit your application online today!](#)

A healthy planet indicates healthy people. A healthy people indicates a healthy planet. Each is bound to the other in extraordinary ways.

S.A.V.E. Strategic Plan Update

Since 2019, S.A.V.E. has been operating under the direction of an organizational Strategic Plan. Of particular note has been the organization's expansion into areas that Build Relationships, Build Networks and Program Innovation. The expansion of organizational relationships has included the Multifaith Council of Northwest Ohio (MFC), an MFC subcommittee called The Huse Torrence Educational Institute, and Maumee Valley Heritage Corridor. These relationships with other area organizations promote common aspirations and interorganizational cooperation.

S.A.V.E.'s relationships have also grown. Lourdes University's Lifelong Learning Program has partnered with S.A.V.E. to promote shared programs and events. Networking with the MFC, sponsorship of the Baha'is of Sylvania, and Toledo Area Metropolitan Council of Government (TAMCOG) have allowed S.A.V.E.'s mission and vision to expand into greater local areas.

Program innovation started with S.A.V.E. Lectures to feature international speakers utilizing the ZOOM video conferencing platform. Virtual presenters came from Switzerland, Scotland, Missouri and California. S.A.V.E. now offers all lectures both in-person and virtually, with ZOOM allowing S.A.V.E. to record and post the recorded lectures on the [S.A.V.E. YouTube Channel](#).

-John Krochmalny

S.A.V.E. Board Members Spread Message of Integral Ecology

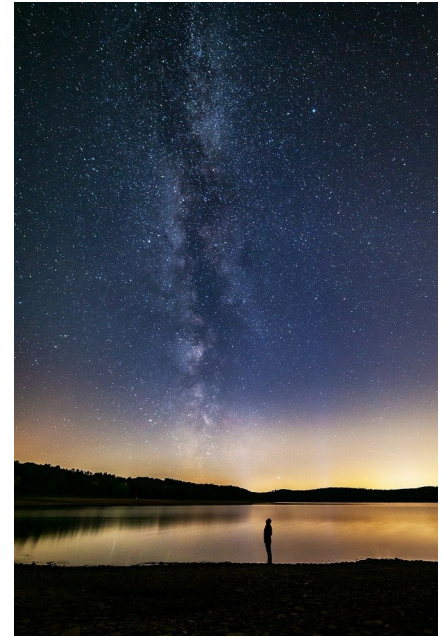
Approximately a year ago, the S.A.V.E. board began collaborating with [Lourdes University Lifelong Learning \(LLL\)](#). We share the same ZOOM link for our lectures and four S.A.V.E. board members are offering classes for LLL. John Krochmalny has offered classes on "A Scientific Approach to Near Death Experiences," "Investigating Reality: Discerning Truth in the News Media," and "Spirituality of Ancient People and the History of Religion to Abraham." Sr. Sharon Havelak has offered a four-week silk scarf painting class, which she connects to the creative energy of God and creation, and she leads Tea and Teach classes at All Good Things Art & Gifts. Cynthia Nowak offers "Thoreau at Walden and Civil Disobedience" and Sr. Rosine Sobczak now offers "Exploring a New Cosmic Creation Story." Each of these persons incorporates environment, sustainability and/or spirituality into their lectures to continue to spread the message of integral ecology as Pope Francis is calling us to do in his encyclical (letter) known as Laudato Si', "Praise to you, my Lord, on Care for our Common Home - Earth!" Dr. Tim Reichard, a former board member, also teaches a course, "The Rights of Animals and all of Nature." If you wish to stimulate some brain cells, check out what LLL has to offer! It might be the best decision you have ever made.

-SAVE Board Members

2024-2025 S.A.V.E. Lecture Series
Winter Lectures Illuminate Calls for Action

Audiences were asked to consider both earthly and celestial realms during S.A.V.E.'s free public lectures this winter. In January, Sarah Weller and Claudia Godreau of the International Coastal Cleanup presented a wide-ranging overview of how volunteers all over the world are creating impacts on coasts and waterways threatened by plastics pollution.

Noting that the Great Lakes most certainly count as coastal areas, Sarah and Claudia shared startling facts, such projections pointing to a cargo ship's-worth of plastics entering lakes, rivers and oceans *every day* by 2030, even with current plastics reduction commitments. They called on all of us to fundamentally rethink our relationship with plastics, and for governments to restructure their economies accordingly. "Reduce, Manage, Clean Up" is the most effective formula for dealing with plastics, they said. An enormous undertaking, all agreed, but both necessary and do-able if we have the will.



The month of March brought a presentation on "Spirituality of the Cosmos: What Stars Teach Us About Hope" with Linda Gibler OP, a Dominican Sister of Houston who has long been fired by the universe's visual magnificence — more accessible to humans thanks to space telescopes — and its potential for deepening a Catholic understanding of God.

Humanity feels short on hope in these troubled times, she noted, and old wisdoms no longer seem to work to find a way forward. The answer, she said, is to begin with creation – something already deeply established in the human tradition. She pointed specifically to the Book of Job, with its intimations that God delights in the fertile chaos of creation, and to the Bible verse John 3:16-17, which she called "God's mission statement." The familiar words of Jesus to Nicodemus reveal that it's a mission of love: "For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son ... God sent the Son into the world, not to condemn the world, but that the world might be saved through him."



Recordings of all S.A.V.E. lectures may be viewed on our [YouTube Channel](#) or on the [S.A.V.E. website](#).

God's love of creation, Gibler said, includes everything from yeast to bears to humans — and stars. The story of the Pole Star — Polaris — which flared into life two billion years ago, is a creation story writ large, she added. Stars are born out of the remnants of the Big Bang, and that instant of creation continues: "God creates in cataclysm, chaos and supernovae."

"Lectures" continued on page 8...

“Lectures” continued from page 7...

Since the Pascal Mystery is the Resurrection message, she added, humanity can find hope in death leading to the fullness of life: “Our hope remains that something unimaginable can arise out of what seems like chaos, just like the remnant that produces future stars is present in each star’s collapse.”

She ended this enlightening evening with the universe by sharing a bit of cosmic advice: “Creation awaits our radiance.”

-Cynthia Nowak

Don't toss that broken item! Toledo Repair Café can help



The Toledo Repair Cafe is a multifaith co-ministry started by Park United Church of Christ and The Sylvania Baha'i Community. Its growing partnerships include The MultiFaith Council of Northwest Ohio, The Toledo-Lucas County Public Library, and Northwest State Community College. Upcoming dates include April 26 at the Holland Library and May 31 at the West Toledo Library. Stop by if you need assistance with repairs of clothing, small appliances, jewelry or bicycles.

-John Krochmalny

Plastic pollution treaty falls short of goal

The treaty of March 2022 by the United Nations Environmental Assembly to curb plastic pollution was expected to end in an established plastic pollution treaty. However, it was deadlocked over some key issues. It will, hopefully, be adopted by 100 countries and supported by environmental and health agencies in 2025.

Plastic recycling efforts and ocean clean-ups are desperately needed. This was evident in S.A.V.E.'s two previous lectures on microplastics and ocean conservation efforts. An estimate of the global amount of plastics is approximately 6 billion metric tons of plastics pollution on Earth including six to 12 million metric tons dumped into the oceans each year.

Plastic is durable, cheap and is used for almost anything. Approximately 10 percent of plastics are recycled because there are many different chemicals used to produce some of them, making them impossible to be recycled. With these chemicals in our environment, they are a definite health issue moving forward, said Dr. Philip Landrigan, an epidemiologist and Director of Boston College Global Observatory on Planetary Health and lead author of this report.

-Sr. Rosine Sobczak

According to the EPA, plastics account for 12.2 percent of the national landfill which is equal to 35,680,000 tons of plastics being misplaced.

Memorials & Tributes



In Memory of...

Janice Sandys

S.A.V.E.
Garry and Marcia Kudlinski

Kevin Kerner

S.A.V.E.
Sharon Powell
Lisa Wahl
Maria Povsic
Victoria Jacobson
Margaret Trumbull
Pledgeling Foundation
David & Susan Knapik

Beatrice Wolfe
Carol & Donald Wiczynski
Richard & Kathryn Malone
Joanne Buckenmeyer
Sr. Janice Peer
Sr. Mary Thill
Patricia Kerner/Kristen Turco
Sr. Karen Zielinski


Valerie Obloza

Janina Douglas


Commemorative Donations Memorials and Tributes


Celebrate someone's special occasion in Tribute or Memory of a person or loved one by protecting the environment in their name.


A contribution to S.A.V.E. will honor them and will assist us to continue educating others to care and appreciate the environment on our beautiful planet, Earth.

 Donate online through PayPal listing this as a Tribute or Memorial.

OR

 Send your information and donation to:
S.A.V. E. Inc.
Sr. Rosine Sobczak, OSF
6832 Convent Blvd.
Sylvania, OH 43560

 Call 419-824-3691 with questions.

 A response card will be sent to you and to any person designated as the recipient.





S.A.V.E. Membership Application

2024-2025

Membership is from September 1st of current year to August 31st of following year.

Please complete the following application and mail to: S.A.V.E., Inc. Lourdes University 6832 Convent Blvd. Sylvania, Ohio 43560. Application may also be completed online at www.sciencealliancesave.org. Dues may be paid [online via Paypal](#) or by check made payable to S.A.V.E. Inc.

Last Name:		First Name:		M.I.
Affiliation:		Position:		
Address:				
City:		State:	Zip Code:	
Phone: (business)		(home)		
Email:		Fax:		

Membership: New Renewal

Types of Membership: Annual Dues

- Student Member \$10.00
- Senior Member \$10.00
- Active/Supporting Member \$20.00
- Family Membership \$30.00
- Corporate Member ** \$100.00 (please include a high resolution logo (.jpg., gif, .png, etc.)
- Sustaining Member \$200.00

Members receive a quarterly newsletter, fliers for upcoming lectures, events and scholarships, volunteer opportunities and more.

I would like to help in one of the following areas:

- Membership Newsletter Board Member
- Fundraising Lecture Series
- Phone Committee Award Reception & Dessert Buffet

Please help us increase the effectiveness of S.A.V.E activities by becoming involved.

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or contact SAVE@lourdes.edu or 419-824-3691.



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Sylvania, OH 43560

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An Educational Consortium for
Environmental Sustainability

VISION STATEMENT

S.A.V.E. is a catalyst for individual and community action for sustainability.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Science Alliance for Valuing the Environment (S.A.V.E.) fosters a personal awareness and respect for the interrelatedness of ecology, spirituality and sustainability. S.A.V.E. creates formal and informal life-long learning opportunities in collaboration with organizations at all levels — local, national and global. S.A.V.E.'s activities are designed to empower individuals to values-based action for a just and sustainable world.

FIND US ON THE WEB

www.ScienceAllianceSAVE.org



www.facebook.com/SAVEScienceAlliance

S.A.V.E. CALENDAR

May 13, 2025
S.A.V.E. Awards Night



[Follow S.A.V.E. on Facebook](#) or
access S.A.V.E.'s [Google Calendar](#) under the Events tab of
www.sciencealliancesave.org.



'SAVE' the date for Awards Night!

S.A.V.E. is hosting its 33rd annual Awards Night on Tuesday, May 13th at 6 p.m. at the Franciscan Center in Sylvania. We will be celebrating the accomplishments of a number of local people who are working to save the environment. The awards include:

Eco-Friend of the Environment
David and Jan Sandys Eco-Service Award
Eco-Community Award
Eco-School Award, Elementary and Secondary
Eco-Educator Award: Elementary and Secondary
Eco-Faith Community Award
Community Building Award

We will also be honoring three middle-school winners of the Planetary Sustainability Award for their projects at the Ohio Northern University Regional Science Day. Join us for dessert and conversation, to congratulate our awardees and celebrate the wonderful things that are happening locally for our Earth!

-Sr. Sharon Havelak, OSF