

Mothers Day—From where to where?

The idea of the original Mother's Day is not what is celebrated today— not even close!

The idea first came from Ann Reeves Jarvis of West Virginia with the "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" to teach local women how to care for their children prior to the American Civil War. Then in 1868 Jarvis organized "Mothers' Friendship Day," at which mothers gathered with former Union and Confederate soldiers to promote reconciliation and bridge the divide among the American people. I'd say this was an action to establish peace.

Then, in 1870, an abolitionist and suffragette Julia Ward 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 worked to organize a Mothers' Day in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Some have even called Hering "the Father of Mothers' Day."

Following her mother's death in 1905, Anna Jarvis conceived of Mother's Day as a way of honoring the sacrifices mothers make for their children, including during war. After gaining financial backing from a Philadelphia department store owner, 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. After an extensive campaign Anna in 1914 succeeded in having President Woodrow Wilson officially establish the second Sunday in May as Mother's Day. But the official day slid further and further into commercialization and lost sight of the purpose of this day, the original plan to reject the results of war and violence and to honour the sacrifices made by Mothers everywhere as they call for peace and social justice. Anna Jarvis campaigned against this desecration but the commercialization continued

(Continued next column)

(From last column) Mothers Day—From where to where?

to become one of the most profitable days of the year for florists and restaurants and gift shops.

But, there are still some of us who keep to the original plan. There are regions in this world that gather for peace and social justice and equal rights for women and girls and all humanity and creation. One such event has been ongoing in the Kootenay, Boundary, Okanagan at the Canada/USA border. Peace, Social Justice, Environmental and Human Rights groups meet in the non-aligned green space at the Oroville and Osoyoos border. Together we commit each year to continue the struggle to put an end to war, to put an end to all violence and fear and injustice, to create a world of peaceful living in harmony with all Creation. We have been walking and talking and singing and dancing and calling for a better world for about 40 years and will continue to do so not only on Mothers' Day but every day of every week of every year until we can live as one global family sharing with and loving each other. That was the dream of Ann Reeves Jarvis, Julia Ward Howe and Anna Jarvis.

When you gather or talk with family and friends, please do talk about the need for a truly peaceful world immersed in love, kindness, compassion, integrity, dignity and honour. We urge you to make a commitment to create that world, that universe where we can and will live as one global family using non-violent means to do so.

Sadly, due to Covid-19, we were unable to meet in person in 2020 and not in 2021 either. We did meet virtually in 2020 and will do so again in 2021. On Mother's Day, May 9, 2021 starting at 2 pm PDT join us for a virtual gathering. The Zoom link will be forwarded to those on the organizers' contact list and we ask you to forward through your network. But for the link and more information if you have not received the details, please contact Laura at L4peace@telus.net or Rick at rckg@columbiana.org.

*In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,
Laura Savinkoff on behalf of
The Boundary Peace Initiative and Organizing Committee
of the Mothers Day Peace Walk*

Mothers' Day Proclamation: Julia Ward Howe, Boston, 1870

By: Julia Ward Howe

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of fears!

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 our dishonour nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plow 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 counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time 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.



Virtual Mothers Day Announcement

Dear Peacemakers,

You are invited to the 2021 Mother's Day Virtual Walk for Peace. Though this year will be a little different, 2021 marks the 40th celebration of our communities coming together to celebrate Mother's Day at the Oroville-Osoyoos International Border, visualizing peace in the world and between our nations.

We will be gathering virtually on the Zoom video conferencing platform this year. Attendees can join the video Zoom event on your computer, phone or tablet. Alternatively, you can dial into audio only phone conferencing from your telephone.

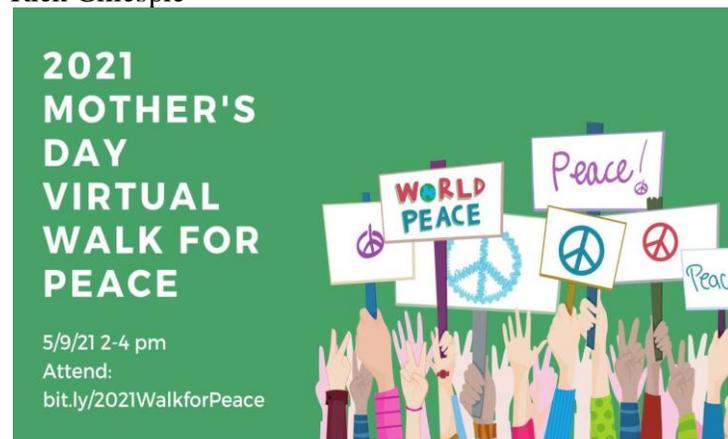
We ask that you RSVP for the virtual event soon by registering at this link. (*Ed. Note: the link does not copy so contact Laura at LAPeace@telus.net or 250-442-0434 or Rick at rickg@columbiana.org*)

If you would like to offer a statement, poem, song, prayer, etc. during the conference, please fill out this form. (*Ed. Note: for the link to the form contact the above*)

If you are having difficulty connecting to the celebration, please contact Iris Kavanagh with your best contact info and a description of your issue.

Thank you for taking time to join us in working for peace and justice on our Planet Earth this Mother's Day.

J.J. Verigin
Laura Savinkoff
Dave Cursons
Joseph Enzensperger
Rick Gillespie



It would be nice if wisdom had such a quality that it could flow from one man who is full of wisdom to another man who has no wisdom, just as with two connected vessels water flows from one vessel to the other until the water level is the same in both of them. The problem is that to obtain wisdom, you must make an independent, serious effort of your own.

Leo Tolstoy

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

For info contact Laura at (250) 444-0524 or (250) 442-0434 or email L4peace@telus.net.

Nestlé sells water business to Wall St

By: Council of Canadians

This week's news that Nestlé is selling its bottled water interests in Canada is a capitalistic déjà vu for communities that have been fighting the bottled water giant for decades.

The new owners will be private equity firms One Rock Capital Partners and Metropoulos & Co, who have paid Nestlé U.S. \$4.3 billion for several bottled water brands in the U.S. as well as the "Pure Life" brand bottled near Guelph, Ontario and in Hope, B.C.

Council of Canadians supporters will remember that Nestlé tried to sell its Canadian bottled water business to Ice River Springs Corp last summer, but the deal was cancelled while awaiting Competition Bureau approval. Nestlé's bottled water sales have been decreasing for years as more and more people make the switch back to tap water.

The Nestlé sale comes on the heels of recent disturbing news that Wall Street has begun trading water futures – treating water like any other commodity. The creation of the water futures market is a direct response to water scarcity issues in the U.S. related to overuse and climate change.

While Nestlé waits for its mega-deal to finalize, it will continue pumping out millions of litres of precious groundwater every day on expired permits in Ontario, putting our shared public resource in hundreds of millions of single use plastic bottles for sale at obscene profit.

Council of Canadians supporters like you have fought hard to stop Nestlé's water profiteering. Tens of thousands of people joined a boycott on Nestlé's products, demanded better regulations, and engaged in conversations about water commodification and why we must keep water public and protected.

Groundwater resources are finite. Droughts, climate change and over-extraction continue to impact our limited water sources. Water is a human right, commons and a public trust, to be shared, protected, carefully managed and enjoyed by all who live around it – not a source of profit. (Continued next column)

(From last column) Nestlé sells water business

We know that Nestlé's departure will not end bottled water takings in Canada, and our work continues to oppose any commodification of water for profit.

Today, we want to say thank you to all our chapters, members, donors and supporters across the country. Your collective activism makes people-powered progress like this possible. Tomorrow, we will continue to build on that grassroots power to keep water protected as a shared commons for current and future generations.

Help support our continuing work to protect our water from privatization and profiteering. Become a member or chip-in to support our grassroots organizing, hard-hitting analysis and supporter driven advocacy.

Whether we're fighting Nestlé, One Rock Capital or any other corporation, the most powerful tool against the commodification of water is an informed and organized network of people committed to safeguarding water. Thank you for standing with us as we continue this fight.

In solidarity,
Mark Calzavara
Regional Organizer

No to fighter jets with so many other pressing needs, nun says

By: Micheal Swan From: The Catholic Register April 1, 2021

As deficits skyrocket and Canada's debt-to-GDP ratios teeter on the brink, Sr. Mary Ellen Francoeur has a plan to save the government billions.

The government can easily save itself \$19 billion by simply not replacing its 30-year-old fighter jets, she said.

"How can you in conscience be spending \$19 billion just to buy the jets?" she asks. "Let alone the full life-cycle costs, which our coalition has researched and would come to \$76.8 billion. How can the government in conscience spend that amount of money when so much is needed to maintain life, to care for the health of people, to care for the homeless, to put into education — all the things that have been suffering for so long?"

Francoeur's conscience tells her it's simply wrong, and she's willing to publicly fast for a day or two to make the point.

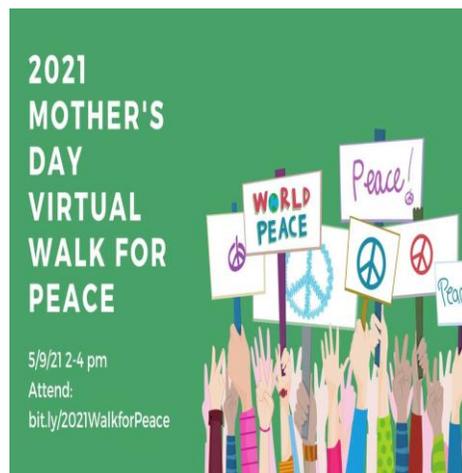
Francoeur represents Pax Christi Toronto as part of the No New Fighter Jets Coalition, which is staging public fasts and candle-lit vigils from coast to coast April 10 and 11.

It's not just a matter of money for Francoeur. That Canada would need to cement its standing in the world with the capability of bombing people and vital infrastructure anywhere across the globe just doesn't line up with her lifelong commitment to a non-violent Jesus. A 73-year-old retired psychologist and Sister of Service, Francoeur is part of Pax Christi International's Catholic Non-Violence Initiative, supported by Pope Francis.

(Continued page 4)

WHAT'S UP?

Join us for the **Virtual Mothers Day Peace Walk on May 9th @ 2 pm**. See article in this Newsletter for details and for more information contact Laura or Rick.



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>

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 works with local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups: is an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Peace Pledge Union, Abolition 2000 and CNANW.

(From page 3) **No to fighter jets**

"Jesus turns to the disciple and says, 'Put your sword away.' Jesus' whole life, really, was a life of non-violence," said Francoeur.

Francoeur cannot square new jets with the federal government's claim to champion a "feminist foreign policy."

"Any feminist foreign policy would be non-violent," she said. "It would be using the powers of dialogue and diplomacy and conflict resolution — negotiation."

Canada is currently in stage three of a five-phase plan to acquire new fighter jets. The current CF-18 fleet is over 30 years old and has been reduced from 138 jets to just 76 aircraft. The government projects that a contract will be awarded for one of three jets — the nuclear-capable Lockheed-Martin F35, the Boeing Super Hornet or the Saab Gripen — early in 2022.

In the meantime the government is also spending \$862.3 million to buy used Australian Hornets, which Ottawa hopes to have fully operational by December 2022.

HATE

By: Tim Samorodin (1978)

The burden of hate is a terrible weight
For the hater, much more than the hated.
It's a terrible strain on the heart and the brain,
Which can easily be demonstrated!

Is revenge in your plan? Ponder well while you can;
Reconsider, and come to your senses;
For, revenge is a course that may lead to remorse,
Or some even more dire consequences!

Such as feuds and wars and their festering sores,
That may take a whole lifetime in healing,
Or may still carry on after we are long gone,
Just because we gave in to that feeling!

Show goodwill unto all, friend or foe, great or small,
And no woe shall befall or distress you.
Turn your hate into love, and the heavens above
Will reveal a new rainbow to bless you!

Yes, the feeling of hate, strange enough to relate,
Brings no peace, but becomes your full master,
To lead farther along into evil and wrong,
And eventual moral disaster!

