

Celebrate the Autumnal Equinox and the United Nations' International Day of Peace at Endangered Planet Gallery with Birdsong & The Eco-Wonders September 21

LAGUNA BEACH, CA — September 14, 2008 Art-inspired family fun will be featured September 21 as the Autumnal Equinox and the International Day of Peace are recognized at Endangered Planet Gallery. Guests will be treated to a new display of works “Dream Island” by acclaimed Swedish artist, Karl Momen. The event will be highlighted by marking the debut of the CD “If I were a Fish and Other Ocean Songs for Kids” by Birdsong & The Eco-Wonders. The Laguna Beach resident popularly known as ‘Birdsong’ will be performing songs from the CD.

A song writer and singer for more than 20 years, Birdsong began composing children’s music after being inspired by her work as a tide pool docent. Educational, environmentally-themed songs have become her signature, with a mission she says of “inspiring earth stewardship through the power of music.” The 13-song CD features “The Tide Pool Song,” already familiar to thousands of children due to its use by various organizations and area state parks for teaching purposes. The animal/ocean habitat songs, or “eco tunes” have become a favorite at local schools. The students enjoy acting out with body movements and gestures during the songs which contain easy to memorize choruses. Birdsong also incorporates real animal sounds in the recordings as much as possible. For example, birds and sea lions can be heard on certain tracks which are accompanied by various instruments - from ukuleles to steel drums. There is a hip-hop sounding song about sharks; and children as young as three are able to sing along to the tune about gray whale migration. Over the years Birdsong has collaborated with a number of well-known Orange County musicians on her recordings. For example, John Heussenstamm and Evren Ozan accompanied her on “Adapt to the Habitat,” a song written for the Laguna Wilderness Park. The CD will be available for sale at the event and a portion of the proceeds will be donated to the Endangered Planet Foundation.

In addition to live musical performances and guest speakers, the day will feature a solar-powered Akeena truck that will power the entertainment and to learn about solar energy including art activities for children. As part of the Art Miles Mural Project directed by co-founder Joanne Tawfilis, seven and eleven inch canvas squares titled “Patching the Environment” will be provided for youngsters to paint ocean/environmental themes on. These painted canvases are to be used as “family passes” to the upcoming One Earth | One Dream “Autumnal Green Festival” (to be held in Laguna Beach, October 3-5, 2008) at the Festival of Arts grounds. The canvas squares will be sewn together into a large mural. More info go to: OneEarthOneDream.org

In commemoration of the International Day of Peace (a City Proclamation was signed in 2006 by then Laguna Beach Mayor, Steve Dictrow), an art installation “Pinwheels for Peace” will be created. The project is non-political, asserting a simple definition of peace - a state of calm and serenity in the absence of violence and freedom from conflict among people or groups of people. Since its inception from a wife after her fallen fireman/husband in New York September 11, 2001, the Pinwheels project has spread around the world.

The International Day of Peace and Autumnal Equinox celebration will begin at 2 p.m. on September 21 and will conclude after the “Equinox” occurs at 7:45 PM PDT. Endangered Planet is located at 384 Forest Avenue, Gallery 13 in Laguna Beach. The third annual “Autumnal Equinox” bring a dish or beverage for three friends or a suggested \$5 donation to the Endangered Planet Foundation event is open to the public. For further details, membership or volunteer opportunities please visit www.EndangeredPlanet.org or telephone (949) 497-5690.

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