

**Date:** Saturday, April 28

**Time:** 11 AM to 2 PM

**Place:** St. Aidan's Parish

:



**Julia Ward Howe**

## A Mother's Day Heroine Comes to Life on Stage

For us in the peace movement, it's more than comforting to know that there are peaceful roots that nourish the history of Mother's Day. At this year's Pax Christi Annual Potluck Brunch, with the help of artist-actress **Jane Smith Bernhardt** (photos at right), we return dramatically to those roots.

They go back to Julia Ward Howe, known first for writing the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" as an anthem for the Union war effort during the bloody

American Civil War. In the years before the war, she and her husband had been part of a circle radically devoted to the abolition of slavery. And in the years after "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," she broke free of the emotional shackles that her husband had tried to impose on her and began to speak more publicly. Her primary subject: the evils of war.

In 1870, as the Franco-Prussian War was breaking out in Europe, she audaciously called on women to rise up and reject war. Her idea was to establish a Mother's Day for Peace. Toward that end, she issued a ringing proclamation, a cry from the heart, urging the world's women to lead their sons and husbands to turn aside from war and embrace peace. Sadly, the Mother's Day for Peace tradition did not take hold. Later, the tradition that we now know as Mother's Day did catch on, but without her beautiful emphasis on peace.

Now Jane Smith Bernhardt, who drew the largest audience ever for a Pax Christi potluck with her portrayal of Holocaust survivor Etty Hillesum, brings Julia Ward How alive for us. Don't miss this chance to give your Mother's Day greater meaning this year.

### Join us Saturday, April 28

**ST. AIDAN'S PARISH, WILLISTON PARK**

**Directions:** Long Island Expressway to Exit 37 or Northern Parkway to Exit 28. Go south on Willis Avenue for a little less than two miles.

**Food:** Bring a hot dish, a cold dish, some bread, some juice, or whatever you're inspired to bring. But if for some reason you can't bring anything, don't let that stop you.

**Admission:** It's free. At the end of the brunch, we'll have baskets available for free-will offerings. But they really are free will offerings. Let your conscience be your guide.



### An Excerpt from Julia's Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870:

Our husbands will not come to us, reeking of carnage, for caresses and applause. 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.