

Ground Zero

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What's on that bus?!

Getting the message out through public transit



By Rodney Brunelle, Glen Milner, and Leonard Eiger

Fourteen King County Metro Transit buses are currently displaying the following controversial paid advertisement: “20 Miles West of Seattle is the Largest Concentration of Deployed Nuclear Weapons in the US.” Included in the advertisement is a map showing the proximity of Seattle to Naval Base Kitsap Bangor, home port for eight of the Navy’s 14 Trident nuclear powered ballistic missile submarines.

King County Metro was initially hesitant to run the ad, and questioned the accuracy of the number of nuclear weapons at Bangor. Ground Zero contacted Hans Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists, who provided corroboration of its statement. Kristensen provides the public and government agencies with analysis and background information about the status of nuclear forces worldwide and the geopolitical implications of nuclear weapons.

The bus ads are an effort to reawaken public awareness of the dangers of nuclear weapons.

On March 11, 2016, the 10th bi-annual Nuclear Deterrent Symposium was held in Silverdale to discuss the

future of US strategic forces. Rear Adm. Charles Richard criticized opposition to the Navy’s \$100 billion plan for 12 new replacement SSBN submarines, proclaiming, “It’s a matter of priorities.” The new SSBNs would replace the submarines at Bangor. Richards noted that the USS Ohio arrived at Bangor in 1982 to much protest, and stated, “We have taken [nuclear weapons] out of the national psyche.”

Ground Zero member Rodney Brunelle said of the bus ad campaign, “We hope to generate a measure of citizen interest, and to begin a public discussion of nuclear weapons in the Puget Sound region. In this election year the danger of nuclear weapons ought to be a topic of discussion.”

The US is currently spending more on nuclear weapons programs than during the height of the Cold War, and plans to spend an estimated \$1 trillion dollars over 30 years to rebuild the nation’s nuclear facilities and modernize nuclear weapons. The Trident Fleet is, by far, the largest part of the US nuclear triad – submarines, land-based missiles, and bombers – that the government refers to as its “strategic nuclear deterrent.”

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The US Navy's current planning for a new fleet of ballistic missile submarines, costing nearly \$100 billion to build, is among the many projects reviving a Cold War-era

and how much. There has been no debate about the relevancy of strategic nuclear deterrence. There has been no mention of how New Trident will accelerate a new and possibly



more dangerous nuclear arms race and increase the risk of nuclear war.

New Trident, known in Navy terms as the SSBN (X), is planned to have a service life of

arms race and unsettling the balance of power among nations. It has been estimated that by the time the new generation of ballistic missile submarines is put into service, New Trident will represent 70 percent of US deployed nuclear warheads.

At no time in the Navy's planning for New Trident has there been any discussion about whether or not it should be built; instead it has been about how many, and how soon,

42 years. Based on the extension of the service life of the current Trident fleet this could go well over 50 years. The question we need to ask, and bring into a larger public discourse, is "Can humanity afford another half century of Trident?"

Rodney Brunelle, Glen Milner, and Leonard Eiger collaborated on this article. Each serves on the Stewardship Council. **Mira Leslie** took the photo on the front page.

Bangor Eight Present Passionate Testimony in Federal Trial *Defendants limited by Judge's rulings*

By Leonard Eiger

On April 1, eight peace activists stood trial in US District Court on charges of trespassing onto a US nuclear weapons base.

On August 10, 2015 the activists crossed the blue line onto Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. Some staged a die-in, spreading ashes around others' bodies on the asphalt, while two members of the group attempted to deliver a letter to the base commander urging him to uphold international law regarding nuclear weapons. All were charged with trespassing onto a closed military installation and released on the same day; they were arraigned in November 2015.

The defendants were Mary Gleysteen of Kingston; Anne Hall of Lopez Island; Ann Kittredge of Quilcene; Betsy Lamb of Bend, OR; Peggy Love of East Wenatchee; Emilie Marlinghaus, of Bend; Elizabeth Murray, of Poulsbo; and Michael Siptroth of Belfair.

The Honorable David W. Christel presided over the trial in Tacoma. Attorney Ken Kagan, who has represented nuclear resisters for many years, assisted the defendants.

Kagan represented five of the defendants, while Lamb, Murray and Siptroth acted in their own defense.

Judge Christel accepted the government's motion to exclude a wide range of evidence that could be used in the defense including necessity defense, international law, in-force treaties, and policies of the US government regarding the use of nuclear weapons.

The prosecution opened, stating that there is a "thin blue line" marking the boundary of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. All protest and other forms of speech are allowed outside of the blue line. The defendants crossed the line, were ordered to leave, and did not comply. Therefore the



The Bangor Eight: from left to right, Anne Hall, Mary Gleysteen, Ann Kittredge, Michael Siptroth, Emilie Marlinghaus, Betsy Lamb, Peggy Love, Elizabeth Murray. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

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Mother's Day Action Remembers Father Daniel Berrigan

By Glen Milner

Thirty-five people were present on May 7 at the demonstration against Trident nuclear weapons at the Bangor submarine base. Five demonstrators attempted to block the main highway entrance into the base and three demonstrators were arrested.



Brother Gilberto Perez of the Bainbridge Island Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Temple is released by Navy security personnel after his arrest and processing. *Photo by Tom Rogers.*

At around 3:30pm on Mother's Day, three demonstrators entered the main highway and briefly blocked traffic on the federal side of the Main gate at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. The three demonstrators carried an illustration of Fr. Daniel Berrigan, revered anti-war and anti-nuclear weapons priest, with a statement by Fr. Berrigan, "*Know where you stand and stand there.*" The three also carried a colorful banner with symbols linking nuclear weapons and climate change.

Soon after the three were arrested, two demonstrators entered the highway on the County side of the main gate. Instead of arrests or citations, demonstrators were escorted from the highway by the State Patrol.

Those arrested by Naval Base security: Larry Kerschner of Centralia, Br. Gilberto Perez of Bainbridge Island, and Bernie Meyer of Olympia. The three were booked and released at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. They

received citations pursuant to 18 USC. § 1382, for trespass on a military installation.

At the demonstration on Saturday, members Elizabeth Murray, Bernie Meyer and others spoke of their relationships with Fr. Daniel Berrigan. Daniel Berrigan died on April 30, 2016, at the age of 94. Elizabeth Murray read:

We have assumed the name of peacemakers, but we have been, by and large, unwilling to pay any significant price. And because we want the peace with half a heart and half a life and will, the war, of course, continues, because the waging of war, by its nature, is total -- but the waging of peace, by our own cowardice, is partial... We are instructed that deprivation and discipline, private grief and public obedience are to be our lot. And we obey. And we bear with it -- because bear we must -- because war is war, and good war or bad, we are stuck with it and its cost.

From *No Bars to Manhood*, Fr. Daniel Berrigan, 1969.

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

Seattle's Annual Commemoration of Hiroshima/Nagasaki

From Hiroshima to Hope, Seattle's annual peace event honoring the victims of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and all victims of war and violence, takes place from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Saturday, August 6 at Greenlake. This year's event marks the 71st anniversary of the atomic bombings. The Seattle event is one of the largest commemorations held outside of Japan.

Pre-program activities begin at 6:00 p.m. and include lantern calligraphy and folding of peace cranes. A family program with music and speakers, featuring speaker Jamal Rahman, begins at 7 PM.

Peace Fleet Marks its 15th Year!

All invited to participate on August 3

By Glen Milner

Local activists will stage a water-based nonviolent protest against the glorification of weapons of war at the Seattle Seafair festival. Peace activists will meet the US Navy fleet in Elliott Bay on Wednesday, August 3, at noon.

This year the Peace Fleet will be joined with the original peace ship, the *Golden Rule*, that set sail in 1958 to the South Pacific to stop nuclear testing, and which inspired the many peace makers and peace ships that followed.

Other activists will meet on land on Pier 62/63 on the Seattle waterfront at the same time for a nonviolent demonstration against weapons of war.

For the 15th year, we will address the public display of warships and warplanes in our community. The *Golden Rule* will be open to the public in Bell Harbor Marina from August 3 through 6, while moored several hundred feet from Navy warships.

The Peace Fleet began on August 2, 2000 when Trident submarine USS Alabama, arrived in downtown Seattle for Seafair, complete with up to 192 nuclear warheads.

In 2011, Seafair and the Navy changed the public viewing area on the rooftop of Pier 66 into a private event. In previous years the public had been invited there to view the Parade of Ships. In past years, the number of peace activists including the singing group, the Raging Grannies, equaled the number of other rooftop observers.

2012 was the first year for the Coast Guard's perma-

nent rule for its no-protest zone, or so-called "safety zone," in Elliott Bay. The Coast Guard agreed with the ACLU that Peace Fleet boats should be able to remain in the area between the Coast Guard's 100-yard exclusionary zone from Navy vessels and the safety zone which extends 100 yards from Pier 66.

In 2013, the US Navy did not attend Seafair due to military budget cuts resulting from the Budget Control Act of 2011, also known as sequestration. The Department of Defense decided in 2013 to halt participation in community relations or outreach events that come at additional cost to the federal government. 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.

On May 18, 2016, on a vote of 277-147, the House of Representatives passed a \$610 defense billion budget for FY 2017. Of the 10 Washington State representatives, DelBene, Larsen, McDermott, and Smith voted against the defense bill.

On June 14, 2016, on a vote of 85-13, the Senate passed a \$602 billion National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2017. Both Senators Murray and Cantwell voted for the defense bill.

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



Many activities make this the "Summer of Resistance"

By Leonard Eiger

Summer 2016 began with Ground Zero's Tom Rogers at the helm of the *Golden Rule* as the historic boat made its way toward Washington's Puget Sound. The retired Navy Captain and former submarine commander has come full circle from nuclear subs to anti-nuclear sailboats. There will be many opportunities this summer to learn more about this historic vessel and its new mission. Check out the website www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org, or look for it on Facebook.

Ground Zero Member in Residence (and retired CIA analyst) Elizabeth Murray is currently in Russia with retired CIA officer Ray McGovern and many others. Retired U.S. Army Reserve Colonel and former U.S. diplomat Anne Wright, a member of the citizens' delegation, said they are "going to Russia to do what we can to continue bridges of peace with the Russian people, bridges that our governments

seem be having difficulty maintaining." Such a visit is of critical importance when relations are at a new low as the U.S. and NATO continue to engage Russia in a new Cold War in which one mistake could lead to nuclear war.

The rest of us here at home continue to work to educate the public about the dangers of not only the current Trident fleet, but also the planned OHIO Class Replacement Program that continues to move full speed ahead – yes, 12 new ballistic missile submarines for a paltry \$100 billion (and that's without the missiles) and an out-of-control nuclear ballistic missile submarine race. Humanity cannot afford the risks of another 70 years of Trident. You can stay current on this issue at our campaign website, www.notnt.org, and follow us on Facebook.

Leonard Eiger co-chairs the Communication Committee.

Two-Week Peace Walk to Join With Marshall Islanders

By Senji Kanaeda Shonin

All are welcome to join the 2016 Pacific Northwest Interfaith Peace Walk, *For a Nuclear-Free Future—In Respect for All Life*, beginning on Sunday, July 24 in Salem, Oregon and finishing Tuesday, August 9, 2016 at Ground Zero. You can walk for one or as many days as you wish. A support vehicle carries personal belongings, and meals and lodging are provided along the way. The walk is led by the monks of the Bainbridge Island Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Temple.

The Walk is co-sponsored by the Catholic Worker of Tacoma, Ground Zero, Lake Forest Park for Peace, Indian People Organizing for Change (California), the Interfaith Council of Bainbridge Island & Kitsap, Veterans For Peace, and Footprints for Peace (Ohio and Australia).

After 67 years, one of the victims of Nuclear Age, the Marshall Islanders, are speaking the truth to the public. Peace walkers have listened and gathered with Islanders since 2014 in Salem, Oregon where their biggest community exists in the US.



International Solidarity in Action. In 2015, Peace Walkers met with Marshall Islanders in Salem. *Photo courtesy of Senji Kanaeda Shonin.*

This year marks the 71st anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki WWII. To our regret, the world is still crying. Victims of wars and nuclear development can be found around the world. We may see a tear on Buddha and sense that Jesus weeps. We will walk with hope and pray for peace toward a nuclear free world. We have a duty to pass our next generation a safe, clean, peaceful future with a smile. We will face great challenges to survive on Mother Earth from the increased spread of radiation or as long as possibility of nuclear war exists. All life is born and sustained from the same source. We are one irrespective of nationality, race, gender, or age. We can strive to live peacefully and to love one another. Our annual Interfaith Peace Walk offers the opportunity to learn more about the wisdom from Buddha, Jesus and the spirits of our Ancestors.

Sunday, July 24: Gathering at Salem
Monday, July 25: Salem, Oregon
Tuesday, July 26: Portland

Commemorate the 71st Anniversary of Hiroshima/Nagasaki at Ground Zero

Ground Zero Center's weekend of events commemorating the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki takes place from August 7th through August 9th this year.



The weekend begins on the morning of Sunday, August 7th and will include a demonstration at one of the entrance gates to the Bangor Trident base on August 8th.

On August 9 Peace Fleet vessels, the Golden Rule, and other vessels will sail past the Trident submarine base in Hood Canal in a Boats by Bangor nonviolent demonstration.

More details and full schedule coming soon. Bring your camping gear and sunscreen and join us! Email your questions to info@gzcenter.org.

Wednesday, July 27:	Hood River, Oregon
Thursday, July 28:	Hanford/Richland
Friday, July 29:	Chehalis - Centralia
Saturday, July 30:	Olympia
Sunday, July 31:	Olympia – Lacey
Monday, August 1:	Tacoma, drive to Bainbridge Island
Tuesday, August 2:	Bainbridge Island (rest day)
Wednesday, August 3:	Seattle (walk and joining Peace Fleet)
Thursday, August 4:	Bainbridge Island – Suquamish
Friday, August 5:	Port Townsend
Saturday, August 6:	Seattle Lantern Ceremony
Sunday, August 7:	Walk to Ground Zero
Monday and Tuesday, August 8 and 9:	Ground Zero action and prayer

“Peace is not merely a distant goal we seek; it is a means by which we arrive at that goal. We must pursue peaceful ends through peaceful means”, said the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii, Founder of Nipponzan Myohoji, explained: “The religious basis of the nonviolent movement was laid as far back as 2,500 years ago, seen by Buddhism and Christianity.”

Senji Kanaeda Shonin serves on the Stewardship Council, and has led and participated in Peace Walks around the world. To join up with the walk, contact him at (206) 419-7262 or (206) 724-7632, or senji@nipponzan.net.

Pacific Life Community Highlights Harm Done to Marshall Islanders

An account of the action at the annual gathering

By Elizabeth Murray

[On Sunday, March 6th, as part of the Pacific Life Community's action in front of Vandenberg Air Force Base, a number of PLC'ers were arrested for "crossing the line" onto Vandenberg Air Force Base — the following is a brief account of the action written by Elizabeth Murray, who was among those arrested.]

We walked together, arm in arm, as one line toward the row of soldiers barring our entrance to Vandenberg Base. A few yards from the soldiers' lineup, we paused; Charlie, whom we had selected to be our representative, advanced alone right up to the troops to offer our letter to Col. J Christopher Moss, the Commander of the 30th Space Wing. Charlie asked several times for someone to come forward to receive our letter to the base commander, but our request was met by stone-still silence.



An appeal to a higher law. The arrestees approach a line of soldiers barring entrance to Vandenberg. *Photo by Felice Cohen-Joppa.*

Then, one of the officers announced that we had two minutes to disperse before being arrested. Attempting a little humor, I called out to the soldiers that we would give them two minutes to accept our letter to Col. Moss. Although our request continued to be met with silence, I could see expressions of mirth in the eyes of some of our young adversaries. The ice had been broken — at least a little bit.

As the security guards assembled behind us and began handcuffing us, we proceeded to read our letter to Col. Moss aloud, passing it along to the next activist down the line as our hands were drawn behind our backs to be cuffed. These were the words we read out to them:

Col. Moss:

We are members of the Pacific Life Community — a local network of spiritually-motivated advocates for ending nuclear weapons and other means of war-making through nonviolent direct action. Today we cross the line because we believe that actions inside Vandenberg Air Force Base have

crossed the line — the line of regard for our fellow human beings.

We refer to the regular launchings of Minuteman Inter-continental Ballistic Missiles from Vandenberg Air Base, which land on the occupied territory of the Marshall Islands. These ICBMs contribute to the further poisoning of the air, land and waters surrounding the Marshall Islands, whose people continue to suffer terribly from a legacy of US government nuclear testing on their formerly pristine paradise.

But far from honoring the longstanding debt owed to the Marshallese people as a result of decades of these nuclear tests, our government continues to squander US taxpayer dollars to carry out the ongoing destruction of the Marshall Islands, whose air, water and land continue to be poisoned from our ICBMs and other US military materiel.

Those tax dollars could be put to much better use here at home — to alleviate economic misery by creating jobs and boosting local infrastructure. Instead, our expensive military occupation of the Marshall Islands has forced these innocent people away from their homes and consigned them to lives of misery and squalor.

Moreover, the firing of ICBMs by the United States may be considered as a provocation during this time of simmering tensions in the Asia-Pacific region — we are thinking specifically of North Korea. Far from making the American people safer, these missile firings may draw us closer to a nuclear conflagration.

We appeal to you to follow a higher law — that of your conscience — and refuse to send more missiles into the Pacific. Instead, we urge you to join us in calling for a permanent US withdrawal from the Marshall Islands, including provision of fair and just compensation for a people deeply wronged by misguided US policies.

Very respectfully,

The Pacific Life Community

The soldiers that cuffed and processed us seemed tense, frightened, and very controlled. Our many attempts to engage our young captors were met with silence. They either would not or could not respond; it also appeared that they were forbidden from talking to one another in our presence, except to respond to a command from one of their superiors.

After our basic information had been taken down and as we waited in folding chairs that had been set out for us — our wrists cuffed together behind our backs — CorAnne and I took advantage of the constant video filming that recorded our every expression to explain to the wordless young men and women guarding us just why we were there. We explained that we had just seen a film that documented what

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New Documentary Illuminates the inspiring life of Brian Willson

Paying the Price for Peace is a documentary that reveals the life and journey of Brian Willson taken from a rich photo and video archive of the events throughout his life until the present.

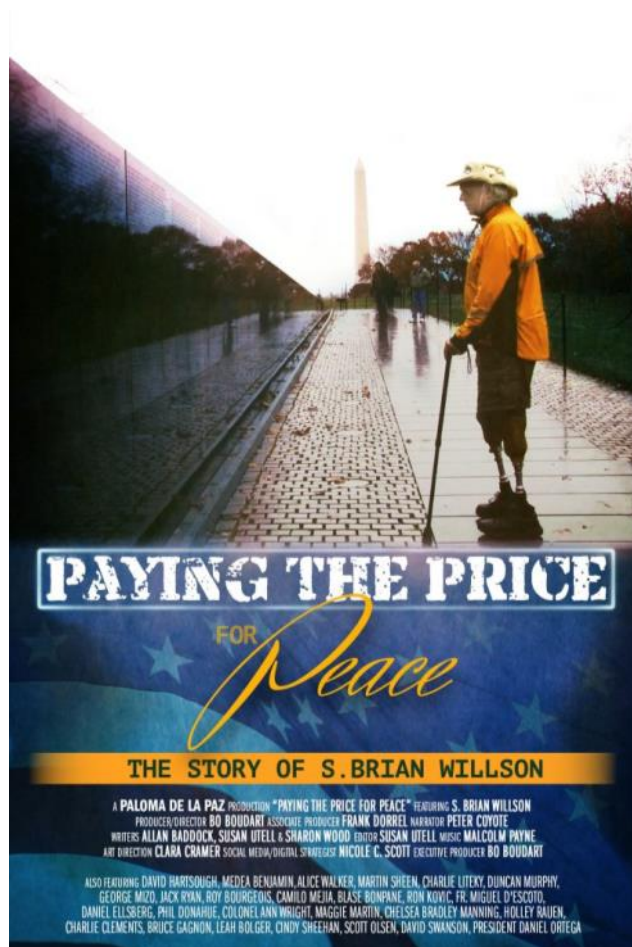
Willson paid the price for peace by nearly being killed by a military train during a non-violent protest. The train was carrying US weapons for the civil wars in Nicaragua and El Salvador. Since then, he has not stopped calling attention to the US government's defiance of international law through waging endless illegal wars around the globe.

Whether we see and hear Brian at anti-war protests, sitting in front of the train that nearly killed him, to his unending support of people in Central American nations against, Willson puts forward his beliefs and challenges us to do the same. As he says repeatedly regarding human lives in other countries, "we are not worth more, they are not worth less."

Paying the Price for Peace exposes the truth about the United States' addiction to war, and the lies it perpetuates in order to wage ongoing violence.

Other inspirational peace activists in the film include Alice Walker, Daniel Ellsberg, Medea Benjamin, David Swanson, Ron Kovic, Bruce Gagnon, Cindy Sheehan, Martin Sheen, Blase Bonpane, Phil Donahue, and David Harsough.

Paying the Price for Peace will provoke changes in the hearts of minds of all who consider themselves to be compassionate human beings. More information at www.payingthepriceforpeace.com.



This article was compiled from information on the film's website. Thank you to Tom Shea and Leonard Eiger for submitting it.

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US government policy had done to the people of the Marshall Islands, that they continued to suffer a number of cancers stemming from the deliberate irradiation of their islands during 67 nuclear bomb detonations in the South Pacific from 1948-1956, and that the ICBM's being launched by Vandenberg were leaching depleted uranium into a lagoon used by the local population for fishing. As a result, the toxins had poisoned the fish, tainted the water and sickened the people, who were thereby being deprived of their subsistence foods, as well as their right to live in health.

We shared about how US tax dollars could be put to better use in the Marshall Islands and here at home, perhaps for the construction of badly needed schools, hospitals and infrastructure such as bridges and lead-free water pipes. Although our comments were met with silence we hoped they provoked some quiet thought and perhaps some wonderment as to why people who love their country and desire peace were seated in front of them with their hands bound behind their backs.

The timing of our action against Vandenberg missiles and on behalf of the people of the Marshall Islands was es-

pecially auspicious, since from March 7th to the 16th the International Court of Justice (ICJ) in The Hague — the judicial branch of the United Nations — heard oral arguments in the Marshall Islands' cases against the UK, India and Pakistan. (If you are wondering why only three cases only are going forward, in April 2014 the Marshall Islands filed lawsuits against all nine nuclear-armed states. Unfortunately the United States, Russia, China, France, Israel and North Korea do not accept the compulsory jurisdiction of the ICJ and are ignoring the cases brought against them.)

The cases concern whether the UK is complying with Article VI of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, and whether India and Pakistan are complying with what the Marshall Islands contends — building on a 1996 ICJ opinion — is a customary international law obligation to pursue negotiations in good faith on nuclear disarmament, including putting an end to the nuclear arms race.

Elizabeth Murray has served as Member-in-Residence at the Ground Zero Center for the last two years. This summer, she is traveling to Russia as part of a delegation meeting face-to-face with Russians to encourage peace.

President Obama's Hiroshima Visit Has Many NW Links

Activists' connections date back to 1940s

By Glen Milner, originally published in Crosscut on May 26

When President Obama announced his May visit to Hiroshima, local media outlets provided a one-size-fits-all script: "Japanese welcome Obama visit to Hiroshima, apology or not." Our regional history and our concerns, however, are ignored.

Peace activists in the Pacific Northwest have unique connections with the citizens of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and victims of the atomic bomb.

Even in the immediate postwar years, Seattle Quaker Floyd Schmoie believed that building new homes for victims was more important than an apology. Schmoie, Daisy Tibbs Dawson and others from the Northwest founded the "Houses for Hiroshima" project and built 21 homes between 1949 and 1953.

In 2012, the last remaining house was dedicated "Schmoie House" as a branch of the Hiroshima Peace Memorial Museum.

An apology for dropping the bomb makes no sense while our nation is feverishly working to make newer and more dangerous nuclear weapons.

Since 1984, the annual "Hiroshima to Hope" lantern floating ceremony at Green Lake has honored the victims of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On August 6, 1990 (the 45th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima), another Floyd Schmoie project, the Seattle Peace Park, was dedicated. The Peace Park is home of the *Sadako and the Thousand Cranes* sculpture by Seattle artist Daryl Smith.

Since the 1970s, Northwest peace organizations such as the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility have worked to raise the public awareness of the dangers of nuclear weapons and the threat of nuclear war.

In 1980, Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist monks announced plans to build the first Peace Pagoda in the US on property owned by Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action adjacent to the Bangor submarine base. An arson fire ended the project in 1982, but Buddhist monks have recently renewed efforts to build the Peace Pagoda near the site of the

original project.

There is another and darker side to our connection. The plutonium made for the atomic bomb used on Nagasaki was made at Hanford. And the largest concentration of nuclear weapons in the United States is deployed at the Trident submarine base in Hood Canal.

Many in the US are indifferent to the threat of nuclear weapons or believe that the danger of nuclear war was somehow resolved with the end of the Cold War. Yet our nation spends more each year on nuclear weapons programs than during the height of the Cold War.

There is a Northwest connection to the question of whether an apology would be appropriate. In 2009, a Jesuit priest from Tacoma, the Rev. Bill Bichsel, went to Hiroshima and Nagasaki on what he called a "Journey of Repentance."

Then, Father Bichsel did apologize. "The apology is necessary in order to begin to repent for the sins of war," he said. "What we have done not only has inflicted tremendous damage on the Japanese, it also has done tremendous damage on the (American) people when we don't remember what we have done."

In Hiroshima, President Obama will likely be genuinely moved. But an apology for dropping the bomb makes no sense while our nation is feverishly working to make newer and more dangerous nuclear weapons. There is also the issue of war — which, in the end, is always total in its destruction.

For all the ceremony around Obama's visit to Hiroshima, we are witnessing a world leader who is helpless to create a meaningful and lasting peace and fully aware of the consequences. Obama's journey does serve to remind us of the past and of the necessity to focus on a very different future.



President Obama and Prime Minister Abe meet at the Hiroshima Peace Memorial. Theirs was a far different visit than that led by Father Bix in 2009, when he led his Journey of Repentance. *Photo courtesy of Japan Times.*

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

The Nuclear-Climate Change Nexus: Our Response

By Bernie Meyer

What do we do when storm clouds well up and are about to wreck havoc on our lives? The ultimate storm clouds are welling up for not only human lives, our lives, but all life on our little planet floating in endless space. We are at a juncture, a juncture that we created, that is of our own doing. We created nuclear weapons, nuclear power, a whole system of radiation dispersal. We created a way of life that spews carbon dioxide, methane, and more chemicals into the atmosphere which circulates into the oceans and onto the continents and heats them up beyond our accustomed tolerance. What do we do? What will you do?

Scientists name climate change Anthropocentric Climate Destruction (ACD). Anthropocene means the age of human-caused reality. What took millions of years to generate on Planet Earth is being consumed in a few hundred years, with the initiation of the industrial age based on fossil fuels. Humanity has never experienced the likes of this. Can the resilience of humans reverse course to limit the effects? The days are short and getting shorter. April 2016 was the seventh successive month of record global climate temperature increases, causing scientists to gasp. News is that the Arctic will turn from ice to blue heat-absorbing water this 2016 summer, decades ahead of earlier projections.

There are many connections between nuclear weapons/power and the climate crisis besides the fact that humans are creators of each:

- The US has committed to the next generation of nuclear weapons by allocating one trillion dollars over the next ten years which includes new facilities. Not only that, the development of “small nuclear weapons” causes an appeal to usability. Other nations are following suit, including India and Pakistan.
- Nuclear war can cause drastic changes in climate. Scientists have studied the effects of a nuclear exchange, whether it is between the US and Russia or between Pakistan and India (both possess 100 plus nuclear weapons). The wastes sent up into the atmosphere would cause freezing of the earth, farming termination, and two billion deaths.
- Both nuclear war and climate change would cause inter-generational effects. Nuclear testing has caused birth defects and early deaths already into the third and fourth generations. CO₂ into the atmosphere will last hundreds of years. Nuclear wastes have no means of disposal.
- The US Department of Defense in 2015 stated that “global climate change will have wide-ranging implications for US national security interests over the foreseen

able future because it will aggravate existing problems – such as poverty, social tensions, environmental degradation, ineffectual leadership, and weak political institutions – that threaten domestic stability in a number of countries.”

- Non-nation actors are a major concern for nuclear terror.

Is nuclear power an answer to abandoning fossil fuels? No:

- Nuclear power costs and construction time prohibit adequate response, let alone capability of replacing fossil fuels. While nuclear power has a decreasing percentage of energy generations, renewable energy capacity has been growing significantly.
- There are problems related to the nuclear fuel cycle. Beginning with the extraction of uranium from the earth leaving radioactive materials or tailings, to development, production, and use, ultimately waste, environmental and human effects remain at every phase.
- Nuclear waste disposal and climate engineering are technical attempts to bury the effects of nuclear technology and climate change.

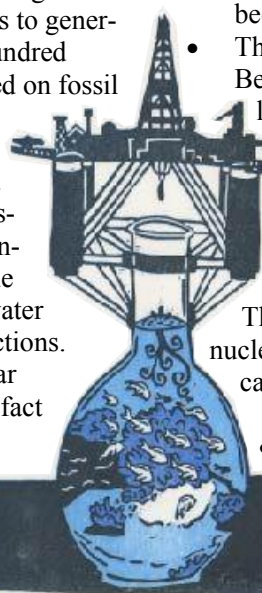
The necessity of resolving both the climate crisis and nuclear issues demands international cooperation. One cannot be mitigated without the other:

- Long term goals and cooperation require conditions of trust and communication between nations on a worldwide basis. How can the US work towards nuclear abolition or work on the climate crisis while surrounding Russia and China with bases and using NATO to participate?
- International Law is the most obvious tool to generate conditions needed for mitigation.

- Litigation led by the Marshall Islands attempts to move beyond the lethargy preventing nuclear abolition.
- For humanity to overcome its mistakes in creating an unsustainable and suicidal way of life we must create cooperation and sustainable peace.

This analysis about the nexus between nuclear weapons and the climate crisis was generated by the World Future Council, and can be accessed at www.worldfuturecouncil.org.

Most cannot face this situation and ignore or deny it. What does it mean that we the people, and we as humanity, are in this situation? Yes, humanity has now placed ourselves in this spot where all life on earth is threatened. Even the signs of destruction appear hidden, even invisible. Maybe it is better to



The Anthropocene Age: not an easy time for life we share the planet with. *Illustration by Susan Campbell.*

Nuclear-Climate Change Nexus... continued on page 11

court should find them guilty.

Kagan opened for the defense by saying that, “each person has a very definite point of view as to why they were there” He further stated that he would, “let the testimony unfold as it will.”

Although the defendants felt severely hamstrung by the court’s decision to disallow the many reasonable defenses they sought to use, they nevertheless proceeded with their testimonies, and spoke eloquently and passionately.

Betsy Lamb was the first to take the stand. She said that she was, “here today because it is so important for me to stand up and call our nation to lead the international effort to abolish nuclear weapons.” Lamb said that, “we [as a nation] need to conform to what we expect of other nations” and that “we were calling on Capt. Zwolfer to act in good conscience... In my defense, I say only that as a person of faith and conscience, when I see something as wrong as our proliferation of nuclear weapons systems and their current and proposed use, I have to act.”

Lamb concluded by asking the judge “to step outside the box that is contiguous with your comfort zone. Act in whatever way you feel appropriate to address the

menace of nuclear weapons. Perhaps – for one thing - here today, find our actions justified, as an initial step.”

Mary Gleysteen took the stand next, providing some background on her current activism. She told how, as a child in a military family in 1955 while living in Quantico, Vir-

“We’ve never said protests are the answer, but protests create space for the answer...Protest is the end of silence.”

ginia, her mother allowed her to drink from the “colored only” drinking fountain, telling her that if you see something that is wrong you need to say or do something to correct it. Her growth in activism went from signatures to action; from protesting weapons shipments from Bangor to Vietnam to protesting Bangor’s first-strike ballistic missile submarines. Gleysteen stressed how she has engaged in every form of “legal” protest over the years, including contacting members of congress and the executive branch, all to no avail. She has also spent decades leafleting at Bangor. She “felt compelled by the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Nagasaki” to take action.”

In speaking of her reasons for her action, Ann Kitredge spoke emotionally of her sense of duty to her (and other people’s) children and grandchildren. Although her testimony was brief, it was strong and to the point.

Upon taking the stand, Emilie Marlinghaus gave the names and ages of her children and grandchildren to point out the reason she took action against nuclear weapons – her first ever – on August 10th. Following the death of her husband, and having raised her children, she realized that the skills developed through her early life would serve her well

in her new life of activism. This new life began with protests against the Iraq war. Marlinghaus quoted the Trappist monk Thomas Merton, who said, “I want my whole life to be a protest against war and political tyranny. No to everything that destroys life. Yes to everything that affirms it.”

Elizabeth Murray, who spent 27 years as an analyst with the Central Intelligence Agency, explained how her experience as a government bureaucrat made her understand that so often the “last thing on [the government’s] mind is collateral damage” when making decisions involving the potential loss of lives through the use of “kinetic action.” Murray also quoted Robert Shetterly, who said that “dissent is the prerequisite for democracy.”

Michael Siptroth quoted Black Lives Matter activist DeRay McKesson: “We’ve never said protests are the answer, but protests create space for the answer. Protest is disruption. Protest is confrontation. Protest is the end of silence, and what protest does is create space for other work to happen.” Siptroth would not “be silent as my government prepares for war, developing weapons of mass destruction while depriving millions of people basic human dignity and peace,” and violating “domestic and international law.”

Peggy Love began by explaining that she was born on August 8, 1945, in between the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. August 2015 was not only the 70th anniversary of the atomic bombings, but her 70th birthday and first birthday without her husband Jerry, who died of cancer and worked with Naval nuclear reactors during his career. Love could not acknowledge her birthday without speaking out against the nuclear weapons at Bangor. “I did what I believe to be the act of a good citizen.”

Anne Hall, a Lutheran minister, said she has lived “most of my life as a Christian...[I] have tried to live as Jesus taught me to live.” Hall referred to the story of the Good Samaritan, saying that “we are called to love most of all the people we are taught to despise.” Hall said that she is “sure that Jesus would be appalled by nuclear weapons...” and that “he would have stood in front of trains bringing nuclear weapons into a base... would have blocked roads and would have done everything he could” to abolish nuclear weapons. Hall also spoke of the history of leafleting people working at Bangor, and how at the height of leafleting efforts there were leaflets on bulletin boards all over the base, and that some people have left their jobs as a result of leafleting. She spoke of her vision of people at the base going on strike, refusing to work on nuclear weapons. Hall stated how the nuclear danger now is as great or greater than it was during the Cold War; how the rest of the nuclear nations are modernizing in response to US modernization. She “wanted to communicate to base workers, the public and ourselves that the only way to avert the increasing risk of nuclear war is to work with every ounce of our strength both domestically and globally

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to outlaw nuclear weapons and to put in place comprehensive safeguards so these weapons will be dismantled and abolished forever.”

In his closing arguments, attorney Kagan argued that the first amendment justifies the defendants’ attempted entry, and therefore does not constitute trespassing as there was no obstruction or vandalism. The trespassing statute, 18 US Code § 1382, can be enforced “if a person enters for a purpose prohibited by law.”

Judge Christell found that Kagan did not present adequate justification to support his argument and found that each person had entered the base that is within the jurisdiction of the US without prior authorization and for a purpose prohibited by law or lawful regulation, constituting a violation of section 1382. He moved to sentencing.

During sentencing the government called one witness, Christopher Crane, Operations Officer for base security. Crane said that he and other officers visited with members of the Ground Zero community before the action and learned about the group’s plans for the weekend. He and his team had already made an action plan before the meeting, designed “to cover all possible scenarios” and approved by the “commanding officer of the base.” The total number of base personnel involved was about 25, “taking people away from their regular jobs.” Crane cited 70 to 75 hours of preparation to handle the protest.

Kagan responded that 70 to 75 hours was “overkill” based on the history of Ground Zero’s nonviolent actions at the base. The organization has a flawless safety record, utilizing trained Peacekeepers who ensure everyone’s safety and act as liaisons to law enforcement personnel.

Although the Government did not ask for confinement or fines, it did recommend one year of supervised probation and community service; 100 hours for Kittredge, Love, Marlinghaus and Murray; 150 hours for Gleysteen, Lamb and Siptroth; and 200 hours for Hall. The graduated community service hours were based on the defendants respective prior records of barment letters and convictions. In addition, the community service would have to be conducted with an “organization unrelated to nuclear disarmament.”

Kagan told the judge that these are “people with deeply held values who are deeply concerned” about our nation’s nuclear weapons policies and practices. He quoted a sign at the Whidbey Island Naval Air Station that said, “Pardon our noise; it’s the sound of freedom,” going on to say that, “well, what this group did is part of the cost of freedom.”

Siptroth spoke to what he called the narrowness of the prosecution’s overly strict interpretation of the law. He told the court that the sentences handed out will not stop the defendants from repeating their actions in the future. “We will be back here again and again until you understand that you are trying to impose a very narrow legal interpretation.”

Judge Christell accepted the Government’s recommendation of one year probation, and did not impose the

recommended graduated community service hours; he gave a flat 100 hours to all defendants. He agreed to the government’s recommendation that the service be conducted with an “organization unrelated to nuclear disarmament.”

After the trial Rev. Hall reflected on sentencing: “When Magistrate Christell said our community service couldn’t go to work for nuclear disarmament, I wanted to say, ‘Did you hear what we were saying? Does it occur to you that if we don’t avert nuclear war there won’t be any community to serve?’”

While the verdict was disappointing to the defendants and their supporters in the courtroom, all agreed that they had presented a worthy collective defense. While the defendants were precluded from providing reasonable defenses in this case, those defenses are based on legal precedent and treaty obligations that remain binding, despite the fact that the US Government continues to ignore them.

Leonard Eiger chairs the Communication and Outreach Committee, and sends out press releases and information on behalf of Ground Zero.

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ignore with the possibility that the threat will go away and disappear! But, we have children. Generations come after us. What about them? A little thought about the droughts, the fires, the pollution, the melting Arctic, the changing weather, leads to the question, what about us?

The Bomb and our fossil fuel-generated life style maintained by the almighty dollar are worshipped like gods. In fact, those in power and those caught up in the power of power assume the power of god. We act like god when we choose the weapons or choose to attempt control of the environment.

Which road do we choose now? We created the bomb, we initiated the fossil fuel based way of life. Intended or not, we facilitated the “Anthropocene Age.” Will those of us who see a new way take on those of us who like being gods for whatever reasons? I think we can choose one of three ways: bury ourselves in passivism, join the gods, or with courageous nonviolence and creativity take a stand.

I chose the third way long ago, imperfect as my choice has been. On May 7th I joined in risking arrest with Larry Kerschner, a Vietnam Veteran for Peace, and Gilberto Perez, a member of Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist community by blocking the Federal entrance to Sub Base Bangor.

We need to change our way of thinking. We need to be responsible. We need a sense of ethics and humility. We are not gods. We are human beings who have evolved from an animal nature. We are still part of nature. Nature will have the last word. As always, nature is negotiating with us as we give reign to our illusions.

Our actions must speak louder than words in response.

Bernie Meyer lives in Olympia. He has been invited to conferences and festivals in India many times to portray Gandhi.

GROUND ZERO

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*“**M**aking a decision to stand
against the majority...is not
easy. People will often deny the
evidence of their own senses in an effort
to conform.”*

— Michael Fishbein

Judge dismisses Navy bid to control Kitsap County records

By Glen Milner

Citizens may still request public records from Kitsap County without the federal government taking control. In a recent ruling, US District Court Judge Ronald Leighton dismissed claims by federal agencies that the Department of Defense should control Kitsap County's handling of records requests whenever they might involve sensitive military information. Judge Leighton also dismissed claims that Kitsap County should be permanently blocked from releasing certain parts of emergency planning records which the Navy considered sensitive.

Kitsap Sun reporter Ed Friedrich and peace activist Glen Milner had requested Kitsap County's emergency planning records to find out how well the region is prepared for emergencies, and withdrew the requests after receiving what they wanted. Judge Leighton ruled that, because those requests were withdrawn and nobody was requesting the parts of the planning records that concerned the Navy, most of the claims in the case were moot.

However, federal agencies may continue seeking an order for Kitsap County to return certain records which the federal agencies allegedly "own." Federal agencies had previously provided the records to Kitsap County and the state

Patrol for use in emergency management training exercises.

The unusual case has highlighted tensions between Kitsap County, which is subject to monetary penalties if it violates the state Public Records Act (PRA), and federal agencies wanting to control the County's PRA responses even though all of the liability risk falls on the County. "The dismissal order stops the federal government from creating a large black hole where local records could be concealed, and protects Kitsap County taxpayers from paying the price for improper withholding of local records," said Mr. Milner, a longtime transparency advocate who won a 2011 US Supreme Court decision, *Milner v. Navy*, striking down the long-established "High 2" exemption to the federal Freedom Of Information Act.

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

Join Ground Zero in August to stand against Trident! More information on page 5 and at our website, www.gzcenter.org.