

Ground Zero

October 2017

Volume 22 Issue 4



Celebrating 40 Years of a Community of Resistance

By Mary Gleysteen

Folks at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action took the opportunity to reflect on 40 years of exploration of nonviolence and resistance to Trident on July 30, when activists from all eras and from around the country converged for a day of panel discussions and pot-lucks.

Although you had to have been there for the pot-lucks, reunions, and celebration of new friendships and alliances; thanks to videography by Mike McCormick you can view the panel discussion on line. To find the programs, look for [videos by “talkingsticktv” on YouTube](#). There are seven of the 40th Anniversary activities.

Panelists discussed the origins and inspiration for Ground Zero and its roots in the Pacific Life Community,

Movement for a New Society, and Quaker and Catholic Worker traditions. Jim Douglass pointed to the “spiritual chain reaction” leading from Bob Aldridge’s identification of the Trident Submarine as a first strike weapon, to the many communities which have grown in resistance. Other speakers identified Bangor Summer, Live Without Trident, Armistice, the Agape community, numerous peace walks, and the efforts to build a peace pagoda as important to the formation and continued existence of Ground Zero.

Other panels discussed the coming of the USS Ohio, the tracks campaign, the comings and goings of communities integral to Ground Zero, challenges and

40 Years... continued on page 2

changes in structure and decision making, which form the basis for the continuity, identity and commitment of this beloved institution making its way in a fifth decade dedicated to:

- Establish a Center for nonviolent action, which seeks the goal of a world free from nuclear destruction and unjust division of humanity.
- Hold the land on which the Center is located in an environmentally sensitive and responsible manner.
- Develop at the Center for Nonviolent Action specific means toward a nuclear-free world which are based on the principle of truth in thought, word and action; the principle of unity of all beings; and the principle of transforming love in resistance to war and injustice.
- Explore at the Center strategies and tactics for non-violent campaigns incorporating that end-means vision.
- Use the Center as a training site for participants in Nonviolent Action.
- Encourage and foster at the Center a continual reflection on, and deepening in, a nonviolent way of life.



Shelley Douglass, Jim Douglass, and Caroline Wildflower speak on a panel about the activism in the 1970s that led to the formation of Ground Zero *This photo and the cover photo were taken from stills from Mike McCormick's videos on YouTube.*

The program closed with Bob Aldridge's message and challenge to the extended Ground Zero Community (see following page).

Mary Gleysteen serves on the Stewardship Council and is a dedicated leafletter. She lives in Kingston.

PLC Six Found Guilty of Trespass in Federal Court

By Nick Mele

Nuclear resisters were found guilty in US District Court of criminal trespass for their nonviolent protest at a US Navy nuclear weapons installation in Washington State.

In a trial of six nonviolent activists who conducted an act of civil resistance on March 7, 2017 at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, Magistrate Judge David W. Christel found the PLC Six (Mary H. Mele, Karan Founds-Benton, Charles Smith, Betsy Lamb, Steven Kelly SJ, and Alexandria Adesso) guilty of trespassing. The defendants had all stipulated to the Navy's version of the facts in the case but pleaded not guilty to the charge of criminal trespassing. Their motion to include international law and necessity in their defense had previously been denied at the request of the prosecution.

The six resisters had crossed the marked property

line onto the Bangor Trident base while reading sections of the Nuremberg Principles out loud before being arrested by military police. They were charged with trespassing and received ban and bar letters before being released.

They were part of a demonstration at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in Silverdale, Washington on March 7th at the conclusion of the Pacific Life Community's (PLC) annual gathering. The Bangor submarine base, just 20 miles from Seattle, has the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the US. If Washington state were a sovereign nation, it would be the third-largest nuclear-weapons state in the world.

All were sentenced to 100 hours of community service and charged a total of forty dollars in



Betsy Lamb stands with a fellow activist before the action that led to her six days in federal prison. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

PLC Six... continued on page 10

Annual Membership Meeting on November 4

By Glen Milner

The annual Ground Zero membership meeting is when we decide the future of Ground Zero. It is a time for reflection and renewal, and for new proposals for peace and justice. This year's meeting will begin with a potluck at noon on Saturday, November 4, followed by the meeting from 1:00 to 4:00p. It will take place at the Ground Zero Center. Please consider serving on a committee or on one of the positions listed below.

All positions on the Stewardship Council, including Secretary, Treasurer, Chairperson and committee positions will be chosen or renewed at the annual meeting for the next year. Committees include house



and grounds, communication/outreach, website, leafleting, finance/budget, and media. There are currently two ad hoc committees – for the bus ad campaign and for the construction of the Peace Pagoda at Ground Zero. 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. All meetings are open to all members.

Annual Meeting... continued on page 10

Letter from Bob Aldridge

Dear Friends at Ground Zero's 40th Anniversary Gathering,

I am inspired that you have assembled to commemorate the birth of Ground Zero Center and renew commitments to a nonviolent world order. Don't underestimate those commitments. They are needed more today than at any other time in the 200,000-year history of humanity. We face two serious and very real threats to planet Earth – global warming and use of nuclear weapons.

Atmospheric CO2 will soon reach irreversible levels while nuclear weapons are more proliferated and less secure today than at any time since 1945. And we don't have a Kennedy in the White House to calm the next crisis.

Neoconservatives control the Executive and Legislative Branches of government and strongly influence the Judicial Branch. Don't be deceived by the comedy in the White House; serious planning is afoot. I warned of martial law in 2008 (see Chapter 10 of *America in Peril*). The potential is greater today. When nonviolence threatens corporate profits the backlash will be severe. What will we do if the Constitution is suspended, elections cancelled, cyberspace blocked, and assembly limited to five?

“What will we do if the Constitution is suspended, elections cancelled, cyberspace blocked, and assembly limited to five?”

I'm not saying these things will happen, but they could. What I am saying is we should have a plan – what Gandhi called a Constructive Program. It was the Constructive Program that made Satyagraha proactive. We must study political-social conditions carefully, re-evaluate strategy for proper focus, and fix whatever is needed. Then we put together a Constructive Program to overcome evil and fill the void it leaves. We need to make dead certain our nonviolent movement can meet any global political-social challenge of the 21st century.

There is no better community for initiating the global nonviolent revolution than Ground Zero Center and all of you who make it work. Janet joins me in sending love, and many prayers for successful peacemaking.

Bob Aldridge

Bob Aldridge worked at Lockheed Missiles in the early 1970s on the first Trident design. Realizing it was a first-strike weapon, he had an awakening of conscience and resigned. A year later, he contacted Jim and Shelley Douglass to share the plans for the weapon and the Bangor base.

Successful Peace Fleet Marks 16th Year

By Glen Milner

This year the Peace Fleet sailed under a smoke-filled sky due to forest fires in British Columbia. Sixteen Peace Fleet sailors in three kayaks, two sailboats, a four-oar rowboat, and a 16-foot skiff, demonstrated for peace and against the celebration of warships in Elliott Bay.

Veterans for Peace member Ed Brighton stated, "We were off Pier 66 when we noticed Navy officers on shore saluting and sailors manning the rails on the warship just behind us. We were directly between the warship and the shore with our VFP and CND peace flags flying, and close enough for all to see. It was great to be there."

This year Piers 62/63 were closed again due to construction. For unknown reasons, the rooftop of Pier 66 was closed to all. Veterans for Peace flags and peace signs were still visible at Waterfront Park from the water.

After Pass in Review, police boats delayed two

kayaks and a sailboat from returning to their launch points, showing once again that cooperation with the Coast Guard does not guarantee that law enforcement will respect our rights. About this time, the wind picked up and kayakers had a hard row back to Pier 91 while facing 11-14 knot winds. Peace Fleet sailors included:



Mary Hanson, left, and Kim Loftness bring the message to the shore. *Photo by Margarita Munoz.*

Tim Russell, Carl Nakajima and Rodney Brunelle in kayaks; Jim Douglass, Mary Gleysteen, Dirk Gleysteen, Mike McCormick and Sallie Shawl on a 24-foot sailboat; Salaha Warsi-Brighton and Ed Brighton on a 20-foot sailboat; Kelley Janes, Daisy Janes, and Alan Brisley in a four-oar rowboat; and Barbara Hill, Michael Hill and Glen Milner in a 16-foot skiff.

Members this year paid tribute to Mira Leslie, who passed away on March 10, 2017 after a brief illness.



Hazy skies did not diminish the enthusiasm of this year's Peace Fleet. on the pier. *Photo by Karol Milner.*

In past years, Mira participated with her kayak and helped to organize the Peace Fleet event. Her compassion and sensibility are missed.

2017 marked the sixteenth year for the Peace Fleet demonstration. The next scheduled date for the Peace Fleet is Wednesday, August 1, 2018.

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

Annual Meeting on November 4!

Please join us for Ground Zero's Annual Meeting on Saturday, November 4. It's a great opportunity to weigh in on priorities for the year ahead, and find out how you can get more involved. See the article with full details on page 3.



Plea to De-escalate North Korea Crisis on Anniversary of Hiroshima/Nagasaki Bombings

By Leonard Eiger

Ground Zero activists held a vigil and nonviolent direct action at the Bangor Trident base on August 14, shortly after the 72nd anniversaries of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The base's ballistic missile submarines would likely carry out a nuclear strike against North Korea should Donald Trump give the order.

During the early-morning vigil participants briefly blockaded the base by carrying banners onto the roadway at the main entrance gate, briefly stopping traffic entering the base during the morning shift change.

All were removed from the road by Washington State Patrol Officers, cited for being in the roadway illegally, and released on the scene.

Those cited were Philip Davis, Bremerton; Susan DeLaney, Bothell; Ryan DeWitt, Olympia; Sarah Hobbs, Portland; Mack Johnson, Silverdale; Ben Moore, Bainbridge Island; and Charles (Charley) Smith, Eugene Catholic Worker, OR.

The Monday morning vigil and action ended Ground Zero's annual commemoration of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The weekend began with a screening of documentary filmmaker Helen Young's film "The Nuns, the Priests, and the Bombs" for cast, crew, and community. There was another private screening at the United Nations earlier this summer for U.N. personnel and guests in advance of the nuclear ban treaty negotiations.

On Saturday, the second annual Boats by Bangor flotilla made its presence known on Hood Canal. Members of the 2017 Interfaith Peace Walk For A Nuclear-Free World arrived the same day, and later that evening folksinger Tom Rawson entertained the crowd.

Sunday was a full day of education, nonviolence training and preparation for the Monday's vigil and action at Bangor. After David Hall briefed everyone on the current issues related to Trident, the group watched a video keynote address by author and antiwar activist David Swanson. David has authored countless articles and many books, including the best-selling "War is a Lie." After dinner the folk/Americana duo Hank 'n Claire thrilled the

audience with their tribute to Pete Seeger.

One of the banners deployed during the Monday morning vigil and action implored the Trump administration to stop its incendiary rhetoric toward North Korea. It read, "No Nuclear Strike On N. Korea!" Since the August vigil and action, the rhetoric between President Trump and Kim Jong-un has continued to escalate, and no one knows where it will end. To take either leader at his word, a nuclear holocaust is an acceptable event. There is no acceptable military solution to this nuclear standoff. Diplomacy is the only way out of this mess.

Leonard Eiger chairs the Media Committee of the Stewardship Council. He regularly posts at the blog nuclearabolitionist.blogspot.com.



"Never again!" Three of the blockaders hold a banner calling for diplomacy with North Korea. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

Come to a "Climate Solutions" Workshop in Belfair

By Michael "Firefly" Siptroth

When 500 year floods strike twice in a year, catastrophic fires burn, hottest summers ever reoccur, and sea levels rise, you have to take action! Join neighbors and become more informed about Global Climate Change — plus plan on how you and we can make a difference!

On Saturday October 21, from 10:00 to 3:00 at N. Mason Timberland Library in Belfair, an engaging and participatory workshop will be led by dynamic Derek Hoshiko of Climate Solutions.

The morning's session will be a moving and interactive presentation on the latest information about Global Climate Change, followed by a brown bag lunch. In the afternoon, we'll have a work session on what we can do about the situation, both personally and as a community. It is more empowering to join with others and make a difference than just complain or do nothing. We encourage community and elected leaders to participate, but it is up to citizens to meaningfully address this pressing issue. You can register with Michael Siptroth at flybill2@aol.com, but send your contribution to Derek@climatesolutions.org.

Michael "Firefly" Siptroth is a n organic farmer and elementary school teacher. He lives in Belfair.

Fourteen Cited by State Patrol at Mother's Day Action

By Leonard Eiger

Fifty-five people demonstrated against Trident nuclear weapons at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor on May 13. Fourteen demonstrators attempted to block the main highway entrance into the base and were cited by the Washington State Patrol.

At 3:30 pm on Saturday, six demonstrators entered the highway carrying a large banner stating, "The Earth is Our Mother—Treat Her With Respect," and briefly blocked traffic at the Bangor main gate. Shortly afterwards, eight other demonstrators entered the highway with a full-size replica of a Trident D-5 missile to block traffic before they too were removed.

During the event, some demonstrators were threatened by State Patrol officers with arrest, a "weekend in jail," and an arraignment in court on Monday. In the end, all 14 demonstrators were cited for violating RCW 46.61.250, *Pedestrians on roadways*, and released within an hour.

Those cited by the State Patrol: Margarita Munoz, Kim Loftness, and Paul Kikuchi, Seattle; Elizabeth Murray of Poulsbo; Ed Digilio, Shoreline; Ramon Nacanaynay, Lynnwood; Lisa and Mack Johnson, Silverdale; Chris and Tom Rogers, Keyport; Cliff Kirchmer, Fircrest; James Brecht, Tacoma; Michael Siptroth, Belfair; and Susan Crane, Redwood City, California.



Preparing to enter the road, Ground Zero activists line the side of the main entrance to Bangor. The full-size inflatable Trident missile is visible on the right. *Photo by Karol Milner.*

At the demonstration, Susan Crane, a long-time antinuclear peace activist, spoke of Daniel Berrigan and his warning that a nuclear war will be legal; that the courts and judges will approve. But our faith and conviction reminds us of the command: no killing, and no war.

Susan said: "We are here to act for the next generations, and we are here for active nonviolent solutions and actions. And we are not alone. There are many signs of

Mother's Day Action... continued on page 10

New Bus Ad Will Reach Thousands

By Glen Milner, Rodney Brunelle, and Leonard Eiger

Beginning on July 17, and continuing for 11 weeks, 26 King County Metro buses will display the following advertisement: "Congress Wants \$1 Trillion for Nukes. What will be left for our children?"

The statement in the ad refers to the planned expenditure of \$1 trillion for the next 30 years to upgrade the nation's nuclear facilities and modernizing nuclear weapons. The nuclear weapons modernization plan was initially planned and evolved under the Obama administration. President Trump has given his support to this plan and stated in December 2016 that the *"United States must greatly strengthen and expand its nuclear capability..."*



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. The submarine base at Bangor has the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the US. The discussion needs to begin here."

To summarize the issues:

- The US is currently spending more on nuclear weapons programs than during the height of the Cold War.
- The US currently plans to spend an estimated \$1 trillion dollars over 30 years to rebuild the nation's nuclear facilities and modernize nuclear weapons.
- The New York Times reported that the US, Russia, and China are aggressively pursuing a new generation of smaller and less destructive nuclear weapons. The buildups threaten to revive a Cold War-era arms race and unsettle the balance of power among nations.
- The US Navy states that SSBN submarines on patrol provide the US with its "most survivable and enduring nuclear strike capability." However, SSBNs in port and nuclear warheads stored at SWFPAC are likely a first target in a nuclear war. The latest Google imagery shows three SSBN submarines on the Hood Canal waterfront.
- Due to ongoing modernization and maintenance programs for warheads at Bangor, nuclear warheads are

New bus ad... continued on page 7

Paddling for Peace on the Hood Canal

By Elizabeth Murray

Paddling against the backdrop of a pristine Olympic Peninsula coastal forest framed by the jagged Olympics on one side — and a pair of pitch-black Trident nuclear submarines moored at Naval Base Kits on the other — roughly a dozen kayaktivists plied the Hood Canal last Saturday, joined by fellow nuclear resisters on speedboats and even a wooden rowboat to form a small,



Rowing for resistance. Some of the kayaktivists—and one eager Labrador, in yellow life jacket—who participated in Boats by Bangor. Photo by Glen Milner.

colorful and defiant flotilla in the second annual “Boats by Bangor” organized by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action.

The nuclear resisters, whose waterborne action was part of the Ground Zero Center’s annual program commemorating of the US atomic bombings of Hiroshima at the Bangor base at Old Bangor, with the permission and support of local property owners. The protest boats hoisted signs such as “Resist Trident; No New Nukes” and other similarly-themed messages.

Once under way, the flotilla proceeded past the pair of Trident nuclear submarines at the Bangor Delta Pier (which posts in very large letters: “Use of Deadly Force Is Authorized”), and further north to the first and second Explosives Handling Wharves before turning around. Coast Guard and Naval Base Security vessels followed and closely monitored the “Boats by Bangor” procession, but did not interfere with the jolly band of resisters.

“The anti-nuclear message of ‘Boats by Bangor’ is especially urgent in the wake of heightened tensions with North Korea and Russia,” said Elizabeth Murray, member-in-residence at the Ground Zero Center’s Pouls-

bo-based headquarters which shares a border fence with Naval Base Kitsap.

“The slightest political misunderstanding — not to mention technical mistake or human error involving Trident — has the potential to provoke a chain reaction leading to nuclear war and the annihilation of hundreds of thousands (if not millions) of innocent people,” Murray said. Naval Base Kitsap hosts the largest single concentration of nuclear warheads not only in the United States, but most likely in the world.

Elizabeth Murray serves as Member-in-Residence at Ground Zero. In 2016, she participated in a peace delegation to Russia along with fellow members of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity.

New bus ad... continued from page 6

routinely shipped in unmarked trucks between the Department of Energy Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas and the Bangor base.

- The award-winning documentary, *Command and Control*, based on the critically-acclaimed book by Eric Schlosser, addresses a dangerous nuclear weapons accident in Arkansas in 1980, and raises important issues for this region.

The bus ads are twelve feet long and are posted on 26 King County Metro buses that run through downtown Seattle. The bus ads will run on buses traveling as far south as Federal Way and as far north as Edmonds.

Two bus companies in the Puget Sound area refused to run the ad. On June 22, Sound Transit in Seattle told Ground Zero: “Sound Transit’s advertising policy prohibits advertisements that Sound Transit reasonably believes promotes or implies a position on any proposed or existing laws or advocacy on disputed or controversial issues.”

Community Transit in Snohomish County also refused to run the ad. On June 23, Community Transit declared that the ad was a “political advertisement,” which is defined under their policy as “advertisements that contain political speech referring to a particular ballot question, initiative, petition, referendum, law, candidate, political party or social issue or expresses or advocates opinions or positions upon any of the foregoing. This prohibition includes any advertisement referring to or depicting a candidate for public office in any context.”

Glen Milner and Rodney Brunelle worked on the creation of the bus ad and negotiated its placement with King County Metro. **Leonard Eiger** chairs the Communication Committee.

The Nuns, the Priests, and the Bombs

New Documentary on Plowshares Actions

By Leonard Eiger

In the early morning darkness of November 9, 2009 five friends slogged their way toward the belly of the beast – the Strategic Weapons Facility, Pacific (SWFPAC). Along with Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, SWFPAC represents the largest concentration of operational nuclear weapons in the entire US arsenal – far more than enough nuclear destructive power to end the human experiment.

They arrived at the double-fenced perimeter of the storage facility and set to work with bolt cutters, finally entering the secured area, designated as “Deadly Force Authorized.” They lifted hammers against the fences, scattered sunflower seeds and poured their own blood, symbolizing the murderous potential of nuclear weapons. They carried banners declaring: “Disarm Now!” They became known as the Disarm Now Plowshares.

In July 2012, three intruders, who became known as the Transform Now Plowshares, broke into the Y-12 National Security Complex in Oak Ridge, Tennessee,

“There have been roughly 100 Plowshares actions around the world since the first one in 1980.”

known as America’s “Fort Knox of Uranium”. Y-12 stores enough highly enriched uranium to make roughly 10,000 nuclear bombs. The break-in at Y-12 by a Catholic nun and two others was inspired by the 2009 Plowshares action, which was carried out by a group that also included a Catholic nun and two Jesuit priests.

Not long after the Disarm Now Plowshares conviction in Federal court, writer, producer, and documentary filmmaker Helen Young began production on an independent documentary telling the story of the Disarm Now Plowshares. Following the subsequent break-in at Y-12 Helen included the story of the Transform Now Plowshares action.

In both cases all the defendants were given federal

prison terms. The documentary follows their stories, calls into question the security of America’s nuclear installations, and focuses attention on the debate over whether nuclear weapons make the world a safer or more dangerous place.

Young forged a career in broadcast journalism by blending a passion for investigative reporting with a commitment to illuminating the critical issues of the day. This most recent work has been a labor of love for the filmmaker, who has worked long and hard to bring this critical conversation into the public realm.

She is currently working to enter the film into international film festivals. It is also being shown at the United Nations during the United Nations nuclear weapons ban treaty negotiations.

While recent world events related to nuclear weapons have captured the public’s attention, for disarmament activists the struggle for abolition has never taken a break. This film profiles the people on the front lines of this movement. There have been roughly 100 Plowshares nonviolent disarmament actions around the world since the first one in 1980. They are driven by the vision of the Biblical Prophet Isaiah that: “They shall beat their swords into plowshares and study war no more.”

This is a film that needs to be seen at a time when humankind stands poised on the brink of self-destruction, yet still has the opportunity to abolish the very devices of our own destruction before it is too late. To do so we will need to raise the consciousness of a huge mass of global civil society.

The Nuns, The Priests, and The Bomb is an important part of the conversation and debate that could generate the groundswell that could call for the nuclear powers to “Disarm Now!”



Documentarian Helen Young interviewed Daniel Ellsberg in 2015 at the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Conference in New York City. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

Leonard Eiger leads communications efforts for Ground Zero and served as the spokesperson for the Transform Now Plowshares.

Two books by Michel Chossudovsky Illuminate Critical Crossroads

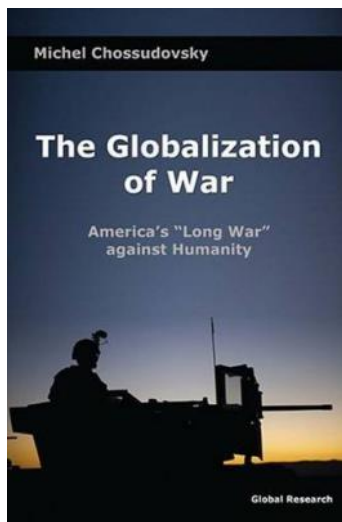
By Bernie Meyer

"This failure of governments arises in the first instance because they are not getting sufficient pressure from their constituents to act. To reiterate a fundamentally important point: people in the United States and around the world simply do not effectively understand the dangers they are facing from today's nuclear weapons arsenals. A considerable part of the general public apparently believes that nuclear dangers ended with the Cold War. ... the lack of awareness and concern of citizens about such a transcendental problem renders it very difficult for democratic governments to take costly and inconvenient actions." William Perry, *My Journey at the Nuclear Brink* (Stanford Security Studies, 2015).

Responding to the question about nonviolence and the atom bomb, Mohandas Gandhi said on the eve of his assassination: "Unless humanity accepts nonviolence, it will be certain suicide for mankind." And Albert Einstein is quoted: "I do not know with what weapons WW III will be fought, but WW IV will be fought with sticks and stones." And former Secretary of Defense Perry recently said that he is "terrified" about the present situation with nuclear weapons and at 89 he is putting himself fully into preventing nuclear war.

In this context deep analysis and understanding are required. *The Globalization of War: America's "Long War" Against Humanity* by Michel Chossudovsky (Global Research 2016) and an earlier work by Chossudovsky, *Towards a World War III Scenario: The Dangers of Nuclear War*, (Global Research 2012), provide a comprehensive and detailed analysis about systemic political and military forces directed towards the use of nuclear weapons by the United States.

My own studies over the last 43 years also look at the situation from other points of view: the motivational related to the works by Ernest Becker, Robert Jay Lifton, and others; the scientific in terms of the second law of thermodynamics (entropy) by one of greatest intellectuals of our times, John Scales Avery; and philosophical and theological led by Thomas Merton. Merton said that the West acts like a one-eyed giant, emphasizing the ability to create while ignoring the other eye needed:



wisdom.

Chossudovsky's first book takes us through a detailed analysis: the US military structure which divides the world into military commands leading to a decentralized ability to use nuclear weapons due to the growing usability of "small nukes," the possibilities of using nukes on nonnuclear states like Libya, the realities of threats from various nations like Iraq, Syria, Iran, Korea, etc., and the US global military agenda. These ingredients lead to the potential WW III scenario. However, Chossudovsky also provides a realistically developed analysis on what needs to be done to counteract these structural political and military policies.

In the chapter, "The World is at a Critical Crossroads," Chossudovsky states: "It is not Iran and North Korea which are a threat to global security but the United States of America and Israel. In recent developments, Western European governments – including the so-called 'non-nuclear states' which possess nuclear weapons – have joined the bandwagon. In chorus, Western Europe and the member states of the Atlantic alliance (NATO) have endorsed the US-led military initiative against Iran. The Pentagon's planned aerial attacks on Iran involve scenarios using both nuclear and conventional weapons..."

In *The Globalization of War: America's "Long War" against Humanity*, Chossudovsky presents a detailed analysis of the dangers of nuclear weaponry, including the latest "more usable" bombs ("more usable" according to the manufacturers and military policy makers.) Then, he goes into "US-NATO sponsored Terrorism; The Destabilization of Sovereign Countries;" Yugoslavia, Kosovo, Haiti, Libya, Iraq, Syria, Gaza, Ukraine. The last part of the book offers a demanding analysis of the way war is manufactured by the final comparison of the French and Spanish Inquisitions with the "American Inquisition" along with the use of "Manufactured Dissent" to arouse support for these wars. The twisted way in which language and truth is perverted challenges the mind. This is so evident in the present discourse and media. And, Chossudovsky's diagnosis of the antiwar movement as in crisis shows the realities on the socio-political level that we find ourselves in.

"Chossudovsky provides a realistically developed analysis on what needs to be done to counteract these structural political and military policies."

Michel Chossudovsky... continued on page 11

mandatory processing fees and fines. All but Lamb were placed on probation for one year; Lamb was given two years probation because of a prior parole violation.

The judge permitted each defendant to testify about their state of mind at the time they crossed the line at the entrance to Bangor Naval Base. In moving testimony, many spoke of their personal conviction that nuclear weapons are immoral; two pointed out that the president of the United States has sole authority to launch nuclear attacks without any consultative process or review.

Charley Smith of the Eugene, Oregon, Catholic Worker, carried a copy of the Nuremberg Principles when he crossed the line, as did the others; asked to explain their significance to him, Smith replied, "Very simply, if we remain silent or do not challenge the evils of society we are complicit in those evils just as much as those giving the orders to commit crimes against peace, war crimes, or crimes against humanity."

Alexandria Adesso, the youngest of the defendants, spoke movingly of nuclear disarmament as a right to

life issue for her and her generation. She noted the many threats to younger people, from climate change to economic stagnation, and said, "I might not have ten, twenty or thirty years of life ahead of me, and I want to work with my peers to end the threat of nuclear annihilation."

In his closing argument, defense attorney

Blake Kremer cited legal precedent to challenge the judge to change the framework of his thinking and temper his verdict based on the facts of the case with his sense of justice.

Before sentencing, Lamb invited Judge Christel to collaborate with the defendants in concluding the trial with an outcome that would be both creative and just. She concluded "I want to quote just two lines from a favorite piece of music of mine, the fourth cantata of Johan Sebastian Bach. Freely translated they read 'It was an awesome war when life

and death contended. The history remains with life, the reign of death is ended. Alleluia.' This is my hope."

Nick Mele was cited for "Pedestrian Leaving the Curb" by the Washington State Patrol at the March action. He lives in Bellingham.



Standing firm. Three of the eight activists who blocked the county side of the road while the PLC Six crossed onto the federal side, on a cold, snowy March day. Photo by Fumi Tosu.

Annual Meeting... continued from page 3

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

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

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

Mother's Day Action... continued from page 6

resistance, signs of hope around the world. Every nonviolent action, no matter how small, creates hope. And together, these small instances of hope are precursors, a taste, a glimpse, of a nonviolent world."

Ground Zero member Tom Rogers stated, "Our kids deserve to grow up in a world without nuclear weapons. It is a failure of our generation that they must live in fear of nuclear annihilation and bear the cost of a massive modernization of our nuclear weapons complex."

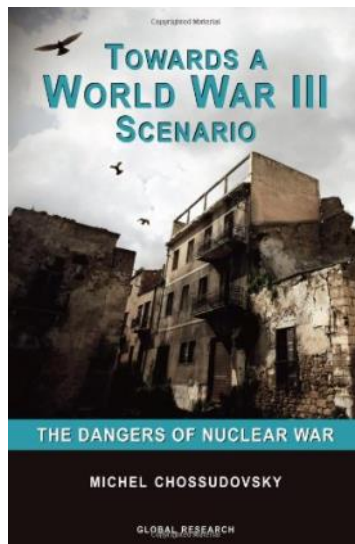
The Seattle Peace Chorus Action Ensemble provided demonstrators a strong voice and music for the day. Members of Veterans for Peace, the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order, and other peace groups in the area provided additional support for the event. Throughout the day, Ground Zero members were mindful of the recent passing of friend and colleague Mira Leslie. A small redwood tree was planted near the Gendai Hoto in honor of Mira.

Leonard Eiger serves on the Stewardship Council. He coordinates the No to New Trident Campaign at www.no2nt.org.

The last chapter “Reversing the Tide of War” challenges us in the antiwar effort to look at the legitimacy of our efforts and to reveal the lies which make the use of war as an “instrument of peace.” I have never been a part of a discussion with my activist associates on the level of thinking in this sixth and last chapter. Like William Perry, Chossudovsky states, “What is required is a mass movement of people which forcefully challenges the legitimacy of war and the New World Order: a global people’s movement which criminalizes war.”

The second book, *Towards a World War III Scenario: The Dangers of Nuclear War*, begins with the Truman Doctrine at the end of WW II. (Chris Hedges in his address “Days of Revolt” goes back to the time of WW I to show the beginnings of the thinking of US dominance.) This position is presented with a quote by State Department representative George Kennan which posits that the US has 6.3 percent of the world’s resources, but utilizes 50 percent of the world’s resources. The world will not be happy with that, therefore, it is necessary to be ready to defend the American way of life with an adequate military. Kennan caps off the posture by stating that the US cannot be soft by being concerned with poverty and the stresses of other parts of the world: “We need not deceive ourselves that we can afford today the luxury of altruism and world benefaction. We should dispense with the aspiration to ‘be liked’ or to be regarded as the repository of a high-minded international altruism. ... We should cease to talk about vague and – for the Far East – unreal objectives such as human rights, the raising of the living standards, and democratization. The day is not far off when we are going to deal in straight power concepts. The less we are then hampered by idealistic slogans, the better.”

This doctrine has since been reaffirmed. After the end of the Cold War in 1993, the Project for The New American Century (PNAC) adopted the Wolfowitz Doctrine which mandated not allowing another nation like the USSR to rise up to threaten the US hegemony. This was adopted by the Council on Foreign Relations and repeated by presidents since. This was not mentioned in the book, nor was the State Department’s instigating a coup in the Ukraine by Under Secretary Victoria Newland



(who is married to Robert Kagan with PNAC.)

In September 2000, a few months before the accession of George W. Bush to the White House, PNAC published its blueprint for global domination under the title, “Rebuilding America’s Defenses.” The PNAC declared objectives are:

- Defend the American homeland;
- Fight and decisively win multiple, simultaneous major theater wars;
- Perform the ‘constabulary’ duties associated with shaping the security environment in critical regions; and
- Transform US forces to exploit the “revolution in military affairs.”

The lynchpin of this new reality begins with the US initiating Al Qaeda, leading to the events of 9/11, followed by the “War on Terrorism.” Chossudovsky states that the lies of 9/11 fall like “a deck of cards” once the truth is unveiled. What this brief review does is name some of the main identifications about war making through “full spectrum dominance” which integrated nuclear weapons with conventional weapons both in policy and in operations.

William Perry’s book *My Journey on the Nuclear Brink* offers the experience from the “inside” of the US military/political establishment in his efforts to prevent nuclear war. He is currently “terrified” about their potential use. Only one nuclear weapon explosion will change the world we live in.

Chossudovsky presents the view of one on the “outside.” Both want the abolition of nuclear weapons. I think that Chossudovsky’s analysis gets closer to the full war reality of our existence. Both show their deep passion and concern.

For a broader understanding of the “inside/outside” I suggest the insights of Robert Jay Lifton, who interviewed people of all experiences in *Witness to an Extreme Century* (his autobiography) as well as for his books about “nuclearism.” However, I need to conclude with the words of Jain Acharya Tulsi in India: “I do not believe in world peace.” The reason is that each person develops his or her consciousness differently. Each of us comes to a consciousness in different times and stages than the others. But, hopefully, we can get to “the hundredth monkey” – the idea that the awareness of one individual can serve as a tipping point for humanity.

Bernie Meyer lives in Olympia. He portrays Mahatma Gandhi at events and conferences in India and the US.

GROUND ZERO

**GROUND ZERO CENTER
FOR NONVIOLENT ACTION**
16159 Clear Creek Road NW
Poulsbo, WA 98370

Phone: 360-930-8697
Website: www.gzcenter.org
E-mail: info@gzcenter.org

Address Service Requested

**Send us your change of
address before the post
office does and it saves
Ground Zero money!**

*If you no longer want to receive our
newsletter, just let us know and
we'll take you off our mailing list.*

PRESORTED
STANDARD
U.S. Postage Paid
SILVERDALE WA
98383
Permit # 111

*“We have more power than
they do.”*
— Chelsea Manning

Sitting Out a Great Opportunity

By Steve Baggerly

Through July 7, representatives of 132 countries met at the United Nations to work out a treaty banning nuclear weapons. Unfortunately, the United States was not at the conference, nor was any other nuclear weapons state.

When Nikki Haley, the US ambassador to the United Nations, announced that the United States would not take part in the proceedings, she asked, “Is there anyone who believes that North Korea would agree to a ban on nuclear weapons?” In fact, during the series of votes leading up to the conference, North Korea was the only nuclear power to vote for it to take place. North Korea and Russia have long offered to dismantle their nuclear programs in exchange for real security regimens.

It's not as if participation in the conference would commit the United States to unilateral disarmament. If we sat at the treaty table in good faith, who knows how other countries might respond and what might happen?

The United States invented nuclear weapons. We are the only country to ever use them on human beings. We own the planet's most powerful nuclear arsenal, and we still regularly threaten other countries with these weapons.

As a signatory to the 1968 Non-Proliferation Treaty, the United States agreed to negotiate complete nuclear disarmament “at an early date.” For us to refuse to even attend the conference is shameful.

If America wants to be great, here is a golden opportunity — to help lead the world away from the constant threat of global nuclear annihilation.

Steve Baggerly is a nuclear abolitionist and Catholic Worker from Norfolk, Virginia. This opinion was originally published as a letter to the editor in *The Virginian-Pilot* on June 23, 2017. The second round of UN negotiations toward a legally-binding treaty banning nuclear weapons began on June 15.