



Earth Day 2017

By: Laura Savinkoff Boundary Peace Initiative

Here we are starting April already and looking forward to the resurgence of new growth—green as background for all manner of color. Along with that come international events to mark Earth Day. This year’s theme is ‘Playing in Nature’ with the focus on encouraging children to leave behind their electronics and engaging with the bountiful joy and beauty of Mother Earth.

This year the Boundary Peace Initiative proposed a project to the local schools and two classrooms decided to participate to engage our children and to encourage our community to focus on what Earth Day means. The kids will make posters. The Grand Forks and District Public Library will display the posters.

And then it’s your turn—the community-- to get involved. We are calling it the “Peoples’ Choice Awards”. Come to the Library between **April 12th and 21st** to choose your top three favorites for Grades 2 &3 and the Grades 5 & 6. Cast your vote and then wait for the event when we will award three environmentally friendly donated prizes per class.

The Earth Day event is on April 23rd at 2 pm in the Slavonic Senior Citizens Center on 72nd Avenue and 7th Street. The program for this event is still in the planning stages but I assure you it will be informative, encouraging and inspiring as we move into the season of growing food and enjoying the natural world. Watch for announcements on bulletin boards, on line and in the media. Join us to show the young people that their elders care and are prepared to help stop the slide into the disaster that Climate Change promises unless curtailed.

Thank you to all who are participating and supporting this and other initiatives of the BPI.

The Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) is launching a new project and we need your help to DESIGN A LOGO!

The Israeli Occupying Forces (IOF) restrict fishers in Gaza to a maximum of six nautical miles from the shore. People fishing beyond this arbitrary border risk being shot at by the Israeli Occupying Forces, having their boats stolen, and dehumanized by the IOF, who regularly force them to undress and swim to the IOF military boats. In the past 30 days there have been over 20 attacks on Gaza fishers which largely go unreported in the mainstream media. Fishing is a major source of food and income for the Palestinian people of Gaza and yet it is being seriously eroded.

Solidarity with Gaza Fishers will include:

- Events at fishing harbours around the world to educate the public about the Israeli Government’s brutal and inhumane treatment of fishers in Gaza
- Opportunities for fishers to donate a financial proportion of their catches to Palestinian fishers in Gaza through an established Non-Governmental Organization
- Flags/banners being flown in solidarity with Gaza fishers... this is where you come in!

Our new project needs a logo that reflects the values of the FFC and that will become a symbol of solidarity and hope with Gaza fishers for use in solidarity events around the world.

Here is what we are looking for:

- A **logo** that is scalable,clear and appealing whether it is reduced to a thumbnail or painted on the hull of a boat or a banner/flag

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(From page 1) **The Freedom Flotilla Coalition**

--A logo that could be used in colour or in grayscale/B&W

Please submit your entry to mediawbg@gmail.com by 15 April 2017. The FFC will select the winning design or designs and will then notify all applicants of its decision.

* Background:

Gaza has been under Israeli blockade for the past decade during which Israel has also launched countless attacks against the besieged population, turning their life into a nightmare and a continuous struggle. Through Freedom Flotillas and other naval missions we have brought international attention to the suffering and the resistance of the Palestinian people of Gaza.

The FFC seeks not only to challenge the Israeli blockade but to also show solidarity and bring a message of hope to the Palestinian people. With the support of women, men, non-governmental organizations and civil society groups we will make this happen.

FFC is composed of civil society organizations and initiatives from many countries. We have been challenging the illegal and inhumane Israeli blockade of Gaza for years and are committed to continue the struggle until the blockade is unconditionally lifted and Palestinian people everywhere regain their full rights.

Please help spread the word by sharing and forwarding this message widely!

In solidarity,
The Canadian Boat to Gaza Team

Canadian Boat to Gaza:

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

Bateau Canadien pour

GAZA: www.canadaboatgaza.org courriel:
canadaboatgaza@gmail.com



(From last issue) **A Great October Weekend**

By: Laura Savinkoff

They can't just walk outside or get into the family car to get water never mind a pumpkin to cut up into a scary face. Too many children live in refugee camps in the winter cold and summer heat where the chances of rape and exploitation are so great as to be normalized behavior. Something to think about. Actually the presentation on Africa was a prime example of why people like me do what we do; why the BCSIPC exists; why the BPI exists; why the CPC exists.

Arriving to share lunch were three young men, all teachers; Professor David Jefferess, Kyle Hamilton and Clay McLeod. After a brief presentation on Remembering for Peace: Rethinking Remembrance Day Commemorations we broke into three groups facilitated by these capable young men (well young to me anyway). The group I was in discussed how to change the dialogue regarding Remembrance Day from an event glorifying war and war making as young people's lives are sacrificed and so much death and destruction wrought on the idea that war is justified. Out of this arose the discussion on using the White Poppy as a means for bringing forward discussions on Resolving Conflict through mediation, negotiation, honoring and valuing all existence rather than continual resorting to killing, violence, abuse, oppression, invasion, power and control by the few by the many. Again, as usual, time was not our greatest friend and we needed to close down discussion just as it was getting geared up to full capacity. But again, as usual, at least these discussions were happening and even those of us well versed in peace and social justice can learn from further sharing with others, sometimes new people with new ideas, or old friends with new ideas. I didn't take notes, I am sorry, on the presentations of the other groups because I didn't realize until too late that there was no one taking notes.

After a short break we reconvened to finish off our internal discussions but now we had more people with more input, which is good

The Kelowna Peace Group proposed that two Awards for Peace Work to honor the work of individuals be part of our regular agenda. This time Kelowna honored Laura Savinkoff and Edna Terbasket of the Ki-Low-Na Friendship Society. I am grateful and accept the award but really don't feel that I do anything more than others. As for this becoming an annual or semi-annual practice I think needs to be brought forward as a proposed motion to be discussed and voted on.

Now we needed to make some decisions regarding motions that were written, therefore much time was

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(From page 2) **A Great October Weekend**

saved from deliberation on wording. All but one was unanimously passed with only minor corrections/amendments. The one proposed by KAIROS Nelson on having our conferences once a year rather than twice was defeated. The reason for putting this motion forward was that fewer and fewer are willing and or able to travel across the mountain passes to take part in meetings and by having them once a year it may encourage more participation. The consensus was that we must retain the practice because some look forward to the opportunity to see colleagues and learn what other communities are doing. I do see both points of this issue; only one from the Kootenays and two from Grand Forks travel every time to every conference with at least 3 from Kelowna traversing the mountains on a regular basis. Yet there are those who would like to attend but the timing is always off and some feel they'd be able to more likely swing it was once a year. Would they? I wonder? So, for now the status quo continues and we will meet twice a year.

And so the conference wound down and people hugged each other and expressed joy and satisfaction with the intensity and passion of discussions that were also respectful. The reward of consensus building on so many issues is encouraging and enlightening. As always it took some time to say goodbye.

Mark, Amber, Hannah and I sighed with contentment for a successful meeting. But the day was not yet done. For within the hour there was a dinner to raise much needed funds for a speaker at the Unitarian Church. It happened that Hannah and I wound up sitting with a couple we did not know but in short order we had an interesting conversation as we spoke of our conference and our involvement in the peace and social justice movement and that both Hannah and I are Doukhobors. The lady smiled and said that she has a Doukhobor friend and wondered if we knew her. I wasn't sure since my retention of names is not my strongest skill but I shared my contact information with her and a few weeks later she called to let me know that her friend did not know me personally but had relatives in Grand Forks, so knew of me and my work. We again had a great conversation which was encouraging in that she may become interested and encouraged to be part of the peace movement.

But back to the speaker; he is from Uganda, Africa and a Minister of the Unitarian Church. He had to flee for his life after sending his wife and children to the USA a few months earlier once civil war broke out again in his beloved country. He spoke eloquently of his childhood, the past and current divide among the people because of, you got it, occupation and colonialism by the West. So what else is new, eh?

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(From last column) **A Great October Weekend**

Just a year ago we heard from a Burundi woman that was studying at the Mir Center for Peace in Castlegar, that there was progress on resolving the mistrust, anger and misunderstandings that have plagued the country for so long; that they were making strides in healing the pain of civil war; that the violence emanating from the occupation of their land and the constant divisions spurred on by colonialism infecting families and spousal relationships was dissipating, slowly but it was happening. And then, all of a sudden, at least that's how it seemed, the fighting, the warring, the violence, the rape and pillaging began anew. And so, this young man stood before us talking of the pain of leaving his country, of leaving behind his extended family, leaving his roots and land in order to save his wife, children and himself from certain death. He is now a 'protected person' in Canada, basically a refugee, who cannot go back to his land of birth, the land of his ancestors because he dared to do his utmost for peace, reconciliation, justice. Hannah and I had tears in our eyes by the time this young man finished speaking. I am happy that he and his family are safe but my heart aches for all those who did not and do not have the means and opportunity to leave the conflict and are caught in the crossfire that is funded by most often western interests and fueled by western greed that continues to use the old model of divide and conquer to rape the land and the people of dignity, resources, honor.

We got back to Mark and Amber's, sat for a bit just to relax but needed to get some rest. The next morning my plan was to leave early, finish my shopping and get home before dark. Well, that did not happen.

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

BPI web site: 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.



What's Up?

BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition Conference: **April 8th 9:30 am** to 4:30 pm at the Slavonic Senior Citizens Center on 72nd Ave in Grand Forks. We invite all come share ideas; **\$10 each** includes a Borscht lunch, all day snacks and beverages, covers rent and feeds the mind.

People's Choice Awards Poster Contest; go vote at the Library from **April 12-21st** then come to **Earth Day event April 23rd** at Slavonic Seniors Center to find out which students won and take part in an inspiring event starting at 2 pm

The Boundary Peace Initiative is *in a financial crunch*. We will organize fundraising events but that takes time and volunteers. In the meantime we do *need* a quick input of funds. We are always grateful for your generosity that makes it possible to bring you this newsletter and other projects. Thank you. To make a donation call Laura at 250-442-0434 or email 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>

Book Recommendations



The Call of the World: A Political Memoir
By: Bill Graham **Publisher:** On Point Press (April 1 2016)

Bill Graham, Canada's minister of foreign affairs and minister of defence during the tumultuous years following 9/11 takes us on a personal journey from his Vancouver childhood to important behind-the-scenes moments in recent global history. With candour and wit, he recounts meetings with world leaders, contextualizes important geopolitical relationships, and offers acute observations on backstage politics. He explains Canada's decision not to participate in the 2003 invasion of Iraq and makes a passionate case for why international law offers the best hope for a safer, more prosperous, and just world.

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

(From page 3) A Great October Weekend

The four of us got into a conversation that fed our spirits and our minds and our souls and before I realized it the time had slipped into early afternoon. It was hard to leave but necessary. I did get my shopping done but did not get home before dark. Thank goodness the road was good since the weather had not yet turned to create slipperiness.

Wow, what a weekend; one filled with so much information and so much sharing of thoughts and feelings and ideas and so encouraging, enlightening and inspiring. Even the body tiredness was no match for the good feelings with which I came home and will carry with me until the next time.

The next time, the next conference will be hosted by the Boundary Peace Initiative in Grand Forks in the spring. The date has not yet been identified and once it is you will all have plenty of notice to make arrangements to join the dedicated ones in the Boundary Country half way between Nelson and Kelowna, Vernon Penticton. I urge you to come and add you voice; to add you ideas and thoughts to the whole; to add your energy and enthusiasm to the active work to establish a world of peaceful living in harmony with Mother Earth and the entire Universe. Thank you for your support and we, the BCSIPC, look forward to continuing to work with you all as we share time and space and love for and with our global family.

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.
The BPI is a member of: BC Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Congress, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War and affiliate of Fellowship of Reconciliation. We also work with a wide range of local and global peace, social justice and environmental groups.