

CARP USA Newsletter: CARP Online Is Live

Jinil Fleischman
April 12, 2020



April 2020



Call Me, Beep Me if You Want to Reach Me

I grew up with the internet. My house got its first home computer when I was six. It was my second television and an easy way to chat with my friends when they were too far away. Even in my adult life, the internet is my office, my entertainment, my phone, and my shopping mall.

Of course, that doesn't mean all internet use is good; there's a quite a lot of evidence to the contrary. But I posit that, up until now, the internet's true value was never really appreciated. In a time where physical distance is required, emotional distance has become an easier hurdle to jump.

My boss joyfully told me of his grandchildren's virtual birthday parties and that for the first time, the whole family was in attendance, because of the internet.

CARP, also, continues to host opportunities to interact and have **#conversationsthatmatter**. What's my true value? How can I create meaningful relationships? CARP chapters rose to the challenge and are keeping these conversations going via the internet.

Because of these conversations, CARP chapters have kept their relationships alive. They're supporting the students and helping them endure long distance and being cooped up at home. **CARP Las Vegas** hosted their very first online retreat (pictured above).



On top of their meetings and evening programs, **CARP Bay Area** hosts regular online board game nights for their members to stay connected. The **Midwest CARP** chapters continue their teamwork to host joint weekly meetings. **CARP Arizona**, a new chapter, kept in touch with their new members and hosted their first online meeting.

And, that's not all. Chapters attend each other's programs in support and learning. More than ever, CARP America is a singular entity, because of the internet. [Check out our summary of all of the amazing online programs this month here!](#)

Our future with the virus is unknown. But our future together is certain.

Stay tuned for more CARP victories!



New Interim President

This month, we appointed our very own **Jinil Fleischman** as our National Interim CARP President!

He has been our National Program Coordinator for the past year and will continue to support chapters in his role.

If you have any questions for Jinil, feel free to reach him at [jinil@carplife.org!](mailto:jinil@carplife.org)

News

Writing Contest Winners

In honor of the 100th Birthday Anniversary of CARP's Founder, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, we hosted a Writing Contest. This month, we announced the winners:

In 1st place: [Mia T., CARP Las Vegas](#)
In 2nd place: [Sasha O., CARP New Jersey](#)
In 3rd place: [Karen I., CARP Bay Area](#)

Read their entries above!



Student Perspective: You Can Only Give the Love You Receive

Check out Chungbom K., CARP UNLV President. He has been interning with CARP Communications Coordinator, Jennifer Pierce, to share principled perspectives.

[Check out his first work here!](#)



[Read more news here](#)

Announcements



CARP Online

See for yourself how powerful CARP is online.

Check out carplife.org/online for some of the amazing virtual programs students are hosting around the country.

Thank you for your continued support for CARP.

Feel free to continue reach out to us with any questions or comments.

Love,
Jennifer Pierce
Communications Coordinator
jennifer@carplife.org





CARP Online: Socially Distant but Together

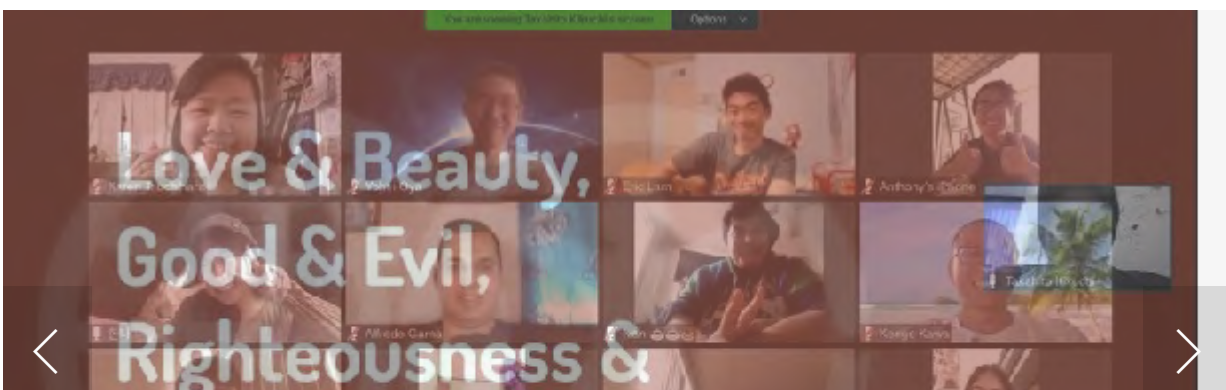
April 3, 2020 · news, newsfeed

Two weeks since the official stay at home orders started rolling out and every chapter is fully transitioned online! Here are some highlights from this month.

Virtual Club meetings!



CARP El Camino College's meeting on March 19th! They were also joined by their club advisor, Professor Hull.





CARP Cal State LA are keeping up weekly on Fridays. Also joining in are other chapters from CARP LA.



CARP Pasadena City College meets Tuesdays. Professor Grace Apiafi joins in when she can!



CARP Cypress isn't to be left out! They were joined by advisors Professor Ledesma and Mr. Okawa.

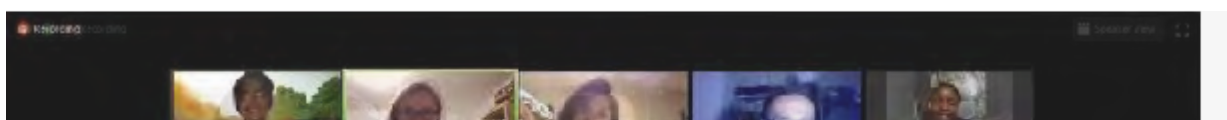


CARP Arizona keep up with each other via Zoom.



CARP NJ held their first virtual meeting on March 31st with the theme, Unity! They were happy to see all of their friends again.

Evening Programs



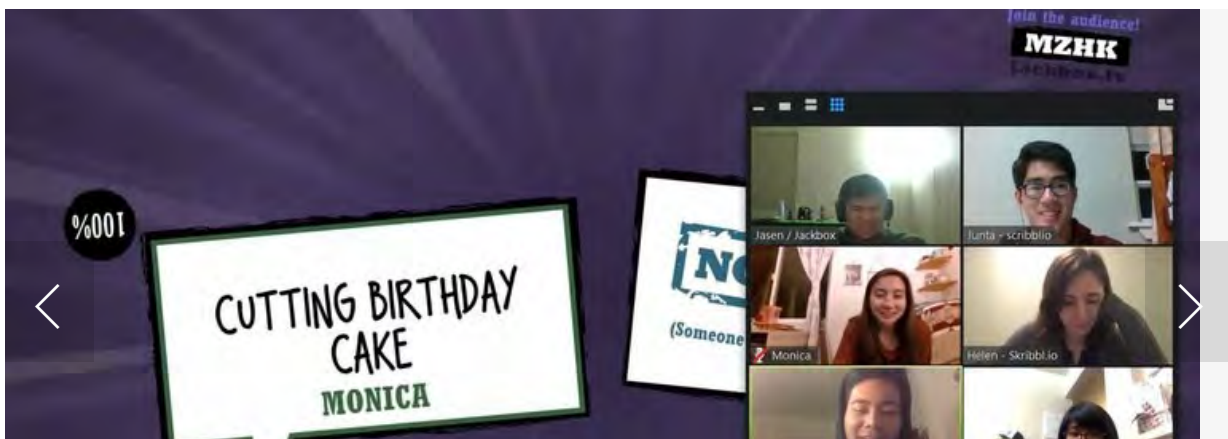


CARP Bay Area made Ignite available online, re-branded **Zoomnite!** Other chapters are joining in for a night with a guest speaker, activities, and discussion.



CARP Las Vegas continues hosting Tribe Talks on Thursday evenings. CARP members from Las Vegas and around the country join in for a night of discussion and bonding.

Hangouts





CARP Bay Area makes sure all of its members are still making time for fun with their Virtual Game Night, a fun way to stay connected with friends.

Workshops



CARP LA hosted a workshop on March 21st with mentor, Naoko Hiraki, as presenter. CARP members had a blast learning and keeping in touch.



CARP Las Vegas transformed their two day retreat into an online experience. CARP

members gave presentations and guest CARP chapters (CARP Bay Area and CARP Arizona) gave performances. With discussion, reflections, and presentations, CARP continues to provide a space for everyone to feel like a family no matter how far apart.

We've got more online opportunities coming, so stay tuned!

Share your story to jennifer@carplife.org!

Tagged: power of the principle, living for the sake of others, divine principle, discussion, conversations that matter, retreat, CARP chapter, chapter updates, carp las vegas, carp bay area, CARP L.A., carp arizona, carp njit, carp nj

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The One Who Believed in World Peace the Most

March 25, 2020 · Student Entry, About Our Founders

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the founder of CARP, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, CARP hosted a writing contest for students to submit what inspires them about Father Moon's legacy. Here is the first place entry:



By Mia T., CARP Las Vegas

When I was little, I had a hard time falling asleep. I would lie in bed hearing the sirens of firetrucks and police cars zipping by my home, afraid that one day I'll wake up to find that the people I loved were gone. Like many adults, my parents would have the news channel constantly turned on, and that impacted me greatly. Perhaps I was more sensitive than others, or maybe I was simply more easily paranoid, I'm not sure. But the undeniable reality that the world was not a good place terrified me. Every night, my mind became filled with a whirlwind of horrific possibilities, each one just as

bad as the one before it.

With time, I came to understand that despite the prevalence of violence and crime that the news always talked about, I and the people I love were not prone to it. The thought didn't ease my mind entirely, but it was enough for me to go to bed a little bit more at ease.

As I got older, the pain of reality became more evident in different ways. While I was no longer haunted by the possibility of crime, I was struck with the knowledge that pain and brokenness could be found everywhere. It didn't take knowing a lot of people to understand that the lives people have lived were far from ideal. For everyone, pain and heartbreak was real. What rested heavy on my heart each night became a matter of the current circumstances of others, instead of the fearful possibility of what can come. I wanted to believe that this world was a good place, that there was a version of the world where everyone was happy and safe. Yet, there was no denying the reality.

Doubt for the goodness in this world crept into my life like droplets of water from a leaky faucet— slowly but cumulatively. I once prided myself in my pursuit for a world of peace that I believed in wholeheartedly. It took time for me to realize that my belief in such a world was no longer present. I found myself doubting people and God and the motivation of others and not knowing why. My natural inclination to be righteous and forthright never wavered, but I questioned why doing the right thing mattered so much to me when goodness wasn't promised at the end. Preaching about a good world was one thing, but living a life that would allow for such a good world to come about was another. I couldn't fathom the thought that those who talk of a good world could also be the ones inflicting pain on others.

I grew up knowing Rev. Moon as a man that changed my parents' life. My parents made sure I never forgot that. While I never met him or his wife in person, I always knew I wanted to. From a young age, I had dreamed of the day that I would meet them and thank them for everything they have given me. I had no idea who they were or what they had done; I only knew that my parents were living better lives because of them and for that, I was grateful. Without Rev. Moon and his wife, my family would not exist.

Yet, over time, I began to doubt them too. Just as learning the reality of this world had corrupted my belief for the potential goodness in this world, it had also begun to corrupt my belief in the people that Rev. Moon and his wife were. They may have made my parents' lives better, but I know some others who had it differently. Striving for the ideal in this world is hard no matter how much a person wants it. That thought crushed me inside and furthered my doubt for the world. It seemed as though despite what people did for the sake of world peace, lives were hurt in the end. I couldn't bear that thought.

It took years for me to finally start to understand the essence of Rev. Moon and his teachings. I had heard his teachings many times before, but it was only through

learning about the life that he lived and the sacrifices that he made that I started to truly see what was behind everything he taught.

He spoke of a God of love that cared for everyone. He spoke of marriages that were centered on selfless love. He spoke of children raised in beautiful and happy families. He spoke of a world that God had originally created that we are still meant to have. He spoke of the potential of humankind and each person's capacity to change the world in unimaginable ways.

But it was only in looking at the life that he lived did I truly start to understand what he spoke of. I learned of the sacrifices he made in giving up his family to pursue the Will of God. I learned of the pain he had to endure going through prison six times, unjustly. I learned of the immense persecution he received for speaking the truth. I learned of the children he lost along the way. I learned of the lives that were lost from following him and the heartbreak he felt as a result. The more I learned of his life, the more I began to see that this man was a man of his word. He didn't just speak of the world changing and the potential it had; he lived every moment to exemplify those facts. He showed us first hand how to change the world.

Reverend Moon was the one who believed in world peace the most—and lived every moment of his life according to that belief. I had never known anyone to be so willingly misunderstood for the sake of pursuing something so great. Those misunderstandings led to an onslaught of suffering and pain that isn't even fathomable. However, despite all of that, he never gave up hope.

Rev. Moon was fully aware of the pain and suffering of the world, yet he did not let that fact phase him. Rather, it was this pain and suffering that drove him to work harder each day. To him, the need for the world to change was evidenced in the reality of our circumstance; It was his prime motivator for the way he lived his life. Rev. Moon recognized that each day that he did not strive to make the world change, was another day in which the world will continue to suffer. This thought pushed him to strive for solutions in this world that were not temporary. He saw that much of the problems in this world began in a fundamental societal structure - the family. Thus, his biggest efforts were towards raising people who could create beautiful families.

Rev. Moon passed away in 2012. While there is still a lot of work to be done in the pursuit of world peace, Rev. Moon left behind a legacy of love that never gives up. Even until his final breath, Rev. Moon did everything he could to make the world a better place. He only died with the regret that he couldn't do more.

There is a long way to go before we can fully reach world peace. Many people find it hard to believe that it's even possible. I know for myself, there were moments when I felt that way. The reality of this world can be overwhelming and difficult to face, but I have learned to have faith in the ideal. The ideal is possible and there's power to believing in it. There's power in knowing that there are people who will do anything to fight for it.

Now, when I fall asleep, the fears that once pervaded my thoughts so intensely, are silenced by the reminder that there are good people in this world who are willing to go above and beyond to ensure a better life for others. Rev. Moon lived every moment of his life in pursuit of a better world. I thank him every day for that.

Tagged: Rev Moon, Father Moon, Sun Myung Moon, Writing Contest, Writing Contest 2020

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The Biggest and Happiest Smile

March 25, 2020 · About Our Founders, Student Entry

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the founder of CARP, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, CARP hosted a writing contest for students to submit what inspires them about Father Moon's legacy. Here is the second place entry:



By Sasha O., CARP New Jersey

Rev. Sun Myung Moon's legacy of living for the sake of others inspired people to understand their inner value and live a life empowered to make a difference. Being part of CARP, I had the opportunity to meet many different people who come from different backgrounds. Although different, most people wanted to live a good life and be good people but didn't know how. I remember meeting a person who said that they believed there is a purpose to life but would not be able to find it in their lifetime.

Two years ago, I had the opportunity to go to Costa Rica to support the CARP chapter there, and it was an incredible experience. Even though Costa Rica is one of the happiest places on Earth, I met people who faced difficulties in their life and didn't know what their purpose was; however, through Rev. Moon's teachings and their experiences in CARP, they have transformed into leaders who are willing to put their desires aside and live for their country. Witnessing this, I cannot help but be inspired and moved by how much Rev. Moon's teachings have impacted people's lives.

Today, we live in a society where we've become reluctant to care for others and sacrifice ourselves, even for the people right next to us; I experienced this myself many times. However, Rev. Moon's legacy of living for the sake of others has shown me that living for others is the key to living a fulfilled and joyful life.

Rev. Moon lived a life of deep suffering; he lost many of his loved ones, was separated from his family due to the Korean War, and was misunderstood by many people. However, in all the pictures I've seen of him, he always has the biggest and happiest smile. Sometimes, I think that it is impossible to let go of my judgments and overcome the challenges I face, but Rev. Moon has shown me that I can and is capable of loving others and living a true fulfilled life.

Tagged: Rev Moon, Sun Myung Moon, Father Moon, live for the sake of others

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Giving Hope for a Peaceful World



March 25, 2020 · Student Entry, About Our Founders

In honor of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the founder of CARP, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, CARP hosted a writing contest for students to submit what inspires them about Father Moon's legacy. Here is the third place entry:



By Karen I., CARP Bay Area

World peace is made a living reality through the legacy of Rev. Moon.

Rev. Moon's legacy reveals the fundamental truth that the family is the building block to world peace. Furthermore, the universal principle he taught was that the relationship between parent and child is the solution to the problems that humankind faces. Rev. Moon also shared that the nature of God is the desire is to be a parent to all of humankind.

Throughout my life, I could not see, appreciate, or have faith in the vision of world peace or a hopeful future that Rev. Moon, as well as my own parents, had dedicated their lives towards. Sometimes, I felt that this “blessing” of being born into the Unification Movement, in the midst of Rev. Moon’s work, was a burden for me to carry for the rest of my life.

Ultimately, seeing the positive impact of Rev. Moon’s teaching was enough evidence to give me the confidence to trust the foundation I was standing upon and take a leap of faith to try to uplift the weight within my heart.

The unconditional, parental love given to me throughout my life gave me the courage to confront the confusion in my heart and rediscover the truth of what Rev. Moon taught for myself. The more I sought to see Rev. Moon’s vision with fresh eyes, the more I realized that I innately practiced the universal principles, used the tools, and had the inner capacity to overcome the despair that myself and others experience. The truth I discovered was that my parents and Rev. Moon sought to uplift all of the burdens of humankind through their children, the future generation, me.

I, too, am inspired to dedicate my youth to peace because Rev. Moon’s path to peace also began after his commitment at a young age. In Rev. Moon’s life, he dedicated much of his time in raising young people. I feel a personal mission to continue his legacy by becoming a university professor to help empower young people to become peace loving global citizens. I believe it is my responsibility to keep Rev. Moon’s legacy alive by continuing my support of his beloved wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who shares the same vision to bring to fruition his vision of a world of peace.

What speaks true 100 years after Rev. Moon’s birth is that his legacy of giving hope for a peaceful world is the very key to unlocking the true potential of humankind and that we are capable of changing our future.

A hopeful world, a world of peace truly starts with me.

To humankind, Rev. Moon’s legacy is a blessing.

Tagged: rev moon, sun myung moon, father moon, live for the sake of others, power of the principle

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You Can Only Give the Love You Receive

April 1, 2020 · Principled Perspective, Student Entry

Contributed by Chungbom K., CARP Las Vegas



Chungbom K. giving a presentation during one of CARP Las Vegas' 2 Day Retreats.

As a CARP member, the life principles we choose to live by require continual commitment towards living for the sake of others. We may find great joy and fulfillment in this process but also experience burnouts. But we convince ourselves it's okay because a burnout and suffering is needed for growth and to become a better person. I need to endure and push myself more, so I can grow my capacity to love... Or do I?

My last four years of being a CARP member has been full of blessings and

challenges. At many points in my journey, I faced limitations to love and to give continuously. I was trying to love others beyond the love that I was receiving, thinking that this sacrifice will allow my loving capacity to stretch and grow. I believed that some kind of love hidden inside of me would magically appear. At times, I found fulfillment from the response to the love I was giving which gave me an incentive to go beyond my limit to love. However, in the long run, I built negativity and resentment towards sacrificing. Before I knew it, my journey stopped being one of joy but of suffering, despite my effort to try to love unconditionally.

In the process of struggling through this dilemma, I came across the book *Real Love* by Greg Baer. This book changed my concept of love and helped me to find the answer to my struggles. In the book, he states, "We can't love people unconditionally until we felt unconditionally loved ourselves. We cannot give what we don't have." I thought I knew this and the meaning behind it. But the more I delved into this concept, the more I realized how little I understood.

One profound example of unconditional love is Jesus Christ. He demonstrated his unconditional love for all of humanity despite the constant hardship he faced. Jesus was rejected and persecuted for loving all of God's children. My question is how Jesus had the capacity to still love unconditionally. I looked at some quotes from the Bible:

"We love, because He first loved us."(1 John 4:19)

"Just as the Father has loved Me, I have also loved you; abide in My love."(John 15:9)

"If you keep My commandments, you will abide in My love; just as I have kept My Father's commandments and abide in His love."(John 15:10)

Jesus was unconditionally loving because he felt the abundant unconditional love of his Father, God. He did not love unconditionally from his own love but because he felt united with God and His love. He could love completely because he received love first. If even Jesus needed the unconditional love of God to love, then why do I think that I have the capacity to love unconditionally with my own love?

For a long time, I understood maturity as going from only receiving love to only giving love, but this form of maturing has not been working for me. The more I try to give while distancing myself from receiving love, I become more sour and resentful of loving. I feel used, exhausted, and tired of loving. For my life to be one of joy, I needed unconditional love. And to give unconditional love, I first needed to learn to receive it.

Founder of CARP, Rev. Sun Myung Moon, also known as Father Moon, describes God's unconditional love as the following, "The place where God dwells is filled with love. It is a place where the more you give, the more you want to give and the more

you receive, the more you want to return millions of times more than you receive.” (1971) The nature of love is not that of sacrifice but the willingness to want to love. Through this heart, we experience joy.

I have experienced this unconditional desire to love, where love was given not because it is my duty or obligation but rather because I felt so loved that I wanted to share my love.

I know this is not the case all the time, but, to this, Greg Baer made a very important point. When I feel sour and burnt out of giving love, I need to take a step back to check if I am receiving unconditional love. I need to check if I am feeling cared for and loved unconditionally from someone. If not, am I making the effort to find the source of love, God.

I suggest that we can receive this unconditional love from the ultimate source, God. But experiencing the unconditional love of God all the time might not be easy. It is challenging to feel God’s presence and his unconditional love. When that is hard, what works for me is to find someone who resembles God’s unconditional love and acceptance. Greg Baer also expresses the importance to find a person who can love us unconditionally. He states, “Most of us have never seen consistent unconditional love, and that is why we have a confusing relationship or none at all with God, whose most important characteristic is perfect love.”

For us to understand God’s unconditional love, we first need to experience even a drop of that love through a wise, loving person, like a parent or mentor. And once you feel loved and cared for, you will want to love, just as you were loved. We need to fight to give love, but, maybe even more, we need to fight to find our source of unconditional love.

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Tagged: power of the principle, unconditional love, live for the sake of others

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