

CELEBRATING THE BEST OF HUMANITY  
**ONE STORY AT A TIME**

**MY HERO**  
[www.myhero.com](http://www.myhero.com)







## The MY HERO Project

MY HERO is a non-profit educational project. We use media, art and technology to bring awareness to the amazing work being done globally and at the grass roots level to address some of the greatest problems facing us today.

“There is a great and perhaps decisive battle to be fought against ignorance, intolerance, and indifference in the world.”  
-Edward R. Murrow

## MISSION

The mission of MY HERO is to celebrate the best of humanity, one story at a time. We want to empower people of all ages to realize their own potential to effect positive change in the world.



Media Education

Students learn about video editing at a MY HERO workshop

## WHAT WE DO



Arts Workshop

MY HERO After-school Media Arts program at Thurston Middle School in Laguna Beach, CA

We provide a safe, curated on-line venue for students and adults to share and explore films, essays, art and music that celebrate heroes all over the world. We host festivals, workshops, and educational outreach.



# GLOBAL REACH

**Since 1995** The MY HERO Project has been providing a library of inspiration and digital storytelling tools to over 100 million people. We work with underserved communities where educational outreach is too often neglected.

“We are a fifth grade class from Morocco and because of this project we had the opportunity to take positive actions in our community: raising awareness in our village about the importance of a clean environment.”

-Teacher Abdelaziz Rhazzali  
Morocco



MY HERO Global Exchange

Wendy Millette, Director of Media Arts Education  
at the Royal Film Commission in Amman, Jordan

“We live in Tehran, the capital city of Iran, and we are grade eleven. This is an exciting project because it has given us a vast perspective toward different people from different parts of the world. We loved doing this and sharing this much information from all over the world. Thank you MY HERO.”

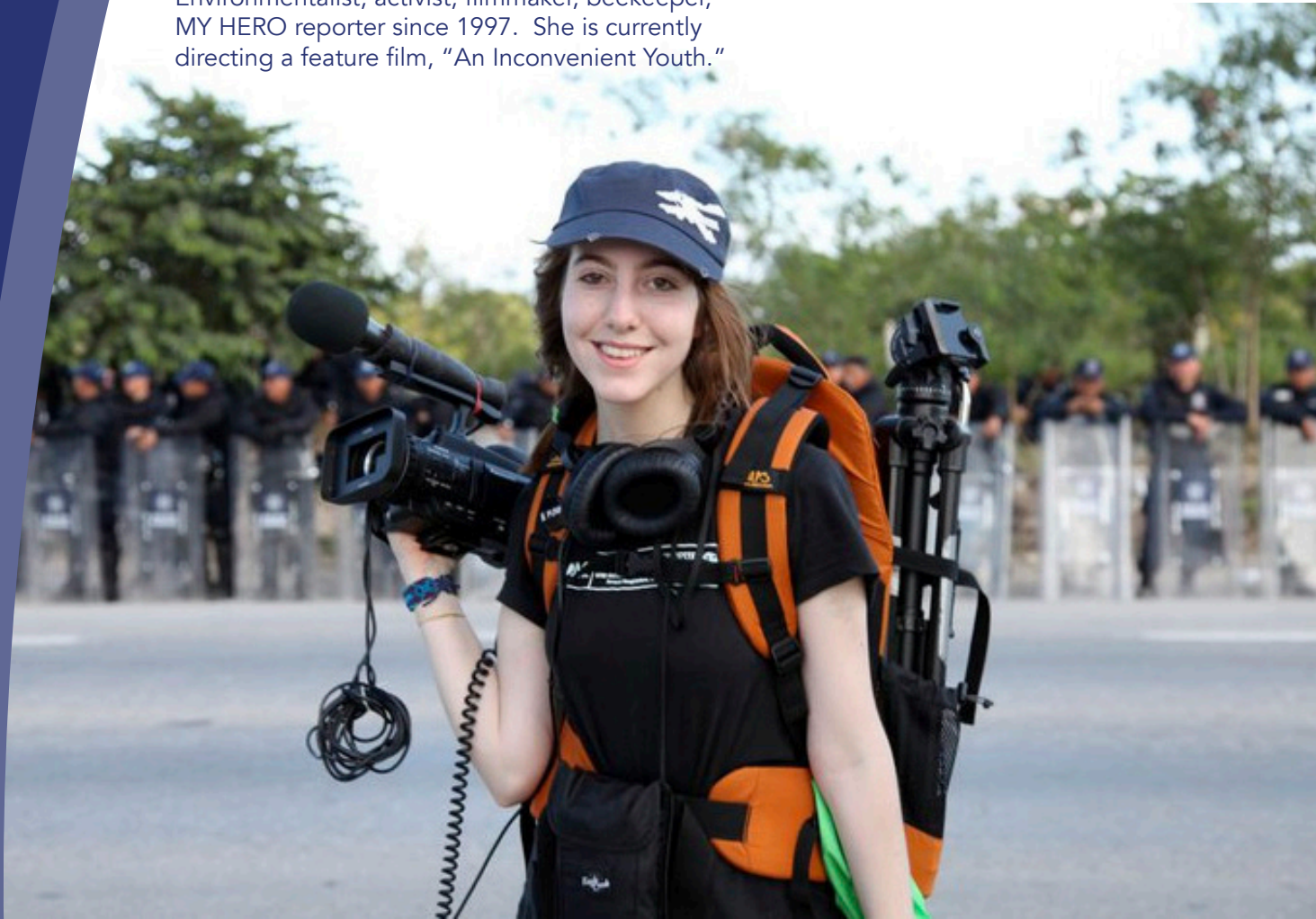
-Teacher Farnoush Ahmadzadeh  
Mashar United High School 11th  
Grade Class, Iran





## Slater Jewell-Kemker

Environmentalism, activist, filmmaker, beekeeper, MY HERO reporter since 1997. She is currently directing a feature film, "An Inconvenient Youth."



## DIGITAL TOOLKIT

**MY HERO** provides digital online tools for visitors to publish web pages that honor heroes around the world using text, images, audio and films. Students can create a digital portfolio of their work on MY HERO. Teachers can create online media playlists for students to explore selected content from our ever-growing internet archive.

## WORLDWIDE IMPACT

Students in **197 countries** participate in this global learning project. Our online screening room hosts over 3,000 short films made by students and professionals celebrating heroes from all over the world.



“A new way of discovering global collaboration and an opportunity to tell the world about the person our students admire. Everything is excellent. Thank you very much for your patience and help.”

-Teacher Galina Smirnova, R.A. Naumov  
Secondary School No.13, Russia



A portrait of Wangari Maathai, a Kenyan environmental activist. She is smiling and holding a young tree sapling in a brown paper bag. She is wearing a blue and yellow patterned headwrap and a matching off-the-shoulder top with a blue and white patterned bodice. A blue and white beaded necklace with a silver pendant is also visible.

Wangari Maathai

"I will be a hummingbird.  
I will do the best that I can."  
-Excerpt: "dirt! THE MOVIE."  
Best of Fest, MY HERO  
International Film Festival 2010

At MY HERO you will learn about

## WANGARI MAATHAI

As founder of The Green Belt Movement, an organization that has mobilized thousands of Kenyans, mostly women, to plant more than 30 million trees across the country, Wangari Maathai is responsible for providing much-needed firewood, lumber, shade, and even food to thousands of African families.

"Women have an innate sense of service. It is part of who we are. We give rise to new life by nurturing it inside us for nine months. Then we bring it forth and feed it with our own milk, with our own body, and eventually, our own self. My mother was the first strong woman in my life. I know that it was she who instilled in me a true sense of my own power and my responsibility as a woman.."

-Wangari Maathai,  
excerpt: My Hero: Extraordinary People on the Heroes Who Inspire Them.





# PARTICIPATE

in The MY HERO Project

MY HERO Global Exchange  
Martin Luther King School for Girls  
in Dakar, Senegal





High School, Egypt



Middle School, USA



High School, Mexico



Middle School, Uganda

## CROSS-CULTURAL EXCHANGE

Teachers and students interact with other classes around the world, discussing and sharing their ideas on heroes. They also publish art, essays, music and films on MY HERO to share with one another.



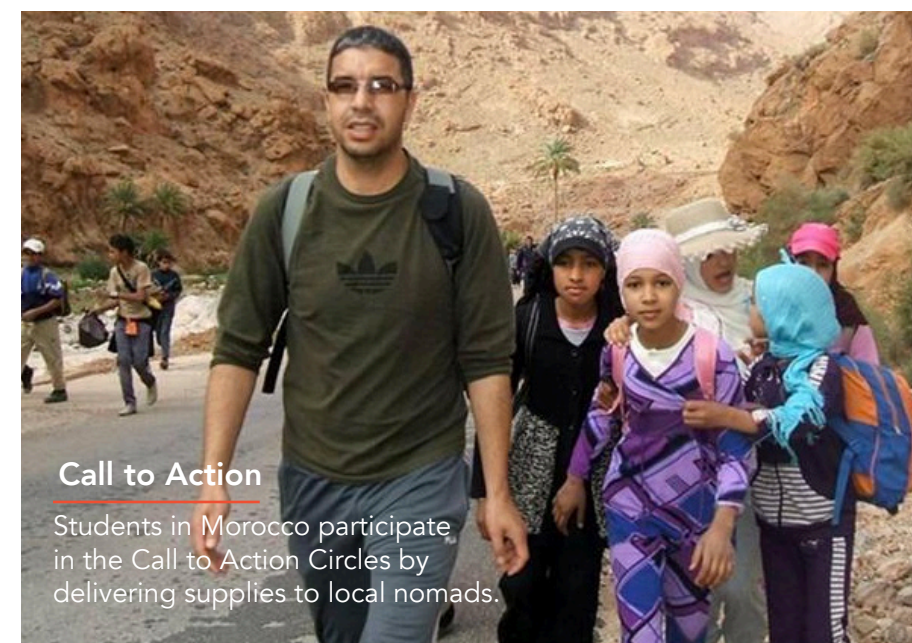
Collaboration

Classrooms across the world participating in the MY HERO Learning Circles skype with each other

## GLOBAL LEARNING CIRCLES

MY HERO Global Learning Circles stimulate dynamic, interactive and online exchanges that bring the classroom into the world. MY HERO partners with IEARN (International Education and Resource Network) to create safe, virtual online spaces for teachers and students to share each others cultures, communities and heroes.

## CALL TO ACTION CIRCLES



Call to Action

Students in Morocco participate in the Call to Action Circles by delivering supplies to local nomads.

MY HERO invites teachers and students to choose a hero or heroic organization in their communities to support. Making use of MY HERO's multi-media tools and mentorship they document their process.



# MEDIA TRAINING

Since our founding in 1995, we have mentored teachers, students and activists to tell their stories to the world. We work to provide computers and video cameras along with training, to bridge the digital divide.



**Media Mentoring**

Slater Jewell-Kemker, Director of An Inconvenient Youth, helping with MY HERO outreach in Nepal

“The ease of use was a godsend for teachers, both as a resource for written examples, and ideas for student projects. We used the newswire for current events, tied our poetry writing to poets featured on the site, and practiced analyzing written work. What a wonderful project this has been!”

-Teacher Timothy Dennis, Xiamen International School, China



**MY HERO Global Exchange**

Students at the Royal Film Commission in Jordan take part in a MY HERO workshop.

“Thanks to the outstanding facilitators and managers of this wonderful project, my students could design a web page for their heroes to honor them and publish their writing to the international audience of MY HERO. We are extremely grateful to all My Hero staff for their help and kindness.”

-Teacher Fatemeh Nikui Nezhad, Farzanegan High School, Kashan, Iran

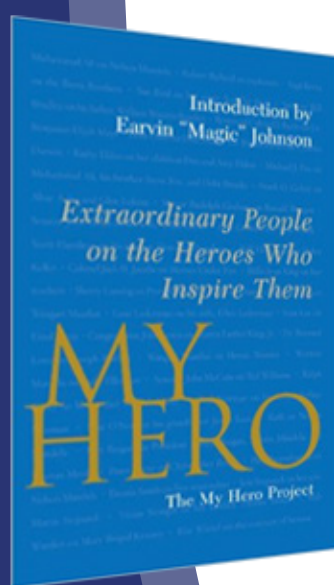


# TEACHER'S ROOM

Teachers around the world use MY HERO to enrich learning for students of all ages.

Free online lesson plans, tutorials, activity guides, and special web authoring tools help educators and students participate online in The MY HERO Project.

MY HERO staff mentor teachers and students as they create and publish their hero related stories, art, films and music with our global online learning community.



**The Library**  
A growing list of biographies and media about heroes and heroism.

**Media/Arts Education**  
Resources to get you started in film making.

**Tutorials**  
Resources for making pages with the MY HERO Programs.



iEARN Conference, Qatar

Cheikh Darou Seck representing MY HERO at the iEARN Annual Global Education Conference and youth Summit.

## CREATE. CONNECT. COLLABORATE.

Teachers have helped build standards aligned lesson plans, resources and tutorials to provide character education and role models to students from around the world.

Teachers connect with other educators via our community board and our social media platforms.



Teachers Collaborate

Cheikh Darou Seck from MLK School in Dakar, Senegal and Jerrilyn Jacobs from Taft HS, Los Angeles, USA



At MY HERO you will learn about

## EVA HALLER

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Eva Haller is a philanthropist, activist, and mentor.

“My greatest joy is to help young people when they’re struggling with a good idea, with clearly something that could make a difference. I love to help them.”

-Eva Haller



**Eva Haller**

featured in MY HERO's  
Women Transforming Media blog,  
and an award-winning documentary  
“Eva Haller: A Work in Progress.”



# FILMS

Student and professional filmmakers submit documentary, experimental, animated narrative short films, about those making a positive difference in our world. Students can also win prizes for short inspiring films at the MY HERO International Film Festival.

## Filming a Hero

Annabelle Vo, a MY HERO media arts mentor, sets up a camera for filming





**International Film Festival**

Winners and heroes onstage celebrate with musician Pato Banton

## INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

The annual MY HERO International Film Festival brings together student and professional filmmakers to honor those working for social activism.

Special prizes include:

The Ron Kovic Peace Prize, The Dan Eldon Activist Award, The Sylvia Earle Ocean Conservation Award, The Relationships First Award, and more...

## CELEBRATING UNSUNG HEROES

Many types of heroes are celebrated at the MY HERO International Film Festival, including the unsung heroes from all walks of life, both young and old.



**Berta Cáceres**

"Mother of All Rivers," an award-winning documentary featuring this brave environmental activist



**Student Winner**

Miranda Anderson,  
MY HERO International  
Film Festival

“The MY HERO Mentors trained the students how to use the cameras, conduct interviews and edit video montages on the computer.”

-Emily Murray,  
Director of Arts Programs,  
Laguna Beach Boys and  
Girls Club, USA



#### Author and Activist

Elie Wiesel is a contributor to My Hero: Extraordinary People on the Heroes Who Inspire Them.

At MY HERO you will learn about

## ELIE WIESEL

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Eliezer "Elie" Wiesel is an American Romanian-born Jewish writer, professor, political activist, Holocaust survivor, and Nobel Laureate. He is the author of 57 books.

"My heroes are those who stand up to false heroes. If I had to offer a personal definition of the word, it would be someone who dares to speak the truth to power."

-Elie Wiesel



## SPECIAL EVENTS

The MY HERO Project Salons engage the community in the celebration of heroes through speakers, art, films and music.



Day of Peace Event

Ron Kovic and Robert Sheer discussing ideas at the MY HERO International Day of Peace



At MY HERO you will learn about

## **MOHAMED SIDIBAY**

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Mohamed Sidibay is a former child soldier who is now a teacher and a global peace activist.

“People spend so much time highlighting our differences, we actually forget how similar we are...people find it easy to separate themselves and just say, ‘It’s not us, it’s them, and I can’t relate to their problems.’ I speak to give a name and a face behind the stories.”

-Mohamed Sidibay



**Mohamed Sidibay**

Hosts the MY HERO  
International Day of  
Peace Celebration





## MY HERO SALONS

We host events celebrating The International Day of Peace, Poetry and Jazz salons, and Women Transforming Media Salon. We offer media and support to local communities to host their own MY HERO Events.

### Jazz and Poetry Salon

Singer/Songwriter Dana Williams performs at the Herb Alpert Educational Village Capshaw-Spielberg Center for Art & Educational Justice



At MY HERO you will learn about

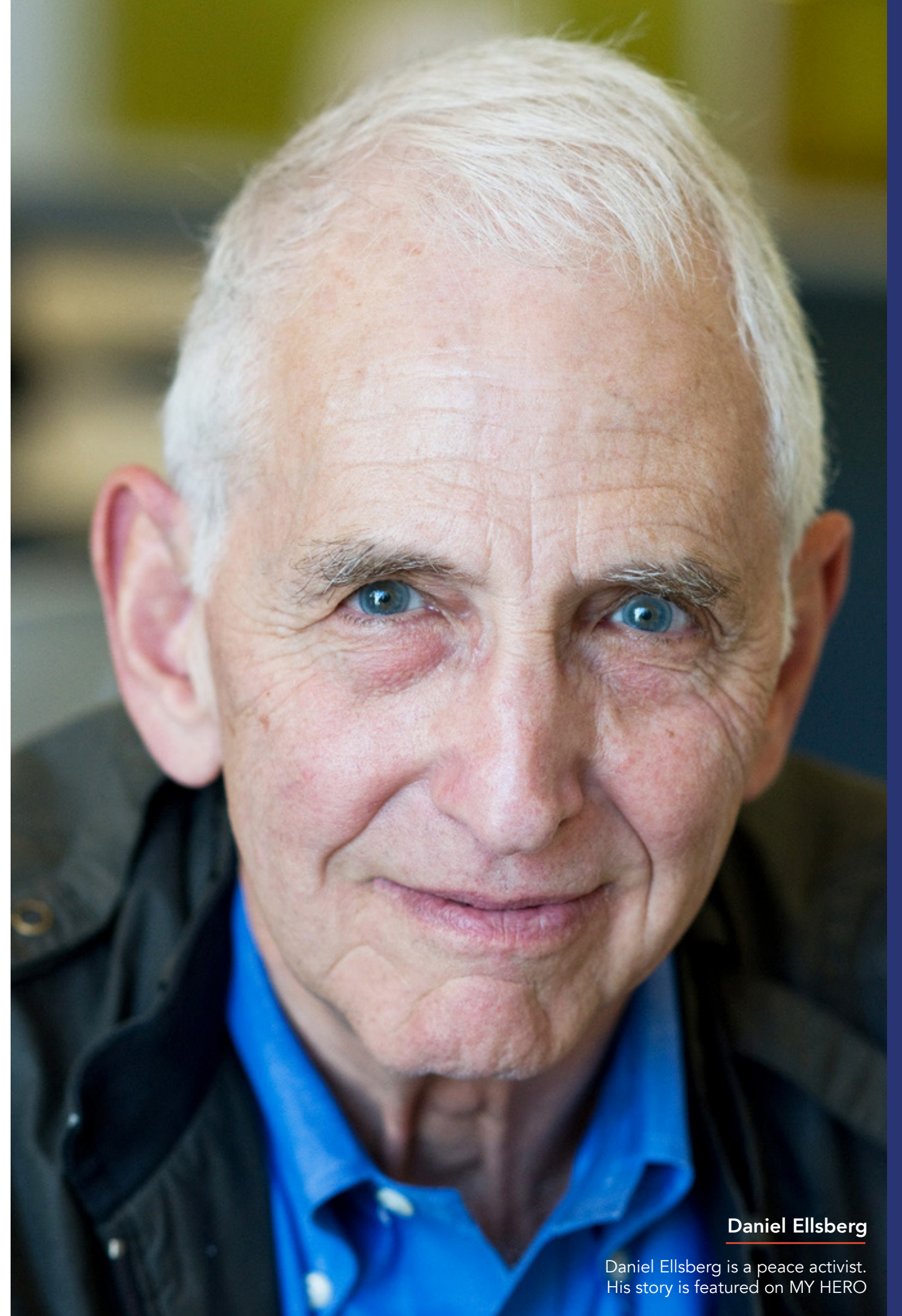
## DANIEL ELLSBERG

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Daniel Ellsberg is an outspoken champion for the cause of peace and social change.

“Many people regard my father as a hero. And he is my hero as well.... I know that my father, too, was inspired by witnessing others, some well known, others obscure and uncelebrated. It is a very high responsibility to remember and honor such stories. In the chronicle of conscientious actions, one candle lights another.”

-Excerpt from Robert Ellsberg's MY HERO essay  
written for his father on his 80th Birthday



**Daniel Ellsberg**

Daniel Ellsberg is a peace activist.  
His story is featured on MY HERO



# MY HERO Art Workshop

At the Laguna Beach Boys and Girls Club, students create a mural celebrating eco-heroes







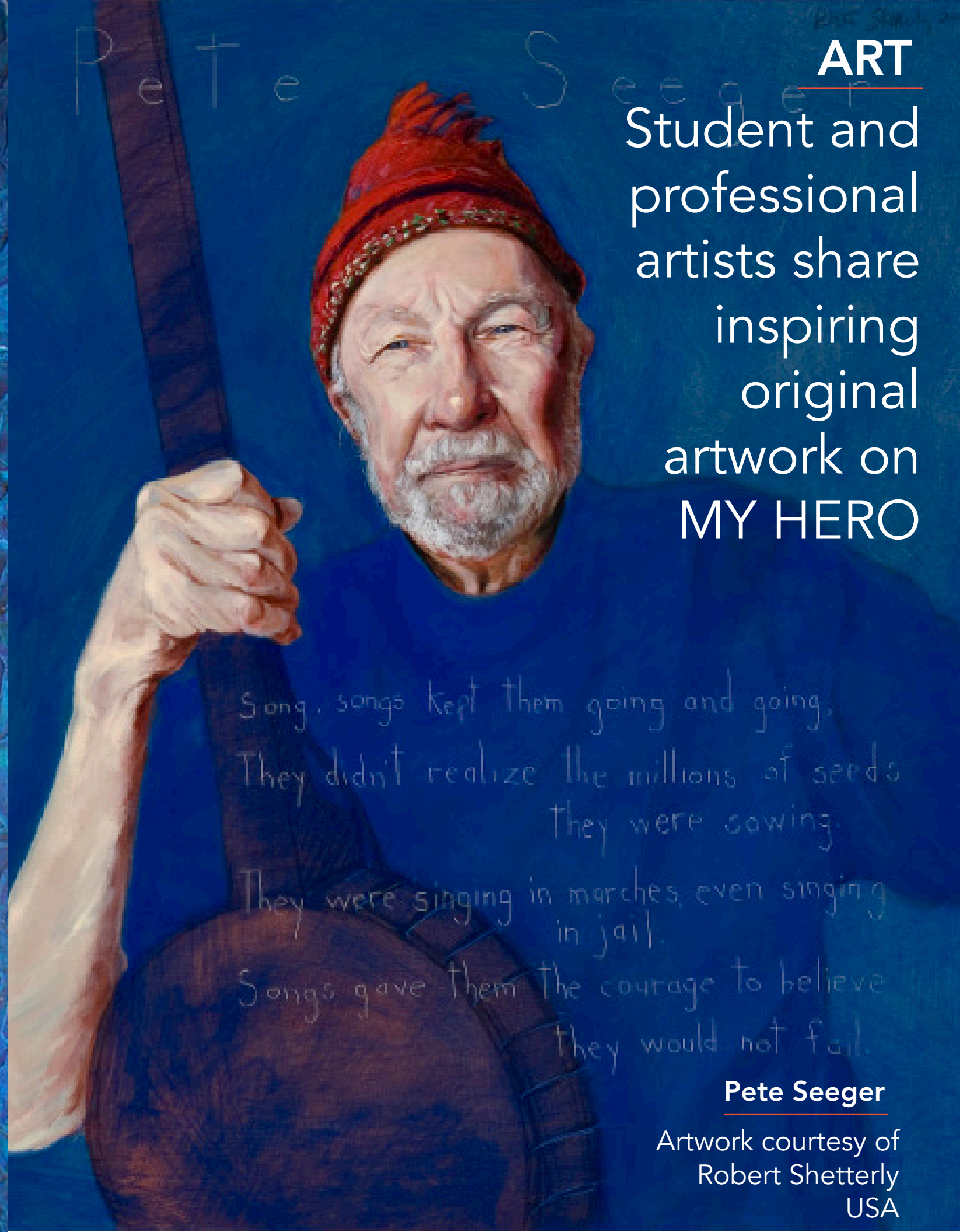
**African Woman**

Artwork courtesy of  
Fary Sakho  
Senegal

Pete Seeger

**ART**

Student and  
professional  
artists share  
inspiring  
original  
artwork on  
**MY HERO**



Song, songs kept them going and going,  
They didn't realize the millions of seeds  
they were sowing.  
They were singing in marches, even singing  
in jail.  
Songs gave them the courage to believe  
they would not fail.

**Pete Seeger**

Artwork courtesy of  
Robert Shetterly  
USA



# AUDIO

Share original music, speeches,  
poetry readings, interviews  
or commentary about  
heroic acts on MY HERO  
Audio Studio

## Music Arts Education

Students at the Children Foundation of Technology  
in Sierra Leone record audio for MY HERO song contest



## JOURNAL & CALENDAR

The MY HERO home page changes weekly to feature thematic content and highlight diverse heroes.

The MY HERO Calendar notes hero birthdays, United Nations special events, and other educational resources of interest to teachers and students.





The MY HERO Project is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization. Thanks to all the individuals, foundations, and corporations who fund our award-winning, educational programs.

**If you share our goals** of inspiring, educating, and empowering people of all ages, please support The MY HERO Project.

[myhero.com/donate](https://myhero.com/donate)





# The MY HERO Project



TELL THE WORLD  
ABOUT YOUR HERO

[myhero.com](http://myhero.com)