



In Deep Gratitude

By: Laura Savinkoff

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

The Boundary Peace Initiative is deeply grateful for the support and donations on International Day of Peace, September 21st at the Walk with the Drum and Peace Concert Envisioning Canada.

We were honored to have the Grand Chief Stewart Phillips and his lovely wife, Joan travel from Penticton, taking time out of a very busy schedule to join us. We're pleased to report they were impressed with our event and our community. They were pleasantly surprised by the supportive honking of horns as they led the walk from downtown to GFSS. The Grand Chief and Joan promise to join us whenever possible at our events.

Billy Jo Bray, a Sinxit elder, travelled across the manmade border with the USA into her traditional territory to share her insights with us. She too was impressed with our caring community and also offered to lend her support at future events. This lady is an elder for a reason and all who heard her speak and visited with her will attest to the loving kindness and spirituality encircling her.

Sadly, one guest was unable to make it; Mikkel Gredvig set off in the morning but his car broke down. He tried to get it fixed and even to borrow a vehicle to no avail. When he called his profound disappointment was evident and he also offered to come from Tonasket, Washington, for future events.

Thank you to Jo White who shared a First Nations blessing in Gyro Park and Delia Metcalf joined Jo to 'Walk With the Drum of the Heart'. Since the Water Ceremony at GFSS was not possible, Jo White shared her Father's song and we joined hands for a moment of silence in honor of all victims of violence. Gina Morris took on the role of ensuring all went well on the walk. We thank the organizers, Gina Morris and Laura Savinkoff, of the rally, the walk and the ceremony at GFSS. We are thankful to all who gathered and walked on this cool fall afternoon.

The displays and information in the foyer was organized and set-up by Lunya Foyle with help from Natasha Soroka and Tara Sherstibitoff. These smiling faces welcomed participants as they handed out a concert program and accepted your donations. We are grateful for the program developed by Laura Savinkoff with input from the committee and the poster developed by Gina Morris and Lunya Foyle. The printing of both the program and posters was donated by Ted Invictus.

Because the walk went faster than anticipated and the
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Water Ceremony did not happen participants used the extra time to visit, to read information and sign petitions, to wander into the Multi-purpose room for snacks. We do apologize that the coffee wasn't ready; we did not foresee there would be time for coffee. We thank the individuals who donated cookies, cheese, crackers and fruit; thank you Buy Low Foods for two large fruit platters; Holy Trinity Anglican Church for the coffee urn. And of course we are grateful to our kitchen crew who set up and looked after our needs—Andrea Sherstibitoff, Katie Slastukin and Scot (sorry I don't know his last name). The concession was organized by Laura Savinkoff.

And now we moved into the Auditorium for the Concert. The stage was ready to receive the performers and present them to the audience. Ted Invictus and Morgan Strohamann made the stage a wonderful place to be up on and to look at. I even noticed Nancy Gilmore running around up there with last minute decorations. The banners and signs carried by the walkers were utilized on the stage. Thank you to Ted, Morgan and Nancy for making a utilitarian stage into a place of welcoming warmth. Up there at the back in a little room sat two vital volunteers. Zak Eburne-Stoodley, someone all know in this little town of ours, he ensures we're all heard—our sound man. Another young man donating his time, Matthew Jacobs, handled the Stage Lights ensuring the audience would see the presenters, even though those up on stage are kind of blinded. Thank you to Zak and Matthew.

What a great evening! I know my spirit was buoyed. I've received positive feedback that was both encouraging and inspiring. A few comments--this was one of the best concerts I've attended in a long time; my heart was so moved by the positive energy; no words can express how impressed I am and many other comments.

To keep us on track was our MC Christine Thompson who as a City Councillor brought greetings from Mayor Frank Conrad and Council. Thank you, Christine, for giving of your valuable time. Christine is also the BPI Treasurer and makes sure our expenses are tracked and reminded us that this was also a fundraiser for the BPI.

The speakers from Grand Chief Stewart and Joan Phillips, to Billy Jo Bray to JJ Verigin to Laura Savinkoff much food for thought; much inspiration and enlightenment was freely shared. As well, every entertainer shared their thoughts adding to the wonder of the vision of the world we all so desire; a world guided by love, a world of harmony, of peaceful living, of honor and respect. I didn't take notes of the speeches so will not venture into reporting on them. Suffice it to say that those who joined us know how important the words were
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that will remain with us as a guide and an inspiration. For those who were unable to come or choose not to come we hope in the future to have a DVD available. Walter Hoodikoff generously volunteered to video the event and for this we are very grateful.

Jo White spoke to the need to work as one family for peace, sharing a Drum Song honoring Water. For me this brought back memories. I learned this song at the beginnings of the BPI. One of those from whom I learnt the song was Julie Draper; Julie died this spring so this song brought her spirit here.

Then a young man came on stage for two original songs. For about 4 years we've tried to connect his time with a BPI event but somehow it just didn't work out 'til now. His songs definitely revealed that our youth also want a better world, a world without violence, a world of love and kindness.

We hope this was a good experience for the Grand Forks Choral Society because it was a good one for the BPI and the audience. We would like to continue to work together as community, as family and support each other's activities. We are proud of their achievement as they prepare to go to New York City. Their two numbers soothed our souls and took us into Intermission.

Intermission fed our bodies with goodies of all sorts. It was hard to get people back into the auditorium for there was so much to discuss, so much to share.

Vazzy was next up and what a hit they were. They had us toe-tapping and clapping and thoroughly enjoying first an original composition and then a melody of fiddle tunes and French Canadian music. This couple have supported the BPI from the beginning but for years have travelled around the province sharing their talent. It was great that this time they could join us—thank you.

Next filing up on stage was the Grand Forks Doukhorbor Community Choir. Mom Donna Semenoff and son Forrest Miles introduced the songs and shared some words of peace and love. After the first song Aleena Laramie read Linda Hays poem I Love This Marvelous Planet, An Earth Day Meditation. The last song was composed by a Grand Forks resident, Dorothy Popoff over 40 years ago asking us to join hands as we work together to live in peace.

Christine read out a letter of support and regret for not being able to attend from MP Richard Cannings who is in Ottawa in Parliament and one from former MP Alex Atamanenko. Both expressed gratitude and support of our work and a promise to lend a hand to work for a more peaceful world at home and abroad. Christine then announced the Equinox Festival on Saturday and encouraged all to participate in each other's events so as to build a peaceful and respectful community.

In the meantime the stage crew worked silently to set up for Peri Best and Vivien Brown--out rolled the Grand Piano. For the first number Vivien sported a Violin and Peri a Guitar. Their second number was a very moving rendition of Ava Maria with Vivien at the Piano with both Peri and Vivien on vocals. You could hear a pin drop

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and I noticed a few people with tears silently sliding down their cheeks. This duo got a standing ovation. They finished with a song that they asked all to join in and we did.

Now a local boy, Dave Soroka who's been on the road sharing his music with the world for many years stepped out. He said he was so very impressed with the evening—the speakers, the entertainers and the purpose. He sang two original compositions with the last one rocking the crowd into handclapping and toe tapping and a great resounding of appreciation.

And now a slower pace as Delia Metcalf and her Drum took center stage with a song of love, unity, sharing and harmony. She taught us the words and asked us to join her. This was a good way to set the stage for our closing. Christine ended her role as MC by thanking all for coming and sharing their talents for the evening, the rally and the walk and then invited Laura Savinkoff to come forward.

Laura asked Jo White and Delia Metcalf to join her. First Laura thanked all the volunteers without whom this day and evening would not have happened; all who donated food and money to support the work of the BPI. Laura asked Jo to softly drum as she explained how International Day came into being—from one person's idea that took many years and much work with many frustrations before the idea caught on and the United Nations declared the 3rd Tuesday of September as International Day of Peace that was changed in 2002 to September 21st. Here Delia joined the drumming and as Laura continued she called for everyone to join in by drumming and/or clapping one by one by one until the building resounded with voices raised symbolically expressing that one person's idea if nurtured can grow into a crescendo of voices supporting that idea. After a few moments she called for the drumming and the clapping to slowly subside back to the one drum that represents the voice of humanity that has now coalesced into one voice of love and compassion in harmony and peace with itself.

So ended a day we hope has inspired and provided much food for thought for those who were able and chose to join us. This event did bring funds in for the BPI to continue our work. Besides the donations in kind (volunteers and food, etc) and the funds gathered today, we received a donation from the Creston Doukhorbor Society, the USCC Bread Committee as well USCC paid for Event Insurance so we could rent GFSS. We have raised enough to continue into next year but keep an eye out for further events to share information and raise funds at the same time. Thank you for your continued support and know that we are inspired by you, our local community and our global family to Envision Canada and the World as a place of joy, of love, of peace, of justice and of harmony. The vision is followed by the words and then must come action. We encourage and ask you to live and breathe and act Peace.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace, On behalf of the BPI Walk with The Drum and Peace Concert Committee

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John Harasemow asked: Is there a difference of why killing with a gun is more acceptable than with chemical weapons? All warfare is unacceptable, he said. All agreed.

Lunch: Laura asked Simon to say Grace. We then sang Happy Birthday to Katie Slastukin.

Resolutions on Internal functions:

#4 Resolution: Group activity reports. Madelyn moves; Christine seconds.

Discussion: Chris stated that written reports can be simple point form but do help focus discussion. The reports will be emailed or provided prior to the conference and then it's the responsibility of attendees to read and come prepared to ask questions or seek clarification. A suggested word change--*Prior to the conference*. **Passed unanimously.**

#5 Resolution: Providing Resolutions. Laura moves; Christine seconds.

Discussion: The 10-day prior to the meeting requirement gives all time to consult with their respective groups for a decision and constructive suggestions. Provisions need to be made to include emergency resolutions for unforeseen events requiring a response. All agreed with Christine that the presenter makes every effort to provide hard copy to attendees or at the least for the facilitator. **All in favor....passed.**

#6 Resolution: Establish Resolutions Standing Committee Laura moves; Madelyn seconds.

Discussion: Laura is concerned that a time lag between the conference and the sending of resolutions to agencies has been too long and therefore does not reflect the urgency we state on the issue. The final documents are to be provided to the Coordinator by the Resolutions Committee no later than 2 weeks following the conference. It was suggested that the Resolutions Standing Committee serve a one-year term. **All in favour—passed.**

#7 Resolution: Standing Committee of Group Representatives Laura moves; JJ seconds.

Discussion: Laura said any member can suggest endorsements, petitions, support signatures and send them to the Coordinator who will approach the Standing Committee of Group Representatives for a decision. The representatives will have 48 hours to consult with their region/group and get back to the Coordinator who will then follow through with the majority decision. It was suggested that the same 3 people (Laura, Sandra and Peter) from the Resolutions Standing Committee serve in this role. Laura and Sandra agreed to serve in this capacity. Mark expressed a caution on speaking to media and issuing statements on our behalf that all wording expresses we are for peace and non-violence and added that he isn't comfortable speaking on behalf of everyone and thinks Peter and others may feel the same. Mark added he's been clear when speaking with media that he is making

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a statement as a member not a representative or a spokesperson just in case he makes a statement that some may not agree with. JJ and Laura said that we will have to trust the people we appoint to reflect the majority opinions and outlook of the group. Going to 40+ people to decide whether to sign onto something or speak to media, is not doable, especially in a time crunch. Hannah commented that to be honest if you're not informed enough to speak to an issue then pass it over to someone else who is knowledgeable and now that we have a coordinator that is the logical person to whom we refer media. It was agreed that an effort be made to consult with the group if possible but if not then the Standing Committee of Representatives will determine the response. Given that media does not always give time to consult it may require a response as best as possible. **Motion passes all in favor.**

Resolution # 8: Divestment Campaign from Fossil Fuels: Laura moves; Madelyn seconds.

Discussion: This is not a resolution so much as a proposed action brought forward by Wes Kmet. Do we endorse approaching financial institutions to divest from fossil fuels? This email from Vernon is connected with *350.org* and is offering help to formulate the motion to the boards of financial institutions. Laura stated that during Standing Rock some banks did divest so it is not unprecedented but do our respective groups wish to pursue this activity? We can endorse the proposal for individuals and group members to approach their local financial institutions to divest from fossil fuels. The global movement to divest from fossil fuels according to *350.org* has doubled since 2015. A suggested approach is to stress that investing in the local economy and sustainable renewable energy will benefit the local community and the financial institution by divesting from fossil fuels that take money out of community. The consensus was to explore the possibility of local actions.

All in favor...passed

#9 Emergency Resolution Syria Attack: Hannah moves; (not sure who) seconds.

Discussion: Hannah read her proposed resolution prompted

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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?

From Syria to Venezuela Peace & Solidarity Struggles Today in **KELOWNA** @ Okanagan College, Room B-112, 1000 KLO Road on **Friday, Oct. 6** @ 7 pm. Guest Speaker is Miguel Figueroa, acting president of the Canadian Peace Congress. Donations accepted.

BPI will launch White Poppy Campaign as soon as they arrive. So watch for them.

The BCSIPC Fall conference is coming soon and will be hosted by the Kootenay Peace Groups. Information on date and venue will be posted on BPI website and via email and Face Book.

That woman is the first environment is an original instruction. In pregnancy our bodies sustain life...At the breast of women, the generations are nourished. From the bodies of women flows the relationship of those generations both to society and to the natural world. In this way is the earth our mother, the old people tell us. In this way, we as women are **earth**.

Katsi Cook, Mohawk midwife, 2007

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 MP contact information at <http://www.canada.gc.ca>

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by the USA missile attacks on Syria on April 7th, which the Government of Canada supports. We agreed this violates International law. We don't agree with Prime Minister Trudeau's statement supporting Trump's reaction. It is premature to accuse Syria of chemical attacks because Syria did comply with the International community to destroy all their chemical weapons. The Resolutions Committee was tasked with putting together a draft that retains the intended content and then sending it to all participants for input and approval. This Resolution is to be sent to all Members of Parliament within 2 weeks. **All in favor—passed.**

10 Emergency Resolution on Refugees: Madelyn moves; Sandra seconds.

Discussion: The recent influx of refugees from the USA is impacting the growing backlog. Nelson has been waiting for over a year to reunite a Mother with her children. The number of pending applications keeps growing but can be resolved by hiring sufficient staff to deal with the situation, just as was done with the Vietnamese boat people. Sadly, the government cut staff shortly after the Election and the much applauded first wave of Syrian refugees. They are also cutting back on the number of acceptable refugees Canada and are focusing on private sponsorship as well as a focus on moneyed immigrants. This was put over to the Resolutions Committee to review, formulate a draft retaining the intended content, seek final approval from all participants then send to all MPs. **All in favor—passed.**

(Final installment in next issue)



Book Recommendations

ATOMIC COVER-UP: Two U.S. Soldiers, Hiroshima & Nagasaki, and The Greatest Movie Never Made

By: Greg Mitchell Publisher: Sinclair Books (July 12 2011)

Greg Mitchell probes a turning point in U.S. history: the suppression of film footage, for decades, shot by a U.S. Army unit in Hiroshima and Nagasaki -- with staggering consequences even today. This is a detective story, and one of the last untold stories of World War II, and it has far-reaching impact. The shocking cover-up even extended to Hollywood -- with President Truman censoring an MGM film. He now reveals the full story, based on new research -- from the Truman Library to Nagasaki. Along the way the book tells the story of our "nuclear entrapment" -- from Hiroshima to Fukushima. How did this cover-up happen? Why? And what did the two military officers, Daniel McGovern and Herbert Sussan, try to do about it, for decades?

Stop calling me resilient. I'm not resilient. Because every time you say, "Oh, they're resilient: you can do something else to me.

Tracie Washington, New Orleans-based civil rights attorney, 2010.

The BPI welcomes your input. 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.