

**Global Women's Project
May Global e-Links**

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1. Mother's Day is Coming Up: Honor a Woman in Your Life Today!

Did you know that the founder of Mother's Day in the US began campaigning *against* Mother's Day because she was disillusioned with the materialism that became associated with the day? (For more on this fascinating story see "What you may not have known about Mother's Day" below.)

Global Women's Project is taking this to heart and wants to help you recognize a woman in your life without the strings of materialism that are often tied to the holiday. Join our annual Mother's Day Gratitude Project.

Rather than buying more material gifts for your loved one, express your gratitude with a gift that helps other women around the world. Your donation allows us to fund projects focused on women's health, education, and employment. In return, your chosen recipient will receive a lovely, hand-written card indicating that a gift has been made in her honor (but you know, we know, the woman you are honoring will know, that the gift goes beyond the card).

**To participate, send a donation to:
Global Women's Project
c/o Nan Erbaugh
47 S. Main Street
West Alexandria, OH 45381-1243**

Remember to include your name(s) and recipient's name and address. You may also make memorial donations, which will be honored on our website.

Gratitude cards will be mailed in time for Mother's Day if you send your request to Nan by May 5. After the 5th, we will mail them as soon as we receive your request.

**2. What you may not have known about Mother's Day
by Carrie Eikler**

My feelings about Mother's Day have changed over the years. As a little girl I got my mother a card and generally picked flowers from our yard to gift her with a bouquet. As I grew I became jaded with Mother's Day, ignoring it (likely to the sadness of my mother) and flippantly referring to it as one of those "Hallmark Holidays" that was more bent on consumerism than recognition.

Then I moved to West Virginia. From my home in Morgantown I look south, about 25 miles, to the town of Grafton, where Mother's Day in the US all began. A campaign to honor mothers and motherhood in the United States started here by Anna Jarvis. But celebrating mothering wasn't all Anna's idea. Many cultures around the world recognize a day to celebrate motherhood, including Nepal, where GWP has a partnering organization in Women Empowerment.

So you may have known that Anna Jarvis was the mother of Mother's Day. But here's something about Sister Anna you may not have known. Sister Anna actually became disillusioned with the holiday. She believed this day that she had campaigned for with so much passion to honor mothers and motherhood became too commercialized and she, along with her sister, actually spent her family inheritance campaigning against the holiday! In 1923, Anna was arrested for disturbing the peace in protest of the dismissal of a suit she filed against New York Governor Al Smith over a Mother's Day celebration. Anna and her sister both died in poverty.

According to Anna's obituary in the New York Times, she became frustrated because too many people simply sent their mothers cards on Mother's Day and her hard work came to be smacked with materialism. Said Anna: "A printed card means nothing except that you are too lazy to write to the woman who has done more for you than anyone in the world. And candy! You take a box to Mother—and then eat most of it yourself. A pretty sentiment."

But even before Anna's conflicted passion about Mother's Day came onto the scene, there was already a radical association with Mother's Day at work through the Mother's Day Proclamation of 1870 written by Julia Ward Howe: "*Arise then, women of this day! Arise all women who have hearts, whether your baptism be of water or of tears! Say firmly: 'We will not have questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us reeking of 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...*" (read more of the Mother's Day Proclamation below).

Incidentally, Julia Ward Howe, eight years before this lament of the carnage of war, wrote the words to the Battle Hymn of the Republic. A transformed woman? A transformed holiday?

So this year, in the spirit of Julia and in the passion of Anna, rethink Mother's Day. Don't leave words of appreciation for the women in your life (be they mothers or not) rest only in a card. Don't dismiss this day as if it has nothing to teach us about who we are as women and men.

In Mother's Day find True Celebration that is rooted in Deep Gratitude. Donate to GWP's Mother Day Project and, while we will send that woman a card in gratitude, the gift goes far beyond that. It goes to the ongoing work of woman around the world: Anna, Julia, Rashni, Rana, Stella, Esperance, Beatrice...

But don't let it stop there either. Show your gratitude in real ways: real words, real touch, real gratitude leading to real transformation leading to Real Peace.

3. Mother's Day Proclamation of 1870 composed by Julia Ward Howe

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

"Say firmly: 'We will not have questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us reeking of 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 to those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of a 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 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 solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means whereby the great human family can live in peace, each bearing after his time the sacred impress not of Caesar, but of God.

"In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality 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."