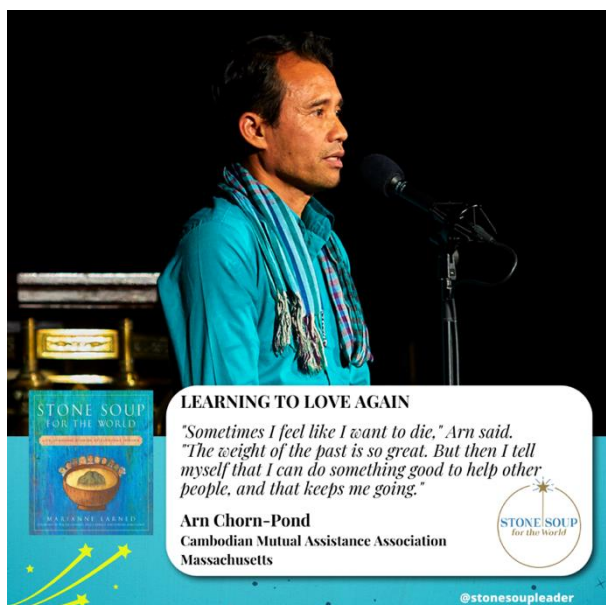




Stone Soup Leadership Institute's
Story of the Week: Learning To Love Again, Arn Chorn-Pond
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
Week of July 21 – July 26



LEARNING TO LOVE AGAIN

"Sometimes I feel like I want to die," Arn said. "The weight of the past is so great. But then I tell myself that I can do something good to help other people, and that keeps me going."

Arn Chorn-Pond
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
Massachusetts



Sunday July 21: Story: Arn Chorn-Pond

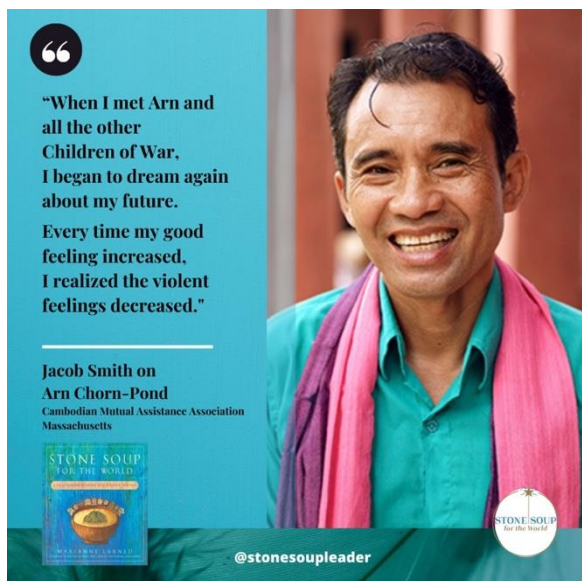
READ how at the age of 16 Arn Chorn-Pond inspired an enthralled audience of 10,000 people in New York's Cathedral of St. John the Divine. "It seems almost unbelievable that I could forgive and forget what happened to my people," he said.

Discover how Arn changed the lives of others who had experienced trauma through war or growing up around violence in the book, Stone Soup for the World: Life-Changing Stories of Everyday Heroes.

"Sharing with other young people who've endured similar horrors has helped me to feel again- their pain as well as my own. I'm alive after all these years, because I can love again."

<https://stonesoupleadership.org/storage/2022/12/story-learning-to-love-again.pdf>

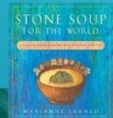
[love-again.pdf](https://stonesoupleadership.org/storage/2022/12/story-learning-to-love-again.pdf)



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"When I met Arn and all the other Children of War, I began to dream again about my future. Every time my good feeling increased, I realized the violent feelings decreased."

Jacob Smith on Arn Chorn-Pond
Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association
Massachusetts



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Monday: July 22: Quote: Arn Chorn-Pond

Arn Chorn-Pond has inspired many young people by sharing his story and his quest to find hope in his life.

Jacob Smith, a boy from Bedford-Stuyvesant, one of Brooklyn's toughest neighborhoods bonded with Arn over their shared trauma.

For several years Jacob had gone the way of guns, drugs, and violence and ended up in the juvenile justice system. "When I was acting out, I didn't have time to dream. But when I met Arn and began thinking again."

His story is featured in Stone Soup for the World and in the Stone Soup Educational Curriculum.

<https://stonesoupleadership.org/storage/2022/12/story-learning-to-love-again.pdf>



Tuesday: July 23: Arn Chorn-Pond : Hero Report

WATCH this short video of Arn Chorn-Pond sharing how he has uses the arts to transform his life and the lives of others in post-war Cambodia.

[https://youtu.be/ 6lgaSo9eL8](https://youtu.be/6lgaSo9eL8)



Wednesday: July 23: Honor Roll: Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association

The Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association (CMAA) is crafting a brighter tomorrow, empowering individuals and fostering lasting positive change within communities.

CMMA provides Khmer language services, a Monorom family support program, youth services, a civic engagement program, and other community initiatives.

CMMA has also been selected as a recipient for the FY2024- FY2026 Residential Energy Assistance Grant (REAG) program from the Office of the Massachusetts Attorney General.

<https://www.cmaalowell.org/>

<https://www.facebook.com/cmaalowell/>

Book Arn Chorn-Pond as a Speaker at Your Event



Arn Chorn-Pond is an internationally-renowned human rights activist, community organizer, speaker and musician who inspires change through his incredible stories of surviving the Cambodian Khmer Rouge genocide.



Wednesday: July 23: Book Arn Chorn-Pond

Book Arn to Speak at Your Event:

- Arn Chorn-Pond inspires people – young and older – by sharing his personal story through speeches, presentations, and workshops at conferences, high schools, and universities in the U.S. and around the world.

- If you are interested in Arn speaking at your next event, please contact

development@cambodianlivingarts.org

- <https://www.cambodianlivingarts.org/en/arn-chorn-pond/>
- <https://www.cambodianlivingarts.org>



The Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association is
Cummings Foundation 2024 Grant Recipient



May 20, 2024: CMAA has been chosen as one of 150 local nonprofits to receive a share of \$30 million through the Cummings Foundation's annual grants program.



Wednesday: July 23: 2nd Post: Foundation Grant
Announcement

The Cambodian Mutual Assistance Association received the prestigious Cummings Foundation grant of \$300,000 for each of the next 10 years.

<https://www.cmaalowell.org/news/cmaa-selected-as-2024-recipient-of-cummings-foundation-%2430-million-grant-program>



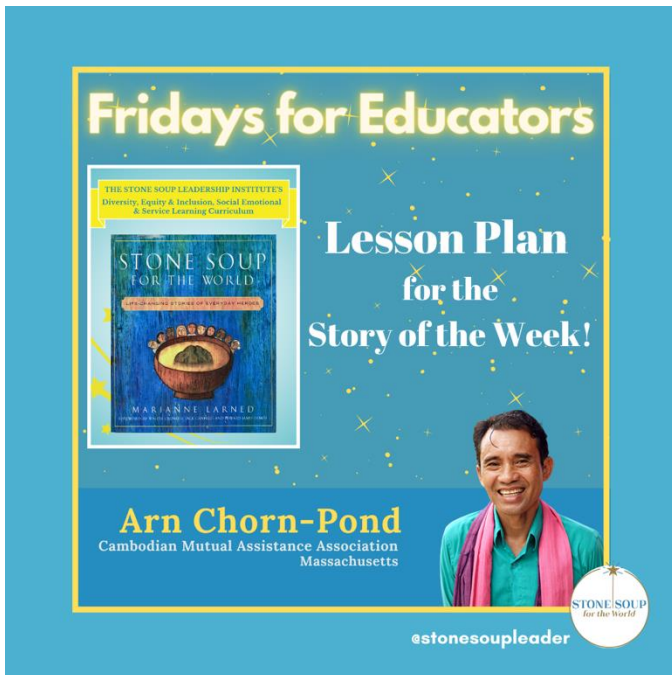
Thursday: July 24: Maria Rodriguez: Institute Feature

Maria Rodriguez was one of thousands of Puerto Ricans who were environmental refugees after Hurricane Maria devastated their island home.

When she met Rev. Yearwood Jr. at U.S. Senator Whitehouse's Environmental Leaders conference, she was inspired by how he emphasized the importance of voting, especially young people to register to vote.

At this prestigious conference, Maria was sitting in the very front. She felt he was talking right to her. Maria decided right then and there that she was going to register to vote. A few weeks later, she did – so she now she can vote for people who will help her people and her homeland.

Read more: https://myemail.constantcontact.com/Youth-Register-to-Vote-.html?soid=1106306587764&aid=wwNpdu5j_IM



Friday: July 25 : Lesson Plan: Arn Chorn-Pond

EDUCATORS use this FREE lesson plan to help your students learn how they can overcome obstacles in their lives and become an inspiration for others.

Arn Chorn-Pond's peaceful childhood in Cambodia was disrupted when he was just 9 years old. When the Khmer Rouge marched into his town, they forced him into a child labor camp.

Help your students learn about the values of building trust, courage, compassion transformation, leadership and social emotional learning.

How can your students learn about Cambodia and discover how many Cambodians are living in their community or state?

Link: <https://stonesoupleadership.org/storage/2022/12/lesson-plan-learning-to-love-again.pdf>

Press



Saturday: July 26: Press: Arn Chorn-Pond

When the ultra-communist Khmer Rouge regime seized Cambodia in 1975, 80-90% of the country's artists and musicians, including his parents, who ran an opera group were murdered. Since Arn was spared, he carries on their legacy.

Why is it so important to revive the arts? "Hospitals are important to heal people physically....restoring the arts restores identity, restores dignity. We can bring people together in harmony, in peace."

Read more here:

<https://www.theguardian.com/global-development-professionals-network/2015/mar/31/arn-chorn-pond-arts-cambodia-ngo-ted-talk>

His story is featured in Stone Soup for the World and in the Stone Soup Educational Curriculum.