

Reflections on Mothers Day History Day 2020

Thoughts in these times of stillness...Mothers and Others For Peace: Diane Scott, Sue Piha, Cynthia Robinson, Marilyn Myles, Kathleen Perry, Susan Messer

We are on an epic journey affecting all habits, all people, all countries, and all economies as we endure a viral pandemic. As in the 1870's after the U.S Civil War, when women were concerned with preventing international warfare, today we are concerned as to the causes of war: inequalities, consumerism, inattention to the common good.

In this sixth year, Mothers and Others For Peace honors Mothers Day History Day, the Saturday before Mothers Day; proclaimed in 2016 by Senator Don Harmon in the Illinois General Assembly. Senator Harmon gifted every legislator with a copy of the Julia Ward Howe Proclamation to All Women to Protest War.

Before the “shelter in place” order, MOFP together with the Oak Park Public Library and sponsored by the League of Women Voters of Oak Park River Forest, had planned an event to demonstrate the Circle Process at the library. All who might attend the event could participate as an experience of peaceful conflict resolution. We were excited and then, like so many other events, we had to cancel Watch for us as life unfolds and we return to events of more than ten people.

To me, Mothers Day will always mean Mothers Day History Day and Julia Ward Howe's call to women to protest war. On that note, consumerism and impulsiveness contradict the Abraham Lincoln quote: “the better angels of us all.” We can learn how to spend wisely with the common good of all humanity and the earth as our guide.

Mothers and Others For Peace, Mary Rose Lambke