

Ground Zero

July 2010

Volume 15 Issue 3

Demonstrating Solidarity with the NPT Review Conference

By Jean Sundborg

"Abolish nuclear weapons – set the date now!" was the message chanted by about 150 people as they marched west-bound on Seattle's Madison Street on May 2, 2010. Music and speakers set the mood at the send-off rally held in the Seattle University quad on a chilly, windy Sunday afternoon. This first-ever Ground Zero march in Seattle was timed to coordinate with the beginning of the review of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) at the United Nations in New York City.

Father Stephen V. Sundborg, President of Seattle University, welcomed the marchers to the campus and recalled the earlier peace and justice efforts of former Seattle Catholic Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen. Rev. Anne Hall of Ground Zero introduced musicians and speakers: folk singer James Morgan, David Hall of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR), Alice Woldt of the Washington Association of Churches, reggae artist Adrian Xavier, Jacque Clinton of the HOPE network of the University of Washington at Tacoma, and the Seattle Raging Grannies.



Once onto Madison Street, Seattle Police Department personnel on bicycles, motorcycles, and in cars provided safety as the marchers used the street. Banners, flags, huge puppets, and singing drew the attention of passing cars and pedestrians. Local peace and justice groups joined families and youth to hand out information about the NPT as well as Ground Zero's very popular "sunflower" stickers bearing the message, "Abolish Nuclear Weapons."

At Seattle's Waterfront Park near the city's aquarium, marchers rested and rallied to the music of Adrian Xavier's band, High Energy Positive Sounds. Cherie Eichholz, Executive Direc-

tor of WPSR, Michael Ramos of the Church Council of Greater Seattle, Ruth Yarrow of the Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation, and Sr. Jackie Hudson of Ground Zero spoke of the imperative to abolish nuclear weapons.

Jean Sundborg lives in Seattle and serves on the Ground Zero Stewardship Committee. **Helen Jaccard** took the photo above.

Report from the NPT

Citizen's Movement Challenges the Nuclear Weapon States

By John Burroughs

An international conference, "For a Nuclear Free, Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World," was held April 30 through May 1 at the historic Riverside Church, where Martin Luther King Jr. delivered his prophetic speech, "Beyond Vietnam, A Call to Conscience," in 1967. Co-sponsored by the Mission & Social Justice Ministry of the Riverside Church, the conference brought together 1,000

leading activists from roughly 25 countries (half from the US), for an information exchange, planning and coordination in connection with the NPT Review Conference, and laying the groundwork for longer term strategic planning for collaborative nuclear abolition, peace, justice and environmental initiatives. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations, accepted an invitation to address the conference and made a compelling speech, stressing the urgent necessity to abolish nuclear weapons and announcing his intention to travel to Hiroshima in August to repeat his call for a nuclear free world. The Secretary-General recognized the hard work, dedication and sacrifices of the assembled audience, adding, "I know how much courage it takes to speak out, to protest, and to carry the banner of this most noble human aspiration – world peace. . . . I especially welcome your support for the idea of concluding a Nuclear Weapon Convention. . . . Above all, continue to be the voice of conscience. We will rid the world of nuclear weapons. And when we do, it will be because of people like you. The world owes you its gratitude."

The May 2 international rally in Times Square, march to the United Nations, and peace festival in Dag Hammarskjöld Plaza, brought together 15,000 activists, making it the largest peace demonstration in the United States since the 2008 election campaign.

On May 4, in the UN General Assembly Hall, over 17 million petition signatures, collected mainly in Japan, Europe and the United States, urging commencement of negotiations on a treaty to abolish nuclear weapons, were presented to NPT Review Conference and United Nations officials.

Some 100 Hibakusha (A-bomb survivors) and more than 2,000 Japanese activists participated in the April 30-May 2 conference/rally/march, with the active participation of the mayors and City Council Presidents of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

So what happened at the official NPT review conference?

After four weeks of spirited debate at the United Nations the conference ended with more of a whimper than a bang. Encouraged by the vision of a nuclear weapons free world which President Obama projected in his Prague speech last year, many countries and virtually all of civil society had urged that the conference call for the start of negotiations toward the enactment of a convention banning nuclear weapons, similar to the conventions already in place for biological and chemical weapons. But it was not to be.



189 Signatories to the NPT were represented at the United Nations. One achievement was the commitment to make the Middle East a nuclear weapons free-zone. *Photo courtesy of Getty Images.*

Four of the five NPT nuclear weapons states – France, the UK, the US and Russia – made it clear that, if the conference wanted a consensus document, the original draft of Main Committee One (disarmament) would have to be watered down considerably, and so it was. Instead of starting a process aimed at producing a legally enforceable treaty embodying the Prague vision, the Final Document reflects the seemingly disproved theory that pursuit of steps like further US-Russian reductions, entry into force of the test ban treaty, etc., will lead to a world free of nuclear weapons. The four states essentially rejected calls for setting a timeline for progress.

Reflecting the strong drive of the majority of the world's countries and global civil society for commencement of negotiations on a convention, the Final Document does affirm "that all states need to make special efforts to establish the necessary framework to achieve and maintain a world without nuclear weapons," and notes in this connection "the Five-Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, which proposes *inter alia* consideration of

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Delegation from Japan Visits Northwest

A Survivor From Hiroshima Shares Her Story

By Leonard Eiger

While all the big international events were going down in New York City leading up to the United Nations Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference, some pretty cool things were happening in other places as well. Here in the Puget Sound region of the Pacific Northwest we had a number of events intended to raise awareness, including our own rally and march coinciding with Sunday's May 2nd march in New York.

My personal high point of the following week was the arrival in Seattle of the 38 person delegation representing the Japan Council against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs (Gensuikyo). The delegation consisted of Japanese citizens from many cities, including Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The most venerable member of the delegation, Ms. Tokie Mizuno, is a Hibakusha (a survivor of the atomic bombing) of Hiroshima.

Ms. Mizuno was five years old when the bomb exploded over her city, and she has never forgotten that day. She still bears the scars, both visible and invisible, that have affected her life and health. I could tell you more, but the story should be told by Ms. Mizuno in her own words. This is her story, and she stood before people in Seattle, and then in Tacoma, and with great courage and conviction gave her testimony and called on everyone to work together for a nuclear weapon-free world.

Ms. Mizuno honored us with her testimony, and as witness to that testimony I feel a responsibility to pass on her words exactly as she spoke them on both occasions. You may read them here, and I hope that you will be touched by her words and pass them on to others, especially those who are still unaware that the nuclear-armed nations still brandish thousands of nuclear weapons, and are prepared to use them; the results of such action would be horrific.

We also heard from Mr. Kimura Isamu, General Secretary, Fukuoka Council against A & H Bombs (Fukuoka Gensuikyo), who spoke eloquently of the need to abolish nuclear weapons, and all the members of the delegation were wonderful ambassadors of peace ("heiwa" in Japanese). I am grateful for each of these ambassadors of peace and new-found friends; as their host I was honored to spend time with them and see their tremendous, steadfast dedication to building a peaceful world. They are people of deep, generous spirit.

The voices of the Hibakusha help keep the memory of those terrible events in 1945 alive so that we may choose (if we find our own courage) to not allow such things to ever happen again. For if we do not remember history, we are doomed to repeat it; and this terrible history must never be repeated. Let us hear the voices of the Hibakusha with our hearts and minds so that we may carry their message with us wherever we go... *No more Hiroshimas! No more Nagasakis!*

This is the testimony of Tokie Mizuno as it was written and translated by Nobue Kugimiya; and presented by Ms. Mizuno at First United Methodist Church of Seattle on May 5 and at the University of Washington Tacoma on May 6. The two black and white photos were also included with her testimony.

My name is Tokie Mizuno and I am a survivor of Hiroshima. 65 years ago, when I was five years old, the atomic bomb was dropped on my city, Hiroshima. I was near my grandmother's house, 1.2 kilo-meters from ground zero.

The City of Hiroshima was completely destroyed and was turned into rubble by the enormous destructive power of the atomic bomb. As other survivors, I was barely alive and the damage on my body and mind was unbearable.

I might have been lucky to survive but life hasn't been easy on me financially, physically and mentally. This agony



The delegation and members of Ground Zero were welcomed at Tacoma City Hall, where Mayor Marilyn Strickland announced she would join the group Mayors for Peace. Former Mayor Bill Baarsma, also a Mayor for Peace, is at center. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

should not be repeated on anybody else on earth. That's why I have become involved in anti-nuclear actions with other Hibakusha as well as many other Japanese people.

We have been collecting signatures for a nuclear-weapon-free world, and engaging in activities to defend the Japanese Constitution, especially the Preamble and Article 9, which pledges never to wage war again. Article 9 of the Japanese Constitution clearly states "the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat of use of force as means of settling international disputes." And it adds "In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained."

Delegation from Japan... continued on page 4

Article 9 is our treasure. This treasure for Japan was achieved with the sacrifice of precious lives of 20 to 30 million people in Asia and Pacific. This is one of the greatest achievements for the world, too, and we will hold on to it forever.

Let me talk about that day.....

On the morning of August 6th, 1945, just before Hiroshima was hit by the atomic bombing, one of the women in my neighborhood came to my house and said "We have some sweets. Why don't you come and have some?" So my little 3-year-old brother and I happily followed her. In those days it was very difficult to have sweets. My neighbor's son, a soldier, was back from the battlefield to treat his wounds. He brought some sweets with him for his family and the neighbor invited us in.

We were about to eat our sweets when the bomb exploded.

With a blinding flash, the whole house was flattened.

I found myself trapped under the rubble. I tried to look out from my little prison and saw my younger brother, rescued by a soldier, standing there with blood on his face and head.

I myself was pulled out of the rubble. My right arm was heavily injured and I had several cuts on my face. My neighbor tore her underwear into pieces and covered my arm to stop it bleeding. Later I was told that it was her treatment that saved my right arm.

I don't remember how many hours had passed, but I saw my mother crawling to me over piles of rubble. She was desperately looking for me and my younger brother. She looked awful with only tattered patches of her clothing on her body and her hair standing on end.

My 12-month-old baby brother was still buried under the rubble. My mother and grandmother were desperate and were removing the debris saying they should get him back home, even if he was dead. They also called out for help to people walking by but nobody stopped. They went on their way absently-mindedly – they were like ghosts.

We saw flames in the distance coming towards us. Terrified, my younger brother and I were both crying. I don't remember the pain of my injury, but many collapsed houses around us horrified me, although my father thought I was just stunned.

Fortunately, my baby brother was alive, and we managed to escape to a raft on the river. There were countless dead bodies floating and fire balls were falling all around. Red-hot galvanized plates darted towards us and made a huge noise when they dropped into the river. It was not a safe place to be.

At that time I was so young that I don't remember exactly what happened. But my deceased parents and grandmother told me a lot about that day.

There was a woman on the raft who gave us food and water. She also gave my mother part of a Kimono to use as bandages and as a strap to carry me on her back.

In the evening, cooling our bodies with river water, we finally found a place to evacuate to. It was a shrine near a railway station called Koi. Because my grandmother and I were seriously injured, we two were left at the shrine while my mother and brothers escaped to my aunt's house in Itsukaichi City. My uncle who rushed to Hiroshima to search for us carried them on his handcart. Grandmother thought we could have some treatment at the shrine but nothing was available. We were given only one rotten rice ball. We finally evacuated to my aunt's house.

They were farmers and gave us good food. I had tomatoes, cucumbers, pickled shallots etc. to my heart's content. It may be this diet that has kept me healthy.

My father had to spend several nights at shelters in Hiroshima. He died abruptly from TB in August 1956, which we believe was due to residual radiation. Later when I was working to collect survivors' stories, I learned that there were many Hibakusha who suffered from TB during those difficult times.

My mother died in Oct. 1967. I believe that both of my parents were killed by the atomic bomb. At that time I thought that it was our fate and that because Japan was at war we couldn't complain about it.

I also thought we were just unfortunate because we were in Hiroshima when the atomic bomb was dropped. Later I learned history, which completely changed my mind. I knew why the US had done it.

The US government has kept saying that the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki ended the war and saved millions of people's lives. That's what they teach at schools.

However, in 1944 there was scarcely any food left for Japanese people. People were dying from hunger. Japan's ground and air forces and navy were almost completely destroyed. It was obvious that Japan was finished. Nonetheless, 210,000 people were killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Why?

In 1945 the war ended, but another war, the Cold War between the US and the Soviet Union had already started. The US wanted to have an advantage over the Soviet Union militarily and politically by showing the power of nuclear weapons. They also wanted to test their newly developed technology, atomic bombs.

Hiroshima and Nagasaki were chosen as testing grounds with real live people.

Let me share with you what the atomic bombing had



His life's promise, over when they dropped the bomb. This boy was 700 meters from the hypocenter. *Photo courtesy of Tokio Mizuno.*

Abolition Flame Arrives at United Nations

By Marcus Atkinson

On May 2nd, activists from Footprints for Peace culminated a multi-state Peace Walk and joined with over 10,000 people to march from Times Square in New York City to the United Nations. Marcus Atkinson from Australia, the International Events Coordinator for Footprints for Peace, was asked to carry the Abolition Flame with four other flames from Hiroshima. Together these flames were carried at the front of the rally, along with Mayor Tadatashi Akiba (from Hiroshima where the flame originated), Mayor Bob Harvey (who lit the flame from Hiroshima and took it to New Zealand for the start of the World March), and Kenneth Deer (Secretary of the Mohawk Nation at Kahnawake).



At the end of the rally a petition, "Global Citizens Demand Action from the United Nations on Weapons of Mass Destruction," and two of the Abolition Flames were presented to Sergio Duarte, the UN Under Secretary and High Representative for Disarmament. Marcus and Rafael de La Rubia (of the group World without Wars) had been given this honorary job.

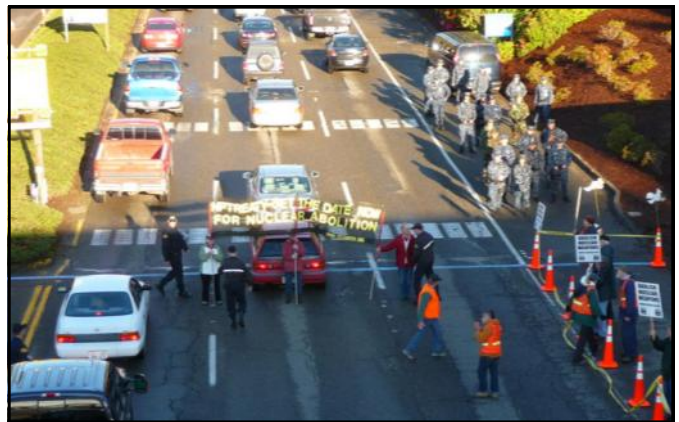
Footprints for Peace will be launching a new campaign in the upcoming months to focus our energy on the whole nuclear fuel cycle and the destruction being caused to our planet, along with the lies being used to promote this dirty, dangerous and expensive industry as a solution to climate change. To stay in touch about our upcoming events please sign up for our newsletter at www.footprintsforpeace.net.

Marcus Atkinson has led and participated in Peace Walks around the world, to advance peace, justice, indigenous rights, and nuclear abolition.

Ground Zero Activists Bring Message of NPT to Trident

By Sr. Jackie Hudson, OP

A whirlwind of a week culminated in an action at the gates of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor early Monday morning, May 3, the first day of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference. In New York City, 189 countries came together for the month of May to discuss and evaluate the progress being made on this treaty signed in 1968, and ratified by the US Senate in 1970. The treaty deals with non-proliferation, disarmament, and peaceful use. The huge stumbling block has been that a timeline has never been agreed upon to fulfill these three pillars.



As the early morning sun illuminated the base, three Ground Zero activists faced arrest. Photos by Sue Ablao.

Ground Zero members took the call to set a date for disarmament to the main gate of Bangor. Rev. Anne Hall, Brenda McMillan and Sr. Jackie Hudson carried a banner out into the highway in an attempt to say, "no business as usual today," to the workers on the base. They were placed under arrest by Washington State Patrol officers, present in the median, for the charge of "disorderly conduct." They were then turned over to the Kitsap County Sheriff's deputies, and taken to the county jail in Port Orchard. At the jail they went through the regular booking process and were subsequently released. Jessica Arteaga subsequently committed an act of civil disobedience (or obedience to higher laws) by sitting on the blue line dividing county property from federal property. State Patrol officers and Base military police had not been confronted with this situation before, and much discussion ensued before they finally concluded that the Base officers would arrest her. Jessica was booked on Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor and released.



Sr. Jackie Hudson, OP, is one of the Disarmament Now Plowshares Five, and serves on the Ground Zero Stewardship Committee.

My Journey – from Army Recruiter to “Crazy Peace Person!”

By Linda Newton

My name is Linda. I grew up in a military family. My father was stationed in Frankfurt, Germany, between 1966 and 1969 as a military policeman. Witnessing an SDS (Students for a Democratic Society) demonstration in front of the downtown PX (base exchange) freaked me out. *Who were these people?* I hadn't heard about any protests on Armed Forces Radio Network, or read about it in “Stars and Stripes.” We didn't see any of this in the newsreel played at the base theater prior to movies being shown.

We returned to Colorado in 1969. Now Dad was an Army recruiter. I spent many hours working in his office, getting to know the young enlistees and listening to the propaganda about building a career in the army. The WAC recruiter and I thought it would be funny to test and pass the physical for enlistment without telling my Dad. I was accepted as a neuropsychiatric technician and trained in San Antonio after graduating from basic training in Ft. McClellan, Alabama. I worked on the psychiatric ward at Ft. Dix, New Jersey, and still believed there was honor in what we were doing.

After spending several months recuperating at Fitzsimmons Hospital in Denver from a car accident, I was encouraged by my father to interview as the WAC Representative for the Unit Of Choice Recruiting Team for Ft. Carson. I secured the position. It was my job to show up with a complete heliborne team – usually two med-evac Hueys with a Cobra. We landed on football fields at high schools around the United

States and, working with the local recruiters, I gave a slide presentation about the wonders of life at Ft. Carson and the All-Volunteer army.

I got out. Got married. Life went on. Then, in 2000-2001 I was laid up by arthritis from my accident in the 70's. The Bush Coronation caught our attention. Because I spent so much time off my feet, watching TV was a favorite past-time. I am embarrassed to admit I was a FOX watcher.

“My husband and I watched and were shocked as Bush signed Executive order after Executive order... and then came the Patriot Act.”

Every Saturday I was confronted with another group of crazy peace people! They were there every Saturday, banging drums, holding crazy signs about losing our rights, losing our government. Lake Forest Park for Peace was relentless!

But then, something amazing happened. I discovered C-Span! Whoa... That wasn't what FOX said they said! That wasn't what happened! What the hell was the Bush administration trying to do? My husband and I watched and were shocked as Bush signed Executive order after Executive order....and then came the Patriot Act. The final straw.

We were up, dragging my father's flag out of the display case. For the first time we all took part in a public demonstration, and we became part of that crazy group of Peace People. It became a regular part of our week to stand on the corner.

I was lucky enough to have good guides who invited me to lectures, slideshows, movies, potlucks – and more potlucks. I began the re-education of my life. I was encouraged to put my training to work and become involved in counter-recruiting activities. Oh, I did enjoy that! We worked with an



Lake Forest Park for Peace has been holding regular peace vigils since early 2003. The above photo is from September of that year. *Photo from www.snowcoalition.org.*

amazing team and gave many students the opportunity to find non-military options to pursue. We also helped guide students to career counselors for assistance finding money for college or trade apprenticeships. We educated recruiters and students about depleted uranium.

Becoming comfortable being one of those crazy peace people has allowed me to open my mind and heart to the world we all share. I have learned to live outside my comfort zone and speak up whenever possible. I have learned the joy of sharing the energy at a rally or march. I have learned to demand that my elected officials hear my voice. I have learned the importance of public theater when there is no media to carry the message. I have learned to appreciate every person who works for the survival of this planet. I have learned to show up!

The moral of my lesson? Never give up. You never know when the next activist might be waiting to be awakened. Will you be there?

Linda Newton is a first-time contributor to the Ground Zero newsletter and a member of Veterans for Peace.

Robert Swann, Peacemaker

Review of “On Gandhi’s Path”

By Tom Shea

Ground Zero readers may find a friend in the life of Robert Swann, as told in *On Gandhi’s Path* by Stephanie Mills. From his jail cell as a WWII draft resister, to his Polaris actions against “city killer” nuclear submarines and missiles, Swann kept up his nonviolent peacemaking. A lifelong carpenter/builder/architect, Swann built houses, small communities, and the practice of an alternative economy. Like Gandhi, 90% of Swann’s work was program and 10% protest.

Swann-built houses were influenced by Frank Lloyd Wright, “providing common people with simple and comely homes.” They were environmentally friendly in style, size, and materials. They embodied Swann’s vision of “small organi-

cally planned, integrally built, decentralized communities.” He also mentored people to start community land trusts to move beyond the usual track of property ownership to the path of common ownership.

Organizing the Polaris Action Farm in Groton Connecticut in the 1960s, and later the Community Land Trust of the Berkshires, showed Swann and his family living out their version of community.

Swann integrated a local economy in these communities. For example, he initiated the Berkshire dollars, a local currency aimed at knitting the community together by providing localized medium of exchange. His Berkshire dollars inspired the more famous “Ithaca Hours,” northern Michigan’s Bay Bucks, and similar exchanges nationwide.

Also of interest to Ground Zero Center readers will be Chapter Three, *Satyagraha, American Style*, that traces the growth of American nonviolent actions in the first half of the twentieth century. Resistance to both World Wars and Gandhi’s nonviolent strategies for Indian independence showed nonviolence as a positive force for social change. Influences including Richard Gregg’s 1934 book *The Power of Nonviolence*, the founding of Fellowship of Reconciliation, the Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, and the War Resisters League, all educated a grow-

ing radical pacifist population in the US. Of Gregg’s book Swann said it “got a lot of circulation among peaceniks like me – people who were convinced but needed backup.”

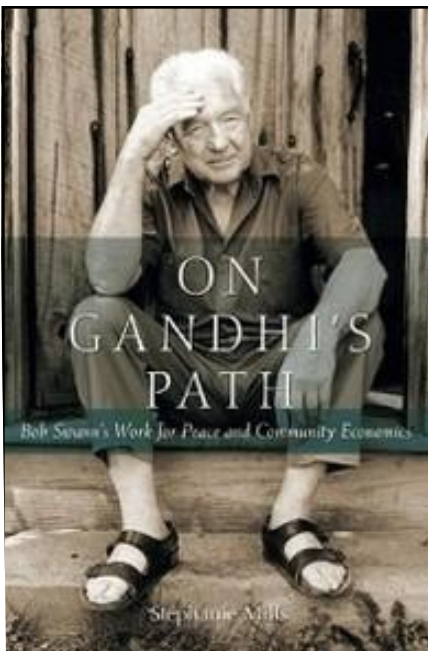
Swann originally grew his pacifism during five years of prison and probation he served for resisting military service. Mills points out that Ashland Federal Prison in Kentucky was Swann’s “monastery and university.” He and some fellow inmates were tutored in practical pacifism through a correspondence course taught by Arthur Morgan, longtime president of Antioch College in Ohio. Morgan’s book *The Small Community*, along with Lewis Mumford’s *The Culture of Cities*, and Peter Kropotkin’s *Mutual Aid*, were core curriculum for Swann and his fellow prison inmates.

From a variety of prophets and peacemakers, Swann learned a different way to live. His mentors led him away from the mainstream of the industrialized, consumer-focused economy. He met Bayard Rustin, whom Swann later regarded as “probably the most astute organizer of nonviolent direction action in the US....” Rustin inspired Swann’s total noncompliance with the Selective Service system. On a trip to Bennington, Vermont in 1942, Rustin introduced Swann to Scott and Helen Nearing. The Nearings practiced an earth friendly self-sustaining life style. Their book, *Living the Good Life*, together with E.F. Schumaker’s *Small is Beautiful: Economics as if People Mattered*, enhanced Swann’s development of small sustainable communities. Swann met Schumaker on a trip to England and later founded the E.F. Schumaker Society in the United States. In 1974, Dorothy Day wrote that the young people who come to work at the Catholic Worker houses need “to major in the New Economics of a Ralph Barsodi, a Schumacher, a Bob Swann.”

Stephanie Mill’s appreciation of the life of Robert Swann mirrors her own life’s path of radical ecology. Her 700 square foot home rests amid 35 rural acres, which she is restoring to the original diversity of its northern Michigan flora and fauna. She has traced her forty years of environmental activism in a half dozen other books: *In Praise of Nature*, *What Happened to Ecology*, *In Service of the Wild*, *Turning Away from Technology*, *Epicurean Simplicity*, and most recently, *Tough Little Beauties: Selected Essays and Other Writings*.

Now, as the US Navy designs twelve new nuclear submarines to replace the Ohio-class Tridents, at a cost of seven to 13 billion dollars, Robert Swann’s story can renew our own energy to resist.

“Ashland Federal Prison in Kentucky was Swann’s ‘monastery and university.’”



Tom Shea co-chairs the Media and Outreach Committee of Ground Zero and is a long-time peace and justice advocate.

Garden and Grounds Work in Full Swing at Ground Zero

By Sue Ablao

This has been a very busy spring! The big mud hole in the front of the house is gone, replaced, thanks to Don Markwick, by a smoothly graded space. Don first worked on our landscaping in the 1970s. He also has widened the driveway, opened up the area back by the fence, removed many alders to make space for the cedars and firs to thrive and generally spruced up the borders of the property. Malcolm Chaddock tended the fire pit to burn the slash from the clean-up, and got the lawnmower running and the lower parking area cleaned up. Jackie and I have the framing up for the raised beds for a vegetable garden.



Ready for some greenery! The Ground Zero House is finished and now needs some donated plants to fully shine. *Photo by Sue Ablao.*

Kathleen Winters, a landscape designer based in Suquamish and long time Ground Zero supporter, has created a landscape plan for the house and grounds using mostly native plants and grasses. Over the course of the build, Don has unearthed some good sized boulders. He and Kathleen are working together to place the boulders in various spots around the property to use as benches – what I like to call “thinking rocks.” A place to sit upon and think. Soon we will be sowing grass seed (low growing, native mixes) and planting various bushes, plants and trees. Kathleen has put together a plant list for around the house. Could you donate any of these items?

Six Vine Maple
Three Serviceberry, five-gallon size
Two Spreading Yew
One Irish Yew
Thirteen Sword Fern, one gallon size
One Camellia Sasanqua, two gallon size
Ten Deer Fern, one gallon size
Two Clematis hybrid, one gallon size
Ten Ruscifolia, one gallon size
Twelve Dwarf Japanese Holly, one gallon size
Six mixed ground cover flats
One Heavenly bamboo, two gallon size

One Andromeda, two gallon size
Three Blueberries, one gallon size

Jackie and I would be glad to pick up any of these plant donations in the Seattle, Tacoma, Kitsap and Olympia areas.

In addition, we could use new or used plastic stackable lawn chairs, a small chain saw, two new or used pop-up garden canopies, an LCD projector and pull down screen (for the great room), three large area oscillating sprinklers, a good new or used digital video camera for taping actions, and speakers and a compact portable sound system.

We also need donations towards paying for the topsoil for the grassy areas and river rock for drainage around the house. Any donation of these and other plants, materials or money towards same will be gratefully accepted.

Sue Ablao serves on the Stewardship Committee and resides at the Ground Zero House.

Stand for Free Speech at August's Peace Fleet Demonstration

By Glen Milner

The Peace Fleet is still scheduled for August 4, 2010. Senji Kanaeda Shonin and Gilberto Perez Shonin, with the Peace Walk this summer, will be joining us at Pier 66. They will be arriving from their walk from the Hanford area, which begins on July 25.

The Coast Guard's proposed no-protest zone had 13 comments (including a short “anonymous” posting, by the Coast Guard). Lincoln Cushing posted a comment in support of our Peace Fleet action from the Bay area. Lincoln was involved in the Bay Area Peace Navy and his group won a significant ruling in the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals in 1990 for public demonstrations in the water. Lincoln has a website that is really interesting with beautiful art (I go there from time to time for inspiration). See <http://www.docspopuli.org>.

The ACLU filed a strong statement against the proposed no-protest zone and in support of the Peace Fleet. The ACLU's three-page statement ends, “On the basis of the constitutional concerns articulated above, we urge that the Proposed Rule not be enacted. If the Proposed Rule is enacted, we are prepared to litigate its constitutionality.”

Glen Milner organizes the annual Peace Fleet events and regularly challenges illegal actions by the Coast Guard and Navy.

Your Support of Ground Zero Makes a Big Difference!

By Sr. Jackie Hudson, OP, and Tom Shea

Kristene Reeves of Senator Patty Murray's has relayed to Ground Zero members that the Senator is very happy we are here. Every time Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor comes up, Ground Zero comes up, too, in opposition. That creates political space for Senator Murray. We are gaining critical allies. Please support our ongoing work by coming for the big August gathering, see what a spectacular park we now have, and donate generously for the world our great-grandchildren can thank us for. The new house is paid for and is financially self-sustaining. The grounds still need volunteer help and donations for plantings. Beyond this, we need funds for media outreach, organizational materials, newsletter, and legal expenses. Your generosity not only supports our work, it keeps us energized. Thanks for your notes of support, your volunteer time, and your dollars. Visit our new web site and donate online, or mail your donation using the return address on the newsletter.

Or, simplify how you donate to support the work of nuclear disarmament and Ground Zero. Join the growing number of folks who are making a monthly donation by automatic bank deposit. A dependable donation each month will help maintain the Center and increase our ongoing programming to abolish all nuclear weapons. Whether it's \$5.00 or \$100 or even more, any amount will make a difference.

Tom Shea and Sr. Jackie Hudson, OP, serve on the Stewardship Council.

Think Outside the Bomb: Youth Organize Against Nukes

From Think Outside the Bomb Press Release

The Think Outside the Bomb National Tour (TOTB) will be in the northwest in July as part of their efforts to chart a new course for US nuclear weapons policy. The tour began at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review in New York City in May and will snake across country, visiting some 40 cities on its way to Los Alamos, New Mexico, the birthplace of the atomic bomb for a global convergence in the beginning of August. TOTB will be at the University Lutheran Church in Seattle on July 1, and at the Red and Black Café in Portland on July 3. The time for both events is 7:00pm.

TOTB is a national network of youth activists and organizers for nuclear abolition who wish to create a world free of nuclear weapons and nuclear power. According to Rebecca Riley, one of the tour organizers, "TOTB is build-

PLC 2011— Save the Date!

By Bryce Fisher and Peggy Coleman

Almost four months have passed since the Pacific Life Community gathering in New Mexico and we are now beginning to prepare for the next one. It will take place in California in the Bay Area. The retreat will commence Saturday, March 5, 2011, at the Vallombrosa Center in Menlo Park, and will continue through Monday, March 7 at 4:00 pm. Note the Saturday start and not Friday.

There is a room limit of 80 beds for the retreat center. In order for us to get a head count, it will be necessary for those who plan to attend to send a \$100 nonrefundable registration fee to Peggy Coleman at 2309 Saidel Drive #1, San Jose, CA 95124. Make your check or money order out to Philanthropic Ventures Foundation, noting Catholic Worker Peace Fund on the bottom. (The Bay Area hosts are working very hard to keep participants' registration at \$100, which represents a small portion of the Bay Area lodging expenses.)

Tentative activities include:

Public forum with keynote speaker Frida Berrigan
(afternoon, Sunday, March 6)

Nonviolent Action at Sunnyvale Lockheed Martin
(morning, Monday, March 7)

A follow-up evaluation of Action. Please plan to stay until
4:00pm on Monday, March 7!

Nonviolent civil disobedience workshop for new activists
Poster making and rehearsal for possible street theater
Participant updates on other local PLC resistance groups
Networking opportunities

Celebration of being together (music, singing, dancing,
visiting)

Prayer and group discussion

Check back for the latest information on PLC 2011 at our blog (pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com). We'll also be posting information and suggested reading about Lockheed Martin over the coming months. We can't wait to be joined together again with you!

Bryce Fisher and Peggy Coleman can be reached at (415) 705-3462 and (408) 221-3424, respectively, to answer any questions about PLC 2011.

ing community, educating and mobilizing people to participate politically in demanding a nuclear free future from our political leaders and the US Nuclear Industrial Complex."

Organizers say that 2010 is a crucial year for working against nuclear weapons because of the renegotiation of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), the increased awareness that came with President Barack Obama's Nobel Peace Prize, and plans to rebuild bomb making capabilities at Los Alamos.

Think Outside the Bomb can be found on the web at www.thinkoutsidethebomb.org, with details on both northwest events.

done to us. The atomic bomb caused massive destruction and killed tens of thousands instantly and indiscriminately. It also emitted massive amounts of radiation which has afflicted us for decades.

Hibakusha describe the moment of the bombing as "The Sun dropped on us and burnt us". When Bomb exploded, a huge fireball, 280 meters in diameter, was generated in the air. Heat rays emitted from it raised the ground temperature, from 3000 to 4000 degrees Celsius (5500 to 7300 degrees Fahrenheit) near the hypocenter.

Within 1.2 kilo-meters of ground zero, those who were directly affected by the heat rays suffered terrible burns and their internal tissues and organs severely damaged. Most of them died instantly or within a few days.

The explosion also created a powerful blast and destroyed most of the wooden houses in a two-kilometer radius of ground zero. People were blown through the air and many crushed to death under collapsed buildings.

Radiation left the human body with serious damage. It penetrated deeply into our bodies, damaged cells and diminished the blood generation function of bone marrow. It also damaged inner organs. Even those who looked uninjured later became ill and died.

Residual radiation left on the ground affected many long after the explosion. Those who entered the city to search for their families/friends or for relief operations eventually developed similar symptoms and died.

Nuclear weapons are unspeakable weapons. They don't allow us to live nor die as humans. They are weapons of absolute evil which can never coexist with human beings.

3.2 million Japanese people lost their lives in the Asia-Pacific War. 20 to 30 million people were victimized by the Japanese military in Asia.

Learning from it, we have acquired the war-renouncing Japanese Constitution. However, military spending in the world is growing. Trillions of dollars are being spent for military purposes. If used for peaceful purposes, this money could solve many problems for humankind.

Twentieth century war is gone. Our responsibility is to hand over a peaceful and cultivated twenty-first century to the next generation. I strongly believe that we can hand over a nuclear-weapon-free world to future generations if we work together in solidarity with the people of the US and with the people of the world.

Thank you.



Ms. Tokie Mizuno. Photo by Leonard Eiger.

Leonard Eiger co-chairs the Media and Outreach Committee of Ground Zero. His blog can be read at www.nuclearabolitionist.blogspot.com.

negotiations on a nuclear weapons convention or agreement on a framework of separate mutually reinforcing instruments, backed by a strong system of verification." The review conference thus acknowledged that elimination of nuclear weapons will require a global institutional and legal system.

In the department of gratitude for small favors, one can note that the Final Document calls on the nuclear weapon states to "promptly engage" with a view to further reductions in their nuclear arsenals and to report to the 2014 preparatory meeting for the next quinquennial review conference on steps being taken to implement Article VI of the NPT. That article embodies the grand bargain under which the nuclear weapon states agree to negotiate in good faith for the elimination of nuclear weapons in return for abstinence from them by the rest of the world.

In general, the Final Document vigorously reaffirms past NPT commitments and the need for their implementation, including the application of the principles of transparency, verification, and irreversibility to disarmament, and the nuclear weapon states' "unequivocal undertaking to the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals." This reaffirmation was much needed due to the failure of the 2005 review conference and the sorry record of compliance with the commitments.

One can also welcome the consensus statement acknowledging the "catastrophic humanitarian consequences of any use of nuclear weapons" and demanding that all states "at all times" comply with "applicable international law, including international humanitarian law." This provision strongly implies the unlawfulness of use of nuclear weapons in any circumstance, advancing the 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice.

One concrete achievement was on a make or break issue for an agreed conference outcome: A nuclear weapons free zone in the Middle East. The Final Document calls for a conference on this controversial subject in 2012 and the appointment of a facilitator to make it happen.

All in all, the result was disappointing without being surprising. But the voices of civil society and of a growing number of countries were heard louder than ever, demanding that this sword of Damocles, as President Kennedy called it, be lifted from the world. These voices will not be stilled.

John Burroughs, J.D., Ph.D., is the Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy, based in New York City. He has served as an expert witness for the defense in the trials of several Ground Zero activists.

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 Colorado. This 48-minute film evokes important conversations about the role of religion in politics, the role of nuclear weapons in national defense and the role of International Law in the Federal Courts. DVD. Item # F-1



\$25 for personal use
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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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All Out for August Abolition Actions

By Tom Shea

Join us for the observance of the 65th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Come to the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, during August 6 to 9, 2010. The weekend's events will include music, nonviolence training, films, discussions and planning for an economic conversion to jobs for peace.

The Interfaith Peace Walk for a Nuclear Free Future begins at the Hanford nuclear reservation on July 25th, and will end at Ground Zero Center during the weekend.

The Peace Fleet will meet the US Navy Fleet in Elliott Bay on August 4th, as part of the Seattle Seafair celebration. Bring your boat or join the pier side nonviolent vigil at pier 66.

A vigil is planned for Friday, August 6th at the gates of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, home of the US West Coast Trident nuclear submarine fleet. Early morning Monday, August 9th, there will be a nonviolent vigil and direct action at the Bangor Base. Please see the enclosed flier for full details.



Tom Shea serves as co-chair of the Media and Outreach Committee of Ground Zero.

被爆者 (Hibakusha)

By Larry Kerschner

in Japanese
Hibakusha
explosion-affected people
sounds so simple
radiation burns froze their
skin in keloid poses
but it is our hearts that
need to be thawed
because we are not
explosion-affected people

Larry Kerschner is a poet, activist, and member of Veterans for Peace who lives with his wife Barbara in Centralia.

GROUND ZERO

**GROUND ZERO CENTER
FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION**
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E-mail: info@gzcenter.org

Address Service Requested

“Hope is like a path in the countryside: originally, there was no path—yet, as people are walking all the time in the same spot, a way appears.”

— Lu Xun, Chinese writer
(1881-1936)

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