

Another Mother for Peace

May 2011



“FOR MY MOTHER’S DAY GIFT THIS YEAR, I DON’T WANT CANDY OR FLOWERS, I WANT AN END TO KILLING ...”

Forty-four years later, we are still as dedicated to preserving peace as we were in the midst of the Vietnam War, when AMP’s first action was to send a Mother’s Day card to Washington D.C. with our bright yellow sunflower design and this statement of conscience, which continued “We who have given life must be dedicated to preserving it. Please talk peace.”

From all across the country, 200,000 cards were mailed to the President and members of Congress. Thus began one of the most significant nonviolent protest movements in recent history – and it was women and mothers who made it happen.

As we head into our ninth year of war in Iraq and mark ten years in Afghanistan – with a new conflagration now in Libya – military deaths have reached nearly 6,000 with more than 67,000 soldiers wounded. These wars have killed untold numbers of civilians as well, though the Pentagon has refused to disclose any figures because, says Gen. Tommy Franks, “We don’t do body counts.”

Even as the human and financial toll rises, PEACE – that beautiful five-letter word – was barely uttered by our President in his State of the Union address this year. What was the most pressing issue? Reflective of our economy, which is so impacted by the trillions spent on war, in the official count of words used 12 or more times, number one was WORK.

Few realize that work was integral to the founding of Mother’s Day. In the years before the Civil War, a woman named Ann Marie Jarvis organized Mothers’ Day Work Clubs throughout West Virginia to improve health and sanitary conditions. The clubs raised money for medicine, hired women to work for families in which the mothers suffered from tuberculosis, and inspected bottled milk and food.

During the Civil War, the clubs, declaring their neutrality, provided food, medical care, and clothing to soldiers from both the North and South. When soldiers returned home at the end of the war, Ann Jarvis organized a Mothers’ Friendship Day to reunite soldiers and neighbors of all political persuasions. It was an annual event for several years.

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In 1870, Julia Ward Howe issued her famous Mother's Day Proclamation, but we honor mothers on the second Sunday of May because after Ann Jarvis' died in May, 1905, her daughter Anna lobbied government officials to make Mother's Day a national holiday, a goal achieved in 1914. Anna then spent the rest of her life battling the commercialization of Mother's Day that undermined its intent.

On this Mother's Day, AMP believes that the link between PEACE and WORK has never been stronger, and actual work will come about when our nation's economic priority is jobs, not war. But with the U.S. fighting endless wars to assure access to resources, such as oil, which are then squandered fighting those wars, the immense number of jobs that could be created by developing energy alternatives go missing.

Changing this priority is monumentally challenging in our current political environment. As one of our supporters, Sharon Pratt of South West Michigan writes:

"Would AMP consider extending its scope of peace beyond the usual understanding of the term 'war' to also include bringing civility and reason to our own political arena? Though not an armed conflict – the anger, accusations and demonizing that go on here are in a way a form of war, with casualties that are not lives but rather the pervasive loss of respect, cooperation, compassion and understanding – forgetting in the process our underlying moral principles to act humanely. As I have been saddened by the turn our country has taken, I remembered Another Mother for Peace and when its mission offered me a place to be."

A great idea, Sharon, and yes, for Mother's Day this year, we honor work, CIVILITY, and peace.

We still have much WORK to do, and maybe in the President's next State of the Union address, PEACE will be back up at the top of the word list.

Peace Homework

Ask your congressperson to co-sponsor legislation introduced by Representative Roscoe Bartlett (MD) to stop funding military action in Libya. H.R. 1323 would "...require the President to recommend specific reductions in nonsecurity discretionary appropriations for fiscal year 2011 to offset the costs of military operations in Libya." The bill is cosponsored by Representatives Harris (MD), Jones (NC), Kucinich (OH), and Paul (TX).

Take Action: Urge your Representative to co-sponsor Roscoe Bartlett's legislation to stop funding military action in Libya.

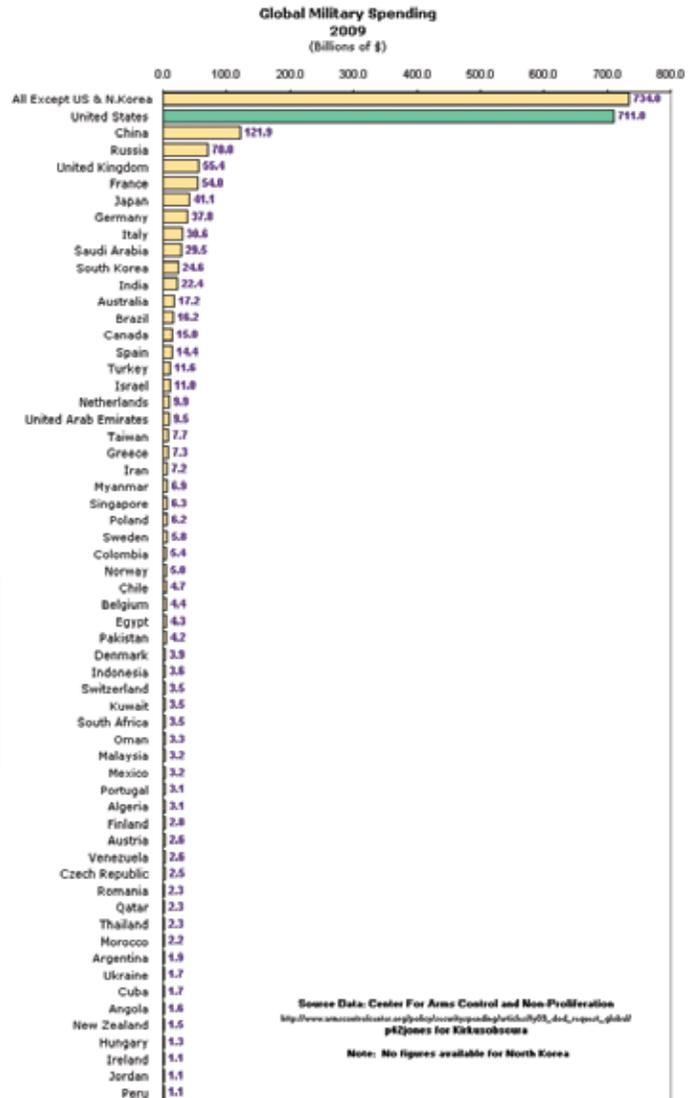
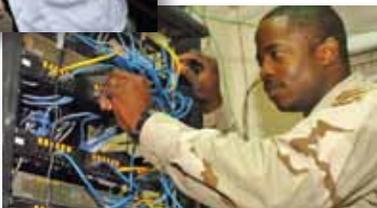
DID YOU KNOW ?

√ Less than two weeks of funding for the U.S. led war in Libya is equivalent to 13 years of funding for the United States Institute of Peace, which is currently at risk of having its \$42 million per year operational budget dramatically slashed by Congress.



√ Of the \$1.53 trillion dollars spent globally on military expenditures, more than half is spent by the United States.

√ How many jobs would \$1 billion in federal spending create? 19,759 in mass transit...17,687 in education...12,833 in healthcare...8,555 in the military.



√ On Facebook, AMP's subscribers have made over 14,000 "views" of our articles and peace actions just since January 1.



Peace Materials



Medallion \$15.00

◀ “War is not healthy for children and other living things” logo, approximately 1” x 1¼”. Available in gold or silver metallic finish.



Note Cards \$15.00

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

Pax Materna Poster \$15.00

◀ Original AMP poster (4¾” 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.



Embroidered Patch \$5.00

◀ Our beautiful “War is not healthy...” sunflower logo on a 3” x 3½” patch to sew or iron on.



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!).

Toddler Fine Jersey T \$16.00

◀ 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.



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



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

Another Mother for Peace

www.anothermother.org mother@anothermother.org
 8950 W. Olympic Blvd., Box 194, Beverly Hills, CA 90211-3575
 (800) 763-4670 (310) 335-4925

EDITORIAL BOARD
 Carol J. Schneider, Susan Schneider,
 Sarah Forth, Bill Donnelly

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.

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.

“War is Not Healthy for Children and Other Living Things” and Sunflower design, Lorraine Schneider ©
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