

Ground Zero

April 2011

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Declaring Puget Sound a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone

The Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone is a campaign of interested and concerned citizens who seek to bring attention to the dangers of nuclear weapons both locally and globally, engage civil society to work for global abolition of nuclear weapons, and publicize measures that the US government must take to lead in the abolition of nuclear weapons.

The basis for the Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone campaign includes international laws, treaties and resolutions; statements of nuclear weapons experts, former diplomats and military officers; and scientific studies that warn against any use of nuclear weapons.

We the undersigned, in solidarity with others around the world working to abolish nuclear weapons and as a statement in opposition to the US government's continued reliance on and development of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, hereby declare Puget Sound to be a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

We assert our right and duty as citizens acting in good conscience, good faith, and in keeping with both US law and International humanitarian law, to establish this Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

We support the right of cities, counties, states, nations and groups of nations to establish nuclear weapon free zones. We applaud those that have previously established such zones, and call on all elected officials to establish nuclear weapon free zones.

We call on the US Government to refrain from producing, acquiring or in any other way possessing nuclear weapons and nuclear explosive devices and from permitting the stationing of nuclear weapons or their delivery systems in the Puget Sound region.

We call on the US Government to place its nuclear weapons facilities in Puget Sound under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards.

We call on the US Government to declare its support for the establishment of the Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

We further call on the government of the United States to set an example to other nations by immediately initiating good faith efforts to engage in multilateral negotiations toward complete, global disarmament, and honoring previously negotiated treaties including but not limited to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Initiated on this day, March 17, 2011 by Leonard Eiger, Bix Bichsel, SJ, and Tom Shea..

Citizens' Initiative to Rid Puget Sound of Nukes

By Father Bix Bichsel, Leonard Eiger, and Tom Shea

"We the undersigned, in solidarity with others around the world working to abolish nuclear weapons and as a statement in opposition to the US government's continued reliance on and development of nuclear weapons and their delivery systems, hereby declare Puget Sound to be a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone."

That sentence is at the heart of the citizens' statement declaring Puget Sound a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone.

Puget Sound hosts the largest concentration of operational nuclear weapons, according to a February 2011 article in the Kansas City Star. We believe it's imperative to focus even greater efforts on nuclear abolition right here in our own front yard as we continue to work toward the same goal on a global basis.

Just 20 miles west of Seattle are Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor and the Strategic Weapons Facility, Pacific (SWFPAC). Bangor is homeport to eight of the US Navy's Trident nuclear submarines, each one carrying 24 Trident D-5 missiles, and each missile capable of carrying up to eight nuclear-armed warheads. SWFPAC is the Navy's nuclear weapons storage depot where the nuclear warheads are stored, maintained and deployed.

The Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone Declaration is at the heart of our plan to help other nuclear abolition efforts including the new Washington Mayors for Peace Campaign, the campaign to stop the Navy from building a Second Explosives Handling Wharf at Bangor (see page —), and a campaign to stop the Navy from building a new \$80 billion fleet of ballistic missile submarines.

You can learn more about the Zone at www.psnukefree.org. We hope that people everywhere will endorse the Declaration and take an active role in the campaigns we facilitate.

We will formally announce the Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone on April 26, 2011, the anniversary of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster, with a news conference and other events.

Watch www.psnukefree.org for blog posts, announcements and ways we can work together toward a nuclear weapon free world beginning right here in our own front yard – Puget Sound!

Father Bix, Leonard Eiger, and Tom Shea initiated the Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone in collaboration with many supporters and fellow activists. They invite individuals and organizations to endorse the Zone by emailing Leonard at subversive-peace-making@gmail.com.

Twelve Symbolically Close the Base on MLK Day

By Leonard Eiger

A full day of activities to challenge Trident was kicked off with a vigil at the Kitsap Mall in Silverdale. Over 80 people were joined by a full scale inflatable Trident D-5 missile. Participants carried signs and banners calling for an end to war and nuclear weapons. Notable was a quote by Dr. King: "When scientific power outruns moral power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men."

Back at the Ground Zero house, the Seattle Raging Grannies entertained participants with a series of musical parodies celebrating the day's theme of "Billions for Life, Not Billions for Death." The theme reflected Dr. King's words: "A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death."

After nonviolence training, 12 activists risked arrest by symbolically closing the Trigger Avenue gate during the afternoon shift change as an act of resistance to Trident, a first strike weapons system.



Closing the base to redirect our priorities. From left to right, Brenda McMillan, Rosy Betz-Zall, and Shirley Morrison stand in the street. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

Rosy Betz-Zall, of Seattle, Rev. Anne Hall, of Seattle, Larry Kerschner, of Centralia, Brenda McMillan, of Port Townsend, Denny Moore, of Bainbridge Island, and Shirley Morrison, of Seattle, walked onto Trigger Avenue with a large banner and were arrested by sheriff's deputies. They were transported to the Kitsap County Jail where they were issued citations for blocking traffic.

Then another six activists crossed the "blue line" designating federal property. Patti Bass, of Poulsbo, Carolyn Dorisdotter, of Seattle, Norm Keegel, of Bainbridge Island, Gordon Sturrock, of Eugene, Sam Tower, of Tacoma, and Robert Friend Weber Whitlock, of Olympia were arrested by military police, then processed and released after being issued citations for trespassing. Their arraignment is scheduled for April 6, at 8:30 am, at the Federal Courthouse in Tacoma.

Leonard Eiger co-chairs the Media and Outreach Committee for Ground Zero.

SENTENCED

The Disarm Now Plowshares Are Sent to Jail

By Chrissy Nesbitt



Now their task is ours: Susan Crane, Lynne Greenwald, Sr. Anne Montgomery, Fr. Steve Kelly, and Fr. Bix Bichsel. *Photo courtesy of www.disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com.*

The Disarm Now Plowshares activists who entered Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor to symbolically disarm the nuclear weapons stored there were sentenced on March 28 at the Tacoma Federal Courthouse. Susan Crane and Father Steve Kelly were each sentenced to 15 months prison and one year supervised release. Lynne Greenwald was been sentenced to six months prison, one year supervised release, and 60 hours community service. Father Bill "Bix" Bichsel was been sentenced to three months prison, six months electronic home monitoring, and one year supervised release. Sr. Anne Montgomery has been sentenced to two months prison, four months electronic home monitoring, and one year supervised release.

About 250 people gathered at the courthouse to support the Plowshares activists with their presence, song, and prayer. After the trial, they sang peace songs and walked through the courthouse as a group, celebrating the beacon of hope the five activists have been for their community.

Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas Gumbleton, retired bishop of Detroit and founding president of the peace group Pax Christi, testified that the Catholic Church has spoken out very strongly against nuclear weapons, saying that no use of nuclear weapons can be justified morally. "We must abolish these weapons before the earth is destroyed." Ramsey Clark, US Attorney General under President Lyndon B. Johnson, testified that never in his life has he encountered such unselfish people as those who participate in the Plowshares tradition of direct action against nuclear weapons. Regarding their decision to live a life of civil resistance, he said, "Their consciences

tell them they have to do it. God will bless them for it and the courts of the United States should too."

Speaking as part of the Disarm Now Plowshares legal team, Anabel Dwyer and Bill Quigley laid out the broader legal picture of the case. "The problem is that nuclear weapons and the rule of law can't exist side by side," Dwyer said. "The other problem is, we cannot disarm nuclear weapons unless through the rule of law. We are in a conundrum here." Quigley submitted that lawyers are obligated to "understand difference between law and justice and to narrow that gap." He encouraged the judge to look back one hundred years and consider how many of the laws of that time were "legal but manifestly unjust." Dwyer is a Michigan attorney and Board Member of The Lawyers' Committee on Nuclear Policy (LCNP), and an expert in humanitarian law and nuclear weapons. Quigley is the Legal Director for the Center for Constitutional Rights in New York and Professor at Loyola New Orleans.

Each of the five co-defendants read statements in court. They focused on the personal responsibility they feel to disarm nuclear weapons, and their desire to prevent pain, suffering, and death for "those deprived by our wars and military budget of a human way of life."

Character witnesses spoke to the defendants' solidarity with Native people, children, working people, and the wider Tacoma community. Rosella Apel, age 11, said, "I have a clear image that when I grow up I'm going to do the exact same thing that these five have."

Roger Hunko, standby counsel for the Plowshares activists, disagreed with the outcome of the trial but expressed his respect for Judge Settle as a fair man. Dwyer was also impressed by the judge's civility and his thoughtful attention to the case, but she too disagrees with the judge's decision. "Every citizen has the right to ensure nonviolent complete nuclear disarmament. Trident is grotesquely illegal and criminal, and Disarm Now Plowshares should not be in prison for pointing that out."

Chrissy Nesbitt is a member of the Catholic Worker community who has devoted much of the last year to doing media and outreach work for the Disarm Now Plowshares.

Six to be Arraigned on April 6

Patti Bass, Carolyn Dorisdotter, Norm Keegel, Gordon Sturrock, Sam Tower, and Robert Whitlock received court notices related to their actions during the Martin Luther King Day Ground Zero events. Their arraignments for charges of federal trespassing are scheduled for 8:30 am on Wednesday, April 6, in Tacoma Federal Court. Everyone is invited to attend and support them!

Secret Plans to Use MOX Fuel at Nuclear Plant

Washington would be first state to use dangerous plutonium mixture

Press Release Issued by Friends of the Earth

Fukushima Daiichi reactor number 3 – one of the reactors in Japan that has suffered a partial meltdown and that remains endangered – is using an unusual, highly volatile form of reactor fuel known as mixed oxide plutonium fuel, or MOX. It is not yet used in the US, but information recently obtained indicates that it has been proposed for use at the Columbia Generating Station near Richland. The Columbia Generating Station is the northwest's only nuclear power plant.

Department of Energy documents released to Friends of the Earth reveal that public utility Energy Northwest hopes to bring the experimental mixed oxide plutonium fuel (MOX) into Washington for use in risky tests in a nuclear reactor not originally designed for that purpose. The documents also reveal that the utility has sought to keep information secret about its controversial and risky pursuit of use of surplus weapons plutonium as nuclear reactor fuel.

"It would be dangerous and risky for Energy Northwest to use this volatile plutonium fuel," said Tom Clements, a nuclear expert with Friends of the Earth. "Weapons plutonium should not be used as fuel in Washington State's Columbia Generating Station or any other reactor."

According to a DOE document dated January 6, 2011, and confirmed by documents obtained under the federal Freedom of Information Act, Energy Northwest is "formally evaluating the potential use of MOX fuel" in the company's single nuclear reactor, the Columbia Generating Station, located at the Department of Energy's Hanford site. The reactor is a GE boiling water reactor (BWR) and was licensed in 1984. The Hanford site, where it is located, has produced about 65 metric tons of weapon-grade plutonium in now-closed reactors dedicated to military use.

"It's no surprise that the utility tried to keep its controversial plans to use reactor fuel containing weapons-quality plutonium secret. Myriad technical and public relations problems are posed by the potential use of a fuel that has never before been tested in a boiling water reactor. Bringing plutonium back to Hanford to be used as fuel and stored as waste will set back cleanup efforts at the site. It's hard to see how the public could accept bringing plutonium back to Hanford after most of it has been shipped off the site," Clements said.

MOX fuel made from surplus weapons-grade plutonium has never before been used in any country on a commercial scale and presents a host of political and licensing problems for Energy Northwest. MOX containing approximately five to seven percent weapons-grade plutonium presents technical challenges to reactor operation and fuel management and storage, poses security risks in transport and handling, and presents the threat of larger radiation release in an accident. One of the undated FOIA documents from Energy Northwest states, "It does not make sense from either an economic perspective or

risk perspective for Energy Northwest to pursue the use of MOX fuel." But nuclear officials have pushed ahead in spite of those concerns.

Over 200 pages of FOIA documents reveal that officials at Energy Northwest have been developing plans with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory and the Department of Energy to begin a "three-phased approach to integrating MOX fuel" into the reactor. According to the documents, testing would begin with irradiation of 10 to 20 fuel pins fabricated by the laboratory in 2013 or 2105, followed by the use of up to eight "lead use assemblies" (LUAs) around 2019 for three or more two-year irradiation cycles (a total of six or more years), with loading of up to 30 percent of the reactor's core with MOX fuel beginning around 2025. Each step would require license amendments from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The Department of Energy is currently constructing a \$5 billion facility to make MOX fuel at its Savannah River Site in South Carolina, and construction continues even though no nuclear reactor has been identified that will use the MOX

fuel. Duke Energy began testing of experimental MOX fuel in 2005, but dropped out of the program after a test in its Catawba reactor in South Carolina failed. Now, the Energy Department is focused on discussions for MOX use with the

Tennessee Valley Authority and Energy Northwest as wider interest in the problematic fuel is lacking.

The MOX program laid out in the documents is speculative as it would have to be licensed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and would be dependent on capacity to fabricate MOX test assemblies made from weapons plutonium. No such production capacity currently exists, so the MOX plant at the Savannah River site is at risk of sitting idle for years.

Energy Northwest presentations obtained via the Freedom of information Act point out potential problems with MOX use, saying that there must be "no negative impact on reactor operation" and that MOX use must be "cost neutral" for Energy Northwest. An Energy Northwest senior engineer in charge of fuel management wrote in a December 2009 email that those at Energy Northwest and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory pursuing MOX use "don't want any unexpected press releases about burning MOX fuel in [the Columbia Generating Station reactor]."

"It is hard to see how the public could accept bringing plutonium back to Hanford."



Friends of the Earth is an environmental advocacy group with offices in Washington, DC, and San Francisco. To learn more about their work, visit www.foe.org.

A Ground Zero Story — Robert Burrowes' Work

By Tom Shea

There are thousands of stories out there about the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. This is one of them. On February 22, Robert J. Burrowes wrote from Victoria, Australia to info@gzcenter.org. He told a little about his 50 year effort to understand how to “work a way to end violence whether direct, institutional, or structural in nature....” and later wrote back: “I checked out the websites you mentioned [Ground Zero Center, Disarm Now, Leonard Eiger’s blogs.] They were outstanding ...inspiring. Leonard does a great job of presenting relevant issues in a highly engaging and presentable way.”

Here’s the rest of the story. The 1992 War Resisters League Calendar portrayed Burrowes’ war tax resistance. In lieu of tax money, he presented the Australian Tax Office with 94 shovels. Burrowes had worked in a refugee camp in Sudan in 1985, where Oxfam’s “Tools for Tigray” raised money to buy tools for the refugees returning to their drought stricken war torn villages. Later, at tax time in Australia, he bought 94 shovels and turned them in for taxes. The WRL calendar portrait quoted him: “It is clearly evident to me that...major state and corporate structure are not to be trusted with the heavy responsibility of halting military violence. In fact...I have decided that there is only one thing that I can trust – the individual conscience of ordinary women and men. It is our collective conscience which is the foundation of a just, peaceful and ecological sustainable society.”

Besides his tax resistance, in 1996, Burrowes’ book “The Strategy of Nonviolent Defense: A Gandhian Approach” was published by State University of New York, Albany, NY. This well-researched, documented, and readable book rises from his analysis of thinking about violence, particularly the institutional violence of oppressors. He shows how strategies based on human nature and human needs can be developed into an organized set of strategies to resist oppressors of all sorts. Using the conceptual and practical approaches of both Carl von Clausewitz and Gandhi, Burrowes presents a detailed instructions on the theory, planning, tools that work toward nonviolent defense against oppressors.

In December, 1996, Burrowes and Anita McKone “decided to retreat into seclusion to undertake a deep psychological examination of (their) own minds in order to try to solve this most perplexing problem,” a way to end violence. The result of their 14-year retreat is issued in two documents, “The Flame Tree Project to Save Life on Earth” and “Why Violence.” The Flame Tree Project offers a planet-wide fifteen-year year strategy for ordinary people to reduce consumption, increase self-reliance and achieve personal health through an ecological society. In some ways it parallels the Transition Movement in the US. The Flame Tree Project summarizes climate change briefly, then elaborates on the ways to act now in the face of global change and a potential shut down. It details specific actions that ordinary people can take to “reduce their personal consumption while increasing their personal self-reliance, by 10 percent a year.”

To reduce consumption the book offers specific actions to conserve our resources: water, household energy, vehicle fuel, paper, plastic metals, and meat. Then it follows with sixteen ways for increasing self-reliance. Examples are: “technology and tool making, using holidays and travel, economics and finance, for self, community and planetary defense.” Included are building boxes of background advice, analysis, motivation, and general commentary on plans for resource reduction and growing personal self-reliance. For example, one commentary on nukes:

“The use of nuclear power and nuclear weaponry (including depleted uranium weapons) has led to permanent life-threateningly high levels of radiation... military activities of all types are chronic contributors to environmental destruction and social destabilization, and weapons manufacturers look upon increasing conflict over ‘what’s left of the planet’ as an opportunity for making profit.”

The Burrowes story is just one from a worldwide response to Ground Zero and its related actions through Disarm Now Plowshares, the Bainbridge Island Nipponzan Buddhist Peace Marches, Tacoma Catholic Worker and our own stories told, published, spoken, and circulated throughout our world.

Tom Shea serves on the Ground Zero Stewardship Council and co-chairs the Media and Outreach Committee. He can be reached at tom-shea@centurytel.net.

Calendar of Upcoming Meetings and Events at Ground Zero

Sat. April 9 — Stewardship Council at Ground Zero, 1:30pm
Tues. April 26 — 25th Anniversary Of Chernobyl (plans to be announced)
Sat. May 7 — Mother’s Day Action at Ground Zero
Mon. May 9 — Trial of the Y12 Resisters in Knoxville, TN
Sat. May 14 Stewardship Council, Tacoma (place to be determined)
Fri. June 10 — Newsletter copy deadline for July edition
Sat. June 11 — Stewardship Council at Anne & David Hall’s house in Seattle
Sat. July 9 — Stewardship Council at Ground Zero, 1:30 pm
Wed. August 3 — Peace Fleet in Elliott Bay
Fri. August 5 through Mon. August 8 — Hiroshima/Nagasaki Action at Ground Zero
Tue. August 9 — Nagasaki events around Puget Sound
Sat. August 13 — Stewardship Council, Tacoma (place TBD)
Sat. Sept. 10 — Stewardship Council, Seattle (place TBD)
Sat. Sept. 10 — Newsletter deadline for October edition
Sat. Oct. 8 — Stewardship Council, Tacoma (place TBD)
Sat. Nov. 12 — Stewardship Council and Annual Meeting
Sat. Dec. 10 — Stewardship Council, Seattle (place TBD)
Sat. Dec. 10 — Newsletter deadline for January edition

VICTORY!

Glen Milner Wins Supreme Court Case

Press Release Issued by Gendler and Mann, LLP

The US Supreme Court decided March 7, 2011 in favor of Seattle-area resident Glen Milner, who sued the Navy under the Freedom of Information Act. Mr. Milner has sought the disclosure of weapons data maintained at Naval Magazine Indian Island (NMII), an ammunition and explosives depot located near the civilian communities of Port Hadlock and Port Townsend on Puget Sound.

In *Milner v. Department of the Navy*, No. 09-1163, the Supreme Court rejected the Navy's urging to broaden the scope of FOIA's exemptions to apply to Explosive Safety Quantity Distance (ESQD) maps. The Navy uses ESQD maps to estimate what surrounding communities would be affected if explosives or ammunition detonate. Mr. Milner is concerned about the risks the storage facility poses to residents and visitors nearby and requested the maps pursuant to FOIA.

"The public has a right to know if they are danger," stated Mr. Milner. "FOIA is about public access and the Supreme Court affirmed that today."

"This is a major decision for open government," said David Mann, a partner at Gendler & Mann who represented Mr. Milner. "The Supreme Court has clarified the application of Exemption 2 after three decades agencies refusing access to records under a nonexistent exemption."

The Navy sought to withhold documents under Exemption 2, which allows a federal agency to shield documents related to the agency's "personnel rules and practices." Rejecting the government's request to construe Exemption 2 to apply to

ESQD maps, Justice Kagan, who wrote for the majority, ruled that the maps and data requested by Mr. Milner do not fit within the language of Exemption 2. Exemption 2's plain language is limited to human resources matters.

The US Supreme Court has not considered the meaning of Exemption 2 since 1976, when *Rose v. Department of Air Force* was issued, but several federal circuit courts had since broadened the scope of the exemption. In *Milner*, the court acknowledged that the decision would upset three decades of agency practice, which had resulted in a conflict among the circuits regarding the proper scope of Exemption 2. The court's decision confirms that the phrase Congress drafted in Exemption 2, "personnel rules and practices" is, as with all other FOIA exemptions, given a narrow compass.

"Trying to fit ESQD maps into Exemption 2 takes us beyond what clearly Congress intended when FOIA was enacted," said Mann. "The government has have claimed Exemption 2 is a catchall. It is not. FOIA mandates disclosure unless one of the very narrow exemptions apply. Exemption 2 simply does not apply here."

Mr. Milner's dispute with the Navy will now return to the Ninth Circuit, where the appellate court will be asked to consider the application of other FOIA exemptions.

Gendler and Mann, LLP, is a Seattle-area law firm specializing in land use, property, and environmental protection. Their website is www.gendlermann.com.

Public Comments Needed on Second Wharf

By Glen Milner and Alice Zillah, with information from Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility

In March, the Navy updated its website concerning the proposed second Explosives Handling Wharf at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is now available at www.nbkeis.com/ehw.

The current Explosives Handling Wharf at Bangor is used to load and unload missiles and torpedoes from the eight Trident ballistic-missile submarines stationed at Bangor. The Navy insists it needs a second wharf because it has recently upgraded the munitions to D-5s, which take twice as much time as older C-4 missiles to service and maintain. However, Joe Graf, from the Navy's Strategic Systems Programs, told local media that the current wharf can handle the workload today. The second wharf is needed because of anticipated future workload.

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR) questions the timing and rationale of a new wharf at the naval base. WPSR and Ground Zero member Dr. Dave Hall said, "Given that the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review may well

change the demand for Trident nuclear weapons, and given the extensive work already done on EWH1 at Bangor, the current request to continue operations at a Cold War level into 2042 makes no sense."

Public participation is needed to challenge the plans for a new wharf. Please come to one of these three meetings:

- Tuesday, April 19, at North Kitsap High School Commons, 1780 NE Hostmark St., Poulsbo.
- Wednesday, April 20, at the Chimacum High School Commons, 91 W. Valley Road, Chimacum.
- Thursday, April 21, at Seattle Central Library, in the Wright-Ketcham Room, 1000 Fourth Avenue, Seattle.

Each meeting will begin with an Open House from 6:00 to 7:30p, followed by the comment period from 7:30 to 9:00.

For more information, see the Ground Zero website for updates.

Campaign calls for investment in human need, not military greed

By Larry Kerschner

The Western Washington Fellowship of Reconciliation *Bring Our Billion\$ Home* campaign is off to an enthusiastic start. The campaign aims to educate the public about the connection between lack of local services and the runaway spending on the multiple wars we are involved in. The ultimate goal is to get Congress to redirect their spending priorities. The Olympia-area FOR chapter has been especially active with a number of well-attended public meetings. Along with Veterans for Peace Chapter 109, the Olympia FOR recently sponsored a presentation by Rep. Dennis Kucinich, attended by over 800 people.

The Seattle area chapter has held four bake sales in front of libraries. Along with Rainier Valley Neighbors for Peace, they will be picketing a local Bank of America branch. In addition, Ruth and Mike Yarrow will be making a presentation to a Spokane-area BOBH group that has developed.

One of the campaign goals is to have an active group in each of Washington's Congressional districts. A research group is being formed and new printed material developed. A speakers' bureau will be able to make presentations to local groups.

The WWFOR website, www.wwfor.org, has a new face and you can also find information on our new Facebook page. We encourage everyone to join WWFOR in this effort. Write letters to your local newspapers. Get any organization you are involved in pass a resolution to Congress in support of this idea. Help your neighbors develop a local group in this effort. Events in the Middle East and in the Midwest show that change can happen when the people demand it. Let's do it!

Larry Kerschner is a member of Veterans for Peace. He lives with his wife in Chehalis.

Thank you for your "chairity!"

Thanks to the generosity of many friends of Ground Zero, we now have 100 chairs for our events, and all but six have names on the back. The names are a way to honor fellow activists and others who have made a difference in our lives. Check out our chairs at the next gathering on Mother's Day.



Personal Reflections on Crossing the Line

By Patti Bass

It was on Sunday, February 15, 2011 the Martin Luther King Day Ground Zero peace vigil and action at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor), that I took my first step "over the line."

I awoke that morning with an intuition that I was "ready." I listened carefully to that inner voice, almost a whisper, yet strong and powerful.

At the Ground Zero house I joined a small affinity group of five others to discuss our action, during which I expressed a great deal of anxiety regarding possible trial and jail time. The group offered unconditional understanding and support. I felt seen and heard without pressure. Calmness set in, strengthening my commitment to action.

Before we crossed the blue line onto the federal side risking arrest, excitement gave way to calm and a peaceful knowing that I was doing the "right thing." I felt spiritually connected to this small group and the purpose of our action.

After entering the base and being escorted by military

staff, a soldier approached and told me "I admire your commitment." I know he spoke for many others, as do we. I felt grateful.

During our vigil, action and arrest process we became totally drenched. This seemed timely and cleansing. Having a small group of equally drenched witnesses and supporters waiting to cheer, embrace and thank us meant so much to me. Knowing they were waiting in the rain when they did not have to meant I was not alone. Although I wondered at times, I never worried about

Drenched, but glowing. Patti returns after being cited. Photo by Leonard Eiger.



the legal consequences. I held faith that I could handle whatever the consequences of our action. I knew I had the support of a strong and loving Ground Zero community. Thank you my fellow Ground Zeroistas.

The deep spiritual significance of this first step and action remains with me today. I am changed. I am grateful. I am blessed.

Patti Bass lives with her husband in Poulsbo and is retired from working in the Mental Health field. She volunteers with the Head Start program at the Marion Boushie Forsman Early Learning Center for the Suquamish Tribe.

"A soldier approached me and told me, 'I admire your commitment.'"

Trident in the News

By Leonard Eiger

The Kansas City Star knows something the Navy doesn't

Once again someone – other than the government – has confirmed that Puget Sound is where the nukes are. The Kansas City Star newspaper recently confirmed that “the biggest concentration of the operational nukes is at the Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific at Bangor, Wash., which sends out Ohio-class submarines operating in the Pacific and Indian oceans.” So now you know. The US Navy just keeps droning on that they can neither confirm nor deny the presence of nuclear weapons at Bangor. Just what the heck ARE all those well-guarded bunkers for?

(Source: Kansas City Star, US trims its nuclear arsenal while upgrading production, Feb. 26, 2011)

Test missile costs \$60 million

The USS Nevada, a Trident sub that is home ported at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, successfully test fired a Trident D-5 missile on March 1st while on its post-refueling/overhaul shakedown cruise. There goes \$60 million – poof!

Cmdr. Alan Schrader, commanding officer for Nevada's “Blue Crew” said, “To get to today, it means so much for me to see that missile go off in the air, and now we're ready to go and do our strategic mission.”

A huge crowd of Navy personnel and family members witnessed the 135th successful test launch. (Let's see now... 135 time \$60 million apiece equals... \$8.1 billion!)

“It was incredible,” said Caitlin Hitt, co-president of the Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor Officers Spouses Association. “Nothing that I ever expected, quite honestly I was shocked at how cool it was when it came out of the water.”

(Source: Navy Compass, USS Nevada Successfully Tests Trident II D5 Missile, March 7, 2011)

Launch a pretend missile and eat pizza

A blog post on NavyDads.com recounts a proud Navy father's voyage on the USS Nevada on its way back to its homeport in Washington State. Did you know that on Saturdays they have fresh baked pizza and movies? How cool!

Chris Summers gave a thorough description of life on board a Trident sub. He got to get really up close and personal with Trident. At one point Chris drops a line in about launching a big one: “I also got to launch a make believe Trident missile at Country Bravo who was some sort of enemy of ours.” Whoa, bet that was fun!

By the end of his voyage Chris had a newfound appreciation for what his son and the rest of the crew does, particularly how they “live a most dangerous life under the sea and stay vigilant to protect us and our nation.” As they say, “Battle Ready! Battle Born!”

(Source: NavyDads.com, Trip report from my Tiger Cruise aboard the USS Nevada, SSBN 733 upon completion of their DOSA test launch deployment, March 12, 2011)

Leonard Eiger co-chairs the Media and Outreach Committee..

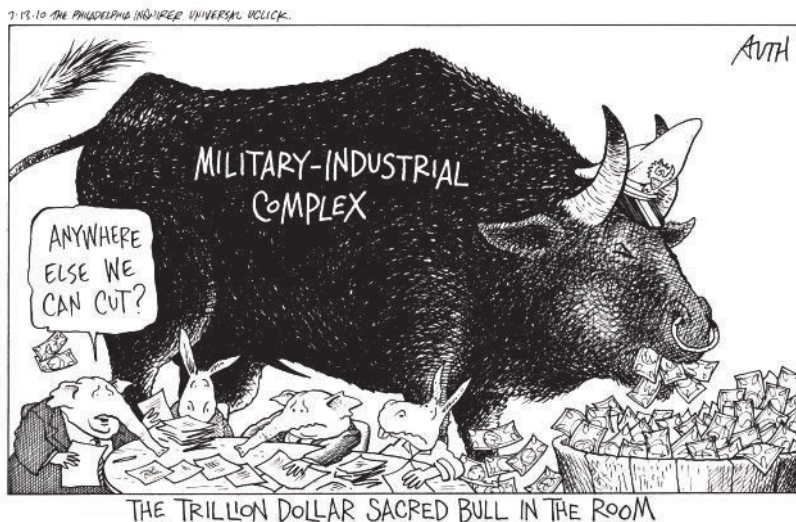
Listen to Mom!

On Saturday, May 7, 2011 Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action will honor nurturing women and continue its work toward a peaceful, weapons-free world.

This year's theme is “Mom says: ABOLISH NUKES NOW!”, and that is the message we will convey during the vigil and nonviolent direct action at one of the entrance gates at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, home to the largest concentration of operational nuclear weapons in the world.

It will be a full day of events including non-violence training, an orientation to the Naval base and the Trident weapons system, and planning for the day's vigil and action at the Bangor gate.

Bring a brown bag lunch and your non-violent spirit. Visit www.gzcenter.org to see the full day's schedule.



5th PLC Gathering Challenges Lockheed Martin

By Sue Ablao

The 5th annual Pacific Life Community (PLC) Retreat was held March 5-7 at Vallonbrosa Retreat Center in California. PLC is a faith-based (loosely defined) community of anti-nuclear peace and justice activists from the Western US. We come from Washington State (Ground Zero Center and Disarm Now Plowshares), Arizona (the Nuclear Resister newspaper), Nevada (Nevada Desert Experience and Las Vegas Catholic Worker), New Mexico (Albuquerque Catholic Worker), California (Redwood City Catholic Worker and Lockheed Martin Vigilers, Guadalupe Catholic Worker, Vandenberg Air Force Base Vigilers, LA Catholic Worker, and others.) We rotate sites each year. Each retreat focuses on community building, information and education, sharing a liturgy as well as action. Good conversation, good food, song, and storytelling abound.

Once again Ground Zero was well represented with Bernie Meyer, Lynne Greenwald, George Rodkey, Clancy Dunnigan, Sue Ablao, Sr. Jackie Hudson, Senji Kanada, and Susan Crane attending.



After spending Saturday catching up with everyone, Sunday was a day of information gathering and action planning. Ed Emkhe gave a presentation on Lockheed Martin. Lockheed Martin (whose motto is, "We never forget who we are working for") get one of every 14 dollars doled out by the Pentagon. That translates into a Lockheed Martin tax on the US taxpayers of \$260 for every household in the US! They are equal opportunity lobbyist, giving away \$12 million in 2009 to any congressman in a position to decide where our tax money goes. And they are very effective at it. In 2008 they received \$36 billion of our taxes and made a profit of \$3.6 billion. Besides the Trident missiles, Lockheed makes many other military aircraft and military weapons systems. Additionally they are in the information gathering business. They have created various GPS programs and intelligence gathering systems (see "Prophets of War: Lockheed Martin and the Making of the Military Industrial Complex by William Hartung). For a full listing of everything Lockheed Martin does, go to their web site www.lockheedmartin.com.

Later, Frieda Berrigan gave the keynote address on how "Nuclear War and Nuclear Weapons Profit No One." From the history of our weapons systems, to the treaties we have signed, to the treaties we have broken, to nuclear proliferation today, to the problem of nuclear waste, our nuclear weapons program is a mess. It will not change unless we, the people demand it. "Suits" don't make changes, the people do. Disarmament aids our national security and indeed it's the only thing that will. Frida also reminded us that hope is not a passive; hope demands action.

And on Monday, action it was. Approximately 40 of us gathered at the Bay Trail in Sunnyvale, the headquarters of Lockheed.

The Raging Grannies were there raising their voices in song. After vigiling for 45 minutes, 10 folks walked onto the property and were immediately arrested and cited.

The next PLC retreat will be at Vandenberg Air Force Base. Vandenberg is the testing grounds for test firing new missiles. We will likely gather in Santa Barbara March 3-4, 2012. Stay tuned.

Sue Ablao chairs the Stewardship Council and prepares wonderful dishes for hungry activists at Ground Zero gatherings.

Donations Requested for Auction Fundraiser

By Sr. Jackie Hudson

At the August action we will have a "bucket auction" – a cross between a silent auction and a raffle. How does it work? You can purchase as many \$1, \$5, or \$10 tickets as you wish. Each auction item will have a bucket into which you place your ticket(s). You may place as many tickets as you wish in each container. The more tickets you put in, the more chances you have for winning that particular item. Tickets will be drawn from each container at a designated time.

We need your help gathering donated items for this auction. Suggestions include gift certificates (for services, restaurants, etc.), solicited works from artists/craftsmen, classic books, new or very gently used items, true antiques, quilts, stays at a cabin, veggie dinners for 6, theater tickets... be creative! The ticket price will depend on the worth of the item as determined by the person who donates the item.

Please mail your auction item to Ground Zero at 16159 Clear Creek Rd NW, Poulsbo, 98370. Please state the estimated value of the item(s). Many thanks in advance!



Sr. Jackie Hudson serves as Secretary of the Ground Zero Stewardship Council.

Confronting the Bomb

A Message of Hope

By Leonard Eiger

The more I immerse myself in the movement to abolish nuclear weapons, the more I am humbled by the dedication of so many others engaged in the movement both now, and since even just before the dawn of the nuclear age.

These are the people who make up what H.G. Wells called an “open conspiracy” of people who have come to their right minds, and who are deeply engaged in the struggle to move humanity beyond the state-of-war to build a world community based on genuine justice and peace.

Historian Lawrence Wittner, begins his book “Confronting the Bomb: A Short History of the World Disarmament Movement” with a prophecy that relates to this “open conspiracy.”

“This notion of a society of the righteous, committed to saving the world from its own folly, had deep roots in world history. It can be traced back at least to the fourth century, to the Babylonian Talmudic teacher Abbayah. According to this Jewish savant, in each generation there existed at least thirty-six righteous people (lamed-vav-tzaddikim, in Hebrew) upon whom the survival of the world depended. Jewish fiction and folklore took up the idea of these hidden saints, who played a prominent role in kabbalistic folk legend of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries and in Hassidic lore after the eighteenth century.”

This paragraph (and prophecy) sets the stage for Wittner’s well-documented and dramatic history of the movement to abolish nuclear weapons and for the central premise of his book—that it is not the conventional explanation of “deterrence” that has saved the world from nuclear annihilation over the past 65 years, but a “massive nuclear disarmament movement.” This is the true story of how real, grassroots citizen activism brought very real pressure to bear, not only on the US government, but many other governments as well, to control the arms race and prevent nuclear war.

Wittner peels away layers to describe the early critics of “The Bomb,” even when it was only a concept in the minds of physicists. We get a sense of the tension that existed between the scientists of the Manhattan Project and government officials. A number of those scientists attempted to warn President Roosevelt of the dangers of the use of atomic weapons, not the least of which was that it would “precipitate a race in the production of these devices between the United States and Russia...”

Alas, the bombs were dropped, and Wittner takes us chapter by chapter, through the entire history of nuclear weap-

ons and the tension between governments and abolitionists. We see the ups and downs of the movement, along with governments’ (sometimes drastic) responses. We see that presidents, politicians and diplomats really were influenced by the pressure brought to bear by what was at times a huge movement to ban the bomb.

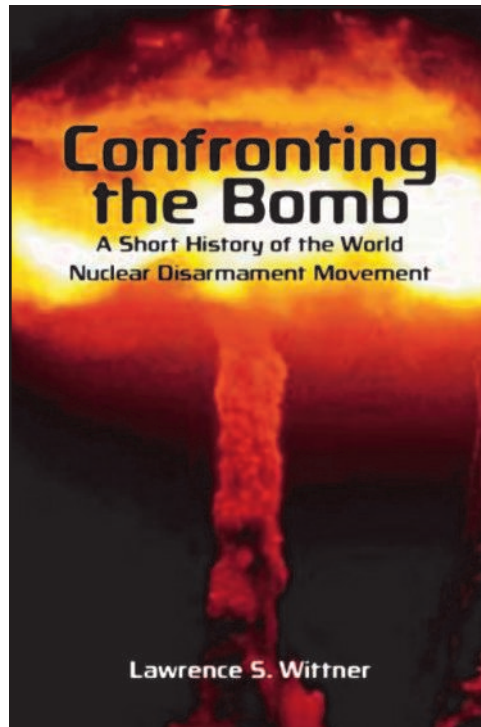
Toward the end of the book Wittner shows us how and why the nuclear disarmament movement faded after the end of the Cold War. However, he also describes positive steps that occurred during this time, such as the variety of treaties created, signed and ratified that effectively banned “nuclear weapons from most of the southern hemisphere.” As Wittner reflects on the past and ponders the future he states that “most government officials—particularly those of the major powers—had no intention of adopting nuclear arms control and disarmament policies.” His conclusion is that it was the “vast wave of popular resistance” that forced them to compromise and exercise restraint.

Wittner’s book is a tribute to what he refers to as possibly “the highest form of democracy”—“citizen activism.” For all of the “pathology of the nation state” Wittner has hope, but he is also clear that “if nations continue to follow the traditional ‘national security’ paradigm,

then—sooner or later—their leaders will resort to nuclear war...” So he asks us if we are up to the task of meeting this challenge, of changing the status quo.

He ends on a note of hope: “But an examination of the history of the nuclear disarmament movement inspires a greater respect for human potential. Indeed, defying the national barriers and the murderous traditions of the past, millions of people have joined hands to build a safer, saner world. Perhaps, after all, they will reach it.”

Wittner, with his academic discipline coupled with an engaging style, has given the nuclear abolition movement a great gift—a book that provides us with not just a linear history of the movement, but a holistic understanding of how the movement has succeeded and how we can (and must) revitalize the movement to continue the struggle for a nuclear weapons-free world.



Leonard Eiger writes the blog, *The Nuclear Abolitionist*, at www.nuclearabolitionist.blogspot.com. He co-chairs the Media and Outreach Committee for Ground Zero and assists with the outreach efforts for the *Disarm Now Plowshares*.

POSTCARDS, FILMS, T-SHIRTS, and BUMPERSTICKERS

DVDs and CDs

"CONVICTION" a documentary about three Dominican nuns, including Sr. Jackie Hudson, sentenced to Federal Prison for their nonviolent protest at a Minuteman III missile site in Northern Colorado. DVD. Item # F-1; \$25 for personal use, \$40 for public performance showings

"WALKING FOR PEACE" This 29-minute film documents the spiritual and physical journey of a 300 mile walk, from the Hanford Nuclear Reservation to Bangor Submarine Base. DVD. Item # F-2; \$10

"FREE WORLD" A documentary with original music on the "Journey of Repentance" in which 18 people traveled to Japan to atone for the atomic bombings. DVD. Item # F-3; \$15

"GENIE OUT OF THE BOTTLE—UNLEASHED" An examination of how nuclear weapons came to be, made by two 14 year-old boys from Chicago. DVD. Item # F-4; \$10

"ONE BOMB AWAY—CITIZEN EMPOWERMENT FOR NUCLEAR AWARENESS" Previously a book, it is now available on CD and a great primer for those both new and veteran in the abolition movement. CD. Item # F-5; \$10

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Phone: 360-930-8697 E-mail: info@gzcenter.org Website: www.gzcenter.org

What is Nonviolence?

By Rosy Betz-Zall

The Martin Luther King, Jr., Day at Ground Zero included a nonviolence training. Below is the brainstormed list of actions and characteristics that are part of nonviolence.

Actions

Listening
Non-retaliation
Balance
Respectful eye contact
Patient actions
Inviting
Look for common ground
Intervention
Available
Witness
Support
Caring
Choosing to act
Respect
Solidarity

Characteristics

Life affirming
Compassion
Love
Positive attitude
Friendly

Understanding

Humor
Assertive
Conviction
Equality
Nonjudgmental
Restraint

Dignity

Active
Breathing deeply
Open communication
Faith
Calmness
Courage

Empathy

Humility
Strength
Persistent
Mindfulness
Unexpected action
Sacred
Drama
Willingness to suffer
De-escalation
Faith
Unity
Non-cooperation



Rosy Betz-Zall is an experienced nonviolence trainer who has led many group activities at Ground Zero. The photo at left was taken by Leonard Eiger during the MLK day gathering.

GROUND ZERO

**GROUND ZERO CENTER
FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION**
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*“Taking our future on nuclear
power is a pact with the devil.”*

— Ervin Laszlo