

Pro Concordia Labor *For Peace I Work*

August 27, 2013, Oude Kerk, Delft, the Netherlands

CELEBRATION HIGHLIGHTS:

18:30pm Music, Coffee and Tea

La Violetta:

Paulina van Laarhoven: Viola da Gamba (Treble & Bass)

Juun Voorhoeve: Viola da Gamba (Bass) & Baroque Guitar

19:00 Introductory Remarks

19:10 Address of Ms. Brigid Inder

Director, Women's Initiatives for Gender Justice

19:45 Address of Stephen J. Rapp

U.S. Ambassador for Global Criminal Justice

20:20 Address of Ms. Leymah Gbowee

Gbowee Peace Foundation Africa, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate

21:00 Reception



Motion Adopting the Peace Flag

Meeting of the Executive Committee of the U.S. National Council of Women, October 27, 1897

Whereas, a Peace Flag has been designed, symbolical of the principles of peace, with distinctive colors and features which prevent the possibility of its being confused with any existing national flag, namely a tricolor of yellow, purple and white, with a shield placed upon the purple field, surmounted by a man's and a woman's clasped hands, sustained by a pair of dove wings with a white star aloft. . . .[with the motto] "Pro Concordia Labor" (For Peace I Work)



Whereas, This Peace Flag is especially designed for international and cosmopolitan work, namely, the cementing of the loving bonds of universal brotherhood without respect to creed, nationality or color, furnishing one symbol for the use of all the seekers for peace and peace promotors throughout the world. . . .

**The Peace Flag was designed by Countess Cora Ann Slocomb Di Brazza Savorgnan during her tenure as Chair of the Peace and Arbitration Committee of the National Council of Women of the United States.*



Resolved, The National Council of Women of the United States accepts the Peace Flag and adopts the same for use as the emblem of Universal Peace, of the Universal Brotherhood of man, and for international co-operation and work. . . .

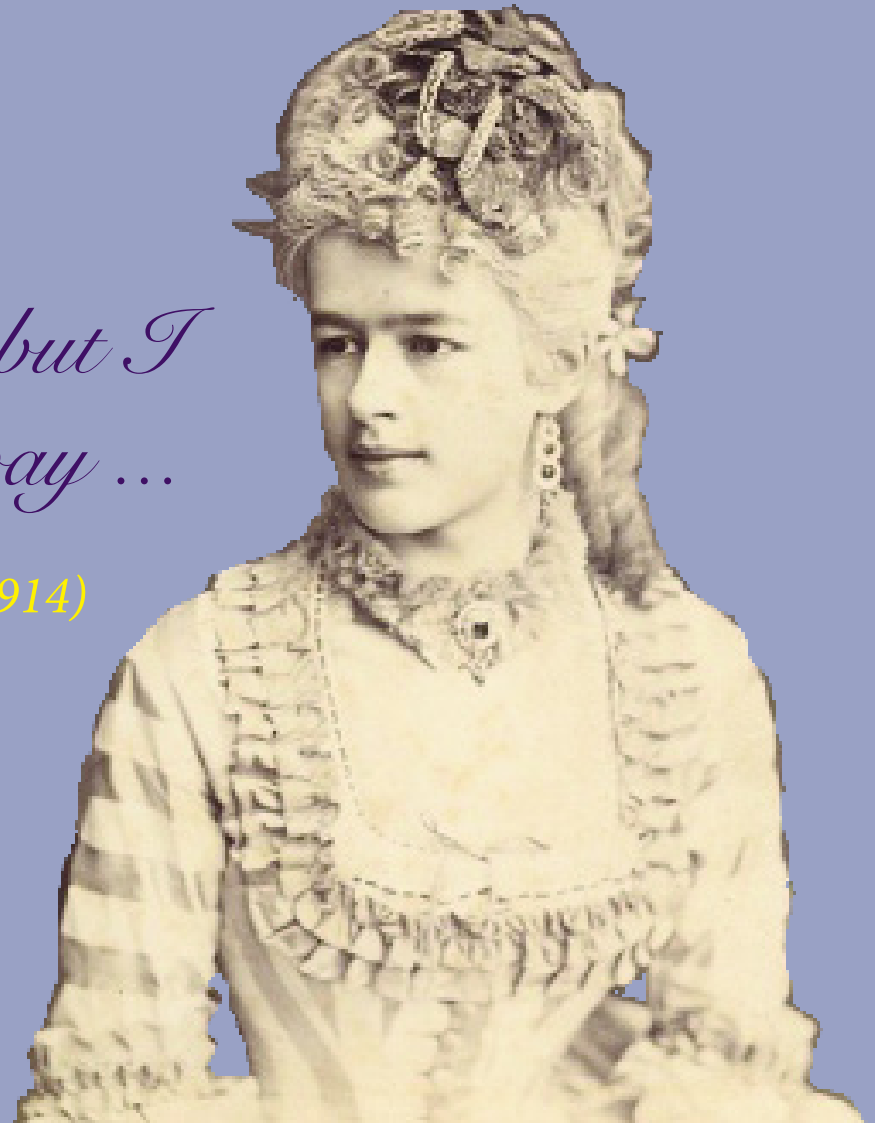
Resolved, That we seek, individually and collectively, to induce the mothers, teachers and citizens of the world, to teach children the lessons of harmony at the hearth, kindness and fair play embodied in the Rules of Harmony, and to practice arbitration in settling all questions, and to love and cherish the Peace Flag as symbolical of all that is noblest in mankind.

~ Mrs. May Wright Sewall moves to accept the motion, seconded by Louise Barnum Robbins.



*Doubts arose in me, but I
chased those doubts away ...*

~ Bertha von Suttner (1843-1914)



Author and peace activist Bertha von Suttner was born in 1843 in Prague. Her 1889 anti-war novel “*Die Waffen Nieder!*” (Lay Down Your Arms!) made her an international celebrity. A brief employment with Alfred Nobel in 1876 would later prove to be a fortuitous moment for the Peace cause - Bertha is credited with inspiring Nobel to create this prize. In 1905, she was the first woman to be awarded with this prestigious prize.

The success of “*Die Waffen Nieder!*” – and the fact that it awakened the public’s anti-war sensibilities, compelled Bertha to seize the moment to continue this public awakening and to realize the dream of Peace. She not only founded peace societies in Austria and Germany, but also issued a newsletter and took a leading part in the annual conferences of the international peace movement. She was the only woman to attend the opening of the 1899 Hague Peace Conference on May 18th. Once again, she capitalized on her presence at this historic event by lobbying official delegations to this conference, by writing, and by organizing events in order to educate the public about the significance of this conference. The conference’s most striking achievement was the establishment of the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), which was aimed at replacing war with arbitration. U.S. businessman Andrew Carnegie provided 1.5 million dollars to provide a worthy home for the PCA. This building, the ‘Peace Palace’, is located in The Hague, and one can learn more about its forgotten history by visiting its free visitor’s center.



To commemorate the centenary of the Peace Palace (August 28, 2013), The Carnegie Foundation commissioned two busts of Bertha von Suttner. The first, by artist Judith Pfaeltzer will be unveiled at a private ceremony at the Peace Palace on August 28, 2013. Leymah Gbowee, 2011 Nobel Peace Prize Laureate, will unveil this statute. The second bust (pictured left) created by artist Ingrid Rollema, is a gift to The Hague Municipality from The Carnegie Foundation. It will be unveiled in the Town Hall of The Hague on September 3, 2013 at 15:00 hours.

Pro Concordia Labor has been organized to honor the legacy of Bertha von Suttner by providing a public educational event focused on current developments concerning women, peace and international law. The event is generously funded by the Department of Philosophy & Religion and the College of Humanities and

Social & Behavioral Sciences of Central Michigan University (CMU). CMU’s sponsorship of this event continues the legacy of the early leaders of CMU whom, in von Suttner’s time, were deeply involved in public education concerning the 19th century peace movement.

Visit the Bertha von Suttner Project:
<http://www.berthavonsuttner.com>

