

Ground Zero

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The Infectious Joy of Resistance

Mission of Solidarity to Jeju's Gangjeong Village

By Elizabeth Murray

If someone had told me earlier this year that I would be rising daily at 6 a.m. and by 7 a.m. performing a series of deep meditative bows before a massive naval base being built on the island of Jeju, just off the southern tip of South Korea – I would have shaken my head in disbelief. Who, me? A non-morning person who knows next to nothing about South Asia? Sorry, wrong number!

But, for ten days in December 2014, there I stood, in the early morning, in front of the naval base – bowing, kneeling, touching my forehead to the ground, and then rising up again, 100 times in a row, in unison with Korean nuns, priests, local activists, and my fellow members of the “Jeju 10” – our group of ten “peace and justice” folk invited by Father Bill Bichsel of the Tacoma Catholic worker to take part in a witness and solidarity mission to Jeju island.

It was Bix’s second trip to Jeju in solidarity with resistance against the base; both Bix and Brother Gilberto

Perez of the Bainbridge Island Buddhist monastery had come to Gangjeong last year. Having been deeply moved by the Jesuit and Catholic community’s strong support for the resistance movement, they decided to bring along an entire delegation this time! Of course the village welcomed Bix like a dearly beloved grandfather; their affection was evident in the way they carefully tucked blankets around him on chilly, windy days as he sat in his wheelchair, holding up signs that read “No Naval Base on Jeju!” Later, that same genuine warmth and affection would be showered on us all.

We performed our daily deep bows in synch with 100 contemplative meditations broadcast in Korean over a loud-speaker set up in a tree across the road. Among the prayerful thoughts that we knelt and bowed to:

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"Holding in my heart the knowledge that truth gives freedom to life, I make my first bow.

"Believing that the first step toward solving any problem is self-reflection, I make my second bow.

"Looking back upon my foolishness of living without understanding the root meaning of life, I make my third bow."

And so on, till the hundredth verse.

It is a reverent ritual, the embodiment of prayer in action. At times I seemed to be in an altered state; such was the feeling of the physical act of bowing down to the ground in a deeply spiritual and intellectual enmeshing of love and resistance against the military-industrial machine. Martin Luther King wrote that "Nonviolent resistance ... is a courageous confrontation of evil by the power of love," and that phrase embodied my state of consciousness.

Performing these deep bows can be physically taxing – yet each time there was an ache or stress in my leg muscles, I thought about the pain and frustration of my Gangjeong village hosts who have been fighting this base for seven long years. My little discomforts

"Despite staunch resistance over the past seven years, the base is 70 to 80 percent complete."

seemed trite and insignificant by comparison – and they were something I resolved to bear cheerfully for the privilege of being a witness and a co-activist among these courageous resisters, who have seen their beautiful tangerine groves, pristine ocean life, and sacred sites such as Gureombi Rock sacrificed

to corporate greed (Samsung has the primary corporate contact for the base construction) and the evil designs of Empire. Perhaps more tragic than the loss of their farmland and environmental treasures has been the destruction of the village's social fabric. Activists explained that the South Korean Navy, having been firmly rebuffed by two other villages approached as potential sites of the naval base, resorted to stealth, bribery, and deception to obtain the consent of a key group of Gangjeong villagers for the construction of the naval base. As a result, many families have been torn apart

over the issue; there are parents and children who no longer speak to each other; longtime friends who turn the other way when they pass each other on the streets. The issue of

the naval base has also divided the village haenyo, the women divers who set out in boats each day to collect the day's catch of seafood (Jeju island has a matriarchal society, embodied by these strong, mostly middle-aged women who are the breadwinners of their families) and who once were a tightly-knit social group.

We're told that some of the villagers who accepted bribes from the South Korean Navy of as much as \$100,000 and who initially favored the construction of the naval base have come to regret their stance now that they witnessed the environmental degradation as well as the destruction of shrines and farmland over the years. However, they have been warned that if they speak out publicly against the base, they will be forced to pay back all the money they received – a nearly impossible feat for most, who live by

simple work such as fishing and farming, and who could never hope to amass such a sum. In other words, people have been silenced through intimidation.

Despite staunch resistance over the past seven years to block construction, the base is roughly 70 to 80 percent complete. Activists are facing the unpleasant reality that the base is likely to be a fait accompli and have begun to discuss how the resistance will continue in the future. Catholic Father Moon Cheong-Hyun – a gentle, kindly, bearded priest in his middle 70's who was badly injured in 2012 while protesting when a policeman pushed him off the side of the pier – is overseeing the construction of a Peace Center that will become the focus of nonviolent resistance activities after the base is completed. Already the activists have modified their tactics to be far less confrontational than they were at the beginning of the naval base construction; while thousands participated in vigorous protests when construction began several years ago, those numbers have dropped off, and the relatively small core of remaining resisters, after having endured multiple imprisonments after confrontations with authorities, have concluded that they can be more effective outside of prison than inside a jail cell.



Putting solidarity into action. Above, Sonya Wentz is arrested for blocking the entrance to the base. **On the cover**, from left to right, are Melissa Yager, Tacoma; Brother Gilberto Perez, Bainbridge Island; Father Bix, Tacoma; Sonya Wentz, Olympia; Rodney Herold, Seattle; one of the Catholic nun activists of the Jeju diocese; and Mira Leslie, Seattle. *Photos by Eun-mi Pang.*

Annual Meeting a Chance to Reflect on 2014's Accomplishments

By Glen Milner

Ground Zero members met on November 8 to reflect upon past accomplishments and to decide on our goals for the coming year. We renewed a commitment to nonviolent direct action with three main events at Bangor, in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Mother's Day, and in commemoration of the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombings. The Peace Fleet will sail in July 2015 and the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order will continue with Peace Walks throughout the coming year.

Members expressed appreciation for our acclaimed *Ground Zero* newsletter, our website and advancement of our activities through social media, and the completion of the 501(c)(3) Ground Zero Community.

The lawsuit against the Navy's second Explosives Handling Wharf is currently before the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals. All briefing is completed and we are awaiting the announcement of the panel of three federal judges who will review our case.

Notable was the amount of Ground Zero leaflets handed out in the past year—over 8,000 leaflets at schools, fairs and other events by Tom Krebsbach, Rodney Brunelle, Mona Lee and others. Tom Krebsbach worked throughout the year on student outreach. In addition, for the second year, Mary Gleysteen and others leafleted each month to Navy personnel and workers entering the base, at both the Main Gate and Trigger entrances.

The past year brought renewed interest in the building of a Peace Pagoda at Ground Zero. At the annual meeting, Ground Zero members approved the advancement of a feasibility study for the Peace Pagoda.

Members of Washington Physicians for Responsibility attended the annual meeting to present the possibility of a joint WPSR/Ground Zero campaign to contact federal representatives to stop the Navy's \$100 billion program for a successor submarine to the Trident.

At least one member of Ground Zero will be attending the 2015 Review Conference of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) which will be held in New York in April/May 2015.

The Stewardship Council and committee positions were decided. The Council divides the responsibilities and work of Ground Zero into manageable sections and fulfills Washington State regulations for organizations. The Stewardship Council meets once a month, alternating monthly between meetings in Seattle or Tacoma and the Ground Zero house. All meetings are open to all members and supporters. The Stewardship Council positions for 2015 are:

Co-Chairs: Mary Hanson and Michael (Firefly) Siptroth
Co-Secretaries: Marianne Mabbitt and Tom Krebsbach

Treasurer: Tim Russell

At-Large positions: Mira Leslie, Senji Kanaeda, Denny Moore, Gilberto Perez, Dave Hall, and Chris Warmedahl
House and Grounds: Mack Johnson, Tom Rogers, and Michael Siptroth

Communications/Outreach: Leonard Eiger, Tom Shea, Alice Zillah, Marianne Mabbitt, Mona Lee, and Matthew Rankin

Website/Facebook: Matthew Rankin and Leonard Eiger

Finance/Budget: Tim Russell and Bernie Meyer

Fundraising: Bernie Meyer

Thank you notes: Betsy Collins

Leafleting: Mary Gleysteen, Jean Sundborg, Mira Leslie, Rodney Brunelle, and Tom Krebsbach

Peace Pagoda ad-hoc committee: Connie Mears, Senji Kanaeda, Tom Rogers, Michael Hill, Rodney Brunelle, Gilberto Perez, Mona Lee, Mira Leslie, and Glen Milner

Glen Milner lives in Lake Forest Park with his wife, Karol. They have participated with Ground Zero since the early days of the White Train actions.

Jerry Schlaman, Presente



As this issue of the newsletter was going to print, we learned that our dear friend Jerry Schlaman passed away on December 31, 2014. Jerry was a courageous Veteran for Peace and warm and dedicated Ground Zero supporter, always accompanying his partner in life, Peggy Love. We'll feature remembrances of Jerry in the April newsletter. This photo of Jerry was taken by Leonard Eiger at a 2009 Ground Zero action.

Looking Back... Looking Forward

Some snapshots from 2014

By Leonard Eiger and Tom Shea



The Interfaith Peace Walkers arriving at Ground Zero in August, following their three-week walk.



The inflatable Trident missile was a prominent feature at the 32nd Annual Martin Luther King Jr. Rally and March in Seattle. .



Offering tea and cookies at the Mother's Day weekend nonviolent direct action.

It was
"MUSIC Not
M.A.D.NESS"
in August at the
Hiroshima/
Nagasaki com-
memoration. Here,
Jim Page sings
"Hiroshima-
Nagasaki Russian
Roulette" at the
Bangor Main Gate.



Father William "Bix" Bichsel celebrating the Eucharist at the Bangor Main Gate in January.



Large panel photographs displaying the graphic aftermath of the Nagasaki bombing, featured at the August commemoration vigil and non-violent direct action.

Leonard Eiger and Tom Shea co-chair the Communication and Outreach Committee of the Stewardship Council. All photos by Leonard Eiger.

How Can Ground Zero Become More Effective?

A proposal for new strategies

By Tom Krebsbach and Michael Siptroth

Let's face it: at this time most people in the world do not seem to be very concerned with the threat of nuclear annihilation. With the end of the Cold War, complacency has taken hold. Some people do not even realize that massive numbers of nuclear weapons still exist in national armament stockpiles. Yet, in a May 2014 article titled "The Five Biggest Threats to Human Existence" in the U.K. academic journal *The Conversation*, Anders Sandberg, a research fellow at the University of Oxford, lists nuclear war as the greatest possible threat to humanity. Clearly the nuclear threat still exists, even though few people care to think about it.

In our opinion, the most important goal which Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action should aspire to is the goal of enlightening people of the great threat that nuclear weapons still portend and to unite people in a strong movement in the Northwest calling for the abolition of all nuclear weapons on earth. Though this is a difficult goal to achieve, it should be the goal which defines our *raison d'être*.

The crucial question is how, during such times of complacency, do we motivate people to strongly oppose the threat posed by nuclear weapons? We would like to suggest some measures or tactics that Ground Zero can employ to bring about a strong movement.

Dramatic Actions at the Bangor Gate

Perhaps the thing which characterizes Ground Zero most indelibly in people's minds is its three actions at the gate to the Bangor Submarine Base during the year. These actions are the public face of Ground Zero and with them we most forcefully demonstrate our opposition to, not just Trident, but all nuclear weapons systems.

Unfortunately, these actions have become somewhat routine and uneventful over the years and are now sparsely attended. What is needed is a new approach to these actions in which the arts are used to make them more engaging, inspiring, emotionally edifying, and, dare we say, entertaining. If we can stage actions with these characteristics, not only will attendees be more likely to return to future actions, but we might encourage people who seldom or never attend to join us. Well attended actions will send a vigorous message to the media, the public, and the government that there is a widespread desire for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Most people are strongly drawn to music, and music in both the instrumental and choral arts can be used to develop engaging actions. The dramatic arts can be employed in skits and street theater to create comedy or tragedy that gets the message across. Even the visual arts, dance, and poetry are disciplines that can be used to make our actions more engaging.

An example is the proposed action for the MLK holiday on January 17 in which the threat of nuclear annihilation is dramatized through a mock funeral for the earth. We should attempt to recruit singers, playwrights, actors, dancers, and artists to employ their skills in bringing about actions which are memorable and meaningful for people. Then we need to videotape these actions and upload them to the internet.

Outreach to the Public

Last summer a few of us set up various outreach efforts at festivals and fairs in the Puget Sound Area. Leafleting was done at the Seattle Folk Life Festival, and a table for Ground Zero was set up at Seattle Pride Fest, the Fremont Sunday Market, the Fremont Fair, and the Tacoma Ethnic Fest as a means of reminding people of the threat of nuclear weapons and familiarizing them with the efforts of Ground Zero. Such efforts should be established as usual activity with certain other fairs and festivals, such as the University Street Fair, added as other venues.

In addition, a standard presentation by various members of Ground Zero should be developed which would inform people of the pressing need to abolish nuclear weapons. Then we should contact groups in the Puget Sound Area about making presentations to them, particularly groups which might be sympathetic to our mission, and invite them to join us in our actions.

Campus Outreach

No group of people has more to lose from the cost and threat of nuclear weapons than young people. A concerted effort should be made to educate college students and other people of this age about the nuclear threat, of which they seem to be blissfully unaware. People at this age have energy, creativity, and a penchant for idealism that is often lacking in older people. If sponsors can be found on campuses, Ground Zero may be able to provide movie showings and panel discussions on the threat of nuclear war and thus reach large groups of students.

If enough students can be interested in the topic, they should be encouraged to form a Northwest student organization dedicated to the abolition of nuclear weapons. Member groups of this organization would not need to focus strictly on the issue of nuclear war, but could also focus on other peace and foreign affairs related issues.

Website Update

The Ground Zero website fulfills many important functions as it provides news about our activities. But it could be

How Can We Be More Effective?... continued on page 6

made much more effective than it is now. Since the public face of Ground Zero is presented through its actions, it seems the first thing that viewers should see on the home page is information about the next action, complete with links to the action's scheduled events and how people can get to the Ground Zero property.

Another item which might be placed on the website is a petition which states the following:

To the Presidents of the Russian Federation and of the United States, to the Minister of Defense of the Russian Federation and to the US Secretary of Defense, and to Members of the Russian Federal Assembly and of the US Congress.

Because nuclear weapons pose the single greatest threat to life on earth and because the risk of nuclear war, through either an intentional use during conflict or through accidental use because of technical failures, human misjudgment, or false warning, is unacceptably high,

We, the undersigned citizens of the world, call upon the United States and Russian governments to immediately commence negotiations among nuclear armed nations of the world to eliminate all nuclear weapons from the world by the year 2025. In addition, we call upon the above named nations to commence global negotiations establishing the international illegality of the testing, production, maintenance, and possession of nuclear weapons and measures to verify on a routine basis that no nation is testing, producing, maintaining, or possessing nuclear weapons.

"We should attempt to think of audacious events that will bring about national attention."

website that people anywhere could sign. Information entered digitally is easy to read, where often handwritten information is illegible. Theoretically an online petition might attract hundreds of thousands of signers. Volumes of signatures could be shown to those who formulate nuclear policies to demonstrate support for nuclear weapons abolition.

In addition information from these signers could then be used to keep them up to date about Ground Zero and its efforts. Such a tool could potentially greatly increase the Ground Zero following.

Other uses for the website would be the sale of Ground Zero related merchandise such as bumper stickers, pins, T-shirts, and sweat shirts. Possibly the sale of such items could significantly add to funds for operations.

Strengthening Media Relations

In order to upgrade the visibility of Ground Zero and its actions, we need to make a greater effort to familiarize the media with our mission and our efforts. One way to do this might be to try to set up meetings with newspaper editorial boards to tell them why we so strongly support the abolition of nuclear weapons and to ask them to write editorials on this subject, or allow us to provide op-eds on the issue. We should get in the habit of issuing news releases to the media prior to all actions at the gate or other significant

events. We should attempt to cultivate good relations with national news media, particularly Tim Egan and Kirk Johnson who write for the New York Times. The "Grey Lady" frequently presents local stories from around the country for its national audience. Finally, we should attempt to think of audacious events which we can engage in which will bring about national attention. One such event might be staging a hunger strike at the gate to the Bangor Submarine Base.

Lobbying Members of Congress, the Administration, and the Pentagon

The most important thing that Ground Zero can do is mobilize large numbers of people in favor of the abolition of nuclear weapons. The opinion of these people will have a strong effect on the decisions of those who formulate nuclear policy. However, it also makes much sense to go directly to the policy makers and argue our case. This can be done locally by meeting with aides to our local members of Congress. But a better, if more costly effort, is to travel to Washington, D.C. to lobby policy makers where they work, and not just members of Congress from the Pacific Northwest. It would be good if Ground Zero could send a team to



"We are the spark." Members and supporters of Ground Zero shared lunch at the 2012 Annual Meeting. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

Washington, D.C. at least once every two years for this purpose.

Involving Ground Zero with Other Anti-Nuke Groups

It might be helpful in raising the visibility and reputation of Ground Zero to interact more often with other anti-nuke groups. This is most likely to happen if members of Ground Zero attend events dedicated to nuclear weapons policy and their abolition. The most obvious example is the 2015 NPT Review Conference next spring. Ground Zero should be represented there by at least three people. We might also invite speakers from aligned groups to speak at Ground Zero events and actions.

Creating an Expert Group

Ground Zero should be a trusted source for information on nuclear weapons policy and the threat that these weapons present. We should be a source that the media can go to for vital information on the topic. In order to have such a reputation, we could create a formal group which not only keeps up to date on the latest news with regard to nuclear arsenals, but also does its own research on the subject that the average member would not do. Submitting Freedom of Information Requests for information which is not yet public would be part of this effort. Ground Zero currently has members who are quite familiar with nuclear weapons policy and the process for extracting more information. These people might consider forming such a subgroup.

One should be quite impressed with the staying power of longtime members of Ground Zero. Their persistence in working to oppose nuclear weapons is admirable considering the complacency in the general population. Still, with a little more effort, persistence, and creativity, it might be possible for this small group to bring about a vastly disproportionate and large movement in favor of the abolition of nuclear weapons. For all we know, such extra effort could save the world.

We need to keep in mind the mantra: *"We are the spark that will ignite the flame throughout the world in the hearts of people, demanding an end to the nuclear menace."*

Tom Krebsbach, of Lake Forest Park, and Michael Siptroth, of Belfair, both serve on the Stewardship Council. Michael is the newly elected co-chair of the Council for 2015.

Trident Rebuild Meets the Definition of Insanity

By Dr. David Hall

Webster's dictionary defines insanity as a deranged state of mind or extreme folly or unreasonableness.

The US Congress is on track to spend more than \$1 trillion by the end of this century to rebuild and deploy a new fleet of Trident nuclear armed submarine warships (class SSBNx) with their missiles, warheads, satellite navigation systems, bases, and personnel. As of 2005, the Trident fleet is armed with an upgraded Trident II missile designed to carry 14 multiple independently-targetable W-88 warheads, each rated at 475 kilotons of TNT-equivalent explosiveness.

In a statement revealing how our government sees these issues, the State Department (under international pressure to attend the United Nations conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons in Vienna in December) announced: "This event will be a useful opportunity to highlight the significant progress the United States has made and the resources it devotes to create conditions under which nuclear weapons are never again used" (emphasis added).



Capable of carrying 8,000 Hiroshimas. Our government maintains this is a higher priority than healthcare, housing or education. *Photo courtesy of Navy Live, the "official blog of the US Navy."*

The irony here is that military planners concerned about US aggressiveness will attend to what we can do, not what we say we intend. There is already a new arms race unfolding, which US military planners cite as justification for rebuilding our nuclear weapons complex, when US plans for modernization are the major driving force for other nations to try to keep pace.

The new subs will have 16 rather than 24 missile tubes for carrying Trident II D-5 missiles. Fully loaded, each warship carries 224 W-88 warheads, each one roughly 30 times the size of the atomic bomb which leveled Hiroshima and killed 140,000 people, mostly civilians. That's 8,000 Hiroshimas on a single submarine. This approximates the original calculations of the megatonnage of nuclear weapons exploded on cities that could cause nuclear winter over the Northern Hemisphere.

The 2010 New START treaty with Russia limits the Trident II missiles to half their warhead capacity, so a single missile is limited to seven warheads. That is still 4,000 Hiroshimas of thermonuclear devastation carried by one Trident SSBNx. Congress so far plans 12 SSBNx

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Peace Walk will honor Martin Luther King Jr. from January 12 to 17

By Senji Kanaeda Shonin

This annual peace walk is an opportunity for all people to walk and learn together in a nonviolent, spiritually-motivated action to ensure a better future with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s dream. Peace walkers will average about 13 miles per day. The walk is open to all who are sincere in living together in harmony and ending racism and militarism. Evenings offer social time, documentary films, and conversation. We welcome any contributions for food, water or accommodations.



- Sunday, Jan. 11, walkers will gather in Tacoma.
- Monday, Jan. 12, walk 13 miles through Olympia. Meet at Woodland Community Park in Olympia at 9:00am.
- Tuesday, Jan. 13, walk 13 miles to Tacoma. Meet at 9:00am at 1515 Lafayette St. in Steilacoom.
- Wednesday, Jan. 14, walk 13 miles through Seattle. Meet at 8:30am at Othello Park.
- Thursday, Jan. 15, walk 13 miles through Bainbridge Island. Meet at 9:00am at the intersection of Winslow Way and I-305 on Bainbridge Island. There will be an evening program starting at 4:00pm featuring a documentary about the civil rights movement, at the Nipponzan Myohoji Temple.
- Friday, Jan. 16, the walk will go from Suquamish to Ground Zero.
- Saturday, January 17, walkers will participate in the Ground Zero nonviolence training and programs.
- Monday, January 19, walkers are welcome to participate together at the Martin Luther King Jr. Day Parade in Seattle.

For more information contact Senji Kanaeda at (206) 780-6739, or cell (206) 724-7632, or by email at senji@nipponzan.net. Questions can also be directed to Gilberto Perez at (206) 419-7262 or gzperez@juno.com.

~NA MU MYO HO REN GE KYO~

Senji Kanaeda Shonin serves on the Stewardship Council. A Buddhist Monk of the Nipponzan Myohoji Order, he has walked in and lead peace walks around the world. The photo of Senji and other walkers above is courtesy of www.buddhistchannel.tv.

Trident Rebuild... continued from page 7

warships, so that five can be at sea at any one time.

In summary, our country is planning to continuously deploy 20,000 Hiroshimas in submarine-launched hydrogen bombs designed for launch within 30 minutes and capable of hitting the homeplate on a baseball diamond at 4,000 miles. Every city or other target on planet Earth is now and will continue to be held hostage to a possible US nuclear first strike for the next four score years or more, and similar realities likely hold for Russia's Borei-class ballistic missile submarines, the first of which became fully operational in October 2014.

Recent climate models of the possible extreme effects from a hypothetical war between two nations launching 100 Hiroshima-sized atomic bombs at each other in south Asia calculate that as many as 200 million people could die from the direct effects, and up to two billion people who are already food insecure could starve because of climate disruptions of agriculture. It's called a nuclear famine because the smoke from burning cities and forests blocks out the sun for weeks to months, shortening the growing season and bringing killing frosts in the middle of the summer growing seasons for five to ten years.

One Trident II missile loaded with its allowed seven W-88 warheads under New START could launch explosions with double the force of the 100-atomic-bomb scenario. They might not be distributed as widely as the 100 atomic bombs, so it might take additional missiles to generate the equivalent global climate disruption.

Let's review the risk. Global climate effects from 100 atomic bombs could put two billion human lives at risk from starvation. Each new Trident warship can do this several times over by itself, and we (the USA) plan to build twelve.

This is MADness – Mutual Assured Destruction. What drives this MADness? Horrible wars throughout the first half of the 20th century led to the development of nuclear weapons. When the Cold War ended, there were huge military construction and operations contracts in each and every Congressional district, hundreds of lobbyists for these contracts, and the understanding that rebuilding the nuclear weapons complex would keep the contracts coming.

This is the essence of insanity – extreme folly and unreasonableness. Don't let Cold Warrior military planners and military contractors ruin our future. Demand that Congress defund the Trident rebuild and stop fueling the nuclear arms race. Call YOUR Congress person today. Tell them – no more funds for a military jobs program that produces weapons of mass destruction.

Dr. David Hall serves on the Stewardship Council. Past president of the Washington chapter of Physicians for Social Responsibility, today he lives on Lopez Island with his wife Anne.

Handbook offers practical advice to plan actions

By Tom Shea

The new “Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns” from the War Resisters League builds on 70 years of experience educating, engaging, and acting on nonviolence. This book can meet the needs of readers looking to renew or deepen their personal and professional pursuit of nonviolence. It is also written for people new to nonviolent action who can find out what that means and how to do it appropriately.

For example, the “tactic star” is a diagram of a ten-point star, with each one labeled goals and strategy, relationships, tone, organization, timing, message, target, and so forth. Facing this tactic star diagram is a picture illustrating some of the star points used in blocking the entrance to Scotland’s Trident submarines.

Under the chapter on planning nonviolent campaigns, the authors advise, “Too often groups go directly from recognizing a problem to picking a tactic”.

Ground Zero Center activists already have the goals. However, the “Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns” suggests steps that could guide our discussions about how to develop new strategies and related tactics.

The book contains five major sections: “Nonviolence, Strategy, Nonviolent Actions, Case Studies, and Training Exercises.” It ends with a lengthy glossary and data on resources related to each section. It’s well-named a handbook, measuring just eight by six inches and, at 232 pages, still thin enough fits easily into a back pocket or purse. Published in 2014, the “Handbook for Nonviolent Campaigns” available from War Resisters League for \$20.



Tom Shea co-chairs the Communications and Outreach Committee for Ground Zero, and lives in Seattle.

2015 PLC in Bay Area

By Redwood City Catholic Worker

The Pacific Life Community is a faith-based network of activists from the Pacific coast and other western states committed to active, nonviolent social change as we organize, demonstrate and pray for a nuclear-free future. Nuclear weapons are immoral and illegal. We believe that these weapons threaten all life on the planet even if they are not used because their production, deployment, and testing contaminates everything in our world and steals monies from life giving priorities like clear air, housing, education, transportation.

The 2015 PLC retreat will focus on the Lockheed Martin plant in Sunnyvale, California. The Trident D-5 missile is produced there, one of the most threatening weapons of mass destruction ever built. Other weapons systems manufactured by Lockheed in Sunnyvale include parts for Apache helicopter gunships which are a major tool of repressive regimes worldwide. Some version of the Hellfire missile are also produced by Lockheed Sunnyvale. These are used on several “platforms” including Predator and Reaper drones, also terrorizing local communities from Somalia to Gaza to Pakistan.

The retreat will take place at Vallombrosa Retreat Center in Menlo Park starting at 3:00 pm on Friday and be prepared to help support an action on Monday, March 2, that might not possibly end until 5pm (including the evaluation).

Retreat costs in the Bay Area are extremely high. Local organizers are raising about \$14,000 so that each participant will only be charged \$100 for room and board for the weekend including speaker costs. Please register early. Registration is \$100 (non-refundable). Even if you cannot attend, any contribution will be helpful and appreciated.

To register or contribute, send a check for \$100 to the Redwood City Catholic Worker, and earmark it for PLC. The address is:

Redwood City Catholic Worker (att. Larry Purcell)
P.O. Box 513
545 Cassia St.
Redwood City, CA 94064

Please include your full name, address, phone, and email address with your check. Let us know if you need to be picked up at either the San Jose or San Francisco airport and the time of your arrival. They are both about 25 minutes from Menlo Park. Also, please indicate if you need a special diet.

If you are open to nonviolent civil disobedience on Monday, then you should contact Fr. Steve Kelly, SJ about nonviolence (stephenkellysj@yahoo.com, 510-499-891) or call Larry Purcell or Susan Crane about Lockheed-Sunnyvale at 650-366-4415. General inquiries about the gathering or the PLC may also be addressed to Steve or Larry. Updates about the gathering will be posted at www.pacificlifecommunity.wordpress.com.

The Redwood City Catholic Worker was founded in 1974 and tries “to be a symbol of a world in which people are the number one priority and not money.”

Jeju's strategic location – a mere 300 miles from mainland China – suggests that the new naval base will become a key component of the missile defense system that the United States is building up in the Asia-Pacific region as part of its “pivot toward Asia.” While the South Korean government denies that the naval base at Jeju is part of US strategic policy that confronts China, it is a well-known fact that, under the terms of its Status of Forces agreement, Washington can deploy its military forces at any South Korean military facility – which will shortly include Jeju naval base – and it is only a matter of time before US naval personnel will become a fixture at the base.

The deepwater port currently under construction at Gangjeong village is being designed to accommodate multiple nuclear-armed Trident submarines, the Aegis destroyer combat system, naval carriers, and other massive warships. The militarization of Jeju will greatly increase the likelihood that the tiny, jewel-like island with crystal clear waters – home to several UNESCO World

Heritage Sites and a popular destination for nature-lovers and honeymooners – will become a pawn in any future conflict between the United States and China. This stark reality flies in the face of the South Korean government's claim that the base is necessary for the South Korean people's “national security.” Indeed, by ratcheting up regional tensions, the base's existence will make the lives of people of Jeju Island and the South Korean mainland far less secure, and much more vulnerable to military conflict.

The population of Jeju Island is especially sensitive to the prospect of a US presence on the island; between 1948 and 1949, at least 40,000 Jeju residents were massacred by South Korean forces that came under the control of the US Army Military Government in Korea. This little-known atrocity is memorialized in a dramatically beautiful, poignant Peace Park, which our delegation visited. We learned that any mention of the post-World War II massacre was forbidden in South Korea until 2006, when former President Ro Moo-Hyun issued a formal apology to the people of Jeju and declared it an “Island of Peace.” In a supreme irony, the following year the government announced that Gangjeong village had been selected as the site of a future naval base.

Many South Koreans still remain unaware of the 1948 massacre; a young South Korean woman who accompanied us to the Peace Park expressed shame and anger that she had

never heard about the massacre before, and that it was not being taught in the schools.

Just as with the 1948 massacre, the truth about the Jeju naval base and its negative social, environmental, and political impacts on the island is still very hard to come by. The mainstream media in South Korea and billboards on Jeju Island tout the base's construction as an “eco-friendly” installation that will host cruise ships and attract tourists. Little is mentioned about the military tensions this base is bound to provoke in the region, or the impact that 3,000

new naval base personnel will have on life in Gangjeong village, whose population numbers only 2,000. Efforts to construct new housing for navy personnel has been temporarily halted due to a 24-hour protest vigil in front of the site, amid strong local opposition.

Forward-thinking anti-base activists in Jeju have made common cause with fellow activists in Okinawa and Taiwan, as well as with the international community at large. They have

learned about problems with drugs, prostitution, rape, and other ills that accompany the presence of US naval installations in Okinawa and Taiwan, as well as on the South Korean mainland. They worry about the fate of their traditional community with the impending arrival of foreign military personnel at some point in the future.

Accompanying these threats to the villagers' quality of life are the threats to marine life, including coral reefs, the Indo-Pacific bottle nose dolphin (now less than 114) and local fish. Pollution from the base construction has already destroyed much of the fish habitat in the immediate vicinity of the base, forcing the haenyo – the women sea-divers who bring in the daily catch to the village – to take their boats much farther out to sea in order to catch fish.

Several prominent personalities from around the world and from mainland South Korea have drawn attention to the great harm that the naval base will bring to Jeju. Among these figures is the South Korean film critic Yang Yoon-mo, who permanently relocated to Jeju from the South Korean mainland in order to draw attention to the naval base construction and engage in acts of resistance against the naval base. Father Bix visited Yang last year during Yang's hunger strike while in he was in prison for opposing the naval



An Island of Peace is becoming a militarized zone. The full delegation blocked the main entrance to the base. *Photo by Eun-Mi Pang.*

base. Yang, who has since been released, spoke to our delegation about his continued dedication to the resistance and discussed the reasons for his hunger strike (read more at www.savejejunow.org).

Following our morning action of 100 bows, we would breakfast together with the local activists, sharing stories and learning about each other. Later on, we would rejoin them in front of the naval base for the daily outdoor Mass and Rosary, during which we blocked the entrance to the gate for 15-minute intervals; police would then remove us by lifting up our chairs and carrying us to the side in order to let construction trucks pass. As soon as they moved all of us and departed, we would re-position ourselves in the middle of the road. This sequence repeated itself until the Mass and the Rosary were completed, then the solemnity was broken up with joyful street dancing as we continued to prevent trucks from entering the base. The dancing is an integral part of the protest, to banish the inevitable frustration and anger that has manifested itself amid the materialization of the naval base. The lively movements demonstrate the sheer joy that comes with resisting evil and standing up for life, love, and community – even in the face of the overwhelming might of Empire.

The strong role of the Catholic Church in the resistance movement is embodied in the person of Bishop Peter Kang, who leads the Jeju diocese; a dedicated number of nuns and priests in the diocese is assigned full-time to the resistance activities. Their participation in the morning bows and the daily outdoor Mass provides a strong spiritual base to the resistance. One afternoon our delegation traveled to Jeju City to have an audience with Bishop Kang. His fervent and unswerving dedication reminded me of the courageous Liberation Theology movement that swept throughout Latin America in the 1980's, in which Catholic clergy joined together with the poor, oppressed and disenfranchised to stand up for their rights in a resolute but nonviolent manner.

Our motley crew of local and international activists were frequently a focus of attention to passerby. Passengers on tour buses craned their necks to see what the commotion was about. People frequently focused on me because of my dolphin costume (which I wore in order to draw attention to the endangered Indo-Pacific bottle nose dolphin), and they snapped photo as if we were tourist attractions or some unusual novelty. At one point, a small boy of about three years old stopped by with his family and insisted on taking part in our communal street dancing – to him this was clearly a party! Then, after pointing in my direction and asking his parents for approval, he rushed up to me for a big hug – clearly mistaking me for a Walt Disney character!

It's clear that the daily manifestation of peaceful resistance to the naval base has had a positive effect on the attitudes of many of the police and security forces assigned to monitor our actions. I was told this is why the authorities rotate the young policemen and policewomen – who are

brought in from the South Korean mainland – on a regular basis; they fear they might “go native” and begin to sympathize with the nonviolent resisters. Even so, their witnessing of our daily bows, prayers, singing and joyful dancing, as well as the unity and solidarity between the local resisters and the international groups that regularly visit Gangjeong, cannot but be an inspiration, and many of us noticed this clearly in their facial expressions and body language. On the morning of our last day in Gangjeong, as I prepared my kneeling mat in front of the naval base for the prayer of 100 bows, a tight-lipped security guard who had silently observed our actions over the previous week, suddenly bowed and – in perfect English – greeted me with “Good morning.” Caught off-guard, and not quite believing what I'd just heard, I responded with “Haenyo aseong,” the standard Korean greeting. He made direct eye contact, smiled, bowed again, and repeated in crisp English, “good morning.”

I have found great inspiration among the people of Gangjeong village and their resistance to the naval base, and have learned a great deal about the importance of peace, love, and solidarity in effective collective action. I remain optimistic that their nonviolent yet resolute ways will plant seeds for transformation that will bear fruit in the future.

May their steadfastness be an example to all of us who aspire to peaceful change, and may they continue to find support from all corners of the earth as they continue their quest for justice.

Elizabeth Murray serves as Member-In-Residence of the Ground Zero House, and has been involved with Ground Zero since 2012.

Call for Young Leaders

By Lilly Daigler, Global Zero US Field Organizer

Global Zero describes itself as “the international movement for the elimination of nuclear weapons.” The group is now launching the Global Zero Action Corps, designed to mobilize young activists across the country to help us tackle the single biggest security threat of our generation.

Starting in early 2015, Global Zero will bring together 50 advocates for the first ever Action Corps. During their one-year service, Action Corps leaders will mobilize their peers, lead creative campaigns, and apply pressure on policymakers to eliminate all nuclear weapons, everywhere.

The Action Corps will also have the opportunity to travel to New York City this spring for three days of high level training and action.

The early application deadline for Action Corps members is February 1st, with a final deadline of March 1st. To learn how to apply, visit www.globalzero.org or email field@globalzero.org.

GROUND ZERO

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over a peaceful and cultivated
21st century to the next generation.”*

*— Tokie Mizuno, Hibakusha
and Anti-Nuclear Leader*

Meeting to Discuss Peace Pagoda Possibility on Feb. 7

By Glen Milner

A Peace Pagoda meeting will be held on Saturday, February 7 at 10:00 at Ground Zero, before the monthly Stewardship Council meeting. All are invited to attend both meetings. During November's Annual Meeting, Ground Zero members approved the advancement of a feasibility study for the Peace Pagoda. Now we are seeking ways to resolve differing views and concerns with renewed efforts for a Peace Pagoda. We hope that all views will be heard and addressed.

The Pagoda, if built, would be built with labor and funds from the Buddhist community. The Pagoda will be about 20 feet in diameter and stand about 36 feet tall with a raised walkway around the structure, about 50 feet in diameter. Currently we are considering an area in the northwest corner of the 3.8 acres of Ground Zero property. Also being considered is the possibility of a driveway to the Peace Pagoda site on the north side of Ground Zero property.

The project is expected to take as long as five years or more to complete. The project should be separated far enough from the house to not disrupt Ground Zero activities.

Peace Pagoda committee members are Connie Mears, Mira Leslie, Senji Kanaeda, Mona Lee, Gilberto Perez, Tom Rogers, Michael Hill, Rodney Brunelle, and Glen Milner.

Please join us on February 7 and share your thoughts on this project.

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

Martin Luther King, Jr. Action on Saturday, Jan. 17

Put Jan. 17 on your calendar and plan to join us for a day of fellowship, song, creative theater, and resistance. Bruce Gagnon, the Coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space, will be the guest speaker. Events begin with breakfast and welcome between 8:00 and 9:15. For the schedule and details, see www.gzcenter.org.