

Table for Six Billion, Please

Caring

Tolerance

Creativity

Community Spirit

Social Conscience

STORY

Judy Wicks was 5 years old when she opened her first "restaurant." Now the owner of Philadelphia's White Dog Cafe, she "lures innocent people into social activism" by getting people from different worlds to sit down to a good dinner and talk with each other. Through her local Sister Restaurant and international Eating with the Enemy programs, she gets people who might consider themselves enemies to instead become friends. And for some of the patrons of her restaurant, it's been more - a life-changing experience that has opened the world. Judy's vision for the world is "Table for six billion, please."

ACTIONS

- Investigate local restaurants who make a special contribution to your community. Write a story about their activities and submit it to your local newspaper.
- Subscribe to the Business Alliance for Living Local Economies (<https://bealocalist.org>), Sustainable Business Directory (sustainable.org), GREEN PLUS National Business Directory (<http://gogreen-plus.org/network/newsletters>) and learn how they mix social activism with business and good food.
- Facilitate a class discussion about the word "enemy" - what does it mean? How can we find ways to build bridges with people who are different?

Language Arts

Reflection Questions

1. Do you have a favorite restaurant? What makes it special for you?
2. If you were to participate in one of Judy's visits to "Eating with the Enemy" visits, which country would you most like to visit?
3. What is "social activism"?

Lessons You Can Learn

1. Food has a magic power that can bring people together.
2. When you take the time to get to know your neighbors, you can learn a lot.
3. It is important to learn to appreciate our similarities instead of fearing our differences.

Social Studies

- Invite an American Friends Service exchange student to speak to students about their experience of living in a different country and share how they deal with cultural differences.
- Choose a country, which has a policy misunderstandings or disputes with the U.S. Government. Do a research project on how the people in that country live, their culture and their lifestyle and write a report differences and similarities between life here and there.

Community Service

- Plan an annual multicultural potluck dinner at school on a Friday evening. Have students bring foods to represent their cultural heritage. Have students serve adults. Organize a trivia contest, table by table, to encourage everyone to socialize.
- Have students work with their families to organize a Block Party in their neighborhood. Invite everyone on the street. Provide nametags, plan icebreaker activities/ games and serve refreshments.
- Invite a restaurant in your community to donate leftover foods to a homeless shelter or work with your class to sponsor a fundraising dinner for a food bank.