

# NEWSLETTER

May 2024



## Note from Shelby



It's strange to be me these days; we're building this new organization with many people doing many things; we had a period of building the foundation, explaining our issues and goals better, developing our systems for creating content more regularly, and recruiting even more teammates. The pieces are coming together. This summer, we'll work to get ourselves out in public more, as I'll do guest appearances on various podcasts and YouTube channels. We also have plans to ramp up our social media, which will help. Fingers crossed, this will result in funding soon, significantly accelerating our efforts.

All of this feels like we're building a rocket and we're about to launch ourselves - and we're saving a seat for you. I think that by next year, we'll be in a very different situation, with more public exposure and a new set of opportunities.

I'm excited.

**Shelby Mertes**  
Founder & Director

## Coming Soon

We are doing a substantial rewrite of our website. The new website will contain a page for supporters to donate and more material about us, our plans, and the issues we address. It's much work, but soon, the site will be a better tool for communicating with the world.



Our Video Team is nearing completion of an opening sequence for our upcoming video series. It looks so good. It's exciting to see our ideas and hard work come to life.

We're getting more people working on our social media, so we are offering content there more regularly soon.

## A couple of great episodes of The Human Survival Podcast

### Wendell Wallach

*Technology Breaking Society*

Wendell Wallach of the Carnegie Council for Ethics in International Affairs, where he co-directs their AI and Equality Initiative. We had a wide-ranging conversation on our emerging technologies' potential impacts on society and how to put guardrails in place to manage the risks.



### David Quammen

*Preparing for the Next Pandemic*

Author of numerous books and journalist for various publications such as National Geographic, The New York Times, Outside, Rolling Stone, and The Atlantic. Specializes in pandemic diseases crossing over from animals to humans and has written remarkable books on the subject. We discussed the increasing risk of future pandemics and how to prepare for them.



### John Reuwer

*World BEYOND War*

We chatted with a World BEYOND War director about their mission to end warfare and promote peaceful conflict resolution globally. The conversation also touched on potential United Nations reforms to address global violence.



### The Journey

Last month, a good friend organized a party for about 20 people to eat a delicious meal and discuss The Human Survival Project. After so much online/virtual communication, talking with people in person about this important work was a pleasure. I was so encouraged by the positive response to what we're doing. I heard great feedback and ideas and met a couple of folks willing to help the cause. And it was a great confirmation that we're onto something here - this effort resonates with people.

I feel motivated to hurry up whenever I read the world news these days. The world needs what The Human Survival Project has to offer. I feel impatient about the time it takes to build a new organization. It's a healthy impatience. We're working hard to make this happen. Thanks for being on the journey with us.

At your service,  
Shelby

