

On the Line FOR PEACE

DRUMMERS FOR PEACE

Do you remember dragging out pots and pans from the kitchen cupboard so you could make music?

Well, maybe not music, but at least drumming. Drumming is a fun activity and can even be a peacemaking exercise.

Drums are found around the world and have existed since at least 6000 BC. We read about drumming in the Bible. The **frame drum**, or **tambourine** or **timbrel**, as it's called in the scriptures, is a single-headed drum without jingling metal disks set in its frame. The drum was played in worship.

Psalm 68 gives a word picture of worshippers going into the sanctuary—the singers in front, the musicians last, and between them girls playing tambourines.

Psalm 150 encourages people to "Praise the Lord! Praise the Lord with trumpet sound; Praise the Lord with lute and harp! Praise the Lord with tambourine and dance!"

Following Jewish tradition, the early church worshipped and celebrated by playing the frame drum. But when the drum became associated with pagan gods and goddesses, Christians began to stop using the drum in worship. (Find more information about drumming at <http://peace.mennolink.org>. Click on the Peace Drum, then click on "Drum Information Sheet.")

What does drumming have to do with peace? Throughout history, drums have been used to help troops march into war, but Leo Hartshorn and Heidi Beth Wert think drums can teach peace. They are co-directors of Drumming for Peace, leading after-school workshops in drumming.



George Washington Elementary School kids, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, take a turn on a drum.

Leo and Heidi led a workshop at George Washington Elementary in Lancaster, Pennsylvania. This school is located in a neighborhood known for its gang shootings and drug deals. The fifth graders there pounded out polyrhythms on five-gallon buckets, and learned a Drumming for Peace chant:

**As a drummer for peace,
I will live at peace with others.**

**As a drummer for peace,
I will respect myself and others.**

**As a drummer for peace,
I will honor the differences of others.**

You, too, can be a drummer for peace. Grab a bucket and start drumming. Your Sunday school class or Venture Club may want to have a drumming night. You can even add a line to the drummer's chant—

**As a drummer for peace,
I will follow Jesus.**

—The story of drumming at George Washington Elementary originally appeared in the September-October 2002 issue of *Sojourners* magazine. Adapted by permission.

by Jane Yoder-Short

HOW TO MAKE A DRUM

1. Find a drum shell. A cardboard ice cream container works well, or an oatmeal box. Cut off top, or remove lid.

2. Find a drum head. Canvas or other heavy cotton material works.

3. Trace the outline of the top of your drum on the material you have selected. Add an extra two inches, to allow the drum head material to hang over the edge.



4. Dampen the surface of the drum head material with water.

5. Lay the material on top of the drum shell, and glue down the overlapping 1-2 inches of material.

6. Once you've attached your drum head, coat the material with glue, using a paintbrush. Let the glue dry. As it dries, the head will become tighter.

7. Apply a second layer of glue. You can further strengthen your drum by taping the drum head to the drum shell or by encircling the drum head with elastic bands or cord.

8. Decorate your drum and let its sound announce your peace chant.



(Above) Members of the Lancaster, Pennsylvania, drum group "Commit No Violence" and neighborhood children perform in front of a mural at Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School.

Buy a Peace Drum

You can order this special peace drum from <http://peace.mennolink.org>. Sales from this drum support the work of Ten Thousand Villages and the work of the Peace and Justice Support Network of Mennonite Church USA. Ten Thousand Villages sells handicrafts made around the world. A family in Kolkata, India, made this drum.

