

Ground Zero

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Fourteen Activists Arrested Commemorating 70th Anniversary of Hiroshima and Nagasaki



By Leonard Eiger

A weekend of activities and fellowship was capped off by the early-morning citations and arrests of 14 Ground Zero activists. Dozens of supporters gathered at the Trigger Gate to Sub Base Bangor-Kitsap on Monday, August 10, to witness and support the people entering the road and blocking entry to the base. The main intersection leading to the base entrance was blocked for over 45 minutes before law enforcement officers arrived.

Monday's action was the culmination of more than two days of other events, including a vigil near the Kitsap Mall and an overnight vigil at Bangor's main gate.

Seven protestors entered the roadway and blocked traffic entering the base. The banners read "We can all live without Trident" and "Abolish Nuclear Weapons." The two incoming traffic lanes were blocked for approxi-

mately 48 minutes until Kitsap Sheriff's Deputies and Washington State Patrol officers arrived and removed the protestors from the roadway. Meanwhile, Navy personnel diverted incoming traffic around the banners via the out-bound lanes. Other activists creatively used the crosswalk to walk continuously back and forth, holding signs, to help ensure the safety of those risking arrest and to make the message especially visible.

Cited for being in the roadway illegally were Mack Johnson, Silverdale; Doug Milholland, Port Townsend; Brenda McMillan, Port Townsend; and Michael Siptroth, Belfair.

Eight others walked onto the base, blocking the roadway, and staged a die-in. While three activists

Hiroshima and Nagasaki Action... continued on page 2

dropped down on the roadway, the others poured ashes around them representing the ashes of those incinerated in the atomic bombings.

Naval security personnel arrested them, cited them for trespassing, and released them a short time later.

Two of those who entered the base attempted to deliver a letter to the commanding officer urging him to use every power available to him to call for

an immediate halt to the updating and expansion of the Trident fleet under his command. The two were among those arrested.

Arrested and charged by the Navy were Mary Gleysteen, Kingston; Anne Hall, Lopez Island; Ann Kittredge; Betsy Lamb, Bend, OR; Peggy Love, East Wenatchee; Emilie Marlinghaus, Bend, OR; Elizabeth Murray, Poulsbo; and Michael Siptroth, Belfair.



Crosswalk action. Action supporters made good use of the pedestrian button as others blocked and lay in the roadway.

Photo by Glen Milner.

Leonard Eiger co-chairs the Communication and Outreach Committee of the Stewardship Council. He regularly posts at the blog nuclearabolitionist.blogspot.com. **Glen Milner** took the photo of Mary Gleysteen and others on the front page.

A first arrest: "I knew what I was doing was right."

By Peggy Love

This weekend marked the 70th anniversary of the deliberate use by my government of nuclear weapons on human beings. It also marked the 70th anniversary of my birth on August 8, 1945.

It took me many years to realize that not everything I had learned growing up in Bremerton about the use of nuclear weapons at the end of World War II was true. In 2005 I found Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and I attended the first of many weekends of learning about nuclear weapons and their effect on all of humanity. I decided finally that one way I could declare my opposition to their use was to attempt to deliver a letter explaining that to the commander of the Trident Submarine Base at Bangor. I was arrested this morning trying to do that. I was not alone. Seven others were with me.

I had never before been arrested for anything but felt no fear because I knew what I was doing was right. Peace.

Peggy Love is active with Veterans for Peace and Code Pink in addition to her ten years of involvement with Ground Zero. She lives in East Wenatchee.

Gratitude for a Weekend Well Spent

By Michael "Firefly" Siptroth

Thanks to all the participants and presenters for making the Aug7-10 Hiroshima/Nagasaki 70th Commemorative weekend terrific! It was a pleasure to work with Mack Johnson and have the excellent help of Ed Digilio, food coordinator Elaine Hick, nonviolence trainers Bernie Meyer and Dante Garcia, leaders Anne and Dave Hall, brilliant Marylou Finley helping us think where we are and where we want to go as a movement, awesome musician Tom Rawson, Betsy Lamb, Rodney Harold, Sue Ablao, Glen Milnor, Bill Wahl, Mary Gleysteen, Mary Hanson, Elizabeth Murray, Tom Rogers, Michael Hill, the peace walkers, and so many more! Together, we remembered the tragic bombings/civilian victims, Marshall Islanders, our fallen comrades, and rededicated ourselves to the Abolition of all Nuclear Weapons! Never Again!



Brenda McMillan, left, is led off the road by a State Patrol officer before being cited. *Photo by Glen Milner.*

We went to the public with our signs and messages at the Kitsap Mall area, and received mostly positive feedback. We also did a vigil at the Bangor Base main gate from 2:00pm Sunday to 8:00am Monday morning. (Special thanks to Rodney Brunelle for setting up, vigiling, and taking down!). We had

Gratitude... continued on page 10

Successful Peace Fleet Marks 14th Year

Regular sailors joined by “kayaktivists” in Elliott Bay

By Glen Milner

The Peace Fleet met the U.S. Navy on July 29 with 13 Peace Fleet sailors in six kayaks, a 32-foot sailboat, and a 16-foot open boat. About 25 additional Peace Fleet supporters met in Elliott Bay on Piers 62/63.

Veterans for Peace members, as in past years, provided a strong presence for peace on the shoreline. New participants on the water included members with the Backbone Campaign and sHell No! “kayaktivists,” who helped to present an anti-war message in Seattle even in the midst of their great campaign against Shell’s plans for Arctic oil drilling.

A photo of Veterans for Peace members appeared at the top of the front page of the Kitsap Sun. The Kitsap Sun also displayed a photo of Rod Tharp’s beautiful 32-foot trimaran, *PAX the Space Spider*, with a large sign proclaiming, “Build a Peace Economy.”



Beautiful day for an alternative to warfare. Veterans for Peace, Lake Forest Park for Peace, and Ground Zero supporters gathered on the pier. *Photo by Larry Steagall, courtesy of the Kitsap Sun.*

Thirteen photos of the Peace Fleet shore and water demonstration appeared on a Hubbard Radio Seattle website, at www.seattlesummerfun.com/catching-up-parade-of-ships.

Peace Fleet sailors included Perry Bito and John Bito in a tandem kayak; kayakers Mira Leslie, Beth Coyote, Sigrid Salo, Carl Nakajima, and Rodney Brunelle; Rod Tharp and Jeff Snyder in *PAX the Space Spider*; and Barbara Hill, Michael Hill, Mary Gleysteen, and Glen Milner in a 16-foot aluminum boat. Kayaker Tim Russell was delayed by Olympia/Seattle traffic, made it to the shore, but was unable to enter the water this year.

The Navy brought the amphibious assault ship, USS Boxer, and guided-missile destroyers USS Gridley



“PAX the Peace Spider,” a 32-foot trimaran, proclaims its message in Elliott Bay. *Photo by Larry Steagall, courtesy of the Kitsap Sun.*

and USS Dewey for Fleet Week in downtown Seattle. All three ships are homeported in San Diego. In April 2013, a spokesperson for the Navy’s 3rd Fleet said that the round-trip bill for fuel alone for three warships from San Diego to attend the Seattle Seafair festival in 2012 cost \$1.1 million.

2015 marked the fourteenth year for the Peace Fleet demonstration. The next scheduled date for the Peace Fleet is Wednesday, August 3, 2016.

Glen Milner has seen the Peace Fleet through Coast Guard boardings, legal challenges, and security zones. He lives in Lake Forest Park.

Annual Meeting on November 14!

Please join us for Ground Zero’s Annual Meeting on Saturday, Nov. 14. It’s a great opportunity to weigh in on priorities for the year ahead, and find out how you can get more involved. See the article with full details on the next page!



Annual Meeting a Time for “Reflection and Renewal” — your energy needed!

By Glen Milner

The annual Ground Zero membership meeting is when we decide the future of Ground Zero. It is a time for reflection and renewal, and for new proposals for peace and justice. Please consider serving on a committee or on one of the positions listed below.

The meeting will take place at the Ground Zero house on Saturday, November 14, beginning with a potluck at noon. The meeting will begin promptly at 1:00pm and end by 5:00pm.

The annual membership meeting was established in November 2002 as part of the organizational structure of Ground Zero.

All positions on 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 house and grounds, communication/outreach, website, leafleting, finance/budget, and fundraising. There are two ad hoc committees – for the construction of the Peace Pagoda at Ground Zero, and for the Northwest arrival of the historic peace vessel, the *Golden Rule*. 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, Tacoma and at Ground Zero. Meetings are open to all members.

It was also decided in November 2002 that decisions of the Stewardship Council and committees would be by consensus and in accord 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.”*

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

Please join us!

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

SSBN-X Program for New Trident Fleet Would Ensure a Dangerous World for the Next Generation

A Letter to the Editor of the Kitsap Sun, by Brian Watson

Even though there has been little coverage of it in the Sun, I am concerned about Navy plans to continue to deploy nuclear missiles on board a new generation of Trident submarines, designated SSBN-Xs.

Apart from the billions of dollars slated to be spent on the follow-on to the Trident subs, which take money from other more worthy programs and needs, the SSBN-X program continues a legacy whose time has gone. At a time when the United States is leading the way to ensure that Iran does not acquire a nuclear weapon, it is hypocritical of the country to be forging ahead with a program that will allow it to deploy first-strike nuclear weapons from hidden submarines for decades to come. At this year’s NPT review conference, many nations, looking at programs such as the SSBN-X, were rightfully alarmed and indignant at the U.S.’s blatant disregard for its legal obligation to achieve nuclear disarmament.

Replacing the existing Trident fleet with the SSBN-X is a step in the wrong direction. As a father, I want to leave my daughter a world that is better than the one I inherited when I was born at the height of the Cold War. Which is a better world: one with nuclear-armed submarines ready to rain fire and radiation indiscriminately at a moment’s notice, or a world in which such weapons are part of history?

I call on our congressional delegation to rethink the SSBN-X program, and to bring the Trident program to an end.



Brian Watson is an artist who lives with his family in Bremerton. He has been involved with Ground Zero for close to 20 years.

Renee Krisko, a “Beautiful Soul”

By Mary Gleysteen

Renee Krisko, 73, passed away Sept. 11 of this year. She was a teacher, activist, former nun, hospital chaplain, and “old friend” of Ground Zero. Renee was a member of the Ground Zero community during the coming of the USS Ohio — she was in a motorboat which managed to run a circle around the USS Ohio during the blockade. She was also active in the campaign to stop the White Train bringing nuclear warheads onto the base. She was an inveterate leafleter and had a huge smile.

Attorney Ken Kagan expressed his high regard for Renee: “I hadn’t seen Renee in a number of years, but she was always very close to my heart. There was something about her that touched me very deeply, and that made me wish I could be better — live my life more authentically than I felt I did. Somehow, because it was Renee, it didn’t piss me off... Her desire that we look out at the trees and water and remember how much she loved the Northwest is a lovely legacy.”

Brian Watson described his memories of Renee: “She was a beautiful soul, and was one of the first people who welcomed me to Ground Zero. I remember leafleting with her, and feeling less nervous because of her, and learning from her example.”

Renee’s friend Doreen Valverde wrote, “Her life was so full, ever concerned for the dignity of one and all...the following is what Renee wrote in an attempt to express what she believes:

‘There is an inherent worth and dignity in every person and therefore we are called to an acceptance of one another as well as justice, equity and compassion in human and all relations of this universe. We are called to an acceptance of the wisdom all the world’s religions and the words and deeds of the prophetic women and men who challenge us to confront powers and structures of evil with justice, compassion and the transforming power of love.’”

Mary Gleysteen serves on the Stewardship Council, and struggled and celebrated alongside Renee during the early campaigns of the 1980s.

Letter to Base Commander

On August 10, two of those arrested on Navy property were attempting to deliver a letter to Base Commander Captain Thomas Zwolfer. Thirty-one people signed the letter and it was later mailed to Captain Zwolfer.

We, the undersigned, gathered with the group at the Ground Zero Center to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, write this letter to you respectfully urging that you use every power available to you in your command of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor to call for an immediate halt to the proposed updating and expansion of the Kitsap Bangor Trident fleet under your command.

We are a group of conscience and/or faith-driven individuals who want the very best for our country’s future. As nonviolent resisters, our goal is not at all to subvert our nation’s defense but to follow the mandate given us in the Nuremberg Principles to do all in our power to assure that our country stops violating international and humanitarian law and strictly adheres to any and all treaties and conventions to which we are signatories, as requested by our Constitution.

As resisters, we are not simply protesting current and proposed policies, but sincerely and nonviolently seeking the alternative—an America that leads the world to “Affirm Life and Abolish Nuclear Weapons.” As resisters, we seek to educate others on the need to abolish nuclear weapons through information and our action.

Prior to the initial testing of the atom bomb in 1945, many of its creators called for prudence and consideration of its moral implications—a call that went unheard then, with horrific results at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. With the implementation of each and every step toward the refurbishing and upgrading of our nuclear arsenal, we continue to disregard prudence and morality; and with every deployment of a Trident submarine in international waters, we continue to violate international and humanitarian law that specifically prohibits the use and threat of use of any nuclear weapon (International Court of Justice decision, 1996).

If we want to regain international respect we need to conform to what we expect of other nations: stop building and deploying these illegal and immoral weapons.

Once again, this year we have conducted an overnight vigil at the Main Gate to make clear our firm commitment toward ending the building and deploying of all nuclear weapons in general and the Trident Weapons System in particular.

We welcome you, Captain Zwolfer, as the highest authority accessible to us, who can speak to the Navy, the Pentagon, and the President, to rise to the challenge of making an exigent call to those up the chain of command to cease and desist from further development, production and deployment of the Trident Nuclear Weapons System and all nuclear weapons.

We would appreciate an opportunity to meet with you to discuss this request further. Please contact us through Ground Zero Center for more information and local contacts.

Community Uninformed About Risks of Second Explosives Handling Wharf—An Editorial Published in the Kitsap Sun

By Glen Milner

The Joint Land Use Study (JLUS) for Naval Base Kitsap and Naval Magazine Indian Island is tasked to look at ways to reduce potential conflicts between military installations and surrounding areas.

The Draft JLUS for Naval Base Kitsap and Naval Magazine Indian Island was published online July 28, 2015. Public meetings were held in Chimacum on August 4, and August 11 in Bremerton. The Navy's \$675,000 study is expected to be completed by the end of 2015.

The Guidance Manual for the Department of Defense JLUS program states, "The JLUS program relies on strong community planning ... The JLUS program is community controlled and community directed."

However, if the community is never informed of the Navy's intentions, or of existing or potential land use conflicts, the community cannot be involved in the process in any significant way.

The 40-page guidance manual for the DoD JLUS

When the second Explosives Handling Wharf at Bangor becomes operational in 2016, 137 homes will be within the Navy's blast zone.

program specifically directs planners to include "explosives, safety quantity distances from ammunition storage that may affect land outside the base, external radio frequency interference, and electromagnetic radiation effects on adjacent land."

None of the above is identified in the JLUS even

though explosive material for Naval Magazine Indian Island is brought by rail to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor and then transported by truck to the ammunition depot at Indian Island.

And the submarine base at Bangor soon will be handling explosives equal to up to 7.44 million pounds of TNT in the form of rocket motor propellant at its two explosives handling wharves in Hood Canal.

Instead, the Navy's JLUS references citizens' concerns as "fears" and "urban myths" and falsely informs the public that explosives are handled "in accordance with requirements" set by the Navy.

In 2016, 137 homes on the north end of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor will be in a blast zone when the second explosives handling wharf (EHW-2) on Hood Canal becomes operational. Marine traffic currently passes through the blast zone for EHW-1 in Hood Canal.

No Navy housing is within the larger blast zone for the wharves. The Navy appropriated a total of \$32.2

million to move or fortify buildings on the base within the blast zone for EHW-2.

In 2012, the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board (DDESB), the agency responsible for explosives safety siting for all DoD facilities, refused to approve the location for EHW-2 at Bangor.

The DDESB proposed that the Navy conduct a study to prove an accident involving one missile would not "promptly propagate" to the other 23 missiles on the submarine, and the resulting explosion at one explosives handling wharf would not "promptly propagate" to another suspended missile or submarine at the adjacent explosives handling wharf.

According to public court records, the DDESB wished to know whether "the blast waves would coalesce" as a single explosive source.

The Navy determined that a study to satisfy concerns raised by the DDESB was not "feasible" and on March 28, 2012, accepted all risk at the explosives handling wharves for the entire operational life of the wharves — presumably as long as 50 to 60 years or longer.

A Navy document written by Captain Gilbert of the Naval Ordnance Safety and Security Activity, dated January 25, 2012, explained the underlying problem. The Bangor base should have been 1.3 miles longer for safe explosives handling distances between the Delta Pier, EWH-1 and EHW-2.

The record, released on August 14, 2013, states, "The combined effect of siting the EHWs and Refit Complex (which is the Delta Pier at Bangor) would have required lengthening both submarine bases by approximately 1.3 miles. That degree of expansion was not available, when the bases were developed, and would be that much more difficult today, requiring large acquisitions and displacement of residences outside the current base boundaries."

The 2012 record states that the problem with land use will only get worse. Captain Gilbert concluded, "This delta will only widen, as SSBN and SSGN platforms are replaced with new submarines that may be tasked with combined missions."

The JLUS currently is accepting comments on the draft report until August 28, but your comments will not be included in the final report unless approved by the Navy. See www.kiijlus.com.

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

a good turnout Monday morning for our witnessing and direct action – slowing traffic for 48 minutes and having people think about what nuclear weapons can destroy. Some folks took banners into the street at the crosswalk, others laid down on the Federal side and had their bodies outlined in ash to represent the dead at Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The Navy military police detained us and gave eight of us trespass notices, and released us. Four people were cited for “pedestrian in roadway” on the county side (it could have been more, but the deputy sheriff lost track of some).

Ground Zero received some very good coverage in the Port Townsend newspaper and Rodney Harold’s video of the action is available on You Tube.

While we were pleased by our actions, we will focus on Seattle for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. rally and march on January 18, 2016. Mona Lee is working on an action for the Friday after Thanksgiving in Seattle (contact her to help). Glen Milnor is in touch with



Following Monday’s action, Ground Zero members debriefed and shared experiences at the Center. *Photo by Glen Milnor.*

Veterans For Peace about bringing the ship, the *Golden Rule*, to Seattle for Seafair and maybe joining Greenpeace outside Bangor on the Hood Canal! We may also do another Earth Day event in Seattle where we had a good media presence last year. Please join us at the Annual Meeting November 14, from 1:00 to 5:00pm at Ground Zero to help set the direction for Ground Zero for the year to come. We also need more people on the Stewardship Council, as treasurer, co-secretary, and organizers! Plus Elizabeth needs help with the grounds and the Peace Garden.

Meanwhile, keep contacting your legislators, write letters to the editor, attend meetings, keep abolishing nukes in the public consciousness! Together we can abolish nukes, redirect billions of dollars to green, useful endeavors, and help stop Global Warming.

Michael “Firefly” Siptroth served on the planning committee for the August 7-10 weekend. He co-chairs the Stewardship Committee.

New Guidebook Provides Alternatives to “Glut of Wars”

By Tom Shea and Leonard Eiger

“We will know we have achieved peace when the world is safe for all the children...”

So begins *A Global Security System: An Alternative to War*, recently published by Worldbeyondwar.org. This is not a book railing against the madness of war, but a practical guidebook providing an alternative to war with a solid foundation to build an “alternative global security system.”

Why is such a guidebook so necessary now? Briefly, we need new systems. New systems to maintain our borders without maintaining the current bloody path of invading and occupying other peoples’ borders.

We need alternatives to the glut of wars that kill people and demolish their economies. We need to see where what we do now will fit into the carving out of new systems toward a world without war.

From demilitarizing security, to nonviolently managing conflict, to developing common security, this

book presents specific steps to create a world without war, all in an extremely accessible format (and in just 77 pages). Highlighted are short lists of “Debunking the Myths of Wars” and a list of “Inspired Actions” that already challenge the old war myths by listing the paths already on the way to a world without wars.

A Global Security System: An Alternative to War is meant to be a flexible work in progress – a plan that will evolve as we gain more experience and bring it slowly yet surely to fruition. A world without war is no pipe dream, but a necessary goal to save humanity from catastrophe. Working together with a solid plan, we can make the dream a reality. Where do each of us fit in to the architecture of this vision of an alternative global security system? Read the book and find out – for the children.

Tom Shea recently stepped down from the Stewardship Committee after seven years of service to Ground Zero. **Leonard Eiger** chairs the Communication and Outreach Committee.

GROUND ZERO

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*“The destruction of creation and
its creatures is done in the
name of profit, convenience, wealth.
The truth is that capitalism is poison,
and we are its victims.”*
— Shelley Douglass

An Excerpt from Pope Francis's Speech to the United Nations

By Pope Francis

War is the negation of all rights and a dramatic assault on the environment. If we want true integral human development for all, we must work tirelessly to avoid war between nations and between peoples...

The Preamble and the first Article of the Charter of the United Nations set forth the foundations of the international juridical framework: peace, the pacific solution of disputes and the development of friendly relations between the nations. Strongly opposed to such statements, and in practice denying them, is the constant tendency to the proliferation of arms, especially weapons of mass destruction, such as nuclear weapons. An ethics and a law based on the threat of mutual destruction – and possibly the destruction of all mankind – are self-contradictory and an affront to the entire framework of the United Nations, which would end up as “nations united by fear and distrust.” There is urgent need to work for a world free of nuclear weapons, in full application of the Non-Proliferation Treaty, in letter and spirit, with the goal of a complete prohibition of these weapons.

The recent agreement reached on the nuclear

question in a sensitive region of Asia and the Middle East is proof of the potential of political good will and of law, exercised with sincerity, patience and constancy. I express my hope that this agreement will be lasting and efficacious, and bring forth the desired fruits with the cooperation of all the parties involved...

These realities should serve as a grave summons to an examination of conscience on the part of those charged with the conduct of international affairs. Not only in cases of religious or cultural persecution, but in every situation of conflict, as in Ukraine, Syria, Iraq, Libya, South Sudan and the Great Lakes region, real human beings take precedence over partisan interests, however legitimate the latter may be. In wars and conflicts there are individual persons, our brothers and sisters, men and women, young and old, boys and girls who weep, suffer and die. Human beings who are easily discarded when our only response is to draw up lists of problems, strategies and disagreements.

Pope Francis delivered an address to the UN General Assembly on September 25, in which he emphasized collaboration towards a peaceful world.