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Our Mission

The Boundary Peace Initiative represents a growing number of area residents of diverse backgrounds brought together over the 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

Boundary Peace Initiative meets on the 2nd & 4th Thursday @ 7 pm in the Slavonic Seniors Center on 72nd Ave. & 7th Street.

To Do

➤ No scheduled events at this time. But, watch for announcements if events or actions come up.

An eye for an eye only ends up making the whole world blind.
Mahatma Gandhi

When the power of love overcomes the love of power the world will know peace.
Jimi Hendrix

Challenging Times.

By: Laura Savinkoff

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

Imagine! It's the 3rd month of 2014 with all its joys, challenges, and tragedies. On a personal level I feel I need to ask for your understanding. In January, the day before leaving for the Canadian Peace Alliance (CPA) Convention in Toronto, I broke my ankle enough to require surgery, and a prolonged healing time. Needless to say, I did not make the trip and nor publishing of the February newsletter. So, my dear sisters and brothers, in this issue of the newsletter I will include a brief email statement I sent to the CPA convention along with this article. I also wish to thank all who have sent their well wishes and extended a helping hand to me personally as my body works to heal.

It's only March of a brand new year, yet so much is happening that it is somewhat overwhelming to some. The challenge then is to try keep up to all of it and retain hope for the present and the future wellbeing of our world. Giving in to despair, disappointment and helplessness is not the answer. We must search out all aspects of media stories through alternative sources rather than relying only on 'sound bites' from biased reports from corporate media as well as alternative sources. Our personal experiences and cultures also color our individual understanding and even the sources we access. Of course this can and usually does lead to opposing views and sometimes, more often than we'd like to admit, conflicts. Do these opinions have to lead to military conflicts, abusive and/or violent behaviors? I think that once we give ourselves permission to truly listen to 'the other' and a desire to understand another perspective, as well as a mindset that values the 'other' with love and compassion, an attitude that translates into actions of kindness and acceptance, that do not hint at condemnation, we will then begin to live the inclusiveness of Peace, Social and Economic Justice and Environmental integrity. Is this possible? I believe it is! But, I also believe, nay I know, that the journey must be a loving, compassionate, understanding with active sharing, learning, respect and honoring. So, yes, it is possible once each one of us accepts the responsibility to live our full human potential on a daily basis, not only when it's convenient or beneficial to us in some way, without regard for others. (Continued next column)

Challenging Times.

How do we view and approach the rise in poverty, in joblessness, in oppression and corruption? What are we willing to do to avert the results of the above? We may wish to convince ourselves that the recent and current wars and violent revolutions in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Egypt, Syria, Palestine, Ukraine and so many other places are justified and necessary. Are we willing to question this premise? Are we willing to question the news reports we're allowed to hear? Are we willing to say that all violence and abuse are unnecessary? Are we willing to say that all deserve to have basic food, shelter, health care, education without some political or economic pressure to comply with 'power and control over' our lives? These are questions that I hope we all are willing to answer for ourselves and then take steps to become involved in some way to act on our choices in a way that creates a society that values all existence.

On a local level, the ninth annual No Boundaries Film Festival has come and gone once again. The films presented were well attended and provided much food for thought. On behalf of the BPI we wish to thank all the wonderful individuals as well as businesses who donated food for the concession and lunches, our enduring gratitude to all the volunteers, before and over the weekend, who gave their time and skills and of course all those who so generously donated towards to our ongoing work. The funds raised ensures our ability to continue to work with you, our friends and neighbors, locally and globally, to create caring, understanding, loving communities with an eye to eliminate all forms of violence and abuse which are precursors to conflicts whether generated by Governments, Corporations, or individuals bent on benefiting on the backs of 'others'.

I urge us to truly take stock of the role and responsibility each one of us has in promoting, encouraging, participating (silently or actively) in creating the world we live in. By silently I mean that we are apathetic, ambivalent, uninvolved in the world around us, looking at the world through a lens that only takes in our own personal lives, which in fact allows the status quo to proceed unabated.

(Continued page 2)

(From page 1) **Challenging Times.**

The choice lies within each of us. What type of life do we wish to leave for our children and grandchildren? I ask you to make that choice for yourself. I know the choice I and many of my colleagues have and will continue to choose and certainly do hope that you choose to work for a world of non-violent peace and loving justice.

Again, thank you all for your loving generosity and support.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,
Laura Savinkoff

To the Canadian Peace Alliance Convention (Sent Jan. 16, 2014)

My Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I was planning to be with you this weekend but the Universe had other plans. On Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 14th, I broke my ankle with surgery on Wednesday night and healing will be 2 to 3 months. It makes me sad that I'm unable to join in learning from and about the issues planned. I was also looking forward to sharing some thoughts, help with set up, take down, facilitate and whatever else needed, therefore feel bad that my commitment is no longer possible. I take my commitments very seriously as a show of honor and respect to those I've committed to. So, I will do what I can from hospital, for I will be in hospital at least over the weekend and then a long recovery at home. It is amazing how much we take for granted and no fore thought of how we do anything or why. Once again, a lesson to learn that we are all inter-connected and the more often we work together the more love there is in this world and the more likely there will be peace.

I planned to share some thought dealing with the panel discussion on Friday, 'Alternatives to war, militarism, and austerity'. Basically, I feel that the total elimination of the military would address the problems of war, invasion, and occupation. Then no funds would need to be allocated to teach, promote or institute violence and abuse but these billions of dollars could totally fund present and future social programs, health care (an issue very dear to me right at this moment), upgrade funding to at the very least alleviate the rising poverty rate, make sure funds and the political will are available to move to environmentally sustainable energy, broad-based education that focuses on ensuring that all projects and programs focus on human needs and rights as well as environmental stewardship where financial and political profit is not the goal but that the needs and rights of all life on Mother Earth takes precedence.

I was also going to speak on the peace movement's need to identify what peace means, what it looks like and our collective need to learn to use the language of peace. What I mean by the language of peace is this—we can't fight for peace because then we still promote conflict but we do need to learn to create peace, to live peace; we must learn the language of non-violence, of peacefulness; we must learn to work for and towards rather than against or anti something or someone. (Continued next column)

(From last column) **Convention**

We ourselves must move away from the conflict and 'power over' structure and towards a model, even if we must create that model, of true community, of respectfully and honorably resolving and negotiating conflict even with those with whom we may not totally agree; a model of love, of kinship, of compassion, empathy, understanding of all existence; a model that values and empowers the skills, talents, abilities of the individual within community, organization, corporation. There are examples of this throughout history. I come from a community that has not lost this totally and on top of that I come from a people, the Doukhobors, who lived and continue to live the model of non-violence and cooperation through consensus building. Sadly, I will not be there to fully share my thoughts and feelings either at this venue or on a more personal level. But I truly hope and pray that there will be some discussion surrounding what I am proposing. There will be other opportunities I am sure, but we must make those opportunities happen as often as possible for all our benefits.

I also wish to share with you a few messages of encouragement and support coming from my region of the country. Since I am sending this from the hospital and my laptop to which I did not transfer the messages because I simply was bringing the hard copies with me, I will type them in below. Once I do get home I will get copies into the office to be inserted into the minutes of the convention, either via email or land mail, whichever you feel would be most convenient. I sent the following statements and if anyone wishes to read them please contact me and I will send them to you: Alex Atamanenko, MP B.C. Southern Interior; Diocese of Kootenay--The Anglican Church of Canada--the Most Reverend John Privett, Archbishop; The Diocese of Kootenay-Anglican Church of Canada--Simon Shenstone, priest, Boundary Parish; Sacred Heart Parish—Grand Forks, B.C. Rev. MJ Cote. I would appreciate these greetings be read so as to honor their courage to speak out and support the peace movement. Thank you.

Included in the original message were concerns with and suggested amendments brought forward from members of the B.C. Southern Interior Peace Coalition to the Resolutions for the convention.

In Universal Kinship and Loving Peace,
Laura Savinkoff

Rethink Child Care

Taken from: USW@Work Jan. 2014 (United Steelworkers)

There's a better way!

Funmi is a new Canadian, a single mom with a job and a pre-school son. But the child care bills were eating up all her money. Her only option: sending her baby back to her parents in Nigeria, who will look after him until he's older?

That's just one of the heartbreaking stories we're hearing as part of the Rethink Child Care campaign. The Steelworkers, other Canadian unions and child-care advocacy organizations are encouraging parents and other family members to talk about their experiences trying to find affordable, good-quality child care.

We'd like to hear your story, too. Gather together a couple of friends for an hour, using the easy instructions in the Rethink Child Care guide for kitchen-table conversations. Find the guide on our website at

www.usw.ca/childcare .

Your stories will help our unions plan our strategy to pressure governments for a better child-care system for Canadians.

- Almost 70% of mothers with children under five are working. Yet Canada lacks a national child-care system.
- There are only enough regulated spaces for about 19% of children from newborns to age 12. It's even harder to find spaces for infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, aboriginal and rural children.
- For many families, child care is the second-highest expense after housing.
- In most of Canada, child-care subsidies are hard to come by or are designed so that even low-income parents have to cover high out-of-pocket costs.
- For-profit child care provides 28% of spaces in Canada and is growing at an alarming rate.
- Quebec's investment in its seven-dollar-a-day child care program has more than paid for itself through mother's annual income and consumption taxes.
- Quebec's child-care program increased the number of women in the workforce by 3.8%, pumping an additional \$5.2 billion into the Quebec economy and boosting the province's gross domestic product by 1.7%.

More information and stories: www.usw.ca/childcare

Book & Film Recommendations



Books

Looks Like Daylight

Voices of Indigenous Kid

By: Deborah Ellis.

Publisher: Groundwood Books 2013

Each chapter in Looks Like Daylight is interspersed with powerful quotes from native historical figures, native history and current events, and information about the interviewees so that stories are not told in a vacuum. The interviewees speak in their own words about themselves, their hopes and fears, their dreams and aspirations. Even in the most broken places, their spirits refuse to give up and most have gained wisdom beyond their years. The book offers an astounding range of stories—from gut wrenching experiences of young people who have been through hell and back, to accounts of placid childhoods that involve octopus-hunting and caring for wild horses and illustrate the power of the human spirit even at a tender age. These young people have no illusions; they know that being native often means the odds are stacked against them. Yet most have a healthy dose of self-respect. Many stores demonstrate that young natives know their people's history and are aware that whatever gains they may enjoy today were hard-won by their ancestors.



Films

New films will be donated by the No Boundaries Film Club to the Grand Forks Public Library in the near future and we will list them as soon as they become available.[If you do have a film to recommend please let us know.]

Ed. Note: If you have read a book or seen a film that you feel would be of interest or informative please let us know. Email the name of the book, the author and the publisher with a brief explanation of the book, and for the film the name, the producer and a brief explanation of the contents to Laura at l4peace@telus.net. Thank you.

I refuse to accept the view that mankind is so tragically bound to the starless midnight of racism and war that the bright daybreak of peace and brotherhood can never become a reality... I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word.
Martin Luther King, Jr.

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

Take this bread

By: Art Babych: Taken from the Anglican Journal Feb. 2014

Archbishop Fed Hiltz hopes that 2014 brings an “unprecedented advance” in tackling issues linked to poverty and that the church becomes known as the church for the poor.

“I pray our faith, skill and passion for addressing these issues will be unleashed, diocese by diocese across the country,” said Hiltz, primate of the Anglican Church of Canada. “I pray our voice can be coordinated, articulated and effective in calling for measures that reverse the unacceptable trend of statistics on these matters.”

In delivering his annual New Year’s Day message at Christ Church, Ottawa, the primate said poverty manifests itself in the increasing number of people who depend on food banks. In Ontario alone, 375,000 people turn to food banks every month and more than a third of them are under the age of 18, he said. In Canada the overall child poverty ratio is 13.5 percent.

“Like you, I am not unfamiliar with these statistics,” he said. “It’s when I come face to face with such a sad reality that I am deeply moved.”

He recounted an experience he had at the parish of St. John the Evangelist in London, Ontario, in November:

“This is a parish like countless others across the church, where a Saturday night dinner is provided for those who are homeless, among the working poor or on social assistance that often runs out before the end of the month. I saw a mother coming through the line with her children. A chicken dinner was being offered and my job was to say, ‘What kind of bread would you like with your dinner?’ The fact that there was a choice between white or whole wheat or multigrain bread was overwhelming to them. So also was the question, ‘Would you like butter for your vegetables?’ I happily responded and confess that I gave them more than they asked for. Their eyes glistened with delight and off they went to find a table. About half an hour later, I saw the same mother and her children back in the line for a second helping after everyone had enjoyed their first. As I offered them bread for a second time, I was mindful that this might be the most nutritious meal they have for the entire week—freshly cooked and representing the balance in diet so many of us take for granted.”

Hiltz said he is proud of churches that offer this kind of a meal in so many places across Canada. “I take this opportunity to thank every Anglican who is committed to this ministry.”

Ed. Note: Yes, in Grand Forks we have Whispers of Hope, the Food Bank and BETHS. Would it not be great if every week a faith group shared their bounty with the whole community, regardless if you are in financial need or not, but opened the doors for all to Give bread?

Stats from the Anglican Journal: Feb 2014

- 2050—the date by which researchers estimate another 2.4 million children could be pushed into hunger by climate change and erratic weather patterns. Almost half of them would be in sub-Saharan Africa.
- 150 million—the estimated number of people who could be lifted out of poverty if women farmers had the same access to resources as men.
- 1 in every 8 people on earth does not eat enough to be healthy and goes to bed hungry every night—842 million people worldwide.
- 3,530—Average kcal consumed daily by Canadians
- 1,590—Average consumed in Eritrea
- 18th—Canada’s ranking among 35 industrialized countries’ efforts to reduce the gap between child poverty (14%) AND POVERTY IN THE GENERAL POPULATION (12%)—Unicef

46% of Global Wealth owned by Richest 1% (taken from the CCPA Monitor—Feb. 2014 Contributed by: Jack Blower

Global wealth has soared by 68% over the last 10 years to reach anew all-time high of \$241 trillion, with the United States accounting for nearly three-quarters of the increase, according to analysts at the Credit Suisse Research Institute of Switzerland.

They reported last month that average global wealth has reached a peak of \$51,600 per adult, but this amount is spread very unevenly as the richest 10% own 68% of the total wealth. The top 1% alone own 46% of all global assets.

The institute predicts that global wealth will jump another 40% by 2018 to reach \$334 trillion.

The richest nations, with wealth per adult of more than \$100,000, are concentrated in North America and Western Europe, and in some Middle Eastern and Asia-Pacific nations. They are led by Switzerland, where average adult wealth amount to \$513,000, followed by Australia, Norway and Luxemburg.

But, because of the wide disparity in the distribution of wealth, two-thirds of the world’s adults have assets worth less than \$10,000 and together account for just 3% of global wealth.

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: Southern Interior Peace Coalition, Canadian Peace Alliance, Abolition 2000, Lawyers Against the War, and Canadian Voice of Women for Peace, an affiliate of the Fellowship of Reconciliation and works with various local and global groups.

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>