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CELEBRATING 35 YEARS

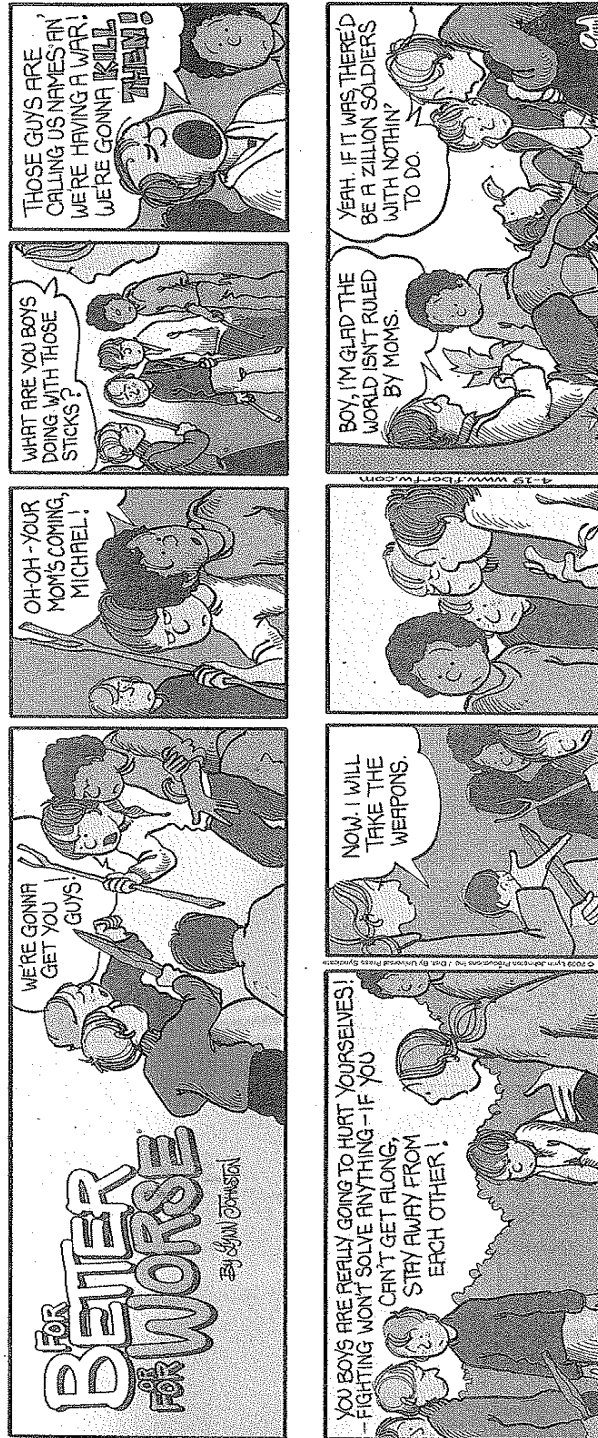
8th Day Center for Justice
*A Catholic Faith-based NGO
 for Social Change*



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**SOWING SEEDS
 TRANSFORMING TOMORROW**

Local contact:



Mother's Day and Peace



Julia Ward Howe 1819-1910

In 1872, in reaction to the carnage of the Civil War, Julia Ward Howe, a Boston poet, pacifist, suffragist, and author of the lyrics to the "Battle Hymn of the Republic," organized a day **encouraging mothers to rally for peace and against war**, since she believed they bore the loss of human life

more harshly than anyone else. Howe wrote the following "Mother's Day Proclamation" for the occasion. Howe's efforts are a landmark in the history of Mother's Day.

Mother's Day Proclamation

by Julia Ward Howe, 1870, Boston

Arise, then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be that of water or of tears!

Say firmly: "We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

Blood does not wipe out dishonor nor violence indicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plow and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of counsel. Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.

Let them then solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after their own time the sacred impress, not of Caesar, but of God.

In the name of womanhood and of humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held at some place deemed most convenient and at the earliest period consistent with its objects, to promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace.

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Fifteen years before Howe's proclamation, Anna Jarvis, an Appalachian homemaker, organized a day to raise awareness of poor health conditions in her community, a cause she believed would be best advocated by mothers. She called it "Mother's Work Day."

In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson proclaimed the second Sunday in May as a national holiday in honor of mothers. He did so at the urging of Anna Jarvis's daughter, also called Anna. Before she died in 1948, Anna is said to have confessed that she regretted ever starting the mother's day tradition because she believed that the day's sentiment was being sacrificed at the expense of greed and profit.

Today, the second Sunday of May has become the most popular day of the year to dine out, and telephone lines record their highest traffic, as sons and daughters everywhere take advantage of this day to honor and to express appreciation of their mothers.

How will you celebrate Mother's Day this year?

ACTION

The staff and friends of the 8th Day Center for Justice have conducted a weekly peace vigil at the Chicago Federal Building since Sept. 2001. To date, we have distributed over 200,000 peace leaflets.

You may wish to use this leaflet and other 8th Day peace leaflets for your own peace vigils, in classrooms, education etc. They can be downloaded and printed from www.8thdaycenter.org/resources/leaflets.html