

# Grandmothers for Peace International

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Founded in 1982

*Barbara Wiedner, Founder/Director*

Sunday, May 9, 1999

## Happy Mother's Day to Women of Peace, Everywhere



illustration: Anne S. Walker/Grace Jung - ITWC

Arise then ... women of this day!  
Arise, all women who have hearts ...  
Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn  
All that we have taught 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."

— **Julia Ward Howe**  
**Mother's Day Proclamation**  
**Boston, September 1870**



*Top left to right: Eleanor Roosevelt; Coretta Scott King; University students from Baghdad, Iraq; Pauline Tangiora, Maori Elder, New Zealand; Dorothy Day; Rigoberta Menchú Tum, Guatemala; Dr. Helen Caldicott, Australia; Margarita Papandreou, Greece, with Hilikka Pietila, Finland; Women from Botswana; International Grandmothers Walk for Peace in Moscow, 1989; Grandmothers of Hiroshima, Japan; Queen Noor, Jordan; Grandmother Caroline, Hopi Elder; Adrienne van Melle-Hermans, Amsterdam, Holland; Gertrude Mongella, Tanzania, UN Secty. General of World Conference on Women, Beijing, China; Raisa Gorbachev, Russia; Petra Kelly, Germany; GFP demonstrating in Washington, D.C.; Jain women's group, Ladnun, India; Grandmothers for Peace, Oslo, Norway; Nuns at Hospital San Carlos, Chiapas, Mexico; Bella Abzug; Rosalie Bertell, Ph. D., Canada.*



*Photos from Barbara Wiedner's album. Some of the international "Women of Peace" she has met and worked with over the years. (Eleanor Roosevelt is one of her heroines — unfortunately they never met.)*

# Sanctions Lead to Genocide

By Marie Braun

In the past I have been one of those who said sanctions not war. I will never say that again. When I went to Iraq in May 1998, I visited several hospitals and schools and observed firsthand the devastating effects of the sanctions.

The hospitals were wards of misery staffed by doctors with no medicine or medical supplies and few medical tools. Iraqi doctors, who are making heroic efforts to care for their patients, are forced daily to make decisions that no doctor should have to make. They must stand helplessly by as thousands of Iraqi children die each month. They must tell cancer patients in excruciating pain that there is no pain medication. They must perform C-sections on pregnant women with no anesthesia.

I saw hospital wards filled with children dying from dysentery, cholera and diarrhea because they had been poisoned by contaminated water. I saw children dying from respiratory infections, which had become full body infections, because they had no antibiotics. I saw children dying because of a lack of vitamins. I saw children dying from illnesses and cancers not seen before the Gulf War. I saw mothers who had already lost two children and whose third child was deathly sick. And I looked into the eyes of the mothers. It is something I will never forget.

As a result of my experience in Iraq, I have become convinced that sanctions are deadlier than war and that they must be recog-

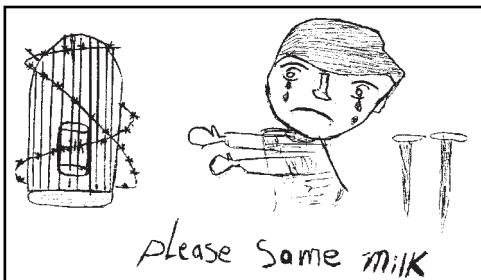
nized for what they are — a form of genocide and a crime against humanity. We must not allow ourselves to be lulled into complacency when there is no immediate threat of a military strike. There is a war going on in Iraq right now. It is a low intensity war that kills an Iraqi child every 10 minutes - 5,000 to 6,000 children a month, plus thousands of others. It is resulting in emotional, mental and physical disabilities in a whole generation of Iraqi children.

This is a story of extreme cruelty — a story of food and medicines being withheld from hungry and dying children. This is a story of child sacrifice that merits day-to-day media coverage. We must stop punishing and killing the children of Iraq. We must say loud and clear: the killing of children by disease is not acceptable. We must understand that the refusal to allow Iraq to import sufficient chlorine to purify their water is itself a form of biological warfare.

Because of the continuing need to speak out against the sanctions, Dennis Halliday, former Assistant Secretary General of the UN and coordinator of the oil for food program in Iraq, and Phyllis Bennis, UN and Middle East Fellow at the Institute for Policy Studies, have been on a nation-wide tour. They are appearing extensively on national and local TV, radio programs and at community events sponsored by peace and justice organizations.

Marie Braun is a member of WAMM (Women Against Military Madness). This article is reprinted from the Winter 1999 newsletter of Veterans for Peace, Chapter 27 in Minneapolis, MN.

## Children are the future of this World



Drawn by a child in Baghdad, Iraq, May 1998.

Please Same Milk

Adults and children are requested to write or draw/send a postcard to President Clinton requesting he lift the sanctions from Iraq.

**The One Million Postcards to the President of the United States Campaign** is organized by Kouthar and Marwa Al-Rawi on behalf of the children of Iraq.

Mail the card to: One Million Postcard Campaign, P.O. Box 1141, San Pedro, CA 90733.

For more information: e-mail: [Iraqikids@aol.com](mailto:Iraqikids@aol.com); website: <http://members.aol.com/hamzaha/iraqchildren>

On December 31, 1999, we will all be holding our breath to see the impact of the Y2K bug on essential systems like electricity, telecommunications, water, transportation, etc.

The nuclear weapons system is one that we can fix with certainty right now by dismantling the warheads.

MAIL THE ENCLOSED POSTCARD TO THE PRESIDENT IMMEDIATELY!  
**Share the others with friends.**

## American Friends Service Committee needs your help

The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) Emergency and Material Aid Assistance Program needs your help. This respected Quaker organization (**whom you can trust to deliver your aid to those in need here and around the world**) has several humanitarian projects that should be of interest.

One in particular is the "Friend-Ship Thread Project" that provides patterns for - Mittens - and Scarfs - and knitted (or crocheted) blankets. This should appeal to all of us who have baskets, drawers and closets full of leftover yarn from past knitting and crocheting efforts!

Other projects include a Friend-Ship School Kit, Hygiene Kit, Sewing Kit and Art Kit which can easily become worthwhile projects for family and friends, with

minimal investment but a feeling of great satisfaction for all involved.

To obtain informational sheets on these projects contact: AFSC Material Aids Program, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102-1479; Tel: 215.241.7041; Fax: 215.241.7108; e-mail: [TMoore@afsc.org](mailto:TMoore@afsc.org); Website: [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org)  
(See related AFSC article on pg. 3.)

### SCARF PROJECT\*

#### Materials

- Yarn: 5 1/2 oz of 4 ply worsted yarn
- Size 10 1/2 straight, single-point knitting needles
- Fringe: 60 pieces of yarn, 5" each
- Scissors

#### Instructions

- Cut yarn for fringe and set aside
  - Cast on 30 stitches
  - Knit every row until scarf is desired length
  - Bind off
  - Add fringe
- (\*A sample to get you started; great for the beginner; scarf can also be crocheted.)

## “Walking With the Wind”

*The following inspirational story is from the prologue to “Walking With the Wind” ... an historical memoir by Congressman John Lewis, D-GA. Congressman Lewis related this story from the floor of the House of Representatives during the recent impeachment debate.*

*The story of Aunt Seneva’s heroic efforts to save her home is one that “strikes a chord” with all of us who understand that we share this planet as a “common home” with the peoples of all nations. As the winds of war, violence and injustice continue to threaten the human family, we are called to address issues in every corner of that “home.”*

*We learn from Aunt Seneva that we can and must save our precious common home by holding hands and working together with peacemakers around the globe through the storms that continue to rage - no matter how desperate, exhausting, or hopeless the situation seems at times.*

*Bless Congressman Lewis and Aunt Seneva for this story to lift our spirits as we find ourselves today and too often in the “eye of the storm.” — Barbara Wiedner*

On this particular afternoon — it was a Saturday, I’m almost certain — about fifteen of us children were outside my Aunt Seneva’s house, playing in her dirt yard. The sky began clouding over, the wind started picking up, lightning flashed far off in the distance, and suddenly I wasn’t thinking about playing anymore. Lightning terrified me, and so did thunder. My mother used to gather us around her whenever we heard thunder and she’d tell us to hush, be still now, because God was doing his work. That was what thunder was, my mother said. It was the sound of God doing his work.

But my mother wasn’t with us on this

particular afternoon. Aunt Seneva was the only adult around, and as the sky blackened and the wind grew stronger, she herded us all inside.

Her house was not the biggest place around, and it seemed even smaller with so many children squeezed inside. Small and surprisingly quiet. All of the shouting and laughter that had been going on earlier outside, had stopped. The wind was howling now, and the house was starting to shake. We were scared. Even Aunt Seneva was scared.

And then it got worse. Now the house was beginning to sway. The wood plank flooring beneath us began to bend. And then, a corner of the room started lifting up.

I couldn’t believe what I was seeing. None of us could. This storm was actually pulling the house toward the sky. With us inside it.

That was when Aunt Seneva told us to clasp hands. Line up and hold hands, she said and we did as we were told. Then she had us walk as a group toward the corner of the room that was rising. From the kitchen to the front of the house we walked, the wind screaming outside, sheets of rain beating on the tin roof. Then we walked back in the other direction, as another end of the house began to lift.

And so it went, back and forth, fifteen children walking with the wind, holding that trembling house down with the weight of our small bodies.

More than half a century has passed since that day, and it has struck me more than once over those many years that our society is not unlike the children in that house, rocked again and again by the winds of one storm or another, the walls around us seeming at times as if they might fly apart.

It seemed that way in the 1960s at the



**Congressman John Lewis, D-GA,  
and Lorraine Krofchok, GFP,  
SE Regional Coordinator.**

height of the civil rights movement, when America itself felt as if it might burst at the seams — so much tension, so many storms. But the people of conscience never left the house. They never ran away. They stayed, they came together, and they did the best they could, clasping hands and moving toward the corner of the house that was the weakest.

And then another corner would lift, and we would go there.

And eventually, inevitably, the storm would settle, and the house would still stand.

But we knew another storm would come, and we would have to do it all over again.

And we did.

And we still do, all of us. You and I.

Children holding hands, walking with the wind. This is America to me - not just the movement for civil rights but the endless struggle to respond with decency, dignity, and a sense of brotherhood to all the challenges that face us as a nation, as a whole.

## Send Aid to Kosovo

The Kosovo conflict has had a terrible impact on innocent civilians. The health needs of this displaced population are urgent and acute. The American Friends Service Committee (AFSC) needs your assistance with Emergency Kits.

**Kit Ingredients:** Please follow specifically so kits are uniform for distribution. Pack items in a clear plastic zip lock bag, no larger than 12" X 12."

- 1 bath size bar of soap
- 1 hand towel
- 1 tube of triple antibiotic ointment
- 1 box of assorted bandages, approx. 50/box
- 6 candles (emergency or plumbers candles, 4" - 8" long)

To defray the cost of shipping, we are requesting a \$5 donation per kit. **Please send your \$5 check in a separate envelope.** Make check payable to AFSC-KOSOVO Relief.

Please send the Emergency Kits and \$5 donation for each kit as soon as possible.

### **Send your Emergency Kit to:**

AFSC Emergency Kits for Kosovars  
1501 Cherry St.  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

### **Send your Check to:**

AFSC Development Office  
1501 Cherry St.  
Philadelphia, Pa. 19102

(Visa/Mastercard contributions: 1.888.588.2372; Visit the Website: [www.afsc.org](http://www.afsc.org))

## Hebron: upclose and personal with e-mail from JoAnne Lingle



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Hebron with much appreciation to you for participating in Christian Peacemaker Teams (CPT) work by supporting my time here — both financially and prayerfully.

So far this has been a time of rebuilding Palestinian homes and relationships with Palestinians and Israelis. **CPT has joined with the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions (ICAHD) in rebuilding two Palestinian homes.**

One home is in Anata, a Palestinian village divided between Jerusalem and the West Bank. One-third of Anata's population of 12,000 hold Jerusalem identity cards, while the other two-thirds are classified as West Bank residents with no access to Jerusalem, including "Jerusalem" parts of Anata. 20,000 dunams (5,000 acres) were taken from Anata to build three Israeli settlements and an Israeli by-pass road is currently being constructed around the village. Some 23 demolition orders have been served on Anata residents. Crowding in Anata has become chronic.

After several attempts to obtain a building permit, the Shawamreh family house, built on privately owned land, was demolished July 1998 and after being rebuilt was demolished again one month later. Current rebuilding of the Shawamreh home began this March 12 (1999) and the house remains standing today. Chances are it will be demolished again; however, rebuilding is an act of resistance.

Another family home being rebuilt with the help of ICAHD and CPT is on the out

skirts of Hebron. Hassan Mohammed Dahoud is a 67-year-old farmer/worker who with his wife and twelve children (and their families) lived in a modest house — home to a total of 23 people. The Dahoud house is far from any Israeli settlement or by-pass road. Hassan's applications for a building permit were rejected because his land — as most of the West Bank — is zoned by the Israelis as "agricultural" (although this does not prevent the construction of thousands of Israel housing units in Kiryat Arba and other settlements in the area). His house was demolished June 26, 1998, after the family had lived in it only one year.

Visiting with Palestinian friends in their homes is always a joy for me. I have spent several days in Beit Ummer (near Hebron) with mothers, their children and new babies. We are always very welcomed. One cannot visit without being served tea, cakes and coffee.

Palestinian mothers are also very generous in allowing us to hold their babies so we do and we "ooh and aah." Of special interest were the pictures I brought of my children, grandchildren and of Katie and Kevin's wedding. Palestinians don't understand why all my children are not married since they marry young and have many children. When I tell them I am the mother of 8 children, they laugh and say I am like a Palestinian woman and am a sister to them. They ask me to move here and I reply, "I cannot leave my children." Then they say, "Oh, no, you must bring them with you." We laugh, drink tea and enjoy each other in the midst of this terrible occupation.

In a magazine published by LAW Society, Peoples Rights, I read about a young man, Bashir Thaher, who is a detainee (arrested without being charged). He was arrested

Nov. 27, 1998. He has declared a hunger strike in protest of his arbitrary detention. Bashir's 62-year-old mother, Muyassar Thaher, at the beginning of Dec., despite chronic illness, also declared a hunger strike in solidarity with her son. She has been hospitalized and doctors say she may suffer from kidney failure. Advocates who visited Bashir's mother said she was in bad condition. With tears in her eyes she told them she would not stop her hunger strike and said she had nothing to lose and would not give up hope of seeing her son freed. I am waiting a response from LAW to my request to visit Bashir in prison or to visit his mother. At this time I don't have an update on the status of Bashir or his mother.

CPT's primary focus has been home demolitions; however, because of my love for prison visitation and solidarity with prisoners' families, I would like to become involved in prison ministry in Palestine, especially with those who are administrative detainees.

There is a side to being in this land that does not elicit thinking of pain and suffering. It is the beauty of the hills and rural spaces covered with blossoming pear trees and stone terraces. It reminds me of a letter a child wrote to God: "Dear God, I didn't think orange went with purple until I saw the sunset You made Tues. It was cool. Eugene" May God bless you with beautiful sunsets. Shalom/salaam, JoAnne

*(JoAnne Lingle is also a Grandmothers for Peace member. To send financial support for JoAnne — please note it is for her — or to receive more information about CPT, contact: CPT, PO Box 6508, Chicago, IL 60680-6508; Tel: 312.455.1199; Fax: 312.666.2677; E-mail: CPT@igc.org; Website: www.prairienet.org/cpt;)*

## More "Front-Line Information"

*Several years ago GFP Jackie and her husband Larry Castagnola began working with then President Aristide to rescue, house, feed, clothe, educate and bring hope to street children in Haiti. The following is their latest report to us.*

Dear Friends,

On our most recent trip to Haiti in January, we became aware of the continuing political impasse in the Country. Various groups were calling for strikes. But we had a sense that no one really had an answer for the problems that beset Haiti. Democracy is rapidly eroding and we are fearful about the elections at the end of this year, if indeed they take place.

Amid this general pessimism we are happy

to report that the twenty-five young men we are sponsoring through the generosity of friends are doing well. Seven of our young men are currently in automotive school. The headmaster was somewhat surprised that our boys did so well since they were formerly street kids.

Our meeting with our young men was very emotional for us. They expressed their gratitude to us and the many others who assist them through CAS FAM INC. For the first time in their lives they have the opportunity to finish school and begin a life on their own. When a young person finishes technical school, we give him a grant to set up a small business. It's interesting that many of the boys call Jackie "Mom." It is really humbling that

they consider us their parents.

It costs about a thousand dollars a year for the care and school tuition of each of our boys. It is a great investment for the future of Haiti, the land of broken promises. If anyone wants to learn more about our program and get involved, please contact us.

Sincerely,  
Jackie and Larry

Castagnola Family Inc.  
56 Richmond Ave.  
West Haven, CT 06516  
Tel: 202.934.7230



**Jackie Castagnola and friend in Haiti.**

# Action Needed NOW on Two Important Issues

## Close the SOA

**Call your representative now** — Urge Him/Her to co-sponsor Rep. Moakley's bill, HR 732, to close the School of the Americas.

### Capitol Switchboard: 202.224.3121

Rep. Moakley of Massachusetts has introduced HR 732 in the House calling for the closing of the SOA. Sen. Durbin of Illinois is likely to introduce similar Senate legislation later in the year.

It is critical that you call your Members of Congress and ask them to co-sponsor these bills. Even if they have supported closing the School in the past, remind them to co-sponsor the new legislation. It is also important to contact newly-elected members of Congress.

In 1998, the vote was 212-201. This year we have a good chance of winning .... if we do our legislative work and encourage others to join us. The magnificent outpouring of 7,000 people at the SOA demonstration at Ft. Benning last year is an indication that "the word is out" and people are outraged. Make this a top-priority. Every vote counts!

## Stop the Cassini Flyby of Earth

**Contact President Clinton or your National Leader now** — We are reaching a point of no return: on June 24, 1999, NASA plans to direct Cassini's final fly-by around Venus to sling the space ship toward Earth. It is essential we all demand that leaders internationally, and especially in the United States, intercede in this misguided situation. A change of course is possible: to redirect the probe in another direction, perhaps a longer route to Saturn. If this isn't viable, then Cassini should be directed into the sun.

On February 24, 1999, Dr. Joan Russow, national leader of the Green Party of Canada, submitted a Stop Cassini Fly-by Petition and Resolution to the Prime Minister of Canada. This petition was drafted by the Cassini Redirect Coalition and it calls for heads of state or other national leaders to make demands in the United Nations and in the International Court to stop the Cassini Earth Flyby.

The situation is extremely serious. And the key is to respond now, while there is

time to protect our world from nuclear radioactive pollution. It's time to return to the worthy ideals the U.S. ratified by signing the UN Treaty in 1967: "the peaceful use of outer space." The health of ourselves and our world is on the line.

(For more information refer to the "Stop the Cassini Earth Flyby" brochure sent to you in our February mailing. More available upon request)

### Numbers You Need

Area Code 202

### President Bill Clinton

tel: 456.1111; fax: 456.2461

e-mail:

president@whitehouse.gov

### Members of Congress

Capitol Switchboard:

Senate: 224.3121

House: 225.3121



## Hats Off (or on!) to the Outrageous Raging Grannies!

The outrageous Raging Grannies with their wild hats, shawls, purses, and protest songs have become a movement that has spread not only across Canada, but now has groups in Seattle, WA; St. Paul, MN, and New York.

Raging Grannies are opinionated, demanding, endearing, funny, have a lot to teach and little time for malingering students.

They are freethinking women with lifetimes of experience behind them, bursting with up-to-the minute information on the real issues of our times who embrace the opportunity to have fun while continuing to be engaged in the struggle to improve humanity. Activists at an age when they can do as they please who have found a powerful tool while "just goofin' around."

Many young women come to them searching for mentors to lead them out of the maelstrom of junk values created by the dominant culture which now rules the world. They don't want to sit in meetings or write briefs and letters, and they may not have the time or money to participate in long-term



### The Right to Be Heard\*

(Tune: Puff the Magic Dragon)

Without the right to protest  
Where would we be?

There'd be no votes for women yet  
And no democracy

Blacks would be segregated still  
The poor would have no schools,  
Small tots would still work in the mines  
While rich folk set the rules.

The Viet Nam War would carry on  
And draw in all the world,  
While woman's conversation should be  
How her hair was curled.

Good people, see what's going on!  
Find power in the word,

The right to speak for what is right  
Your RIGHT is to be HEARD!

(\*from "The Raging Grannies'  
Songbook.")

campaigns and structured groups.

What do younger women see when they look at the Raging Grannies? Aging and elderly women using their brains, taunting the powerful and having a whale of a time.

Women who don't fit any stereotypes, who put their values into practice, who cannot be intimidated into compliance with the culture. Women who know how to be happy. The Raging Grannies are nothing if not irreverent. Thank you Grannies, for knocking the stuffiness out of the peace and social justice movements, and for exploding the myth that activists are humorless. We "tip our hats" to you!

Information for this article was provided by granny Robyn Smith of Canada and the Spring 1999 British Columbia Voice of Women (VOW) newsletter.

To contact: Vancouver Raging Grannies, 6080 Blink Bonnie, Vancouver, B.C., V7W 1V8; Tel: 604.922.4714 or 604.298.7659



Jeanne Andrew (left) and Barbara Wiedner of GFP with Robyn Smith and Kathy Hall of Raging Grannies.

# Mother's Day Actions 1999



## Nevada

**May 7-10:** at the gates of the Nevada Test Site, the seventh annual Healing Global Wounds Spring Gathering, Honoring the Mother. This is a celebration of mothers and their contribution to the environmental and Native Sovereignty movements. Take a stand and demand an end to all nuclear weapons development programs and an immediate halt to the dumping of deadly nuclear waste on Native Sacred lands. *Contact* Healing Global Wounds, PO Box 420, Tecopa, CA 92389; Tel: 760.852.4175; Fax: 760.852.4151; E-mail: hgw@scruznet.com; Web: www.shundahai.org/hgw

## Wisconsin

**May 8-9:** Luck & Clam Lake, WI. A gathering at Anathoth Community Farm and participation in the annual Mother's Day Action at Project ELF. *Contact* Anathoth, 740 Round Lake Rd., Luck WI 54853; Tel: 715.472.8721 or Nukewatch at 715.472.4185.

## Around the World

All across the US and in many foreign countries, women will be gathering to speak out for peace on Mother's Day. We urge you to create your own action or join others already planned in your community to promote Julia Ward Howe's vision of this day as "Mother's Peace Day." Wear your GFP shirt!!

## Other Actions — 1999



## Washington, D.C.

**May 1-4:** "Close the School of the Americas" demonstration. Sponsored by SOA Watch, this action will include a White House Rally, Pentagon Vigil and Civil Disobedience, Capitol Steps Vigil and Lobby Days, Nonviolent CD Action Training. *Contact:* SOA Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington, D.C. 20017, Tel: 202.234.3440; Web: www.soaw.org

## The Hague, Netherlands

**May 11-15:** "Hague Appeal for Peace - Civil Society

Conference." *Contact* in New York: Tel: 1.212.687.2623; Fax: 1.212.599.1332; E-mail: hap99@igc.org

## Russia

**May 14-26:** "Women's Journey to Moscow & St. Petersburg" is sponsored by Women's Action for New Directions (WAND). Experience Russian culture firsthand by

staying with Russian families. *Contact:* Janet Anderson at 542.344.5273; E-mail: jander@efn.org

**June 18-20:** "Nuclear Policy and Security on the Eve of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century." This Abolition 2000 Conference will be

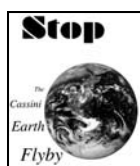
held in St. Petersburg. Sponsors include St. Petersburg Peace Council, Russian Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Germany, Finnish Peace Committee, Swedish Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, International Network of Engineers and Scientists for Global Responsibility. *Contact:* Xanthe Hall/IPPNW Germany; Tel: +49.30.693.0244; Fax: 693.8166; E-mail: ippnw@oln.comlink.apc.org



## Various Locations

**May 21-23:** Greensboro, NC

**September 29:** Washington, DC  
**October 22-24:** Los Angeles, CA  
**Nov. 19-21:** St. Paul, MN  
"Women's Leadership Workshops" is a public speaking and media training weekend sponsored by Women's Action for New Directions (WAND). *Contact:* WAND National Field Office, 139 Candler Oaks Lane, Decatur, GA 30030; Tel: 404.370.0448; Fax: 404.370.0491; E-mail: membership@wand.org



## Florida, Locally and Internationally

**June 12:** "Cancel Cassini Fly-by" Demonstration at Cape Canaveral Air Force Station. Sponsored by the

Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice and the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, this action will call for a cancellation of the planned August 18 earth fly-by of the

Cassini plutonium spacecraft. If unable to attend, organize an action in your community. *Contact:* Global Network, PO Box 90083, Gainesville, FL 32607; Tel: 352.337.9274; E-mail: globenet@afn.org

## Chiapas and Tabasco, Mexico

**July 24-August 7:** "Mexico/US Nonviolent Action for Social Change." This delegation to Mexico is sponsored by the Fellowship of Reconciliation Task Force on Latin America and the Caribbean. Participants will meet and share with communities and grassroots organizations actively involved in promoting reconciliation and nonviolent alternatives to militarization, and strategizing and working to counteract the negative impact of PEMEX's operations (Mexican national oil company). *Contact:* Fellowship of Reconciliation, 995 market St. #1414, San Francisco, CA 94103; Tel: 415.495.6334; Fax: 415.495.5628; E-mail: forlatam@igc.org

## Puerto Rico

**August 21-28:** "The Cost of Colonialism: War and Puerto Rico's People and Lands." Sponsored by the Caribbean Project for Justice and Peace, and Fellowship of Reconciliation, participants will explore the impact of militarism and colonialism on Puerto Rico. Last year marked the centennial of the US military occupation of the island. This year, the US is moving military trainers and troops south from Panama to Puerto Rico, and installing a powerful

## More 1999 Actions

military radar that is widely opposed.

Contact: Fellowship of Reconciliation, please see previous event.

### Albuquerque and Los Alamos,

#### New Mexico

**August 6-9:**

“Beyond the Bomb: A New Agenda for Peace and Justice” demonstration is



sponsored by Peace Action. It will mark the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and will call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. Los Alamos plans to resume the production of nuclear warheads by the year 2003. Contact: Peace Action, 1819 H St. NW, Suite 420, Washington, DC 20006; Tel: 202.862.9740, ext. 3038; Fax: 202.862.9762;

Web: [www.peace-action.org](http://www.peace-action.org)

### Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan

**August 3-9:** “The 1999 World Conference against A & H Bombs.” This conference is a call for a nuclear weapons-free 21<sup>st</sup> Century, and a redoubling of grassroots efforts in Japan and world-wide to accomplish this. Contact: E-mail: [antiatom@twics.com](mailto:antiatom@twics.com); Web: [www.twics.com/~antiatom/](http://www.twics.com/~antiatom/)

### Chiapas, Mexico, and Guatemala

**August 14-29:** “SOA and the War Against the Poor.” This delegation to Mexico is sponsored by SOA

Watch, EPICA and Witness for Peace. Participants will meet with survivors, human rights activists, visit massacre sites, and develop joint strategies with Mexican and Guatemalan groups struggling to close the SOA. Contact: SOA Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington, D.C. 20017, Tel: 202.234.3440; Web: [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)



### Fort Benning, Georgia

**November 19-21:**

“Close the School of the Americas” demonstration. This Vigil and Nonviolent Civil

Disobedience weekend is sponsored by



SOA Watch. They need: 10,000 People to Stand Vigil; 5,000 People to “Cross the Line;” and 100 People to Risk Prison. Contact: SOA Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington, D.C. 20017, Tel: 202.234.3440; Web: [www.soaw.org](http://www.soaw.org)



### Las Vegas, Nevada,

#### and the Nevada Test Site

**December 29, 1999**

**- January 2, 2000:**

“Millennium 2000 - Walking The Ways

of Peace.” Join 1,000 people in a candlelit procession onto the Nevada Test Site at midnight, December 31. Contact: Nevada Desert Experience, PO Box 4487, Las Vegas, NV 89127; Tel: 702.646.4814; E-mail: [nde@igc.apc.org](mailto:nde@igc.apc.org)

### Canada

**September 24-26,**

**1999:** “The People’s Human Rights



Conference” is sponsored by students at the University of Alberta, in Edmonton, Alberta. A worldwide, human-rights conference to raise the voice of victims of human rights abuses around the globe; to reveal the systematic destruction of the environment by various governments and international corporations; to create a global awareness of the situation in which many people of the world live today; to seek possible ways in which we can improve the standards of life for humankind and preserve the environment. Contact: Mike Hudema, 357 18th St. N.E., Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada, T1C 1A7; Tel: 780. 436.0210; Web: [www.ualberta.ca/~hudema/people.htm](http://www.ualberta.ca/~hudema/people.htm)

### BOOKS



“Pacific Women Speak Out: For Independence and Denuclearization.” This little book is packed full of sadness, hope, horror and courage. It is a collection of stories of resistance against incredible odds, and stories of survival. The Indigenous women tell of the impact of invasion and war, nuclear testing, militarization, imposed economic dependency and all the manifestations of

colonization. They tell their stories to break the silence that has concealed the violations - the forced removal of entire communities, the tremendous increase in health problems, the “jelly-fish babies.”

Profits from the sale of this book will go into a trust fund to help the work of Pacific women. Christchurch, New Zealand: The Raven Press, 1998.



“Searching for Life: The Grandmothers of the Plaza de Mayo and the Disappeared Children of Argentina,” by Rita Arditti. This book is about Argentina’s 1976 -1983 undeclared war against its

own people, and a courageous group of Argentine women who have worked tirelessly for over 20 years to find their disappeared children and grandchildren. Their courage in facing pain and terror is most inspiring. Berkeley, CA: University of California Press, 1999.



“Inside Russia: The Life and Times of Zoya Zarubina - Former Soviet Intelligence Officer and Interpreter During the Stalin Years,” by Inez Cope

Jeffery, Ph.D. This book is about a remarkable woman of our times whose life story as an eyewitness to history will open your eyes, touch your heart and keep you captivated from beginning to end. It is a narrative of a woman who is passionate about her work for global peace because she experienced firsthand the horrors of war.

GFP members will be thrilled that Zoya has included an account of our International Grandmothers Walk for Peace in Moscow in 1989, and a photo of Zoya (wearing her GFP button!) with Barbara Wiedner on the day the Walk idea was “hatched” over cups of tea in Zoya’s Moscow apartment.

This is a “must” read for the thousands of educators, feminists, tourists, and people working for global peace, who have had the joy of meeting and working with Zoya over the years, and for those interested in a unique and informative account of Russian life and politics since the time of Stalin.

To order: Tel: 1.800.880.8642; Eakin Press, PO Box 90159, Austin, TX 78709

# Mother's Day History 101

The earliest Mother's Day celebrations are traced back to the spring celebrations of ancient Greece in honor of Rhea, the Mother of the Gods.

During the 1600s, England celebrated a day called "Mothering Sunday," celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent. "Mothering Sunday" honored the mothers of England. During this time many of England's poor worked as servants for the wealthy. As most jobs were located far from their homes, the servants would live at the houses of their employers. On Mothering Sunday the servants would have the day off and were encouraged to return home and spend the day with their mothers. A special cake, called the mothering cake, was often brought along to provide a festive touch.

As Christianity spread throughout Europe the celebration changed to honor the "Mother Church" — the spiritual power that gave them life and protected them from harm. Over time the church festival blended with the Mothering Sunday celebration. People began honoring their mothers as well as the church.

**In the United States, Mother's Day was first suggested in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe as a day dedicated to peace.**

In 1907 Ana Jarvis, from Philadelphia, began a campaign to establish a national Mother's Day. Ms. Jarvis persuaded her mother's church in Grafton, West Virginia, to celebrate Mother's Day on the second anniversary of her mother's death, the 2nd Sunday of May. By the next year Mother's Day was also celebrated in Philadelphia.

Ms. Jarvis and her supporters began to write to ministers, businessmen, and politicians in their quest to establish a national Mother's Day. It was successful, and by 1911 Mother's Day was celebrated in almost every state. President Woodrow Wilson, in 1914, made the official announcement proclaiming Mother's Day a national holiday that was to be held each year on the 2nd Sunday of May.

While many countries of the world celebrate their own Mother's Day at different times throughout the year, there are some countries such as Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia, and Belgium which also celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May.

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