

Another Mother for Peace

Spring 2010



For my Mother's Day gift this year, I don't want candy or flowers, I want an end to killing. We who have given life must be dedicated to preserving it. Please talk peace. That loud and clear message that 200,000 of us sent to Washington D.C. in 1967 continues to be our rallying cry on this Mother's Day, 2010.

Over the past year, many of us have felt as though we were falling down a rabbit hole, with endless uncertainties about the economy and jobs, hostile opposition toward caring for our citizens' health, and severe cuts in education and human services. Even the fictional Alice learns through her misadventures that a society without justice is tyranny. And now there is a "tea party" that even the weirdest Mad Hatter would find nonsensical. But like the ever transforming Alice, the imagination and perseverance of many women in our midst have given new life to familiar forms of protest.

One of these creative forces for peace is Carol Wells, director of the Center for the Study of Political Graphics (www.politicalgraphics.org). Want to follow the history of a movement for social change, or find artistic commentary about war anywhere on Earth? The unique CSPG, founded by Carol Wells in 1988, is the only educational and research archive in the world that collects, preserves and circulates posters relating to human rights and protest movements. At more than 300 venues in North America and Europe, their traveling exhibitions have demonstrated the significance of artistic expression as protest and celebration, and the power of art to inspire people to action.

Carol Wells believes that the power of graphics can combat public apathy and feelings of hopelessness. "Artists use the power of posters to reveal what politicians try to hide," she so insightfully points out. Among the 70,000 domestic and international posters dating from 1900 to the present, CSPG's collection includes our iconic AMP poster by Lorraine Schneider. Recognizing the enduring relevance of "War is Not Healthy for Children and Other Living Things" to nonviolent resistance through art, the Center has included it in numerous publications and exhibits, most recently in *Art Against Empire: Graphic Responses to U.S Intervention Since World War II*.

According to Carol, CSPG's profound and timely 2003 exhibit, *The Anti War Show: U.S. Interventions from Korea to Iraq*, "carried the same hope that if enough people were inspired to action, the war could be prevented." And to those of you who think the usefulness of protest is over, she has this to say, "Why protest unless you think it will make a difference? To anyone who thinks that protest art and protest don't make a difference, I have one response: Just think how much worse it would be if we didn't protest – if we didn't keep trying to make the world a better place."

Christine Schuler Deschryver is doing just that. She became a peace activist in 2000 when an 18-month old child died in her arms from being repeatedly raped. Christine, you see, lives in the

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Democratic Republic of Congo and since 1996, “a mix of ethnic, commercial, nationalist and criminal interests,”¹ have turned the country’s eastern states into a perpetual battlefield on which five million people have died. A persistent weapon in this on-going conflict has been rape. UNICEF estimates that more than 200,000 women (and a number of men) have been victims of sexualized violence often followed by murder.

Christine is now the Congo Director for **VDay**, the international campaign to end violence against women and girls, founded by Eve Ensler (author of *The Vagina Monologues*). Three years ago, UNICEF partnered with VDay in a campaign — Stop Raping our Greatest Resource — to educate the world about the sexual terrorism going on in the Congo (<http://drc.vday.org>). Christine has toured the United States, worked with grassroots Congolese women’s organizations committed to ending the violence, and is overseeing construction of **City of Joy**, a shelter for Congolese rape victims who cannot return to their homes.

Christine was also present last August when U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton visited eastern Congo promising \$17 million in aid. The outspoken activist complained to Clinton about the number of high-ranking officials who have toured the region, never to be heard from again.

“In the end, all we got was a pile of business cards,” she lamented. “Madame Secretary, we want you to be our spokesperson, our voice,”² a plea she repeated in a Newsweek essay published in October.

Because of her public opposition to the sexual violence, armed U.N. soldiers must now travel with Christine wherever she goes. But death threats are not the first thing on her mind. “The most important thing now,” she says, “is that the international community realizes that there’s a holocaust, to wake up and try to change something.”³

Holding the brutalized toddler in her arms that day, Christine thought about taking her own children and fleeing to the West. Instead, she joined the struggle to bring attention to eastern Congo’s living hell and provide relief for its victims. “It’s a deep feeling you have inside,” she says, “not to give up [on] the people, to stay with them.”⁴

So, in those moments when we might identify with Alice’s complaint that “there’s no use trying — one can’t believe in impossible things,” please reflect on the change that even small steps of activism can accomplish. To Alice’s pessimism, remember the White Queen’s response: “I daresay you haven’t had much practice... when I was younger, I always did it for half an hour a day. Why, sometimes I’ve believed in as many as six impossible things before breakfast.”

Join us — mothers and all who work towards a peaceful Earth for sons and daughters everywhere — in continuing to protest and believe in the possible. Peace is still the gift we want for Mother’s Day.



PHOTOS BY PAULA ALLEN / V-DAY

1. Gettleman, J. (August 9, 2009). Clinton presents plan to fight sexual violence in Congo. *New York Times*.

2. Ibid.

3. Democracy Now! (October 8, 2007). Interview with Christine Schuler Deschryver.

4. VDay Activist Spotlights. Interview with Christine Schuler Deschryver. <http://www.vday.org/node/237>

Peace Homework

Thank you, supporters, for sending our postcards to President Obama urging him to "Bring our troops home and take care of them."

Here's what else you can do:

- ✓ Donate political posters to the Center for the Study of Political Graphics (cspg@politicalgraphics.org) and help continue their work for social justice and peace.
- ✓ Tell your senators and representative to co-sponsor the newly introduced bill to establish a timetable for withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan: H.R. 5015/ S. 3197. If passed it would allow Congress a fundamental vote on the direction of our foreign policy.
- ✓ Ask your members of congress to co-sponsor the International Violence Against Women Act, H.R. 4594/ S. 2982. If passed, our government would have to respond to outbreaks of gender-based violence (like the mass rapes occurring in the Congo), put violence-reduction solutions into foreign assistance, and make ending violence against women a diplomatic priority. For more information, go to www.amnestyusa.org or womenthrive.org and enter IVAWA in the search box.
- ✓ Insist on support for thousands of trained Congolese women police officers. Write to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton and ask her to allocate funding for training women to protect their sisters in the bush. U.S. Department of State, 2201 C Street NW, Washington DC 20520.

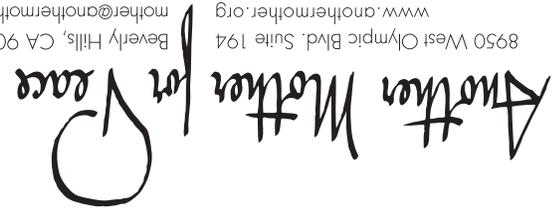
DID YOU KNOW ?

- ✓ According to a 2008 RAND Study, only half of the returning soldiers from Iraq and Afghanistan suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and depression have sought help, and half of those report receiving "minimally adequate" treatment.
- ✓ The US Congressional Quarterly reports that more US military personnel committed suicide in 2009 than had been killed in wars in Iraq and Afghanistan the same year. 20 veterans each week killed themselves in 2005, according to a 2007 CBS investigation, a rate 2-4 times higher than 20-24 year olds' civilian peers.
- ✓ Surviving soldiers' realization that they may not have needed to fight an unnecessary war is a contributing factor in depression. "If we send men and women to battle under false pretenses, our responsibility to care for them afterward is even greater." (Julia Baird, *The Moral Weight of War*, *Newsweek*, April 5, 2010)
- ✓ 98,000 American troops remain in Iraq. Andrew Tyndall, who tracks news broadcasts, found that during January and February of this year, there was only one report from a correspondent about the Iraq War on a major network's nightly news.



I JOIN WITH MY SISTERS IN EVERY LAND IN THE PAX MATERNA – PERMANENT DECLARATION OF PEACE THAT TRANSCENDS OUR IDEOLOGICAL DIFFERENCES. IN THE NUCLEAR SHADOW, WAR IS OBSOLETE. I WILL NO LONGER SUFFER IT IN SILENCE NOR SUSTAIN IT BY COMPLICITY. THEY SHALL NOT SEND MY SON TO FIGHT ANOTHER MOTHER'S SON. FOR NOW, FOREVER, THERE IS NO MOTHER WHO IS ENEMY TO ANOTHER MOTHER.

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Another Mother for Peace is a non-profit, non-partisan association dedicated to eliminating the use of war as a means of solving disputes among nations, people and ideologies.



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EDITORIAL BOARD

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Bring the Message of Peace to the Next Generation.

Another Mother for Peace now has T-shirts for toddlers in sizes 2, 4 and 6. These are high-quality 100% cotton garments manufactured in the U.S.A. in a "sweat-shop free" environment, carefully tailored in a lightweight knit to fit any active youth. In white with the "War is not healthy for children and other living things" logo silk-screened on the chest by union workers.



\$16 plus shipping and handling.

Size Guide	Size:	2	4	6
	Full body length:	15.5"	16.625"	17.75"
	Chest width:	12.625"	13.625"	14.625"

Peace Materials

Medallion \$15.00

"War is not healthy for children and other living things" logo, approximately 1" x 1 1/4". Available in gold or silver metallic finish.



Embroidered Patch \$5.00

Our beautiful "War is not healthy..." sunflower logo on a 3" x 3 1/2" patch to sew or iron on.

Note Cards \$15.00

Boxed set of 10 cards with matching envelopes. "War is not healthy..." color logo on front, blank inside.

Letter Seals \$2.00

40 self-adhesive seals per sheet. Stamp-size seals with "War is not healthy..." logo. Put these on your mail (and everything else!).

Pax Materna Poster \$15.00

Original AMP purple poster (4 3/4" x 34") from 1985. "No mother is enemy to another mother" and "War is not healthy..." logo in 18 languages. On the back is our Pax Materna.

Toddler Fine Jersey T \$16.00

Tailored in lightweight knit to fit any active youth. 100% cotton.

Prices do not include tax or shipping. Visit www.anothermother.org for a complete list of our Peace Materials and to order online.