“Overcome, she sat quietly for a few minutes, looking at her hands, collecting herself. Then she turned her eyes to me again and said, ‘We don’t know how any of this happened to our kids.’” Final paragraph of Ann Jones’ *They Were Soldiers*.

My blog:  
War Department/Peace Department  
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/  
Newsletters  
http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/  
Index:  
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/

OMNI’S NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL DAYS PROJECT. Affirming days supporting nonviolence, world peace, human rights, social and economic justice, democracy, and environmental stewardship; providing alternatives to the days approving violence (for example, Indigenous People of the Americas Day instead of Columbus Day). Link to Peace, Justice, Ecology Birthdays:  
http://www.omnicenter.org/leaders-for-peace-justice-and/  

As Lowe’s advertises, “It’s Her Day—Let Mom Choose.” Certainly, but give her a real choice. Lowe’s again: “Give Mom a Lowe’s Gift Card, May 12.” Of course they would, for profits from unused gift cards is a billion dollar gift to businesses. Rather: Give Mom an OMNI membership brochure, an OMNI t-shirt, an OMNI bumper sticker, and take her to an OMNI event, and talk to her about mothers *not* agreeing to their sons and daughters going to war to kill the
sons and daughters of other mothers.

Nos. 1-3 at end

Contents #4 2014
Howe’s Proclamation
Imagine Peace: John Lennon, Yoko Ono, Joan Baez (“All the Weary Mothers”)
Radio Program
A YMCA Commemoration of Mother’s Day
Ann Jones, They Were Soldiers—Sons and Daughters Returning from the Illegal, Unjust, Unnecessary Wars Maimed Physically and Psychologically
Susan Gallemore, Mothers Talk About War and Terror

Here is the link to all OMNI newsletters: http://www.omnicenter.org/newsletter-archive/ For a knowledge-based peace, justice, and ecology movement and an informed citizenry as the foundation for change.

The Original Mother’s Day Proclamation
By Julia Ward Howe
Posted to Plough Wednesday, May 07, 2014

Español
While countries around the world celebrate their own Mother’s Day at different times throughout the year, several countries, including the United States, Italy, Australia, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, and Turkey celebrate it on the second Sunday of May.
In the United States, the origins of the official holiday go back to 1870, when Julia Ward Howe – an abolitionist best remembered as the poet who wrote “Battle Hymn of the Republic” – worked to establish a Mother’s Peace Day. Howe dedicated the celebration to the eradication of war, and organized festivities in Boston for years.
In 1907, Anna Jarvis, of Philadelphia, began the campaign to have Mother’s Day officially recognized, and in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson did this, proclaiming it a national holiday and a “public expression of our love and reverence for all mothers.”

Today’s commercialized celebration of candy, flowers, gift certificates, and lavish meals at restaurants bears little resemblance to Howe’s original idea. There is nothing wrong with that. But here, for the record’s sake, is the proclamation she wrote in 1870, which explains, in her own impassioned words, the goals of the original holiday.

**Arise, all women who have hearts**, whether your baptism be that of water or of tears! 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 is not the balance of justice.” Blood does not wipe out 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 learning after his 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.
original meaning of the holiday.

By Dianne on Friday, May 24, 2013
What a beautiful article, now I know the true meaning of Mother's day.

By Judy on Monday, May 13, 2013
This is an eye-opener.

By Jack Guirey on Sunday, May 12, 2013
Be she ever so humble, Mom is no wimp.............

By godhuli bose on Sunday, May 12, 2013
Thank u for posting this. Not all of us have had the fortune of caring mothers. But the meaning of mother means to care and give unconditional love. If u are a woman and offer love to those continuously around you, especially if u work with children, then you are a mother. I don't have children myself but I love all children. So happy mother's day to all women with big hearts who radiate love. Most women can "have" a child but only the wise and generous can "raise" one.

By Leslye Goldman on Sunday, May 12, 2013
It is a shame that most of us were not taught in school the true meaning of Mothers Day. We were taught many meaningless things, this proclamation has real meaning as well as teeth. I am sixty years old and for the first time I have learned the meaning of Mothers Day. I feel so sad to have had such a misunderstanding of such as important commemoration!

By Susan Leslie on Sunday, May 12, 2013
I've never seen this before. It's very moving.

By Valery on Sunday, May 12, 2013
The depth of her words should inspire and bring forth such a deep yearning for love and peace throughout the world. It is time for a change in America, in much of the world too. What if that change could come from mother's love? " Let them not undo all we have taught," Nothing short of brilliant!

By Debby on Saturday, May 12, 2012
Beautiful! Women before us worked so hard to get us here. Sacrificed for the next generations. We have been given the tools, now if we can just get to use them!

By Yarig on Saturday, May 12, 2012
It is beautiful and I just love to know that people in those times were so clever and moral. God bless us all.

By Robert Deen on Friday, May 11, 2012
Had the congress the foresight then to enact this proclamation rather than making Mothers Day simply a time to honor
their mothers, we would be living in a very different world. The fact that they did not gives clarity to the value of war as seen in the eyes of so many both then and now. As a son and father would that it were different. One thing I know though, is that the truth of this declaration as with the greater truth that Peace is our true nature, both women and men, will finally be revealed in the daily lives of our children and children's children. This will happen because the truth of it was bold revealed in 1870, set in to consciousness and as Truth will always ultimately win out, So shall the power of this proclamation find form in the lives of all on this planet.

By Larry G. Mueller on Sunday, May 01, 2011

This article is beautiful and has a presence all of its own. The quest for peace must be international and at the heart of Action of all nations. Julia Ward Howe is truely a woman before her times. Is it possible that we can ever live without war? I certainly hope and pray we can.

By Ann Scott on Thursday, May 06, 2010

Wonderful! Thank you for reminding us of what it really means to be a caregiver. We are to stand up for our charges, whether or not they are our children or others. Bless the UN for helping us along the path Julia suggests.

By Dolores Curry on Sunday, May 02, 2010

It was a great article, and so very timely...or more to the point so timeless.

By Nadine on Thursday, April 29, 2010

If only these words were a remembrance of times past, still their poignancy resonnate today . May war and hunger be eradicated soon in the 21st century. May all our children live to experience peace in our world.
Yoko Ono: MY MOMMY IS BEAUTIFUL (Andy Warhol Museum, Pittsburgh, PA)

Twitter brings world closer for Japan quake charity e-book #quakebook

Mother’s Day Proclamation (1870) by Julia Ward Howe

Sun 08 May 2011 - Imagine All The People
Arise, then, women of this day!
Arise, all women who have hearts,
Whether our baptism be of water or of tears!

Say firmly:
"We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies,
Our husbands will 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, the 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 out dishonor, nor violence indicate possession.
As men have often forsaken the plough 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 solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means
Whereby the great human family can live in peace,
Each bearing after his own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar,
But of God.

In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask
That a general congress of women without limit of nationality
May be appointed and held at someplace 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 (27 May 1819 – 17 Oct 1910) was a prominent American abolitionist, social activist, and poet
most famous as the author of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic." Her "Mother’s Day Proclamation" was one of
the early calls to celebrate Mother’s Day in the United States. Written in 1870, it was a pacifist reaction to the
The Proclamation was tied to Howe’s feminist belief that women had a responsibility to shape their societies at the political level. Today, the proclamation is included in the Unitarian Universalist hymnal, Singing the Living Tradition.

www.mothersdayforpeace.com
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Tagged with: Feminism • Mother • Mothers • Mothers Day • Women

One Response to Mother’s Day Proclamation (1870) by Julia Ward Howe

1. jorge says:
Tue 12 May 2009 at 8:56 am

These clear thoughts by Julia Ward Howe have really touched me and brought to my head a song by Joan Baez that I used to hear very often years ago, that always made me be choked by emotion, just like today. We should be surrounded by this kind of words and feelings much more often, especially these days in which we can see and hear the suffering of many mothers because of the future of their children that seems so unclear.

ALL THE WEARY MOTHERS OF THE EARTH
( PEOPLE’S UNION # 1)
(Words and Music by Joan Baez)

All the weary mothers of the earth will finally rest
We will take their babies in our arms and do our best
When the sun is low upon the field
To love and music they will yield
And the weary mothers of the earth shall rest
And the farmer on his tractor and beside his plow
Will stand there in confusion as we wet his brow
With the tears of all the businessmen
Who see what they have done to him
And the weary farmers of the earth shall rest
And the aching workers of the world again shall sing
These words in mighty choruses to all will bring
“We shall no longer be the poor
For no one owns us anymore"
And the workers of the world again shall sing
And when the soldiers burn their uniforms in every land
The foxholes at the borders will be left unmanned
General, when you come for the review
The troops will have forgotten you
And the men and women of the earth shall rest
© 1971, 1972 Chandos Music (ASCAP)

MORE http://imaginepeace.com/archives/6818

A RADIO PROGRAM

Mothers Day: The 1871 Mother's Day Proclamation

Airs Sunday, May 11 at 6 p.m.  The story of Julia Ward Howe's 1871 Proclamation for Peace and her call for a universal Mother's Day to promote peace and disarmament.  Host Carol Boss talks with Kate Stickley, a direct descendent of Howe, and Jane Smith Bernhardt, an actor who portrays Howe onstage.  Plus conversation with Susan Galleymore, author of a book called "Long Time Passing: Mothers Talk About War and Terror."

Tags:

Peace Talk Radio

Julia Ward Howe

Mothers Day
Mother's Day History:
1872 - Julia Ward Howe, who is a pacifist, suffragette, and writer of the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," first suggests Mother's Day in the United States. She suggests the day as a day mothers could rally for peace and for several years, she holds an annual Mother's Day meeting in Boston.
1908 - Anna Jarvis begins a campaign for a nationwide observance of Mother's Day in honor of her late mother, a community health advocate. Anna Jarvis was deeply dismayed over the commercialization of Mother's Day. Before she died in 1948, she admitted that she regretted ever starting the holiday.
May 9, 1914 - President Woodrow Wilson signs a bill recognizing Mother's Day as a national holiday.
Ann Jones shines a much-needed light on the dead, wounded, mutilated, brain-damaged, drug-addicted, suicidal, homicidal casualties of our distant wars, taking us on a stunning journey from the devastating moment an American soldier is first wounded in rural Afghanistan to the return home. Beautifully written by an empathetic and critical reporter who knows the price of war.

About the author

Ann Jones is a journalist, photographer (Getty Images), and the author of eight books of nonfiction, including Women Who Kill, Next Time She’ll Be Dead, Kabul in Winter, and War Is Not Over When It’s Over. She has reported on the impact of war in the Middle East, Asia, and Africa, and embedded with American forces in Afghanistan. She regularly writes for The Nation and TomDispatch.com.

Reviews

“Read this unsparing, scathingly direct, and gut-wrenching account — the war Washington doesn’t want you to see. Then see if you still believe that Americans ‘support the troops.’”
—Andrew J. Bacevich, author of Breach of Trust: How Americans Failed Their Soldiers and Their Country

“An indispensable book about America’s current wars and the multiple ways they continue to wound not only the soldiers but their families and indeed the country itself. Jones writes with passion and clarity about the tragedies other reporters avoid and evade.”
—Marilyn Young, author of The Vietnam Wars, 1945–1990

"For a decade, Jones, through her firsthand reporting of war and life on the ground in Afghanistan, has given us more of the reality of that conflict than any dozen of her well-connected colleagues in the established media, attuned as they have been to the cant and spin pouring out of official mouths. Now, she has turned her shrewd, wise, compassionate, reality-bound eye to some of the bitterest facts of all: the almost unimaginable suffering of the American soldiers wounded and otherwise impaired in the conflict. The result is a harrowing
and compelling tale that is hard to bear but must be borne if we are understand the disaster this country unleashed in Afghanistan.” —Jonathan Schell author of The Unconquerable World

“This is a painful odyssey. Ann Jones’s superb writing makes it possible to take it in without sugar coating…. Read this book. You will be a wiser and better citizen.” —Jonathan Shay, MD, PhD, author of Odysseus in America: Combat Trauma and the Trials of Homecoming

"Ann Jones' new book, They Were Soldiers: How the Wounded Return from America's Wars -- The Untold Story, is devastating, and almost incomprehensibly so when one considers that virtually all of the death and destruction in U.S. wars is on the other side. Statistically, what happens to U.S. troops is almost nothing. In human terms, it's overwhelming. Know a young person considering joining the military? Give them this book. Know a person not working to end war? Give them this book." —David Swanson, www.warisacrime.org


Susan Galleymore is the mother of a US soldier who fought in Afghanistan and Iraq. This is the story of how and why she traveled to Iraq to visit him on a military base. It is a remarkable portrait of what it means to be a mother in a time of war. It also tells of her continuing journey through the middle east, interviewing mothers in war zones including Iraq, Israel and the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, Afghanistan and the United States. As these women relate their experiences, across the political divide, they show how they view their child's involvement in war, and illustrate the wider impact of war on family, community and country. In exploring how mothers cope with war, Galleymore sheds light on related social issues including how countries treat their war veterans; US military recruitment techniques; conscientious objection and AWOL; court martials; and the failures and successes of military leadership. She explores cultural differences and examines common assumptions civilians hold about war and why troops themselves are hesitant to share their own stories or discuss the psychological breakdown that occurs within their ranks. Long Time Passing gets to the heart of extreme social experiences — war and warriors, mothers and children, leadership — and explores the
limits of courage and fear.

Meet the Author

Susan Galleymore is a counselor on the GI Rights Hotline, founder of MotherSpeak, and a radio host sharing the stories of mothers affected by war. Her writing and reporting are widely published on radio and the internet, as well as Commondreams, Left Curve Journal, Natal Witness, and other publications.

From the White House: Write or Call

President Obama is committed to creating the most open and accessible administration in American history. That begins with taking comments and questions from you, the public, through our website.

Call the President [call all the numbers, educate those warriors, at least let them know there's another way]

PHONE NUMBERS
Comments: 202-456-1111
Switchboard: 202-456-1414

TTY/TTD
Comments: 202-456-6213
Visitor's Office: 202-456-2121

Write a letter to the President

Here are a few simple things you can do to make sure your message gets to the White House as quickly as possible.

1. If possible, email us! This is the fastest way to get your message to President Obama.

2. If you write a letter, please consider typing it on an 8 1/2 by 11 inch sheet of paper. If you hand-write your letter, please consider using pen and writing as neatly as possible.

3. Please include your return address on your letter as well as your envelope. If you have an email address, please consider including that as well.
4. And finally, be sure to include the full address of the White House to make sure your message gets to us as quickly and directly as possible:

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

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Julia Ward Howe’s Proclamation
Julia’s Voice
Women’s Actions for New Directions
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Cindy Sheehan on General Smedley Butler

Dick: Sons into Soldiers

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WAND 2011 Message
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Arkansas Gold Star Mothers
Google’s Mother’s Day 2013 (first page)
END JULIA WARD HOWE’S MOTHER’S DAY FOR PEACE #4 2014

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Dick Bennett

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Index:
http://www.omnicenter.org/omni-newsletter-general-index/
jbennet@uark.edu

Blog
http://jamesrichardbennett.blogspot.com/

j.dick.bennett@gmail.com
(479) 442-4600
2582 Jimmie Ave.
Fayetteville, AR 72703