



Autumn 2009

BULLETIN

international
International Programs
YMCA Canada East

Peace Lanterns



Several Atlantic YMCAs – including Fredericton, Lunenburg County, and Saint John – prepared Peace Lanterns for the YMCA of Hiroshima, Japan, to be used in their annual memorial service. The following description comes from Yasmin Ojah of the Saint John YMCA-YWCA:

In July, the students of the Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada program participated enthusiastically in learning about and creating peace lanterns in response to a request from the Y in Hiroshima, Japan. The activity lasted the whole day and involved students from our Triage (multi-level class), and Levels 2 and 3. Classes read the story about a little girl preparing origami cranes, discussed the atomic bomb and then read about the Peace Lantern festival. Following that, they performed an internet search through YouTube and located a video of last year's festival. Together with teachers, they had conversations about making the peace lanterns and taking part in this year's festival. That afternoon, classes got together and proceeded to make and decorate the lanterns, following written instructions. Participants included students from Colombia, Turkey, Korea, China and Congo as well as three instructors.



Alicia Strong of the Lunenburg County YMCA shows young participants how to make Peace Lanterns.



Peace Memorial
at Hiroshima

The Language Instruction for Newcomers to Canada program is federally funded and has been run out of the Saint John Y for seventeen years. New immigrants are assessed to determine their level of English and then assigned to classes on the basis of their results in Listening, Speaking, Reading and Writing. Instructors, all qualified in Teaching English as an Additional Language, work with students through a series of themes contained in a curriculum provided by the Centre for Canadian Language Benchmarks. The YMCA-YWCA focus is on settlement language training and orientation to Canadian culture.



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In Memory of Isy Obed Murillo



In June, the President of Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, was forced from office by a military coup. Following the coup, there were demonstrations throughout the country protesting the event. Isy Obed Murillo was a 19 year old who had taken part in several programs at the Honduras YMCA. He died on July 5 as a result of injuries sustained while participating in a peaceful demonstration near the airport in Tegucigalpa.

In a letter of condolence to the National General Secretary of the Honduran YMCA, the Secretary General of the World Alliance of YMCAs, Dr Bart Shaha wrote: "On behalf of the World Alliance of YMCAs I would like to express our deepest condolences to the family, friends and colleagues of Isy Murillo.

"We too are shocked and angered by the senseless killing of innocent civilians like Isy and pray with you for peace and justice. Our thoughts and prayers are with you all."

The program director of the Honduras YMCA, Nolvía Oseguera, submitted the photograph above with the following note: "Companions, we are sharing this information with the youth who are part of the YMCA movement. We respect their ideals as we respected those of our companion Isy Murillo. He was a young man, and we owe respect to all youth."

The Honduran YMCA has long worked to combat violence in their country.



In Spanish, the YMCA is known as the ACJ (Asociación Cristiana de Jóvenes)

CULTURES

B O U T I Q U E



Cultures Boutique is a fair trade gift and clothing store which has been operated by the YMCA of Fredericton for the past 16 years. The funds raised by Cultures have been used to support the International Program of the Fredericton Y. As a result of the proceeds from Cultures, Fredericton has been able to support projects in Belize and the Dominican Republic as well as participating in the current regional partnership with Honduras.

Other Atlantic YMCAs, including those in Moncton and Yarmouth, have held "Cultures Venues" – bringing product from Cultures to their communities as local fundraisers. The Moncton YMCA held its 3rd Annual Fair Trade Cultures Sale during International Fair Trade Awareness Day on Saturday, May 9, 2009. In addition to fund-raising, the sale provided an opportunity for Moncton Y volunteers to educate members of the community about the Fair Trade movement.



Volunteers Norma Raine and Marie-Josée Leger with the Cultures Venue in Moncton.

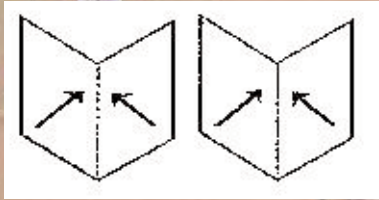


Michelle Smith of the Sarnia YMCA visiting Cultures in Fredericton

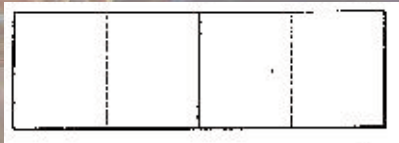
Recently Michelle Smith and Tracey Bolzon of the Sarnia-Lambton YMCA visited Cultures as part of their efforts to open a similar store in Sarnia.

Sarnia is a border city in southwestern Ontario on the shores of Lake Huron. It is in this backdrop that Sarnia will be home to a new Cultures Boutique in 2010. With the continued support and provision of initial purchasing expertise from the Fredericton YMCA, Sarnia looks forward to a thriving and exciting Fair Trade journey.

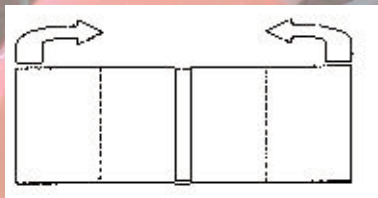
How to make a Peace Lantern Shade



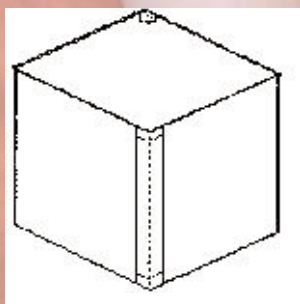
Begin with two sheets of A-4 paper; 30cm x 21 cm. Cut off 6cm to make the size 30cm x 15cm. Plain office paper, white or light colours work best. (Two colours are shown in the instructions; however, a lantern shade is usually made with two sheets of the same colour.) Fold each sheet once in the center to make two panels per sheet, each about 15cm x 15cm.



Open up the sheets and place them with the folds bending downward next to each other. Overlap them about 1 cm and glue the two sheets together where they overlap. Make sure they are glued firmly.



Bring the two outer edges together to make a closed shade and glue the two sheets where they overlap about 1cm in the back.



Decorate your Peace Lantern with paintings (watercolours are fine), drawings, cut-outs, poetry, prayers, etc. to express your hopes, feelings, and thoughts for Peace in our world. You may also want to express something in remembrance of a departed one as some people use this ceremony to comfort the souls of loved ones who have passed away. Please make sure that anything you attach to the lantern is firmly placed on.