

# Ground Zero

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## Mother's Day Action Calls for Disarmament

### *State Patrol and Sheriff Threaten Increased Charges*

By Leonard Eiger and Alice Zillah

"Disarm, Disarm! The Sword of murder is not the balance of justice," rang out as nuclear resisters symbolically closed the United States' largest operational nuclear weapons base.

Over 80 people gathered at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action on May 7 to celebrate Mother's Day weekend honoring nurturing women and resisting Trident-based nuclear weapons. Following a reading of Julia Ward Howe's Mother's Day Proclamation, Ground Zero peacekeepers entered the roadway to safely block traffic. Then seven nuclear resisters symbolically closed the base by crossing the roadway and standing with a long banner that reading "The Earth is our Mother: Treat Her with Respect."

During the morning nonviolence training, Ground Zero was informed that the State Patrol was going to cite resisters with a traffic violation, an unusual step for a civil disobedience action. The Patrol and Sheriff's Department further said that anyone who re-entered the road, after



#### **A day of community building and resistance to nukes.**

Top photo: Vigilers gather at the base entrance. Middle photo: seven people block the road. Bottom photo: the arrestees after the action, wearing the names of the Disarm Now Plowshares. All photos by Leonard Eiger.



being cited the first time, would be charged with four misdemeanor offenses. Each charge would carry its own \$1,000 bail, meaning that the total bail amount would be \$4,000. The State Patrol and Sheriff evidently calculated that the steep bail would serve as a disincentive (despite the fact that the court is actually responsible for setting the bail amount).

After the seven activists were arrested, State Patrol officers gave each a citation that charged them with "walking in a roadway where prohibited," carrying a \$56 fine. Those cited were Mary Gleysteen of Kingston, Dorli Rainey, Shirley Morrison, Rev. Anne Hall and David Hall of Seattle, and Bernie Meyer and Alice Zillah of Olympia. Those entering the roadway wore the names and registration numbers of the five Disarm Now Plowshares activists who are in prison for their 2009 action.

The seven arrestees will have their traffic court hearing on Monday, August 29 at 1:15pm in Kitsap District Court in Port Orchard. Supporters are encouraged to attend!

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**Leonard Eiger** co-chairs the Media and Outreach Committee, and documents Ground Zero events through photography. **Alice Zillah** has been involved with the group since 2003, and edits the Ground Zero newsletter.

# MLK 6 Have Their Day in Court

By Patti Bass, Carolyn Dorisdotter, Norm Keegel, Gordon Sturrock, Sam Tower, and Berd Whitlock

On January 15, 2011 six nuclear resisters entered the roadway in front of the gate to the Bangor Trident nuclear submarine base. They approached the gate, crossing the blue line designating the federal side of the roadway, and when confronted by base security personnel, asked to see the base commander. Their request was denied, and they were then arrested, processed, issued citations for trespassing and released.

peaceful resistance. To be silent is not an option for me.

## Carolyn Dorisdotter

I took this stand for my grandchildren and all the children of the world. Stockpiling of weapons has only led to more stockpiling and more hostility. We know that the only thing that leads to peace is trust. Trust is verifiable. And that must be what we are about. For the children.

## Norm Keegel

The Navy drew a line in the sand (actually a blue line on the pavement) and I stepped over it. Today I pay the consequences. I'd like to explain why I crossed the blue line. I'm afraid of what nuclear weapons can do when they go off, by design or accident. I know what a hydrogen bomb can do. Before I went to Bangor my wife pleaded with me not to cross the blue line. I struggled with my conscience, and in the end my fear won over my love for my wife. I'm sorry for the distress which this caused her.

Recently I've read *The Seventh Decade* by Jonathan Schell and it gives me some hope. In December 1945 Ronald Reagan agreed to lead a rally on nuclear disarmament. (He didn't because of objections from his studio.) Forty-one years later, as president, he met with Mikhail Gorbachev and talked about nuclear disarmament. Both men wanted to abolish the weapons, but sadly they could not agree on the details.

A few years ago the Wall street Journal published an article called "A World Free of Nuclear Weapons." It was written by former Secretary of State George Shultz, former Secretary of Defense William Perry, former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger and former Senator Sam Nunn.

Then there was the START treaty several years ago and the New START treaty ratified by the Senate about six months ago. This gives me hope that some day we will abolish these horrible things we created.

## Gordon Sturrock

I broke the law deliberately in an act of nonviolent civil disobedience with the intent of bringing greater awareness to the horrors and illegalities of nuclear weapons. I'm willing to suffer the consequences of my actions. In addition to my appreciation to this court and the prosecutors for their fair and professional work which has already been mentioned, I would also like to extend my thanks to the Navy personnel who arrested and processed us in a respectful and professional manner.

## Sam Tower

Your honor I have been a youth worker all my life, since I was one. I have tried to teach my children and the children I



**Speaking truth to power:** from left to right, Berd Whitlock, Carolyn Dorisdotter, Sam Tower, Patti Bass, Gordon Sturrock, and Norm Keegel on their day in federal court.  
*Photo courtesy of Berd Whitlock.*

These six nuclear resisters engaged in a direct nonviolent action that day for a variety of individual reasons, yet they all had a shared understanding that the nuclear warheads stored at Bangor and deployed on the Trident submarines home ported there are both immoral and illegal (under both US law and international humanitarian law).

On June 1<sup>st</sup> they appeared in Federal court to finalize their plea bargains before the judge. They were allowed to read individual statements demonstrating the depth of their conviction.

## Patti Bass

I want to thank the court for allowing me to make this statement. I am a peaceful patriot. I believe in the ideals of democracy and cherish the guaranteed freedoms of the constitution. I do not believe we must have war to achieve peace. I believe that change comes from peaceful nonviolent means. Nuclear weapons are weapons of mass destruction. They are illegal under international humanitarian law and under treaties signed by the United States. Nuclear weapons are evil, reprehensible and immoral.

I stepped over the blue line onto Sub Base Bangor because I was compelled to follow my moral convictions against nuclear weapons and war. This was an action of nonviolent

**MLK 6... continued on page 8**

# Second Explosive Handling Wharf Shows Navy's Commitment to Nukes

By Dr. David Hall

Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility and the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action have been working together for 25 years to end the presence of nuclear weapons on Hood Canal. Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor homeports eight Trident class submarine warships that deploy the single most deadly concentration of weapons of mass destruction anywhere in the world – 4000 times the devastation of the Hiroshima atomic bomb. Sadly, this military program is justified as an economic boon to the local economy and a necessary deterrent to attack by a nuclear-armed adversary. What has yet to penetrate our Cold War mentality is both the obscene erasure of life even one of these nuclear warheads would accomplish, and also the self-fulfilling nature of our fear of other cultures. The presence of the Trident “doomsday machine” creates the very justification other nations and non-state actors use in order to acquire these monsters and use them to threaten us and others in return.

The US Navy is moving ahead with plans to build a second Explosive Handling Wharf on Hood Canal for the loading and unloading of the Trident missiles. According to the Navy, the first wharf can provide only 300 working days a year and with the new plans for upgrading the missiles and warheads they will need 400 working days. For this they plan to build a second wharf that is larger than the first. See [www.nbkeis.com/EHW](http://www.nbkeis.com/EHW) for full details.

What goes unaddressed in the Environmental Impact Statement process is the reduced number of warheads and missiles allowed under treaties in force or the fact that the Cold War ended over twenty years ago. The D-5 missiles on Trident submarines should be armed with no more than just over half the number of warheads of which they used to carry.

What is more ominous is the underlying plan for rebuilding the entire Trident fleet over the next 30 years at a cost that will exceed one trillion over the lifespan of the program, and will continue US threats against the rest of the world with total annihilation at our discretion.

And who is the Trident system aimed at controlling? North Korea? Iran? Russia? China? Pakistan? India? France? Great Britain? Israel?

We need instead to be making similarly huge investments into training competent diplomats and developing cultural connectedness, common business ventures, cooperative security programs, and common humanitarian responsiveness.

Our goal is to stop the rebuild of the Trident nuclear weapons system as we strive to eliminate nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction from the face of the Earth.

We cannot afford to lose this battle. There is no cure for nuclear war on the scale we have planned for. And the probability that these weapons will be used grows steadily to a tipping point of inevitability sometime in the future. For the love of our great grandchildren's great grandchildren or perhaps

even our own grandchildren we must not fail.

Contact us for a public presentation on these issues and join your voice in a growing chorus for life not death, cooperative security not threatened annihilation.

*Editor's Note: The US Navy is currently conducting development and design work on a planned class of 12 next-generation ballistic missile submarines to replace the current 14 submarines of the Trident fleet. The production costs alone could likely exceed \$99 billion, and the last of the new subs built is scheduled to operate until 2082.*

**Dr. David Hall** maintains the Ground Zero website and chaired the Building Committee. On July 14, he will be honored at the annual dinner of Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility for his 30-year commitment to the group and to the cause of peace.

## Local Film Documents Journey of Repentance

By Leonard Eiger

The short documentary *Free World* was an official selection of the recent 2011 Seattle True Independent Film Festival ([www.trueindependent.org](http://www.trueindependent.org)).

*Free World* Producer and director Ashley Michael Karitis travelled with and documented the Journey of Repentance, an 18-person interfaith delegation from Washington on their journey to Japan to interact with atomic bomb survivors (Hibakusha) and commemorate the 64<sup>th</sup> anniversaries of the bombing.

The multigenerational delegation formed around Fr. Bill Bichsel, who is currently in prison for his faithful resistance to nuclear weapons. For many years, Bix has had a longstanding desire to visit Japan and apologize for the atomic bombings. He believes unless there is an acknowledgment of the wrong that has been done, we will not turn from the path of violence.

*Free World* shows us that when we forget the past, we repeat it—but, that if we learn from our mistakes and unite in diversity, there is hope for a nuclear weapons-free world.

If you haven't seen *Free World* and would like to purchase a copy for yourself or to show to your organization, check it out at the *Free World* website: [www.freeworlddocumentary.com](http://www.freeworlddocumentary.com).



# Tradition of Civil Disobedience is Alive and Well

By Bill Quigley

Since President Obama was inaugurated, there have been over two thousand six hundred arrests of activists protesting in the US. Research shows over 670 people have been arrested in protests inside the US already in 2011, over 1,290 were arrested in 2010, and 665 arrested in 2009. These figures are certainly underestimate the number actually arrested as arrests in US protests are rarely covered by the mainstream media outlets, which focus so intently on arrests of protestors in other countries.

Arrests at protest have been increasing each year since 2009. Those arrested include people protesting US wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, Guantanamo, strip mining, home foreclosures, nuclear weapons, immigration policies, police brutality, mistreatment of hotel workers, budget cut-backs, Blackwater, the mistreatment of Bradley Manning, and rightwing efforts to cut back collective bargaining.

These arrests illustrate that resistance to the injustices in and committed by the US is alive and well. Certainly there could and should be more, but it is important to recognize that people are fighting back against injustice.



**Fourteen activists were arrested** last August blocking construction of a new nuclear weapons plant in Kansas City. *Photo courtesy of [www.nukewatch.com](http://www.nukewatch.com).*

Information on these arrests has been taken primarily from the newsletter *The Nuclear Resister*, which has been publishing reports of anti-nuclear resistance arrests since 1980, and anti-war actions since 1990.

Jack Cohen-Joppa, who with his partner Felice, edits *The Nuclear Resister*, told me "Over the last three decades, in the course of chronicling more than 100,000 arrests for nonviolent protest and resistance to nuclear power, nuclear weapons, torture, and war, we've noted a quadrennial decline as support for protest and resistance gets swallowed up by Presidential politicking. It has taken a couple of years, but the "hopeium" addicts of

2008 are finally getting into recovery. We're again reporting a steady if slow rise in the numbers willing to risk arrest and imprisonment for acts of civil resistance. Today, for instance, there are more Americans serving time in prison for nuclear weapons protest than at any time in more than a decade."

**Bill Quigley** is Legal Director at the Center for Constitutional Rights and a law professor at Loyola University New Orleans. He is a Katrina survivor and has been active in human rights in Haiti for years with the Institute for Justice and Democracy in Haiti. Contact Bill at [quigley77@gmail.com](mailto:quigley77@gmail.com).

## Peace Fleet Takes on Military Glorification for 10th Year

*Everyone invited to participate, on land or at sea*

By Glen Milner

Local activists will stage a water-based nonviolent protest against the glorification of weapons of war at the Seattle Seafair festival. Peace activists will meet the US Navy fleet in Elliott Bay around 1:00 pm.

Other peace activists will meet on land near Pier 66 on the Seattle waterfront at the same time for a nonviolent demonstration against weapons of war. Demonstrators on land often meet on the rooftop of the four story Bell Harbor International Conference Center at Pier 66 with the Navy band and Seafair dignitaries, on Pier 62/63, the open pier just south of Bell Harbor Marina, or between both locations.

The Seafair fleet arrival is a celebration of warships in our harbor and helps to promote the normalcy of modern war. For the third year, the Coast Guard has established a special "safety" or no-protest zone around Pier 66 during the fleet arrival. The zone has no other purpose than to keep peace vessels away from the pass and review area for the arrival of Navy vessels on the waterfront.

The fleet arrival at Seafair is a public relations and recruiting event for the US Navy. Previous years have brought

Trident nuclear submarines complete with nuclear warheads and Navy warships used to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles in the first and second Wars on Iraq and the War on Afghanistan. The fleet is displayed for four days in downtown Seattle at tremendous cost to taxpayers while crucial social services in education, health care, and transportation are being cut for lack of funds.

2011 will mark the 10th year the Peace Fleet has met the Navy at Seafair. For a decade, anti-war demonstrators have met the Navy fleet arrival in Elliott Bay only to be routinely harassed by the Coast Guard, Navy and the Port of Seattle.

Demonstrators have maintained that the Navy and Seafair have failed to apply for a maritime permit as required by federal regulations. In July 2008, Rear Admiral Currier, Commander of the Thirteenth Coast Guard District, acknowledged that the event could be cancelled due to this error but pledged to "initiate a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) for Fleet Week's Parade of Ships event in order for this event

**Peace Fleet... continued on page 8**

# Health Scare for Jackie Hudson Demonstrates Inhumanity of Private Prison System

By Leonard Eiger, with information from Joe Power-Drutis

The Y-12 National Security Complex in Oakridge, Tennessee is one of the major cogs in our nation's nuclear weapons machinery. The facility has been rebuilding and gearing up to the tune of billions of dollars, and although its website would lead us to believe that it is simply "a premier manufacturing facility dedicated to making our nation and the world a safer place," the fact is that the Y-12 is engaged in the production of nuclear weapons; weapons that, under the laws of this land as well as international law, are illegal (and immoral to boot). How nuclear weapons make "the world a safer place" is a mystery.

On July 5, 2010, peace activists from around the country, including members of the original Plowshares Eight, held a vigil at the Y-12 bomb plant to declare independence from "nuclear terrorism" – our nation's continued production, deployment and threat of use of nuclear weapons. Among those who risked arrest that day by crossing through the barbed wire onto the plant property was Ground Zero's Jackie Hudson, OP.

As with virtually all federal trials of nuclear resisters, the judge precluded a just trial by not allowing the 13 defendants to tell the jury why they committed their act. Following the guilty verdict in May, some of the defendants, including Jackie, chose to go directly to jail to await sentencing.

After initially being jailed in Knoxville where the trial was held, Jackie and some of the others were transferred to the Irwin County Detention Center, a for-profit prison in Ocilla, Georgia under contract to the federal government. Not long after her incarceration, Jackie began to experience severe chest pain. Initially, nothing was done for Jackie besides giving her some over-the-counter pain medication and placing her under observation.

Once word got out about Jackie's condition many people on the outside went to work to get her proper medical attention. Despite the best efforts of attorneys and physicians working on her behalf, it was evidently the outpouring of calls, faxes and emails to the prison that finally convinced prison officials send Jackie to the local hospital to determine if she had experienced a cardiac event, after days of continuous pain.

It was determined that she had not had a heart attack, and so she was returned to the prison without any further evaluation even though she continued to experience chest pain. People on the outside continued to advocate for Jackie's release from prison, and finally the judge in her case ordered her to appear in Knoxville to hear her petition for release. Meanwhile, Jackie was confined to a small "medical room" at the Ocilla prison.

Jackie was transferred to the prison in Knoxville on June 8<sup>th</sup>, and the physician's assistant in charge immediately sent her to the University of Tennessee Medical Center where they diagnosed and treated her for pneumonia and kidney failure. Jackie's attorney, Brad Henry, appeared before the judge and successfully petitioned for her release. As soon as the hearing

was finished, Brad rushed to the hospital, accompanied by a US Marshall and probation officer, and got Jackie's signature to make it official. A short while later Sue Ablao and Joe Power-Drutis were by her bedside, and Jackie was on the road to recovery. She was released from the hospital, and after a few days' rest flew back to Seattle, escorted by Sue Ablao.



**Supporters around the country** called on the prison, the Sheriff's Department, the media, and the court to obtain the necessary medical care for Jackie. *Photo courtesy of Answer Seattle, from an antiwar rally at which Jackie spoke.*

As this article goes to press Jackie is back in the Seattle area getting some rest and recuperation and follow-up medical care. Her sentencing for the Y-12 conviction is still pending, but for now she is home, surrounded by the love of friends and supporters. We are grateful for Jackie's sacrifice and witness. We are also grateful for everyone who worked on Jackie's behalf throughout her ordeal, and we remember all those prisoners who have no one to support them.

As Jackie said after her release from prison, "Always remember the millions of other folks who populate our jails and prisons and have little or no support in that dehumanizing and often corrupt system."

**Leonard Eiger** coordinates the media activity for the Disarm Now Plowshares. **Joe Power-Drutis** is a member of the Tacoma Catholic Worker, and traveled to Ocilla to assist in Jackie's release. The full story of Jackie's ordeal in the prison system can be read at the Disarm Now Plowshares Blog (<http://disarmnowplowshares.wordpress.com/>).

# Move Over, Space Needle!

## *There's a Strange New Icon in Town...*

By Leonard Eiger

Seattle has a new, albeit temporary, icon that quite rivals the Space Needle. Can you guess? What is 240 feet wide and 390 feet long, towers more than 280 feet from its keel to the top of its huge white dome, displaces nearly 50,000 tons, and cost \$900 million to build?

It's the Sea-Based X-band Radar, just one of many components of the US Defense Department's Ballistic Missile Defense System. This \$900 million photogenic and technological marvel is said to be able, according to the head of the Missile Defense Agency (MDA), "to track an object the size of a baseball over San Francisco in California from the Chesapeake Bay in Virginia, approximately 2,900 miles away." That's pretty handy if you're a baseball fan.

As if that wouldn't be enough to impress people, the X-band is supposed to provide extremely accurate and precise data in order for other elements of the nation's missile defense system, such as ground-based interceptor missiles, to destroy enemy missiles fired by another country. Sound complicated? It is! Really, really complicated.

It is so complicated, in fact, that the folks responsible for this project have had their share of failures trying to get this system to function at 100 percent which, if it is ever going to defend the United States (or any of its allies) against nuclear-armed missiles, is the only acceptable level of reliability. One nuclear missile hitting our shores is one too many, is it not? Of

**The companies making a fortune off missile defense read like a who's who of the weapons industry.**

course, if we really try to make the system even mostly dependable, our current economic mess will pale in comparison. Star Wars is BIG BUCKS!

In one failed test the target missile successfully launched from the Marshall Islands, and the interceptor missile successfully launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base.

However, the \$900 million X-band "did not perform as expected," according to the MDA. To put it bluntly, it FAILED. And this was a test in which everything was well choreographed. What happens if a real nuclear-armed missile is headed toward the good old US of A and the X-band fails?

One of the questions almost no one seems to ask is, will the X-band radar work against more than one missile launched simultaneously? At least one person has spoken out. "Philip Coyle, a former Pentagon weapons testing specialist who has been critical of missile defense testing, said one problem with the [Sea Based X-band] radar is that its resolution is so fine it needs to be 'cued,' or directed where to look." Wait a minute! This thing can spot a baseball 3,000 miles away, but it won't be able to find it unless it's pointed in the right direction?!

The US missile defense system has an un-heavenly host



**"\$900 million baseball tracker."** The Sea-Based X-band Radar looms over Elliott Bay. *Photo from [www.monkeypuzzleblog.com](http://www.monkeypuzzleblog.com).*

of hardware including land and ship based missiles, "exoatmospheric kill vehicles" (now there's a mouthful), the Boeing YAL-1 Airborne Laser, space tracking and surveillance satellites, a Command, Control, Battle Management, and Communications (C2BMC) system, and land and sea-based radars. Ever since President Ronald Reagan raised the Star Wars battle cry it has been a fast and furious (and extraordinarily costly) push to deploy a missile defense system.

The companies making a fortune off missile defense read like a who's who of the weapons industry, and include Boeing, Raytheon, Northrup Grumman, Lockheed Martin and Bechtel. Boeing currently has the \$27.1 million contract for "maintenance and upgrades" for the Sea-Based X-band. Judging by its past performance, it sorely needs some work. Philip Coyle, now with the Center for Defense Information, said that "both the [Government Accountability Office] and my former office have questioned whether this radar can survive the maritime environment."

It is time to face the fact the Star Wars was one of Ronald Reagan's pipe dreams that allowed the Military-Industrial Complex to go full throttle in a sky's-the-limit push to develop a self-perpetuating system that would have impressed Rube Goldberg. Rather than feeding our paranoia about North Korea and Iran, and starting a new missile race with Russia, we should be working to reduce global tensions and eliminate the factors that cause other nations to build missiles and nuclear weapons. That would logically begin with the US ditching a futile missile defense program and putting that human and financial capital into positive diplomatic measures.

**New Icon in Town... continued on page 7**



The X-band Radar is just another poster child for the hubris and waste that we euphemistically call "defense." If you live in Seattle, take a trip down to Harbor Island where the X-band is currently at Vigor Shipyards; although you can see it from almost anywhere around Seattle. See it for yourself, and then ask your Senators and Representatives why we are wasting so much money on this program while cutting so many social programs?

On Wednesday, August 3<sup>rd</sup>, when the Peace Fleet sails into Elliott Bay to meet the Navy's warships, we will have a special interpretive program honoring the Navy's \$900 million baseball-detector. Join us at Seattle's Pier 66 to welcome the Navy to Puget Sound's newly declared Nuclear Weapon Free Zone!

As for the Space Needle's place as the quintessential Seattle icon, I don't think there is any question—the X-band is an icon we simply don't need and can't afford.

**Leonard Eiger** lives in Snoqualmie and writes two informative blogs. *The Nuclear Abolitionist* can be read at [www.nuclearabolitionist.blogspot.com](http://www.nuclearabolitionist.blogspot.com).

## Australian Activists Launch New Project to Promote Nonviolence

By Tom Shea

An article in the April 2011, Ground Zero newsletter told the story, of Robert Burrowes' effort in Victoria, Australia to "work a way to end violence, whether direct, institutional, or structural in nature...." He had contacted Ground Zero to publicize the *Flame Tree Project to Save Life on Earth*.

Now Burrowes, Anita McKone, and Anahata Giri have drafted *The People's Charter to Create a Nonviolent World*. It was posted on May 25, the same day we publicly announced our Declaration of the Puget Sound Nuclear Weapons Free Zone, and the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Chernobyl meltdown. "The People's Charter will give voice to the millions of ordinary people around the world who want an end to war, oppression, environmental destruction and violence of all kinds," say the founders. "We hope that this Charter will support and unite the courageous nonviolent struggles of ordinary people all over the world. When The People's Charter is launched on November 11, 2011, we plan to have simultaneous signings in as many locations as possible around the world."

**Tom Shea** co-chairs the Media and Outreach Committee of Ground Zero. For more information about the Charter, see [www.thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com](http://www.thepeoplesnonviolencecharter.wordpress.com).

## Peace Walks Remind Us of the Dangers of Nuclear World

By Senji Kanaeda

The catastrophic damage to the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant in Japan has been and continues to be an earth-changing event. We know that there was a partial meltdown in three of the reactors, radiation emissions have affected the immediate area, and many people are still living in emergency shelters.

The 9.0 earthquake, subsequent aftershocks, and tsunami were a natural disaster. The nuclear industry experts said that nuclear reactors were safe and that meltdowns and release of radioactive emissions were never supposed to happen. The Japanese government and TEPCO may order evacuations and say "we're so sorry," but this does not diminish the damage. More than one expert has said it could take 50 to 100 years before the nuclear fuel rods have completely cooled and can be safely removed.

The July 16, 1945 Trinity test of the first A-bomb near Los Alamos, NM opened a Pandora's Box. People died in Japan in August 1945 from "Little Boy" and "Fat Man." Those who survived (called Hibakusha, that is, people officially identified as exposed to radiation) number 280,000. In America, at least a million people – downwinders and atomic veterans who have been in close proximity to nuclear bomb tests – have been exposed to harmful levels of radiation. From 1945 to 1998, of the 2,000 nuclear tests were conducted, 20-25% were above ground.

Effects of radiation include an increased incidence of cancer and birth defects. The impact is evident in Russia (from Chernobyl), Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Bikini Islands area, Three Mile Island, in the Hanford-Columbia River area, and southern Utah (downwind from above ground nuclear tests in Nevada).

The Nipponzan Myohoji annual peace walks serve as a reminder of the critical dangers presented by all uses of nuclear materials. This small Buddhist order beats the drum for peace, chanting "Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo."

In cooperation with many communities around the world, our order has built 82 Peace Pagodas. Two are located in the United States—in Grafton, NY and Leverett, MA. Peace Pagodas are Buddhist stupas that serve as a visible prayer to awaken for people of all races and creeds to dedicate our lives to justice and peace.

We invite all those who are committed to work for world peace and freedom from an even greater nuclear disaster than Chernobyl, Fukushima, Hiroshima or Nagasaki, to join us for this summer's Peace Walk, July 20 to August 8. We will walk, and sometimes ride, from Eugene, Oregon to Ground Zero and Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. We will average 16 miles each day and you may join us at any point.

Please join us for the 2011 Peace Walk this summer! Bring your smile and joyful heart!

**Senji Kanaeda** has been a member of Ground Zero and has led Peace Walks in the Northwest since 2003. He lives on Bainbridge Island at the Nipponzan Myohoji Temple.



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work with, to be kind, just, and caring to all people, animals, and the planet. A nuclear weapon is not kind, just or caring it is a weapon of mass destruction that is both illegal and immoral. I want the children to have a place for their great, great, great, great grandchildren to live; not just ash."

### Berd Whitlock

I suffer from depression, partly based on the existence of these weapons (and the policies behind them, like global dominance).

The weapons are destructive. They don't even have to be used to be destructive. Their basic existence is threatening and intimidating, and psychologically destructive, especially when coupled with a submarine platform. Submarines are designed to operate undetected and lurk nearby targets.

My co-defendant said that the way to build peace is through trust. And when our government goes about in a way that is intimidating, it doesn't help build trust.

Traditional efforts to change these policies through elections, politics and lobbying have largely been exhausted.

Our efforts aren't isolated. They are part of a larger need, and a larger effort: a larger movement, to change the way our government treats people and the way our government approaches the world.

Lastly, I want to honor the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King Jr. MLK was the focus of our action. We were at the Bangor Naval Submarine Nuclear Weapons base on Martin Luther King Jr. day. I believe that MLK would support us today if he were still alive.

MLK believed in the necessity for people to participate in civil disobedience when the need is great, when the need is urgent, and when the stakes are high—as is the case regarding US militarism, and its foreign policy of economic supremacy—the result of these policies and practices are the sufferings of so many people, both in the greater world, and here at home for many of us in the U.S.A., whether or not we may know it.

What we did was about civil rights; it was about racial justice; and it was about economic rights and justice. What we did was about justice for everyone in the world.

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*The MLK 6 finalized their plea bargains and are awaiting sentencing.*

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to be codified in the Code of Federal Regulations, and to also allow the public to comment."

In July 2009, Rear Admiral Blore of Coast Guard District Thirteen again acknowledged that the Navy fleet arrival lacked the required maritime permit but stated his opinion that it was not necessary because the Coast Guard participated in the event.

Instead of the legally required application for a maritime event, the Coast Guard in February 2010 filed its intent for a yearly "safety" or no-protest zone at Pier 66 for the arrival of the Navy fleet at Seafair. Later, the Coast Guard filed for a temporary zone, bypassing the opportunity for public comment on the temporary rule.

A violation of the safety zone could bring an arrest and a charge resulting in up to six years in jail and/or a \$250,000 fine. The Coast Guard, in addition to establishing the rule, is the same agency that enforces the rule, charges, and rules against any perceived violators in a Coast Guard hearing conducted by a Coast Guard Hearing Officer.

According to GlobalSecurity.org, one Arleigh Burke destroyer costs approximately \$2.2 billion in 2009 dollars. The vessels cost approximately \$25 million per year to operate. According to Global Security, there are currently 58 Arleigh Burke guided-missile destroyers in the US fleet with four more ships scheduled for completion. Each Arleigh Burke destroyer is armed with 56 Tomahawk cruise missiles.



*Last summer's Peace Fleet saw clear skies and no confrontation with the Coast Guard. Photo by Karol Milner.*

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*Glen Milner lives in Lake Forest Park. Active with Ground Zero since the 1980s, Glen recently won a Supreme Court case challenging the Navy's use of an exemption to FOIA requests.*

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## It Can't Happen Here...

Submitted by Tom Shea

"Britain's nuclear submarines have been involved in 14 collisions in the past 21 years, it emerged last night. The Royal Navy has also admitted there have been 237 fires on its nuclear-powered submarine fleet since 1987.

"However, Bob Ainsworth, the armed forces minister, who revealed the figures in a written Commons answer, said the only collision with another submarine was the one in February with a French vessel in the mid-Atlantic. The incident involving HMS Vanguard and Le Triomphant triggered demands for an inquiry from MPs amid claims the incident had been kept quiet.

"The submarines – each nearly 500 feet long – were both damaged in the underwater incident, thought to have happened on the night of 3-4 February."

*From NEWS.scotsman.com. by Brian Ferguson, Tuesday, May 31, 2009*



# 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

## BUMPERSTICKERS



**BUMPERSTICKER 3x12"**  
White and red on blue.  
Item # S-1  
\$.50 ea. 1-10; \$.50 ea. 11-100; \$.25 ea. 101+

### Sunflower Bumpersticker

5.5 inches diameter. Gorgeous! Brilliant full-color sunflower and yellow text on bright blue background. Item # S-2; \$1.00 ea. 1-10; \$.75 ea. 11-100; \$.50 ea. 101+



## RESIST TRIDENT...

### Abolish Nuclear Weapons

Striking t-shirt shows a sunflower growing through a disarmed nuclear weapon.

Brick red or sage green shirt.

Item # SH-3

S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

\$17 each or 2 for \$32



## WE FOUND THEM!

**Weapons of Mass Destruction...they're closer to home than you think!** Map shows dozens of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons sites across the US, with a full list on the back.

Sage green shirt.

Item # SH-1

S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

\$17 each or

2 for \$32



## "War No More" with Peace Dove and Globe

White, yellow, blue and green design on black shirt. Ground Zero logo on sleeve. Item # SH-2

Adult sizes S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL

Children's sizes S, M, L, XL

Short sleeve: \$17 each or 2 for \$32

Long sleeve, and sizes 2XL and 3XL:

\$20 or 2 for \$38 (long sleeve not available in 2XL or 3XL)

Item #	Quantity	Size for shirts	Description	Price Each	TOTAL
Shipping: please add \$3.50 per shirt or film and/or \$1.50 per 10 bumper stickers or postcards				SHIPPING =	
We request <u>US funds</u> from all our supporters. <i>This helps save bank charges.</i>				TOTAL =	

\_\_\_\_ Enclosed is my contribution to Ground Zero: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

(Please check one or more) For the: General Fund \_\_\_\_ Ground Zero Building Fund \_\_\_\_ Legal Fund \_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Please call me; I want to start leafleting at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard \_\_\_\_ or downtown Seattle \_\_\_\_.

\_\_\_\_ Please contact me about having a Ground Zero speaker come to speak to my group, church, school or union.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

State/Prov: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip/Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail orders and donations in US funds to Ground Zero at 16159 Clear Creek Rd. NW, Poulsbo, WA 98370

Phone: 360-930-8697 E-mail: [info@gzcenter.org](mailto:info@gzcenter.org) Website: [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org)

# Has Your Mayor Joined Mayors for Peace?

By Leonard Eiger

The Puget Sound Nuclear Weapon Free Zone – or The Zone as I like to call it – is going strong! After declaring Puget Sound a Nuclear Weapon Free Zone (about time, don't you



**Peace means joy for the future.** Children at the Mayors for Peace conference in Biograd na Moru, Croatia. *Photo courtesy of www.gcm-design.com.*

think?) we got right to the local work at hand – and there is much work indeed. We are excited about our new plan to secure new memberships around the Pacific Northwest in Mayors for Peace on or before August 9<sup>th</sup> as a fitting

commemoration of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki. What better tribute to those who died and those who have suffered since, than to increase the ranks of mayors dedicated to a nu-

clear weapons-free world?

We are asking people to put together small groups of residents to approach Pacific Northwest mayors and request that they join Mayors for Peace. We are putting together a kit that will contain information for both you and your mayor, along with creative ideas to approach your mayor and get your message across, and action timeframes. Our goal is to have people meeting with and getting commitments from mayors on August 9<sup>th</sup>.

Current member cities in Washington are Seattle and Tacoma, and, in Oregon, Ashland, Corvallis, Eugene, Lincoln City, Portland and Tualatin. We need to greatly increase membership, and ensure that the current mayors in these cities are on board (and of course thank those who are).

If you are interested in being a Mayors for Peace August 9<sup>th</sup> Campaign coordinator for your city, let me know and I will email you the kit and be available to help you along the way. This is a wonderful opportunity to honor the victims of Nagasaki as we work toward a nuclear weapons-free world.

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**Leonard Eiger** serves as co-chair for the Media and Outreach Committee for Ground Zero. To receive a campaign kit, email him at [subversivepeacemaking@gmail.com](mailto:subversivepeacemaking@gmail.com).

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**GROUND ZERO**

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**E-mail:** [info@gzcenter.org](mailto:info@gzcenter.org)

**Address Service Requested**

*“The United States is sending a clear and expensive message that it continues to be reliant on nuclear weapons.”*

— David Krieger, June 23, 2011

**Send us your change of address before the post office does and it saves Ground Zero money!**

*If you no longer want to receive our newsletter, just let us know and we'll take you off our mailing list.*

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