

Update on Mother's Day 2022

What an inspiring day! Though the weather was all over the place—rain, wind, sun, wind, sun. This long awaited event brought over 50 people, including about 12 from the USA, to walk to the border to join together to share much food for thought. And the rain held off until we were all on our way home. It was an awesome day! Hopefully next year more of our friends from both nations will come to inspire, support and encourage each on our quest for a living, breathing peace for all humanity, for all the Earth and the Universe and to honour the initial purpose of Mother's Day.

Here is the list of speakers introduced by Joseph Enzensperger and Laura Savinkoff.

Andrea Turner from Canada spoke on how this event began 39 years ago since she was an integral part on getting it organized:

Phillip an American Métis spoke on how important it is to work non-violently for peace:

Dave Cursons a Canadian founder of this event, spoke of his impressions of the beginnings and his current reasons for helping organize and attend, stating he needs this event yearly to feel connected and to re-energize:

Joseph Enzensperger an activist American and an original founder spoke on those beginnings and how vital this event is 39 years later to send a message of unity and peace:

Hannah Hadikin a Canadian activist spoke about the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace and the cost of militarization and the vital need to act for peace:

Sam (no last name) An American spoke about his role in the beginnings and suggested we need to concentrate on the positive so as not to get caught up in political machinations set up to take us away from living peacefully and in harmony:

Mark Haley from Canada read an Indigenous prayer (see elsewhere in the Newsletter)

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(From last column) **Update on Mother's Day 2022**

Bobbie Hackett an American poet read a few of her compositions and talked about a book, but sadly I did not mark down the title, in this issue is a poem:

JJ Verigin, a Canadian, made an impassioned speech on the need to treat all with dignity and kindness and the desperate need to actually live and act to bring about peace and social justice for all humanity; with family connections in both Russia and Ukraine it is a difficult time for Doukhobors but our stance as pacifists determines our stance not support any war, for any reason, at any time:

Chelsea and her 6 year old son Kenan—(no last name) as a teacher in an American school, she spoke on her school's approach to create a safe harmonious space for students and Kenan simply asked for peace to come and passed on love all Mothers:

Leonard Markin from Canada spoke on the conflict for him and others, since in both Russia and Ukraine the Doukhobors have roots, friends and family but we must remain steadfast in our pacifism and act to bring peace and justice to the world and requested we sing a song *In Honour of Peace and Freedom*:

Rick Gillespie a long-time American activist, who was joined by his son this day, spoke as a founder and on how important it is to address racism, which is an integral component of war, explaining that he realized he had some racists tendency only after reading the book 'Me and White Supremacy':

Laura Savinkoff, a Canadian, delivered a written speech (elsewhere in this Newsletter).

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness, that most frightens us. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that other people won't feel insecure around you. We are all meant to shine as children do. It's not just in some of us; it is in everyone. And as we let our own lights shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

Marianne Williamson

Greetings and Thanks to Each Other as People

From: the Haudenosaunee (a prayer of thanksgiving and gratitude)

As read by Mark Haley

To the Earth, Mother of all,
Greetings and Thanks.

To all the waters,
Waterfalls and Rains,
Rivers and Oceans,
Greetings and Thanks.

To all the Fish Life,
Greetings and Thanks.

The grains and greens,
Beans and berries,
As one we send thanks to Food Plants.

Medicine Herbs of the world and their keepers,
Greetings and Thanks.

To all animals and their teachings,
Greetings and Thanks.

The Trees for shelter and shade,
For fruits and beauty,
Greetings and Thanks.

To all Birds large and small,
Joyful Greetings and Thanks.

And from the four directions,
The Four Winds,
Thank you for purifying the air we breathe and give us strength,
Greetings.

The Thunders, Our Grandfathers in the sky,
We hear your voices,
Greetings and Thanks.

And now the Sun for the light of a new day,
And all the fires of life,
Greetings and Thanks.

To our oldest Grandmother, The Moon,
Leader of Women all over the world,
And the Stars for their mystery, beauty and guidance,
Greetings and Thanks.

To our Teachers from all times,
Reminding us how to live in harmony,
Greetings and Thanks.

And for all the Gifts of Creation,
For all the Love around us,
Greetings and Thanks.

And for that which is forgotten,
WE REMEMBER,
We end our words,
Now our minds are ONE.

Shifting Paradigm

By: *Bobbi Hackett (2011)*

Yin/Yang

Masculine/feminine
Opposite and inseparable
The pendulum swings
The climax of the arc

Contains the beginning of the opposite

A prince once asked his advisor
“Is it better to be loved or feared?”

Machiavelli answered

“It Depends”

What do you want to create?

If you want to be King

It is most effective to be feared

BUT

Tell the people that you love them

That you will protect them

That you are doing what THEY want

You will have to make war

Monopolize all means of survival

Control all the resources

Exploit the labor of all of your subjects

Trick them into slavery

Their job—support the troops

Deny access to knowledge

Call it state secrets

Corrupt the language

Tell lies and call it the truth

Replace understanding with suspicion and confusion

No one will know the difference

Take all the value from what they create

Tell them prosperity will trickle down

To just be obedient

Survival is privilege, not a right

Sacrifice, save, pay the King for what God owns

Play the game

He who dies with the most privilege wins

WE ARE IN TRANSITION

The old paradigm has lived a full life

Fear is in its death throws

Trying desperately to hold on

Dragging us down with it

Hope we don't all die in the process

A new paradigm has come of age

It is the paradigm of Love

Holistic—Artistic—Entrepreneurial

The instructions are written

If you have the eyes to see

If you have the ears to hear

If you have a spirit that cares

It is what God has been trying to explain all along

Jesus transcended

So we could find courage in his example

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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.

NATO/UKRAINE/RUSSIA—WHERE IS THE TRUTH?

By: Laura Savinkoff

Wow, the bombs and guns do not go silent, ever! Somewhere in our world someone is dying, someone's home is being destroyed, someone is wounded, and someone has lost a loved one to violence, to war. The list of unnecessary 'human' created tragedy never ends.

Do you ever wonder why? Why is there such violence in our world? Why is there so much war? Why is it acceptable to kill and maim and destroy under the banner of a nation or military alliance? Why is it acceptable to pour billions of dollars into the weapons industry, whether conventional, uranium tipped bullets, biological or nuclear? Why is it such an honour to organize, to learn how to kill, to commit murder, to destroy as long as it's approved by government or an alliance such as NATO? There seem to be a lack of funds for universal health, dental, mental and pharmaceutical care? There are never funds for the poor, the disabled to come out of the cycle of poverty? There are no funds to transition to renewable, sustainable energy. But, there are always funds for war, threats and preparations for war, for invasion, occupation, regime change.

Can you imagine the dollars wasted by NATO, by Russia, by Ukraine every single day? Have you considered the amount of pollution emitted every day by the jets, the tanks, the debris that flies into the atmosphere from the destruction caused on all sides?

Sadly, the only conflict grabbing the attention of the world is Ukraine. Yet in Palestine the shooting war continues, the bulldozing of homes in Gaza and the West Bank continues, the bullets fly at holy sites during Ramadan, Passover, Easter. The bombing of Yemen continues. In Sudan, in Venezuela, in Guatemala and Honduras, in the Congo, in Libya and so many other countries people are dying, their lives and homes destroyed, the land poisoned, the air poisoned...but somehow it is excused and supported and even encouraged by very educated and financially successful people. Why?

In Canada when our Vice Prime Minister and Minister of Finance presented the budget on April 4th, my breath caught and my heart skipped a beat at one point. Sadly, the media has not said a word—no actually one report did mention her chilling words but that was it!

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(From page 2) Shifting Paradigm

In Nature find the proof
It's the same story
14 billion years in the telling
Infinite stories woven into one cloth
Infinite harmonies singing the same song
Can you see the forest?
Or are you confused by the trees around you?

The slaves are in revolt
We took back the reins of responsibility
The power of choice
We are all leaders now
We share accountability
To manifest the desire
Share the Love of the One
It is time to sow
We know the problem
We know the desired result
Choose what you value
Money or Love
Match your principles to purpose
We'll reap what we sow
But first we must learn to heal

Do we have the courage of conviction?
The pendulum swings anyway
Looks like chaos (a quantum field)
Resolves to pattern with intent
Freedom and Change
Let It Be.

(From last column) NATO/UKRAINE/RUSSIA

I thought I may have not heard correctly or misunderstood, so I went on line and listened once again and then printed out the entire speech so as to assure myself and be confident I had the words right.

Chrystia Freeland made many statements that painted Russia as the evil doer and Ukraine as the hero. Her words incite war fever; the black and white hats leave no room for the grey or the red or the green. But, I must say she was honest, more honest about her stance than any Western politician I've heard for many, many years. She called Putin evil and barbaric, accused Russia of destroying democracy and the world's economic success. She said that the people of Ukraine are fighting on our behalf for democracy and we need to provide them with the guns and bombs and missiles to be our proxy, so the people of Canada can sit back and continue to live, work and play while the people of Ukraine and Russia destroy each other **for us**, so we can retain our lifestyle without missing a beat. The people of Ukraine are shedding blood so we don't have to. Think about it! How does that sit for you that children are dying and their lives are being destroyed so we can live in our accustomed way? Do the children of Ukraine and Russia and all those other countries of war deserve to suffer or die because I want to go on a holiday, buy that new couch or vehicle or, or, or.....

Yet, in her speech there is no mention of the fact that NATO, under the leadership of the USA, has surrounded Russia with military bases and enlisted surrounding countries into this military alliance. When the former Soviet Union agreed to disband the promise was, and documentation of that promise has been discovered, that NATO would not expand into the Baltic States.

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WHAT'S UP?

United Nations International Days

- June 4: International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
June 5: World Environment Day
June 7: World Food Safety Day
June 8: World Oceans Day
June 12: World Day Against Child Labour
June 15: World Elder Abuse Day
June 17: World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought
June 18: International Day for Countering Hate Speech
June 19: International Day for Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
June 20: World Refugee Day
June 26: International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking
UN Day in Support of Victims of Torture

Compassion in Action: free conference addiction; at 8:30 am June 24 & 25 @ USCC Community Centre in Grand Forks. Go to BPI website for information and to register at www.boundarypeaceinitiative.org .

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

(From page 3) NATO/UKRAINE/RUSSIA

But they have and continue to do so. This has been an ongoing struggle between the West and the East since the early 1990s. The former Yugoslavia was broken apart by NATO. It was NATO and the USA that created the Mujahedeen that became the Taliban and precipitated the break-up of the Soviet Union; it was NATO and the USA who invaded Iraq not once but twice and then proceeded into Afghanistan, destroying both nations that were on the path to democracy based on a socialist model. So, why would Russia want NATO that was instituted to 'battle the red scourge' and stop Communism, to encroach itself right to its doorstep? Would you? What happened when Cuba became a Communist nation and the Soviet Union put in a naval base and transported nuclear weapons to the island? Well, that was a close call. The world did not sink into another nuclear holocaust simply because Kennedy and Khrushchev took a deep breath, a second look and did not listen to their military heads; they talked and came up with a solution.

This latest debacle is only one drop in our mutual bucket of pain and suffering because of greed and the continual drive to maintain power and control by the few. As millions of Ukrainian refugees pour into surrounding countries, they are welcomed by the West while millions of refugees from Syria, Yemen, Palestine, Sudan, the Congo and so many other non-white areas, languish in camps where rape and lack of adequate food, water and shelter prevail; where some have lived for decades as non-citizens of anywhere and therefore not entitled to any supports or considerations. And the West refuses to take them, while providing minuscule funds to help the overwhelmed nations that house and try to feed them. Why is there such a disparity in the response? The Democratic West loudly spouts that we are non-discriminatory, that we value all humanity—so why are Ukraine refugees fast tracked into Canada while others take years to be processed, if at all.

I am not excusing or justifying Russia's invasion of Ukraine but reminding us that there is always more than one side to every coin, every action has a back story, a history. It takes more than one person, whether Putin, Biden, Zelinsky, Freeland, or Trudeau, to create a war, to decide to destroy a country or a people. The system of conflict, of one up man ship, of greed, of self righteousness, of lies, deceit and propaganda, of military might is right, is so ingrained that it will take a concerted effort by we, the people, to say NO MORE, NO MORE WAR, I WILL NOT KILL, I WILL NOT SUPPORT THOSE WHO DO CREATE WAR!

Are we prepared to do that? I wish and pray and hope we are. But, when a 9 year old accuses another of being evil because their ancestors came from Russia, then we do have a major problem. The only way we will stop the carnage of death and destruction sanctioned, allowed, encouraged, supported by governments is when the people have had enough and stop buying into the propaganda, when the dichotomy of evil and good, the finger pointing that my nation has clean hands and yours does not stop, when soldiers trained to kill are no longer lauded as heroes. When a middle power such as Canada and small players like Ukraine are no longer willing to be used by the big powers such as the USA, Russia, China and others in their quest for dominance, then we will begin to come out from under the yoke of war. *{The incident of the 9 year old happened to my Granddaughter. She came home wondering if she responded correctly to this classmate that yesterday was a friend. She said, I am not Russian, I am a Doukhobor. We are pacifists so do not kill anyone.}*

We the people of the world must accept the responsibility of enabling and perpetrating this behaviour. When the majority begins to stop reacting to nationalist and populist propaganda, when we begin to live true peace every day, when we stop supporting violence by nations and military alliances, when we look at our planet as one world filled with family, when we live respecting and honouring each being on this planet, when we truly value and stop destroying Mother Earth that is when war and conflict and all violence will cease. Until then we must continue to work to bring forward the truth that war is never the answer, that violence and abuse only beget more violence and abuse, that destruction breeds anger and hate.

Why do we find it so hard to step out of the shadow of violence and war? Why do we find it so hard to treat each other with respect and love? Why do we find it so hard to be kind and thoughtful and generous? Why is it so hard to love our neighbour? Why is it so difficult to live peace?

It is up to each of us. Only I can make the decision for myself not to fight, not to enable the military industrial complex, not to enable the destruction of our planet, not to kill and maim people, not to support or act with discrimination, racism, superiority complexes and self-righteousness. Only I can decide for myself if I support the most current war between the visible players Russia and Ukraine. Only I can decide for myself, if I support those selling weapons to one side or the other or goading one side or the other to continue the murder and destruction.

Are you ready to evaluate your decision? If you decide that you do not support violence of any form, do not support any war efforts, any military actions, then we can break the chains of hate, of fear, of violence of which war is the ultimate expression. Let's join our energies, join our hearts and minds, let's join hands and walk the talk of socio-economic justice and equity, of treating all with integrity and dignity, of living a vibrant peace with love for all Creation. We can if we put our minds to it! Are we ready this Mother's Day to stand for true peaceful living in harmony with our global family?