

Believing Women for a Culture of Peace News & Events Updates – 12 October 2012

FOR REFLECTION....

Yesterday, 11 October, was the very first International Day of the Girl. In announcing this commemoration, the United Nations indicated its plan to address girl marriage and other forms of discrimination against and exploitation of girls. Worldwide, one out of seven girls is married before the age of 15. As one commentator pointed out, "While the oppression of girls perpetuates a cycle of poverty, the empowerment of girls has a ripple effect that strengthens families, communities, countries, and ultimately the world."

NEWS UPDATES

BWCP Annual General Meeting

With Manijeh Monsef's friendly chairing, we were able to move efficiently through the business part of the meeting, including acceptance of one new member and presentation of the annual activities and finance reports. A copy of the activities report will be attached or included with this newsletter. If you would like a copy of the finance report please contact Wendy. There were 10 nominations for the Coordinating Committee, all of them were willing to accept and all were voted in. They are Nora Amath, Wendy Flannery, Fenti Forsyth, Sarah Mehmet, Manijeh Monsef, Azima Omar, Carole Powell, Margot Salom, Linda Ward and Sue Zaphir. As per our Constitution, they will decide the officer bearers for the coming year at their first meeting.

Julieanne Hupalo's presentation on the sufi tradition of the Nematollahi order was very much appreciated. Her focus was on the spiritual practice of being connected to heart energy/God energy in the whole of one's life, and in this way being authentic in one's belief no matter what one's faith. After a short introduction, her approach was one that encouraged and facilitated dialogue. During the lengthy afternoon tea which is a feature of all our AGMs, Julieanne played a selection of sufi music featuring female voices.

BWCP Website

Those who have tried to access our website for information will have been frustrated by the fact that it hasn't been regularly updated. This is about to change. Julieanne Hupalo has offered to provide this service for us and will begin next Monday, 15 October. We congratulate the Northside Interfaith Group who are about to launch their website.

Visit to Boonah

Definite plans are now in place for a representative BWCP group to travel to Boonah again and participate in an event being organised by the local Anglican study group whom four of us met with on 8th September. The aim is to provide an opportunity for the wider public in Boonah and surrounding communities to be informed about and engage with multi-faith and multicultural concerns. The date set for the event is Saturday 23rd February, and it will commence with a luncheon. Our hope is that up to 12 BWCP members and contacts will volunteer to be part of the event. More information will be available later.

EVENTS UPDATE

Sunday 25 November

BWCP Christmas celebration. This will be our last event for 2012. It is a family event, and traditionally includes special activities for children. A special notice will be sent out once the venue is confirmed.

Venue to be arranged. **Time:** 11.30am – 3.00pm.

Sunday 25 November

For many years BWCP has been involved in a special activity on this day, the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women. When the new Coordinating Committee meets for the first time, it will propose an activity in which we can all be involved.

OTHER EVENTS OF INTEREST

Wednesday 17 October

In conjunction with PaCSIA (Peace and Conflict Studies Institute Australia), the Multi-Faith Centre is holding a **Community Dialogue between Faith Leaders and representatives of the Queensland Police Service**. Special guests include the Police Commissioner Bob Atkinson and the incoming Commissioner Ian Stewart. The event seeks to reinforce relationships between the Police and the Faith Community; provides the opportunity for an exchange of ideas around the perceptions of police within the community; and showcases the appropriate mechanisms to deal with community-based conflicts. Light refreshments will be available. Please RSVP to mfc@griffith.edu.au, call (07) 3735 7052.

Venue & time: Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University Nathan Campus, 3.30 – 5.30pm.

Friday 19 – Sunday 21 October

A Goddess Conference is being held at the Southport Community Centre, Gold Coast. More information is available at www.goddessassociation.com.au. Newly-elected BWCP Committee member, Linda Ward, of the Pagan Awareness Network, will be speaking on the Friday afternoon on “**Ethical Shopping**”.

Thursday 8 November

The annual Abrahamic Faiths concert – One God, Many Voices. Everyone is invited to this evening of Jewish, Christian and Muslim Sacred Voices and Music. The Concert will be followed by a wonderful Kosher-Halal supper. Entry is FREE and free parking is available after 7pm. RSVP by 29 October to the Multi-Faith Centre 3735 7052 or mfc@griffith.edu.au.

Venue & time: Multi-Faith Centre, Griffith University Nathan Campus, 7.30pm.