



*Canadian Unitarian
Universalist Women's
Association*

*International Women's Day
Resource Packet 2024*

Women and Peace

Welcome to another International Women's Day resource package. I hope all who find their way here, find some inspiration and takeaways for their own International Women's Day service in their own congregation, fellowship or church. This year for 2024, we are focusing on female contributions to peace. This package looks at those contributions through the lens of activism, writing and music. We are so grateful for all those who contributed to this package and continue to support our work.

Contents:

- Canadian feminist leading lights in the peace movement: key people and organizations
- Recommended readings on peace
- Canadian Women's contributions to peace through music

Ursula Franklin University of Toronto

Ursula Franklin (1921-2016) was a scientist who also participated in peace activism and feminism. Some of her contributions towards the peace movement, which involved a substantial amount of risk, were petitioning the government to withhold her personal taxes in protest of the war purposes to which the treasury is used. She used the “freedom of conscience” provision in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms to support her case. Her legal challenge carried on up to the Supreme Court of Canada and was ultimately thrown out. In the early 1960’s, she sounded the alarm about scientific studies that linked Strontium-90 from nuclear atmospheric testing to being found in baby’s teeth, and whose findings contributed to the cessation of atmospheric weapons testing. Her resistance to the military logic of the state raised awareness among many Canadian citizens of the ways in which citizens unknowingly participate in the war machine. Her radical vision of feminism introduced to many of her followers, the ideal of a society based on cooperation, re-distribution and equality principles. She was a key member in Voice of Women in the 1960’s and 70’s.

<https://rabble.ca/feminism/ursula-franklin-pioneer-feminist-pacifist-scientist-and-social-justice/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ursula_Franklin#cite_note-85

Voices of Women

Voices of Women is a nuclear disarmament and peace lobby organization that has ties to the United Nations, Canadian government, and many women’s peace groups around the world. It started in 1961 from a newspaper article by Lotta Dempsey written in the Toronto Star. It has taken bold stances including calling for the defunding of government military spending, dissolving the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), nuclear disarmament, and Vietnam anti-war actions. The efforts of VOW influenced the United Nations’ designation of 1965 as the International Year of Cooperation.

The organization continues to be active and attract new members today.

<https://vowpeace.org/>

<https://riseupfeministarchive.ca/activism/organizations/voice-of-women-vow/>

Roberta Jamieson – Peace Talks

One of the leaders in blazing the trail on reconcili-ACTION in this country. She challenges us Canadians to think differently about the future of this country and how indigenous success affects all.

She is a woman of many firsts; in 1976, she was the first indigenous woman to earn a law degree from University of Western Ontario, from 1989-99 she was the first indigenous

woman as Ombudsman of Ontario, and from 2001-2004, she was the first woman elected Chief of the Six Nations of the Grand River Territory. Her current and past contributions span the fields of education, conflict resolution and indigenous self-government.

<https://www.nsb.com/speakers/roberta-jamieson/>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roberta_Jamieson

<https://web.archive.org/web/20160321230850/http://www.makers.com/roberta-l-jamieson>

<https://www.peacetalks.net/pt/roberta-jamieson/>

Dr. Joyce Barrett

A key peace figure in Peterborough in the early 2000s Dr. Barrett (1944-2014) co-founded an interfaith initiative in the wake of 9/11, known as The Abraham Festival, she also was active in Physicians for Global Responsibility and Kawartha Ploughshares doing advocacy against nuclear weapons and anti-ballistic missile defence system, among other causes.

Nov
27/04
Peterborough
Examiner

Peace medal awarded

By JACK MARCHEN
Examiner Staff Writer

During U.S. President George W. Bush's visit to Ottawa next week, Dr. Joyce Barrett will be among the thousands of people standing on Parliament Hill protesting the anti-ballistic missile defence system.

To underline her sincerity she will be wearing the Peterborough Family YMCA world peace medallion, presented to her yesterday before a gathering of about 80 people, some of whom will make the trip to Ottawa too.

"I'm just delighted and honoured, myself and Kawartha Ploughshares," she told The Examiner. "It's nice when peacemakers get credibility, and aren't just recognized as woolly-eyed idealists."

Barrett is a long standing member of Physicians for Global Responsibility for the prevention of nuclear war, and for the past



Clifford Skarstedt, Examiner

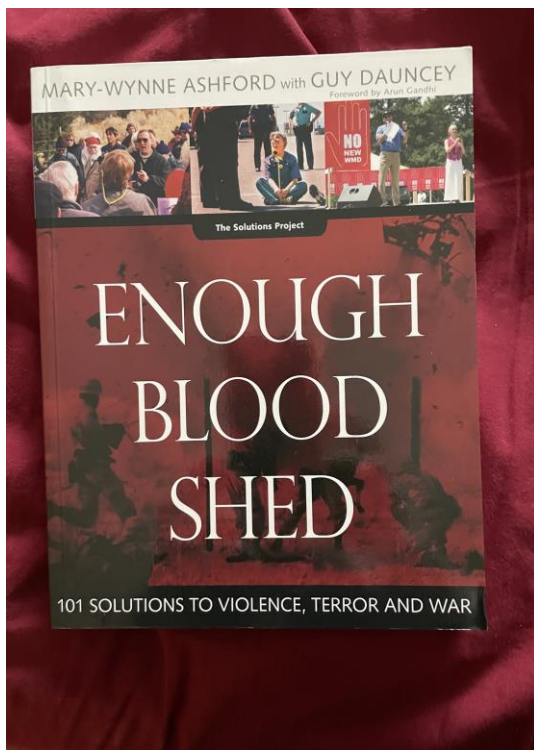
Joyce Barrett is this year's recipient for the YMCA World Peace Medallion to mark the YMCA World Peace Ceremony during a ceremony at the Peterborough YMCA on George Street yesterday morning.

decade has been co-chairwoman of the local peace group, Kawartha Ploughshares.

She was also recognized for her work in organizing awareness-raising events on Hiroshima Day and other special days, and her work with many organizations for the development of peace.

Barrett has also served as a board member for the YWCA and as a co-ordinator for YWCA tag days.

YMCA chief executive officer Bob Gallagher said the award pays tribute to groups or community members, who demonstrate a commitment to peace locally or overseas.



Synopsis of *Enough Blood Shed*

BC Activists, Dr. Mary-Wynne Ashford and Guy Dauncey collaborated to produce a list of 101 tools that could be used to reduce violent conditions and promote peaceful civil communities. The first 10 solutions are actions that individuals could take; the second 10 are “Solutions for Women”. Among the following 12 categories are 5 “Solutions for Religious Organizations”. Anyone who feels helpless and discouraged by current levels of warfare throughout Mother Earth will find at least 1 “solution” that empowers. My favourite was the emphasis upon gender differences between “oxytocin” and “testosterone”. My guess is that readers have heard more about the aggressive hormone (released in war) than the one that bonds (released in childbirth). My bet is that more peaceful outcomes would occur if more women were involved in peace negotiations, whatever the level of conflict.

Confronting Powers and Structures of Evil with Justice, Compassion, and the Transforming Power of Love

M. Elaine Harvey



About the author

M. Elaine Harvey, member of Kingston Unitarian Fellowship served as a representative to the Unitarian Universalist Association's United Nations Office from 1998-2003. In her Role she advocated for and Worked toward the UN's Formation of the International Criminal Court. The description of these efforts towards Peace are detailed in the book cover featured above.

Find the order details here for “Confronting Power Structures of Evil with Justice, Compassion and the Transforming Power of Love” by M. Elaine Harvey

Canadian Unitarian Women's Contribution to Peace through Music

Reverend Wendy Luella Perkins, community minister affiliated with Kingston Unitarian Church, has generously shared her phenomenal songs with us.

We ask that congregations who use her songs in their International Women's Day service, or any other service, to make a contribution to Wendy from their Sunday Services funds.

Wendy has indicated any amount, but we think the contribution should be commiserate with the size and resources of the congregation. She accepts e-transfers at info@wendyluellaperkins.com.

ABOUT WENDY LUELLA PERKINS and SUPPORTING HER MINISTRY

The Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins shares song through the oral tradition in a meditative practice she calls Soulful Singing. She has also been actively part of the peace movement in Kingston Ontario for many years (through PeaceQuest and PeaceSong). If you use one or more of these songs in your service, please let Wendy Luella know you did. Her livelihood is made entirely through sharing her music, so financial contributions to support her ministry are GRATEFULLY RECEIVED. Please send an e-transfer of any amount to: info@wendyluellaperkins.com. You can also find out about her daily online practice of Soulful Singing through contacting her as well. All are welcome to participate. Check out more of her music on TikTok: <https://www.tiktok.com/@wendyluellaperkins>

GUIDELINES FOR SHARING SONGS

From Wendy Luella: I invite song leaders to learn the songs by ear themselves from the TikTok videos. They are short, repetitive songs that make their way into your heart and memory quite quickly. Once learned, during the service you can teach the song to the congregation call and response. Then sing the song several times all together (at least 3 or 4, but ideally more if possible to cultivate meditative singing). As folks become familiar with the song, you might add some spontaneous harmonies for a couple of rounds. I tend to rely on the oral tradition, but if you have a projection device, feel free to project the lyrics. Please credit me as the song-writer as indicated below. Many thanks!

Meditation Song

TO LOVE I DO RETURN
(c) 2022 Wendy Luella Perkins

To love, I do return
To love, I do return
When my heart breaks open
To this broken world
To love, I do return

I wrote this song within days of Russia invading Ukraine in February 2022. It is a zipper song, so I often sing LOVE, PEACE, CARING, JUSTICE, etc.
<https://www.tiktok.com/@wendyluellaperkins/video/7068384884389055749>

A good song for after the sermon

PEACE IS THE WAY
(c) 2018 Wendy Luella Perkins

Peace is both the destination
and peace is, peace is the way
the way we think
the way we speak
the way we live
live each day

I wrote this song as part of PeaceSong the community arts group I led for several years. It is inspired by Thich Nhat Hahn's book "Peace is the Way".
<https://www.tiktok.com/@wendyluellaperkins/video/7291788776379010310>

Benediction Song

BLESSED BE, BE A BLESSING
(c) 2023 Wendy Luella Perkins

Blessed be and be a blessing
Go forth in peace
Blessed be and be a blessing
Go forth in peace
Peace, peace, peace, peace
Peace, peace, peace, peace
Go forth in peace

The words on Tiktok are slightly different, but I sing it the way written above as well and the tune is easily adapted. Can't actually remember how this song came to me.
<https://www.tiktok.com/@wendyluellaperkins/video/7142878228548439302>

**FUN FACTS ABOUT CANADIAN UNITARIAN WOMEN
MUSIC DIRECTORS AND THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS
TOWARDS PEACE**

Did you know Rev. Wendy Luella Perkins holds a "Soulful Singing" Zoom session every morning at 9am EST (and Thursday evenings)?

It has been going on since the beginning of COVID, March 20, 2020.

If you are interested in trying it out, contact Wendy Luella at info@wendyluellaperkins.com

-From Sandra Hunt, Director of music at the Unitarian Church of Montreal

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I consider my current activities towards peace as represented by the performance school that my husband, myself, and two other colleagues created. The Montreal Unitarian church sponsor the group by providing rent at a discount. The mandate of the school, Ensemble de violoncelles de Montreal is to give professional and musical training to young children who could not normally afford this kind of education. The school now has 33 students who come from at least 13 different countries all over the world. Our community is close and supportive. We think it's a wonderful example of diverse people getting along in the shared vision of making music together. We also recognize that people respond very positively and joyously to our group when reading about them or listening to their beautiful performances.

<https://www.cellomontreal.ca/bonjour>

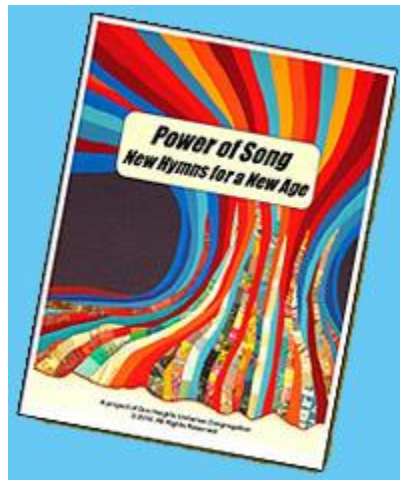


*Did you know, Suzanne Maziarz,
Director of Music from Neighbourhood
Unitarian Universalist Church in Toronto
leads a choir that sings regularly for
patients in palliative care units, called
Comfort Choir?*

<https://www.nuuc.ca/comfort-choir/>

*Did you know Donna Young, Director of
Music at Unitarian Church of
Vancouver, directs the “Chalice Choir”?*

*Did you know Sheila White, Music Director
for Don Heights Unitarian Church, has
written a song/hymn book called
“Power of Song: New Songs for a New Age”?*



<https://donheights.ca/music/>

Thank you for reading this IWD resource packet. Please let us know how you used this packet in your local church IWD service by emailing cuuwateam@gmail.com so we can know what speaks to people.