



Boundary Peace Initiative meetings suspended until 3 commit to attend regularly. For info call 250 442 0434.

To Do

On Dec. 10th, UN Human Rights Day, take a few moments to value all humanity & the environment that nurtures all of us.



The BPI wishes all a **Christmas** full of joy, love and peace. As you spend time with family and friends feasting and exchanging gifts please remember to give the gift of respect and honor to all humanity through acts of loving kindness, living peace daily and the courage to stand for the right of **all** humanity to do the same.



Dear Supporters,

The Women's Boat to Gaza was a great success. Although the Amal II was unable to sail due to technical difficulties and the Zaytouna was hijacked by the Israeli Navy before reaching the shores of Gaza, the campaign had amazing media coverage which helped break the media silence that surrounds the Israeli blockade. Details of the sailing and media articles can be seen here: <http://canadaboatgaza.org/news/international-media-coverage/>

Thank you so much for your donations and your help in spreading the word about the Women's Boat to Gaza. The success of the campaign depended on your help, and we are grateful that you came through so generously.

Needless to say, our work will continue until the blockade is broken, and soon we will be planning the next campaign. We will be in touch when plans start to form.

In the meantime you can follow us and share our message with your friends, family and other contacts by visiting the links below. The International WBG participants have much to say about the ongoing campaign against the blockade, and we will continue to publish their stories too. www.canadaboatgaza.org, www.facebook.com/FreedomFlotillaCoation/ and www.facebook.com/CanadaBoatGaza www.twitter.com/canadaboatgaza and www.twitter.com/GazaFFlotilla

In solidarity, The Canadian Boat to Gaza Team. Together we can end the Blockade

Canadian Boat to Gaza:

www.canadaboatgaza.org email: canadaboatgaza@gmail.com

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

The Mir Centre for Peace Continuing Education presents Canada's only... Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping Program4 January to April, 2017

Unarmed Civilian Peacekeeping (UCP) has demonstrated to be very effective in reducing violence and preventing harm to civilians in situations around the world.

UCP involves the use of highly trained peace professionals who use the principles of nonviolence to provide direct physical protection to civilians in a variety of contexts. Some of the strategies used include protective accompaniment, creation of safe spaces, proactive presencing, inter-positioning, monitoring and reporting, and relationship building.

This citation program is designed for an international audience, as the first five modules are offered on-line. The sixth or final module will be a two-week workshop occurring at the Mir Centre for Peace at Selkirk College.

Learning Goals of the Program:

By the end of the program, students will be able to seek employment among organizations that engage in UCP. Specifically, the program will cover the following material:

- Introduction to Unarmed Civilian Protection
- Unarmed Civilian Protection: Objectives, Principles and Sources of Guidance
- Unarmed Civilian Protection: Key Methods
- Unarmed Civilian Protection in Practice: Preparation and Entrance into the Community
- Unarmed Civilian Protection in Practice: Living in and exiting the community

For more Info go to: www.selkirk.ca/mir

OUR MAD WORLD

By: Alex Atamanenko

Recently, while flipping through the TV channels, I came across a documentary on World War I entitled “Apocalypse.” To me, it depicted the human face of this tragic war: smiling faces shouting patriotic slogans, royalty cruising around on their yachts, and young men marching off to slaughter. (The latter caused me to think of my father who was one of these young men. He grew up in Ukraine, and then instead of pursuing a career in accounting as he had planned, he was called up and thrown into the front line trenches. He managed to survive this bloody conflict, only to get caught up in the Russian civil war upon returning home.)

While watching “Apocalypse” it dawned on me that WWI was somewhat like a horrific family feud as all the reigning monarchs involved appeared to be related to one another. What struck me most of all, however, was how lightly the European powers approached the war. After the assassination of Archduke Ferdinand and his spouse, the Austro-Hungarian Empire declared war and invaded Serbia, believing the conflict would be over in a matter of days. Alliances started forming as Russia vowed to assist its Slavic brothers in Serbia. One clip in the film stands out, where German Kaiser Wilhelm is surrounded by generals and industrialists who are trying to convince him to go to war.

If we transpose this tragic scenario to our current world, nothing much appears to have changed. Countries continue being invaded and destabilized and we are now coping with a refugee crisis and terrorist threat. NATO is rattling its sabers as that alliance is being pressured by former Soviet Bloc countries to beef up its defenses. Putin is being demonized and portrayed by the western media as a threat to democracy and world stability.

On the other hand, leaked Russian e-mails do provide hard evidence of how closely Russia is involved in attempting to destabilize Ukraine.

The emails sent to the Donetsk and Luhansk information ministries include instructions to portray the government in Kyiv as fascist with the United States as its puppet master. They also instruct the separatists how to control the reporting of television, radio and newspaper messaging. Grandmothers should be seen knitting socks for Putin and the Poroshenko regime is to be likened to well-known right-wing radical regimes. At the same time there is a rise of neo-Nazi patriotism in Russia and the encouragement by the Putin regime of extreme right wing radicals in Europe. And so it goes on and on and on... (Continued next column)

(From last column) OUR MAD WORLD

So here we find ourselves in this absurd situation. Two sides, both possessing nuclear weapons, are doing all they can to justify an ever greater arms build-up, not unlike the conditions that led to WWI. And you can bet that the generals and arms manufacturers are deeply involved in this whole propaganda campaign. In Syria, both Russian and NATO fighter jets are conducting bombing campaigns often at cross purposes to one another. It is just a matter of time before one of these planes is accidentally downed by the other side. Should this happen, accusations will fly and an even greater military build-up will take place.

To top all this off, a lying, deceitful and despicable US presidential candidate, who talked about “nuking our enemies” during the election campaign, may actually wind up de-escalating some of the tension once he assumes the presidency. It is a bizarre world we live in.

So what is to be done? Clearly there needs to be a rapid de-escalation of tensions and a return to sanity so that everyone can get to the major task at hand: the survival of the human race! After all, the important issues many of us have been engaged in—climate change, anti-poverty, etc---will be totally meaningless if we blow each other up.

Our country has a responsibility to step up to the plate. I personally find it reprehensible that Canada along with more than 30 other countries (most of them members of NATO) voted in a UN committee against beginning negotiations on a nuclear disarmament treaty next year.

It may sound somewhat “idealistic,” but I believe our country could play a major role in saving the world from nuclear annihilation. Instead of acting as a “NATO parrot” our Prime Minister should be doing everything in his power to decrease tensions in Europe. National pride is a very powerful force, and we must realize the role it plays in Putin’s foreign policy. Whether we agree or disagree with his actions, we must, here in the West, understand that Russia wants to be seen as an equal player on the world stage. The more we “rub its face in the ground” the more defiant it will become. Surely, we cannot forget the humiliation that Germany was put through after WWI by the victorious allies which ultimately led to the rise of Hitler and the Nazi State.

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If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

Bishop Desmond Tutu

(From page 2) **OUR MAD WORLD**

Over the years, there has been a fair amount of support in our country for a Department of Peace which, if it existed, could play a vital role in bringing world adversaries together. Even if the government does not wish to enact legislation to this effect, there is nothing stopping the Prime Minister from appointing a special envoy to promote world peace. I firmly believe that, if the political will existed, this could have a very positive effect in moving this issue forward.

On the eve of 2017, Canada's 150 anniversary, let us all work together to encourage our government to play a significant role in de-escalating east/west tensions, and thereby potentially saving the world from nuclear destruction.

An Urgently Needed Reality Check on the Outcome of the USA Presidential Election and the Prospects for Peace

By: Don Currie, Editor Focus on Socialism (FOS):
November 13, 2016

The rejection by the US people of the domestic and foreign policy advocated by Democratic candidate Hillary Clinton and the election of Donald Trump to the Presidency of the USA has momentarily disoriented the US NATO preparations for provoking a war with Russia and given some space for a renewal of peace diplomacy to avoid global nuclear war.

Among Trumps first acts as President-elect was to talk by phone with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

<https://www.rt.com/news/366925-putin-trump-phone-call/>

Trumps election has been greeted with cautious optimism by the Putin administration reflecting the hopes of the Russian people who know what war is and who support a reduction in tensions between the two major nuclear armed states.

The possibility that US Russian relations will take on a less confrontational tone can be attributed to a large constituency among US voters, including many Democrats who viewed Clinton as the war candidate of US imperialism. The US people in their majority veered away from the certainty of global nuclear war and voted in favour of the possibility of avoiding such a war.

It is noteworthy that Clinton's resort to discredited McCarthyite style cold war rhetoric was not effective nor did it put Trump on the defensive. The US electorate was not stampeded by Hillary Clinton's branding her opponent as untrustworthy to manage the US nuclear arsenal. A Trump finger on the nuclear button was not considered by American voters to be any greater a threat to peace than Hillary Clinton's finger on the nuclear button.

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Book Recommendations



Freedom Is a Constant Struggle: Ferguson, Palestine, and the Foundations of a Movement

By Angela Davis (Author), Frank Barat (Editor),
Cornel West (Preface) © Feb 12, 2016

In these newly collected essays, interviews, and speeches, world-renowned activist and scholar Angela Y. Davis illuminates the connections between struggles against state violence and oppression throughout history and around the world.

Reflecting on the importance of black feminism, intersectionality, and prison abolitionism for today's struggles, Davis discusses the legacies of previous liberation struggles, from the Black Freedom Movement to the South African anti-Apartheid movement. She highlights connections and analyzes today's struggles against state terror, from Ferguson to Palestine.

Facing a world of outrageous injustice, Davis challenges us to imagine and build the movement for human liberation. And in doing so, she reminds us that Freedom is a constant struggle."

Ed Note: If you read a book or see a film you feel may be of interest to others, please let me know at L4peace@telus.net .

I share with you the prayer inspired by Spirit for the Water Protectors at Standing Rock. Please pray with me. October 28, 2016

By: Shona Eagle

Creator Great Spirit,

This is my prayer

Hear me

I raise my hands to You today
And ask humbly that You keep our braves safe
that you wrap them in a halo of protection
and keep them out of harm's way.

Bless them to feel in their hearts
That at all times the ancestors walk with them
Sending them light, love and powerful energy.

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(From page 3) **An Urgently Needed Reality Check**

Trump's statements mildly critical of NATO and his avowed interest in meeting Putin indicates a trend among the US people who support a less belligerent US government foreign policy that Trump gave voice to and Hillary Clinton scorned.

The characterization of President elect Trump as the leader of a US fascist movement is misguided and counter-productive to the peace movement taking advantage of a small opening to reduce international tensions.

The US electorate on both sides of the political ledger did not vote for fascism and will not support it. The fear mongering and cold war psychological terror used for so long by the US industrial and military complex to bleed the US treasury dry to support endless wars and deny the American people such urgent reforms as a publicly funded health care system began to unravel in the US presidential election campaign. All those who benefit from war and the preparations for war have been compelled to retreat and re-think.

The US election outcome is contradictory and controversial. To wait passively to see what will happen is not an option for the peace movement.

The same task now confronts the American people with Donald Trump assuming the Presidency as confronted the Canadian people with the election of Justin Trudeau as Prime Minister.

The US voters in an important election have altered the terrain of the struggle for peace within the confined limits of a capitalist democracy. The only valid option for the peace movement is to use the changed situation to intensify pressure on government for a decisive step towards peace, nuclear disarmament and a reduction in international tensions.

To open ourselves to the truth and to bring ourselves face to face with our personal and collective reality is not an option that can be accepted or rejected. It is an undeniable requirement of all people and all societies that seek to humanize themselves and to be free.

Bishop John Jose Gerardi Canedera

He was assassinated April 25, 1998 one day after revealing findings of a probe into the terror against the Guatemalan people by their own government.

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, affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation; we work with local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.

From page 3) Prayer **from Standing Rock**

Lift their spirits, Creator, when they feel discouraged
and let them know that from all over the world
Love, Light, Blessings and Strength
Are being sent over the winds.
O Great Spirit, let them know,
the children, the youth, the women, the braves, the
elders,

Let them know, that in spirit we walk with them always.

Let them know that they will never walk alone.

Creator Great Spirit,

I ask you humbly

Steady their steps, lift their heads high

Give power to their words, purpose always to their
actions

Infuse them constantly with the energy of light and love

Let them burn with the passion to see Truth through

Let them know they all are braves who walk a sacred
path

Let them feel deeply that theirs is a noble task

Let them remember the suffering and sacrifice of the
ancestors

And let this fuel their heart with courage if it trembles

Let them know they are cherished in our hearts

That their names we will sing in praise around many
fires

And let them know, our dearest ones,

That if they falter, our prayers will lift them up again

For on this road, they do not walk alone.

The ancestors are shining their light, giving their love.

Let them feel the ancestors' blessings and presence.

I promise that this road, they do not walk alone.

Please Friends, pray with me.



One of the camps at Standing Rock

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>**