

Mother Love

By Patti Teel
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"The love of awakened motherhood is a love and compassion felt not only towards one's own children, but toward all people, animals and plants, rocks and rivers—a love extended to all beings."
Amachi

Mother love needs to be cultivated for the good of mankind and for the well-being of our sacred planet. The potential for this all-embracing maternal consciousness lies within all of us, male and female. Very often, it is when we hold our first child in our arms that the flame of mother love is ignited. Once burning, it cannot be extinguished. Throughout history, women have acted to bring the love and compassion felt for their own children into their community, their country and their world. Passionately expressing a mother's love, they have worked to create a better world for future generations. Their work has left a legacy for us to follow.

To the women who contributed to the inception of Mothers Day, the connection between mother love and the fight for social and economic justice and peace seemed self evident. To Anna Reeves Jarvis, Julia Warde Howe and Anna Reeves, (the daughter of Anna Reeves Jarvis), Mothers Day was much more than a recognition of individual mothers. It was an opportunity to use mother love as a powerful force for peacemaking, reconciliation, and community cohesion.

The History of Mothers Day:

Anna Reeves Jarvis

In the 1850's Anna Reeves Jarvis organized Mother Work Day Clubs that focused on providing medicine for the poor and on improving sanitary conditions. Then, during the Civil War, Mothers Day Clubs cared for all soldiers—irregardless of which side of the battle they had chosen. After the war ended, Anna Reeves Jarvis continued her peacemaking by working to bring people together to heal the deep wounds of those who had been divided by the war.

Julia Ward Howe

In the 1870s, Julia Ward Howe began organizing "Mothers Peace Day." After the blood bath of the civil war, she focused on voting rights for women and world peace. When war broke out between France and Prussia, she wrote an impassioned plea to mothers saying, "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, the women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs." At the end she implores, "In the name of womanhood and humanity, I earnestly ask that a general congress of women without limit of nationality may be appointed and held to promote the great and general interest of peace." Following unsuccessful efforts to pull together an international peace conference, and while the Franco Prussian war was still in progress, she began a global appeal to women. She implored women to speak out for peace asking, "Why do not the mothers of mankind interfere in these matters to prevent the waste of that human life of which they alone bear and know the cost?" For the next thirty years, Americans celebrated Mothers Day for Peace on June 2nd. During this time, mothers played a leading role in the abolitionist movement to end slavery and launched campaigns to protect children and to improve the working conditions of women.

Anna Jarvis

Anna Reeves Jarvis' daughter, Anna Jarvis is generally credited with the establishment of Mother's Day in America. She tirelessly organized a letter writing campaign so that the work that her mother waged for peacemaking would not be forgotten. In 1914, her efforts paid off when Congress passed the Mothers Day resolution, appointing it as a national holiday to be celebrated annually on the second Sunday in May.

Mothers Day Today

Today Mother's Day is a time for honoring and thanking our own mothers for giving us life, raising us and being a source of emotional support and love. It is that rare day to enjoy breakfast in bed, cards, and flowers from our own children and husbands. Mothers Day is an opportunity to celebrate mother love, the life-affirming value that is inherent to us all. And most importantly, Mothers Day provides us an opportunity to put this love into action in the defense of the sacredness of life.

Today, our greatest threat is from an indifference and irreverence for human welfare and the health of our planet. But mother's hearts are not indifferent. Heartbroken by the suffering and death of their own sons or daughters or those of another mother's child as a result of war, women around the world are gathering to fuel the flame of mother love, urging women to speak up, to say no to war and to work for peace. Together, our mother love is powerful.

Organize your own circle of women to fuel the flame of mother love in order to protect our children and the planet.

Help your children to discover and maintain inner peace, compassion and acceptance. Peace starts with each individual. Each child whose heart is filled with inner peace, compassion and acceptance will grow up to become a beacon for peace on Earth.

*When we feel what others feel, our understanding will be real
Differences will disappear, loving kindness will be here
Every day, every night, show you care
Every day, every night, say a little prayer*

*Every day is a holy day
Every night is a holy night*

(excerpt from The Christmas Dream, by Patti Teel)

Patti helps children to find peace within themselves. She is the creator of a highly acclaimed audio series that teaches children to turn inward and relax. In her new book for parents, *The Floppy Sleep Game*, parents learn playful relaxation techniques to help their children practice the three R's--resting their bodies, relaxing their minds, and refreshing their spirits. www.pattiteel.com

Dubbed "The Dream Maker" by People magazine, Patti Teel is a former teacher and the creator of an award winning relaxation audio series for children. Her book, *The Floppy Sleep Game*, gives parents techniques to help their children relax, deal with stress and fall asleep. She is a popular speaker and presents innovative workshops for parents, children, and health professionals. Get R&R tips and sign up for her newsletter at www.pattiteel.com. You can listen to her online radio show at www.timeoutwithpattiteel.com.