



Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents a growing number of area residents of diverse backgrounds brought together over the Iraqi crisis. We support multilateral action for non-violent conflict resolution, human rights, ecological integrity for the planet and international law, through education and dialogue locally and globally. We encourage everyone's participation as we strive for peace and justice to build a better world for future generations.
 BPI web site: www.boundarypeace.20m.com

Boundary Peace Initiative meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 7 pm in the Slavonic Seniors Center on 72nd Ave. & 7th Street

To Do Life—Yes Nuclear Industry—No! Hiroshima/Nagasaki week. Speakers, entertainment, information and Silent Auction: **August 10th @ 1 pm in Gyro Park, Grand Forks.**

Aug. 6th @ 6 pm @ Mir Center for Peace--Castlegar. Info at USCC office @ 442-8252



Hiroshima Peace Memorial Arch, Hiroshima, Japan

Arun Gandhi of Gandhi Worldwide Education Institute Responds:

Brothers and Sisters, in April the USCC Iskra magazine asked the BPI to submit some questions for their interview with Arun Gandhi. The article was published in the May issue but sadly they were only able to use one of our questions. On May 17th Mr. Gandhi was in Castlegar and we took the opportunity to ask if he'd be willing to respond to our questions. He agreed and we received his responses and will share them with you, our readers starting with this issue. Also, Laura will write an article from her notes on Arun's presentation in Castlegar for a future issue.

Question #5: What, in your view, has led to the significant increase in global (and local) wealth-disparity, where many are materially impoverished, where some perish from want while others live in relative extravagance and waste, hoard an excessive portion of the world's resources and frequently exercise little regard in how they acquire it? Could efforts of moderation and voluntary simplicity help to eliminate such incommensurate disparity and sustain the planet's limited resources? How might these be promoted?

Response #5: This is already answered.

Question #6: To what extent, in your opinion, does desperate poverty or wealth inequities, the violation and disregard of others contribute to increased violence within nations and among nations? What do you feel would establish principles and behaviors that would not only resolve conflict, without violence, but also not create it in the first place? What are the principles that might create a global dynamic of positive achievements rather than one of just avoiding negative outcomes?

Response #6: There is no doubt that disparities create divisions and divisions lead to conflict. There are many disparities in our societies today, besides economic.

(Continued next column)

(From last column) Arun Gandhi

There is religious, social, national, communal, sectarian and many other forms of disparities that divide people between US and Them. Societies today need a complete overhaul. We have to replace the greed, selfishness, arrogance, and the many other negative attitudes that we harbour with more positive attitudes like Love, Respect, Understanding, Acceptance, Compassion and so on. It is only when we are able to see people as human beings and no identify them by the labels we have put on people that we will be able to reduce strife substantially. We may not be able to create a Utopian society of total peace and harmony but we will create a society where there is a greater amount of love and respect for fellow beings. In many ways today the greater dividing force after economics is religion. We kill in the name of God although every religion says that God is about love, compassion and respect. We wage wars in the name of religion and preach hate instead of love. There is a chasm that divides us from what we understand to be true and what we practice. Religion is invented by mankind to search for the meaning of life. A search can be meaningful only when we are willing to accept that we don't know. However if we pick up a piece of glass and claim that we possess the diamond we live in an illusion. One with humility will keep searching until one is convinces that what (s)he has is a diamond. This is the difference between possessing the Truth and pursuing the Truth.

Question #7: Does the UN and its assorted departments truly address the current global issues? If so, how and if not, why not? Does a void currently exist, where a global organization with a more positive appreciation of human 'nature', national 'interests'

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(From page 1) Arun Gandhi

Question #7 continued: and stewardship of the planet? This might be seen as a soulful-living alternative to the United Nations, regarded by some as a rather ineffective referee of a handful of nations, which hold, retain and direct their vested interests in world affairs through military and economic might? If so, what might be its structure; how might it be formed and by whom?

Response #7: The UN is ineffective today in resolving political issues because it was emasculated during the cold war when each side played power politics to gain traction. Secondly, the idea that some nations of the world are above the rest of the world and, therefore, can exercise the veto power in the Security Council is obnoxious. The least that needs to be done is to remove the veto power. The best that can be done is to get rid of the Security Council. When all nations are treated equally and given the respect they deserve, then the UN will be able to fulfill a meaningful role. There is no need for the creation of another organization. All that is needed is to reform the United Nations and make everyone equal and equally responsible for creating a world where we recognize that the security of any nation depends on the security of the whole world. It is only when we have that kind of compassionate and respectful attitude that there will be greater cooperation between nations and cooperation will reduce strife. In the final analysis we have to accept the Truth -- THE WORLD CAN NOT CHANGE UNTIL WE CHANGE OURSELVES

Arun Gandhi



Ed. Note: this ends the question & response section. Next issue we hope to have an article on Arun's visit to Castlegar.

US West Coast Newborn with thyroid problems after Fukushima Apr 3, 2013.

Almost third of US West Coast newborns hit with thyroid problems after Fukushima nuclear disaster Researchers have discovered that the Fukushima nuclear disaster has had far-reaching health effects more drastic than previously thought: young children born on the US West Coast are 28 percent more likely to develop congenital hyperthyroidism. In examining post-Fukushima conditions along the West Coast, researchers found American-born children to be developing similar conditions that some Europeans acquired after the 1986 meltdown of the Chernobyl Nuclear Power Plant. "Fukushima fallout appeared to affect all areas of the US, and was especially large in some, mostly in the western part of the nation," researchers from the New York-based Radiation and Health Project wrote in a study published by the Open Journal of Pediatrics.

Web link for full article: <http://rt.com/usa/fukushima-us-children-thyroid-291/>

Radiation illness is the Human Cost of the Nuclear Industry

By: Laura Savinkoff

200,000 people disappeared within a 300-meter radius of ground zero on August 6th in Hiroshima and August 9th in Nagasaki leaving thousands more to die and many more to live a tortured by disease which they passed on to the unborn. The long-term devastation was not considered when the U.S. dropped their 'weapon of mass destruction' in 1945. To date, the US is the only country to have used the 'bomb' but not the only one to continue research, development and other applications of Uranium. Nor did the US remain the only state to have 'the bomb': 8 more joined them with others in the process.

Sixty-eight years later over 20,000 more deadly nuclear warheads encircle the globe. The US and Russia have about 1500 on 5-minute launch ready alert. Some 'Nuclear Weapons States, reserve the right for first strike or the right to use conventional weapons on nuclear facilities. As well NATO, of which Canada is a member, maintains the right to use nuclear weapons.

The drive to build more nuclear power plants is of great concern. Power plant accidents do happen, as with Three Mile Island, Chernobyl and Fukushima with many incidents not reported to the public. These all bears witness of the danger to humans and the environment; water and soil emit radiation, which is passed down through the food chain causing a drastic rise in cancer and other devastating illnesses. The 'powers that be' minimize the danger and even raise the levels they consider safe. Yet each 'incident' adds its disease to the mix.

The danger does not stop with warheads or power plants, either. The use of radioactive waste dubbed '**Depleted Uranium**' coating missiles, bullets and tanks in order to 'protect' our soldiers continues. The effects of this low-level ionization/radiation are showing up in Serbia, Bosnia, Iraq, Afghanistan and who knows where else. Medical staffs in these countries are documenting the unprecedented rise in cancer, diabetes, autoimmune diseases and birth defects. Yet these effects are denied or minimized by the user states. Soldiers who served in these areas suffer from "Gulf War Syndrome" but are not being tested for radiation poisoning and therefore, receive no treatment. As well the fine dust from exploding DU flies on the wind and infects the world, including you and I.

A campaign by anti-nuclear activists, instituted a 'Legislated Ban' on Uranium mining and exploration in B.C., but it can be lifted very easily.

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(From page 2) **Radiation illness**

In the Kootenay/Boundary/Okanagan we have uranium deposits. Disturbed deposits become radioactive and the emissions can't be stopped. If we are serious about not exposing our children to further radiation, we must be vigilant. We must let our politicians, of all levels, know we do not support exploration and mining of uranium, we must insist that all excavation ensure no uranium lies underground. We must work to bring 'the Legislated Ban' into Law that cannot be changed at the whim of the sitting Government. We must work to stop Canadian export of DU, Canadian complicity with nuclear weapons through NATO, and the drive to establish more Nuclear Power Plants at home and globally. If we truly care about life we must stand up and voice our need for a planet free of human made destruction, whether that comes from Fossil fuel or all the facets of the nuclear industry.

There are millions who raise their voices daily with many more during Hiroshima/Nagasaki week. We ask you to join us at Gyro Park in Grand Forks on August 10th at 1 pm. We have speakers, entertainers and information. We also have a Silent Auction to which local businesses and individuals have donated items. In advance we thank all who show their support for the work of the Boundary Peace Initiative through the donation of bid items and those who bid on them and of course all those who donate time, energy and money all year round.

The world is a dangerous place, not because of those who do evil, but because of those who look on and do nothing. Albert Einstein



All truth passes through three stages. First, it is ridiculed. Second, it is violently opposed. Third, it is accepted as being self-evident.

Arthur Schopenhauer

Because I do it with one small ship, I am called a terrorist. You do it with a whole fleet and are called an emperor.

A pirate, from St. Augustine's "City of God"

Book & Film Recommendations



Deschooling Society

By: Ivan Illich © 1970

Publisher: Calder and Boyars Ltd. 1971; reprinted by Marion Boyars Publishers, Ltd. 2002

Schools have failed our individual needs, supporting false and misleading notions of 'progress' and development fostered by the belief that ever-increasing production, consumption and profit are proper yardsticks for measuring the quality of human life. Our universities have become recruiting centers for the personnel of the consumer society, certifying citizens for service, while at the same time disposing of those judged unfit for the competitive rat race. In this bold and provocative book, Illich suggests some radical and exciting reforms for the education system. The measures suggested, he argues, are necessary to turn civilization from its headlong rush towards the violence that frustrated expectations will certainly unleash so long as the school myth is allowed to persist.

The exhaustion and pollution of the earth's resources is, above all, the results of a corruption of man's self-image, of a regression in his consciousness. Ivan Illich



Films donated by the No Boundaries Film Club to the Grand Forks Public

Hooked on Growth: Director: Dave Gardner

How do we become a sustainable civilization? This film takes a unique approach among environmental documentaries. Rather than dispensing facts about climate change, peak energy, and other critical issues, it examines the cultural barriers that prevent us from acting rationally. It asks why population conversations are so difficult to have, and why a roaring economy is more important to us than a survivable planet. It explores our obsession with community growth and economic growth. *Hooked on Growth* holds up a mirror encouraging us to examine the beliefs and behaviors we must leave behind, and the values we need to embrace, in order that our children can survive and thrive.

Ed. Note: *If you have read a book or seen a film that you feel would be of interest or informative please let us know and we will include them in this section. Email the name of the book, the author and the publisher with a brief explanation of the book, and for the film the name, the producer and a brief explanation of the contents to Laura at l4peace@telus.net. Thank you.*

O CHILD OF THE UNIVERSE

By: **Dorothy Popoff** {translated from the original Russian words and melody composed on Feb 18, 1979 and dedicated to the International Year of the Child.}

O Child of the Universe,
Born of a love so free;
But on this earth, O, dearest one!
Real love you'll seldom see...

The world through wisdom came to be,
With love, abundance, trust;
But people, crazed with greed, prepare
To turn it all to dust!

I am your mother, my dear child,
My vision blurs with tears;
I wish to save you from all strife,
To shield from pain and fears...

For people they have gone astray,
Lost virtue, played with fate;
And on your youthful shoulders falls,
A heritage of hate...

O Child of the Universe,
Come, lay upon my breast
Your weary head, and dearest one,
Take time for peaceful rest...

(Continued next column)

(From last column)

O CHILD OF THE UNIVERSE

May your sweet dreams of innocence,
Give comfort, strength to you,
Your hope for Peace throughout the world
Must surely soon come true...

I am your mother, my dear child,
To pray this hour I yearn,
With all my soul, to God above,
In earnest prayer I turn:

Dear Father, keep all children safe,
From wars, brutality;
Help people understand your ways
Of love, humility.

O Child of the Universe,
I also see a dream –
Where shines the sun of righteousness,
No sighs or tears are seen...

All children are so happy there,
They know not hunger, pain,
Abundance, love is theirs at last,
There "Toil and Peace" now reign.



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 emails of
all MPs, Ministers and Prime Minister.
<http://www.canada.gc.ca>

The Boundary Peace Initiative (BPI) welcomes articles. All articles are the responsibility of the author and may not be common consensus. To submit an article, contact **Laura** at **250-442-0434** or **L4peace@telus.net**. The BPI is a member of: Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Alliance, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War, Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and works with various local and global groups.

Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth.

Albert Einstein

We used to wonder where war lived, what it was that made it so vile. And now we realize that we know where it lives...inside ourselves.

Albert Camus



