



Earth Day 2017 Peoples' Choice Awards

By: Laura Savinkoff Boundary Peace Initiative

Two classes of students and one independent took time to explore the meaning of Earth Day and create some awesome posters. The Library was abuzz with you the people coming to choose your top 3 favorites per class. A good showing of interest gives us hope that our community is engaged with its youth, our future. And the quality and depth of the posters gives us great hope for our collective future. We are so fortunate to have young people thinking about cleaning up our Earth and keeping it clean so we can all live. The winners and the donated prizes they won are listed here.

Grades 2 & 3 Teacher: Kristi Smuin

1st Prize: 1-year Family Membership donated by the Boundary Museum and Interpretive Center to **Natalie Sjoden**

2nd Prize: Book (Whole World Fun Eco Activities) donated by Lizanne Eastwood—Barefoot Books to **Marissa Henshaw**

3rd Prize: Touque from local Sheep wool washed, spun, knit and donated by Shannon Watson to **Lexi De Vries**

Grades 5 & 6 Teacher: Jamie Stewart

1st Prize: 1-year Family Membership donated by Boundary Museum and Interpretive Center to Forrest Semenoff Miles (Independent student)

2nd Prize: Collection of Melaleuca Safer Healthier

(Continued next column)

(From last column) **Earth Day 2017**

Homes Natural Lifestyle Products donated by Gina Moris to **Jordon Hart**

3rd Prize: Touque from local Alpaca wool washed, spun, knit and donated by Shannon Watson to **Aleena Laramie**

Thank you students for contributing your time and art to this project and the teachers who guided them. Thank you to the Library for working with us to display and engage our wider community, thank you to those who donated the prizes and thank you everyone who voted. I know it was extremely difficult to choose from among the thought provoking posters. In essence, as one voter stated, they are all winners and I'll add that we're all winners to have such great kids among us and those who care enough to support them. The BPI hopes that next year even more teachers will find time to encourage their students to be part of educating our region on how precious our planet is and the simple steps we can all take to 'clean up the mess' so many continue to make.



Photo by: Kathleen Saylor (Grand Forks Gazette)

Left to Right: Jamie Stewart, Forrest Semenoff Miles, Laura Savinkoff, Kristi Smuin.



Mothers Day Proclamation: *Appeal to Womanhood throughout the World*

The "Appeal to womanhood throughout the world" (later known as "Mother's Day Proclamation") by [Julia Ward Howe](#) was an appeal for women to unite for peace in the world. Written in 1870, Howe's "Appeal to womanhood" was a pacifist reaction to the carnage of the [American Civil War](#) and the [Franco-Prussian War](#). The appeal was tied to Howe's [feminist](#) conviction that women had a responsibility to shape their societies at the political level.

In 1872 Howe asked for the celebration of a "Mother's Day for Peace" on 2 June of every year, but she was unsuccessful. The modern [Mother's Day](#) is an unrelated celebration and it was established by [Anna Jarvis](#) years later.

Today, the appeal is included in the [Unitarian Universalist](#) hymnal *Singing the Living Tradition*

Mothers' Day Proclamation: Julia Ward Howe, Boston, 1870

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of fears!

Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Blood does not wipe our dishonor nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

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(From last column) **Mothers Day**

Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.



B.C Southern Interior Peace Coalition

By: Laura Savinkoff

Our conference, hosted by the BPI, on April 8th was an enlightening and inspiring day of discussion with plans for a future coordinated activity in the fall. Much outstanding internal business was resolved. Two emergency resolutions were passed and have been sent to all our MPs. The minutes are in the process of being finalized and will be included as a series beginning in the next issue of this newsletter and will be circulated in full via email to all attendees and other interested people (some regulars were unable to join us for various reasons).

Thank you to all who participated and who donated food, time and energy to make this a very successful day.

How can one be compelled to accept slavery? I simply refuse to do the master's bidding. He may torture me, break my bones to atoms and even kill me. He will then have my dead body, not my obedience. Ultimately, therefore, it is I who am the victor and not he, for he has failed in getting me to do what he wanted done. Non-cooperation is directed not against the Governors, but against the system they administer. The roots of non-cooperation lie not in hatred but in justice.

Mahatma Gandhi



Farming under pressure

By: Marilyn Porter (published in the Telegram March 2017)

On Tuesday, Feb. 7, I crawled out of bed, hauled on my cheap boots and JAI (Joint Advocacy Initiative) hoodie, grabbed some hot Arab coffee and joined my fellow volunteers on the bus to go to the field of Issa Salah in Al-Khader village, south of where we were staying in Bethlehem.

Issa's land, like that of most Palestinian farmers, is small (20,000 square meters), steep and very rocky. From it you get a clear view of several Israeli settlements, with their spacious white houses, the iniquitous "wall," and a grand road, which Palestinians may not use.

The 45 international participants in the olive planting program came from a dozen different countries (I was the only Canadian in this one) and donate their time — and their backs — to demonstrate solidarity with the beleaguered Palestinian farmers. They live in "Area C," land nominally under Palestinian control but actually subject to constant infringement, harassment and displacement by the Israeli government.

Palestinian lives are circumscribed not only by the ever increasing pressure of the settlements, both legal, and increasingly, illegal, but by a regime of "permits" that govern every aspect of their lives. These include permits to move from village to village, permits to own land, plant crops, drive on certain roads, visit certain health facilities, and so on.

Issa's family had owned the land for generations and he had all the official documents proving his ownership and the permits required for us to help him plant the olive trees his family depends on. His land located in Area C, is close to an Israeli outpost (an illegal new settlement) that had expanded with new settlers right up to the boundary.

That morning we had planted around 300 olive trees, below our quota of 400 trees, when the Israeli occupation forces showed up. These youngsters, male and female, were dressed in full combat gear and heavily armed.

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(From last column) **Farming under pressure** Giving no reason, they demanded that we stop planting or they would arrest Issa. We knew what this might entail for Issa and his family so we complied, and disappointed, sat down to eat the meal that Issa's family had prepared.

To no avail. The next morning we learned that the nearby settlers had come in the night and torn up and destroyed all the olive trees we had planted. There is no recourse for Issa and his family. If they can purchase new olive tree seedlings, they will replant. But there is no guarantee the settlers will not destroy those as well. To add insult to injury, if Issa fails to replant his olives he may be labelled an "absentee" farmer and his land will be confiscated.

As we watched Issa deal with the setback — never losing his calm, always ensuring that all his actions were legal and appropriate — the participants in the olive tree planting program gained some insight into the conditions under which Palestinian farmers are trying to feed their families. We also learned about dignity and tolerance under stress. But Issa and his family have still lost their olive trees and still live in conditions of oppression in Palestine.

Marilyn Porter,
Research Professor Emerita,
Memorial University,
St. John's, NL

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?

MOTHERS DAY PEACE WALK: OVER 30 YRS OF JOINING HANDS ACROSS MAN MADE BORDERS

From Canada and the USA we meet at the border for a program of speakers, dancers and singers and to reconnect with friends.

Canadians meet at **1 pm at Haynes Point in Osooyos, B.C** to walk to meet our USA family at the Border. We join our energy and share our concerns with an eye to establish a world of peaceful living and uphold the original idea of Mothers Day as proclaimed by Julia Ward Howe of Boston way back in 1870. If you are unable to walk then go to the green space at the Osooyos border so as to welcome the walkers. The border guards will show you where to cross the lines of traffic after you park your vehicle on the Canadian or USA side (you do not have to cross the border). We hope you and your family join us to honor the maternal/feminine in all of us. That part of us loves all humanity and creation. It is okay to honor our birth mothers with gifts and words of love but have you considered that your Mother may be honored and very pleased for you to join her or take her to an event that stands for living and life, for peace and harmony with all Creation. Ask her.



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



Toward a Jewish Theology of Liberation

Foreword by Desmond Tutu and Gustavo Gutierrez

By Marc H. Ellis

Published: Baylor University Press © 1st November 2010

Turmoil still grips the Middle East and fear now paralyzes post-9/11 America. The comforts and challenges of this book are thus as timely as when first published in 1987. With new reflections on the future of Judaism and Israel, Ellis underscores the enduring problem of justice. Ellis' use of liberation theology to make connections between the Holocaust and contemporary communities from the Third World reminds both Jews and oppressed Christians that they share common ground in the experiences of abandonment, suffering, and death. The connections also reveal that Jews and Christians share a common cause in the battle against idolatry—represented now by obsessions for personal affluence, national security, and ethnic survival. According to Ellis, Jews and Christians must never allow the reality of anti-Semitism to become an excuse for evading solidarity with the oppressed peoples—be they African, Asian, Latin American or, especially, Palestinian.

"This book has assuaged my pain to considerable extent, because it shows, as it has since the first edition, that the voice of prophecy has not been silenced in the Jewish community. We will all be the poorer if that voice is not heeded, but how wonderfully enriched if it is."

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.

If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other.
Mother Teresa

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.