

# Ground Zero

July 2015

Volume 20 Issue 3



## **“Our children deserve better” Five cited at Mother’s Day action**

By Leonard Eiger

On Saturday, April 9, 2015 Ground Zero commemorated Mother’s Day. Carrying signs saying “Our children deserve better”, five protesters walked into the roadway and blocked traffic entering the base. Washington State Patrol officers moved in and escorted the protesters off the roadway.

Anthony DeLorenzo, Seattle; Tom Karlin, Tacoma; Mona Lee, Seattle; Brenda McMillan, Port Townsend; and Alice Zillah, Olympia; were cited for being in the roadway illegally, released and escorted back to the designated protest zone where others were protesting. Other activists on the overpass over the entrance road held a large banner that read: “Abolish Nuclear Weapons.”

The Mother’s Day eve protest and nonviolent direct action was an annual event held by Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action at the Bangor Trident base. This year’s event was held at a time when the US Government continues to modernize its nuclear weapons, their delivery systems and the infrastructure that builds and maintains them at a cost estimated at roughly a trillion dollars over the next three decades. At the same time nations are meeting at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) Review Conference in New York.

As Leonard Eiger, spokesperson for the NO To NEW TRIDENT Campaign put it, “We can’t have it both ways.

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***Mother’s Day action... continued on page 2***

The rhetoric coming out of The White House is simply not in accord with good faith negotiations towards total nuclear disarmament as required by the NPT. Our nation's actions, rather than slowing nuclear proliferation, are driving it and creating a new nuclear arms race."

**Alice Zillah and Anthony DeLorenzo** await their citations from the Washington State Patrol after blocking the base entrance. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*



Eiger points out that the US Navy's plans for a new fleet of ballistic missile submarines, costing nearly \$100 billion in construction, is at the center of the rapidly developing submarine nuclear arms race. "The US has deployed Trident at near Cold War levels since the fall of the Berlin Wall. Do we seriously think that other nations have not taken notice of this?"

In a statement announcing the Mother's Day eve action event organizer Mona Lee said that, "The world's children deserve better than to struggle to live under the threat of a renewed nuclear arms race. Increasing militarization steals resources desperately needed to mitigate global warming and improve living conditions worldwide."

**Leonard Eiger** co-chairs the Communication and Outreach Committee of the Stewardship Council. He regularly posts at the blog, <http://nuclearabolitionist.blogspot.com>. He took the photo on the front page.

## Transform Now Plowshares Activists Released from Prison

Compiled from news reports

The Catholic nun and two military veterans who spent two years in prison for their 2012 Transform Now Plowshares action are free! Sr. Megan Rice, Greg Boertje-Obed and Michael Walli were released from prison on May 16 when their conviction for sabotage was overturned by an appeals court.

On July 28, 2012, the activists cut through several fences at the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge to reach the uranium storage bunker. Once there, they hung banners, prayed and hammered on the outside wall of the bunker. They also poured their own blood onto the walls, in keeping with Plowshares actions. The Y-12 houses most of the US's bomb-grade uranium.

A panel of the 6th US Circuit Court of Appeals overturned the sabotage conviction, the most serious charge against them, but upheld a conviction for injuring government property.



**A warm hug** greets Sr. Megan Rice as she is released after two years in federal prison. *Photo courtesy of the Nuclear Resister.*

At issue was whether the nonviolent protest "injured national security," a requirement of the sabotage charge. The majority opinion of the appeals court found that it did not. "If a defendant blew up a building used to manufacture components for nuclear weapons ... the government surely could demonstrate an adverse effect on the nation's ability to attack or defend. ... But vague platitudes about a facility's 'crucial role in the national defense' are not enough to convict a defendant of sabotage," the opinion says.

Their attorney, Bill Quigley, said he hopes they will be re-sentenced to time served and released from prison.

**Updated information** on the release of Sr. Megan Rice, Greg Boertje-Obed, and Michael Walli can be found at [www.nukeresister.org](http://www.nukeresister.org).

### Question of the month!

How many total successful test launches of the Trident II D-5 submarine-launched ballistic missile has the US Navy conducted? You might be surprised at the number. Find the answer (and many other Trident facts) in the Trident Fact Sheet, recently updated by Ground Zero's Dr. David Hall. You can find it at under "Trident Resources" at NOTNT.ORG. Knowledge is power!

# Join Ground Zero for Second Weekend in August

## *Events will offer fellowship as we resist Trident together*

By Michael Siptroth, Leonard Eiger, and Mack Johnson

Over the weekend of August 7 to August 10, Ground Zero will commemorate the anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The themes of the events are, "Affirm Life/Abolish Nukes! Remembering the 70th Anniversary of US nuclear bombing of Hiroshima/Nagasaki: Never Again! Abolish Nuclear Weapons!"

This will be a full weekend of events, and you are welcome to join any or all of it. Campsites are plentiful on the beautiful grounds of the Center. Friday will be casual as we welcome the Peace Walkers and share fellowship and a potluck supper. Saturday morning will begin a full day, including letter writing to Congress, nonviolence training, leafleting at Kitsap Mall, and a concert with Tom Rawson. Sunday includes a memorial service commemorating the atomic

bombings, preparation for Monday's action at Bangor, movies and an overnight vigil at the Bangor base. Monday morning we will have a traditional vigil and nonviolent direct action at the Bangor base.

Space does not permit printing the full schedule here, but below are some highlights:

### Friday, August 7

Campers arrive in the afternoon. Bring your own food to share for dinner. We'll get settled and set up tents. At 6:00pm we'll have a welcome, followed by potluck dinner. Afterwards we'll enjoy a campfire, songs, and movies.

### Saturday, August 8

8:00a Registration, light breakfast, "potluck" raffle (bring interesting items to contribute!)

9:00 Welcome and presentations

10:00 Letter writing

10:30 Nonviolence training and/or small group discussions on how to achieve better outreach, be more effective in stopping nukes, redirecting money



11:30 Lunch

12:30p Vigiling near Target (Kitsap Mall) and/or letter writing.

2:30 Small groups, reflection, fun!

3:30 Peace Walkers from Nipponzan Buddhist Temple and friends arrive, welcoming ceremony at Stupa

5:00 Dinner and birthday cake for Mack (60th), Michael/Firefly (65th), Peggy Love (70th), and others.

7:00 Concert by Tom Rawson and friends. Talks, s'mores, singing around campfire.

### Sunday, August 9

8:00a Breakfast

9:00 Welcome and presentations

10:00 Memorial service for the bombing of Hiroshima/Nagasaki, Marshal Islands, radiated US soldiers, and those who have died trying to stop nukes

11:00 Presentation about nonviolent action and training, and discernment for those considering arrest

12:00p Lunch

1:00 Role play of possible actions

2:00 Vigiling at Kitsap Mall and beginning of overnight vigil at Sub-base Bangor, letter writing

3:30 Presentation on Ukraine, NPT, and new weapons

5:00 Dinner

6:00 Movies, campfire, discussions, continuing vigil at Sub-base Bangor

### Monday, August 10

6:00a Breakfast

6:30 Reading Pledge of Nonviolence and Procession to gate

7:00 Action at Sub-Base Bangor

10:00 Closing circle at Ground Zero

12:00p Lunch, clean-up, farewells.

We'll need many volunteers, so please contact Michael Siptroth on the planning committee if you would like to help, at flybill2@aol.com.

**Michael "Firefly" Siptroth and Mack Johnson** serve on the planning committee for the August 7-10 weekend. **Leonard Eiger** also contributed to this article. The silly clip art is courtesy of your editor, Alice Zillah.



# Royal Navy whistleblower says Trident is a nuclear “disaster waiting to happen”

By Leonard Eiger

The risk of accidental detonation of Trident nuclear missiles surfaced in recent allegations by a British submariner.

William McNeilly, an Engineering Technician Weapons Engineer Submariner for the UK's Trident II D5 Strategic Weapons System disclosed this and other allegations in a document released early last month.

The most serious of McNeilly's allegations is the risk of a catastrophic failure of the system's nuclear-armed missiles, the Trident II D-5 submarine-launched ballistic missile, deployed on both UK and US ballistic missile (Trident) submarines.

A Royal Navy instruction manual, referenced by McNeilly, states that the “chief potential hazard” from a live D-5 missile is “accidental ignition” of the first, second or third stage rocket motor propellant.

The thermonuclear warheads on the D-5 missile “clustered around the third stage rocket motor are at risk from a rocket motor propellant fire.” The intense heat of a rocket propellant fire would likely cause the warheads' conventional high explosives to “cook to (non-nuclear) detonation, releasing radioactive materials and aerosols over a wide area,” according to the manual.

Such an event occurring at sea would likely cause the pressure hull to rupture resulting in the catastrophic loss of the submarine and crew. The same event occurring while

the submarine is in port would likely release plutonium and other radioactive substances over surrounding areas, putting base personnel and the public at substantial risk.

Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Silverdale, Washington, where eight of the US Navy's 14 Trident submarines are home

-ported, is just 20 miles west of Seattle, and many other cities are even closer to the base. The other six Tridents are based at Kings Bay, Georgia.

A radiation release from Bangor would cause an increased cancer risk to people living in surrounding areas, while any attempt at cleanup would be highly problematic and run into the billions of dollars.

The risk of a Trident missile third stage rocket fire was

raised in a report to Congress on nuclear weapons safety by physicist Sidney Drell in 1990. More recently, it has been highlighted by journalist Eric Schlosser, the author of the recent book *Command and Control*, which exposes nuclear weapons safety issues.

Schlosser spoke specifically to this same concern with the sensitive rocket propellant, saying that it is “relatively easy” to ignite. “A fire or explosion involving the third stage could cause the dispersal of plutonium - and perhaps a nuclear detonation with a small yield.”

Schlosser added: “These extracts from the Royal Navy safety manual on Trident, if they are authentic, seem to confirm the danger. To my knowledge, there has never been a serious accident with a Trident missile. But improper handling, a fire, or a terrorist act could be catastrophic.”

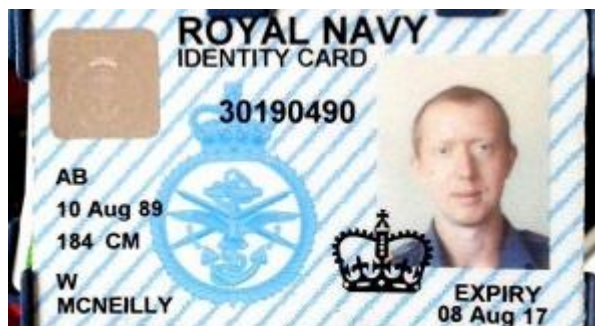
In a 2003 missile handling accident at Bangor, a ladder, accidentally left in a submarine's missile tube while the missile was being winched out, came within

inches of a warhead before operators discovered the error and stopped the winching process.

Glen Milner, who won a decision in the US Supreme Court in 2011 regarding the public's right to know the dangers posed by the Navy's Indian Island munitions facility near Port Townsend, Washington, said, “If there was an accident involving missile propellant at Bangor, it would be a disaster affecting much of the Puget Sound region, and the repercussions would be felt far beyond.”

Milner has voiced concern about the risks inherent to the D-5 missile, particularly in light of the Navy's construction of a Second Explosives Handling Wharf at Bangor. Because of the proximity of the two wharves, if two Trident submarines were being serviced simultaneously and an accidental ignition occurred on one, there is a substantial risk of the second submarine's missiles being put at risk of propellant detonation.

Captain Tom Rogers, USN Ret., a former submarine commander, explained that the Navy chose the more volatile rocket propellant in order to fit the large payload (up to eight warheads) in the available space and to ensure the missile's range requirement. Rogers calls this “Trident's dirty little secret.”



**William McNeilly's whereabouts** are currently unknown. He has not been heard from since turning himself in to the Edinburgh police. *Photo courtesy of the Royal Navy.*

***“If there was an accident involving missile propellant at Bangor, it would be a disaster affecting much of the Puget Sound region.”***

**Royal Navy whistleblower... continued on page 11**

## Campaign Nonviolence Offers Chance to Connect Across Issues

By Tom Shea

This fall, from September 20 to 27, there will be multiple opportunities for Ground Zero readers and friends to join others in Campaign Nonviolence throughout Washington and Oregon. Campaign Nonviolence is a project of the Catholic peace organization Pace e Bene, and coincides with the UN Peace Day.

Campaign Nonviolence launched last year with 238 marches, rallies, vigils, fasts and festivals across the nation. Supporters can attend existing events or create their own, closer to their homes. The website [www.paceebene.org](http://www.paceebene.org) will be updated frequently over the next few months with this year's events.

Some recent conversations among Ground Zero people have been about our need to attend and listen to other organizations. There's a growing realization that work on climate change and nuclear weapon disarmament are country cousins. Providing our presence and support for these linked concerns beyond Trident can grow awareness and actions for our own goals and tactics. In another example, there is an initiative in Olympia to limit the amount of nuclear materials going through Washington. Joining or creating actions keep "stirring the pot" for shifts towards peace.

UN Peace Day convenes people from around our country. In past years, Leonard Eiger and Tom Shea attended an event held at Bellevue College, where Leonard taught students to make Hiroshima paper cranes. Another time we used our large silhouettes of whales and subs for a skit about submarine collisions. We also helped bring the entire Mt. Si High Amnesty International chapter to the event.

Mad Magazine once wrote about the nuclear Mutual Assured Destruction strategy: "Be the first on your block to blow up the world." Let's change this to: "Be the first on your block to host or help attend a Campaign Nonviolence event!"

That growing awareness that climate change and nuclear weapons are both MAD (Mutually Assured Destructions) means we must act now for good health and hope. Join or organize events you can support.

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**Tom Shea** co-chairs the Communications Committee for Ground Zero. More information about Campaign Nonviolence can be found at [paceebene.org](http://paceebene.org).

## 2015 Pacific Northwest Interfaith Peace Walk

By Senji Kanaeda Shonin

The 2015 Interfaith Peace Walk is sponsored by the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order, the Catholic Workers of Tacoma and Seattle, Ground Zero, Lake Forest Park for Peace, Indian People Organization for Change (California), the Interfaith Council of Bainbridge Island and Kitsap, Veterans For Peace, and Footprints for Peace (Ohio and Australia).

The walk will begin Sunday, July 26, in Salem, OR, and finish several hundred miles later on Monday, August 10, at Ground Zero. On the way, it will pass through Portland, Hood River, the Hanford Nuclear Reservation, Olympia, Tacoma, and Seattle, to name just

some of the locations. For full details and updates, please contact Br. Senji Kanaeda or Br. Gilberto Perez at (206) 780-6739 (the Temple number) or cell numbers (206) 419-7262 and 206-724-7632. You can additionally email them at [senji@nipponzan.net](mailto:senji@nipponzan.net) and [gzperez@juno.com](mailto:gzperez@juno.com).

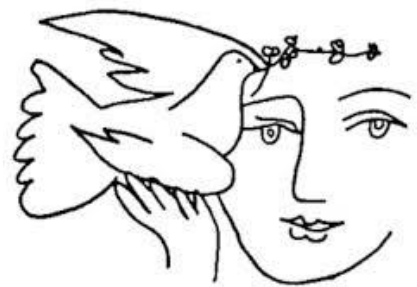
2015 is the 70 year anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. To our regret, the world is still crying. Victims of wars and nuclear development can be found around the world. We may see a tear on Buddha and sense that Jesus weeps. We will walk with hope and pray for peace toward a nuclear free world.

We have a duty to pass our next generation a safe, clean, peaceful future with a smile. We will face great challenges to survive on Mother Earth from increased spread of radiation or as long as the possibility of nuclear war exists. All life is born and sustained from the same

source. We are one, irrespective of nationality, race, gender, or age. We can strive to live peacefully and to love one another. Our annual Interfaith Peace Walk offers the opportunity to learn more about the wisdom from Buddha, Jesus and the spirits of our Ancestors.

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. said, "Peace is not merely a distant goal we seek; it is a means by which we arrive at that goal.

We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means." And the Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii, founder of Nipponzan Myohoji, said "The religious basis of the nonviolent movement was laid as far back as 2,500 years ago, seen Buddhism and Christianity."



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**Senji Kanaeda Shonin** lives and works at the Nipponzan Myohoji Temple on Bainbridge Island. He also leads and participates in Peace Walks around the world.

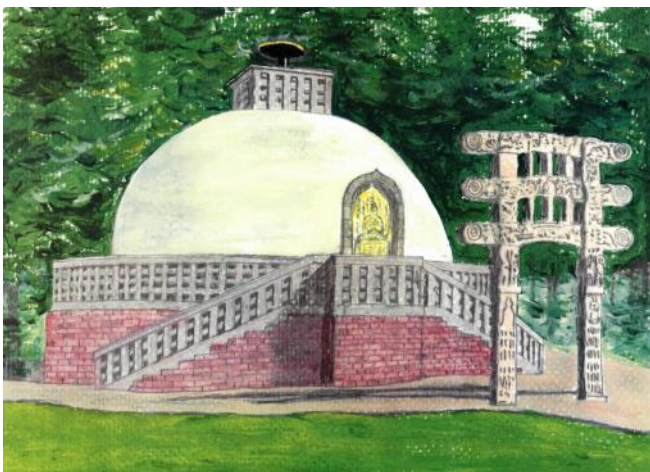
# Peace Pagoda: A Dream Resurrected

By Glen Milner

On April 4, 2015, Ground Zero members approved the Peace Pagoda design and construction on a site on the north-west part of the Ground Zero property. Without fanfare, the decision to build the Peace Pagoda was made on the day before Easter Sunday. And a month after the passing of our Father "Bix" Bichsel, who professed a strong belief in the power of rebirth and resurrection.

The approval involved a seven-month process with a special Peace Pagoda committee, several special meetings, and steady communication with members of the Stewardship Council and members of Ground Zero.

Peace Pagoda committee members will stay together at least through the end of construction and help develop a defined relationship between Nipponzan Myohoji members and supporters and Ground Zero. Senji Kanaeda will finish



**Over 30 years in the making.** The Peace Pagoda at Ground Zero was first discussed in the early 1980s. *Diagram by Senji Kanaeda.*

the design that will be presented to Kitsap County for approval. Labor and funds for the Peace Pagoda will be provided by Nipponzan Myohoji members and supporters. The Navy has told us they have no objections to the Pagoda. We will soon talk with our neighbors. There will be much to do.

When the founder of the Nipponzan Myohoji order, Nichidatsu Fujii Guruji, first came to Ground Zero in 1980, he proposed the construction of the Peace Pagoda. Fujii Guruji said the Pagoda would commemorate and support people being jailed for peace. In 1982, work on the Peace Pagoda had begun, only to be met with legal challenges in the permitting process and in the courts. On May 28, 1982, the geodesic dome at Ground Zero, containing a statue of the Buddha and a crucifix, was burned to the ground. The construction of the Peace Pagoda was stopped.

In June 1982, Nichidatsu Fujii Guruji again came to Ground Zero. On June 16, 1982, Guruji stated, "Yesterday I had the first opportunity to see the bronze Buddha statue

that was dug out from the remains of the burnt structure. It showed evidence of being completely shattered." Guruji stated, "The peace pagoda that we attempt to erect at Ground Zero is a reflection of our ardent wish to eliminate nuclear weapons. Its erection is a direct challenge to the power and authority that has established a nuclear submarine base."

Late in 2003, Ground Zero members began to discuss the possibility of a Peace Pagoda at Ground Zero. Our discussion lost momentum and the Ground Zero house burned down on April 6, 2005, essentially ending the discussion at that time.

Nichidatsu Fujii Guruji died on January 9, 1985. Many of the Nipponzan Myohoji order and members of Ground Zero have left us but the dream remained.

Father Bix wrote of the 2009 Plowshares action at Bangor, "...we were witnessing to the power of the Resurrection. Even in this place of fear, death, and hopelessness, the power of life, hope and love can rise."

This journey continues through our actions and through our renewed commitment to build the Peace Pagoda at Ground Zero. The dream of many will rise.

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**Glen Milner** leads legal efforts on behalf of Ground Zero. He lives in Lake Forest Park with his wife Karol.

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## Watch Olympia FOR program on the risks of US aggression with Russia over Ukraine

Ground Zero's Mary Hanson and Bernie Meyer appear on the July Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation's program. The TV program has been running for close to 30 years on public access television, and is available online as well, at [www.olympiafor/tv\\_programs.htm](http://www.olympiafor/tv_programs.htm). Olympia FOR's Glen Anderson writes, "US politicians and mainstream media demonize Russian President Vladimir Putin with the same kind of ignorant animosity that right-wing Republicans demonize US President Barack Obama. Putin is bad in some ways, but American politicians and media have veered far away from reality in order to create a demon for us to hate. We need to understand the nations with which our government is fomenting conflicts, but our politicians and media do not want us to understand, just to hate and mobilize for a new Cold War."



# Moving Beyond the NPT

By Leonard Eiger

It is the late 1950s, and the hands of the famous Doomsday Clock are at two minutes to midnight, the closest they have ever been.

The US development of thermonuclear weapons (first tested in 1952) has upped the ante in the arms race with the Soviet Union, and quite a race it is. Many are concerned with the potential for proliferation of nuclear weapons as other nations might rush to join the nuclear club. In 1958 Frank Aiken, Irish Minister for External Affairs, initiates the process to negotiate a global non-proliferation treaty.



**Thousands marched** in the streets, including 1,000 activists who traveled from Japan. Hibakusha led their procession. *Photo courtesy of Peace Action.*

In 1968 the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) opened for signatures, and entered into force in 1970. Today nearly every country has signed on to the NPT. Only four have not ratified the treaty – India, Israel, Pakistan and South Sudan. North Korea ratified but then withdrew in 2003.

The treaty consists of three pillars – non-proliferation, disarmament and the right to peacefully use nuclear technology. Looking just at the treaty's name we might think that it is just about non-proliferation, but that is far from the truth.

The one substantive statement in the NPT on disarmament is Article VI, which states that, "Each of the Parties to the Treaty undertakes to pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament."

Based on its wording, Article VI does not require the negotiation of a treaty (only "negotiations"), nor does it provide deadlines. And therein lies a notable flaw that has been exploited by the nuclear weapons states and their allies for the past 45 years.

This year's NPT Review Conference once again demonstrated that the nuclear weapons states, led in large

part by the US And Russia, have no intention of giving up what they were allowed to keep when the NPT was negotiated. At the same time this year's stalemate led to the resolve of over 100 nations to say enough of this nonsense – the world deserves better.

The stonewalling of the nuclear-armed nations flies in the face of our knowledge of the consequences of the even the most limited use of nuclear weapons. A limited exchange of nuclear warheads between minor nuclear powers would cause dramatic climate effects and massive global famine, in addition to the obvious radiation-related effects.

Where one opportunity was squandered at this year's NPT conference, another was realized. By the end of the meeting, 107 of the world's nations had responded by endorsing the "humanitarian pledge," recently issued by the Austrian government, to work for the speedy elimination and prohibition of nuclear weapons. It is high time, with or without the cooperation of the nuclear scofflaws, to bring about a legally binding nuclear weapons convention.



**Activists block two entrances** to the US Mission to the UN in a coordinated act of civil disobedience. Twenty-two men and women were arrested. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

This will be a monumental task, and will take a huge amount of cooperation among nations to bring about. Meanwhile, we have the task of keeping our finger in the dike. The nuclear nations, led by the US, are spending over \$100 billion a year on nuclear weapons annually, according to the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons.

Over the next 30 years the US is slated to spend an estimated trillion dollars on production, maintenance and modernization of nuclear weapons, all at the expense of infrastructure, health care, education, climate change mitiga-

**Moving Beyond the NPT... continued on page 11**

# A Hall of Witnessing Resisters

*New biography shows Archbishop Hunthausen's courage in challenging Trident*

By Bernie Meyer

Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen was present at the beginning of Ground Zero's resistance to the Trident nuclear weapons program, starting in 1978 on the Hood Canal. Walking from Peterson's Farm with 2,000 resisters organized by Pacific Life Community and Seattle's Live Without Trident, Hunthausen walked in the midst, even holding the hand of my two-year-old daughter for a while. In 1982 he attempted to blockade the first Trident submarine, the USS Ohio, on a chartered boat with church executives from various denominations. The submarine did not show up that afternoon but did arrive later that week. In 1984, he observed resisters on the train tracks blocking the way of the nuclear weapons loaded train.

Hunthausen praised the protesters' willingness to suffer "pain and anguish" for the cause of peace. But, the Archbishop himself had taken on the burden of nuclear weapons resistance.

While Archbishop of the Western Washington Archdiocese between 1975 and 1991, Hunthausen publicly challenged the right of the weapons to exist. He called for taxpayers to withhold one half of their income tax. At a "Faith and Disarmament" Conference in 1981 at Pacific Lutheran University, Hunthausen addressed the audience on nuclear disarmament – using input from Ground Zero's Jim Douglass and Charlie Meconis with the Church Council of Greater Seattle. Needless to say this address stirred up an international beehive both in the government and in the Roman Catholic Church. The Vatican hierarchy initiated a "visitation."

The Archbishop's views on nuclear weapons and nuclear deterrence were the primary reason that the Vatican came down on him. This is described in detail in the new biography, *A Still and Quiet Conscience: The Archbishop Who Challenged a Pope, a President, and A Church*, by John A McCoy. The first two chapters of the book are about Hunthausen's stance on the weapons. But this was not the upfront reason given by the Vatican for initiating a "visitation" of the Archdiocese in 1983.

Seeking a secretive process for silencing Hunthausen, the Rome-based effort began by sending Archbishop James Hickey from Washington, DC to interview members of the Western Washington Archdiocese. The multiyear process took many twists and turns and became anything but "secret," although the primary reason behind it, nuclear

weapons, is only now being publicly acknowledged with this biography. A sub goal was to make an example of Hunthausen, and get any American Bishops of similar ilk to toe the line. The Vatican did not want other issues being raised, including divorced Catholics, gay Catholics, married priests,

women's ordination, abortion, and others.

Hunthausen, a Council of Vatican II-appointed Archbishop and enthusiast, was person-oriented, transparent, and most of all, courageously consistent. He could not allow a secretive process. The book provides a wonderful expose of the full experience.

In his address at Pacific Lutheran University, Hunthausen said, "We must take special responsibility for what is in our own backyard. I say with deep consciousness of these words that Trident is the Auschwitz of Puget Sound... Writing political leaders and taking part in demonstrations, protests and peace campaigns is all well and good... I would like to share a vision of still another action." Hunthausen then suggested that a sizable number of people in Washington state – 500,000 maybe – refuse to pay the 50 percent of their taxes that goes toward military spending.

Rome and DC had different visions. The Polish Pope John Paul II, coroneted in 1978, wanted to defeat atheistic communism as his life mission. President Ronald Reagan

was bent on defeating the USSR by imaging a "star wars" scenario. John Paul II and President Reagan became friends and associates. Silencing Archbishop Hunthausen became a shared goal. John McCoy was able to unearth this information from private conversations only recently.

Hunthausen's dedication to truth and openness was supported by his family, religious orders, lay groups, his staff, even the US Conference of Bishops, and priests. The result was a wonderful human story, but his beliefs resulted in his ultimate early departure from office.

I came from Denver to work for the Seattle Archdiocese's new Justice and Peace Office in 1978. When I told Hunthausen that I was a married priest without a dispensation from celibacy from Rome to marry, he asked me if I tried to get a dispensation. I had. That was all. I never heard back. In 1988 I had to leave the Catholic Charities organization because of the church's division with Hunthausen.



**Archbishop Hunthausen** suggested that a half-million residents of Washington refuse to pay war taxes. Photo courtesy of [www.seattlepi.com](http://www.seattlepi.com).

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**Bernie Meyer** has long been involved with Ground Zero and the struggle to end war. He portrays the Mahatma Gandhi in the US and in India. .



# Richard McSorley, SJ, lived a life well worth emulating

By Tom Shea

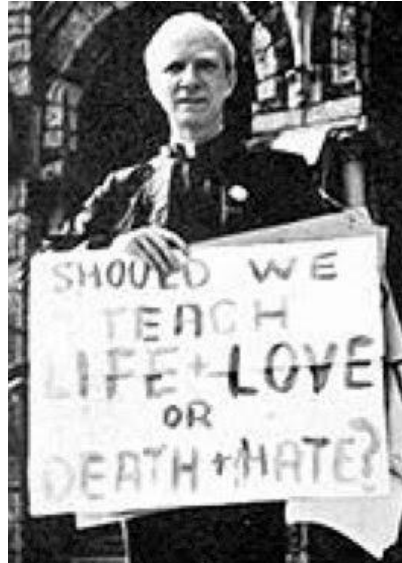
"The taproot of violence in our society today is our intent to use nuclear weapons. Once we have agreed to that, all other evil is minor in comparison. Until squarely face the question of our consent to use nuclear weapons, any hope of large-scale improvement of public morality is doomed to failure..." Richard McSorley, SJ.

On December 13, 1941, a few days after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, Richard McSorley was captured and imprisoned by the Japanese along with hundreds of other Jesuits and seminarians. He was held for over three years, and during that time he was tortured, nearly starved to death, and under the constant threat of execution. On three occasions he was actually brought before the firing squad. Several people around him were shot. On February 23, 1945, soldiers took aim to kill him, but then no bullets were fired, and they all laughed at him. Later that year, US paratroopers captured the camp, took the Japanese by surprise and killed them all. McSorley and the other surviving prisoners were released.

After the war he served in a rural church in a southern Maryland town where racism and the segregation of the old South prevailed. It opened his eyes and deepened his need to preach and act on the message of social justice and equality.

During the 1960s, McSorley became active in the civil rights movement and traveled to the South on a dozen occasions to support Dr. King and in his campaigns. He marched in Selma, and on one occasion, knelt next to Dr. King in prayer as several Klan members jeered him and threatened to kill him. Dr. King's personal demeanor and steadfast insistence on nonviolence profoundly impressed McSorley.

In the 1970s, he helped launch Pax Christi USA, the national Catholic peace movement. He worked actively with the International Peace Bureau in Geneva. He also founded the St. Francis Catholic Worker House and the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker House. At Georgetown, he founded the Center for Peace Studies, to help facilitate his classes on peace, coordinate his lectures, and distribute his writings. His books, including *Kill? For Peace?* and *Peace Eyes*, were best sellers in the US.



**"It's a sin to build a nuclear weapon."** Fr. McSorley brought the message of resistance to nuclear weapons to millions. *Photo courtesy of the DC Catholic Worker.*

## What is Really Being Deterred?

*The below letter to the editor was printed in the Tacoma News Tribune on April 29. Tom Karlin responded to the Tribune's less-than-stellar coverage of Ground Zero's Earth Day action. Tom's letter gently challenged the Tribune, while providing much-needed information to its readers.*

Maybe "The Nose" was not nosy enough when showing the photo of peace activists holding a mock funeral procession for the Earth (TNT, 4-24).

I am one of the pallbearers in the photo, and I do look rather serious or even sad as we processed meditatively toward the Federal Building in Seattle wearing monks' robes and praying for our Earth. We were trying to call attention to a very sad situation—the nuclear weapons a few miles away at Bangor—and what they do to our region and the world.

At the Federal Building, we had scheduled meetings with field reps of Sens. Patty Murray and Maria Cantwell, urging the abolition of this scourge of nuclear weapons in our backyard. We are told these weapons systems are a necessary deterrent.

Would they deter a suicide bomber? Deter Iran from building even one nuke? Deter proliferation? No, they haven't; just the opposite, in fact.

Here's what I see that these obscenely costly and toxic instruments of threat and violence do deter. They deter us from having health care for tens of millions of our citizens. They deter us from adequately educating our children. They deter us from fixing our crumbling roads, bridges and other infrastructure. They deter us from housing our homeless and poor people. They deter us from healing our planet's environment. They deter us from reaching out in compassion to our suffering world. They deter peaceful resolution of conflict around the world.

Sincerely,  
Tom Karlin, Tacoma

*Tom Shea has served on the Stewardship Council for over seven years. He is a member of Veterans for Peace. This article is adapted from Fr. John Dear's tribute to Richard McSorley, SJ, and a longer version is available at [www.fatherjohndear.org](http://www.fatherjohndear.org).*

# The Real Problem With Defense Contracting

## *An editorial the Seattle Times declined to publish*

By Glen Milner

Representative Kilmer's op-ed, "Fix broken defense contracting," failed to address the real problem with defense acquisition (Seattle Times, April 24.)

Kilmer stated that the defense sector is an economic driver in Washington State and that Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM) and Naval Base Kitsap combine for more than \$12 billion in economic impact per year. But this figure belies the fact that the two bases (not including 324,000 acres for JBLM at the Yakima Training Complex) take up 97,400 acres of prime real estate in Pierce and Kitsap Counties including valuable waterfront on Puget Sound. This is more acreage than the entire City of Seattle and would likely bring a greater economic gain if used by the private sector.

We are told that greater efficiency for defense acquisition will benefit our local economy. First on Kilmer's list is to fully reverse automatic spending cuts known as sequestration for the military. However, no mention is made of the tax increases and/or cuts to social programs needed to end sequestration and increase funds for military programs.

Kilmer and other members of Congress are promoting a six-year process to streamline acquisition that will "maximize the capabilities and strengths of our military."

The bigger problem with defense acquisition is the promotion and procurement of multiple weapons programs that become more expensive with each successive year. Nuclear weapons programs provide an example. The Air Force is currently planning for new long range nuclear bombers and replacement intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) while the Navy is building a replacement SSBN-X nuclear submarine.

These nuclear weapons delivery systems and other plans to upgrade our nuclear arsenal will cost nearly \$1 trillion over the next 30 years. Many of these long range programs have already begun even though their combined costs are too expensive to complete.

Kilmer is a strong proponent of the Navy's Trident nuclear submarine base in his 6<sup>th</sup> Congressional District. According to a 2015 Congressional Research Service report, the projected budget for the SSBN-X replacement submarine program for FY 2016 is \$1.39 billion with the planned procurement of the first submarine in 2021. The 12 replacement submarines are expected to cost nearly \$100 billion with the last submarine being placed into service in 2042.

The \$100 billion for replacement submarines does not include the \$1.2 billion the Navy is currently spending each year for upgrades to the existing Trident D-5 submarine-launched ballistic missiles. By 2042, the end of the service life of the D-5 missiles, new missiles will have to be designed, tested, and deployed. The Navy has not publicly

discussed the cost for the replacement missiles for the new SSBN-X submarines.

Last year Congress created a new military account for the replacement submarines, called the "National Sea-Based Deterrence Fund." Congress has yet to allocate funds to the account.

Never mind if our nation actually needs more advanced weapon systems. As Kilmer and other members of Congress ponder ways to simplify and streamline the acquisition process for the military, costs will continue to spin out of control.

The way to fix defense acquisition is to start making cuts in defense spending, the sooner the better.

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**Glen Milner** serves on the Stewardship Council, and leads legal efforts against nuclear and other illegal weapons in Washington State.

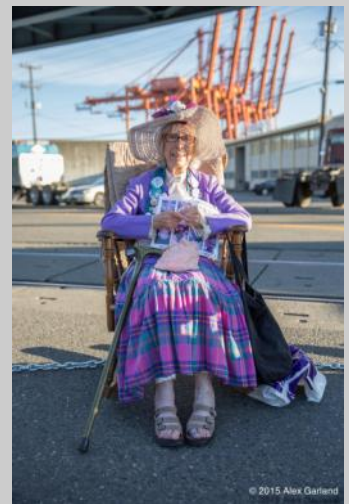
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## Thousands Engage in Creative Nonviolent Resistance to Shell Oil's Arctic Drilling Plans

On June 8, five members of the Seattle Raging Grannies — including the very familiar, lovely faces of Shirley Morrison (right) and Rosy Betz-Zall — were arrested for blocking Terminal 5, housing Shell's massive offshore drilling rig.

Shirley, Rosy and the other grannies drank tea, knitted and sang songs while the Seattle Police tried to figure out how to deal with them. They had linked their arms together using "sleeping dragons" — arm bands constructed from rope, metal, and burlap. Police had to use saws to cut through the devices. The protests were one of the many highlights of weeks of action calling attention to climate change and the need to protect the Arctic.

Well done grannies!



Ground Zero believes the information shared by McNeilly is in the interest of public safety, and calls on the British government to immediately release him from prison and appoint an independent board of inquiry into his allegations.

Whereas independent scientific experts in the US have previously rendered their opinion regarding the risks inherent in the Trident II D-5 missile, Ground Zero urges the US Congress to immediately review those earlier recommendations and conduct an inquiry into why the Navy purchased and deployed an inherently unsafe missile system.

Leonard Eiger, spokesperson for Ground Zero's NO TO NEW TRIDENT Campaign, asks why, even aside from the serious safety concerns, the US government has continued to conduct Trident patrols at near Cold War levels in the decades since the fall of the Berlin Wall. "Trident is a Cold War relic, and the government continues to justify its existence based on an obsolete doctrine of strategic deterrence. What security is provided by a weapon system designed to hold the former Soviet Union under the threat of Mutually Assured Destruction? Continued deployment of Trident and progress towards a replacement fleet of ballistic missile submarines only serves to drive a new Cold War nuclear submarine arms race. It is time to scrap Trident."

You can read McNeilly's statement and more on Trident safety at the Trident Resources page at [NOTNT.ORG](http://NOTNT.ORG).

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**Leonard Eiger** co-chairs the Communications Committee, and spearheads the campaign to stop a new generation of Trident. He lives in Snohomish.

tion, disaster relief, development assistance and other vital services.

We must keep up the pressure on our own government to see the folly in nuclear modernization as well as the dangers inherent in our aggressive foreign policy. Here in Puget Sound we have taken on the daunting task of pushing back against the Navy's effort to build 12 new ballistic missile submarines – New Trident. New Trident is modernization with a vengeance. We won't get a second chance at this one.

With the Doomsday Clock once again so close to Midnight – the hands were pushed to three minutes to midnight earlier this year – it has become crystal clear that the business of humanity's survival must not be left to politicians. The role of civil society in building a just, sustainable, nuclear-free world is critical and viable.

This August will mark the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Let us commemorate this time by moving beyond the crumbling structures of a decaying empire, of which the NPT is one. Let us choose life. Let us say Hiroshima/Nagasaki: Never Again!

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**Leonard Eiger** serves on the Stewardship Council. More of his writings about his experience at the NPT Review Conference can be found at [www.notnt.org](http://www.notnt.org).

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## Update on Marshall Islanders' Lawsuit Against Nuclear Nations

From the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation

The Marshall Islands plans to file an appeal brief on Monday, July 13, to challenge the dismissal of its lawsuit against the US. The US will then have one month to reply (likely by August 13). Then, the Marshall Islands will have two weeks to reply to that (likely on August 27).

The lawsuit, referred to as the Nuclear Zero lawsuit, claims the US is in breach of its legal obligations under Article VI of the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty to pursue negotiations in good faith for an end to the nuclear arms race and for nuclear disarmament.

Earlier this year, US Federal District Court dismissed the case on the jurisdictional grounds of standing and political question doctrine without getting to the merits of the case. Laurie Ashton, lead attorney for the Marshall Islands in the US case, expressed strong disagreement with the court's ruling, saying, "We believe the District Court erred in dismissing the case. The Marshall Islands, like every party to the NPT, is entitled to the United States' fulfillment of its NPT promise – negotiations for nuclear disarmament. Further, the US President does not enjoy exclusive purview to determine the US breach of its treaty obligations. Instead, the judiciary has an obligation to rule in this treaty dispute."

Marshall Islanders suffered catastrophic and irreparable damages to their people and homeland when the US conducted 67 nuclear tests there between 1946 and 1958. These tests had the equivalent power of exploding 1.6 Hiroshima bombs daily for 12 years. The devastating impact of these nuclear detonations to health and well-being of the Marshall Islanders and to their land continues to this day.

David Krieger, President of the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, stated, "Knowing how high the stakes are, the Marshall Islands will not give up. They are a resilient and heroic people who have taken bold action against the nuclear giants of the world. They will continue to struggle on behalf of all humanity until the nuclear-armed nations have fulfilled their obligations to abolish every last one of their nuclear weapons."

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**The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation**, and more information about the lawsuit, can be found online at [www.napf.org](http://www.napf.org).



# GROUND ZERO

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*“The nuclear arms race is like  
two people sitting in a pool of  
gasoline spending all their time making  
matches.”*

*— John Denver*

## Peace Fleet Sails Forth on July 29

By Glen Milner

Local activists will stage a water-based nonviolent protest against the glorification of weapons of war at the Seattle Seafair festival. Peace activists will meet the US Navy fleet in Elliott Bay at 1:00 on Wednesday, July 29. Others will meet on land at Seattle's Pier 62/63 at the same time for a nonviolent demonstration against weapons of war.

For the 14th year, peace activists will address the public display of warships and warplanes in our community. War has become something that is measured in dollars and lives for pundits to decide whether it is “worth it.” War should never be seen as a normal means to solve problems — war is the problem and the weapons should not be glorified or honored in any way.

The Peace Fleet began in 2000 when the Trident submarine, USS Alabama, arrived in downtown Seattle for Seafair, complete with up to 192 nuclear warheads.

On June 11 of this year, on a vote of 278-149, the House of Representatives passed a \$578.6 billion defense budget for fiscal year 2016. Of the 10 Washington State

representatives, just four — DelBene, Larsen, McDermott, and Smith — voted against the defense bill.

Not to be outdone, on June 18, on a vote of 71-25, the Senate passed a \$612 billion defense budget. Both Senators Murray and Cantwell voted for the defense bill.

The top Democrats on both Armed Services Committees — Sen. Jack Reed and Rep. Adam Smith — both voted against the NDAA. At issue was not any difference on defense policy but a fundamental question of funding. Republicans bypassed the Budget Control Act spending caps (the so-called sequester) by plac-

ing nearly \$90 billion into the Overseas Contingency Operations (OCO) account, designating routine spending as an emergency war expenses exempted from the caps.

The Peace Fleet this year, as in past years, will require no public funds or public resources.



**Glen Milner** has seen the Peace Fleet through Coast Guard boardings, legal challenges, and security zones. The photo above is by **Karol Milner**.