



### Film Festival Cancelled

Hi all,

We regret to inform you that we have cancelled our hosting of the *Traveling World Community Film Festival* next month. {Ed. note: scheduled for Feb 24-26<sup>th</sup>} We made this difficult decision after learning of significant unanticipated increases in costs. After lower than average attendance the last two years, we knew that we were facing some financial challenges by continuing the festival. We were looking forward to hosting it again this year in the hopes of better attendance. However, these added costs make the festival in its current format and its venue location, unsustainable.

Thank you to the **Boundary Peace Initiative** for our long association over the past eleven years. And thanks to all of you for supporting us in our past endeavours.

**No Boundaries Film Club** is still alive and kicking and has some new blood on our committee. We will be exploring different options for presenting various documentary films in our community. We'll keep you posted.

Sincerely,  
No Boundaries Film Club

(Committee members: Scott Davis, Lizanne Eastwood, Kim Eburne, Zak Eburne-Stoodley, James Elliot, Larry Hudema, Curtis Skokoples, Michelle Venne, John Westaway, Mary Ann Westaway, Shannon Wolf)



### A Great October Weekend

By: Laura Savinkoff

Friday morning dawned bright and warmer than normal for the third week of October in the B.C. Southern Interior. And it got warmer and brighter as the day continued on my drive to Kelowna. First some shopping and then on to the Mission Creek Folk School and Inn. I arrived earlier than planned and was welcomed by Amber and Mark as they readied for the semi-annual conference of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition. As we chatted we looked forward to taking in a presentation on Africa in the evening at Prospera Place Alternator Gallery. As dinner time drew near and we realized that Hannah would be late, Amber decided to stay behind while Mark and I went to the gathering.

We arrived in plenty of time to find seating but the room filled up quickly. The majority of attendees were young people, mainly students from UBCO; it was great to be in the minority of elders rather than 'youngers'. The predominance of young faces eager to learn was inspiring and a great way to set the stage for the next day's regional conference. It was also great to see a familiar face--Professor David Jeffers, a young man I met when he first arrived in Kelowna, as one of the facilitators.

*(Continued page 2)*

One was small, but in its smallness it had its rights. The other was great, but in its greatness, it had no greater rights than the rights of the small, because, the right of the small is for everyone.

*Lois Reil (1885)*



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I did not take any notepaper with me and therefore will rely on my memory to relate some of the discussion. This is the ad that appears on line: *Why is a continent with over 50 different nation states, 2000 different languages and over a billion people represented as a homogeneous place, "Africa"? Why is this diverse continent constantly defined by singular stories: the story of poverty, the story of war, the story of aid? What comes to mind when you hear the name, Africa? Join us for a discussion initiated by UBC student Trophy Ewila about the stereotypes of Africa and the need to listen to the diverse unheard stories of the continent.*

I can tell you that the discussion was very interesting and informative as the young man guided us through his life story highlighting the diversity within his own country never mind the continent of Africa. He spoke of the negative effects of colonialism that continue to reverberate to the present but with hope of alleviating the attitude and behaviors in the future. These effects created much pain and suffering in the past and today's wars, conflicts, violence and abuse can be traced back to the time of the invasions and occupation by white people bent on raping the richness of the land as well as the dignity of the people for their gain not the Indigenous peoples. As for the attitude of the West of lumping all the people of Africa into one ethnicity, tradition, culture, life style, religion, etc we did not come up with any definitive answer to that query. Personally I find it the height of discrimination to say that all people whose skin happens to be Black are the same, that all people who happen to be born on the continent of Africa are the same. How would you feel if the world considered every person born or living on the continent of North America exactly the same—whether in Mexico, Guatemala, Canada, the USA? What if we were all lumped into one big ball and rolled around and around with no chance of sticking out your hand to say, hey I'm a French Canadian, a Cree, a Mohawk, a Catholic, a Doukhobor, an Atheist, a Buddhist, white, black, red, yellow, etc? How would you feel? We all happen to live on this land but each of us has our own culture and even within that culture we have our own stories? So why is it okay to cement that ball for people in the continent of Africa or Muslims or Jews or, or, or....?

The presenter did a great job of relating his personal story and giving that story a political and  
(Continued next column)

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political and cultural perspective and much food for thought and discussion. An older white man originally from South Africa spoke about his experience and a few other young people from various African countries reiterated Trophy's insights. As I listened my heart ached for the depth of pain our western lifestyle has and continues to force on so many people, in Africa, the Middle East, and the Global South, everywhere actually; even in Canada where we ignore and malign the original peoples of this landmass. I spoke to this and reminded us white Canadians that we have a responsibility to stop the practice of racism, discrimination, violence, abuse and domination. I also thanked the youth present for taking the initiative to be the harbingers of change in attitude that must also translate into concrete action. I also spoke of the my personal experience as a Doukhobor growing up with the prejudice and discrimination aimed at us because we have a different understanding and culture in a country that to this day targets Russia as an enemy. Although there was much more to say on this topic from the packed room where seating ran out and many stood, time ran out. I find this the hardest thing in all these types of events—set in stone end times. But, at least the topic has been breached and all left with new thoughts churning about in our minds and hopefully opened doors into our hearts and souls. As I waited for Mark to bring the car closer, a group of young people came up and thanked me for my words and we had a short discussion. It turns out one of the young ladies is from Grand Forks and we know people in common. After informing these youth of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition as well as the Kelowna Peace Group and that the Boundary Peace Initiative has a website and publishes a monthly Newsletter, they asked for contact information. Since then I have connected with one of the young people and hopefully will continue a dialogue in the future. What a great way to start the weekend.

(More next issue)



**No Arms Deals with Saudi Arabia or  
Interference with other Countries’  
Sovereignty**

**Whereas** the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition does not and will not support interference with other nations’ sovereignty in any way

**And Whereas** the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition does not support Arms Deals/Sales to any nations

**And Whereas** the Government of Canada has continued the sale of arms and military equipment to Saudi Arabia despite the outcry of Canadian citizens

**And Whereas** Saudi Arabia continues to violate the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights with impunity

**And Whereas** Canadian equipment is being used to violate the sovereignty of Yemen by Saudi Arabia

**And Whereas** the Government of Canada continues to aid, directly and indirectly, in violating the right to sovereignty, self-government and self-determination of Syria, Iraq, Ukraine, Yemen and other nation states

**Therefore Be It Resolved** the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition insists that the Government of Canada cease its arms sales, specifically to Saudi Arabia, at this time

**And Be It Further Resolved** the Government of Canada works toward stopping Arms Sales to any nations

**And Be It Further Resolved** the Government of Canada upholds the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples of *all nations* by not participating in military actions in sovereign states

**And Be It Further Resolved** the Government of Canada prioritize humanitarian aid to sovereign states that does not violate the sovereignty or self-determination of any nation and has absolutely no military component

Unanimously passed at the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference  
October 22, 2016

**Security Certificate Program**

**Whereas** the five (5) men being held for over a decade under the Security Certificate Program have not been provided with the opportunity to see or hear the evidence against them

**And Whereas** the five men have repeatedly asked, along with their supporters, for the opportunity to defend themselves in open court

**And Whereas** the threat of deportation to their home countries will most likely result in arrests, indefinite imprisonment and torture again without fair trials

**And Whereas** this program has put unwarranted and unnecessary stress on the families of these men

**And Whereas** the lack of due diligence and the right to defend themselves is a violation of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms

**Therefore Be It Resolved** that the Government of Canada formally charge the 5 men so they can have the opportunity to go to trial and defend themselves or the Security Certificates be rescinded and the men released

**And Be It Further Resolved** the Government of Canada provides a formal apology and compensation for the pain, suffering and the loss of job and career opportunities for the 5 men and their families immediately

Unanimously passed at the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference  
Oct. 22, 2016

**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, honor, respect, etc in order to build a better world today and future generations.

**BPI web site:** [www.boundarypeace.20m.com](http://www.boundarypeace.20m.com)

*BPI meetings are suspended until at least 3 people commit to meet regularly monthly. For information call (250) 442-0434 or email [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).*



## What's Up?

**Film Festival cancelled**—  
see announcement on Page 1.

The Boundary Peace Initiative for 11 years **relied** on the **donations** from the Film Festival to refill our coffers. ***We now face a financial crisis.*** We will organize a fundraising event, which takes time, but in the meantime we are in ***need*** for a quick input of funds. If you see your way clear to give a few dollars we will be grateful and then able to continue to bring you this newsletter and fund other projects. Call Laura to make a donation at 250-442-0434 or email [L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net).

Thank you.

It is not enough to win a war; it is more important to organize the peace.

*Aristotle*

## Book Recommendations



### **The World as It Is**

#### ***Dispatches on the Myth of Human Progress***

By Chris Hedges

Nation Books Publication Date: April 12, 2011

#### **Description**

The bestselling author of War Is a Force That Gives Us Meaning and Empire of Illusion takes us inside the dark heart of American empire, at home and abroad.

#### **About the Author**

Chris Hedges is a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist. He spent nearly two decades as a correspondent in Central America, the Middle East, Africa, and the Balkans, with fifteen years at the New York Times. He is the author of numerous bestselling books, including Empire of Illusion; Death of the Liberal Class; War is a Force that Gives Us Meaning; and Days of Destruction, Days of Revolt, which he co-wrote with Joe Sacco. He writes a weekly column for the online magazine Truthdig. He lives in Princeton, New Jersey.

{And now has a weekly segment of Russia Today TV }

***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](mailto:L4peace@telus.net) .***

Voice your opinion to the Prime Minister and all the 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. But articles are the author's responsibility and may not be common consensus of members. To submit articles contact Laura at **250-442-0434** or **[L4peace@telus.net](mailto:L4peace@telus.net)**.  
The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, the Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and the Fellowship of Reconciliation. We work with local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.