

## Women hosting peace in a time of war

A 'singing seminar' presented by A Chorus of Women<sup>1</sup>

Followed by a conversation hosted by Jane Geltch

Wednesday 11 September 2019, 6.30-8.30 pm in the Chapel, ACC&C

### An invitation from Janet Salisbury, AoH Canberra group

As part of your attendance at this Art of Hosting Conversations that Matter training course, I invite you to attend a 'singing seminar' which I will present with the help of my friends in A Chorus of Women. It is our gift for all who have a passion for conversations that matter.

In narrative and song, we will tell the 100-year-old story of the women who are the inspiration for A Chorus of Women's recent performances of *The People's Passion* by Glenda Cloughley. We tell how this worldwide web of women – connected through the suffrage, social reform and peace movements – reached out to each other after the outbreak of WW1 to reaffirm their common humanity when the humanity of the world was falling apart. In 1915, seventy years before David Bohm gave the world the principles of dialogue, long before mediation and facilitation became established practices or the 'art of hosting' was a 'thing', 1300 unenfranchised women from warring and neutral countries hosted each other with grace, respect and passion for peace at The Hague for the only peace congress of WW1.

The collaborative processes and deep listening by these women for principles to nurture life, yielded resolutions that have informed much subsequent human rights law. They also developed the world's first plan to stop war through continuous mediation. Reading and rereading the resolutions, the text of the mediation plan, and the story of their makers, I am continuously inspired by this marvelous expression of the principles of dialogue, hosting and deep listening, which encapsulate at a very deep level, the qualities that I long for in public discourse today.

In our research about these women, we found many mirrors for our own collaborative processes in Chorus. We invite you to explore this remarkable story and to ponder with us how to open ears and hearts to the global predicament today.

<sup>1</sup> A Chorus of Women is a Canberra-based group who since 2003 have been giving voice to citizen concerns through original songs, performance works and public conversations.

A simple meal will be provided to share after the close of training and before the performance starts. Cost approx. \$15-20 per person.

#### CONTACT

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