OMNI’S JULIA WARD HOWE’S MOTHER’S DAY FOR PEACE
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OMNI’s MOTHERS DAY LUNCHEONS Began in 2004

OMNI’S FIRST ANNUAL MOTHER’S DAY LUNCHEON, MAY 9, Sunday, 2004
Belvedeer’s, 12:30 noon.  Bettie Lu Lancaster, Jo Bennett, Karen Clark, Diana Rivers, and others.

2010 the format changed to an all-May art show in OMNI’s Art Space on the subject of the Art of Mothering arranged by Julie Jeannine Rickard, and on Mother’s Day art, music, poetry, desserts, beverages, and flowers for the first 50 MOMS that walk in the door.  All coordinated by Donna Stjerna.

HOWE’S PROCLAMATION 1870
Julia Ward Howe made the first known suggestion for a Mother’s Day in the United States in 1872. She suggested that people observe a Mother’s Day as a day dedicated to peace, in protest against the carnage of the Civil War. For several years, she held an annual Mother’s Day meeting in Boston. Earlier in 1870 she wrote this Proclamation:

Mother’s Day Proclamation

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.

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.

Julia Ward Howe, Boston 1870

Julia's Voice is the modern voice of Julia Ward Howe. Stand for Peace is our Mothers Day Event.

One hundred forty years ago, Julia Ward Howe, activist, Unitarian, suffragette and mother of six, called mothers to action by proclaiming the first Mother’s Day.

It was a day to stand for peace and against war.

On Mother's Day at 3:00 we assemble across the nation to reclaim the Mother's Day holiday as a day to stand for peace and against war.

Explore here to learn how YOU and your group can get involved!

Mother's Day was first organized in 1870 by the abolitionist, suffragette and poet Julia Ward Howe to promote peace and speak out against war.

Julia's Voice is a group of "mothers and others" working to Take Back Mothers Day and honor Jullia Ward Howe.

We know that Mothers value peace most.

To reclaim our holiday, we sponsor Mothers Day Stand for Peace events and support others as they sponsor peace events in their own communities. Explore our website! You'll find photos of our events, tools to help you plan your own Stand for Peace event and more information about Julia Ward Howe, the extraordinary woman who started it all.

Be sure to watch our documentary!
Help Take Back Mothers Day!

Organize your own event to Take Back Mothers Day!

Use the tools on our site to organize your own Mothers Day Stand for Peace in 2010!

Watch our Documentary to get started!

Why Promote Peace on Mothers Day?

After living through the horrors of the Civil War, Julia Ward Howe saw signs that another war was brewing as the Franco-Prussian conflict threatened to escalate into a full scale war. Tired of war and armed with the celebrity that came to her after her famous poem *The Battle Hymn of the Republic* was published in 1862, she called upon women to speak out against this new war.

Read more about Howe [here](#).

"Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have taught them of charity, mercy and patience".

*Julia Ward Howe, 1870*

This website has been designed by Julia's Voice. Contact the webmaster here [slsautter@gmail.com](mailto:slsautter@gmail.com)
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Mother's Day 2011

Kansas City Stand

For UU Churches

Organize Your Own Event!
STATEMENT FROM WOMEN’S ACTION FOR NEW DIRECTIONS/WAND 2010
As happens every May, Mother's Day has recently come and gone. Many people took this day as a chance to let their mothers and other women in their life know how much they are appreciated. This spring, WAND offers you the chance to help us achieve the goal of peace, and the continuing opportunity to honor the significant women in your life. Donations to the WAND Education Fund
enable WAND to educate women legislators about critically important progressive issues.

Dear Friend:

“We will not have the important questions of the day decided by irrelevant agencies,” Julia Ward Howe declared in her 1872 proclamation, calling for a Mother’s Day of Peace.

In a rant against Nancy Pelosi, “the chick in charge,” Rush Limbaugh griped about the “chickification” of our culture. But in reality, very little “chickification” has occurred, either in government or the media. Women hold only 16% of the seats in Congress, and 23.5% of the seats in state legislatures. Four out of five of the guests on Sunday morning TV talk shows and nine out of ten radio program directors are men.

The most important question of our day is: How can we provide real security for our citizens? Do we spend more money on the military, even though the Pentagon’s budget is higher now than at the peak of the Cold War? Do we freeze non-essential domestic spending on education, health, jobs, transportation and clean energy? Do we wage an endless war on terror? Or do we work for the abolition of nuclear weapons and alternative ways of resolving conflict? If women are not part of this debate, our government and our media are the irrelevant agencies that Julia Ward Howe deplored.

This is why I’m asking you to celebrate Mother’s Day in the spirit of Julia Ward Howe, by helping WAND to provide the tools and resources needed for progressive women leaders to be effective advocates for real security.

Progressive women, even when they hold elected office, have an uphill battle. They may offer better options for dealing with deficits, military budgets and foreign policy than their male counterparts. But without good messaging and media skills, they’re dismissed as naïve, even un-American and pro-terrorist. In the minds of far too many voters, fear trumps facts.

WAND Education Fund provides the facts and offers training programs to teach women leaders the skills they need to take public stands on national security issues. With your help we will be closer to our goal of holding trainings in three different regions in 2010 for women state legislators, community leaders and local activists. Participants learn how to disarm their critics, understand their audiences, and use memorable narratives to make their point. WAND Education Fund then helps them find timely media opportunities in print, radio and television, and new media technologies.

http://johngrahamspeaker.org/boys-into-men
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“Boys Into Men” by John Graham

I went to a quiet meeting yesterday at the local Veterans Resource Center in the small rural county where I live. At the meeting were 25 vets, family members of vets and a few others. From that small group flowed gut-wrenching stories of suicides, addictions and shattered minds and bodies.

As a young man I’d gone to war in Vietnam for the adventure of it. What a fool I was. But I was hardly alone. Every war has recruited eager young men looking for adventure, seeking to prove their worth as
men. And every war has left behind the wreckage that these young men did not foresee or chose to ignore.

I can imagine what it must be like to ride in a Humvee down a road in Falluja where the day before some eight-year-old has planted a bomb that killed your best friend. I went just once out near the A Shau valley, into triple-canopied jungle so thick that it was dark at noon on the forest floor. There could have been an entire regiment of North Vietnamese only 50 yards away and you would never know it until the first bullet sang past your ear or tore into your body. I didn’t know what fear was until I’d been in a place like that. Two years later I walked down the shadowed sides of streets in California to avoid sniper fire.

And on the other side of the gunsight, imagine nineteen year-olds just three months from their malls and video games looking through the crosshairs of their weapons at another human being they’ve never met and never will and pulling the trigger.

Nobody should have to experience these things. Which brings me to three thoughts:

I just finished reading The Palace Files by Jerry Schecter and Nguyen Hung, a carefully documented exposé of the Nixon/Kissinger strategy to prolong a lost war in Vietnam in a vain attempt to salvage American prestige and their own political careers. It cost of tens of thousands of lives. By all means, let us blame the old men in power who have forever created wars, especially those who have done so driven by their own ambitions, ideologies, ignorance and pathologies.

We can worry too about cultures--including ours--that are rapidly losing any capacity for settling disputes through honest and committed efforts to work for the common good. As the governance of our (and other) nations sours into partisan warfare at home, how can we expect to do any better abroad? Fearful of perceived enemies within and without, we stereotype, we hate, and by our example teach our children to fear, to stereotype and to hate.

Finally, we need to find ways to initiate our boys into manhood without sending them to war (young women go to war these days too but someone else must speak to them). I speak to the boys who want so much to become men but whose guidance comes mostly from videogames and peer pressures and the adrenaline and testosterone coursing in their veins.

Thank God there are many boys who have strong, positive male role models in their lives. But boys need to be initiated into manhood not just by their fathers and uncles, but by their society. Native Americans initiated boys through lengthy, significant and often dangerous trials at the end of which they were welcomed into the company of men and from that moment were expected to help take responsibility for the welfare of the tribe.

We don’t need to send our boys into the wilderness for a month with pocket knifes in order for them to become men, but we do need to pay much more attention to developing appropriate rites of passage, following periods of study and trial. Using models that are thousands of years old, those periods should focus on heroic values of courage and compassion. They should build the skills and experience of service, a sense of responsibility for the common good and a capacity for reflection that in time will lead to wisdom.

I wish someone had done this for me. http://johngrahamspeaker.org/boys-into-men
War is Still a Racket by Cindy Sheehan

WAR is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives.

Major General Smedley Butler
For this Mother's Day, I am not going to write about Juliet Ward Howe's Mother's Day proclamation and how Mother's Day is a "Day for Peace."
By now, most of us are well aware of Ward's proclamation (if not, click here) that we Mother's should not send our sons (sic) to kill the sons of other mothers. We have strayed so far away from the original meaning of Mother's Day, that we might as well call it "Hallmark Hooray Day," and just let it be what it is. What I am going to write about, however, is the treatise of a military man that I think is profoundly and unfortunately still relevant.
Seventy-seven years ago, Major General Smedley Darlington Butler, Marine Corps, gave a speech entitled, War is a Racket. What made this speech so credible, if not surprising, is the fact that Smedley Butler was the highest decorated Marine of all time. Marines all over still learn about him, but they aren't taught that he came from Quaker roots and began to castigate the U.S. and its wars of aggression.
General Butler is not too well known outside of military/peace circles. Indeed, even though I was a U.S. History major at University and most of what we learned about was war, I don't think I had ever heard of him until about a year after Casey's death.
I received an email from a person who had read one of my articles and he sent me a link to the treatise, War is a Racket. By the time I first read Butler's work, I didn't need any more convincing that Casey died for no reason but profit, but after I read it, I began to understand that the concept of "good war," was a bogus one. Indeed, Butler says this in the first chapter: For a great many years, as a soldier, I had a suspicion that war was a racket; not until I retired to civil life did I fully realize it. Now that I see the international war clouds gathering, as they are today, I must face it and speak out.
It seems like every generation, more or less, in the U.S. we have a significant war. My generations' "War on Terror" was Vietnam. Smedley Butler wrote War is a Racket between the "good wars" WWI and WWII.
What also makes this treatise so incredible is that in 77 years, nothing much has changed. If you just change some of the names to the current crop of culprits, it is eerily identical to today. The rich always benefit during war and the poor always pay-always, no exception.
So as I spend my seventh Mother's Day without my oldest son on this planet, I want to close with words from Smedley:
Yes, the soldier pays the greater part of the bill. His family pays too. They pay it in the same heart-break that he does. As he suffers, they suffer. At nights, as he lay in the trenches and watched shrapnel burst about him, they lay home in their beds and tossed sleeplessly - his father, his mother, his wife, his sisters, his brothers, his sons, and his daughters.
Listen to Cindy Sheehan's Soapbox this Sunday at 2pm Pacific Time for a dramatic reading of War is a Racket.

Cindy Sheehan's Soapbox wishes all mothers a very nice day and one wish Cindy has for all mothers is that we never allow our children to join the military to fight, perhaps die and even kill other children for the profit of the few.
FILM ON ISRAELI ATTACK ON JENIN, ONE MOTHER’S RESPONSE, AND US MOTHERS

I did see the devastating film about the Israeli occupation and attack on the Jenin refugee camp yesterday at UA, presented by Joel to his classes. One of the most effectively edited films I have ever seen, juxtaposing past and different stages of subsequent time, back and forth, to show how Israeli deadly force creates Palestinian "terrorists," i.e. resisters. But of course the Israelis said they were reacting to P. attacks.

A key story woven into the present-past structure of several people’s lives is that of Yousef and his mother. She fiercely supported her son’s resistance to Israeli tanks, considered him a hero, and preferred the destruction of her house and their deaths over cowardice by her son. Her house was destroyed and we see her at the end grieving over the body of Yousef. Revenge had replaced her mother’s love for her son? But she loved him because he defended their home. And US mothers who allow their sons to go to wars to kill other mothers’ sons? No tanks are driving down US streets. Their sons don't go to defend their homes. But of course they think that. The government and its corporate media have instilled that propaganda of patriotic conformity. So shouldn’t we be outraged, not at the mothers, but at the Pentagon-White House-Congress warfare state that originates these wars? Dick Bennett

END OF MOTHER’S DAY NEWSLETTER 2011