



THE PEACE FLAG.



MOTTO: PRO CONCORDIA LABOR.



The *Pro Concordia Labor* flag (“I work for Peace” or even more accurately, “I work for Harmony”) – the rich symbolism of which is described opposite this page – was designed in 1897 by Countess Cora di Brazzà (1862-1944). Di Brazzà appreciated the power of visual symbols and recognized that peace workers lacked a single image that represented their work. She created a flag with the colors of yellow, purple and white because no nation’s flag used this color combination. The flag is a unique visual representation of the values that motivate cosmopolitan work, namely “the cementing of the loving bonds of universal brotherhood without respect to creed, nationality or color.” The distinctive colors made it impossible for one to confuse the flag with another nation’s flag, and the flag symbolizes that notion that cosmopolitan values transcend national identities.

E.C. Warriner (1866-1945), the 4th President of Central Michigan University (CMU) from 1918-1939, was actively involved in the pre-WWI Peace Movement to which the *Pro Concordia Labor* flag is connected. On October 28, 1910, when he was Superintendent of Saginaw Public Schools, Warriner organized the Michigan branch of the American School Peace League (ASPL). Charles Grawn, CMU’s 3rd president, served as Vice President of the ASPL. The ASPL was a national network of public school teachers, administrators and students who were committed to education about the ‘peace through law’ movement and the emerging international legal machinery created to eliminate armed conflict. The ASPL sponsored national essay competitions, distributed peace education curricula, and supplied materials for the celebration of Peace Day, May 18, which was recognized because it was the day on which the 1899 Hague Peace Conference opened. Throughout WWI and as President of CMU, E.C. Warriner remained actively involved in the Peace Movement. In 1923, his CMU commencement address was entitled “The Outlook for Peace.”

Central Michigan University first raised the Peace Flag in front of Warriner Hall in May 2015. It continued that tradition on May 18, 2016 in commemoration of Peace Day. In 2017, CMU raises the flag on April 7 to commemorate the centenary of the U.S. entry into World War I - which was supposed to “end all wars.” Ironically, the Conscription Act, which drafted American men into World War 1, was enacted on May 18, 1917. This undoubtedly helped to erase the memory of Peace Day and the pre-WWI Peace Movement. Raising the flag helps us to excavate that history and bring it from darkness into light. The raising of the flag on April 7, 2017 also commemorates the 23rd anniversary of the Rwandan genocide, which began on April 7, 1994 and lasted for three tragic months. The Rwandan genocide was a watershed moment which further developed the peace through law movement including the maturation of jurisprudence connected to the crime of genocide, and the creation of the International Criminal Court. We raise the flag to remember these things, and to pay heed to international lawyer Rafael Lemkin (1900-1959) who said: “the function of memory is not only to register past events, but to stimulate human conscience.”

The Symbolism of the Peace Flag.*

THE TRICOLOR, like the triangle, is emblematic of liberty, unity and fraternity, as the THREE throughout all time has stood in religion for Divine Love, Absolute Wisdom, Universal Harmony and in nature for Air, Earth and Water.

The flag, therefore, which symbolizes all these must be a tricolor, composed of yellow, purple and white. YELLOW, because this is the color of active love, of energy, and of creative paternal force, attributes of the sunlight, ripeness and plenty. PURPLE, because this is the color of triumph achieved through constancy, self sacrifice and perseverance, which are feminine or maternal attributes. WHITE, because this is the color of innocence and purity, attributes of the young and inexperienced.

These emblematic colors are so placed as to illustrate the development of humanity. Bertha von Suttner, the most famous peace worker of di Brazzà's time and who inspired Alfred Nobel to create his Peace Prize, spoke often of the spiritual development of humanity. "Humanity develops upward," she said, and "we are called to hasten the development of a higher and more fortunate type of human being." The *Pro Concordia Labor* flag symbolically represents these sentiments. The child spirit (WHITE) first appears sustained by the mother spirit (PURPLE), for the innocent must learn through patient teaching and that self-sacrificing spirit which mediates between the weak and the strong. Tender endurance (PURPLE) creates the hearth and the family ideals. It is therefore worthy to carry the emblems of aspiration, the crest of Universal Peace; while the paternal element (YELLOW), with its power and will, holds humanity to the blue staff of promise and fidelity of purpose.

The Star of Destiny caps the flagstaff and occupies the exalted position in the crest upon the central field of the flag. The soaring wings of a dove sustain the hands of a man and a woman, clasped above the shield. This represents the insight that the task of developing humanity and creating a peaceful world must be a joint venture undertaken by both men *and* women who labor for these goals *together*.

When Susan B. Anthony commented on the flag in 1897, she observed the flag's connection to the profound relationship between one's "inner world" and peace work. As she lay her hand on her breast, Anthony noted that "the first person to begin this work of peace is right here." Countess di Brazzà not only agreed with this, she created a personal tool to assist the individual in undertaking this personal peace work. The "Universal Peace Badge" consists of the clasped hands, the wings and the star of the crest made in metal. This forms a pin to support a yellow ribbon for the men, purple for the women, or white for the children. To learn more about the Universal Peace Badge visit:

THE SEVEN RULES OF HARMONY.

In addition to designing the *Pro Concordia Labor* flag and the Universal Peace Badge, Countess di Brazzà also formulated the THE SEVEN RULES OF HARMONY. These rules provide concrete guidance to individuals who wish to undertake the work of peace. First presented in 1897 by delegates from the Universal Peace Union to the first National Congress of Mothers (held in Washington, D.C., USA in February 1897), these rules were widely disseminated that year and especially recommended to the consideration of parents, guardians and teachers because they were in a position to teach the rules to children. But the rules are no mere child's play. When taken seriously, they have the power to open latent channels of compassion and direct those channels to the progressive reform work of an activist. They are printed below for your convenience:



1. MAKE THE SACRED SPIRIT OF PEACE A LIVING POWER IN YOUR LIFE, AND CONTRIBUTE ALL POSSIBLE TIME, THOUGHT AND MONEY TO ITS DIFFUSION.
2. NEVER LISTEN, WITHOUT PROTEST, TO INSINUATIONS, VITUPERATIONS OR UNJUST ACCUSATIONS AGAINST THE MEMBERS OF YOUR FAMILY AND YOUR FELLOW-CITIZENS.
3. SEEK TO UNDERSTAND THE SPIRIT OF THE NATIONAL LAWS, AND TO OBEY THOSE WHICH EXIST; AND TO INTEREST YOURSELF FERVENTLY FOR THE MODIFICATION OF ALL THOSE WHICH YOU CONSIDER TYRANNIZE USELESSLY OVER ANY CLASS OF FELLOW CITIZENS.
4. DEDICATE YOUR THOUGHT AND USE YOUR INFLUENCE TO DEVELOP THE NATIONAL AND PATRIOTIC SPIRIT, AND DO NOT CRITICIZE WITHOUT PURPOSE THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FAMILY AND OF THE NATION.
5. TREAT ALL BIRDS AND BEASTS, AND ALL EXISTENCES OF THE ANIMAL AND VEGETABLE WORLD, WITH JUSTICE AND GENTLENESS. DO NOT DESTROY, SAVE FOR SELF-PRESERVATION, AND FOR THE PROTECTION OF THE WEAK. INSTEAD, MAKE IT YOUR OBJECT TO PLANT, TO NOURISH AND TO PROPAGATE ALL THAT WILL LEAD TO THE MORAL AND PHYSICAL AMELIORATION OF THE FAMILY, THE HOME AND THE NATION.
6. TEACH YOUR CHILDREN AND YOUR DEPENDENTS WHAT YOU MAY LEARN WITH REGARD TO JUSTICE AND PEACE, AND SEEK TO DEVELOP IN THEM SENTIMENTS OF HARMONY.
7. SEEK EACH DAY TO UTTER SOME WORK OR PERFORM SOME LITTLE ACTION WHICH MAY PROMOTE THE CAUSE OF PEACE, WHETHER AT HOME OR ABROAD.