

PSYCHOLOGISTS FOR PEACE

Peace News December 2011



Welcome to the summer update of Psychologists for Peace.

We've been busy over the last few months, holding successful peace symposia at the

annual APS conference in Canberra. The PFP symposia featured recent research in the area of peace psychology, including forgiveness, the effects of glucose and self-control training on aggression and child rearing. It was an interesting and thought provoking day. I recorded interviews with many of the attendees for our forthcoming 2012 PFP radio series, "Peace In Mind". Thanks to everyone who participated, it was wonderful to meet you all.

Finally, we give a big congratulations to Susie Burke, long-time organiser of PFP who became a Fellow of the APS this year! Our convenor Winnifred Louis also won a UQ award for excellence in teaching in October. We send our admiration to those dedicated and hard working women and to all our membership for the holiday season.

And don't forget you can get an early Xmas present and help our cause at the same time by the purchase of Psychologists For Peace merchandise (see point 5 below).

Happy Holidays!

Kim Stewart for Psychologists for Peace

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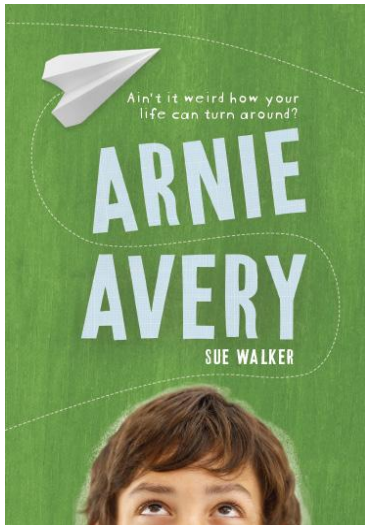
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13th Children's Peace Literature Awards: Congratulations Winner Sue Walker!



Right: Sue Walker receives her prize

Psychologists for Peace (South Australian Branch) are proud to announce the awarding of the 2011 Children's Peace Literature Award. This year's winning author Sue Walker is a well-published Sydney children's writer who also provides classroom tips about her books, on her website. Her winning entry *Arnie Avery* published by Walker Books was selected from over 90 entries. The prize is awarded to a children's book which encourages the non-violent resolution of conflict or promotes peace at a global, local or interpersonal level.



The award ceremony took place at Parafield Gardens R-7, a multi-cultural Save the Children Global Peace Network School in Adelaide. The children sang about respect and community and the winning author Sue Walker was present to speak about the book, accept the prize, and answer the children's questions. PFP then hosted afternoon tea with children, teachers, judging panel members, PFP members and the SA Branch Chair and Newsletter Editor.

Left: The children of a Save the Children Global Peace Network School in Adelaide sing at the award ceremony.

The judging panel included: Kate Prescott (PfP SA, APS SA committee member, and Convenor of the judging panel); Helen Winefield FAPS & PfP SA; Prue Blaikie PfP SA Treasurer, ex-MAPS; Katherine England (children's literature critic, Australian and Advertiser newspapers); Alle Goldsworthy (Premier's Reading Challenge SA); Anne Hazell (educational librarian, retired); and Jill Becker (teacher librarian). Congratulations to the winner and thanks to the judges and all who participated!

The winning book deals with the trials of young Arnie Avery, whose life is "turned around" one day.

What could be worse than fighting Jacko? Being in big trouble at school? Your friends deserting you? Your family acting like a bunch of aliens? Lately, nothing's going right for Arnie. Then one day everything changes ...

For more information about the winning book see: <http://www.walkerbooks.com.au/Books/Arnie-Avery-9781921529726>

For information about the other 6 books on the Short List please contact Helen Winefield (helen.winefield@adelaide.edu.au).

Participate in our new radio series

In 2012 Psychologists for Peace will launch a ten part radio series covering some of the many topics of interest in the field. Kim Stewart is spearheading the project with radio journalist Linda Rose, between them 20 years' experience in radio production.

Kim is particularly interested in the participation of psychology students who have done research and who are keen to talk about their work. We are also seeking other PFP members – or anyone who has experienced a conflict they feel they have successfully resolved (or not) and would like to talk about it.

The series topics include: Conflict: the good, the bad and the ugly; Relationship conflict; Interpersonal conflict in the family, schools, workplace and community; Bullying; Forgiveness; Intergroup conflict: racism, sexism, etc; Social groups and power; Conflict resolution; Hate; International conflicts and war; and Precursors to peace.

If you're interested email kim.stewart@foe.org.au or phone me on 0413397839.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Long time dedicated Psychologists for Peace organisers Susie Burke and Winnifred Louis both won deserving awards in October 2011.

Susie was granted a Fellowship for her many years of service to the Australian Psychological Society. Winnifred was awarded for excellence in teaching. Well done!

Photo: Susie Burke receives her award from APS director Simon Crowe at the 2011 APS Conference in Canberra.

2. Recent Publications & Resources

Social Justice Index rates Australia at below-average

In October 2011 Bertelsman Stiftung released their Social Justice Index for the OECD nations. The report offers a comparative assessment of 31 OECD countries with regard to six key dimensions: poverty prevention, equitable access to education, labor market inclusiveness, social cohesion and non-discrimination, health as well as intergenerational justice.



“The Sustainable Governance Indicators (SGI) are aimed at identifying the structural and process-related challenges faced by governments in the OECD. They also present and compare capacities and deficits in confronting challenges and, based on these findings, measure the sustainability of these democratic societies.”

Australia was rated at 21st overall, well below average. The United States came in at 27.

http://www.sgi-network.org/pdf/SGI11_Social_Justice_OECD.pdf

US Institute of Peace: Two important publications on peace and gender in conflict zones

1. Evaluating Media Interventions in Conflict Countries, October 2011

Amelia Arsenault, Sheldon Himelfarb, and Susan Abbott

“Experts lay out a set of common principles for assessing how media programs in conflict zones help or hinder peacebuilding.” Read the report here:

<http://www.usip.org/publications/evaluating-media-interventions-in-conflict-countries-0>

2. Gender, Conflict, and Peacebuilding, September 2011

Kimberly Theidon and Kelly Phenicie with Elizabeth Murray

“A new study reviews the state of research on gender and conflict and calls for increased emphasis on projects that include men and boys, sexual violence in conflict zones, and the relationship between gender identities and violence.” Read the report here:

<http://www.usip.org/publications/gender-conflict-and-peacebuilding>

The Political Psychology of War Rape: Studies from Bosnia and Herzegovina

“This book provides a conceptual framework for understanding war rape and its impact, through empirical examination of the case of Bosnia. Providing a contextual understanding of sexual violence in war, and situating Bosnian war rape in relation to subsequent conflicts, the book offers a methodological outline of how sexual violence in war can be studied from a political-psychological perspective. It presents empirical findings from the field that show what war rape can entail in the aftermath of armed conflict for victims and their communities. Through its comprehensive approach to Bosnian experiences, the volume expands the conceptualization of

victimhood and challenges the assumption that sexual violence is a particularly difficult theme to study because of victim silence. “ Skjelsbæk, Inger, 2011. London: Routledge.

Peace Research (Journal) September Ed out now

September Edition includes: Jason Sorens, Mineral production, territory, and ethnic rebellion: The role of rebel constituencies; Benjamin O Fordham, Who wants to be a major power? Explaining the expansion of foreign policy ambition; Krishna Chaitanya Vadlamannati, Why Indian men rebel? Explaining armed rebellion in the northeastern states of India, 1970–2007; Adrian Martin, Eugene Rutagarama, Ana Cascão, Maryke Gray, and Vasudha Chhotray, Understanding the co-existence of conflict and cooperation: Transboundary ecosystem management in the Virunga Massif; Eran Halperin and Daniel Bar-Tal, Socio-psychological barriers to peace making: An empirical examination within the Israeli Jewish Society; David A Armstrong II, Stability and change in the Freedom House political rights and civil liberties measures, and more.

<http://jpr.sagepub.com/content/current>

3. Calls for papers & Conferences

The 5th National Restorative Justice Aotearoa and 3rd Restorative Practices International 2011

Restorative Justice is the development of community and justice systems that deal with conflict and the consequences of offending in a restorative manner. This conference is meant for practitioners in the field to share research and workshop their skills.

<http://www.confer.co.nz/rpi-riaconf2011>

Ninth Global conference on War and Peace, Prague, 19 –21 May 2012

From the website: “The opening decade of the 21st century has seen war assume a number of new forms – new at least in relation to the 20th century. So, for instance, the West’s war in Afghanistan is already longer than WW2, and shows no sign of coming to an end; the nature of those engaged in war has widened to include a variety of non-state agents; and war itself has come to include as arguably justifiable tactics and strategies previously either excluded or at least not recognised as legitimate. In short, the distinction between war and peace is becoming increasingly unclear.

The 2012 conference is part of a continuing and explicitly multi- and inter-disciplinary conversation that aims to bring together people from a wide range of disciplines to focus on this centrally significant aspect of our social lives in order better to understand the nature and place of war and peace.”

<http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/probing-the-boundaries/hostility-and-violence/war-virtual-war-human-security/call-for-papers/>

The Pacific War, 1941-5: Heritage, Legacies, Culture. Monash Uni, Melbourne, 5-7 Dec 2011

This conference aims to bring together scholars working on the cultural, social and political implications of the Pacific War, and to stimulate debate about the war’s impact, legacies and continuing resonances. <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/history/conferences/the-pacific-war/>

The APS Buddhism & Psychology Interest Group 2012 Retreat, Wentworth Falls NSW, Saturday 10th March 2012 to Saturday 17th March 2012

BPIG contacted us to invite PFP members to participate in their 2012 “Insight Dialogue Retreat”, which is on the theme “Compassionate presence: Relational meditation for psychotherapists and health care professionals”. A flyer with details and costs may be obtained from mind@mindfulnesscentre.com.

4. In the news

3 Women Joint Recipients of 2011 Nobel Peace Prize

In 2011 the Nobel Peace Prize has been divided in three equal parts between Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, Leymah Gbowee and Tawakkul Karman for “their non-violent struggle for the safety of women and for women’s



rights to full participation in peace-building work.” The Norwegian Nobel Peace Prize committee said, “We cannot achieve democracy and lasting peace in the world unless women obtain the same opportunities as men to influence developments at all levels of society. “

“Ellen Johnson Sirleaf is Africa’s first democratically elected female president. Since her inauguration in 2006, she has contributed to securing peace in Liberia, to promoting economic and social development, and to strengthening the position of women. Leymah Gbowee mobilized and organized women across ethnic and religious dividing lines to bring an end to the long war in Liberia, and to ensure women’s participation in elections. She has since worked to enhance the influence of women in West Africa during and after war. In the most trying circumstances, both before and during the “Arab spring”, Tawakkul Karman has played a leading part in the struggle for women’s rights and for democracy and peace in Yemen.”

Read the full announcement here:

http://www.nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/peace/laureates/2011/press.html#

Psychologists for Social Responsibility Supports Occupy Movements

This is a statement issued by US group in support of the Occupy Wall Street movement. The Occupy Movement has sparked thousands of city occupations throughout the western world, reflecting a widespread dissatisfaction with the widening gap between rich and poor.

“Psychologists for Social Responsibility (PsySR) – an international organization of psychologists and allies promoting social justice, human rights, peace, and environmental sustainability – expresses its strong support for the Occupy Wall Street and other Occupy movements that have spread to hundreds of cities and towns throughout the United States and the world. From a psychological perspective, this broad and growing movement can serve as a source of inspiration, hope, and unity for millions of citizens both angry and despairing about their own personal circumstances and the country’s social and economic future. These occupations have thus far not coalesced around specific demands. That is neither problematic nor cause for concern. They have already succeeded in highlighting the deep problems facing our society and illuminating possible ways to address them.

“The protesters stand for the revival and renewed appreciation of genuine democracy. They remind us that democracy is about the active and daily involvement of all in decision-making, not solely voting every four years for leaders who promise to carry out “the people’s will.” They remind us that democracy is about everyone playing a meaningful role in shaping society’s future. They remind us that democracy is about the voices of people without wealth being as strong as those of the most wealthy. And they remind us that genuine democracy is not about corporations and powerbrokers operating unfettered to benefit the few at the expense of the many, as articulated in a recent PsySR statement against “corporate personhood” (<http://www.psysr.org/about/programs/wellbeing/corporate-personhood.php>).

“As psychologists, we know that having an active role in shaping one’s life is an essential component of well-being. A major psychological contribution of the Occupy movement is its ability to galvanize the collective energy, creativity, skills, and perspectives of people across the social spectrum, tapping into the powerful renewable resource of genuine communities of collaboration and of resistance. The elements of self-organization that have rapidly emerged empower both individuals and groups and open a way out of social passivity and its psychological consequences, including fear, loneliness, greed, entitlement, psychic numbing, and violence.

“The Occupiers have refused to accept the growing inequality that threatens the democracy and social fabric of our country. A newly released Executive Compensation Survey shows that company executives’ pay increased 20% from the prior year and the national ratio for CEO to worker pay was 325 to 1 – despite massive layoffs and scant hiring since the recession officially ended two years ago. Meanwhile, economic inequality in the United States is now at its highest level since at least the 1920s, and possibly ever. Research shows that extreme inequality in society is associated with a more problematic life for all – not just those living in poverty. More unequal societies have higher rates of severe emotional problems, infant mortality, and substance abuse. They also experience higher rates of violent crime, child abuse, and obesity. Relatedly, poverty increases the risk that children will struggle in school and adults will struggle with work, among other problems. These problems are not the fault of people living in poverty but are symptoms of a social structure that prevents citizens from truly altering that reality for tens of millions of Americans and billions around the world.

“The Occupiers’ slogan—“We are the 99%” indicates their desire and commitment to speak for and appeal to the vast majority who suffer from a political and economic system that is failing to serve

the interests of that majority while showering fabulous wealth upon the most affluent 1%. The Occupy movement challenges the prevailing discourse driving economic and political decision-making, a discourse that has insisted on a scarcity of financial resources for those without work, adequate education, access to health care, and safe environmental conditions. It calls for the more equitable distribution of the world's resources. The Occupy movement also provides an inspiring model of nonviolent action that highlights the problems in our society and provides a model for social change. Occupiers and their supporters have maintained their nonviolent commitment even in the face of provocation from sometimes brutal police officers, recognizing the humanity and commonality of interests shared with the police.

“PsySR thus welcomes and supports the Occupy movements. We encourage our members, our professional colleagues, and all citizens to support occupations in all of our communities aimed at challenging a business-as-usual status quo that harms far too many of the nation's citizens while only a few truly benefit.

For more information and inquiries, please contact us at info@psysr.org”

Money Spent on Peace-building is an Investment, US Institute of Peace, October 2011

“Money spent on peace is an “investment” that will eventually “mature,” said Congressman John Garamendi (D-CA) at the U.S. Institute of Peace on Oct. 27, bringing both short- and long-term gains to the United States and countries around the world. Garamendi, who served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Ethiopia from 1966 to 1968, offered his remarks at a USIP event marking the 50th anniversary of the Peace Corps' founding.” Read more here:

<http://www.usip.org/publications/money-spent-peacebuilding-investment>

5. PFP Merchandise



Psychologists for Peace have available a range of colourful and helpful posters for peace advocates and educators. They target a range of age groups.

We have the PFP prize winning children's book “Wise Ways to Win” and educational posters themed on issues including bullying, dealing with anger, how to say sorry, peaceful families and conflict resolution, all brightly illustrated and easy to understand.

<http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/resources/educational/>

YOU can help us spread the word by asking your local community group to feature our ad (right).

Peace Starts in the Mind

Psychologists for Peace have created a series of colourful posters teaching peace, tolerance and conflict resolution for educators & practitioners. With titles including "Wise Ways to Win", "Rebuilding Relationships" and "Handling Anger Wisely", they are helpful & accessible to a wide audience.

Purchase online at <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/resources/posters/>

6. Events and activities

Petition: Coalition for an Ethical Psychology calls for annulment of American Psychological Association's 2005 Presidential Task Force Report on Psychological Ethics and National Security (PENS).

The APA report has played a key role in allowing the US establishment to legitimise their treatment of prisoners in Guantanamo Bay and elsewhere. The Coalition for an Ethical Psychology affirm that it is not possible to keep interrogations which may amount to torture "safe, legal, ethical and effective."

Sign online at www.ethicalpsychology.org/pens

7. Contact Us

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PFP is an Interest Group of the Australian Psychological Society. Its members are psychologists, and others, who are concerned about the prevalence of war and conflict in our world and are interested in applying their professional skills to issues relating to promoting peace and preventing war. We are working to promote peace in the world and prevent conflict through psychological research, education and advocacy. <http://www.groups.psychology.org.au/pfp/>