

# Ground Zero

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## Lynne Greenwald... *Presente!*



By Sue Ablao

Lynne was, first and foremost, my good friend. One of those friends we should all be so lucky to have; we didn't see each other often but when we did, maybe once a month or so, we just picked up where we left off. ... We shared the good, the bad, and on occasion the sad pieces of our lives. Deep conversations and bad jokes alike. We polished off a bottle of wine at Harmon's now and again.

Lynne believed deeply in the power of love and non-violence, the spirituality of the feminine and the wonderful gifts of nature that the creator had given us.

She walked her talk. All her actions were undertaken only after deep discernment, as a mom, a grandparent, a resister. She lived her life in service to others, first and foremost to her kids, Christy, Alissa and Noah, that they would grow to be the loving, caring, thinking adults they have become. It meant the world to her to be surrounded by them in her last days.

The decision to participate in the Plowshares action five years ago was reached after months of deep discernment. As her obituary said, *Think before you act...*

The time she spent in prison in response to the abomination on the other side of this fence was the continuation of her belief in the power of love and nonviolence. She ministered to the women in prison and when got out she continued that ministry at Erma Geary House.

She moved with strength and determination and with hope, in this life and into the next.

Sisters Jackie Hudson and Anne Montgomery and the cloud of witnesses that have gone before her have welcomed her with open arms. I have no doubt that that they are all together on some plain, organizing something to kick us all in the rear (nonviolently, of course) to get us all acting toward a world without nuclear weapons and a world of justice and peace. It's now up to us to carry on Lynne's legacy.

Lynne Greenwald ... *Presente!*

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**Sue Ablao** shared this remembrance at Lynne's memorial on August 15. Sue is the former Member in Residence at Ground Zero. For more on Lynne's life and legacy, please see pages 6 and 7 in this issue.

# Music Not MADness at Ground Zero

By Leonard Eiger

There was music in the air as nuclear resisters came together at Ground Zero this past August for the annual Hiroshima/Nagasaki weekend of remembrance. This year's theme was *Music Not MADness*, and it was a weekend filled with music (and action).

The theme highlighted the power of music to bring people together to move mountains (and we certainly have a big mountain to move), and also drove home the fact that well over two decades since the end of the cold war, thanks to the combined deployed nuclear weapons of the US and Russia, we still run the risk of Mutually Assured Destruction (MAD).

The Bainbridge Island band Chele's Kitchen rocked Ground Zero Friday evening with a concert that energized everyone for the work ahead. It was a tremendous start for such an auspicious weekend.

Earlier on Friday resisters began a 24-hour vigil outside the base main gate. We had a number of positive interactions with people going in and out of the base; occasionally someone would stop and talk with the vigilers. Participants took turns, maintaining a continuous presence right up through Saturday's vigil and action.

A major focus of the weekend was a letter-writing campaign in which participants wrote letters to their representatives in Congress calling on them to cut funding for the Navy's plans to build 12 new ballistic missile submarines. New Trident, or the SSBN(X), is estimated to cost as much as \$113 billion to build. It is just another Cold War weapons system that the Pentagon justifies based on the doctrine of Strategic Nuclear Deterrence.

On Saturday, after marching from Ground Zero to the Bangor main gate, people lined the roadside with signs and banners calling for the abolition of nuclear weapons. After a reading of Buddhist Sutras, participants unveiled a series of huge photos of the devastation caused by the Nagasaki bombing, which remained in place for the entire vigil and served a powerful visual reminder of why we resist Trident.

Local singer/songwriter Jim Page sang a number of anti-war songs, including one his best known songs, "Hiroshima Nagasaki Russian Roulette." The music was a fitting buildup to the action that followed.

When Page finished his concert, five participants walked on to the entrance roadway carrying a 60 foot-long pink wool scarf in an attempt to stop traffic. An additional participant, a Buddhist monk, entered the roadway drum-

ming and chanting. Washington State Patrol troopers removed all six protestors and the scarf from the roadway. They were cited on the scene for being on the roadway illegally, and were released.

Those cited were David Brice, Port Orchard, Mack Johnson, Silverdale, Doug Milholland, Port Townsend, Elizabeth Murray, Bellingham, Gilberto Perez, Bainbridge Island, and Dylse (Rick) Turner, Seattle.

The wool scarf was composed of pieces knitted by people from around the U.S. and assembled into a single scarf in an action known as Wool against Weapons. Wool against Weapons began in the United Kingdom as a statement against the Trident nuclear weapons system deployed by the British government. Activists there held an action on August 9, stretching a seven mile-long scarf between their atomic weapons establishments. Our action was in solidarity with our fellow resisters in the UK.

In honor of Lynne Greenwald, the scarf will be disassembled into blankets to be donated to Mary's Place in Seattle. Mary's Place provides homeless women and their children a safe place to rest, build community, and find resources to reclaim their lives.

Following the return of the arrestees, the demonstrators were led in peace songs by folk singer John Palmes, who wrote *The Atom-bomb Song*.

Palmes traveled from Juneau, Alaska to participate in the weekend of action, and continues to participate in Ground Zero's work.

Standing in the large closing circle following the action, I listened to people's reflections on the vigil and action and became aware of the presence of great power – power that comes from a deep place within each of us, and which is rooted in a continuously developing nonviolent spirit.

I believe that nonviolent spirit (and its power) will someday overcome the taproot of violence that exists not just on the other side of the fence from Ground Zero Center, but also in our nation's soul. May we continue to faithfully walk the path of nonviolence in our resistance to Trident.



**Solidarity:** Leonard holds the wool scarf used by activists to block the road. *Photo courtesy of Leonard Eiger.*



**Large photos** of the aftermath of the Nagasaki bombing showed the reality of nuclear weapons. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

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**Leonard Eiger** co-chairs the Communication Committee for the Stewardship Council. He took the cover photograph of Lynne Greenwald.

# Welcome Our New Member-in-Residence!

## Elizabeth Murray introduces herself

By Elizabeth Murray

Guns firing in the distance; what an ironic background noise to hear at the Ground Zero Center—whose mission and *raison d'être* is nonviolent resistance!

As I unpack my things and settle into my new environment as Ground Zero's incoming member-in-residence, I contemplate the strangely apropos sound of shooting while absorbing the absolute aura of peace, bliss and calm that surrounds this place, even as it borders the Bangor Naval Base housing the Trident nuclear submarines.

Only a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire separates this place of peace from that base of war. The forbidding fence suddenly reminds me of the razor-sharp chain-link fence that divided West and East Germany in the small border town of Hof, which my high school class visited while I was a student at Nurnberg American High School in Germany. What has become of that fence now that the two Germanies are united? Do I dare to hope for such a transformation here at Bangor?

I think so. I am pretty sure that is why I am here ... to continue in the steps of and alongside those who have been and are now working for that transformation. A quote by Thomas Merton on the doors here in Ground Zero's Great Room counsels wisely:

"Do not depend on the hope for results.

*"I am still not sure whether I chose Ground Zero or whether Ground Zero chose me."*

"As you get used to this idea, you will start more and more to concentrate, not on results, but the value, the rightness of the truth of the work itself."

These motivating words accompany me when I distribute leaflets at Trigger at 6:30 in the morning, block the entrance to the base with Ground Zero colleagues, or think about what I can do – individually and within a community

– to promote a nuclear-free world.

Oh, right: I was asked to write something in the way of an introduction; how did I come to be here? I am still not sure whether I chose Ground Zero or whether Ground Zero chose me!



**At her first Ground Zero event in 2012,** Elizabeth showed the makings of a future Member-in-Residence. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

When I retired from a 27-year government career (I was a political analyst specializing in Middle Eastern issues), I decided to move to Washington State – the place of my birth and also the farthest away from the “other” Washington that I could get within the continental U.S.! The great peace activist and former State Department official Col. Ann Wright – whom I’d met during a peace rally at the Bush compound in Kennebunkport, Maine in 2007 – recommended Ground Zero to me as a place where I might find a community of like-minded people.

So in 2012 I attended my first Ground Zero retreat, participated in my first action at the Naval Base. I met the great Tacoma activist, the kind and wonderful Father Bill “Bix” Bichsel; Cindy Sheehan joined us for the action; and other wise and wonderful folks,

including the veteran antinuclear activists Jim and Shelley Douglass. I also began reading a book by Jim Douglass called *Lightning East to West* that was sitting on one of the bookshelves at the Ground Zero library ... and was hooked.

I knew (and still know) so very little about the nuclear issue – but one has to begin somewhere, and I’m hoping my time here at Ground Zero will afford me the chance to deepen my knowledge about the history and philosophy of nonviolent resistance to nuclear proliferation. It’s an important and worthy cause, and I am honored to have been afforded the opportunity to learn, grow, and contribute to the cause hand in hand with the diverse and dedicated community that is Ground Zero.

I look forward to getting to know many of you in the months ahead. Your comments and suggestions are welcome as I become acquainted with the rich traditions of Ground Zero’s resistance mission and work with you toward a nuclear-free future.

*Elizabeth Murray was one of those cited at the Hiroshima/Nagasaki action (see article on preceding page). She became Member-in-Residence in August, following the term served in that role by Connie Mears.*



# Make NO to NEW TRIDENT an Issue in November

By Leonard Eiger

A key issue in September's referendum on Scottish independence was whether or not the Scots would allow the United Kingdom to continue basing its Trident nuclear weapons system in an independent Scotland. The referendum failed by a narrow margin, and the Trident debate continues.

As Kate Hudson of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament (CND) stated it, "Trident may not be getting kicked out of a newly independent Scotland, but the British people want it heading for the scrap heap regardless. The Scottish independence referendum has simply fueled the debate over Trident replacement – and a majority on both sides of the vote simply want rid of it. The onus is on the Conservatives, Lib Dems and Labour, to justify spending more than £100 billion on a strategically redundant weapons system, which does nothing to combat the real threats facing the UK."

Meanwhile, in the former colonies (aka: the United States), Trident continues to run silent and deep. The silence

is primarily the corporate media not asking the serious questions about whether or not to replace an archaic, Cold War nuclear weapons system at a cost now estimated at as much as \$113 billion (just to build). The depth refers to just how far those who push this program are willing to dig down into taxpayers' wallets in a time of austerity; a time when critical needs are unmet while "defense" contractors are poised to reap huge financial rewards for building New Trident.

New Trident (both in the US and UK) will only serve to increase global proliferation of nuclear weapons while increasing the risk of nuclear war. At a time of austerity, building a new generation of ballistic missile submarines is a flagrant waste of taxpayer dollars. It is

also in clear violation of international humanitarian law, as well as article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of



The people of Scotland will continue to work to oust Britain's nukes. Photo courtesy of Trident Ploughshares.

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**NO to NEW TRIDENT... continued on page 11**

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## Trident Struggle Must Reach Beyond Political Allegiances

By Tom Rogers

"There are not enough liberals to save this country from nuclear war." — *Theo Brown, Nuclear Times, 1984*

The purpose of the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action is to provide a means for witnessing to and resisting all nuclear weapons, especially Trident. Nuclear weapons are the single most destructive force on earth. They are shockingly expensive to maintain, deploy, and upgrade. No nation can afford to maintain an arsenal that "can never be used".

This is not just a liberal issue; it is a humanitarian issue of vital importance to people of all walks of life. To be effective Ground Zero must reach out to moderates, conservatives, and those with no political affiliations. We must not allow ourselves to be sidetracked from proclaiming the urgency and uniqueness of the nuclear threat. The more issues we add to our central purpose, the more obstacles we create for the involvement of people who are new to the issue of nuclear weapons. Ground Zero needs to be approachable from all points on the political spectrum.

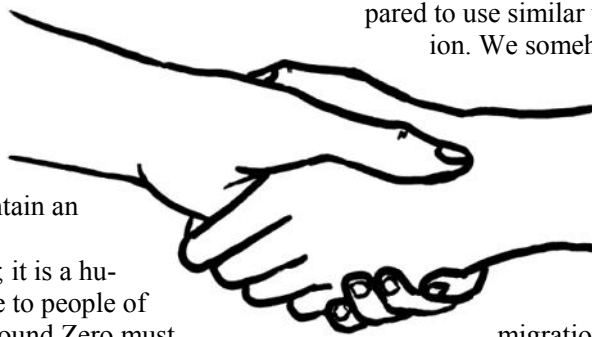
We in Ground Zero have arrived here from many sets of experiences. While Ground Zero's founders were blocking the White Train transporting nuclear warheads to the Bangor Submarine Base, I was a young naval officer on a ballistic missile submarine in the North Atlantic fully prepared to use similar warheads to annihilate the Soviet Union. We somehow survived that insanity.

The future of our struggle depends on attracting the next generation of activists, good people who fear the consequences of continued reliance on nuclear weapons. There are hundreds of issues people are involved in: climate change, education, health care, immigration, gun control, distribution of wealth, the Middle East conflicts... or keeping a job and raising a family. Don't confuse the issue. To be successful Ground Zero must continue to focus on the single purpose that brings us together, the abolition of nuclear weapons.

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*Tom Rogers is a former submarine commander who now serves on the Ground Zero Stewardship Council. He lives in Poulsbo.*

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# Resisters Speak With Eloquence and Passion in Court

By Leonard Eiger, based on notes compiled by Mary Gleysteen

Resisters to the Trident nuclear weapons system were in Kitsap County District Court on July 25. Ed Digelio, Dr. Dave Hall, Norm Keegel, Tom Rogers, Michael Siptroth and Chris Warmedahl appeared before Judge Marilyn Paja for mitigation hearings.

The resisters were charged with “Pedestrian in the roadway unlawfully” for their participation in a nonviolent direct action at the Sub-Base Bangor main gate on May 10. According to the State Patrol officer’s statement, the six resisters ignored a lawful order and walked into traffic, remaining there until removed.

Judge Paja allowed each defendant to present a statement to the court. Mary Gleysteen, who witnessed the court proceedings, said that the defendants all “spoke eloquently and with a passion for peace.”

Dr. Dave Hall said that Bangor has possibly the most lethal collection of weapons on the planet – seven to 30 times the destructive power of the bomb used on Hiroshima. He presented a slide show, explaining that elimination of nuclear weapons will be Rotary International’s next project after eradication of polio. Hall emphasized the climate change effects of a “limited” nuclear exchange between India and Pakistan leading to the starvation of two billion people. He told of how he is working to stop the rebuilding of Trident system, and is lobbying Congress to stop the morally reprehensible refueling of the arms race and waste of trillions of dollars, amounting to welfare for arms dealers. Judge Paja said that she respects “the laudable work you and your colleagues are doing. It’s my job to enforce the rules of the roadway.” Hall’s fine was reduced to \$25.

Ed Digelio explained that Trident is in violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Convention, and treaties that are applicable to the court under Article 6 of the Constitution. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty is meaningless unless signatories disarm. It is our duty as citizens to point out unlawful actions of our government. The judge recognized Digelio’s obligation to engage in lawful protest. She reduced his fine to \$25.

Norm Keegel said they defendants were part of a tea party held at the gates of Bangor. The resisters were arrested when they carried tea and cookies to the officers. The judge, looking slightly incredulous said, “You were arrested for offering tea and cookies?” She checked the record and noted that the defendant ignored a lawful order to leave the roadway. She commended Keegel’s right and obligation to protest, and reduced his fine to \$25.

Tom Rogers said that his arrest was pursuant to protesting continued deployment of nuclear weapons. He explained that he is familiar with submarines armed with nuclear weapons after over 30 years in the Navy, and as a commander of nuclear submarines: “International law is an amorphous assortment of treaties and opinions, not a book

sitting on a shelf. In 1995 the UN Security Council asked the International Court of Justice at the Hague for an opinion on nuclear weapons. The court ruled that the use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is contrary to international law. The problem is enforcement of international law. It is rendered moot by lack of enforcement. As an ordinary citizen it is my duty to point out violations of international law. To do nothing is to be complicit. Most people, including my children and neighbors are complacent. I hope to educate them. Then if they do nothing they become complicit.”

Rogers explained that the Nuremberg Principles oblige citizens to speak up when their government violates international law. Reasonable nonviolent protest is protected under the Nuremberg principles. He then urged the judge to uphold international law and waive the fine.

Judge Paja said, “I applaud the very important work you do. My job is to enforce the law of the roadways.” Fine reduced to \$25.

Michael Siptroth told the judge, “In Dave Hall’s slide show we have seen the graphic effects of a nuclear exchange. I share with many shock at Gaza and the violence and destruction there. Nuclear war would magnify that beyond belief. How will we live with that? I wrote to the President and got a letter back saying that nuclear weapons are one of the world’s greatest threats. I helped to organize this Mother’s Day action and others. During the Nuremberg trials lawyers and commanders were put on trial. The defense of ‘I was just doing my duty’ was insufficient and does not excuse complicity in illegal acts. You have an obligation to disobey your government when it acts illegally. I am a war tax resister for this reason. It is time to end nuclear weapons. I ask you to uphold international law as a jurist.”

Judge Paja said that “I acknowledge your obligation. The tension arises when it violates state law.” Siptroth’s fine was reduced to \$25.

Chris Warmedahl stated that “My purpose in action was to bring attention to the nuclear weapons arsenal at Bangor. I believe global peace is possible and that the work to accomplish it begins at home where it seems that nuclear weapons are at the core of our foreign policy. I want to leave my children and all children a world without nuclear weapons.”

Judge Paja again recognized Warmedahl’s passion, yet once again chose to keep established legal precedents regarding nuclear weapons and broader international legal decisions out of her county courtroom. Resisters will likely keep filling this same courtroom until a judge recognizes that these resistance actions should be protected by this very court based on important legal precedents including the Nuremberg Principles.

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**Leonard Eiger and Mary Gleysteen** serve on the Stewardship Council. See [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org) for notices about the next court hearings.

# A Life of Gentle Leadership

By Christy Greenwald

*We recently celebrated the life of our dear friend and fellow resister, Lynne Greenwald. Lynne was born August 3, 1949 and died August 5, 2014. Thirty-one years ago Lynne and husband George moved to Washington, and there began a new and rich chapter in her life's journey. In this reflection Lynne's daughter, Christy, who grew up during this time period, places it in a beautiful perspective for us.*

Although I did not understand all of her decisions as my mother made them, I see them more clearly now. She had more intention and consciousness than I ever realized. It's as if her passing allowed me to pull back the curtain. Behind it, I see a wonder I can't explain – an amazing world inside her, the paths weaving together intricately in a way that may or may not have been planned from the beginning.

Lynne not only stood up for what she believed was right, but lived it every step of her journey through life. She did not preach indiscriminately, but discerned with patience and empathy how to communicate with everyone. She listened. Most crucially of all, she loved. The voice projecting from her throat was not particularly loud, but her actions – and purposeful lack thereof at times – rang out brilliantly.

During the time I had her in my life, her messages were clearer to me than anyone's I'd ever known, because she did not waiver in her convictions or attitude. Growing up in her home, my boundaries were clear and her reasoning understood. No message was diluted.

The most prominent message I received from her rang true for me since I can remember learning from her. The message was this: I choose. We all choose, with every decision. Choosing not to act is still a choice, and we are responsible for every decision. She taught me to eat a balanced and full diet, to respect all living things, to give chances, to protect myself, to play, to follow my passions, and to encourage others to do all these things, too. Underneath all of it, I knew that I was making a choice to do or not to do something with or against these ideals.

She showed me the importance of community. She and my father participated in community living because of a need for support and desire to give back for that support, to have a mutual exchange. My siblings and I entered the picture when she knew the importance of community and want-

ed that life for us. She had a new motivation to lead by example, to live as she believed was natural and good. I imagine each act in a community of giving and receiving to be represented by colored threads being added one by one, into a constantly woven rope. Each thread is an act of love, making up the rope, or community. The rope is made up of many threads, beautifully and diversely colored, strong, and as unique as the many giving-and-receiving acts of love.



**Lynne** photographed prior to a federal trial in 2010. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

Her love for my siblings and me is something I always knew and felt, but I understand it better now, more like how she felt it all the time we were alive together. She chose poverty in her adult life, while still giving all three of her children everything we needed, and more. She worked beyond overtime to make sure we had access to any education we were serious about giving our all to. I had much more than I needed because I did not take for granted the things she gave me. I took private lessons for flute, piano, or voice from fifth grade through high school, played on sports teams, and went to camp and on field trips.

I always wondered how she provided all that and so much more for us our entire childhoods, as just one person. She obtained the finances to make everything possible because she had an intention for every dollar. She planned ahead and met her goals. In those times, she was furthest from the community. She had getaways with coworkers and always found her small group of friends, but mainly she was dedicating herself to her children at that time. It's no surprise to me that she went back to her community of resistance after we were grown. I think she longed for her home in others, in a community that shared her passion for truth and justice. She gave her life to others, always. That life is not everyone's calling, but it was hers, and she knew it. What she wanted for the world as a whole overtook any desires she may have had for only herself.

I am eternally grateful that she was a part of the most recent Plowshares action at Bangor. That action allowed her to continue and punctuate her lifelong path of working in her community, and to strengthen the antinuclear message across the nation, and beyond. I'm not sure if she considered herself a leader. I don't think she did most of the time, but what she did was so incredibly brave. She was humbled by the gift she had, to be able and willing to use her body to say something loudly, without using her voice. Her work embodied the idea that actions speak louder than words, and her actions were very loud that day.

**A Life of Gentle Leadership... continued on page 10**

*"She longed for her home in others, in a community that shared her passion for truth and justice."*

# More Than Resistance

By Lynne Greenwald

*Lynne Greenwald wrote a number of reflections for the Ground Zero Newsletter in the 1980s. This article was originally published in the Ground Zero Newsletter of Summer, 1988. Lynne used her legal name, Linda Greenwald. At that time Lynne and her family maintained a Catholic Worker Hospitality House, Emmanuel House, which offered support to low-income neighbors and people with AIDS.*

Nearly five years ago George and I moved to Kitsap County to join the Ground Zero Community. Christy, our first child, was only three months old and the desire to be part of a nonviolent community became stronger with the responsibility of parenting.

Shortly after moving to Kitsap County Christy was baptized. It was a simple, yet rather unusual, ceremony in the small house beside a fence which surrounds the Trident submarine base. The room was filled with community members and several Japanese Buddhist monks. The baptism was an opportunity for George and me to admit that we needed help in raising Christy in an environment in which love and truth were essential elements. We committed ourselves to working for peace and justice in whatever ways we could. Alissa's and Noah's baptisms were subsequent opportunities to renew this vow.

Now I look at the faces of our three young children and am touched by the love I feel for them. It is a love which defies definition or comprehension. It is also a love touched with the joy and hope all children bring when they become part of our lives. Noah's recent baptism was an occasion to share with a wider community of friends from Kitsap County. Flowers, seashells and candles decorated the room and altar. A brightly colored crucifix from Nicaragua was placed upon an altar covered with a silk cloth from a Japanese Buddhist temple. Song and stories were woven through the short ceremony, and the celebration was completed with a wonderful potluck meal.

Community has been an unexpected gift. More than providing support for an alternative life style (one of voluntary poverty and resistance), and more than sharing in the common work of a Trident campaign, community has offered an opportunity for journeying with others in an exploration of nonviolence. It has meant risks of a personal nature, of becoming vulnerable to others, as we struggle to face the violence within ourselves. Only as we face our dark or shadow side, do we begin to understand and accept who we really are. This embracing of the good and evil is at the foundation of the nonviolent experiment in the Trident cam-

paign. It is a step taken with a firm belief that good does triumph over evil.

My journey towards community has been a slow, difficult process. It began 20 years ago when a small group of people burned draft records in Catonsville, Maryland. This act of civil disobedience (or Divine obedience as Daniel Berrigan calls such an action) began to shatter the wall which surrounded my naive world. As a nursing student in Baltimore I was initially repulsed by this action of the Catonsville Nine; yet at the same time I was intrigued. What did this mean? Why did they do it?

Several years later I stood in the central concourse of the Pentagon witnessing another act of civil disobedience by two men, Paul Hood and Jack Egan. It was a simple action on Holy Thursday - pouring ashes on the floor at the foot of a large cross. The action was a culmination of vigils, leafletting and conversations. I was literally brought to tears with the words coming from deep within me, "This is truth. This is what I must do." I knew from that moment that I must show with my life that weapons and war are wrong.

Intuitively I knew that I would need to change my lifestyle. Suddenly nearly everything I believed in was measured and weighed in terms of peace and justice. It was not enough to protest weapons or war; the deeper issues involved seeking the root causes of injustice and violence. A

world without violence is a world in which every person has access to food, shelter, health care and education. A just society is one in which no individual suffers because of race, religion, sex, age or sexual preference. Each difference would be seen as a unique gift to be accepted and celebrated by the entire community.

The words of Jesus, Gandhi and Martin Luther King, Jr. reached me in new and profound ways. The

writings of Thomas Merton and Dorothy Day were introduced to me and helped to lead me into a new life. It is a life that is more than resistance; it is one filled with community, with love and hope.

Community has become more than my family and the people who share the work of the Trident campaign. It is a community which includes the poor, those who suffer as a result of a system built upon injustice and violence. My guides have been the poor - people whose names are known by few. George Whitehead, poor, black and a prisoner on a Maryland work farm, opened up his world to me as he shared his life experiences. He greeted the seriousness of an upcoming surgery for a brain tumor with a shrug and a



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# The message of Peace Pagodas

By Mira Leslie

One of the primary activities of the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order is to build peace pagodas. They have built more than 80 peace pagodas internationally in Japan, Korea, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Australia, Germany, Austria, Italy, and the U.S. (including New York, Massachusetts, and one in process in Tennessee). Similar to the stupa (Gendai Hoto) at Ground Zero, peace pagodas do not have indoor space – all activities take place outside and around it.

Peace pagodas are symbolic monuments reflecting the connection and wisdom of all people and other living beings to create a sustainable nonviolent world. A pagoda is more like a totem pole or a light house than a church or temple. It is built with donated labor and funds. Peace pagodas represent the spiritual dimension of humanity and its resilience and



capacity to overcome and mass destruction. There is a deep connection with Japanese experience with violence of nuclear weapons.

The local monks, Senji Kanaeda Shonin and Gilberto Perez Shonin, have been working with architects to design a pagoda that will be built in Western Washington state. The next step is to determine the location, and this has sparked discussion with Ground Zero. At this point there is deep reflection about the known and potential obstacles, challenges and benefits of building a pagoda at Ground Zero or in another location such as Bainbridge Island.

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*Mira Leslie is a Ground Zero member. She completed the two-week Interfaith Peace Walk this summer, spreading the message of nuclear abolition. The photo of the peace pagoda is courtesy of [www.graftonpeacepagoda.org](http://www.graftonpeacepagoda.org).*

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## Relationship Between Nipponzan Myohoji and Ground Zero Spans More Than Three Decades

By Glen Milner

At Ground Zero we are often reminded of our connections with one another. Many from other parts of the world have visited here in the past 35 years. All with the same dream of peace. We are also reminded of other connections, while on the other side of the chain link fence, is the end of the world. We can be accepting of those across that fence, but we can never accept what they do.

We know as well that the peace movement is endless--transcending generations, race and gender. By working for peace we become a part of all that has gone before – and all that ever will. We are not alone.

1982 was a time of great hope at Ground Zero. The process had begun for a nationwide resistance to train shipments of Trident missile components into the Bangor base. The boat blockade of the USS Ohio in Hood Canal inspired many in the Puget Sound region and around the world. And the Nipponzan Myohoji monks at Ground Zero were building the Peace Pagoda.

When Nichidatsu Fujii Guruji (the founder of the Nipponzan Myohoji order) first came to Ground Zero in the fall of 1980, he proposed that a Peace Pagoda be built here. Guruji said it would commemorate and support people being jailed for peace. In 1982, the Pagoda had begun, only to be met with legal challenges in the permitting process and in the courts. On May 28, 1982, the geodesic dome at



Ground Zero, containing a statue of the Buddha and a crucifix, was burned to the ground. The construction of the pagoda was stopped, but the dream never died.

1982 was also a significant year for our nation. The U.S. had entered an intensive period of the nuclear arms race with the Soviet Union, as well as involvement in numerous military expeditions around the globe. The Trident submarine base at Bangor was made operational with the first Trident submarine. The U.S. was gearing up for a nuclear first strike capability.

Years later we see what we have done. The logic of Trident has prevailed for over 30 years. With eight Trident submarines and replacement submarines in the works, even with the collapse of the Soviet Union, we proceed with more plans for war. Our endless planning for war has brought us just that – a time of endless war. Time reveals to all the truth, and that time has come.

Ground Zero has been a good neighbor in Kitsap County. We have tried to be respectful of others living and working at one of the largest U.S. naval concentrations in the world. Even knowing that Trident is the end of the world, we have not resorted to threats or vandalism. We have accepted the consequences of our actions, however they appear to the larger community.

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## Peace Fleet 2014—this year rejoined by the Navy

By Glen Milner

Ten Peace Fleet sailors in five boats sailed into Elliott Bay to meet the Navy on July 30. They were Mira Leslie, Sigrid Salo, and Rodney Brunelle in three kayaks; Dirk Gleysteen, Mary Gleysteen, Sallie Shawl, and Leland Gleysteen in a sailboat; and Barbara Hill, Michael Hill and Glen Milner in a 16-foot skiff.

Peace sailors were able to stay 100 yards out in Elliott Bay as the Navy fleet arrived. The Coast Guard again enforced its 100-yard no-protest zone in the area directly in front of Pier 66, where Seafair and Navy officials held their own private event on the rooftop of Pier 66.

Ground Zero members on Pier 62/63 were joined with Lake Forest Park for Peace and Veterans for Peace members. Lisa Marcus carried a sign, *War is Insane*. Tom Krebsbach handed out a leaflet that said in part:

*To glorify these war machines only makes their use more likely. That is why we are here today—for ourselves, and to represent all the peace-loving people of Seattle and the Puget Sound region. We cannot afford war. War makes every dispute much worse. The planet cannot afford war anymore. The suffering caused and the environmental consequences are too great.*

The U.S. Navy fleet returned after missing Seafair last year due to military budget cuts resulting from the Budget Control Act of 2011, also known as sequestration. This year the Navy brought the amphibious assault ship USS Essex, guided-missile cruiser USS Chancellorsville, and guided-missile destroyer USS Howard 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.

This marked the 13<sup>th</sup> year for the Peace Fleet demonstration. The next scheduled date for the Peace Fleet is Wednesday, July 29, 2015.

**Glen Milner** and his wife Karol live in Lake Forest Park.

## Many Thanks For Our Sign Makers Around the World

By Glen Milner and Michael Siptroth

Rodney Brunelle has set up and maintained the 44-foot Ground Zero inflatable missile for years, as well as creating many signs seen

throughout the Pacific Northwest. His creative and very visual messages are sometimes the most noticed image at an event.

At left is a sign Rodney made a number of years ago, displayed in numerous Peace Fleet demonstrations and at weekly vigils with Lake Forest Park for Peace. The photo was taken by Sallie Shawl on July 30, 2014. Below, a like-



minded message appears on a crane on June 28 during a World War I Commemoration Ceremony on Armed Forces Day. Four women of the White Feather Collective displayed their *RESIST MILITARISM* sign in downtown Glasgow, Scotland. Thanks to Jack Cohen-Joppa and the Nuclear Resister for their report on the White Feather Collective.

A sign of a different sort — the 44 foot-long Trident inflatable missile— was used effectively at the Sept. 21 Climate Change Rally and March in Seattle. The rally was well attended with a diverse crowd. Mona Lee organized Ground Zero's participation and, together with other volunteers, passed out 400 flyers which made the connection between militarism and global warming. Rodney brought the Trident missile, and there were enough volunteers from the crowd to hoist it along the parade route from Westlake Plaza to the waterfront.

Michael Siptroth spoke with many at the event, including a Japanese student attending the University of Washington and his American host family. The student was impressed that Americans would be protesting nuclear weapons.

The march was an excellent opportunity to broaden our outreach to new people and ally ourselves to common causes. We informed hundreds and may have influenced a few to join our efforts!



**Glen Milner and Michael Siptroth** serve on the Stewardship Council.

A banner she helped make in Missoula in the 1980's said, "Silence is Betrayal..." (referring to Missoula residents who didn't know that trains carried nuclear weapons through town). This statement holds truth about withholding information and about not speaking out publicly as well as personally, by not allowing oneself honest thoughts. Betrayal of self also leads to darkness. She spent decades becoming more vulnerable to others and facing her own darkness. I don't think most people really go there inside themselves, but she did. She did this in order to get to a place where she could commit meaningful acts of nonviolence, with a clear conscience and a heart full of intention.

Her early convictions born from witnessing civil disobedience led to complete intention in her actions decades later. The peacefulness she had in her after an action in turn reaffirmed her conviction. She naturally operated self-sustainably; by acting on her convictions and standing firm for love and against harm to living things, she propelled herself forward, strengthening her own convictions. She gained confidence by continually seeking truths about the roots of violence and injustice. Her awareness of the community support and love she needed and received helped guide her.

She was a leader for her children, and for anyone else who chose to work with her or follow her when she was alive, and for those who choose to follow her ways now. She will keep teaching, from the memories and ideas she left with us. In her 65 years, she did incredible good to people who were aware in the past, to those who are aware now, and to many more in the future who will know peace and love because of her.

I mourn the loss of her, every part of her, and will as long as I live. The inspiration she has initiated in me will help guide and drive me to live my dreams, for the good of myself and those around me. I'll be reaching as many people as I can. It takes a village to do anything in the big picture. Let us celebrate her as we continue, seamlessly, her work (our work) to send out clear and honest messages, stand firm on the ground we consciously build, and lovingly guide others toward our ground, so we meet and see eye to eye. Disagreements will not take us down, but rather give us new perspectives. When we do this, peace can prevail.

I pledge my life, to honest truth;  
In all choices I face;  
From the thoughts in my head,  
To the actions of my body;  
One being, on Earth,  
Capable and willing to work,  
For a sustainable, healthy world,  
With peace and justice for all.

*Amen.*

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**Christy Greenwald** is Lynne's oldest daughter. Lynne is also survived by daughter Alissa and son Noah, two grandchildren, and her community.

laugh. He showed me the power of hope and human dignity in the face of danger. George taught me that even death could not triumph over the joy of life.

My mind is flooded with the faces of people who have touched my life over the past few years, men who have lived on the streets, traveling from town to town. Men like Floyd Levitt, a Sioux Indian from South Dakota, and Ed Chapman, a Vietnam veteran. Both were quiet, gentle people who had sudden, violent deaths. They taught me about a life of existing on day labor jobs and soup line meals. Their deaths continue to be painful memories which remind me how racism and unhealed psychic wounds can destroy the spirit of a person as effectively as a gun destroys a life.

I think of the families who have been my neighbors here in the Projects, especially the children and the elderly. I recall the gifts each have given so freely, the shared experiences of pain and suffering as well as joy. Our neighbors have shared their most sacred and intimate moments of birth and of death. I remember welcoming Nicole into this world, and praying at Van's bedside as he passed into another life. I cherish the hugs and smiles, the gifts of flowers and food, and the opportunities to visit and talk, to share dreams.

Living in a community exploring nonviolence means more than resisting a violent system such as Trident. It means to openly proclaim that all life is sacred and wonderful. It means expressing hope through baptisms and birthday celebrations and by planting gardens on the land beside the Trident base.

A phrase which frequently runs through my mind is, "Resisting Trident is a song, a dance, an act of love." Along with the words I see the image of a person moving from a closed position to one of open arms, embracing all life. It is an image which, filled with love, overcomes all obstacles.

Several years ago I visited the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. to see an exhibit of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist art. The strength and beauty of the paintings nearly overwhelmed me. I became aware of the artists' ability to allow themselves to become vehicles for expressing the beauty and power of life. I believe it is possible for people searching for peace and justice to create new masterpieces, pure works of art, with our lives, by allowing the power of God to work through us. This is the power of *agape* which Martin Luther King, Jr. defined as "the love of God operating in the human heart."

Living in a community which embraces love in the search for truth and justice enables us to transcend the barriers which exist between individuals and between societies. It is the power of such a community which will overcome the evil of Trident.

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**Lynne Greenwald** wrote this reflection in 1988 for the *Ground Zero* newsletter. The newsletters from that decade are not digitized; many thanks to Leonard Eiger for carefully transcribing Lynne's words.

Nuclear Weapons (NPT). New Trident has been essentially rubber stamped with no discussion and debate regarding the rationale for its continued existence in a post-Cold War world.

Here in the US it's nearly election time, and in Washington State a number of our representatives are running for reelection. Ground Zero's NO To NEW TRIDENT campaign urges you to contact those running for election in your state in both the Senate and the House of Representatives, and ask for their position on New Trident, also known as the OHIO Class Replacement Program or SSBN(X).

You can learn more about New Trident and find talking points at our [www.notnt.org](http://www.notnt.org). It's time to put the pressure on our elected officials in D.C. to start paving the way to a nuclear weapons free world, and Trident is an important starting point. No more silence! Let's make some noise and make Trident an issue in this election!

We at NO To NEW TRIDENT are grateful to the Jane Addams Peace Association and the Nuclear Age Peace Foundation for their support of our campaign. You, too, can support NO To NEW TRIDENT by staying on top of the issue and sharing our work with others. Check out our website and like us on Facebook.

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**Leonard Eiger** *co-chairs the Communication Committee for the Stewardship Council.*

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Some might feel we are too few, too small, or too tired to undertake such an endeavor. Our unspoken fear is that we are perpetually on the verge of collapse, of burnout. It is for this reason we need to go ahead, as we always have. Indeed, it is to stay alive as an organization that we need to act.

In reality, we are not asked to build the Pagoda. We are not asked anything. But we should ask ourselves whether the Pagoda belongs at Ground Zero.

If the Pagoda is built, some might ask, will we become complacent? Will Ground Zero become just another tourist stop, another distraction in the way of real peace? No, not as long as the end of the world is across the fence.

Guruji wanted to build the first Peace Pagoda at Ground Zero because people were being arrested for peace. As long as the submarine base is here, people will continue to be arrested.

Most would likely agree that we cannot "own" the property of Ground Zero. We are stewards of the Ground Zero property, but we are not the owners. It is not for sale and there is no monetary value attached to it. We are here as stewards because of the sacrifices others have made before us, and for the sacrifices that will continue to be made for peace.

The Nipponzan Myohoji monks do not ask for any contract, or statement regarding the Peace Pagoda. That would imply ownership – it simply exists. The land is not ours and is only for the purpose of peace, as with the Gendai Hoto. And perhaps with the Peace Pagoda.

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**Glen Milner** *serves on the Stewardship Council and leads legal efforts on behalf of Ground Zero.*

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## ***Atomic Cover-Up: Two U.S. Soldiers, Hiroshima & Nagasaki, and The Greatest Movie Never Made***

Book Review by Bernie Meyer

If you want a full picture of what happened when the Atom Bomb was dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, you can't get it... yet. That's the message of the 2011 book, *Atomic Cover-Up*.

U.S. soldiers Herbert Sussan and Daniel A. McGovern produced the only colored film soon after the bombing. Their highly detailed, personal stories are woven through *Atomic Cover-Up* along with the author's, Greg Mitchell. What they saw and experienced changed their lives.

For me it rings utterly true. I saw the news in the movie theater at the age of eight in 1945. The physical devastation was clear and total. But there were no humans shown, not even a sign of human bodies. Human suffering, human survival, even human deaths were not shown in the reports by the newsreels. The U.S. government prohibited the public use of the films and kept them secret until the 1980s, although clips were used in military training.

Throughout the book the story of Sumiteru Taniguchi is used to elaborate the experience and the meaning of the *hibakusha*. Taniguchi was filmed in the hospital in 1946 and

survived to live long after the bombing, to Mitchell's amazement. He became an activist opposed to nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

The film was classified secret because it revealed the human suffering from the effects of the bombing. In sharp contrast to the bombed buildings and structural destruction shown to the public, naked people with skin hanging and red bodies would have had a much more profound effect. Had those films been shown after the war in a timely and authentic way, the history of the development of nuclear weapons and nuclear power would have been much different, according to Mitchell. I am not so sure, but surely the public would have been profoundly affected.

The book discusses the "unknown sickness" affecting the victims and later the understanding that nuclear radiation caused the sickness. This is a valuable book for anyone seeking to understand how the U.S. tried to hide the misery, sickness and death caused by nuclear bombs.

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**Bernie Meyer** *lives in Olympia and brings Gandhi's message alive through his portrayal of the Mahatma in the U.S. and around the world.*

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# GROUND ZERO

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*“Resisting Trident is a song, a  
dance, an act of love.”*

*— Lynne Greenwald*

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## Your Voice is Needed at the Annual Meeting on November 8

By Glen Milner

The annual Ground Zero Community 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.

It will be on Saturday, November 8, beginning with a potluck at noon at the Ground Zero center. The meeting will begin promptly at 1:00pm and last until approximately 5:00pm.

The annual membership meeting was established in November 2002. 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, communications, house and grounds, 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, Tacoma and at Ground Zero. The 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 in part, “*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.*”

Ground Zero Center 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 your ideas for a peaceful and larger world community and to continue our resistance to the Trident nuclear weapons system.



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**Glen Milner** serves on the Stewardship Council. For updates on the legal efforts he is leading against the Second Explosives Handling Wharf, see [www.gzcenter.org](http://www.gzcenter.org), or better yet—join us at the Annual Meeting!