

Olive Branches

New Peace Drum!

by Leo Hartshorn, Minister of Peace and Justice, Mennonite Mission Network

Peace and Justice Support Network (PJSN) of Mennonite Church USA seeks to keep the vision of peace and justice central to the mission of the church in the world. One particular way the network supports its work is by producing a variety of peace products and resources, such as the recent and popular Pray for Peace, Act for Peace flags, t-shirts, and bumper stickers (Peace resources can be found on the PJSN web site, below). The sale of these products helps to support the Mennonite Mission Network staff position of Minister of Peace and Justice, PJSN Administrative Assistant, and the ongoing work of PJSN. A new peace product is now available that has grown out of my passion for peace and drumming: the Peace Drum.

Drumming for Peace

Historically, drums have been used for purposes of war making, along with worship, ritual, and celebration. For example, snare drum rudiments were originally used as signals for battle. And we are all probably aware of the overuse of the phrase “the drumbeats of war” in the media before the Iraq war. But I believe drums can be transformed into instruments of peacemaking. Drums are increasingly becoming a part of peace vigils, rallies, and gatherings. Drumming for Peace, a Lancaster, PA-based organization, which I co-direct with Heidi Beth Wert, uses rhythm, drumming, and stories of peace drums to teach and perform public witness for peace programs through programs such as Found Sounds (school program), Commit No Violence (drumming ensemble), A Joyful Noise (church program), PEACE K.I.D.S. (for younger children), The Healing Drum (for people with special needs), and Revelation 7:9 (a multiethnic musical group). I have been able to connect drumming for peace with my work as Minister of

Peace and Justice for the Mennonite Mission Network and take the message of peacemaking through rhythm to children, youth, and adults from different denominations and in many states.

The Peace Drum

The Peace Drum is a 12" frame drum made in India. For three generations a family in Kolkata has been making musical instruments, including these damfa drums. One master artisan and two other people are responsible for making this damfa, a frame drum, from the soft Deodar wood (from Deo=God and dar=wood). In the Indian village the damfa is used with folk and religious songs. It is often brightly hand painted with vegetable colors. The frame drum is one of the oldest types of percussion instruments. Its origin may have been the sieve used for sifting grain. The earliest visual depiction of a drummer playing a frame drum comes from a cave in Catal Huyuk, ancient Turkey, around 5600 B.C.E. It is believed that the Neolithic community who painted on these caves did not engage in warfare. Possibly this drummer from Catal Huyuk was the first drummer for peace! The frame drum was predominantly, but not exclusively, played by women in the ancient world (1 Samuel 10:5). This is the drum, without metal jingles, which is referred to in the Hebrew Scriptures as the “tambourine” or “timbrel” (Hebrew=tof) and was used in worship (Psalm 68:24-25). Following God’s liberation of Israel from Egypt and the crossing of the Red Sea, Miriam and the

We encourage you to buy your own Peace Drum and to “drum for peace” through the following ways:

- Play it in worship settings
- Play it along with peace songs
- Use the drum to lead rhythmic peace chants
- Play rhythms while marching for peace
- Form a group of drummers for peace



Remember,
Citizenship Sunday
is July 6. Check
PJSN web site for
worship resources.

women celebrated with the frame drum and dancing (Exodus 15). Psalm 150 encourages worshippers to praise God on the frame drum (Psalm 150:4). Following Jewish tradition, the early church would have worshiped and celebrated playing the frame drum. It wasn't until the drum became associated with pagan Graeco-Roman gods and goddesses that the drum was forbidden and fell out of use within Christian worship. Today, the drum is being reintroduced into Christian worship and peacemaking. The drum has been an essential element of the spirituality of the majority of the peoples of the earth since the dawn of civilization.

Who This Drum Benefits

By purchasing the Peace Drum you not only have the benefit of owning your own frame drum with the Mennonite Church USA logo and "drumming for peace" encircling the head, you can play it as an instrument of peace. Not only that, but you will also be benefiting the work of peacemaking in the U.S. and beyond by supporting Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church USA. For more information on PJSN and more resources go to our web site: <http://peace.mennolink.org>. Further, your purchase of the Peace Drum will also support the work of Ten Thousand Villages, which provides vital, fair income to people in developing countries by marketing their handicrafts in North America. For information on Ten Thousand Villages go to their web site: <http://www.tenthousandvillages.com>. Finally, your purchase will benefit those artisans in India who make the frame drum. Your purchase of the Peace Drum and your financial contributions to Peace and Justice Support Network are appreciated. A special word of thanks goes to everyone who has supported PJSN financially and in other significant ways. To join PJSN go



Drumming for Peace ensemble Commit No Violence with Nobel Peace Prize recipient Archbishop Desmond Tutu.

to our web site and register as a member.

The Peace Drum may be ordered for \$25.00 plus shipping and handling through:
Mennonite Media
1251 Virginia Avenue
Harrisonburg, VA 22802-2497
E-mail: LoisH@MennoMedia.org
Telephone: 1-800-999-3534
Fax: 540-434-5556 (Attention LoisH)
Have your credit card ready for phone orders.

For more information on the Peace Drum, Peace and Justice Support Network, or Drumming for Peace contact:

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Peace and Justice Support Network seeks to promote peace and justice by:

- ✻ creating and keeping clear the vision of peace and justice in Mennonite Church USA,
- ✻ promoting the expansion of peace and justice through gatherings for inspiration,
- ✻ providing counsel to Mennonite Church USA agencies and Executive Board,
- ✻ sharing and publicizing resources for congregations,
- ✻ communicating peace and justice work to the wider constituency.



Olive Branches is a publication created by Peace and Justice Support Network to inspire creative thinking and action in our collective peace and justice work. Published twice a year, *Olive Branches* is a companion piece to *Dove Tales*, PJSN's biannual newsletter. **PJSN Reference Committee:** Leo Hartshorn, Susan Mark Landis, Valerie Weidman, Dick Davis, Malinda Berry, Titus Peachey, Mark Frey, Yvonne Diaz Keeler, and Sisay Desalegn. **Editor:** Leo Hartshorn, Minister of Peace and Justice, Mennonite Mission Network. **Designer:** Cynthia Friesen, volunteer. **Send your ideas to:** 202 South Ann Street, Lancaster, PA 17602, 717-399-8353, LeoH@MennoniteMission.net. **Web site:** <http://peace.mennolink.org>