

Lifting the 'curious spell of war'

A singing seminar

recalling women's peace making 1914-19

presented by



28 November 2019



Words and music from The People's Passion

by Glenda Cloughley

Seminar development for the Australian War Memorial

Dr Janet Salisbury • Dr Glenda Cloughley • Meg Rigby Helen Pilkinton • Sarah Stitt • Johanna McBride

a chorus of women

Musical Direction

Johanna McBride assisted by Meg Rigby

the chorus today ...

Barbara Moore • Glenda Cloughley • Helen Pilkinton • Jan Perry • Janet Kay Janet Salisbury • Jenny Robinson • Johanna McBride • Kate Champion Kirsten Anker • Meg Rigby • Merilyn Jenkins • Nola McKeon • Sarah Stitt Sue Hoffmann • Tanya Mark • Wilma Davidson

with

Chris Latham, Australian War Memorial Musician-in-Residence – violin Lucus Allerton – keyboard • John Smiles – alto flute

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www.chorusofwomen.org

The Australian War Memorial holds a video recording of this presentation in its Collection

Introduction – Janet Salisbury

Good evening – I am Janet Salisbury and it is a pleasure to welcome you all on behalf of A Chorus of Women.

We acknowledge the traditional owners of the land where we meet, and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging, noting that sovereignty has never been ceded.

Thank you, Dr Nelson, for inviting us here again today and for your introduction. We stand here as women, in this space named as it is after an armaments manufacturer, to bring you a different story of the world to the one that led to the building of this memorial.

Our story is the history behind *The People's Passion* - a major choral work by Glenda Cloughley, which we have performed in different adaptations in 2015, 2018 and 2019. Weaving narrative with excerpts of Glenda's music, we recall the forgotten story of

- The women who held the only peace congress of the first world war
- The reconciliatory basis for permanent peace that they developed
- And how they saved the lives of millions of children facing starvation after the war

It is a story about peace making, internationalism and women.

Most of you will not have heard it before because it has been omitted from the history books, which focus on military battles, nationalism and men.

Today we recommend those women's detailed records to the Australian War Memorial - and to our politicians and defence leaders. Their potent methods provide a model for shifting the paradigm of military security for states towards a sustaining life-giving regenerative story of human security and justice for people and planet.

Our title — Lifting 'the curious spell of war' — comes from a statement by 1931 Nobel Peace prize winner Jane Addams – who you'll hear about shortly.

Glenda will first give us a personal reflection on the themes of her work on *The People's Passion*. Then we will tell the story of those inspiring women.

Johanna, who was herself a refugee from Hungary in 1956, will conclude with a personal reflection bringing us back into 2019.

We start with a song of invocation from our April 2015 performances at Albert Hall, with children from Arawang Primary School. It acknowledges that every one of us is here because people nurtured life well enough down our ancestral lineages.

Like them, we sing the harmony on for our great great great grandchildren.

Performance video excerpt from A Passion for Peace – Women's Chorus and Children's Chorus sing the invocation:

THE CIRCLES OF LOVE We call through time the memories and dreams of the circles of love that sing our lives around and round

As the seasons of Earth and measures of Moon turn children into parents who grow children – around and round

Like the song of peace in the egg of mother dove may our Passion bring harmony!

Two Stories of the World – Glenda Cloughley

We begin from a statement the Swiss analytical psychologist Carl Gustav Jung made in 1933. At the time, Dr Jung was wondering how a repetition of world war and catastrophic individual and cultural trauma might be averted.

He said: 'Sooner or later it will be found that nothing really 'new' happens in history. There could be talk of something really novel only if the unimaginable happened: if reason, humanity and love won a lasting victory'.

We come to you carrying the imagination of that victory.

We come to you carrying a lineage of reason, humanity and love across the generations.

We come to introduce you to some of our life-nurturing great grandmothers.



The first of them is Margery Cloughley, the mother of my father's father.

Here she is with her Alexander on their wedding day in 1892.

They created a lively, musical family in the little town of Riverton on the south coast of New Zealand's South Island.

Here is the memorial to the 80 young ANZACs from Riverton and District who were killed in the First World War. In 1916, the population of Riverton was 836.



WWI memorial Riverton, New Zealand



1916 population: 836 1914 – 1918: 80 war dead

We go to a night in 1919. My great grandma Margery is sitting at home in the quiet night. She is singing lulays to the youngest of her eight children who is snuffly and sick. Everyone else is asleep.



George and Lex – two of her three oldest sons – are home from the war.

They never sing now. She thinks of the nights George wakes them all, screaming an anguish that clings to the walls, vibrating when she is alone. She feels the terror that sometimes leaps from him into her heart.

She thinks of Lionel in his grave in The Somme, where they all fought.

In the morning, she will bake for the Bonifaces next door. Their son was killed too.

As she cries, she draws the little one to herself to protect him from all that. And she thinks again about the two stories of the world that dwell under their one roof now. Surely, the kindly story that nurtures life will prevail. The other story destroys life.

In the lyrics of The People's Passion I wrote:

Great grandma's three sons Were dreamers and singers Before they went to war

But the youngest was killed And the two who came home Never dreamed, never sang again

Everyone is wondering: how can reason, humanity and love prevail?

How do we regenerate the first, kindly story of the world?

Well, war did not deter Margery. The lulays kept bubbling up from the same wellsprings that power the big story we will tell you about a worldwide web of thousands of women. *The Chorus sings:*

THE WELLSPRINGS

Lulay, lulay Lulay, lulay

Threads of memory and dream We spin in the web From The Wellsprings we bring Songs for children and Earth

Singing night to day death to birth Lament to lulay sorrow to mirth Calling fathers and mothers sisters and brothers To turn our ears to the heartbeat of The Wellsprings

With hands on hearts, the Chorus women make the heartbeat rhythm

Hear the heartbeats drumming Hear the rivers running Hear the undercurrents Beneath our feet

In the Great Below The Songs of Life still flow! Harmony resounds now Springs of human kindness stream out past war and trauma!

The Spirits of the Wellsprings never die away They are the mothers of the Songs of Life

When our loved ones fall The Wellsprings flow down deep Far from the green of the sprouting seeds Then our love for the children calls them home again

In the black and silver night before the light Singing lay lulay lulay This is Jane Addams, one of A Chorus of Women's *spiritual* great grandmothers. She expressed the 'wellspring' principle as a potent axiom about the active nature of peace when she said:

> Peace is not merely an absence of war Peace is the nurture of human life



Our spiritual great grandmothers enacted the first story of the world on the global stage as resolutely as Margery sang it into her babies. But millions of their men were trapped in the other story of the world: in the awful, intergenerational march of Traumatime. *The Chorus sings:*

TRAUMA LAW

Men from Australia Men from New Zealand trusting commanders of empires and armies

who cut nature's cycles though there is no future if the roundabout turns around war and revenge For the law of revenge takes eye after eye Unseen and unseeing Blind making blind

The compassionless law of trauma breeds trauma – war after war within and without

HOW SHALL WE STOP THE TRAUMATIME MARCH?

Ah! No nurture of life war after war! How shall we stop The Traumatime March?

You cut nature's cycles war after war! How shall we stop The Traumatime March?

No empathy No harmony No sympathy No sanctuary

You're blind and deaf to children and Earth! How shall we move from death to rebirth?

Trauma breeds trauma War after war Trauma! War! How shall we stop The Traumatime March?

Christmas Letters – Meg Rigby

At the outbreak of the First World War, there existed an international network of women drawn together by the issue of women's suffrage – the right to vote – and other social issues. This meant that women in countries on different sides of the war knew each other. They grieved for each other's loved ones as well as their own.



THE AUSTRALIAN CHORUS

To the women of all nations – enemies and friends alike who know that life is sacred – Let us all refuse to give our children for this slaughter!

The People's Passion

In Australia, Vida Goldstein, owner-editor of the Melbourne-based *Woman Voter*, wrote a piece for that newspaper on 11 August 1914 – which was the week that Australia went into the First World War. She said:

'I think that it is a fearful reflection on 2000 years of Christianity that men have rushed into war.

'The time has come for women to show that they, as givers of life, refuse to give their sons as material for slaughter, and that they recognise that human life must be the first consideration of nations.'

Many people know the story of the 'Christmas truce' of 1914, when British and German soldiers laid down their arms and met in 'no man's land' between the trenches, played soccer together, sang carols and shared food and cigarettes.

Less well known is a remarkable exchange of letters that occurred between prominent English and German suffragists and pacifists, also at Christmas 1914. These women, whose menfolk were fighting each other, were able to reach out with love and compassion to women from the other side of the war. But communication between the warring countries was not allowed. Not deterred by this, German women activists sent two letters via the Suffrage Alliance in America, which was at that time a neutral nation.

The letters were published in the journal of the Alliance.

THE GERMAN CHORUS

We send warm hearty greetings to the women of all nations In these wretched, bloody times





Dr Anita Augspurg



Lida Gustava Heymann

One was written by Anita Augspurg, and Lida Heymann in Berlin, the other by Klara Zetkin in Munich.

'To the women of all nations, warm and hearty greetings in these wretched and bloody times ...

'True humanity knows no national hatred, no national contempt ... The blood of dead and wounded must not become a stream to divide what present need and future hope unite.'

In response to the letters from Germany, Emily Hobhouse organised the writing and signing of a letter from British women. She saw in the German letters the opportunity for maintaining vital international relations among women during the war. 101 women signed Emily's letter.



Emily Hobhouse

THE BRITISH CHORUS

... Solemnly, we greet the 'enemy' and sing for peace and goodwill among nations

	nsoli
	io juq
May Christmas hasten that day. Peace on Earth	h is gone, but by renewal of our faith that it still
	strengthen both you and us and all womanhood to
strive for its return.	stongenen som yet and at an and at somethood to
We are yours in this sisterhood of sorrow,	
EMILY HOBIOUSE.	"CONSTANCE SMEDLEY" (Mrs. Armfield).
HELEN BRIGHT CLARK (Mrs. W. CLARK). Sophia Sturge.	HELEN WEBB, M.B. LUCY GARDNER.
LILY STURGE.	H. FRANKLIN (Mrs.)
The Hon, Lady Barlow. Margaret G. Bondfield.	ELIZABETH HELEN FORD.
MARY TREVELYAN (Mrs. CHARLES TREVELYAN).	E. SYLVIA PANKHURST. LAURA G. ACKROYD (Sub-Editor of Inquirer),
ISABELLA A. ROWNTREE (Mrs. JOSHUA ROWN-	NORA O'SHEA.
TREE).	MARGARET BRACKENBURY CROOK.
NORA HOBHOUSE (Mrs. LEONARD HOBHOUSE). DOROTHEA HOLLINS (Sec., Fulham and Ham-	Ellen Crook (Mrs.). Annie L. White.
DOROTHEA HOLLINS (Sec., Fulham and Ham- mersmith Branch Women's Labour	DR. MARION PHILLIPS (Gen. Sec., Women's
League). H. M. SWANWICK (Mrs. SWANWICK).	Labour League).
MARGARET ASHTON (Councillor).	C. P. SANGER (Mrs.). Ada Jane Hooper.
A. MAUDE ROYDEN.	ANNIE M. ORCHARD (Mrs. W. E. ORCHARD).
MARGARET LLEWELYN DAVIES. ELIZABETH GIBSON CHEYNE.	Isabella Jones. E. M. Chesson.
M. K. GANDHI (Mrs.).	HANNAH MARIA TAYLOR.
GERTRUDE BONE (Mrs. MUIRHEAD BONE).	JEANNE MITCHELL (Mrs.).
AGNES HUSBAND (Councillor). LILLA BROCKWAY (Mrs. FENNER BROCKWAY).	EMMELINE CADBURY (Mrs. W. A. CADBURY). MARIA L. SWANSON (late Hon. Sec. Darlington
MARGARET MOSCHELES (Mrs. FELIX	Branch National Union Women's Suf-
Moscheles).	frage Societies).
ADA SALTER (Mrs. ALFRED SALTER), KATHARINE BRUCE GLASIER (Mrs.).	ALICE A. LUCAS. CLARA C. LUCAS.
EVA GORE BOOTH.	A. BURTT WOODHEAD.
C. E. PLAYNE,	THOMASINE A. SWANSON.
EDITH A. ROBERTS. DOROTHY H. CORNISH.	Louie Bennett. Helen S. Chenevix.
RUTH CORNISH.	CLARA MOSER.
ESTHER G. ROPER. M. H. HUNTSMAN.	MARY H. SAUNDERS (Women's Labour League). E. M. Norman
M. Cornish.	Margaret I. Saunders ,,
M. G. CORNISH.	ADA PROUSE
ELINOR J. HEATON (Mrs. J. A. HEATON). MARY MOREL (Mrs. E. D. MOREL).	RACHEL LEWIS BELLA GOSSIP
MARY L. COOKE.	JANE HUME
HELENA I. CLANCHY.	JESSIE PAYNE.
A. BAROLAY. P. H. PECKOVER.	Norah L. Smyth. Mary Wratten (Mrs.).
THEODORA M. WILSON.	Mrs. S. Cahull.
REBECCA GARNETT (Mrs. WILLIAM GARNETT).	ELLIE KUMMER.
FLORENCE E. HOBSON (Mrs. J. A. HOBSON). KATHLEEN OUTHWAITE (Mrs. R. L. OUTH-	LILIAN HARRIS (Sec., Women's Co-operative Guild).
WAITE).	ANNIE B. WOODHOUSE (Knutsford Women's
ANNE COBDEN-SANDERSON.	Suffrage Society).
HELENA HIRST (Mrs. F. W. HIRST). JOSEPHINE THOMPSON.	JULIE E. TOMLINSON ,, MINNIE CHEETHAM
Edith S. Bright.	MARY V. HOFFMAN
RICHARDA GILLETT, M.D. Mrs. Frederick Mackarness.	ESTHER HOWARD
ISABELLA O. FORD.	ANNOT E. ROBINSON, Manchester. MARGUERITE A. C. DOUGLAS ,,
FLORENCE LUARD.	ANN YATES ,,
EDITH M. H. A. BIGLAND (Mrs. PERCY BIG-	DOROTHY SMITH
LAND). It Gasking	has hower bickinson
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Again, they sent their letter via America.

'Sisters' it began: 'Some of us wish to send you a word at this sad Christmastide ... The Christmas message sounds like mockery to a world at war, but those of us who wished and still wish for peace may surely offer a solemn greeting to such of you who feel as we do.' The letter stated that, 'The brunt of modern war falls upon noncombatants, and the conscience of the world cannot bear the sight.'

Emily's letter continues in the words of our song. The Chorus sings:

BRITISH CHORUS

We will let no bitterness taint the sorrow of our lament Neither will we mar with hate the sacred lifeblood of our men

For harmony for humanity with our sisters in neutral countries we reach beyond war to that higher law that bids us live in peace

We're dreaming of Peace on Earth We're dreaming of Peace on Earth Peace on Earth

The 1915 International Congress of Women – Helen Pilkinton

By the beginning of 1915, there was no escaping the human catastrophe of the war.



In the neutral Netherlands six million Dutch people had opened their hearts and homes when Germany invaded Belgium in August 1914. By Christmas, they were caring as well as they could, for nearly one million Belgian refugees.

Dr Aletta Jacobs, the first Dutch female medical doctor, had experienced first-hand the effects of the war and was constantly working to find ways to end this war and all wars.



Dr. ALETTA H. JACOBS, The Netherlands President of the Dutch Executive Committee.

In February 1915 she initiated a meeting in The Hague of 41 suffragist-pacifist women leaders from Holland, Belgium, Britain and Germany to plan for an international meeting.

They set dates for an International Congress of Women, in just 10 weeks time, to show solidarity with women in both warring and neutral countries and to try to end the war. Hundreds of letters with Dr Aletta's 'Call to the Women of the World' were posted. But the war mails were hopelessly unreliable, so telegrams were sent.

Dr Aletta invited Jane Addams to preside.



By the beginning of April a delegation of women on board the S. S. Noordam was steaming across the Atlantic from America to attend the congress.



On the voyage they worked on the program, and on draft resolutions for the Congress including resolutions which had been proposed either from committees or individuals from many nations.

However, not all those who wanted to attend were able to. 180 women from Britain who had registered were prevented because the First Lord of the Admiralty, Winston Churchill, stopped all shipping between England and Holland, leading up to, and during the Congress to stop 'those dangerous women' from attending! Fortunately, three British women managed to be at the Congress as they were already in The Hague. Twenty eight German women arrived but five Belgian women were a day late because the rail passes that the occupying German High Command had given them fell short of the Dutch border. They had to walk the rest of the way.



No Australian women were there because they did not receive their invitations in time. Ultimately, twelve countries were represented, from both sides of the warring nations and from neutral nations.

Thirteen hundred women attended the opening of the Congress, and over 2000 the final session.



Some newspapers sent reporters apparently hoping for amusing stories of conflict at an international peace gathering of women 'silly enough' to meet in time of war.

There were some interesting headlines. But there was nothing like this to report.



'A SHIPLOAD OF OF HYSTERICAL WOMEN' The Globe **'pro-Hun Peacettes'** Daily Express

'The Women's International Congress, which met at the The Hague last week was of course a fiasco' The Times

Instead there was robust discussion, all conducted in three languages with no microphones, expertly chaired by Jane Adams following parliamentary rules which created a sense of purpose and respect for one and another.



Reading from left to right: Mme. THOUMAIAN, Armenia; LEOPOLDINA KULKA, Austria; Miss HUGHES, Canada; ROSIKA-SCHWIMMER, Hungary; Dr. ANITA AUGSPURG, Germany: JANE ADDAMS, U. S.A., President of thit Congress; EUGÉNIE HAMER, Belgium; Dr. ALETTA H. JACOUS, President of the Dutch Executive Committee; CHRYSTAL MACMILLAN, Great Britain: ROSA GENONI, Italy; ANNA KLEMAN, Sweden; THORA DAUGAARD, Denmark: LOUISE KELIKAU, Norway.



The Congress began in the same week as the ANZAC landings and six days into the Second Battle of Ypres, in which 100,000 men died, including family members of some of the delegates.

In her opening speech Dr Aletta Jacobs said:

'With mourning hearts we stand united here. We grieve for the many young men who have lost their lives before attaining their full manhood; we mourn with the poor mothers bereft of their sons; with the thousands of young widows and fatherless children, and we will not endure in this twentieth century civilization that governments should tolerate brute force as the only solution of international disputes.'

Over the four days of the Congress the main business was refining 20 complex resolutions to address international disputes and which foretold the 20th century agenda for progressing international and human rights law.

The 1915 Congress Resolutions – Sarah Stitt

Now the women will show us how to lift the 'curious spell of war', how to nurture life.

In A Chorus of Women we are still listening to their prescient and wise Congress Resolutions.

In 1915, although some countries were democracies, universal suffrage was not extended to all populations, and no international laws and mechanisms existed to govern peace and mediate hostilities. The Congress Resolutions have at their core these objectives; to bring about universal suffrage and prevent war.



The guiding principles of the Congress, to which every delegate agreed, respect of nations and universal suffrage, also guided the Congress Resolutions, which were unanimously voted for by 1300 women.

In 1915 the Congress envoy presented President Woodrow Wilson with their 20 Resolutions.

Three years later President Wilson included nine of the Resolutions in his Fourteen Point Plan, which would subsequently influence the League of Nations, and then the United Nations.

I will outline some of the Principles of a Permanent Peace from the 1915 Women's Congress. Their Resolutions have largely been incorporated into the United Nations Charter. Disappointingly, signatory compliance remains weak.

III. PRINCIPLES OF A PERMANENT PEACE. 5. Respect for Nationality. This International Congress of Women, recognizing the right of the people to self-government, affirms that there should be no ¹) transference of territory without the consent of the men and women residing therein, and urges that autonomy and a democratic parliament should not be refused to any people. 6. Arbitration and Conciliation. This International Congress of Women, believing that war is the negation of progress and civilisation, urges the governments of all nations to come to an agreement to refer future International disputes to arbitration and conciliation.

I) NOTE. The Congress declared by vote that it interpreted "no transference of ferritory without the consent of the men and women in it" to imply that the right of conquest was not to be recognized. The Women agreed that respect for nationality, and the right to autonomy and democracy should not be refused to any people.

In 1915 only about one eighth of the world's nations were democratic, while today, about two thirds are. In democratic nations there is universal suffrage. The Women agreed that territorial annexation without consent must be illegal. In 1945 the United Nations Charter outlawed territorial annexation.

11. International Organization. This International Congress of Women urges that the organization of the Society of Nations should be further developed on the basis of a constructive peace, and that it should include:
a. As a development of the Hague Court of Arbitration, a permanent International Court of Justice to settle questions or differences of a justiciable character, such as arise on the interpretation of treaty rights or of the law of nations. The Women proposed that the governments of nations should come to an agreement to refer future international disputes to arbitration or conciliation ...

In 1945 the United Nations Charter mandated peaceful negotiated settlement of disputes.

The Women suggested an International Court of Justice be created.

This was established in 1945 under the United Nations Charter.



The Women advocated freedom of commerce, shipping and trade to all nations.

Eighty years later, in 1995 the World Trade Organisation came into being.

2. Women's Sufferings in War.

This International Congress of Women opposes the assumption that women can be protected under the conditions of modern warfare. It protests vehemently against the odious wrongs of which women are the victims in time of war, and especially against the horrible violation of women which attends all war. Resolution Two reads:

'This International Congress of Women opposes the assumption that women can be protected under the conditions of modern warfare. It protests vehemently against the odious wrongs of which women are victims in time of war, and especially against the horrible violation of women, which attends all war.'

Atrocities inflicted upon women and girls during times of war were recognised as war crimes in 2000 under the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325. This Resolution also recognised the need for women to be included in peace-making infrastructures.

However, some resolutions that would truly achieve permanent peace have still to be adopted.



While many treaties exist to protect children and their education as a basic right and requirement for peace, today it is still not mandated that children be taught about peaceful international legal values and conflict resolution.

12. General Disarmament.

The International Congress of Women, advocating universal disarmament and realizing that it can only be secured by international agreement, urges, as a step to this end, that all countries should, by such an international agreement, take over the manufacture of arms and munitions of war and should control all international traffic in the same. It sees in the private profits accruing from the great armament factories a powerful hindrance to the abolition of war.

The Congress advocated universal disarmament, which the women believed could only be secured by international agreement. They saw in the private profits accruing from the great armament industries a powerful hindrance to the abolition of war.

Today the weapons manufacture and trade industries remain lucrative and in private hands.



Jane Addams, the Congress President, and Emily Greene Balch, Vice President, would later become Nobel Peace laureates, in acknowledgement of their involvement in the Congress as well as their tireless work with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, known as WILPF, which was formed during the 1915 Congress.

We greet our Canberra WILPF sisters who are with us today. And in this place that is honouring The Courage for Peace, we proudly note that they were the 2018 recipients of the ACT Chief Minister's Rotary Peace Award.

The Congress Women agreed to meet at the end of the war when the terms of peace would be negotiated.

We will now listen to Resolution One from the 1915 International Congress of Women. Performance video excerpt from A Passion for Peace with soprano Louise Page leading the Women's Chorus as Jane Addams:

RESOLUTION ONE

Now, we women in international congress assembled protest against the madness and horror of war involving as it does the reckless sacrifice of human life and the destruction of so much that humanity has labored through centuries to build up

Continuous Mediation without Armistice – Janet Salisbury

In this section, we come to the story of a young woman who dared to have a big idea.



She is Julia Grace Wales, a 33-year old Canadian-born English literature scholar at the University of Wisconsin.

Her 'big idea' was a plan to end the First World War.

So why did a young woman with no political experience make such a bold entry into international diplomacy?

From a young age, Grace had been involved in women's suffrage and peace movements. When war broke out in Europe, her homeland of Canada. like Australia, was immediately at war. In Wisconsin in the neutral USA, many of her students were the sons of German immigrants. Grace's friends described her as a very 'feeling' person and the horror of the war made her physically ill.

The Chorus women make the heartbeat rhythm

She thought night and day of some way out of the entanglement asking, 'What is the natural thing to do?'

Grace grounded her thinking in the possibility that there were right-minded people on both sides. She wrote to friends that there were 'multitudes of good people in the warring countries and that these currents of hidden energy need some way to be liberated and made active.'

But under the usual rules of war, communications between warring countries was shut down as soon as war started and the neutral nations stood aside while belligerents battled it out. Only when one nation was defeated and an armistice declared, could a neutral country act as go-between and the victor would set the conditions to bring war to an end.

Over the 1914 Christmas holidays, Grace wrote the first draft of a plan that turned these established principles on their head. She asked:

'Can a means be found by which a council of neutral powers may bring the moral force of the world to bear upon the present war situation and offer to the belligerents some opportunity to consider the possibility of peace?



Her plan urged the United States to call a conference of delegates of the 35 neutral nations of the world.

This 'world thinking organ', as she called it, would be an independent advisory body with no power to commit governments. It would start while the belligerents were still fighting, invite suggestions from the warring parties and submit back to them proposals for ending the war — back and forth until a basis was found for peace negotiations. She called this process 'Continuous Mediation without Armistice'.

Grace insisted that peace should not bring humiliation to any nation and must not involve compromise that would result in the renewal of war.

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Mediation Without Armistice

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THE WISCONSIN PLAN

Can a means be found by which a conference of the neutral powers may bring the moral forces of the world to bear upon the present war situation and offer to the belligerents some opportunity, involving neither committel to an arbitrary programme nor humilistion on the part of any one of them, to consider the possibility of peace?

Proposed by the Wisconsin Peace Society for the National Peace Conference, at Chicago, Feb. 27, 28, 1915

> Published and Circulated by the Wisconsin Peace Scotety

> > Price 10 Cents

She presented her plan to the Wisconsin Peace Society who immediately adopted it as 'The Wisconsin Plan' and circulated it widely.

It was adopted by major peace conferences in the US, and the Wisconsin Government officially endorsed it as a resolution to President Woodrow Wilson.

The president apparently liked the plan but deferred implementing it.

Grace's ideas built on those that were already alive in the worldwide web of suffragists and pacifists. But amazingly in a world where one war followed another, this plan developed by a 33-year-old woman was the first detailed development of these ideas that gave warring parties an opportunity to engage in dialogue rather than killing to resolve their differences.

Then, Aletta Jacobs called the woman of the world to the International Congress of Women in The Hague. The Resolutions Committee invited Grace to present her plan at the Congress and Grace joined the other women of the American delegation on board the S. S. Noordam.

Grace presented her plan to the Congress on Saturday 1 May 1915. It was adopted unanimously and included in the Congress resolutions.



Jane Addams, imagining what the neutral nations might want to say to the belligerents, later wrote:

'We beg you, in the name of the humane values of life ... to allow us to bring in some other method for ending the conflict ... Only through help from the outside will this curious spell of war be broken.'

[The following PowerPoint images and spoken lyrics are from The People's Passion song 'Meetings with Great Men']



H.H. Asquith







Antonio Salandra

MEETINGS WITH GREAT MEN

After the Congress nine wise women carry their peace plan and resolutions to meetings with Great Men warring and neutral

After the Congress, two groups of women envoys travelled to 14 countries. At 35 meetings from St Petersburg to Washington, London to Berlin, Stockholm and Oslo to Rome, they presented their peace plan, including the world's first method for mediation, to more world leaders than anyone else saw in the war years.

One Chorus woman (to Jane Addams):



Peter Cort van der Linden







Theobald von Bethmann-Hollweg

You were talking with Presidents and Prime Ministers a King and the Pope and the Cardinal of State a Chancellor many Foreign Ministers Tell what the big Belligerents say ...

Jane Addams:

They say 'Thank you for this most sensible peace plan But don't you know there is no way to stop a war until defeat or victory?'

The Pope and the Neutrals say 'Women must keep opposing war' No-one wants war, but they're under its spell! It's hard to be midwives for peace as the nurture of life!

The Women's Chorus:

No-one wants war! What a curious spell! War breeds more war! Why can't they tell?

Why can't these leaders See what we see: War itself is the enemy!



First Chorus woman: Tell us now of your time in Berlin ...



Jane Addams:

The German Chancellor's son was killed in the trenches just a few weeks ago

That man's caught in the shadow of death and destruction He's solemn and sad and overwhelmed

The Women's Chorus: Solemn and sad Overwhelmed And the trauma turns round and round!

AFTER THE ARMISTICE – Glenda Cloughley

The Armistice in November 1918 turns minds from war to peace.

Then the planning begins for two international meetings where the two stories of the world will play out.

In Paris, the victorious powers begin negotiations for the Treaty of Versailles that will set the terms of 'peace'.



No defeated nation is at the treaty table. Germans are banned from Paris. The Allies are setting in train a catastrophic trauma story, powered by hatred, greed and revenge. They will demand impossible reparations from Germany at the same time as they starve 250,000 Germans to death between the Armistice and the Treaty by maintaining a food blockade.

Meanwhile, women of the International League for Peace and Freedom organise their second congress in Zurich. The choice of neutral Switzerland means women from all nations can attend. Soon, three Melbourne delegates set off on their 10-week journey to the congress: Cecilia John and Vida Goldstein from the Women's Peace Army, and Eleanor Moore from the Sisterhood for International Peace.



Cecilia John

Vida Goldstein

Eleanor Moore

Dorothy Buxton

In London, Eglantyne Jebb shifts her activist gears.

Eglantyne and her sister Dorothy Buxton are close to many of the British women who will attend the Zurich Congress.



Eglantyne Jebb

But their work for the first story of the world keeps them in London. They are campaigning for Europe's starving children through the Fight the Famine movement.

Eglantyne persuades Hector Munro – a prominent London doctor – to go to Vienna on a fact-finding mission.

Dr Munro reports that there has been no milk in Vienna for years. He says: 'Children are actually dying in the streets of Vienna. In one hospital I saw 38 women suffering spontaneous fracture of the hips, their bones having lost all solidity. The children's bones are like rubber. Old people are killing themselves in order that there might be food left for the others. Mothers are murdering their babies sooner than watch their ghastly sufferings.'

Eglantyne gives the doctor's report to London's daily papers. The blockade becomes a public issue.

Then she makes a leaflet with a photograph of a malnourished two-year-old Austrian girl. She gives copies to people in Trafalgar Square. So she is arrested for disturbing the peace.



Her trial is front-page news.



Daily Herald, 16 May 1919, featuring Eglantyne Jebb outside the court (right) and the leaflets and poster she was arrested for distributing in Trafalgar Square

Eglantyne conducts her own defence. Everyone in the court is moved. But she is convicted and fined £5.

Afterwards, the Director of Public Prosecutions and she have a cup of tea, and he gives her £5 to show his personal support for her cause. Eglantyne uses it to start a Save the Children Fund.

Then, with great continuing media interest, she and Dorothy hire the Albert Hall for a public meeting.

Now, the stories come together.



Cecilia, Vida and Eleanor arrive in Zurich. Women from 15 other nations are overjoyed to see them. But the proposed treaty has just been published. The women are drafting their oracle that these terms of peace will bring another world war.



German and Austrian women at the Congress are emaciated beyond recognition by their friends. The food blockade is on the Congress agenda.

A greeting is sent to 'a great demonstration to be held in the Albert Hall in London':



Londoners come in their thousands to the Albert Hall.



But they are not all sympathetic to enemy children. Many bring rotting vegetables to throw at the stage.

The speakers begin, Dr Munro and Eglantyne among them. The hall becomes quiet.

With hands on hearts, the Chorus women make the heartbeat rhythm

Tears of compassion flow for helpless, innocent children.

In London that night, people are moved back to their humanity and love, as well as their reason. £10,000 is donated to the Save the Children Fund.
Much of it is spent buying cows in Switzerland that are marched off to Vienna to renew the city's milk supply. *The musicians ring the cow bells*



The Save the Children movement spreads around the world.



Déclaration de Geneve		
(Adoptie par le Conseil dining de l'Aline The to a Starte		
(Adoptée par le Conseil général de l'Union Internationale de Jecours sus Infants dans da dession du 25 février 1923, volée définitivement par le Comité executif dans de siance du 17 mai 1928, et signée par les membres du Conseil général le 28 février 1924)		
Tar la présente Déclaration des Proits de l'Enfant, dite Déclaration de Genève, le sommes et les femmes de loutes les nations, reconnaissant que l'Alumanité deit donner à l'enfant co qu'élle a de mélleur, afjorment leurs devoirs, en dehons de toute comsidération de race, de nationalité et de orsyance:		
1. É Erfant doit être mis en menure de se développer d'une façon normale, matériellement et spirituellement.		
2. L'Enfant qui a faim doit être nourri, l'enfant malade doit être soigne, l'infant arritré doit être envourage, l'enfant dévoyé doit être ramené, l'orphalin et l'abandonne doivent être recueillis et secourne.		
3. L'Enfant doit être le juremier à recevoir des secours en temps de dêtresse.		
4. L'Erfant doit être mis en mesure de gagner sa vie et doit être prolégé contre toute exploitation.		
 Enfant doit être éloré dans le sentiment que ses meilleures qualités desront être mises au service de ses frères. 		
9. avor.		
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Eglantyne goes to Geneva where she initiates the Declaration of the Rights of the Child.

This will become the basis of the United Nations Convention that is the most universally accepted human rights treaty in history.

After the 1919 Congress, many WILPF women become involved in the Save the Children Fund. Today, WILPF branches around the world continue working for women and children, peace and security.

You may ask why this 100-year-old story is important today.

We recall that Dr Jung said in 1933: 'Sooner or later it will be found that nothing really 'new' happens in history. There could be talk of something really novel only if the unimaginable happened: if reason, humanity and love won a lasting victory'.

Our story is important today because in relation to political decision making, nothing 'really new' has happened yet.

On Monday this week some of us were at the Australian centennial celebrations of the Save the Children Fund. There we learned that over 400 million of the world's children still live in war zones, and that for every combatant killed in war, five innocent children die.

With catastrophic climate change threatening hundreds of millions more, we need wise leaders who bring reason, humanity and love to government decision-making.

We commend our great grandmothers to you for they are splendid role models.

War itself is the enemy – Johanna McBride

During the 1913 Balkan wars, Eglantyne Jebb delivered humanitarian aid to both sides of the conflict. She concluded that it's not ordinary people on opposing sides who are the enemy. She said: 'War itself is the enemy'. I believe this to be true.

Glenda told you a story of her Great-Grandmother and her sons who went to war on one side.



monyorói báró Urbán Gáspár pusztakengyeli földbirtokos

My Hungarian grandfather was 17 years old when WWI broke out – and found himself on the other side of the war.

He was drafted into the Austro-Hungarian army as soon as he turned 18. Being an aristocrat, he was trained to be a lieutenant and to command other soldiers, most of them older than him.

This is one of the very few stories he told us kids about his war experience. Out at the front they were approaching enemy lines when he noticed that his men were running away. He shouted: 'Come back or I shoot'. But soon he knew why they were running, when he suddenly felt an arm around his throat. Turning around, he was facing a Russian soldier. The Russian took one look at this young Hungarian officer, thought, and then shouted 'Davai!', waving his hands for my grandfather to run and join his comrades.

This Russian soldier broke the laws of war. But he followed the natural laws of human kindness most of us know in our hearts. If he hadn't, I wouldn't be here to tell you this story.

As a girl I was puzzled that my grandfather referred to a man who had spared his life as a 'svinya', a swine. Today I understand that this would have been a deeply traumatic experience for him. Maybe we learn to hate when we feel the very core of our being under threat? Political leaders often use this sense of imminent existential danger posed by 'the other' to motivate people to engage in fighting.

Sometimes I imagine my grandfather meeting the grandfathers of my friends here in A Chorus of Women ...



Cecil Weaver Australia Sarah's grandad



Albert Rigby England Meg's dad

... and sharing a Schnaps or two. I am sure killing each other would have made no sense at all. It didn't even make sense 100 years ago, before the curious spell of war descended on Europe and the world at an unimaginable scale.

Today humanity is still suffering from the consequences of that terrible tragedy.

The second story of the world, the one that destroys life, still seems to rule the world.

My own life was full of it, as a Hungarian refugee child with repeated experiences of displacement and sudden separation from loved ones. And yet, the first story, the one of natural human kindness, was the one which helped me lead a good and happy enough life.

In A Chorus of Women we aim to sing up this spirit of human care which is also carried by so many people's movements today. We would like to conclude with Glenda's music, singing what we long for in 2019.

IN 2019

Lulay – Threads of memory and dream we spin in the web From the Wellsprings we bring songs for children and Earth

Singing night to day death to birth lament to lulay sorrow to mirth

Calling fathers and mothers sisters and brothers to turn our ears to the heartbeat of The Wellsprings

In 2019 Listening deep for the Songs of Life we hear billions of people in harmony

In 2019 We hear kindness and care And the dream of peace For the children and the Earth

We hear billions of us so diverse billions un harmony promising the children People all around the Earth Promising to sing the Songs of Life

www.chorusofwomen.org

1. Invocation

THE CIRCLES OF LOVE





The Wellsprings

'Lifting the Curious Spell of War' Australian War Memorial, 28 November 2019

























Trauma Law

















THE BRITISH CHORUS



Cue (Meg) ... Emily's letter continuesin the words of our song Lucus gives A major chord



THE PEACE CHORALE





RESOLUTION ONE





















