

# Ground Zero

July 2007

Volume 12 Issue 3

## Thirty Years of Resistance and Community

*Ground Zero was founded in 1977. In this issue, members reflect on their experiences with the group and the ways Ground Zero has influenced their lives.*

“There’s no one ‘most significant’ moment that comes to mind of my lifetime in Ground Zero. There are countless, like every time I hear my mom (and others) speak of her convictions and what underlies her determination to abolish nuclear weapons. I can’t articulate it with the emotion it provokes in me when she says she’s doing it for her children. That, more than anything, inspires me to live conscientiously and thoughtfully.”

— Alissa Greenwald, daughter of Lynne Greenwald

“Jim Douglass told me once that our ability to build a resistance to Trident was determined more by our ability to inspire others, than by our knowledge of the

**Truth, love and hope** are woven together to create the strong fabric that composes the Ground Zero community. The “Peace Quilt” was created by Karol Milner to celebrate the anniversary [see page 3 for more information.] *Photo by Richard Levine.*



issues. From my own experience, I had only been involved in anti-nuclear activities in the Seattle area until one evening in 1983, when I saw Jeanne Clark on the news.

“Jeanne was arrested on the railroad tracks at Bangor on March 22, 1983 in a demonstration against the White Train. It involved the delivery of Trident nuclear warheads to Bangor in specially-built railcars. Her statement was so pure and direct that it pierces my soul to this day. As the Sheriff’s deputies escorted her away, she said over and over, ‘We have to stop the train.’ She held a photo of a young boy and stated, ‘We have to stop the train for Daniel.’ At that moment, I knew that Jeanne was right. I knew I would meet the train. To me, that is the basis and strength of our resistance, our ability to inspire one another.”

— Glen Milner

*Thirty years...* continued on page 5

# One Man's Journey from Working at Bangor to Resisting All Forms of Violence Acting on Faith

By Al Drinkwine

Shortly after our marriage encounter weekend, Jerrie shared with me a disturbing experience she had been exposed to at work. She was employed by Lockheed, a prime contractor at Bangor. Her boss had given her a tour through the underground facilities that monitor the Pacific Naval Fleet. As she looked in awe at the sophisticated military equipment, she questioned, "Is all this used just for defending our country, and not against people in other countries?" Her boss replied, "Now that would be rather silly, wouldn't it? You don't shoot missiles at empty silos." Listening intently to Jerrie, I said little in reply. My ego did not want to hear what she was sharing. Knowing that Jerrie's interpretation of events and facts was accurately keen, I questioned the "American Way" we were all taught to believe in. Surely a nation whose motto states, "In God we trust," would never launch a first-strike at another nation using our nuclear warheads, committing the ultimate sin of mistrust.

For the next three years, I spent an abundant amount of time in serious prayer and soul-searching. The recreation program that I had supervised at work had been contracted out, and in addition to monitoring the new contractor, my duties now involved establishing the base command post and assisting in setting up the offices for the arrival of the first Trident submarine. While sitting through numerous

*"In direct contrast to my observations on base were the Ground Zero demonstrators handing out flyers... if a flyer should appear on my desk, I'd secretly read it. Somehow flyers frequently arrived on my desk."*

military planning sessions, I would quietly listen... Slowly the attitudes spreading from the Pentagon to the enlisted recruits became visible to me, crumbling my wall of denial.

Some of the attitudes displayed themselves daily through verbal expressions commonly used by naval personnel. Examples included, "The commanding officer is God," and "Your wife wasn't issued with your sea bag." Loose interpretations of these expressions might read like this: What the commanding officer wants on this base, he gets. Neither God nor human can be

allowed to get in his way. And from the Navy's perspective, a wife is less important than a sailor's issued clothes.

A third expression that angered me was, "Don't make waves." These expressions are used to instill fear and manipulate personnel into following orders. Individuals who ques-

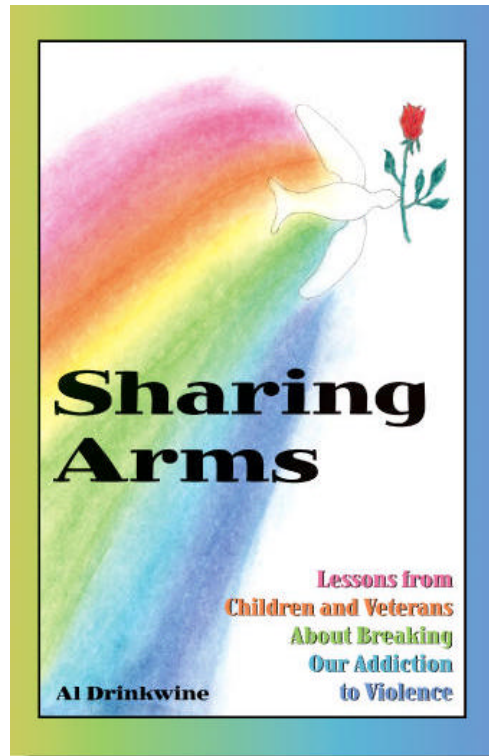
tioned or opposed this authority were viewed as a threat. If anyone questioned or resisted authority, they were quietly and quickly placed in an out-of-the-way job, and skipped over for promotions.

Topping this military mentality was the Navy's belief that blank, unsigned checks grew like pinecones in a large unobserved forest, where they could be plucked and used at will. Any items on Bangor's wish list, large or small, realistic or visionary, were obtained. Do you want lighted tennis courts? Just give us a few months. How about spare china or crystal for the officers' club? Here's a railroad boxcar full. This was reality at Bangor. It remains difficult for me to comprehend how, and why, the US military continually deceives the public by spending without limits, and why we taxpayers continually fund, without question, these bank accounts that cover their expenses.

In direct contrast to my observations on base were the Ground Zero demonstrators hand-

ing out flyers off-base at the main gate. Each Thursday morning when I approached the main gate, their smiles would greet me. At first, my concern was more about the camera mounted above the gate than for the individual offering me a bit of information. The motives behind the camera were threatening, and in hindsight I can see that fear controlled my actions. My job was necessary to meet my financial obligations and to support my family; however, if a flyer should appear on my desk, I'd secretly read it. Somehow flyers frequently arrived on my desk.

One Sunday on our way home from church, the main road to our housing development was nearly blocked by a peace march. I drove past the street where we normally turned and drove to the main gate to see (and to show our children)



Al Drinkwine's book, "Sharing Arms," is the source of this excerpt. Published by Trafford Publishing.

*Acting on Faith... continued on page 10*

# Three Arrested During Mother's Day Action

By Glen Milner

Thirty-five people walked in the early dawn to the demonstration against Trident nuclear weapons at the Bangor submarine base. At 6:00am, three demonstrators entered the main highway and briefly blocked traffic on the Kitsap County side of the Main gate at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor while Navy personnel and support personnel were arriving for work at the base. The three demonstrators carried a banner that stated, *The Earth is our Mother, Treat Her with Respect*. The three – Michael Hill of Elbe, Ann Orleman of Waldron Island, and Joy Goldstein of Vashon Island, were immediately arrested.

A large banner was also hung over the freeway overpass leading into the base declaring, *CREATE A PEACEFUL WORLD FOR ALL CHILDREN, Abolish Nuclear Weapons. Scrap Trident*.

The three arrested by Kitsap County Sheriff's deputies were booked and later released in Port Orchard. The demonstrators were not told what charges might be filed against them by Kitsap County prosecutors. The previous day, Mother's Day, approximately 60 demonstrators held a vigil at 1:00pm at the Main gate at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.

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*Glen Milner has been involved with Ground Zero since the early 1980s. He lives in Seattle.*

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**Shortly after entering the road** Michael Hill, Ann Orleman, and Joy Goldstein were arrested. The dolphin, however, could not be restrained. *Photo by Tom Rogers.*



**Greeting the morning rush at Bangor** with peace signs and a banner. Some drivers waved or flashed peace signs in response to the vigilers. *Photo by Tom Rogers.*

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## Peace Quilt Raffle!

Karol Milner has created a gorgeous lap quilt (see cover photograph) which will be raffled off at the Ground Zero 30<sup>th</sup> Hiroshima/Nagasaki event on August 5. Each raffle ticket costs \$5.00. The quilt, which could also be used as a wall hanging, measures 36 inches by 48 inches and is decorated with beautiful sunflower prints. A panel on the front of the quilt reads, "Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action – 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2007".

Chances to win may be purchased by simply mailing a check to Ground Zero, with "Peace Quilt" in the memo line. Enter as many times as you want! All money raised will go to help build the new Ground Zero house. Raffle tickets may also be purchased at Ground Zero events. The winner does not have to be present to win.

Thank you for helping us build our new Ground Zero house and supporting our continued resistance to the Trident submarine system.



# Year-Long Blockade Continues in Scotland

## Two Ground Zero Members Arrested at Faslane

By Members of Footprints for Peace

Father Bill “Bix” Bichsel, co-founder of the Tacoma Catholic Worker community, and Olympian Bernie Meyers, known as “the American Gandhi,” were arrested on May 29 at the Faslane Trident Naval Base near Glasgow, Scotland. The demonstration was the culmination of an 86-day International Interfaith Peace Walk organized by Footprints for Peace.

Kerry Ann Garlick, an organizer of the Peace Walk, explained, “We are walking from Dublin to London, stopping at many nuclear facilities, to raise public awareness about the suffering inflicted on local communities and the environment throughout the world by the nuclear industry – from the mining of uranium, transportation, enrichment, reprocessing, nuclear power plants, weapons and dumping of radioactive waste.”

*“The power of people gathering in nonviolence is more powerful than this nuclear pile of death. Our action is to free us from nuclear bondage.”*

facilities, to raise public awareness about the suffering inflicted on local communities and the environment throughout the world by the nuclear industry – from the mining of



**Father Bix** (seated, third from right) linking arms with other walkers in front of the main gates of the Faslane Trident Naval Base. Photo from [www.footprintsforpeace.org](http://www.footprintsforpeace.org).

**Bernie Meyer** prior to his arrest at Faslane. Photo from [www.footprintsforpeace.org](http://www.footprintsforpeace.org).



Upon arriving at the Faslane base, the walkers were prevented from entering it. Fr. Bichsel sat down in the entrance to the base and linked arms with other walkers, singing “We Shall Overcome,” before being arrested and carried away by police. Fr. Bichsel, who last year was awarded an honorary degree by University of Puget Sound for his work with the homeless, said, “The power of people gathering in nonviolence is more powerful than this nuclear pile of death. Our action is to free us from nuclear bondage.” Meyers quoted Mahatma Gandhi prior to being arrested: “Unless humanity destroys the atom bomb, I do not see much future for the

human species.” They were both charged with “breach of the peace” and detained in jail overnight.

While Tony Blair’s government has approved plans to keep nuclear weapons in Scotland for the next 50 years, opposition in the UK is growing. 75% of Scots are opposed to Trident. The SNP (Scottish Nationalist Party) which is now governing Scotland is opposed to Trident. The Green Party, the major trades unions, city councils, and churches all want rid of nuclear weapons. Nearly 100 MPs voted against Blair’s proposal to upgrade Trident. Several government ministers resigned in protest.

Since October of last year, a broad coalition of groups, and thousands of individuals from across the globe, have participated in the blockades of the Faslane Base, with more than 750 individuals arrested to date.

Another US contingent is planning to join the blockade during August 19-21. The UK’s Trident missiles are made in America and leased from the US, and the UK relies on navigational data provided by the US Global Positioning System (GPS) and the Electrostatically Supported Giro Navigation System (ESGN).

For further background see [www.faslane365](http://www.faslane365).

*Footprints for Peace* organizes and supports Peace Walks all over the world, for nuclear disarmament, indigenous rights, and a more just and peaceful world. Their web site is [www.footprintsforpeace.org](http://www.footprintsforpeace.org).

“Ground Zero is a quiet place in the middle of one of the most devastating places on earth today. It is this stark contrast between deadly force and peaceful resistance which gives me hope that eventually we will achieve the ultimate goal of living in a world free of nuclear weapons.”

— Dorli Rainey

“In August of 1999, we launched two canoes and a kayak and approached Subase Bangor on the waters of Hood Canal. We were met by naval security but they allowed us time to spread our flowers of peace. Raven brought his Native American blessing to these waters so desecrated by the presence of the massive destructive power of the Trident submarine and the contamination each leaves in these waters. This was sacred time for me.”

— Sister Jackie Hudson, OP

“Picture a big, yellow school bus, filled with people from the Seattle area, boarding a

Washington State ferry at the Colman Dock bound for Ground Zero. This really did happen in the 1980s when Catholic Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen and leaders of the local Council of Churches gathered together enough peace activists to fill a bus! It was my first time as part of a local peace action. Our destination was the ‘old’ main gate to Bangor Naval Base. The bus probably parked at the Ground Zero house property and we walked to the gate. Any other details about that event 20+ years ago are co-mingled with those of the past ten years, when I regularly joined those who gathered at the Ground Zero house, walked to the gate, and returned.

“In August 2005, for the first time, I didn’t return to the house because I was among the nineteen who got arrested and went to Kitsap County jail for several hours.”

— Jean Sundberg

*“To me, that is the basis and strength of our resistance, our ability to inspire one another.”*

*Alissa Greenwald, Glen Milner, Dorli Rainey, Sister Jackie Hudson, OP, and Jean Sundberg are members of the Ground Zero community.*

# A Modest Revival

## *The Resurgence of the Nuclear Disarmament Movement*

By Lawrence S. Wittner

Although the nuclear disarmament movement has been in the doldrums since the end of the Cold War, in recent years there have been signs of a modest revival.

Of course, even in the intervening period, the struggle against the Bomb never disappeared. Around the world, peace and disarmament organizations continued to assail nuclear weapons; however, such efforts failed to spark broad-based antinuclear activism.

But thanks to the recent erosion of the nuclear arms control regime and to the Bush administration’s undisguised contempt for nuclear arms control and disarmament treaties, popular participation in disarmament ventures has begun to grow.

On May 1, 2005, the day before the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference began at the United Nations, thousands of demonstrators marched through Manhattan, demanding a nuclear-weapon-free world. Drawn mostly from the United States, they were mobilized by Abolition Now (a coalition of peace and disarmament groups) and United for Peace & Justice (the largest coalition of peace groups in the United States). A *New York Times* article claimed that “several thousand” people participated in the event, while organizers put the number at 40,000. In either case, it was the biggest nuclear disarmament rally in the United States since the 1980s.

Less dramatically, US peace groups such as Peace Action, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Women’s Action for New Directions, the Council for a Livable World, and the Friends Committee on National Legislation mobilized substantial grassroots pressure against the Bush administration’s proposals for nuclear “bunker-busters” and “mini-nukes,” playing a key role in their congressional defeat. Moreover, these same groups are currently stirring up significant opposition to two new components of a U.S. nuclear buildup—the Reliable Replacement Warhead and Complex 2030.

Student antinuclear activism also appears to be undergoing a renaissance. In May, student hunger strikes and demonstrations broke out on three campuses of the University of California in protest against the university’s involvement in U.S. nuclear weapons programs. Pressing the issue, students disrupted the university’s board of regents meeting on May 18, departing only when tied up and removed by police.

The nuclear disarmament campaign also shows impressive signs of life in other countries. Among the international organizations currently working for a nuclear-weapon-free world are International Physicians for



**Fasting for their futures:** Students on hunger strike at the University of California Regents meeting in mid-May. Photo from [www.nonukeshungerstrike.blogspot.com](http://www.nonukeshungerstrike.blogspot.com).

# All Hands On Deck! Peace Fleet Sails Aug. 1st

By Glen Milner

The annual Ground Zero Peace Fleet invites all with the spirit of nonviolence, a sign, and a boat to join us on Wednesday, August 1 in Elliott Bay, near Seattle, to counter the presence of warships in the bay. Peace Boats in the past have displayed earth and peace flags, and signs stating *No More War, Impeach Bush, USN=WMD*, and a banner stating *Danger! Navy has weapons of mass destruction*.

Landlubber activists are again encouraged to meet on the Seattle waterfront near Pier 66 by 1:00pm to greet the Peace Fleet. Please bring banners and signs.

Please note that we try to have Peace Fleet boats in Elliott Bay by noon. Time goes pretty fast while out on the water. We will know more about this as the day gets closer, such as which Navy ships are coming to Seattle. For updates, please call or e-mail the contacts listed below.

All boats should expect to be boarded by the Coast Guard. Boats must have approved audible sound devices, registration, life jackets, and meet all other requirements for vessels in Elliott Bay. Skippers should carry identification. It is recommended that all boats stay 500 yards away from Navy warships. It is highly advisable to obey all Coast Guard orders. One Peace Fleet skipper is still contesting a civil penalty for allegedly being too close to US Navy vessels in August 2004.

Why would we demonstrate for peace at a Seattle maritime festival? Because the celebration of warships in our harbor help bring about the normalcy of modern war. The fleet arrival at Seafair is a public relations and recruiting event for the US Navy. Previous years have brought Trident nuclear submarines and Navy warships used to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles in the first and second wars on Iraq and the war on Afghanistan. The fleet is displayed for four days in downtown Seattle at tremendous cost to taxpayers, while crucial social services in education, health care, and transportation are being cut for lack of funds.

Each year at Seafair, the Navy has brought types of ships into Puget Sound which have fired radioactive depleted uranium bullets. The Close-In Weapons System, aboard almost every US Navy vessel, is test-fired twice a month for calibration. The depleted uranium rounds have been fired off the Washington coast in past years. A document recently obtained through the Freedom of Information Act shows



The crew of the Coast Guard Cutter *Fir* keep a close watch for pesky citizens objecting to the glorification of warships, at Seafair 2006. Photo from [www.piersystem.com](http://www.piersystem.com).

the Navy is still handling depleted uranium munitions at Naval Magazine Indian Island, near Port Townsend.

Please call or email Mary Gleysteen at (360) 297-3894, Glen Milner at (206) 365-7865, or [info@gzcenter.org](mailto:info@gzcenter.org) for more information.

*Glen Milner is the Media Coordinator for Ground Zero and one of the Peace Fleet skippers.*

## A Modest Revival... continued from page 5

Prevention of Nuclear War, with affiliates in 60 nations, and Abolition 2000, a campaign of about 2,000 groups in more than 90 countries.

In India, the Coalition for Nuclear Disarmament and Peace — an umbrella organization of some 200 groups—sharply condemned the recent US-India nuclear deal. In Germany, dozens of leaders of youth organizations issued a call for the withdrawal of nuclear weapons from their country. Perhaps the fiercest antinuclear uprising over the past year occurred in Britain, where the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament led a turbulent mobilization against the British government's plan to replace its aging Trident nuclear weapons system.

Admittedly, none of this agitation is comparable to the outpouring of antinuclear protest that shook the world and shocked policy makers during the 1980s. But it does indicate the possibility for a dramatic upswing in antinuclear weapon activism, especially if there is a breakdown of the nuclear arms control and disarmament regime or a heightened prospect of nuclear war.

*Lawrence S. Wittner is Professor of History at the State University of New York/Albany. His latest book is "Toward Nuclear Abolition: A History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement, 1971 to the Present." This article first appeared online at the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists web site, [www.thebulletin.org/roundtable/antinuclear-weapon-movement](http://www.thebulletin.org/roundtable/antinuclear-weapon-movement).*

# The White Train

By Margaret Ann Spiers

This white train  
beats its way:  
Idaho Panhandle  
basalt scabland  
Wallula Gap  
Columbia  
Oh Columbia  
Roll on, Columbia.

Doublespeak white,  
this train hauls  
armored cars  
with slit windows,  
rumored to guard  
nuclear warheads  
rumored only  
like the rumors of heaven  
and hell.

Twelve white cars  
engine two-seven-o-three  
engine two-seven-o-four  
proceed past the ghosts  
of imported Chinese  
hung in body baskets  
to set explosives,  
blast the railroad bed.

Past the Palouse:  
Volga Germans  
people towns,

with corner groceries,  
thumping churches,  
stout fathers,  
Walla Walla sweets,  
knackwurst, bratwurst.

This train clacks  
past Chief Joseph.  
His words buffet  
the blue sage:  
From where the sun  
now stands,  
I will fight no  
more forever.

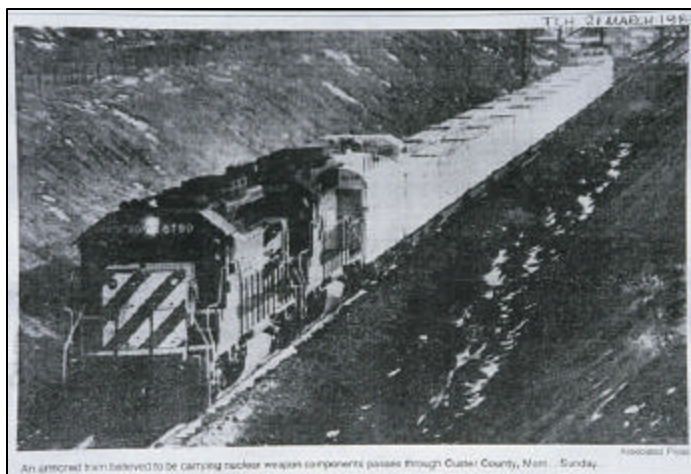
The white cars  
racket past  
bending migrants  
paralyzed  
over asparagus shoots.  
They harvest the spear  
with one knife  
curled tight.

Past the Veronicas,  
mountain meadow  
flower, blue tears  
on green stems.  
In the Cascades,  
she is named Veronica Figwort  
or Speedwell, Speedwell.

Past the mourners  
feet in crushed rock,  
lining the rails,  
creosote ties.  
This system's a web  
sea to shining sea  
Manifest Destiny  
America America.

This white train  
rumbles into McCleary,  
eats through Shelton,  
Christmas Tree  
Capitol of the world.  
"O Christmas Tree,  
O Christmas Tree,  
How bright..."

This white train  
endless cars loaded  
with warheads for peace,  
chug past nuns who,  
with bundles of scotch broom,  
Sweep the track,  
moan the mightiest,  
on its way to Armageddon.



*Margaret Ann Spiers wrote this poem in 1986, and it was re-submitted by Joy Goldstein in honor of Ground Zero's anniversary. The White Train carried nuclear warheads from the Pantex assembly plant in Amarillo, Texas, to the Trident nuclear submarine base at Bangor. In 1985, the Department of Energy began using semi-trailer rigs to ship warheads by highway, due to the large amount of public attention and protest. The White Train cars have since been destroyed.*

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# Interfaith Peace Walk Begins July 15

## "From Hiroshima/Nagasaki to Hope"

By Senji Kanaeda Shonin

The Nipponzan Myohoji Bainbridge Island Dojo, in conjunction with Ground Zero, will be leading a peace walk for the third year in a row to call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. All are invited to participate in the walk for any amount of time — from a few hours to a few weeks. Walkers are expected to abstain from drugs and alcohol.

This year, the walk begins in Oregon. The schedule is as follows:

July 15 – Peace Walk begins with a gathering in Eugene, Oregon  
July 16 – Walk begins in Eugene, destination TBA  
July 17 – TBA  
July 18 – TBA  
July 19 – Walk finishes for the day in Salem  
July 20 – Rest day in Salem  
July 21 – Begins in Salem, destination TBA  
July 22 – Walk finishes for the day in Portland  
July 23 – Walkers will be driven to Richland, WA  
July 24 – Walk to the Hanford Nuclear Reservation  
July 25 – Walkers will be driven to Chehalis  
July 26 – Walk from Chehalis to Olympia

July 27 – Walk from Olympia to Lacey  
July 28 – Walk from Lacey to Tacoma  
July 29 – Rest day in Tacoma



**Peace Walkers** in 2005 crossed the state from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation to Bangor, traveling nearly 300 miles. *Photo by Daniel Norby.*

July 30 – Walk from Tacoma to Puyallup  
July 31 – Walk from Puyallup to Auburn  
August 1 – Walk from Auburn to Renton  
August 2 – Walk from Renton to Seattle  
August 3 – Walk (and take ferry) from Seattle, to Bainbridge Island, to Suquamish  
August 4 – Walk from Suquamish to Ground Zero to join 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

For additional information, contact Senji Kanaeda Shonin at (206) 780-6739 or (206) 356-4362, or email [senji@nipponzan.net](mailto:senji@nipponzan.net) or

[gzperez@juno.com](mailto:gzperez@juno.com)

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*Senji Kanaeda Shonin lives on Bainbridge Island. He has led or participated in Peace Walks all over the world since becoming a Nipponzan Myohoji monk.*

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**Jami Heimricher** encourages Olympians to learn more about nuclear disarmament. *Photo by Alice Zillah.*



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## Olympia Celebrates Sunflower Peace Day

By Alice Zillah

Members of Beyond Hiroshima, an Olympia-based group that lobbied for the successful passage of the town's Nuclear Free Zone status in 2005, celebrated Sunflower Peace Day on June 3rd by handing out packets of sunflower seeds and information at Olympia's busy Farmer's Market.

Sunflower Peace Day commemorates the day in 1996 when the Defense Ministers of Ukraine, Russia and the United States met at a former missile base in Ukraine to celebrate Ukraine becoming a non-nuclear weapons state. Ukraine had completed the transfer of 1,900 nuclear warheads to Russia to be dismantled. When the Defense Ministers gathered, they held a ceremony in which they planted sunflowers, the universal symbol of nuclear disarmament. US Defense Secretary William Perry said, "Sunflowers instead of missiles in the soil will ensure peace for future generations."

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*Alice Zillah lives in Olympia and edits the Ground Zero newsletter.*

# Gratitude to Ground Zero Supporter Joan Reynolds

By Sister Jackie Hudson, OP

My first communication with Joan Reynolds ended up with the two of us carpooling to Seattle for an action at the Federal Building. Joan had just moved to Port Ludlow from California and was looking for local activity when she called Ground Zero.

Although Joan found her major interest in watching the US House and Senate on CSPAN, responding by phone and mail to her legislators, or urging particular votes for peace and social justice, she kept close touch with what Ground Zero was doing.

Joan was very supportive from the beginning, and, as she neared death from cancer, she called to ask how she could direct one-half of her retirement fund to help restore the fire-destroyed Ground Zero House. My last communication was with Joan herself and then her hospice care worker. She was much at peace with her date with death and concerned that work that she was involved with in life would continue after her death.

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*Sister Jackie Hudson, OP, lives in Bremerton and is a member of the Ground Zero Stewardship Council.*

## Estate Planning and Ground Zero

By Sister Jackie Hudson, OP

In August, Ground Zero will break ground for a new center to replace the one destroyed by fire in April of 2005. This is an ideal time to see your work continue long after your death. Your consideration is greatly appreciated.

Estate giving has become a way to extend support to groups supported during life. Please consider Ground Zero as a beneficiary in your Estate Planning. Contact us to discuss ways you can leave Ground Zero a lasting legacy.



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# 30th Anniversary Activities Planned for August

By Lynne Greenwald

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action invites you to join us for our 30th Anniversary, Saturday, August 4 through Monday, August 6 (Hiroshima Day). We will celebrate our history and join in nonviolent direct action to close the Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor (the Trident submarine base.)

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action was founded in 1977. The center is on 3.8 acres adjoining Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action offers the opportunity to explore the root of violence and injustice in our world and to experience the transforming power of love through nonviolent direct action. We resist all nuclear weapons, especially the Trident submarine system.

The Trident submarine base at Bangor, just 20 miles west of Seattle, has become home to the largest single stockpile of nuclear warheads in the US arsenal. In November 2006, the

Natural Resources Defense Council declared that the 2,364 nuclear warheads at Bangor are about 24 percent of the entire US arsenal.

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**Still strong after all these years:** Members of the group risking arrest block the road on Hiroshima Day, 2005.



On August 4 we will welcome the arrival of Peace Walkers [see story page 8], gather to recall the past, plan for the future, participate in a groundbreaking ceremony for the new Ground Zero house, and enjoy a musical fund-raiser with artists Linda Allen and Tom Rawson. August 5 will be a day of nonviolence training, vigiling and planning for direct action at the Trident Submarine Base. August 6 will be "Take the Day Off for Peace." For more information contact [info@gzcenter.org](mailto:info@gzcenter.org), and see

enclosed flyer.

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*Lynne Greenwald lives in Bremerton and is a member of the Ground Zero committee planning anniversary events.*

what was happening. On our way back we met a friend who was participating in the demonstration. Traffic was at a standstill, so we took a moment to talk with her. As we departed, Jerrie said, "Maybe next year I'll be with them." My response to her was, "You do, and you don't need to come home." I felt threatened. How dare she try and remove my security blanket?

Following my reaction to Jerrie, our three children didn't make a sound. Neither did Jerrie. The silence in the car was deafening. My threatening reply, and the silent response, became a strong motivator in my inner search and moral conversion. From that point on, my conscience haunted me. What kind of example was I setting for our children? Was my job



**Prayer, reflection, and exposure to Ground Zero** led to the transformation of Al Drinkwine's life.

more important than Jerrie's freedom to search for the truth? Was my dominance hindering her personal freedom of expression? What kind of husband and father was I?

Through the prayerful search of scripture and other books, plus reading some of the demonstrators' flyers, my shadows of fear and doubt began to lift. Finally I decided it was worth the risk of being filmed and began accepting the Thursday morning offerings of reading material. Soon I looked forward to Thursdays and even quietly copied some flyers and placed them on other people's desks.

My three-year soul search neared completion. While sitting at my desk one day I compiled two lists. One list contained my reasons for remaining employed at DoD – such justifications as family stability, house payments, assorted bills, medical insurance, paid vacation, groceries and retirement filled the page. My list of reasons for resigning included the presence of weapons of mass destruction, our call to love one another, God's mission of peace not war, the fact that thousands of Washington State's hungry could eat quite well on Bangor's military waste, and the list went on. Upon finishing both lists, it became clear that my reasons to remain were all financially oriented, while all my reasons for leaving were based on spiritual principles.

With this realization, I could no longer justify supporting our family with potential doomsday pay. Without a doubt, my resignation was pending; however, I remained a few days longer. The first Trident nuclear submarine was to arrive any day, and my desire was to see it from the "inside." The tension on the base was growing to unrealistic levels, and the stress was so intense that, years later, its effects resurface as I write this.

The Navy had bought a high-speed chase boat in Flor-

ida and sent a crew to bring it back through the Panama Canal, and up the west coast all the way to Bangor. Additionally, they planned to have a blend of civilians and military personnel equipped with newly purchased hand-held radios, stationed at short intervals and nearly surrounding the land side of the 7,800 acre base. This was to guard against possible fence climbers. The demonstrators had made known their plan of an attempt to stop the sub, even if just for a moment, in the frigid waters of Hood Canal.

The preparation ranged from mandatory attendance of both military and civilian personnel, to misleading presentations of why the demonstrators should be feared. Attendance was taken to ensure compliance, and strict warnings about the dangers of approaching a stranger were presented as though we should fear for our lives. Having met some of the individuals in Ground Zero, and knowing of their strong religious backgrounds, I saw no need for a trace of fear. There was no physical threat involved. What the military feared was that the truth might penetrate the military propaganda. After all, the more people who heard, comprehended and followed the truth, the smaller the numbers of those who would participate in military buildups.

My anticipation of the arrival of the first Trident submarine ended upon leaving home to go to work one morning. One block from our driveway was the main road leading to the base, and this particular morning it was plugged solid. Turning on the radio, I picked up special coverage of the sub's arrival. I parked near the administration building where I worked and remained in the truck for a while. I knew that remaining employed on the same base as the Trident nuclear submarine was impossible for me, but resigning was just so hard to do. Praying for guidance, I began to read my Bible. Having randomly opened it, the message I saw was boldly clear and I knew what I must do.

Before filling out my resignation, which I had roughed out some time ago and tucked in my billfold, I made a tour of the many administration offices. Each office had a TV blaring. Everywhere staff had their eyes glued to the live coverage of the arrival on Hood Canal. The Coast Guard and the Navy were stopping and arresting the peace demonstrators in the water – huge and powerful military vessels and Coast Guard boats confronting tiny, wooden rowboats. Powerful water cannons were aimed at American sisters and brothers praying for peace. I was appalled by the attitudes of my coworkers as they cheered the military on. It's amazing what profanity can flow from the mouths of so-called professionals. Any doubts about my parting ways with the US Navy were drowned out by the military attitudes at Hood Canal.

In faith, I resigned my position.

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*Al Drinkwine developed a Twelve Step Program to end addiction to violence following his career at Bangor. Most recently he has taught this program successfully to troubled youth in Seattle. "Sharing Arms," which documents his time at Bangor and life afterwards, can be purchased online through Ebay and Target.com. For more information, see [www.trafford.com/05-1475](http://www.trafford.com/05-1475).*

# POSTCARDS, FILMS, T-SHIRTS, and BUMPERSTICKERS

**"CONVICTION"** a documentary about three Dominican nuns, including Ground Zero organizer Jackie Hudson, sentenced to Federal Prison for their nonviolent protest at a Minuteman III missile site in Northern



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**"WALKING FOR PEACE"** This 29-minute film documents the spiritual and physical journey of a group of people who walked 300 miles, from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation to Bangor Submarine Base, to call for the abolition of nuclear weapons. DVD. Item # F-2 \$10



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\_\_\_\_ Please call me; I want to start leafleting at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard \_\_\_\_ or downtown Seattle \_\_\_\_.  
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Mail orders and donations in US funds to Ground Zero at 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370  
Phone: (360) 297-2890 Email: info@gzcenter.org Website: [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org)

# Victory for Indian Island 37!

By Liz Rivera Goldstein

All charges have been dropped against the 37 peace activists who sat in the road leading to Indian Island naval base on September 23, 2006. The action was part of a nationwide week of protests called by the Declaration of Peace campaign, and involved many members and supporters of Ground Zero. Misdemeanor charges of disorderly conduct for blocking a roadway at the weapons shipping depot near Port Townsend, Washington were first reduced to a \$72 traffic infraction in February. At the pretrial hearing, the prosecuting attorney said their office had decided that a trial would be too costly for Jefferson County. The defendants replied that the war was costing the county far more.

Liz Rivera Goldstein, a member of Ground Zero and

**Hundreds of activists** marched to the gates of the Indian Island naval base last September, the largest weapons depot on the west coast, and location of many Depleted Uranium munitions. *Photo from [www.declarationofpeace.org](http://www.declarationofpeace.org).*



organizer of the Indian Island action, and Bethel Prescott, one of the original 37 arrested, were again arrested at the gate of Indian Island on April 21, when the navy docked a Trident nuclear submarine at the base. They have been charged with disorderly conduct. Both Rivera Goldstein and Prescott look forward to a trial where they hope to present a "necessity defense," citing international law and the illegality of the war and occupation in Iraq. Their next hearing will take place in mid-July before Judge Landes.

*Liz Rivera Goldstein lives in Port Townsend where she organizes Teen Peace, a counter-recruitment group. Liz also serves on the Steering Committee of United for Peace and Justice, a national coalition of anti-war groups.*

GROUND ZERO

## GROUND ZERO CENTER FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION

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*"I dream of giving birth to  
a child who will ask,  
'Mother, what was war?'"*

— Eve Merriam