

Ground Zero

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Jackie Hudson, 1934-2011

After a battle with multiple myeloma and health complications from her incarceration at Irwin County Detention Center, Sr. Jackie Hudson, OP, passed away on August 3. Friends, family, and community came together on Saturday, August 13 at the Ground Zero Center to celebrate Jackie's rich life, her indomitable spirit, and the many gifts she left for us. The service was followed by a meal of Jackie's favorite foods (hotdogs with yellow mustard, corn on the cob, and watermelon) and a vigil at the main gates of Naval Sub-Base Bangor. Sue Ablao penned the following obituary for Jackie.

Jacqueline Marie Hudson was born Nov. 19, 1934 in Saginaw, Michigan. She was the second child of Francis and Ethlyn Brockless Hudson and had one brother, Frank.

Jackie entered the Grand Rapids Dominicans in 1952. She was an accomplished musician with a Masters in Music from VanderCook College of Music in Chicago, as well as a Masters in Masters in Religious Education from Aquinas College in Grand Rapids, Michigan. She taught band, orchestra and choral music to junior high students for 29 years.

Throughout her years in Grand Rapids, she sang with a musical group of Dominican Sisters known as the Mellow D's and played stand-up bass.

After leaving the shelter of convent life in 1969, Jackie and four other women rented a house in Grand Rapids. They worked a variety of jobs to support the congregation and pay the rent. Jackie found several jobs that allowed her to continue her peace and justice work. She worked for "The Fat Man Detective Agency" doing office work and surveillance, West Michigan Market Research, and provided music lessons, piano lessons, piano tuning and babysitting.

In January 1982 Jackie heard about the dangers of nuclear radiation from Dr. Helen Caldicott and Rosalie Bertell. After much deep discernment, Jackie decided that she would devote the rest of her life to working for a nuclear weapons-free world. Jackie joined the Michigan Faith and Resistance Movement. She, along with her good friends Ardeth Platte and Carol Gilbert and others, took the messages of the Gospel and Nonviolence to various churches and military bases around Michigan.

Jackie was not all seriousness though. She had a wicked sense of humor, sparkling blue eyes and a heartfelt laugh. She enjoyed gardening, spending time in the mountains and the ocean with Sue, a good mystery, sports and an occasional trip

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to the Suquamish Casino to help with reparations.

In 1990, she became program coordinator for the Institute for Global Education in Grand Rapids where she met Sue Ablao and they began a 21 year partnership in work and in life. In 1993 after serving a six month sentence for an Easter morning Plowshares action at Wurtsmith Air Force base in Michigan, Michigan became nuclear free and they discussed what to do next. They decided to move to Sue's hometown of Bremerton, home of the Bangor Trident Nuclear Weapon System. As her work for disarmament continued, she also worked as a bus driver for Kitsap Transit.

In 2007 Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility awarded her the Paul Beason Award. While the awards were appreciated, they also gave her yet another platform to spread the message of nuclear disarmament and nonviolent resistance.



Honoring a tradition of Jackie's. Following the memorial, Jackie's friends, family and community hung origami cranes on the fence separating the Ground Zero property from Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, something she did on a regular basis. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

After spending years in prison over the last 30 years, Jackie saw and experienced the neglect and abuse that happens in our jail and prison systems. She became an advocate for reforming the prison system.

Jackie was never disappointed or discouraged when her passion and focus on the cause of a nuclear weapons-free world was not greeted with enthusiasm or support by all. She believed that whoever came to an event were the right people to be there, and whatever happened was the right outcome. She asked only that others "take just one step outside of your comfort zone" in their work for disarmament and social justice.

Jackie is survived by her brother Francis (Evelyn) Hudson of Midland, Michigan; her longtime companion, Sue Ablao, nieces, nephews, friends and Sisters in her Dominican Community. In lieu of flowers, memorial gifts may be made to two causes dear to Jackie's heart: Ground Zero and the Resisters' and Prisoners' Support Fund.

Sue Ablao serves on the Stewardship Council, and helps to organize many of the Ground Zero events and actions.

The Nuclear Generation Palindrome

By Anabel Dwyer

Mary McKenzie, Sue Ablao's sister, read this poem by Anabel Dwyer at Jackie's memorial. Read forward, the poem states the problem, but when read backwards, a very different vision emerges.

We need nuclear weapons
I refuse to believe that
disarmament is possible
I realize that this may be a shock but
"We live by the rule of law, nonviolently"
is a lie and
"Security comes from greater force"
So we can tell our children
they are not important in our lives
Our military corps will know
We have our priorities straight because
secrecy
is more important than
truth
I will tell you this
Once upon a time
The judiciary was considered independent
but this will not be possible
This is a quick buck society
Experts tell me
30 years from now B&W will still make nuclear weapons
I do not concede that
I will live in a country where citizen whistleblowers will be
honored
In the future
chemical and radioactive contamination will be the norm
No longer can it be said that
We can stop the destruction of life
It will be evident that
Our times are only violent and fruitless
It is foolish to presume that
There is hope

"All this will be true unless we choose to reverse it...."



Anabel Dwyer is a Michigan-based attorney and Board Member of the Lawyer's Committee on Nuclear Policy. She has testified on international law at many Plowshares trials.

Rep. Dennis Kucinich Speaks at Ground Zero

Advocates "doctrine of strength through peace"

By Rep. Dennis Kucinich

Congressman Dennis Kucinich spoke at Ground Zero Center on Sunday, August 7 during the annual weekend event commemorating the anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Given the importance of this organization and your dedication to nuclear abolition, I've decided to prepare some remarks especially for this occasion that would reflect the potential that we have to take a new direction

The human heart is Ground Zero. It's in the human heart where blind fear hides in dark chambers. It's there where murderous intensity is unleashed against our brothers and sisters and the world. It is there where nuclear explosions first take place. It's there where the world ends.

The world also begins in the human heart. It's where courage creates new possibilities. It's where nuclear weapons can be abolished, and where war itself can be no more. The human heart is where the impulse for life resounds with such a powerful pulsation that one person, indeed all of humanity, experiences love through the energy of the heart, the rhythms of the heart, the luminosity of the heart. We draw from our hearts our own transformational potential and the ability to re-create the world.

Here we are free of the death wish. Here we summon the strength to wrest the nuclear Sword of Damocles from the hands of fates we ourselves have fashioned from the projection of our fears. Three score and six years ago that nuclear Sword of Damocles was dropped not once but twice upon the people of Japan. Today we require ourselves to lay our ears on the heart of the world and to listen to the cries of the souls of our Japanese brothers and sisters who perished in two flashes or who were poisoned by radiation, and to be mindful of the suffering of the Hibakusha who live to testify to the nullification of our own humanity through the use of the ultimate weapon.

We gather here not only to assert that doctrines of unilateralism, pre-emption and first strike must be set aside as profoundly dangerous relics. But we come together in recognition that nuclear weapons represent the ultimate escalation of war, and that it is our responsibility to make war itself obsolete through direct actions and through concrete steps that can take

is in the direction of peace. For we cannot hope to abolish nuclear weapons unless we change the thinking that created those weapons and unless we change dramatically the US role in the world.

We need a new doctrine of strength through peace, which relies on diplomacy in addressing the needs of people everywhere for sustainability, for housing, for education, clean water, clean air and freedom from fear. A new doctrine of strength through peace will provide for a strong defense with a powerful basic fighting force of army, navy, marines, air force and coast guard that will re-establish America's role in the world, mindful of the cost and consequences of the US's current global presence and the benefits of international cooperation for security through the United Nations.

The doctrine of strength through peace rejects counterinsurgency through recognition that every insurgency is precipitated and fueled by occupation. Provisions of a doctrine of strength through peace will call for the United States to withdraw from Afghanistan and Iraq by the end of 2011. Call upon the US to participate in a negotiated settlement to end the war in Libya. Call upon the US to stop the use of drone missile strikes. Call upon the US to lead a negotiated settlement in the Middle

East which protects Israel's survival and the Palestinians' absolute right to self-determination while working to strengthen democratic principles, nonviolence, human rights and non-sectarianism in Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Tunisia.

A doctrine of strength through peace calls upon the United States to renounce all policies of assassination. It forbids the Central Intelligence Agency from having any command and control over weapons systems. It calls upon the Air Force to drop its pursuit of Vision 20/20, which is a plan for the US to try to achieve superiority over space through putting weapons in outer space. The doctrine of strength through peace

"It is our responsibility to make war itself obsolete through direct actions and concrete steps..."



First Congressman to visit Ground Zero!

Rep. Kucinich spoke to an attentive audience gathered on the front lawn of the Ground Zero house. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

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Four Activists Arrested After Blocking Road With Missile

By Leonard Eiger

Four peace activists were arrested while attempting to block the entrance to Naval Base Kitsap Bangor on August 8, to commemorate the 66th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Early Monday morning, demonstrators lined the side of the busy roadway entering the base, holding signs and banners calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. At 6:45am four participants attempted to block the base entrance roadway using an inflatable full-scale Trident missile. Ground Zero Peacekeepers had already entered the roadway to safely stop traffic, after which the protesters lifted the missile over the barricades marking the designated protest zone.

As the four moved the missile onto the roadway, Washington State Patrol officers immediately moved in and attempted to push the missile back towards the designated protest zone. The missile was pushed back and forth on the roadway



Comparing notes after their arrest: from left to right, Anne Hall, Brenda McMillan, Betsy Lamb, and Tom Rogers. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

before State Patrol officers eventually lifted it back over the barricades.

The four missile handlers were arrested, processed at the scene, issued citations for “pedestrian on roadway unlawfully,” and released. Those arrested were Rev. Anne Hall of Seattle, Betsy Lamb of Bend, OR, Brenda McMillan of Port Townsend, and Tom Rogers of Poulsbo.

Tom Rogers is a retired US Navy Captain, who once commanded a nuclear submarine. Although active in Ground Zero for many years, this was Rogers’ first

nonviolent direct action. Following the action Rogers remembered Sr. Jackie Hudson, saying said that Jackie had a big impact on him and that she helped him to take that first step outside of his comfort zone... and then go just a little further.

Leonard Eiger co-chairs the Media and Outreach Committee and writes the blog, www.subversivepeacemaking.blogspot.com.

Lynne Greenwald Celebrates Freedom

Plowshares activist first faces arbitrary re-arrest before finally attaining her release

Compiled from information from Joe Power-Drutis and Leonard Eiger

Lynne Greenwald was released on Sept. 26 after serving a six-month sentence in SeaTac Federal Detention Center for her participation in the 2009 Disarm Now Plowshares action.

Lynne was initially released on the morning of Sept. 12, earning two weeks off her sentence for good behavior. Following her release, she greeted well-wishers outside the prison and participated in a brief videotaped interview. She then went to the Irma Gary House — the halfway house for women that Lynne had previously managed — as instructed, and then to the “Federal Progress House” to receive orders for the house arrest she was to be under for the remaining two weeks of her sentence. While filling out paperwork at the Progress House, US Marshals arrived and arrested Greenwald for allegedly violating her conditions of release. They transported her to a holding cell in Tacoma and then re-incarcerated her at the SeaTac prison.

Upon learning of Lynne’s arrest supporters immediately contacted the US Marshal’s office as well as attorneys working on Greenwald’s behalf. Attorney Blake Kremer said that Greenwald was picked up on a probation violation based on the

requirement that she go “immediately” to the halfway house. Evidently the Bureau of Prisons ordered Lynne arrested for having the temerity to briefly talk to people gathered to celebrate her release.

After her second release, Lynne now returns to her important work for peace and community, including ministering to other women released from prison and undergoing difficult transitions.

In her own words, Lynne is “free at last!”



Joe Power-Drutis lives and works at the *Guadalupe Catholic Worker Community*, home to the Irma Gary House. **Leonard Eiger** is media coordinator for the *Disarm Now Plowshares* and took the above photo of Lynne.

Fr. Bix Sentenced to Three Months

By Fr. Bill "Bix" Bichsel, with information from Joe Power-Drutis

Fr. Bill "Bix" Bichsel returned to Knoxville, Tennessee in early September to be sentenced along with ten other nuclear resisters for their part in the Y-12 civil resistance at Oak Ridge on July 5, 2010. After making the following statement to the court he was sentenced to three months in federal prison for this misdemeanor act. He was granted his request to self-commit but has not as yet been given a commitment date.

I wish to thank the Oak Ridge Environmental Peace Alliance Community of Eastern Tennessee which is committed to peacemaking for their warm welcome. Especially do I wish to thank Erik and Libby Johnson for their embracing hospitality and the gracious sharing of their home; they are what peacemaking is about.

On Sunday, September 11th, I accompanied Erik and Libby to the service at the Church of the Savior of the United Church of Christ. The pastor, Rev. John Gill, emphasized the power of *intention* in our lives – for good or for evil – for destruction of creation – for hurt or for healing. The question for us is whether we will choose to live with intention – with commitment – or simply float through life with more or less good intentions.

Since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki we know the crucifying destruction that was unleashed on the Japanese people and the contagious twin diseases of fear and hopelessness that were ushered into our world by those weapons. We as a people have been wounded by the unrepented acts of violence against the Japanese people. We live in nuclear bondage in which violence and fear has infected our body politic and culture.

Will we, individually and collectively, as a people intentionally allow the presence, maintenance, and intended use of these unrelenting weapons of death or will we resist their very existence? We allow these weapons when we are indifferent, unconcerned, or in the dark about them; or when we accept judicial protection of them. Unless we live with the intention to resist and abolish these weapons we will continue on the walk of death we are on now.

We can choose life or death. We can intentionally commit ourselves to walk the path of justice, so that every human being of every race is nourished with what is necessary for a full human life – in which the joy and potential of our global family blooms; or we can walk the path of self-gain and "might makes right" which leads to spiritual death and a shattered world.

The words of Martin Luther King Jr. talk to our times: "I refuse to accept the cynical notion that nation after nation must spiral down a militaristic stairway into the hell of thermonuclear destruction. I believe that unarmed truth and unconditional love will have the final word in reality." Martin Luther King also reminds us that: "The arc of the universe bends toward justice."

With the hope that this court and Judge bends with the

arc of the universe, I wish to recommit myself to the pursuit of justice and to resistance to forces of death such as nuclear weapons. For me this means that I, intentionally, with the grace of God recommit myself to the following of Jesus in his non-violence, forgiveness, and love. I ask for the aid and support of Francis, Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Oscar Romero, the four churchwomen Ita Ford, Maura Clark, Dorothy Kazel and Jean Donovan, Dorothy Day, Jackie Hudson and also my living compatriots that I might follow faithfully, even unto death, in the path of Jesus. This also means, to affirm what gives life and to resist what brings death to all people and our creation.

I do this in conjunction with Sr. Jackie Hudson, OP who has given her life to the pursuit of Justice. I join my resolve with Sue Albao, faithful partner of Jackie, to continue the work of Jackie Hudson.

Fr. Bix lives and works at the Guadalupe Catholic Worker Community in Tacoma.

Mayors for Peace Cities Growing Rapidly

From Mayors for Peace press release

Mayors for Peace is proud to announce that its membership has surpassed the 5,000 mark, making it not only the fastest growing association of local governments in the world, but also, by far the largest international, direct-membership association of local governments. From 1982 to 2003, 550 cities expressed their solidarity by joining Mayors for Peace. Since 2003, thousands of cities have been inspired to join Mayors for Peace in support of its "2020 Vision" of a world free of nuclear weapons by the year 2020. The total number of citizens represented worldwide by Mayors for Peace is approaching one billion. In Washington, Seattle, Spokane, and Tacoma are all members of the organization (view the full list at www.mayorsforpeace.org).

At its annual meeting in June 2011, the US Conference of Mayors, the nonpartisan national association of mayors of cities with populations of 30,000 or more, unanimously adopted a resolution calling on President Obama to work with the leaders of the other nuclear weapon states to implement the U.N. Secretary-General's Five Point Proposal for Nuclear Disarmament, and calling on Congress to terminate funding for modernization of the nuclear weapons complex and nuclear weapons systems, to reduce spending on nuclear weapons programs well below Cold War levels, and to redirect funds to meet the urgent needs of cities.

Peace Fleet Confronts Navy at Seafair

Presence counters “centennial celebration of Naval Aviation”

By Glen Milner

This year Peace Fleet demonstrators on the shore encountered more resistance to their free speech than those in the water. It was the tenth year for the Peace Fleet and the first year for the Coast Guard’s permanent rule for its no-protest



Sailing the Salish Sea to end war: With the Sea-Based X-Band Radar looming in the background, the trusty Peace Fleet sails forth. *Photo by Karol Milner.*

zone (the so-called safety zone) in Elliott Bay. When the American Civil Liberties Union proposed that Peace Fleet boats remain near the outer perimeter of the Coast Guard’s 100-yard zone, the Coast Guard agreed. Our two Peace Fleet vessels bobbed in front of Pier 66 during the entire Navy Parade of Ships.

On the shoreline, however, Seafair and the Navy had turned the rooftop of Pier

66 into a private event. This is the location where the public had been invited to view the Parade of Ships. In past years there were as many demonstrators with signs and Raging Grannies with songs as any other group on the rooftop. Several demonstrators attempted to enter this year but were turned

The Seattle Times called the Blue Angels a “\$40 million-a-year aerial ad campaign” for military recruitment.

away. Rodney Brunelle cheerfully greeted attendees of this private party, mostly Navy officers and Seafair officials, at the entrance to the rooftop with his huge sign reading, *The Pentagon: America’s Sucking Chest Wound*.

Demonstrators on the shore were confined to Piers 62 and 63. The northwest corner of the pier had been cordoned off to keep the public away from the docking warship at Pier 66.

Veterans for Peace, Raging Grannies, and others joined us on the pier with flags, signs and a banner pronouncing, *Military Spending is Killing this Country*.

The media had considerable coverage of our event this year, starting with an article in the Seattle Weekly, and full length stories on at least two TV stations. The next day, there were none of the usual calls from conservative talk radio stations looking for someone to talk against the Blue Angels.

Instead, the Seattle Times ran a front-page story in the Sunday paper, calling the Blue Angels a “\$40 million-a-year aerial ad campaign” for military recruitment. In the Seattle Times poll, about 60 percent in our region voted to cut the Blue Angels from the defense budget. This is likely not what the Navy had in mind this year for Seafair, planned to be the centennial celebration of Naval Aviation.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the event this year, including Paul Lawrence of Pacifica Law Group and the



One side has a slightly bigger budget. The Peace Fleet boats stay just outside of the 100-yard zone for the safety of the USS Bonhomme Richard, an amphibious assault ship. *Photo by Karol Milner.*

ACLU for negotiations with the Coast Guard, members of Veterans for Peace, and the Raging Grannies.

Peace Fleet sailors were Kim Wahl, Bill Wahl, Sallie Shawl, Dirk Gleysteen and Mary Gleysteen on a sailboat; and Barbara Hill, Michael Hill and Glen Milner in a 16-foot aluminum boat. The Navy brought two Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyers, an amphibious assault ship, and numerous Canadian and Coast Guard vessels.

The next scheduled Peace Fleet event is August 1, 2012 in Elliott Bay.

Glen Milner is a longtime member of Ground Zero who lives in Lake Forest Park. As a citizen activist, Glen has challenged the Navy through FOIA requests and lawsuits — most recently succeeding in his case in front of the US Supreme Court.

Authorities are changing their tactics — should we change ours?

By Bernie Meyer

With the encouragement of the Stewardship Council, I am submitting this brief observation and analysis about the changes in tactics by Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor security and the state, county, and federal court systems. The intent is to stimulate discussion and action beginning at the annual Ground Zero Meeting.

When I and six others were arrested by state patrol officers at the Mother's Day action on May 7, 2011, we were given warning that first arrests on that day would receive a traffic ticket and second arrests would be charged with several crimes, and be kept in jail pending \$4,000 in bail. (It was unclear whether the second arrest was limited to that day or carried on to other times.) When we appeared at the traffic court on August 29 in Port Orchard, the prosecutor presented the judge with a lengthy "motion in limine" for each of us, which laid out multiple limits for defense, effectively and totally muzzling us about our nuclear disarmament objectives and limiting us to addressing only the charge of "walking in the roadway." Needing additional time to respond to this motion, we requested and received a continuance of the trial until November 21. It appears that the county prosecutor's office is pursuing charges more aggressively than in recent years.

On the federal side of the line, the first-time arrestees at the Martin Luther King Jr. action in January were charged and fined. Until that time, the first-time actors were given a ban and bar letter prohibiting entry on the base.

I put this in the perspective of the Disarm Now Plowshares November 2009 action. It took close to a year before charges were brought for this action. My sense is that the National Security apparatus is taking a more proactive role in our actions. Think Patriot Act, think "war on terrorism", etc. (To help break through any naïveté about the capability and serious actions of the government, read Brian Willson's book, *Blood On the Tracks*, especially the chapter about government actions during the train's speed up and the legal results after the assault on Brian. See review on page 8.)

Finally, the experiences of dialoging with the Base Commander before and after the Plowshares actions give additional perspective. I was not part of the "dialogue." The new base commander is reported to be refusing to have further interactions with our group.

For me these experiences do not speak to changing our objectives of seeking the end of nuclear weapons, nor of doing actions in that respect. Quite to the contrary. But, they raise issues of our relationships to the "security systems" and related entities. Who are we speaking to and how do we intend to do that? We also need to have thoughtful discussion about the need to bring youth into our "aging community." Please join us at the Annual Meeting to engage in these conversations.

Bernie Meyer lives in Olympia. He portrays Mahatma Gandhi during appearances in the US as well as in India. His book, *The American Gandhi: My Truth Seeking with Humanity at the Crossroads* is available at Ground Zero events.

Muzzled in Traffic Court

By Alice Zillah

Kitsap County's Deputy Prosecuting Attorney Jennifer Koo presented the judge with 18 "motions in limine" at the August 28 traffic court trial of seven Ground Zero activists arrested earlier this year. As a result of the unexpected efforts to severely limit their speech (in traffic court!), the activists asked for a received a continuance of the trial. The trial is now scheduled for November 21, at which time the judge will rule on Prosecutor Koo's motions. The following is an abbreviated list of the requirements of the four-page document.

1. Exclusion of witnesses so that they cannot hear the testimony of other witnesses.
2. The Court to direct the attorneys for each party to clearly instruct their witnesses that they are not to discuss the case or what their testimony has been or would be or what occurs in the courtroom with anyone other than counsel for either side.
3. The Court to order that the Defendant shall not wear his or her military uniform during trial.
4. No reference to the Defendant's military honors and/or accomplishments.
5. No reference or description of a character trait of a person, unless previously approved by the Court via offer of proof.
6. No examination inviting one witness to comment on another witness' accuracy or credibility.
7. No reference to Defendant's self-serving hearsay statements to potential witnesses, unless previously approved by the Court via offer of proof.
8. No reference to charging decisions relating to any police investigation.
9. No use of "speaking objections," or of objections stating more than the basic grounds for the objection.
10. No references to nuclear weapons and nuclear missiles, including Trident.
11. No references to nuclear war and its effects.
12. No references to US and International nuclear policies.
13. No references to the bombing of Nagasaki and Hiroshima and its aftermath.
14. No references to the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty.
15. No references to the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.
16. No references to the Rules and Principles of Humanitarian Law, Environmental Law, and the Law of War.
17. No references to the Geneva Convention.
18. No references to the Hague Convention.

Alice Zillah edits the Ground Zero newsletter and lives in Olympia with her family. She is one of the defendants facing trial on Nov. 21.

Caution! Read at the Risk of Being Inspired

Brian Willson's New Autobiography, *Blood on the Tracks*

By Tom Shea

Brian Willson was keynote speaker at the 2009 Ground Zero Hiroshima/Nagasaki gathering. The last chapter of *Blood on the Tracks* reads like an in-depth treatment of the talk he gave that day. He told us about the broad history of how we have come to the use and abuse of our earthly resources. His conclusions, like Gandhi's, build on his own experiments in truth. That truth rises from reflections on his research-based actions in community. "The only way I could come close to understanding (my life) was to see the long view."

Willson subtitles his book, "A Psycho-historical Memoir." For readers, his story may reframe our own view of fifty years of wars, resistance actions, our feelings, hopes, and griefs along our way.

Raised by a rigid father in a small, rural town in New York State during the 40's and 50's, after success in high school sports, Willson looked forward to college and a career. Starting law school in 1965, he did an internship in the D.C. jail. He lived in a cell, ate and engaged with inmates. Over 95% were African American. Once helping a new "arrival" from the streets of D.C. take off his boots, Willson found himself holding the man's foot which dropped off with the boot, most likely due gangrene. "I was exposed to a new framework for thinking about politics and race in the United States."

Facing the draft in 1966, Willson "a total and passionate believer in Vietnam" enlisted in the Air Force officer training. In March 1969, with a commission as a second

lieutenant and training in security and law enforcement, he was sent to the Binh Thuy US Air Force base amid a very hot war he had already begun to question.

Through research of government documents as well as airborne over-sight, Willson learned that what the US called "villages" filled with Viet Cong "gooks" were in fact simply family clusters of innocent civilian fishers and farmers. During an on-the-ground visit to a totally destroyed "village," he looked into the face of a dead grandmother with a dead child in her arms. Fifteen years later, that sight buried in his subconscious exploded like a landmine during a PTSD episode.

Increasingly suspect of the purpose and practices of the war, Willson violated Air Force procedure by visiting one of these Vietnamese families. After dinner they sang and translated Vietnamese songs. The last one, "An Ode to Norman

Morrison," was a tribute to an anti-war American who had immolated himself at the entrance to the Pentagon. "My God!" Willson realized, "Morrison graduated from Chatauqua Central Schools seven years before me. The Vietnamese family proudly showed me the postage stamp honoring Morrison issued by the North Vietnamese government." (It's pictured in the book.) Due to this violation and his increasingly vocal criticism of the war, Willson was sent home from Vietnam, in August 1970. After two more years, having finished law school and obtained a masters degree, he was honorably discharged.

As with his Vietnam experience, Willson puts his "boots on the ground," every step of his way. He balances research with reality. He calls it "taking on a new consciousness" about life's experiences.

Testifying to Willson's research, *Blood on the Tracks* includes 556 footnotes supporting, and sometimes elaborating, on the resources used to tell his story. The book's 100 pictures show his life from childhood through wars, fasts, protests, work with other veterans, and travels to many countries. His trips investigated how people tried to live and survive in an upside-down world economy. His picture album portrays the famous, the infamous, his family growing up, and many friends and activists, along with the anonymous multitudes he met along his way.

After much study of US-sponsored covert actions against the revolution in Nicaragua, Willson writes, "In 1985, I started speaking at public forums as a private citizen, making clear my opposition to Reagan's policies of brazen terrorism." Knowing "campesinos were being slaughtered," Willson quit his veterans counseling job, and headed for Nicaragua on January 4, 1986.

In Nicaragua, Willson met another anti-war Vietnam Veteran, Congressional Medal of Honor recipient Charlie Liteky. Liteky and Willson have walked, fasted, acted, been jailed together with other Vietnam veterans ever since that first meeting in Nicaragua.

In addition to his Nicaraguan experience, Willson has traveled to South Africa, South Korea, Spain, Brazil, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Native American reservations, Israel, Iraq, and Haiti, often acting in solidarity with the oppressed people in those countries.

One third of *Blood on the Tracks* tells the before, during,



In 2010, Brian Willson and other Veterans for Peace supported Ground Zero arrestees, including Sr. Jackie Hudson. Photo by Leonard Eiger.

"Willson puts his 'boots on the ground' every step of the way."

***Blood on the Tracks...* continued on page 9**

and after of this title experience. As a reviewer, I feel unable to respectfully attempt to sum up and honor Willson's death-defying witness to a world without war by protesting on those rails. Hopefully this part of his story will draw readers to learn themselves how a US weapons-train moved Willson even further away from what he calls his own AWOL – the "American Way of Life."

Cindy Sheehan concludes her appreciation of Willson's book with: "I hope Brian's story can inspire a new generation of activists to fight with all they have for peace, justice, our planet and our humanity."

Tom Shea co-chairs the Media and Outreach Committee of Ground Zero. He can be reached at tomshea@centurytel.net. Charlie Liteky supplied the title of this article from his endorsement of *Blood on the Tracks*.

Public Participation Encouraged to Transform the Nevada Test Site

From Test Site Vision press release

Continued nuclear, biological and conventional weapons testing? Renewable energy experiments and commercial solar power? Expanded transport, burial and storage of radioactive waste? These are all potential outcomes from a review of activities at the federal Nevada Test Site, now formally known as the Nevada National Security Site.

Test Site Vision, a project of Healing Ourselves and Mother Earth, a national organization working to make information on the nuclear agency open to the general public, is encouraging public participation in the Test Site's Site-Wide Environmental Impact Statement.

The Test Site has, for six decades, been the site for much of the US testing of weapons of all sorts, but particularly nuclear weapons in above and below-ground explosions. The testing has contaminated groundwater aquifers and sparked environmental and health concerns. Today the mission of the Test Site, operated by the federal departments of Energy and Defense, has transitioned to a broader national security mandate. Additionally, it has been identified as a possible site for renewable energy research and commercial solar power generation. The Test Site is nearly 1,400 square miles and just 65 miles northwest of Las Vegas on land that is claimed by indigenous Shoshone Indians.

In September, the federal government held a series of meetings throughout the region to solicit public comment on the Test Site environmental impact statement. Test Site Vision is a nonpartisan effort encouraging the public to speak out and voice their priorities for the site.

Members of the public can learn more and speak on the Test Site at public hearings, online or in written comments until Oct. 27.

Test Site Vision, and instructions for how to submit comments, can be found online at www.h-o-m-e.org. Additional information is available from the Nevada Desert Experience, at www.nevadadesertexperience.org.

Ground Zero Annual Meeting — Oct. 29!

By Glen Milner

Please come to the annual Ground Zero Community membership meeting for reflection and renewal on Saturday, October 29. It is also a time for new proposals for peace and justice.

The general membership meeting is 11:00 to 4:00, with soup and salad provided for lunch at 12:30. On the following day, Sunday Oct. 30, we will hold a garage sale fundraiser from 10:00 to 4:00, with a cider pressing from noon to 3:00. Bring your donations for the garage sale (and apples and clean juice containers for the pressing) to the annual meeting, and stay overnight for the sale and cider. Most importantly, hang out with friends and walk the beautiful grounds of Ground Zero!

The annual meeting is a product of the November 2002 Ground Zero membership meeting. During that time, it was also decided that decisions of the Stewardship Council and committees would be by consensus and in accordance with the mission statement, which reads, "*Founded in 1977, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action offers the opportunity to explore the meaning and practice of nonviolence from a perspective of deep spiritual reflection, providing a means for witnessing to and resisting all nuclear weapons, especially Trident. We seek to go to the root of violence and injustice in our world and experience the transforming power of love through nonviolent direct action.*"

All positions of the Stewardship Council, including secretary, treasurer, chairperson and committee positions, will be chosen or renewed at the annual meeting for the next year. Current committees include direct action and events, leafleting, house and grounds, media, newsletter, website, and fundraising. There are also several "at large" positions on the Council.

The purpose of the Stewardship Council and committee positions is to divide the responsibilities and work of Ground Zero into manageable sections. We all help one another in the process. The Council meets once a month, alternating monthly between meetings in Seattle or Tacoma and the Ground Zero house. The meetings are open to all members.

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action is part of a larger peace community in the Pacific Northwest that extends across geographic boundaries, gender, race and time. We invite all to come and share with us your ideas for a peaceful and larger world community and to continue our resistance to the Trident nuclear submarine system.

Glen Milner organizes the annual Peace Fleet (see article page 6).

sees that the US will fully comply with all international treaties and insist that our allies and partners do the same, including full compliance with the Non-Proliferation Treaty, the Biological Weapons Convention, the Chemical Weapons Convention, the Small Arms Treaty, the Land Mine Treaty, and it calls on the United States to join the International Criminal Court, and that US officials would have to be accountable to that criminal court.

A doctrine of strength through peace sees the US in support of the Ground Zero movement, and that will lead us to nuclear abolition by taking the following steps:

1. To revise and repeal the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review, which calls for sustaining nuclear forces,
2. To cancel the order for 12 new ICBM-capable subs,
3. To cancel the \$29.4 billion in R&D in connection with that program,
4. To cancel the Air Force's R&D for ICBM follow-ons,
5. To eliminate \$600 million in funding under the National Nuclear Security Administration fiscal year 2012,
6. To eliminate \$4.1 billion in funding for nuclear weapons modernization over the next five years,
7. To eliminate plans to spend an additional \$85 billion for the National Nuclear Security Administration's weapons activities over the next decade,
8. To focus the CIA on identifying and if necessary interdicting and seizing nuclear materials from non-state actors.

Now consistent with that, the most valuable provision in the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review calls for, and I quote, "enhancing national and international capabilities to disrupt illicit proliferation networks and interdict smuggled nuclear materials and continue to expand our nuclear forensics efforts to improve the capabilities to identify the source of nuclear material used or intended for use in a terrorist nuclear explosive device."

The 2010 NPR declares, quote, "The US will not use or threaten to use nuclear weapons against any non-nuclear weapons state that are in compliance with this nation's non-proliferation obligations." This is a telling loophole though in the NPT, which opens the door to the threat of a nuclear attack upon Iran or North Korea, and as such this provision must be changed to forego the use of nuclear weapons against any nation.

The 2010 Nuclear Posture Review declares the US is not prepared to adopt a universal policy deterring a nuclear attack, declaring that a nuclear attack is the sole purpose of nuclear weapons, and would "only consider the use of nuclear

weapons in extreme circumstances to defend the vital interests of the US, its allies or partners." Here again the door is left open to interpreting circumstances, which would allow for the use of nuclear weapons. This provision must be deleted from future Nuclear Posture Reviews and deleted from the policy of the United States today.

It is time for us to challenge the doctrine of deterrence, and reveal it for what it is – a corollary to mutually assured destruction, which is the opposite of survival. The US must ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty once and for all, and we must stop subsidizing the nuclear power industry and its concomitant use of uranium where the byproduct creates material, which can be used for nuclear terrorism.

We can prevent nuclear terrorism by not ourselves threatening it against other nations. We can prevent nuclear proliferation by not participating in it, and thereby become a model for all nations. It's time for us to deepen our partnership with Russia, and to expedite the arms reduction promise in the Moscow Treaty and START II. It's time for a new partnership with China, for nuclear abolition and a new defense partnership with China to stop a new arms race from occurring and to stop the disagreements of the present from becoming the conflicts of the future.

Today as we gather in this beautiful setting we have to remember that our destiny and the fate of the planet is not outside our reach. It is within our grasp if it is within our hearts to abolish all weapons and to abolish war itself. On this great day when we reflect upon the great human tragedy of

war and the dropping of the atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, let us resolve that we shall become as architects of a new world free of fear, free of nuclear weapons, and free of war.

Thank you very much. [sustained applause] Thank you.



Rep. Dennis Kucinich has represented the 10th district of Ohio since 1997. Thank you to Leonard Eiger, the co-chair of the Media and Outreach Committee, for transcribing Kucinich's speech.



Two peacemakers meet. Tom Rogers speaks with Rep. Kucinich following his talk at Ground Zero. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

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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"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

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"Walk Away from Uranium Mining" Peace Walk

By Footprints for Peace



Two months of walking can't dampen the spirits of this young activist walking to end uranium mining. Photo courtesy www.footprintsforpeace.net.

As the Australian government considers new uranium mines, a peace walk journeys across Western Australia to urge the country to walk away from the nuclear industry.

Beginning on August 28, around 100 marchers set forth to walk 1,000 kilometers to protest nuclear weapons and the environmental destruction wrought by the mining of uranium. To date five companies have publicly declared their intention to develop mines in Western Australia. Some of these are already being assessed under the Western Australian Government and Commonwealth's concurrent approvals process. Over the summer one project sponsored by Toro Energy entered the public review phase of the approval process. The company plans to begin production in 2013 and commence sales in 2014.

Marcus Atkinson, one of the walk's lead organizers, states, "We cannot allow the Western Australia government to permit the contamination of this beautiful land so uranium mining companies can profit from sending such a toxic and radioactive substance to countries throughout the world. Fukushima, Chernobyl and the other accidents that have happened need to stop."

Footprints for Peace is led by Marcus Atkinson and KA in Australia, with additional peace walkers leading walks in the US.

GROUND ZERO

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"We draw from our hearts our own transformational potential and the ability to re-create the world."

*— Rep. Dennis Kucinich,
August 7, 2011*

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