



**Our Mission**

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents a growing number of area residents of diverse backgrounds brought together over the 2002 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](http://www.boundarypeace.20m.com)

**Boundary Peace Initiative meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 4 pm for now at Laura's; info call 250 442- 0434.**

**To Do**

Young Women's (15-35) Peace Leadership Camp; Aug. 24-28 Nelson, BC. For women curious about careers and activism in peace. Co-sponsored by Canadian Voice of Women for Peace. Until June 15<sup>th</sup> \$100 then \$125-250 on a sliding scale. For info: call Madelyn MacKay 250-505-4122, email [peacecampnelson@gmail.com](mailto:peacecampnelson@gmail.com), facebook The Peacemaking Collective.



**Building Peace, Social Justice and Equality**

**BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference; May 30, 2015**

With a beautiful prayer, a Metis elder welcomed delegates from Kelowna to Slocan City and all points in between. We pledged to work more closely together because we have a common goal for a world of honor, harmony and peace with all Creation. The Slavonic Senior Citizens Center in Grand Forks opened its doors on May 30<sup>th</sup> for a daylong conference of the 30 some year old B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition (BCSIPC). Twice a year we gather plans collective actions on local and global issues and discuss our mutual concerns. Our discussions are at times sad at the ongoing war mentality but sometimes in joy for the positive activities that lead to humanizing and empowering the people of the world to live in peaceful harmony. Sadly, this time there was precious little to celebrate, except the growing numbers of people recognizing the role government and corporations play in poverty, violence and perpetrating paralyzing fear. And to that end we unanimously passed the following motion reflecting our deep concern of the repercussions of Bill C-51 and an ever more militarized Canadian Foreign Policy:

**Be It Resolved** that Canada adopt a foreign policy without military alliances, which would mean withdrawing from NATO—presently the biggest threat to peace. And we further resolved that Canada cut funding to countries and organizations involved in war and the violation of human rights. We also resolved that Canada work for a culture of peace, nuclear disarmament, relieving poverty and promoting international understanding, in a non-violent way.

(Continued next column)

(From last column) **Building Peace**

Regrets for not being able to join us were received from: MLA, Linda Larson, MLA Katrine Conroy, NDP candidate for South Okanagan-West Kootenay Dick Cannings, Canadian Boat to Gaza representative from Vernon and Vancouver, individuals from Creston, Cawston, Peachland and Kelowna. MP Alex Atamanenko joined us but left to attend Alice Glanville's memorial service as did Christine Thompson, who represented the City of Grand Forks.

Along with all day snacks we served a Borscht lunch. Bread and fruit tarts were generously donated by the USCC, individuals brought baking and the rest was provided by the Boundary Peace Initiative. Volunteers stepped forward to set up, take on kitchen duty, facilitate, take notes and then of course there is take down and clean up. We are so grateful to all who contributed to make this another successful gathering.

In the morning we heard reports on activities since our last conference. All do what they can in their communities to educate and share knowledge of the issues destroying our world. From demonstrations to letters to the editor, from petitions and letters to MPs, MLAs and other elected officials to supporting and endorsing global actions, from participating with local groups to sharing energy with contacts worldwide, all involved consistently give freely of their time and energy to reach our mutual goal. And activities reflected that commitment.

The BCSIC has been a member of the Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA) for many, many years. We're fortunate to have two people in our area, who were involved in the very founding of the umbrella organization in 1986. Unfortunately, some years ago the CPA ran into financial difficulties with the

(Continued page 2)

(From last column) **Building Peace**

Canadian Revenue Agency (CRA) for not making the required employee payments and has been unable to resolve them. In 2014 CRA froze the bank account pending full payment of the debt. The BCSIPC has repeatedly asked for regular official financial statements for at least the last 4 years, but sadly none were provided. Our representative provided a stack of email requests from the last year that yielded no results. Although, we agree with the political and social justice mandate of the CPA it is vital that an organization be financially accountable to its membership and donor base to be fully functional. Therefore, the BCSIPC passed a motion to withdraw our membership in the CPA.

The day passed very quickly as our discussions became passionate as well as inspiring. We all agreed that for Canada to once again be a respected and honorable 'peace broker' we must work to change our government to one less focused on creating fear in order to further militarize our country and continually be at war. Arising out of these two very vital topics that do and will continue to erode our civil liberties and human rights in Canada as well as globally, we passed the motion cited above.

All in all we had an inspiring and enlightening conference from beginning to end. As is our practice we meet on a rotation basis, so our fall conference will be hosted by the Kootenay groups in Nelson. We wished all a safe journey home, whether travelling near or far.

We take this opportunity to thank all our supporters and encourage those who have not yet done so, to contact your local peace group, participate in a rally, a demonstration, a forum. Get involved to help build the critical mass that will turn the tide from a 'military/corporate/ industrial complex' who's aim is to have power and control over the majority, into a world of peace with equality, true social and economic justice, environmental sustainability and love for and of our global family.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,  
On behalf of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition,  
Laura Savinkoff

**Canadian Boat to Gaza joins Freedom Flotilla III despite Harper government's warning**

Just the mention of another attempt to sail against the illegal blockade of Gaza got people talking, again. But it is more than just talk. Ordinary people, civil society organizations and community leaders are planning to be on board.

Freedom Flotilla III is preparing to challenge the state of Israel's stranglehold on 1.8 million Palestinians who live in Gaza. Since the blockade began in 2006, a humanitarian disaster has almost destroyed the Gazan economy. Devastated last summer by Israel's bombardment known as Operation Protective Edge people in Gaza have experienced even greater deprivations. While the international community promised aid, almost nothing has been delivered and the international media has moved on.

On May 10 the first boat of Freedom Flotilla III left Gothenburg, Sweden starting its journey to Gaza. It will be joined by many other boats carrying people from 20 different countries. Among the peace delegates will be politicians, public figures and ordinary citizens who are seeking open borders for the people who have been living behind the blockade for years. Canadian delegates (well known personalities, labor leaders and Aboriginal people in addition to activists) will be joining other international figures including Dr. Moncif Marzouki, the former president of Tunisia, as they make their way to the port of Gaza.

The Canadian Boat to Gaza (the Tahrir) and Gaza's Ark have been previous efforts on the part of the Canadian civil society to challenge the blockade. In 2011, the Tahrir carrying medical aid and all those on board were seized by the Israeli Defense Forces in international waters. Last summer, Gaza's Ark was shelled and totally destroyed by the Israeli Navy as it was under repair in dry dock at Gaza's port after it had been damaged earlier by a sabotage operation. The "Arc" was being readied to bring commercial goods produced by local farmers, manufacturers and artisans to international markets in an effort to stimulate Gaza's economy.

Our Canadian government has taken a position against the people of Gaza as well as any peaceful challenge to what the United Nations has deemed an illegal blockade. The Harper government's warning is stern, "You are strongly advised against participating in any attempt to break the naval blockade. Canadian officials may not be able to provide you with consular assistance if you choose to participate in the flotilla.

(Continued page 3)

I sometimes get the feeling that somewhere across that huge puddle, in America; people sit in a lab and conduct experiments, as if with rats, without actually understanding the consequences of what they are doing.

Vladimir Putin, March 2014

Nonviolence is not a garment to be put on and off at will. Its seat is in the heart, and it must be an inseparable part of our very being.

Mahatma Gandhi, 1948

## Canadian Boat to Gaza joins

Participants may be detained by Israeli officials prior to their deportation. In cases of deportation, local authorities are not obliged to notify the Canadian embassy<sup>7</sup>. This is more reason for people of conscience to support Freedom Flotilla III. When our government sides with the oppressor the responsibility falls on us to act.

Concerned people will continue to sail as long as innocent people are marginalized and confined to lives of poverty and deprivation. The Flotilla movement continues to grow as more and more people understand that the people of Gaza need more than aid (which doesn't even arrive when promised); they need freedom and the liberty to develop their skills and commercial products to support themselves. Farmers and fishers need to be able to work on their land & waters without lethal intimidation. Canadian politicians have been reluctant to get on board and it is now time to see some of them step forward and show the same initiative and responsibility as their constituents.

Last Summer Canadians took to the streets in unprecedented numbers to protest against the bombing of innocent people in Gaza. Canadians care about the lives and future of Palestinian children. This summer is a continuation of those efforts in a strategic attempt to let the people of Gaza go, to develop trade and pursue an equitable international relationship.

Ehab Lotayef, Montreal, QC

Robert (Bob) Lovelace, Kingston, ON

Wendy Goldsmith, London, ON

Dear supporters,

When Gaza's Ark was [destroyed during last year's attack](#) on Gaza by Israel, we all lost a boat intended to break the blockade "from the inside out". But our goal of helping to build a sovereign Palestinian economy based on freedom of movement has not changed. Palestinian products from both Gaza and the West Bank were to be exported not only as a symbolic stimulus to the Palestinian economy but to show the world the industrious work of craftspeople and farmers who continue to struggle against the overwhelming odds of occupation, economic strangulation and war.

The [Freedom Flotilla Coalition](#) is now on its way to once again challenge the blockade of Gaza. The remaining goods that were to be exported by Gaza's Ark are now to form part of the export cargo of the Freedom Flotilla when it reaches Gaza. To showcase these goods and highlight exactly what Israel was trying to stop by destroying Gaza's Ark, Palestinian producers organizations are participating in an exhibition of export goods at the Red Crescent Hall (near Al Azhar University) in Gaza City, from June 6th to 8th, 11am to 6pm.. (Continued page 4)

## Book & Film Recommendations



### Books

#### **Harperism: How Stephen Harper and His Think Tank Colleagues Have Transformed Canada**

By: Donald Gutstein

Publisher: Lorimer ©September 2014

(Excerpts from a review by Frank Bayer—CCPA Monitor)

While it may sometimes seem the Harper government's policies are an ad hoc mixture of right-wing populism, poll-driven opportunism and economic austerity (with a dash of nationalism and military swagger thrown in), a new book by Donald Gustein argues that Conservative policy development is more calculated than that, and heavily influenced by the work of think tanks.

Gutstein, an adjunct professor at Simon Frasier University's school of communications, takes the reader through a brief history of post-Second World War founding of neoliberal think tanks in Britain and North American, under the influence of such key thinkers as Friedrich Hayek and Milton Friedman.

Harperism reveals the close and often hidden connections between Canada's right-wing think tanks (e.g. the Fraser and C.C. Howe institutes) and such neutral-sounding institutions as the University of Calgary's School for Public Policy, which is actually a neoliberal think tank embedded in a university, and Sustainable Prosperity, a project of the University of Ottawa's faculty of law that counts Preston Manning on its board of advisors.

**Ed. Note:** *If you have read a book or seen a film that you feel is of interest or informative please let us know. 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](mailto:l4peace@telus.net). Thank you.*



### (From page 3) **Freedom Flotilla III**

Sameera Qarmout, from [one of the producers' organizations at the exhibit](#), says: "Before it was attacked, we had the hope that our embroideries would be exported aboard Gaza's Ark. The coming Freedom Flotilla III has given us a light of new hope that our products will still be made available to world markets." The exhibit includes goods [from Palestinian producers in Gaza](#) as well as goods from West Bank producers that reached Gaza in spite of the Israeli Occupier's restrictions: embroidery, wood carvings and olive oil.

Watch [this video](#) to both see some of the products that Israel barred from export and to hear first hand from Palestinians about what these goods mean to them. One of the West Bank artisans whose products are at the exhibition in Gaza stated: "My dream is to go to Gaza... we can go all over the world but we can't go to Gaza – which says a lot about the situation". This exhibition not only shows the world the tragedy of the ongoing separation of the Palestinian people imposed by Israeli policies in the occupied territories – in direct contravention of the Oslo accords – but also fosters connection between producers in the West Bank, Gaza and their customers around the world.

Organizations and individuals in Australia, North America and Europe purchased [over \\$24 000 USD worth of Palestinian export goods](#) via Gaza's Ark, and new orders are still being placed, showing the confidence people have in the need for a Palestinian economy. Peter Downey (Chair, Bethlehem B&NES Links Ltd., Bath, England) adds: "We have bought goods from West Bank artisans as samples for a potential distributor of their products in the UK and Europe. This new sea route will be far less expensive than the courier system to which we are subject currently. It is vital for the economic development of the Palestinian State that there are trade routes by which they can export their goods."

The Israeli military did not just target Gaza's Ark. It targeted the hope that Palestinians have for an economy based on their right to export their products from their own port, independently of the occupying power. As the Freedom Flotilla III as it sets its sights on economic freedom and social justice for the 1.8 million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, follow our progress at <https://freedomflotilla.org/> and <https://shiptogaza.se/en>, and on Twitter: [@CanadaBoatGaza](#) [@GazaFFlotilla](#) [@ShiptoGazaSE](#) and [@GazaArk](#)

For more information about this event, please contact product exhibit coordinator for Gaza's Ark, Farha Awni at [awnifarhat@hotmail.com](mailto:awnifarhat@hotmail.com) (+972599838447, English, [\(ةيبرعلا](#)). Regarding the role of Gaza's Ark in the Freedom Flotilla III, contact David Heap [david.heap@gmail.com](mailto:david.heap@gmail.com) (+15198593579, English, français, espagnol). Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1417964708527164/>

In solidarity,

*David Heap* on behalf of Gaza's Ark Steering Committee/Gaza's Ark: Building Hope. A member of the [International Freedom Flotilla Coalition](#)

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza%27s\\_Ark](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Gaza%27s_Ark)

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: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, 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.

### (From last column) **Freedom Flotilla III Speakers at Beit Zatoun, Toronto include:**

David Heap - Steering Committee member with the Canadian Boat to Gaza and Gaza's Ark, he was on board the Tahrir when it was stopped by Greek authorities in July 2011, and again in November 2011 when seized by the Israeli navy. Also joined the Estelle for part of its voyage in September 2012, and visited Gaza in October 2012. Robert Lovelace – Member of the Ardoch Algonquin First Nation, shipmate on the Tahrir, Canadian delegate on Freedom Flotilla 3, Activist and Professor in Global Development Studies, Queen's University.

Along with BDS, the Freedom Flotilla to Gaza stands as an inspiration and an effective action seeking justice for Palestine. Against incredible odds both campaigns continue to triumph; sometimes small, sometimes large but always keeping the flame of justice and freedom for Palestine alive. Despite political or material sabotage by Israel or international forces, they continue to lead the way and enroll people the world over to the side of credible, effective non-violent action and solidarity with Palestine. After many criminal acts of state piracy in open sea, sabotage in international ports, imprisonment and even outright deadly assault on civilians, the Freedom Flotilla remains alive and is ever resilient. The just launched Freedom Flotilla III is the most recent stage of international action to break the siege of Gaza which has been all but total since 2005. This event celebrates the courage and resilience of our solidarity. It is also an opportunity to lend our support to Bob Lovelace, a member of the Ardoch Algonquin First Nation (eastern Ontario), who is a Canadian delegate on the Freedom Flotilla III. Bob has called Gaza "the world's largest Indian reservation" and seeks to bring awareness to the parallel crimes and genocidal process. In his words, "This is a frontline cause for peace and justice in the world. Our liberation is joined with all peoples who experience oppression. Canada's colonial policies will never change internally as long as this nation continues to support and export colonialism around the world."

<http://beitzatoun.org/event/sailing-to-gaza-again/> Please join, share, repost and invite to the event on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1032797490086753/>

*Canadian Boat to Gaza* [www.tahrir.ca](http://www.tahrir.ca) *Bateau canadien pour Gaza*

*Part of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition:*

[freedomflotilla.org/](http://freedomflotilla.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 emails of all MPs, Ministers at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>