

Adapted from 15 August 2006 address to the
United School District 355 Teacher In-service
Ellinwood, Kansas

by Wayne Edward Richardson, Director of The World Calendar Association.

(I greatly appreciate the introduction that Superintendent Richard Goodschmidt offered before this address, which he initiated. His comments well expressed his belief that The World Calendar in 2012 is a significant possibility and that awareness by educators of the associated efforts underway around them would be worthwhile. He recognizes that globalization increasingly affects us all, making our world effectively smaller and in need of more and better ways to communicate. His heartfelt willingness to encourage other educators in this manner is an absolute best example of one individual's relevant involvement with calendar reform. - wer)

Thank you for inviting me here to talk about The World Calendar.

I accidentally discovered The World Calendar in 1976 just a few years after I graduated from Ellinwood High School. About a year and a half ago (February, 2005) with my continuing interest, I became the director of The World Calendar Association. A lady named Elisabeth Achelis founded this organization in 1930. It was, until 1955, a central part of her effort to change from the present Gregorian calendar to The World Calendar. In that capacity I am here to help you be aware of what is and will going on all around us during the next few years. The World Calendar Association advocates changing to The World Calendar on Sunday January 1, 2012.

In The Crack in the Cosmic Egg, Joseph Chilton Pearce wrote:

“Our cosmic egg is the sum total of our notions of what the world is, notions which define what reality can be for us. The crack, then, is a mode of thinking through which imagination can escape the mundane shell and create a new cosmic egg.”

Also, (<http://www.dufoundation.org/journal.php>) the Digital Universe Foundation website quotes WIKIpedia co-founder Lawrence M. Sanger:

“Ultimately, the question will become: what sort of massively collaborative information projects deserve the support of the intellectuals of the world?”

As part of being the director of The World Calendar Association, I inherited a 22-volume set of The Journal of Calendar Reform, a collection of articles between 1930 and 1956 in support of The World Calendar and general calendar discussion and education.

A 1941 Journal of Calendar Reform article, “An Engineer Looks at Time,” (by Frederick L. Libbey, Journal of Calendar Reform, Volume 11 (1941), page 55 and soon to appear at <http://www.theworldcalendar.org/JCR.1930-1955.htm>) includes this passage:

“Wrapped in the problem of designing a better machine or process, we have been all too prone to join the rest of a busy world in taking the calendar’s many faults as much for granted as we do those about the weather. Mark Twain once said that everyone talked about the weather but no one did anything about it. The fact is that in these times, if enough people complain about something, some bright young engineer *will* do something about it. And something has been done about the weather—Air Conditioning. Time is the very essence of modern productive efficiency, and yet while we worry over it in terms of hours, minutes and even split seconds, variations in the calendar are costing us millions –or BILLIONS (wer) of dollars and man-hours every year. **It is high time we all began to talk about it.**”

Do you each have a copy of this handout? Let’s start talking about it by going over the official description of The World Calendar.

(READ The World Calendar official description out loud:

In this improved calendar every year is the same.

- The quarters are equal: each has exactly 91 days, 13 weeks or 3 months.
- The four quarters are identical in form with an ordered variation within the three months.
- The three months have 31,30, 30 days respectively
- Each month has 26 weekdays, plus Sundays.
- Each year begins on Sunday, 1 January; each working year begins on Monday, 2 January
- Each quarter begins on Sunday, ends on Saturday.
- The calendar is stabilized and made perpetual by ending the year with a 365th day following 30 December each year. This additional day is dated ‘W’, which equals 31 December, and called *Worldsday*, a year-end world holiday.
- Leapyear Day is similarly added at the end of the second quarter. It is likewise dated ‘W’, which equals 31 June, and called *Leapyear Day*, another world holiday in leap years.)

If you’ll all please turn over the handout...

Joseph Chilton Pearce also wrote in The Crack in the Cosmic Egg, (pg. 46):
“The activity of imagining reality is the center of experience.”

Besides the Worlds Days being a lot of people’s favorite part of The World Calendar, the ability to memorize The World Calendar makes it stand out completely from the current Gregorian calendar. This is laid out in the equivalent of two short paragraphs. It takes over a page to explain how to memorize the Gregorian calendar and, in fact, it practically takes a savant to do it. Someone told me yesterday that in 2012 after The World Calendar changeover, the only people who might be upset are current savants who claim ability to use the Gregorian calendar without finding a copy.

Let’s go over the way to memorize The World Calendar. This is especially important. I’m trying to get the word out that, starting next month (September, 2006), through December, we have a one-time event in the next six years in which a sizable portion of a Gregorian calendar year is equal to The World Calendar.

The equal quarters begin in January, April, July, October.
Within each quarter the months begin on Sunday, Wednesday, Friday.
All first-day-of-month columns include numbers **1, 8, 15, 22, 29**.
(This adds 1 to each member of the set 0, 7, 14, 21, 28.)

To determine the day of the week for a date, identify the month’s
first, second or third position in the quarter.
Scan down the first-day-of-month column to a day number
closest to the date being calculated.
Scan across to the day in the week.

And the listed example shows how to do that. I hope that at least some of you will be interested enough to try this for the rest of 2006. Today’s In-service specific website (<http://www.TheWorldCalendar.org/081506USD355.htm>) address listed at the bottom of your handout includes a [Flash graphic](#) with more detail.

I absolutely believe that people who memorize The World Calendar and use it for the rest of this year will be really impressed. It’s surprisingly gratifying to use the everyday calendar without depending on a piece of paper or a computer. Except for the period from 2007 through 2011, this is something that can happen every day. We can use The World Calendar from memory after 1 January 2012. The mental gap between years will close. Please don’t let this IMAGINATION EXERCISE pass you by.

Also, The World Calendar Association logo is in the blue box, with a clock. I want to comment on that just briefly. It’s especially pointing out what would happen if I said let’s plan on a 3 o’clock meeting on August 15, 2008—two years from today. What would be the first requirement? The hint is we wouldn’t go looking for a

clock. The answer is to locate and consult a 2008 calendar. My experience is that would take some time and how much sense does that make? WHAT IF we had to find a clock every time to confirm a future time of day? WHAT IF we needed to throw away our clocks at the end of every day because midnight caused them to become obsolete? That is the comparison. The calendar is the year—a long enough period that balance and consistency somehow seems not to apply in our world.

The calendar is the year. The problem it poses is a simple math problem: how to evenly divide the year into days, weeks and months.

I submit to you that the calendar, as it has evolved to what we know today as Gregorian calendar, hinders us in ways not before often considered. Calendar reform is, therefore, a mass consciousness project. It says LOOK at the OBVIOUS that is IGNORED all around us and, as living, acting and thinking beings, choose to assure that future generations have a better way.

But the calendar is so much more. It is a very intimate situation and I do not take the position of changing what we have lightly.

There is a good passage in the book [The World Calendar, Reform Since 1930](#), (by Elisabeth Achelis, 1937, pages 143-144) about the confusion caused by the Gregorian calendar. I won't take time to read that now but will post it ** the website listed on the bottom of your handout.

**** “...In advocating calendar reform it is necessary to establish a better balance:--a regular order and permanent regularity, which is so characteristic of our clocks and watches. For both the calendar and clock deal with time and both should be consistent in the balanced and equal arrangement.**

Just imagine the confusion, labor, annoyance and money, if every January first we would have to buy new clocks and watches with a different arrangement of hours and minutes. And yet, that is exactly what we are doing with the calendar. Every year we are compelled to use a new one. There are fourteen different calendars and twenty-eight different months with which we reckon in no ordered rotation.

The calendar is never the same from year to year. Successive years never begin on the same day of the week. Certain dates fall on different weekdays, and months have not the same number of Mondays or Tuesdays or Wednesdays. January may have five Sundays in one year and the next, four Sundays and five Mondays.

And in addition to these inconvenient changes are the irregular length of months—28, 28, 30, 31—a challenge to remember without the familiar nursery rhyme, “Thirty days has September, April, June and November.” What would we do without this old jingle to help us with our intricate calendar? There are seven months of 31 days, four of 30, and one of 28 and sometimes 29. The uneven distribution of days to the months results in uneven quarter and half-year divisions. All of which causes annoying difficulties in our economic and social affairs.

For example: Universities, colleges and schools must annually rearrange their entire study schedule, activities and vacations; businesses are inconvenienced with a different number of Thursdays or Saturdays in the varying months, thus bringing about unbalanced conditions; ...statistics must also make adjustments in compiling accurate data between the irregular months and varying years, which are not comparable.

In the social world we are familiar with the errors made between the days of the months and the weekdays for invitations and engagements. And vacations, too, are troublesome to arrange. In the field of amusements, there are certain difficulties in arranging dates for lectures, exhibitions, concerts and opening nights for the theater. These few facts are sufficient to indicate there are defects in our present calendar system.”

It took me some thirty years to understand why The World Calendar failed to pass in the United Nations during the 1950s. With that understanding, I was also able to recognize the 1 January 2012 as the best next time to change calendars.

An Italian monk first published the concept of days outside the regular week as early as 1834. Although some people in the past found discomfort with this particular alteration, my experience has been that it is often the favorite part of The World Calendar. Worlds Days are individually celebrated holidays. They are not nationalistic or religious nor should they ever be. Indeed, their individual nature allows any who may be concerned about interrupting the traditional seven-day week cycle to reset it annually. In the fifty years since The World Calendar was tabled indefinitely at the United Nations, the Gregorian calendar continues to invade as a silent thief. Previously examined and dismissed calendars have resurfaced — sometimes with new names — not because they are now better than The World Calendar, but because pre-1956 delays have been taken as too final. Communication technology no longer permits hiding the best choice in context of past; more people than ever before are learning about The World Calendar for the very first time. Before the 2012 epoch, let this also, this time, be known:

The option to celebrate each World's Day and Leap Year Day holiday as a Double Sabbath solves the traditional-week dilemma. Unless and until individuals justify denying themselves this personal and non-prohibited choice, continuity of the traditional week continues without interruption. As it turns out, perception of The World Calendar in use was a problem that The World Calendar is not.

I might have gotten a little bit ahead of you all with that last statement. (<http://www.theworldcalendar.org/ASSETS/CalendarMathProblemSolution042806.pdf> can help fill in the gap. -wer)

I have a plaque here that I've had since high school. It says,

THE BUMBLEBEE CANNOT FLY - -

“According to recognized aerotechnical tests, the bumblebee cannot fly because of the shape and weight of his body in relation to the total wing area.

But, the Bumblebee doesn't know this, so he goes ahead and flies anyway.”

I look at this in terms of The World Calendar. I don't know that The World Calendar cannot happen in 2012. That would be predicting the future. I do believe there are several reasons why it can happen.

SIX REASONS TO BELIEVE that The World Calendar can happen in 2012:

- First of all, The World Calendar *is available*. This is a **BIG DEAL**...only since 1834 has the math problem solution of World's Days been applied to a human calendar. That is also to say that part of the reason for the Gregorian calendar's existence and persistence is that it, too, was a wonderful achievement...for its day!

It is fair to say that some **JOBS** will change when The World Calendar replaces the Gregorian calendar. Even coal mines stopped using horses after machines were available to do *that* work.

- Never before has the world been enough connected technologically to allow distribution of The World Calendar idea.

We've come **FULL CIRCLE** during the 50-75 years since The World Calendar became a really big national and international movement. At that time, there were

few televisions and no VCRs to reprogram with the date. No personal computers or satellites to connect them. In just fifty years, calendar functions have been applied with manual setting needs to wireless connections that set themselves up and then self-correct. In a world of planned obsolescence, many of the appliances with manual calendar functions will have been replaced by 2012.

Cable and satellite television/radio, Internet: world news events are broadcast live. The World Calendar was able to capture imaginations at a time when overseas telephone calls were still time-consuming to connect. That is just one example of technological barriers that are now removed. The previous problem of sharing The World Calendar ideas with enough people at the same time has been solved. People using today's technology to share the idea will make the difference.

- Another reason that calendar change can and should happen in 2012 is ecological. This world is automatically and unnecessarily DISCARDING billions of calendars each year. This was nowhere near the situation in 1582 when Pope Gregory mandated the current calendar revision: A smaller percentage of the population had access to calendar copies then; the world today has over ten times the number of people and a much larger percentage of them use one or more calendars. It is time to take control of our calendar instead of it controlling us. It's time to THINK about what we're doing and what we can do to improve. Changing to a perpetual calendar-The World Calendar—is something we can all do now

Some scientists are saying that we need to do what we can to reverse global warming within ten years before it goes too far. Calendar reform – to a perpetual calendar- truly makes sense environmentally. Helping to promote The World Calendar is a currently available answer to anyone who has wondered, "What can I do to help?"

- Along this same line are the financial implications of unnecessary waste caused by a shifting calendar. I reminded the local [School Board](#) during March, 2004 that, "If we cannot fully memorize the Gregorian calendar, that prolongs otherwise minimal schedule reinvention each year. Within the approximately 17,000 school districts in the United States, the actual, somewhat invisible cost associated with annual renegotiations of the school calendar might be unknown. Any amount of tax dollars times 17,000 adds up fairly quickly and that's just in the United States. What's the exchange for time and tax dollars spent? It's the opportunity to do it again next year instead of something more directly beneficial to EDUCATION." –

- Then there is the MENTAL ASPECT. For the world to be tied to paper or computer calendars is not necessary. I plan to continue pointing that out until communication technology spreads the realization and the solution. That involves raising some levels of discomfort, but just IMAGINE! Our very own dream calendar...again -- not one on a pedestal that we serve, but one we can use easily anywhere and any time.

For years, I've thought I'd be embarrassed to share our calendar with an extra-terrestrial being, if I ever met one. And what about dreams? The confusion of trying to use the Gregorian calendar in a dream has been enough to wake me up! Some may ask how do I know dream reality has calendars? And that really is the point. We're tied ourselves to a calendar that we can't take with us when we dream. That is a real wall; a real barrier.

- One more reason: 2012 and top of the hour clock timing. Using a unanimous time keeping function to promote improvement of another; "SIMULTANEOUSLY UNANIMOUS" – Just think! In one twenty-four hour period, everyone changes. Becoming comfortable with the vast size of this project is one of the largest challenges, but clock time is already there to support the change at the top of the hour: 2012.

Winding up here, a University of Texas professor wrote an article that is posted at (<http://www.TheWorldCalendar.org/ASSETS/WhatAreWeWaitingFor.pdf>) TheWorldCalendar.org called "What Are We Waiting For?" He concludes that, ". . .Whenever we can make our assignments more informative and more interesting to our students, we help ensure better work in return. The World Calendar, we have found, is a very good assignment to use. . . ." This 1952 article references college classes. I feel that today's high school level students can benefit as well. The calendar touches every life and therefore every realm of study.

I submit to you that the world will not be free until individuals are free and that individual freedom includes removal of ignorance. As you know, it's not an easy path. In the darkness of ignorance, combinations of science, belief, faith and reason create our reality. Forging ahead with new versions can be a leap of faith while comfort levels are temporarily suspended to give AH HA moments the opportunity to transfix themselves unanimously. It is the most educated and perceptive among us who lead the way. This is especially true with calendar reform. When it happens next, it will not have been the result of a few leaders. Big change never is, but the next few years will emphasize as never before the power of enlightenment.

Join me, please, at www.TheWorldCalendar.org.

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