

BOUNDARY PEACE INITIATIVE

Appeal to womanhood throughout the world

Again, in the sight of the Christian world, have the skill and power of two great nations exhausted themselves in mutual murder. Again have the sacred questions of international justice been committed to the fatal mediation of military weapons. In this day of progress, in this century of light, the ambition of rulers has been allowed to barter the dear interests of domestic life for the bloody exchanges of the battle field. Thus men have done. Thus men will do. But women need no longer be made a party to proceedings which fill the globe with grief and horror. Despite the assumptions of physical force, the mother has a sacred and commanding word to say to the sons who owe their life to her suffering. That word should now be heard, and answered to as never before.

Arise, then, Christian women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be that of water or of tears! Say firmly: We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience. We, women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country, to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: Disarm, disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonour, nor violence vindicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of council.

Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead. Let them then solemnly take council with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, man as the brother of man, each bearing after his own kind the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women, without limit of nationality, may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient, and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace

Julia Ward Howe

Ann Reeves Jarvis and Julia Ward Howe

The origins of Mother's Day as celebrated in the United States date back to the 19th century. In the years before the Civil War, Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia helped start "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to properly care for their children.

These clubs later became a unifying force in a region of the country still divided over the Civil War. In 1868 Jarvis organized "Mothers' Friendship Day," at which mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation.

Another precursor to Mother's Day came from the abolitionist and suffragette Julia Ward Howe. In 1870 Howe wrote the "Mother's Day Proclamation," a call to action that asked mothers to unite in promoting world peace. In 1873 Howe campaigned for a "Mother's Peace Day" to be celebrated every June 2.

Other early Mother's Day pioneers include Juliet Calhoun Blakely, a temperance activist who inspired a local Mother's Day in Albion, Michigan, in the 1870s. The duo of Mary Towles Sasseen and Frank Hering, meanwhile, both worked to organize a Mothers' Day in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some have even called Hering "the father of Mothers' Day."

Anna Jarvis

The official Mother's Day holiday arose in the 1900s as a result of the efforts of Anna Jarvis, daughter of Ann Reeves Jarvis. Following her mother's 1905 death, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honouring the sacrifices mothers made for their children.

After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner named John Wanamaker, in May 1908 she organized the first official Mother's Day celebration at a Methodist church in Grafton, West Virginia. That same day also saw thousands of people attend a Mother's Day event at one of Wanamaker's retail stores in Philadelphia.

Following the success of her first Mother's Day, Jarvis—who remained unmarried and childless her whole life—resolved to see her holiday added to the national calendar. Arguing that American holidays were biased toward male achievements, she started a massive letter writing campaign to newspapers and prominent politicians urging the adoption of a special day honouring motherhood.

(Continued page 2)

(From page 1) **Ann Reeves Jarvis and Julia Ward Howe**

By 1912 many states, towns and churches had adopted Mother's Day as an annual holiday, and Jarvis had established the Mother's Day International Association to help promote her cause. Her persistence paid off in 1914 when President Woodrow Wilson signed a measure officially establishing the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day.

Jarvis Decries Commercialized Mother's Day

Anna Jarvis had originally conceived of Mother's Day as a day of personal celebration between mothers and families. Her version of the day involved wearing a white carnation as a badge and visiting one's mother or attending church services. But once Mother's Day became a national holiday, it was not long before florists, card companies and other merchants capitalized on its popularity.

While Jarvis had initially worked with the floral industry to help raise Mother's Day's profile, by 1920 she had become disgusted with how the holiday had been commercialized. She outwardly denounced the transformation and urged people to stop buying Mother's Day flowers, cards and candies.

Jarvis eventually resorted to an open campaign against Mother's Day profiteers, speaking out against confectioners, florists and even charities. She also launched countless lawsuits against groups that had used the name "Mother's Day," eventually spending most of her personal wealth in legal fees. By the time of her death in 1948 Jarvis had disowned the holiday altogether, and even actively lobbied the government to see it removed from the American calendar.



Happiness, true happiness, is an inner quality. It is a state of mind. If your mind is at peace, you are happy. If your mind is at peace, but you have nothing else, you can be happy. If you have everything the world can give - pleasure, possessions, power - but lack peace of mind, you can never be happy.

Dada Vaswani

Harmony makes small things grow; lack of it makes great things decay.

Sallust

Theresa May criticises pupils missing school to protest over climate change

By: Alan McGuinness: February 15, 2019 , UK

As thousands walk out of classes, Downing Street says their absence "increases teachers' workloads and wastes lesson time".

Theresa May has criticized pupils who walked out of class to demand action on climate change.

Thousands of school children are taking part in strikes in 60 towns and cities across the UK, according to organisers Youth Strike 4 Climate.

Demonstrations have taken place in locations such as Edinburgh, Cardiff, Belfast, Cambridge and Brighton, with pupils also descending on Westminster to call for change.

However, Downing Street warned against the "disruption" being caused by the protests.

"Everybody wants young people to be engaged in the issues that affect them most so that we can build a brighter future for all of us," the prime minister's official spokesperson said.

"But it is important to emphasize that disruption increases teacher's workloads and wastes lesson time that teachers have carefully prepared for.

"That time is crucial for young people precisely so that they can develop into the top scientists, engineers and advocates that we need to help tackle this problem."

Outside parliament, protesters carried banners with slogans such as "There is no planet B", "When did the children become the adults?", and "Why should I clean my room when the world is in such a mess".

They want the government to declare a climate emergency and act fast to tackle the problem, inform the public about the severity of the crisis, and change the curriculum to make it an educational priority.

A recent United Nations report warned that unprecedented action was needed to limit global temperature rises to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels.

Anna Taylor, of the UK Student Climate Network, said: "We're running out of time for meaningful change, and that's why we're seeing young people around the world rising up to hold their governments to account on their dismal climate records.

"Unless we take positive action, the future's looking bleak for those of us that have grown up in an era defined by climate change."

The National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) said it supported the right of young people to express themselves, but it did not condone students missing school to take action.

In a statement, the NAHT said: "While a school leader's role is to ensure children attend school, are kept safe and receive a good quality of education, it is right that individual school leaders can decide how best to respond to any proposed protest by students in their school on Friday." (Continued page 3)

Theresa May criticises pupils

A number of politicians spoke up in support of the pupils. Among them was Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn, who posted on Twitter: "Climate change is the greatest threat that we all face but it is the school kids of today whose futures are most on the line.

"They are right to feel let down by the generation before them and it's inspiring to see them making their voice heard today."

Green Party MP Caroline Lucas, who addressed a strike in Brighton, said: "Our children recognise that this is a climate emergency.

"They are striking this week because they know we cannot carry on as normal.

"Teachers work hard to prepare students for their future but right now that future is at serious risk."

Labour's David Lammy said the strikes should "give us hope".

The Tottenham MP wrote on Twitter: "As bleak as politics looks right now, our children, teenagers and young people are full of righteous energy.

"They will reject the bigoted, selfish politics of the past and demand what's right."

Liberal Democrat education spokeswoman and former teacher Layla Moran praised those who have "taken up such an important and principled cause".

The global movement has already seen school strikes in Australia and a number of European countries.

It was inspired by Greta Thunberg, a teenager who protests every Friday outside Sweden's parliament to call on leaders there to tackle climate change.

Editor's note: students have continued to demonstrate all over the world. We must encourage these concerned youth to keep up the pressure so that the adults will realize how serious climate change is and how vital it is to stop emissions and pollution NOW! Because later will be too late.

Continued from last issue: The Minutes of the BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference will run in a series. They were compiled by Laura Savinkoff form comprehensive notes by Beth Novokshonoff.

B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference, October 27, 2018. At The Slavonic Senior Citizens Centre, Grand Forks, BC

Stewart: also offered a greeting in his native tongue as a member of the Okanagan Nation. He thanked everyone at the table and those with whom we work for all the efforts in the past and the present and looks forward to working together in the future. It is heartbreaking to see the devastation by the Flood of 2018 in Grand Forks as well as elsewhere. At the heart of these disasters--floods, mudslides and fires--is Climate Change. And Climate Change is a result of the use of Fossil Fuels with Big Oil at the forefront. Thousands of people continue to stand up for the land which means chasing Kinder Morgan and other fossil fuel corporations, the pipeline, out of B.C. (Continued next column)

(From last column) **BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition**

We must continue to stand firm and protest because there is no way they will be able to build the pipeline in a 'war zone'—through people protesting. Stewart explained that he and Joan, led a March on Burnaby Mountain were at least 10,000 people stood up for the fundamental human right of clean water, air and land. As we work together we must also be very aware of 'leaders' who succumb to the 'shinny', the promise of jobs and money, for they do exist. There are those Chiefs of tribes and community leaders who have fallen for the promises and forsaken the protection of the land, the air and the water.

He continued that Climate change is the challenge of our lifetime, our generation and we must work to bring awareness to the fact that in order to stay alive we must do our utmost to comply with the 1.5 degree rise in temperature as agreed upon in Paris. In the meantime there is an increase in floods and fires; hotter summers leading to drought and deeper winters leading to floods and landslides. According to the latest studies we have only 12 years left to turn the tide of Climate change. We must continue to wage an effective public campaign to bring awareness to the fact that we need to change the dynamic from a fossil fuel dependant society to one that values the environment, the planet, life.

Stewart warned us that the drive for more pipelines and more Tar Sands extraction will increase if Alberta elects a different Government, it will be worse that it is now. Therefore, he said, we need to beef up the public relations and information campaigns from all part of the country—we will need a lot of support our friends, he said. We must show that we cannot be intimidated by big government or big oil. There is a law suit going on in New York against the tar sands and big oil and this is just the beginning as people wake up to the reality of the effects of Climate Change. We need to push for our local, provincial and federal Governments to switch their support, tax incentives and subsidies to renewable energy sources.

Stewart then explained that there are many challenges we are faced with in our daily lives such as the loss of children. We've had to face that this year with the death of our 42 year old son in August, a day before his birthday, to Phytanol overdose.

When asked what we need to do in our everyday lives, Stewart responded that this is not a time for bystanders. We hold the future of our grandchildren in our hands. We have to amplify our voices. Everyone in our province has been affected by the fires, floods and landslides—by Climate Change.

(Continued page 4)

Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents people of diverse backgrounds officially brought together in 2002 because of our mutual concern for the rise in world conflict. Our mandate is to participate in multilateral non-violent conflict resolution in support of global human rights, ecological and environmental sustainability and international law through education, sharing of information, dialogue and activism locally and globally. We encourage and seek your participation in our mutual work for true peace based on social justice, equality, accountability, integrity, honour, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

BPI web site: www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org

BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet monthly. To commit call (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.

What's Up?

BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference June 1st @ the **Mir Center for Peace**, Selkirk College, **Castlegar**, B.C. For info email Laura at L4peace@telus.net

Selkirk College Mir Centre for Peace presents course on **Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping** May 21-26 linked live with Quaker peace builders in Burundi. Cost is \$199. Call Madelyn for info at (250) 505-4122.

Mothers Day Peace Walk May 12: meet at 1 pm at Haynes Point or at 2 pm on the grassy space at the border in Osoyoos, B.C. without crossing the border. For info call USCC office at (250) 442-8252.

Mothers Day Rally for Peace: May 12th @ 2 pm in Lakeside Park Rotary Shelter in Nelson, B.C. For Info call 250-352-9871

The BPI welcomes your input. Articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-444-0524 or 250-442-0434** or email L4peace@telus.net.

The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We work with a wide range of local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all MPs. Free postage: {Name of MP}, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0A6
Go to the Government of Canada website for MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>

B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Minutes Oct. 2018

Stewart and Joan then donated \$100.00 to our work for peace and social justice. This was gratefully accepted.

A discussion brought forward peoples' concerns and ideas and some suggestions for actions, individual as well as collective, which can and should be implemented. There is an organization that can be helpful for information—Anjali Appadurai of B.C. West Coast Environmental Law.

Some points raised during discussion were:

- Which are safer pipelines or trucks or rail?
- How do we address the conflict within families and among friends that the oil industry is necessary for jobs and to maintain our lifestyle?
- Issue is not pipelines but tar sands so we need to stop the supply of dirty oil
- Replace fossil fuels with wind, solar and other sources by offering subsidies to convert to solar energy because conversion for the individual to solar or other sources is too expensive for many people—the political will to support the conversion must come forward
- What are your feelings on LNG? Kinder Morgan was a wonderful target and lots of support. But many aboriginal tribes agree with LNG and overlook the effects of 'fracking'; therefore this is a much more difficult fight. There is nothing natural about this 'natural gas'. It is extracted by 'fracking' and chemicals that filter into the water and create other issues such as a rise in Earthquakes. This is Not Clean Energy.
- Greed of human beings is at play so we need to find a strategy that brings forward the fact that they are overlooking, ignoring the point that jobs in the fossil fuel industry are not sustainable and will disappear as we continue to destroy the planet and as fossil fuel reserves disappear.
- When is enough, enough?
- People agree on where we want to be, but can't agree on how to get there.
- End goal is to get rid of the fossil fuel industry
- We need to centralize and consolidate peace, social justice and environmental groups across the country and globally and work together
- We can begin by bringing change here, within local communities and then work outwards.
- People are motivated by love, not anger so we need to find ways to touch the human heart
- Doesn't matter where you start or where you are, as long as you are contributing to change from a world of destruction to one of creating love and peaceful living
- We need to engage more broadly and this does include family, friends and neighbours to inform and educate on the dangers posed by the fossil fuel industry as a whole and especially the Tar Sands that require more pipelines and tankers
- A question arose on how to engage youth and the consensus was that we must give young people **something to do** so they will show up. Something to sink their teeth into.
(Final instalment next issue, just before the conference)