



# Re<sup>right</sup> Cassandra

## Your Weekly Prophet

Cassandras from all walks of life have come together to focus on the climate crisis.

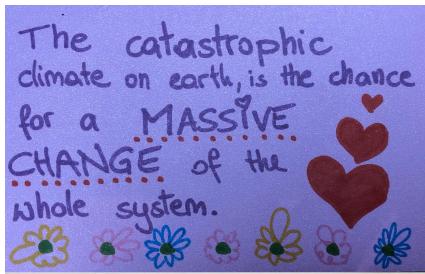
From Austria to Baltimore to Urbana IL - Our Cassandras are an international, colourful crowd. Our backgrounds could not be more diverse. How exciting!

Yet here we all are at the School for Designing a Society to answer the call that has moved each of us profoundly.

*“We have 12 years left to limit climate change catastrophe.” - United Nations Committee on Global Climate Change*

*“and responding to it. Responses will be seriously playful —no doom and gloom (but maybe goom and dloom)— as a strategy to elicit involvement of others, and to elicit focus.” - Susan Parenti*

We have twelve years left to metamorphose into the creatures we so ardently desire into being.

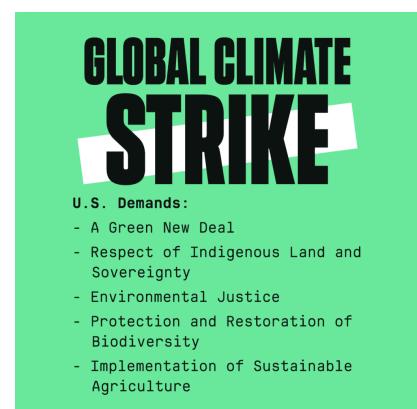


What is the just & beautiful world your heart longs for? When, where, how have you experienced a beautiful, beloved, just world your heart longs to see flourish?

## Stop everything you are doing - and focus on Climate Change

The first days have been inspiring, overwhelming and filled with a tricky task: finding a space for everyone's ideas and defining our common purpose - aided by lots of mind mapping and discussions. Focusing on climate change - and how to stop it, demanded of us to share our definition of what the crisis means to each of us with one another.

**What does the Climate Crisis mean to you? Send us an email or tell us on Social Media!**





## Strike 4 Climate Justice!

The urgency to act became very clear to us - so we decided to take our energy, playfulness and silliest hats to support the about 1,000 students at the Global Climate Strike of the University of Illinois.



An estimated number of more than a million people protested in about 2200 events worldwide. According to organisers, events took place in about 125 countries. In Germany, more than 300000 pupils demonstrated in 230 cities with more than 25000 in Berlin alone.



Back in Urbana, we practiced empowering protest songs, created chants, painted signs and thought up creative scenarios to engage people in a surprising, unusual way to talk about the Climate Crisis.

Here you can see some of our “Cones of Intimacy” where protesters could talk to a Which Witch, explain their cause to The Spoon or get their activist fortune told.

Very soon you will be able to join us at Cassandra's Climate Strike Café - watch this space.

## Week 2 - Bringing our message to you and the world!



We have spent this week with the first steps to make our various projects a reality.

We are looking for new ways, and that is not always easy. There is a lot we could do, but what should we really do? Only when we stop believing that we need something can we truly do our best.

A big question for us was: how do we communicate with each other and everybody else?



How do we speak about catastrophic climate change?

What ways are there to transport our thoughts?

- Apparently endless, infinite ones!

Our list of project ideas had as many entries as there are squirrels in Urbana (A lot. Trust me.)

We started off educating ourselves and each other about the facts of Climate Change with the help of our Cassandra Miriam Larson and [350.org](http://350.org).

A wonderful resource for all who want the science basics and numbers. **We will be meeting every Wednesday from 17.00 -19.00 at the Parkhouse. Reading materials are provided via e-mail.**



Our visual artist Cassandra Kathrin has begun to work on an artistic short film addressing fear, confusion and helplessness. Which gave us Cassandras the perfect excuse to dress up outrageously!

A performance ensemble met for the first time, many books were read...and this newsletter was created!

## Cassandra's Choice:

### *Susan Parenti*

Why am I reading Drawdown-The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming – edited by Paul Hawken?

This interview between Ralph Nader and Paul Hawken gives a good answer (December 2018):

"Drawdown' means the first time that greenhouse gasses peak and go down on a yearly basis. I've entitled the book around that word/time, because the goals we've enunciated around climate have been weak and limp and not adequate to the task at hand. We use words like 'curbing' (as in, 'please curb your dog'), combatting, fighting—we use sports metaphors, war metaphors. We say 'mitigating' which means reducing the pain of something. And this, the greatest crisis civilization has ever identified—and we're using words that you would use for a traffic accident.

So I wanted to name the goal first of all—which is to reverse global warming—that is the goal. And second, to see if in fact we could achieve that goal given what we know and can do and are doing right now"

# Cassandras working their magic around the world!

*Kieren and David - Tampa FL*



**"The past two Fridays, September 20th and 27th, 2019, my partner and I attended climate**

**strikes in Lakeland and Tampa, Florida as representatives of the Cassandra Project.**

**Striking alone always inflicts a feeling of empowerment – that feeling of I'm Doing Something When They Told Me I Couldn't! - but striking as Cassandras added a sense of solidarity, as we were representing something bigger than just the two of us.**



**In central Florida, the population tends to be a bit less progressive than we assume Champaign-Urbana is; but even with only 10 or so strikers on the side of the road, the support elicited from the beep-beeping of passing cars inspired hope – which is exactly what we Cassandras run on.**

**Knowing that we're part of an ensemble which is making such an effort to Do Something makes every strike and every small action we take against**

**climate change a whole lot more hopeful, and that hope makes all the difference between staying silenced and making a real impact.”**

**“If someone tells you something that is not possible, it is a reflection of his limitations, not yours”**

We are very excited to tell you all about what we are doing here in Urbana - and equally excited to hear all about what you are doing to focus on limiting the consequences of catastrophic climate change.

Get in touch! Cassandras of the world unite! :D

Wishing you good fortunes and strength to fight for climate justice!

The Cassandras

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