

The Widow's Cove Institute, Inc. (Non-Profit)

Our Message

**We have no place to go. And nothing to take us there if we did.
So we need to make this world peaceful and livable.**

The Challenge

Several billion years from now the Earth will be incinerated by the intense heat and radiation of our Sun as it transitions to a red dwarf star. But we shouldn't be concerned about the survival of our civilization then as it will have died long before that.

- Our civilization seems destined to die out sooner than later. Talk of an Apocalypse may be a little far fetched but we are rapidly making our planet uninhabitable.
- We see conflicts: wars of religious and political ideologies; race wars, class wars, ethnicity wars; wars over territory, food, oil, water, natural resources, human rights; civil wars; nationalistic wars; wars about weapons of mass destruction and on and on.
- The proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons of mass destruction is endemic.
- We are headed on a path toward uncertainty, chaos and disintegration now when we should be on the ascendancy.
- Our sociological development has not kept pace with our technological development.
- Our technological development does not encompass the entire planet because of political and religious ideological restrictions.

Will our civilization last another 100 years or 200 years when it should last for millions?

Have you ever thought that it really doesn't look like it's going to get better?

Is there a way to stop this accelerating slide to oblivion? Can we stabilize our world and put it on the path to peace, prosperity and greatness?

What does it take to preserve and advance our civilization?

Mission Statement

The mission of the Widow's Cove Institute (Institute) is to enable a kinder, more gentle and humanistic civilization that will endure throughout countless millennia. Our prime purpose is to extend and ensure the life of our civilization beyond what appears to be its imminent demise. This will be accomplished through the support and dissemination of art and science in the public interest and for the public good. Support will be directed as follows: 1.) to the dissemination of basic knowledge of Life and Nature to the world population; 2.) enabling rapid advances in the Physical, Biological, Human, Behavioral, Medical and Political Sciences and associated complex systems through the use of innovative procedures and technologies; and 3.) to the development and perpetuation of the Arts, both performing and non-performing, as a means of critically examining ourselves so that the world may be reshaped.

Everyone has a right to change the world. But the direction that change should take and how long it should take are matters that are subject to the welfare and acquiescence of those to be affected by the change. Some possible good outcomes of change should be that it benefits all living species, especially humankind, and that it not take too long before some positive results are realized. The best possible outcome of change is that it preserve our civilization for “all time”. That implies peace and peaceful growth and advancement. It also means that we understand, respect and value Nature and Life – that should be our Prime Directive independent of any religious or political ideology..

Nature is the embodiment of the laws of physics that produces and evolves all material entities: everything from sub-atomic particles to atoms to stars to planets and living beings; everything in the Universe including us. As such, Nature has singular beauty and value that makes it the most important factor in our existence. The functioning of Nature is driven by “cause and effect”. There are no magic or supernatural forces – only natural forces and “cause and effect” based on them. Respect for Nature and Life is not inherent in us. It is not in our DNA and, in fact, to be effective it must be learned much as we learn how to walk and talk. To change the world so that it respects and values Nature and Life, we must teach those attributes to our existing population as well as to our new and future members of humanity. Universal acknowledgment of the beauty and value of Nature and Life is the key to peace and the survival of our civilization.

We must leave the old ways and old ideas behind and bring about a new way of thinking about the human condition and we must spread this new way through education and development of our world in a new direction. It may take many years of convincing people to forget the paradoxical paradigm of needing to destroy themselves in the effort to survive.

Motivation – What Are Our Goals

To understand how we put ourselves into this situation (in a sort of simplistic way), one has to look back to the dawn of humankind when we had no idea of the how and why of nature. As a result we “invented” superstition and many gods to explain everything and then, eventually, about 5000 or 6000 or so years ago, we settled on one God that came to have many names.

As human interactions became more chaotic and violent because of our lack of a moral compass, we invented religion as a means of control of our destructive behavior. Religion served a purpose of temporarily, and to a limited extent, moderating the slide to disaster. But as so often is the case, the means becomes the end and people are forced into controlled behavior. Then the “human factor” comes out and their behavior and that of the controllers often get out of control and promote concepts that are totally at odds with observed scientific evidence. For example, a recent Gallup poll found that 46% of Americans believe in creationism – that God created the Universe and humans in their present form within the last 10,000 years. These are the people we want to reach and the billions like them around the world. These are the people who think science is “bunk and lies”; who think art is the work of the devil.

Another form of control is the civil infrastructure – from the time of the first tribal leader to the present forms of government immersed in politics. The problem is that some form of civil government is necessary to deal with the problems of living that are too difficult and complicated for individuals to deal with alone; however, when government becomes immersed in political ambitions, ego, and overly

restrictive and unintelligent regulations (again the “human factor”), it fails the welfare of the people. What is more worrisome is when political and religious ideologies merge and attempt to take the world backward to restrictive and ignorant times. This situation is established in a number of countries around the world and is threatening to happen in the United States.

Which brings us to our present trend toward self destruction. Neither religion nor irreligiousness nor political efforts, national or international, have solved the contemporary problems of our civilization. Given present trends, they will never do so. As a result, we, together with the rest of the world, are slowly sliding down into total annihilation.

We are the cause of our problems as a civilization. Whether we believe in God or not or don't know if God exists or believe that our civil leaders can stop the slide (they are oblivious) – only we can be the solution to preventing our imminent complete disappearance. It's getting late – only we can save us. Only we can bring about or even approach the Utopian world each of us dreams of.

The saving force for our Civilization is Us.

– All of us!

The Solution?

We give our populace, at best, a marginal education; at worst, ignorance. On average, the marginally educated can marginally communicate, marginally make a living, marginally survive. On the whole, they still do not understand how the world or nature or the universe works and how to be a part of it.

Lack of knowledge and, worst of all, total ignorance breed poverty and poverty breeds feelings and attitudes that are anathema to the survival of our civilization: fear, resentment, envy, distrust, hopelessness, hate. These feelings are often used by opportunists to establish control over those who have them. Such opportunists pursue myriad anti-social behaviors, self-serving causes and destructive actions: terrorism, war, crime, dictatorship, abrogation of human rights, discrimination and beliefs that generate these and other problems. It appears that those who want to restrict education do so to maintain control over the resultant uneducated.

Religion has played a role in our history by establishing societal and behavioral norms; but with the advent of science and the knowledge it has brought us, much of religious doctrine (which has been created and promulgated by men who claimed God had directed them) is out of date or put in question. The uses to which religion has been put has caused as many problems for humanity as it has solutions.

The world has changed radically in population, outlook and needs over the thousands of years since the rise of religion. Now we need something else. What was suitable for a few million people and a few homelands, when today's technology didn't exist, is not suitable for seven billion people and almost 200 countries when we have the power to destroy our world at the push of a button.

Unfortunately, there is no immediate solution. This is contrary to our universal need for instant gratification. A long search and transition to a new way of life is needed to enable us to ensure our continued existence. We need to get to the root core of the decline of our civilization and fix it or replace it. That core is ignorance – lack of knowledge about ourselves and the rest of the world; about nature; about the universe. Coupled to that core is hate and prejudice sometimes generated by religious and political ideologies.

To be more specific, we need to convince the world that the universe operates on a “cause and effect” principle: As a result we are each, individually responsible for our own actions and in a large part for our own lives and destiny (the environment and those in it also play a small part in our lives and destiny). We must keep in mind that our long term goal is to preserve and advance Civilization.

It is comforting for many people to think that their life and destiny is determined and controlled by some higher power and that their wants and needs will be supplied by this higher power; but that may just allow them to avoid taking responsibility for their own actions or prevent them from improving the world around them. It is difficult for the same people to think that they are not unique in the Universe.

We can no longer allow hate, for whatever reason, to guide our actions; as human beings we are all of the same species and therefore equal; we must all join together to save our civilization from extinction before its time. The only way to do this is to show the entire Earth population the beauty and value of Nature and Life through education. Fact must replace our faith in ideologies created by man.

- **Our religious and political ideologies and institutions have failed to bring our world any closer to being peaceful and livable, so they must be replaced with something else for that purpose – we propose the Arts and Sciences replace these institutions as prime motivating forces and ultimate implements for saving civilization.**
- **It is time every human think for itself rather than let others think for us. This can only be done through education.**
- **Our morality should be internally generated, not be externally directed by religious or political ideologies.**
- **There is hope: If we can learn to think less faith and emotional-based (on religion and political ideology) and more factual or knowledge-based, then we can become more objective, learn to love rather than hate, and subsequently put our world on a path to lasting peace.**

Armed with knowledge about our fellow human beings and our world, we can create a new world, new behavioral patterns and a new attitude toward each other – all of which will enable us to prevail for many millennia.

The Widow's Cove Institute is neither a religion nor a political ideology, but a quest for knowledge; the application of knowledge to better the human condition; and the passing on of knowledge to the world population. If we can better the human condition for *everyone*, we will alleviate or remove the need for that desperate struggle for survival that has the potential to breed hatred. One doesn't need to believe in God to value Life and Nature! And the value and continuation of life independent of any religion or political ideology is what should really be our motivation and goal. If humanity sees the truth and beauty of our world through the eyes of the arts and sciences, it will want to preserve that world.

To achieve our goal may take many years – longer than our lifetime. But we must be the ones to plant those seeds now so that they may grow into the future. We have been blind to our past and blind to our future. We have ignored the history of man and the history of the earth. Our anxieties have forced us to take action about “now”. But “now” doesn't matter if there is no tomorrow – no future for future generations.

How does the Widow's Cove Institute fit in?

We want to provide food for the mind: namely 1) support for education in the sciences and innovative applications of them that advance our civilization; and 2) support for education and innovation in the arts which helps to change our perspectives. Both the arts and sciences are necessary to make our world kinder, gentler and more livable. Until we bring peace to this world, we will not advance it to a self-perpetuating state.

Why The Arts

“For centuries, the arts have served as a vehicle to express imagination, as a means to critically examine aspects of society, and to entertain, inspire, and communicate in a manner that transcends cultural, political, and geographic boundaries....young people ... serve as the best hope for a world that is smarter and more compassionate. I believe that they will not only fill the world with beautiful and thought-provoking art, but that they offer us all the greatest potential to reshape the world, one creative idea at a time.”

Antonio Viva

Reshaping the world, one idea at a time, takes time – that is why we need to start now. Examining our world with an eye to changing it requires patience to get it right and decisiveness to get it done. All arts: music, dance, drama/theater, visual and literary arts are means of expression and communication.

Why The Sciences

While the arts enable us to critically examine the world and imagine how it should be, the sciences tell us the why and how of Nature and give us the tools for changing and improving our world. We must include not only the physical, biological and medical sciences, but also the social and humanity related sciences. **Art lets us see ourselves; science lets us fix ourselves; education gives us the ability to use art and science to accomplish our goals of saving our civilization.**

Education

The Institute is not a school – it does not intend to offer courses per se in science or art subjects. To us, education means more than learning and imparting or communicating that knowledge for knowledge's sake. It means motivating people to use that knowledge to improve their lives and the lives of others. Our online presentations will be designed to motivate those who are not exposed to or do not believe in science to become interested in at least learning more about the world.

Education also means innovation – applying knowledge in new ways and for new purposes. We quote that old saw that goes something like: “Give a person a fish and you feed him for a day. Teach him how to fish and you feed him for a lifetime.” How aggressive do you think a person will be with a fulfilled life? How much hate or jealousy will they express if there is little they want for? How susceptible will they be to radical religious and political ideas that encourage them to hate others or become terrorists?

Not only do we need to be educators and researchers, but we need to reward those who educate and those who innovate. We need to reward those whose ideas and work furthers the goals of a kinder, gentler, peaceful and lasting civilization.

One of the major problems facing us is how to disseminate knowledge to every nook and cranny of our world and to every stratum of culture. The Internet has been able to do this to some extent, but how do we deal with cultures that don't have or permit the Internet. This is where we need more innovation.

What is the Process for bringing about the New World?

- 1) The Arts enable us to critically examine the world.**
- 2) Research is how we learn about our World and Universe.**
- 3) Education is how we pass that knowledge on to others.**
- 4) Knowledge about Life and Nature will change our perspectives.**
- 5) Science and Technology established in every “corner” and stratum of the World will generate prosperity.**
- 6) Appropriate sociological changes will come with prosperity and when everyone learns to respect Life and Nature.**
- 7) Art and Science will then replace religious and political ideologies as the dominant motivators for the goals of our life and planet.**

1.) The Arts enable us to critically examine the world. From the time of the first cave drawings to the present, the Arts have been used to communicate to the general public the artist's emotions about issues of daily life, singular events, and society as a whole. The artist's imagination is of prime importance in expressing ideas and concepts in terms that are easily understood by the audience, whether it be a viewer, listener or reader. The Arts include Theater (comedy, drama and musical), all Music, all Dance, Visual Arts (electronic, static, dynamic and hybrid), and all written forms.

Having been with us for so long, the Arts have covered most subjects in virtually every medium. So what and how do we support? First, we think that we must support young artists so as to encourage them to continue on with their art as their principal calling. Second, we should encourage them to innovate – create new art-forms and use them together with the established forms to take on new controversial subjects in an effort to show the world new pathways to peace and prosperity.

2.) Research is how we learn about our World and Universe. Reality is really about facts. When we base our thinking on fiction, superstition, rumor, folklore and faith in what self-serving people tell us, we have entered the realm of fantasy. Fantasy can't produce survival. Research and the Scientific Method is how we get our facts and our reality. Our modern technology is the result of research. Some may think that modern technology has its faults, but that is only because of the way we use it. Its faults and failures are our faults and failures. If we support research, we will increase the factual knowledge base from which we draw to improve the lives of the world's population and subsequently its outlook and behavior. In this manner we can lessen the effect of self-serving ideologies on people's lives.

3.) Education is how we pass that knowledge on to others. Education is how we give people the tools to think for themselves and use facts to make their decisions. There is a visible effort by self-serving ideologies to eliminate or restrict education to very narrow topics that enhance their point of view. We need to give everyone a broad view of the world. Only then will they be really free – and free to make the best decisions for themselves.

4.) Knowledge about Life and Nature will change our perspectives. Once the world, almost to a person, learns the facts about how the Universe, Life and Nature work, their perspectives will change. The immensity and ingeniousness of it all is bound to force a respect for the processes of Nature and a motivation to preserve this wonderful inheritance. Evidence suggests we are a fortunate, but probably not unique accident. Other civilizations probably exist many places in the Universe, maybe not exactly like ours, but different because their circumstances and accidents were different.

5.) Science and Technology established in every “corner” and stratum of the World will generate prosperity. It cannot fail to do so over time. The lessons of history have showed us that. Unfortunately we tend to forget history. We sometimes blame Science and Technology for creating the ills of the world, but that blame really lies with our incorrect use of it. A modern day example of how Science and Technology can turn a society around is China. Eventually China will become a prosperous free democracy because of its reliance on modern technology to generate individual wealth and its lack of dependence on conservative religious ideologies.

6.) Appropriate sociological changes will come with prosperity and when everyone learns to respect Life and Nature. Once a nation becomes prosperous its citizens want it to stay that way. Today freedom and prosperity go hand-in-hand. Either one can come first and generate the other. Soon everyone realizes that in the long run maintaining prosperity and freedom requires a respect for Life and Nature and they institute the appropriate sociological changes.

7.) Art and science can replace religious and political ideologies as the dominant motivators for the goals of our life and planet. Our political and religious ideologies have failed to bring us closer to the world we want. In fact, it seems that as time goes on we are getting farther away. We are not benefiting our world with wars and the waste of our natural resources. We need change. The World and the Universe are dynamic – they will never be static or stable – it is a law of physics. Change can be directed toward a World that is a kinder, more gentle and humanistic advanced civilization that will endure throughout countless millennia. We are responsible, as agents of change, to make that happen. Sociological changes will come when everyone learns to respect Life and Nature.

The steps above will require time, organization, human power and, above all, financial resources to accomplish. They probably will not be fully implemented to completion in our lifetime. But our outlook should not be to ourselves but to unborn generations. The desire to set something in motion that will not be accomplished until many years after our personal demise is one of the characteristics that set us apart from the lower animals.

Our call to Scientists of all disciplines

How can we preserve and advance our Civilization?

- 1. Peace: No more wars, whatever the cause.**
- 2. Prosperity: No more hunger or homelessness.**
- 3. Education: For all. No more ignorance.**
- 4. Freedom: For all. No more totalitarian governments but still a rule of law.**
- 5. Preservation: Preserve the planet and its resources including the inhabitants.**

If your science/project/research addresses these issues, we want to hear from you. [Contact us.](#)

You can make a difference!

Summary

To attain a more gentle and humanistic advanced civilization that will endure throughout countless millennia, it is essential that every inhabitant of our world understand the workings and beauty of Life and Nature so that they may achieve a new perspective of their inherent value. We must gain a more complete knowledge of our world and universe and propagate that knowledge to every corner and stratum through education in the Arts and Sciences. Only then, independent of any religious or political ideologies, will mankind understand the need for peace and the preservation of our planet. Religious and political institutions have failed us; Art and science can replace religion and politics as the dominant motivators and goals of our life and planet.

- There is hope – we can and will preserve our civilization on this planet for thousands of years to come by taking the knowledge-based paths that put us in harmony with the Universe.**

One Last Thought

Do you think if the world we are trying to achieve – one where Science and Art are preeminent; where Nature and Life are revered; where peace and livability reign – were to come about, that all other problems of inequities and deprivations would suddenly be solved? Could be. Let's make it happen!

- **The future of our world lies in Art and Science.**

That is the only way we can survive. Find out how you can participate in the mission of The Widow's Cove Institute by going to: "Participate"

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