

Ground Zero

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Thirty-Nine Seattle Buses Will Carry Anti-Nuclear Message

Highlight of Summer of Resistance



*Note: The bus window tops may open & close, rendering copy on windows illegible if open.

By Glen Milner

On July 9, and continuing for four weeks, 39 Metro downtown buses will display the following paid advertisement: *Puget Sound: Home to one-third of U.S. deployed nuclear weapons... Accept Responsibility.* 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 submarines, and a U.S. Navy photo of the Trident submarine, USS Nebraska, taken on June 2, 2017 near Elliott Bay.

Also beginning on July 9, three larger versions of the ad (Ultra Super King, shown above) will appear on three Metro downtown buses for four weeks. Both ads will run an additional four bonus weeks depending upon the amount of available space on the buses.

The statement in the ad refers to the percentage of the total number of deployed U.S. strategic nuclear warheads that are deployed on Trident D-5 missiles on SSBN submarines based at Bangor.

On February 5, 2018, the date the New START Treaty entered into effect, the U.S. reported approximate-

ly 1,345 deployed strategic nuclear weapons on ballistic missiles (400 on ICBMs and 945 on SLBMs).

The US Navy operates a fleet of 14 Ohio-class ballistic missile submarines, of which eight operate in the Pacific from their base at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, and six operate in the Atlantic from their base at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, in Georgia. This distribution accounts for approximately 540 deployed strategic warheads on six operational submarines at Bangor.

Hans M. Kristensen is the expert source for the statement, *"Puget Sound: Home to one-third of U.S. nuclear weapons."* (See cited source material here and here.) Mr. Kristensen is director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists where he provides the public with analysis and background information about the status of nuclear forces and the role of nuclear weapons.

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Civic responsibility and nuclear weapons

Our proximity to the largest number of deployed strategic nuclear weapons puts us near a dangerous local and international threat. When citizens become aware of their role in the prospect of nuclear war, or the risk of a nuclear accident, the issue is no longer an abstraction. Our proximity to Bangor demands a deeper response.

Citizens in a democracy also have responsibilities--which includes choosing our leaders and staying informed about what our government is doing. The submarine base at Bangor is 20 miles from downtown Seattle, yet a small percentage of citizens in our region know that Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor exists.

Citizens of Washington State consistently elect governmental officials who support nuclear weapons in Washington State. In the 1970s, Senator Henry Jackson convinced the Pentagon to locate the Trident submarine base on the Hood Canal, while Senator Warren Magnuson obtained funding for roads and other impacts caused by the Trident base. The only Trident submarine to be named after a person (and our Washington State Senator) is the *USS Henry M. Jackson* (SSBN-730), homeported at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.

In 2012, Washington State established the Washington Military Alliance (WMA), strongly promoted by both Governor 's Gregoire and Inslee. The WMA, Department of Defense, and other governmental agencies work to strengthen the role of Washington State as a *"...Power Projection Platform (Strategic Ports, Rail, Roads, and Airports) [with] the complementary air, land, and sea units with which to accomplish the mission.*" Also see "power projection."

Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor and the Trident submarine system has evolved since the first Trident submarine arrived in August 1982. The base has upgraded to a much larger D-5 missile with a larger W88 (455 kiloton) warhead, with ongoing modernization of missile guidance and control systems. The Navy is currently planning to implement a smaller W76-2 "low-yield" or tactical nuclear weapon (approximately 6.5 kilotons) on ballistic submarine missiles at Bangor, dangerously creating a lower threshold for the use of nuclear weapons.

The issues

* The U.S. is spending more on nuclear weapons programs than during the height of the Cold War.

* The U.S. currently plans to spend an estimated \$1.7 trillion over 30 years for rebuilding the nation 's nuclear facilities and modernizing nuclear weapons.

* The New York Times reported that the U. S., Russia and China are aggressively pursuing a new gener-

ation 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 U.S. Navy states that SSBN submarines on patrol provide the U.S. 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.

* An accident involving nuclear weapons occurred on November 2003 when a ladder penetrated a nuclear nosecone during a routine missile offloading at the Explosives Handling Wharf at Bangor. All missile-handling operations at SWFPAC were stopped for nine weeks until Bangor could be recertified for handling nuclear weapons. Three top commanders were fired, but the public was never informed until information was leaked to the media in March 2004.

* Public responses from governmental officials to the 2003 missile accident were generally in the form of surprise and disappointment.

* Due to ongoing modernization and maintenance programs for warheads at Bangor, nuclear warheads are routinely shipped in unmarked trucks between the Department of Energy Pantex Plant near Amarillo, Texas and the Bangor base. Un-

like the Navy at Bangor, the DOE actively promotes emergency preparedness.

The bus ad

The 39 bus ads that begin on July 9 measure 30 inches tall and 144 inches in length and are posted on the sides of Metro buses in downtown Seattle. The three "Ultra Super King" ads, that also begin on July 9, wrap from wheel to wheel on the side of the bus and from top to bottom of the bus. Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action purchased four weeks of both bus ads. King County Metro will run the ads for an additional four bonus weeks if space is available. The smaller ads are expected to run for at least eight weeks or longer.

The photo of the submarine was from a U.S. Navy DVIDS website, at <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/3446233/uss-nebraska-ssbn-739-departs-psns-imf-sea-trials>. The caption for the photo states:

170602-N-TA321-501 PUGET SOUND, Wash. (June 02, 2017) The Ohio-class ballistic-missile submarine USS Nebraska (SSBN 739) passes by Seattle during sea trials after completing an extended major



“Our kids deserve to grow up in a world without nuclear weapons”

Ten cited at Mother’s Day action

By Leonard Eiger

Forty-two activists were present at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor to celebrate the true meaning of Mother’s Day for Peace and to protest nuclear weapons.

Ten activists symbolically closed the base for about 20 minutes by blocking the road to the Main Gate in a nonviolent direct action on the Saturday before Mothers Day. They held two banners across the inbound lanes. One read “The Earth is our Mother. Treat her with Respect”, the other stated “We can all live without Trident.”

The Seattle Peace Chorus Action Ensemble led the activists in peace and protest songs throughout the vigil and nonviolent direct action. One activist walked across the “blue line” that marks Federal jurisdiction to present a letter addressed to the Base Commander. Navy Security Officers accepted the letter and the activist was allowed to return to county property.

Washington State Patrol officers briefly detained those blocking the roadway and issued them citations for “RCW 46.61.250.1 Pedestrian on roadway unlawfully” before releasing them. Most said that they would request a mitigation hearing in county court to explain their reasons for blocking access to the Trident Base.

The ten cited were: Sue Ablao, 76, of Bremerton; Larry Kerschner, 71, of Centralia; Kim Loftness, 64, of Shoreline; Doug Milholland, 69, of Port Townsend; Margarita Munoz, 67, of Seattle; Ramon Nacanaynay, 54, of Shoreline; Dale Rector, 71, of Seattle; Christine Rogers, 69, of Poulsbo; Tom Rogers, 71, of Poulsbo; and Michael Siptroth, 67, of Belfair.

The interaction between demonstrators and both Washington State Patrol and Navy Security Officers was respectful and courteous.



No war-making today. Activists symbolically closed the Bangor base for 20 minutes before being removed by State Patrol officers. *Photo by Glen Milner.*

When asked why he resists Trident, Ground Zero member, and former Navy submarine commander, Tom Rogers said, “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.”

Mother’s Day in the United States was first suggested in 1872 by Julia Ward Howe as a day dedicated to peace. Howe saw the effects on both sides of the Civil War and realized destruction from warfare goes beyond the killing of soldiers in battle.

Leonard Eiger leads communication efforts for Ground Zero, and is the author of the blog www.nuclearabolitionist.blogspot.com.

Peace Fleet Sails Forth on July 31 — Sailors Welcome!

By Glen Milner



Flying the flag: a kayaker sails past a warship in 2017. *Photo by Karol Milner.*

On Tuesday, July 31, at noon, local activists will stage a water-based nonviolent protest against the glorification of weapons of war at the Seattle Seafair festival. For the seventeenth year, peace activists will meet the U.S. Navy fleet in Elliott Bay.

The boaters and kayakers will assemble by Pier 66.

Other peace activists will meet on the Rooftop Plaza on Pier 66 on the Seattle waterfront at the same time for a nonviolent demonstration against weapons of war. An elevator is available inside the Pier 66 Bell Street Pier Cruise Terminal (2225 Alaskan Way) to access the Rooftop Plaza. Please note that Piers 62/63 are closed due to construction.

Why would we demonstrate for peace at a Seattle maritime festival? We are here for the unrepresented and forgotten victims of these weapons of war and to accept

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Ground Zero Member Joins Gaza-Bound Freedom Flotilla

By Elizabeth Murray

Editor's Note: Elizabeth Murray, Member in Residence at Ground Zero, joined the first leg of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) journey in Copenhagen, then sailed on to three German port cities before disembarking in Amsterdam. The FFC mission aims to highlight the illegality of the 12-year-old Israeli blockade on Gaza, as well as the seemingly endless violations perpetrated against the human rights of men, women and children there by the occupying power, Israel. She is grateful for the wholehearted support of the Ground Zero Center for her participation in this journey, whose purpose is to underscore that all human beings have the right to live in peace, freedom and dignity — far from the threat of violence, whether by nuclear weapons or a sniper's bullet. Her article, below, was originally published in Consortium News. You can monitor the progress of the Freedom Flotilla as it continues on its journey toward Gaza Harbor at <http://jfp.freedomflotilla.org/>.

Aboard the *Al Awda* at port in Amsterdam

We are possibly a more motley crew than the passengers aboard the S.S. Minnow in the old U.S. TV series *Gilligan's Island*: Among those who have joined us on one or more legs of the journey to Gaza as part of the Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) are activists hailing from Spain, Israel, Norway, Malaysia, Canada (First Nations), Denmark and the United States.

Despite our diverse ages and backgrounds we have some important things in common: minds that comprehend the crimes and human rights violations being committed daily against the people of the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories; hearts that feel deeply the pain of those whose basic freedoms have been denied for 70 years; and consciences that want to find a nonviolent way to reach out to these people, right the wrongs of the Gaza blockade, and achieve a measure of justice.

Political representatives have failed repeatedly through a lack of the political and moral courage to secure justice for a people facing 70 years of sustained, brutal subjugation by a foreign power, Israel. Thus the international Freedom Flotilla Coalition (FFC) sails again.

This time the FFC will not attempt to deliver medical supplies or foodstuffs to the suffering people of Gaza. Past experience with previous FFC missions indicates that such materials will likely never end up in Gaza,

or will arrive in spoiled or damaged condition. Instead, the *Al-Awda* will deliver itself — a refurbished Norwegian fishing boat — as a solidarity offering to the Gaza fisherman. They are shot at and harassed on a daily basis, prevented from feeding their families, and have their fishing boats regularly seized and destroyed by Israel.

There is so much misery in Gaza that could easily be alleviated since nearly all of it is either deliberately manufactured by Israel (such as the bombing of sewage plants, the electricity grid, Gaza harbor, the undrinkable water) or is an immediate by-product of Israeli policy (widespread post-traumatic stress disorder and associated mental illnesses, a spike in the rates of cancer, once extremely rare among Palestinians).

The economic blockade, the restrictions on foodstuffs and construction materials, the travel bans, and the sealed borders are all aided and abetted by Egyptian leader Abdel Fattah al-Sisi, an ally of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. Under al-Sisi the Rafah border to Egypt — the only non-Israeli outlet available to the Palestinians of Gaza seeking medical aid or travel abroad — is almost always closed. These blatant violations of human rights and the Geneva Convention have occurred with the complicit wink of the U.S. and Europe, whose weapons manufacturers profit handsomely

from their arms sales to Israel.

The relegation of Palestinians to a less-than-human status by Israel, in particular the inhabitants of Gaza who are perpetually locked into an open-air prison and subject to the Israeli blockade, was underscored by MIT professor Noam Chomsky after a 2012 visit to Gaza to attend an academic conference. In comments broadcast by Democracy Now on Nov. 14, 2012, Chomsky remarked:

"It's kind of amazing ... and inspiring to see people managing somehow to survive ... as essentially caged animals subject to constant, random, sadistic punishment — only to humiliate them — no pretext. They [the Palestin-

"Blatant violations of human rights and the Geneva Convention have occurred with the complicit wink of the US and Europe."



The *Al Awda*, meaning "the return" leaving its first port of call before journeying to Gaza. *Photo by Elizabeth Murray.*

Freedom Flotilla... continued on page 5

ians] would like to have dignified lives, but the standard Israeli position is that they shouldn't raise their heads."

In Wilhelmshaven

During our ports of call in Germany, visitors to *Al-Awda* told us that many German politicians as well as ordinary Germans are reluctant to speak out against human rights abuses against Palestinians because they say that if they do, they will be branded as anti-Semitic and possibly have their lives and careers ruined by this smear.

Listening to these German citizens express their solidarity with the FFC mission in passionate, yet hushed tones, one cannot but think back to the suppression of free speech by the Communist-era East German government that was fiercely enforced by the secret police known as the Stasi. One can only deplore the practice of self-censorship that has become widespread in what is supposed to be a free and democratic, united Germany. It also underscores the powerful political pressure that Israel brings to bear on many European countries. Of course, Germany's uniquely evil treatment of Jews historically makes it only natural that Germans would be reluctant to criticize Israel.

Shortly before we departed from Wilhelmshaven, we were visited by Georg, a human rights advocate and photographer affiliated with the "Bundesverband Arbeiterfotographie," who made the 50-mile road trip from Bremen to take photos, express support and offer a generous personal donation to the Freedom Flotilla mission before rushing back to Bremen to collect his 9-year-old son from school. He said: "I rushed over as soon as I heard about you."



Unable to return to her homeland, a Palestinian resident of Wilhelmshaven speaks with Elizabeth. *Photo courtesy of Elizabeth Murray.*

We also met Timo, a German trade union leader and youth organizer, who volunteered his time and talents to take care of some technical problems aboard the boat. Timo, who also hails from Bremen, spent an entire day

driving around to half a dozen specialty maritime and hardware supply stores in Wilhelmshaven to help us obtain the proper parts; he then worked tirelessly until all was "shipshape." When we offered to compensate him for his time and trouble, he refused, saying: "Let this be my small contribution toward peace."

Meanwhile, the Palestinian-German community in Wilhelmshaven showered us with gifts of home-made Palestinian delicacies and serenaded us with singing, dancing and playing of the oud, a classical Palestinian stringed instrument. They thanked us for making this journey, saying they only wish they could join us and return to their original homes and villages. Their love and affection for our mission is overwhelming.

In Amsterdam we were feted by local peace and social justice activists who hosted a dinner of traditional Palestinian food. After a very rough night at sea en route to Amsterdam – during which the *Al-Awda* tossed and pitched amid enormous swells – we are grateful to be here in calm waters, enjoying the warm hospitality of the local human rights community.

We aim to approach Gaza harbor unimpeded, so that our supporters there can receive us as well.

Elizabeth Murray served as Deputy National Intelligence Officer for the Near East in the National Intelligence Council before retiring after a 27-year career in the U.S. government. She is a member of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS) and the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action.

Nuclear Weapons? NO DEAL! Join Ground Zero in August!

By Mack Johnson

Mark your calendars now for nearly six days of education, commemoration, and direct action in the service of nuclear abolition.

With the current presidential administration in Washington, DC under the misguided beliefs that they can pull a complex agreement to "denuclearize" the Korean peninsula, while tearing up a parallel one with Iran, and building a hideous new generation of US nuclear weapons, global attention is rightly focused on nukes. But what does denuclearization really mean? Does the US get to hold a nuclear gun to the head of whomever it

wants, while betraying its allies? Not a proven path to world stability!

Ground Zero invites all people who want to halt the existential threat of nuclear weapons to celebrate life and resist the Trident nuclear weapons system. True security can only be achieved when nuclear weapons and the systems that generate them are abolished. The United States must reduce and reverse its nuclear weapons drive for the rest of the world to see that it is serious about pre-

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Ground Zero loses a faithful friend

Ground Zero's dear Jean Sundborg died unexpectedly of a cerebral hemorrhage on June 22, 2018. She was in Tallinn, Estonia, while on a Baltic cruise. The sad news came shortly before this issue went to print, but below are some brief remembrances shared through emails.



Jean at the Mother's Day Action, 2012.
Photo by Leonard Eiger.

Senji Kanaeda: "I feel very sad to know of her sudden death in Estonia quite far away and still would not like to believe it.

"On the summer of around 2011 when we walked outside of Corvallis, Oregon in the morning, somehow she was driving there and stopped in front of us. "I visited my relative here and heard your drumming and caught up to you. You are in everywhere," she said. On the same peace walk she hosted us at her Unitarian Church. Whenever I talked with her, she brought me peace and stillness regardless of the subject. I miss her. I wish to pray for her soul. Gassho (palms together)."

Gilberto Perez: "My beloved Jean, she was always our host at the Unitarian Church in Des Moines during our annual peace walks and at times twice a year. She always stayed with us during the night at the church and made dinner and breakfast for the peace walkers. At one she said that she would not be able to accommodate or host the peace walkers...We discovered a year later that she had breast cancer and did not want to burden with sadness our peace walkers. I was also able to meet her in New York City during the Climate Change March. We visited All Souls Unitarian Church on the upper east side with her longtime friend. Many times she would visit the Tuesday vigil at Federal Building.

Sue Ablao: "I'll always remember Jean's sweet smile and kind words. She was a tireless worker for peace and social justice."

Mona Lee: "Jean was a very beautiful person. Besides Ground Zero, I knew her from Saltwater Unitarian Universalist Church of which I am also a member. Jean did a lot of work for the Church and was very much loved there. We are grieving her loss and will miss her very much. I have a memory that Jean used to go downtown on Thursday mornings and hand out Ground Zero leaflets to people getting off the ferry."

Thank you to the Ground Zero members who contributed to this article. Please check the *Seattle Times* for information about a memorial for Jean.

Johnny Baranski, 1948-2018

By Kim Wahl

Johnny Baranski, age 69, gifted poet, father of three, Catholic Worker for social justice, and war- and nuclear weapons-resister, died January 24, 2018, of COPD. Gifts of subtle humor and a disciplined demeanor served him well in his pursuit of peace.

His move with Grace Jewett to the Northwest brought him to Bangor nearly three years before the first Trident submarine, the Ohio, arrived. His participation in a series of "fence" actions at Bangor in October, 1979 caused Federal Judge Gordon Thompson Jr. to sentence him to six months at Lompoc Federal Prison Camp in California, along with Charlie Meconis.

Johnny returned to Bangor from his home in Portland numerous times to resist the first White Train and several missile motor trains. He received sentences of several months, with co-resisters serving three to seven days, usually at Snohomish County Jail. Over his lifetime two to three years were spent in jail.

Johnny wrote thoughtful letters, poetry, and haiku for 40 years, refining his art and gaining significant recognition from the haiku community and many readers. His haiku increased as time passed, with "Fireweed" scheduled for publication in 2019.

Some of his haiku are reprinted below.

in the prison graveyard
just as he was in life—
convict 14302

for a moment
the war be damned
cherry blossoms

prison lights out
drifting off to distant places
a train whistle

road to freedom
just a stone's throw beyond
the prison yard

long before I came
long after I leave
blossoming pear

one last breath
before dying
plum blossom



Kim Wahl began pacifist civil disobedience against nuclear weapons in 1981, taking part the next year in the first peace blockade. She and her husband Bill live in Seattle.

Recognizing Two Inconvenient Truths on Earth Day

By Leonard Eiger

Environmental and peace activists came together at Seattle's Westlake Park for a rally and march honoring Earth Day on Saturday, April 21st.

The event was a collaboration among Seattle-area organizations to connect citizens to the grave threats of climate change and nuclear war, and to engage people in the important work of protecting our fragile planet from both these existential threats.

It is critical that countries immediately begin dramatic reductions in carbon emissions in order to mitigate CO2-induced climate change. The U.S. Department of Energy's own numbers reveal that in FY2016 the U.S. Department of Defense emitted more than 66.2 million metric tons of CO2 equivalent into the atmosphere. That was more than the emissions from Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Ireland, or 160 other nations.

The United States continues to hold thousands of nuclear warheads, the majority of which are deployed on sea-based and land-based missiles. Just the combined nuclear warheads at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor and Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific, just 20 miles west of Seattle, constitute roughly one-third of the entire US nuclear stockpile.

Even the most limited use of nuclear weapons would have catastrophic global consequences. The horrific loss of human life; the long-term effects on the environment, climate, and human health; and the destabilization of the global economy and international relations are difficult to imagine. Nuclear war would mean the end of civilization as we know it.

Speakers at Saturday's event included Lilly Adams, Security Program Organizer for Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility (WPSR); Dan Gilman, President of Veterans For Peace, Greater Seattle, Chapter 92; Elizabeth Murray, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action Member in Residence; Native American Storyteller and author Ty Nolan; Michael Ramos, Executive Director of The Church Council of Greater Seattle; and Vandana Whitney of 350 Seattle (a local group affiliated with 350.org).

VFP's Gilman spoke to the impact of militarism: "The U. S military is the one of the biggest, if not the biggest, polluter of the environment in the world. Whether it is in its preparation for war, the fighting of the war itself, or the aftermath of military action, the military destroys the environment, pollutes the water, poisons the

air, and leaks toxins into the vegetation and soil to a degree unmatched by any other organization on earth. If we are to win the battle to reduce the destructive environmental degradation that results from the military, environments and peace groups will have to join together to take on the military industrial complex to greatly reduce the funding and the size of the military. We need peace to save not only humanity, but our planet as well."



"We need peace to save not only humanity, but our planet as well." Ground Zero members march through the streets of Seattle. *Photo by Mary Gleysteen.*

WPSR's Adams said, "Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility works on the two gravest threats to our planet: climate change and nuclear weapons. We were started during the Cold War, and we're driven by the understanding that there is no cure for a nuclear detonation. Prevention is the only option. Right now the danger of nuclear war is growing, and we can't continue to ignore this existential threat to survival. The US government is planning to spend \$1.7 trillion over the next 30 years to rebuild our nuclear weapons arsenal. \$1.7 trillion! That equals \$4.6 million every single hour – what could we spend that money on instead? How many people could be helped with that money?"

At noon, led by the monks from the Bainbridge Island Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Temple, participants marched to Pike Place Market, stopping at Victor Steinbrueck Park and back up Pine Street to Westlake Park for final speakers and music.

Folksinger/storyteller Tom Rawson and the Seattle Peace Chorus's Action Group provided musical inspiration for the event.

Participating organizations included Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, Earth Care not Warfare, PSR Washington Against Nuclear Weapons coalition, South Seattle Climate Action Network, Rainier Valley Neighbors for Peace & Justice, and Veterans For Peace, Greater Seattle, Chapter 92.

Leonard Eiger serves on the Stewardship Council, and leads the No to New Trident Campaign at www.notnt.org.

Peace Pagoda Update: *A Time of Clarification and Good News!*

By Glen Milner

On April 8, 1982, The Most Venerable [Nichidatsu Fujii](#) stated:

NA-MU MYO-HO-REN-GE-KYO

The suspension of the construction of the peace pagoda complying with the prohibition order is not necessarily a defeat. What is now taking place is a confrontation between the construction of a naval station and that of peace. It is a collision between the government and the people; a competition between murder and deliverance.

There are limits to the enforcement of policies that aggravate the arms race. However, people's aspiration toward peace is boundless. Violence of the authority might temporarily gain victory. Yet it is nothing more than a spring-time dream. The life of religion, the foundation of all non-violent movements and the creation of peace, is infinite.

We shall meet any kind of hardship thoroughly by our unshakeable spirit of perseverance and await the coming of spring, the time of blossoming...

On May 9, Ground Zero members met with Kitsap County personnel to discuss Ground Zero land use and permitting issues for the Peace Pagoda. Tom Rogers and Glen Milner, with hundreds of pages of supporting records and a plan for the discussion, met in Port Orchard with three Kitsap County Department of Community Development (DCD) employees and a Kitsap County attorney. We had decided previously with Kitsap County that we needed 1 ½ hours to address the issues before us. We first established that the meeting was informal to allow us to speak freely.

Within minutes, more than 30 years of county zoning and land use decisions blocking the construction of the Peace Pagoda melted away with a smile. The Assistant Director for DCD quickly told us the County wanted to help us build the Peace Pagoda. We were stunned.

Our first concern was the determination by the DCD in June 2016 that Ground Zero needed a conditional use permit to continue operating as we have since 1977.

The June 2016 determination required Ground Zero to start an expensive and public permitting process to continue our current land use, and to accept stipulations imposed upon Ground Zero by the County for the future use of our property. We were informed that Ground Zero could continue using our property as we have in the past without a special permit.

Regarding the Peace Pagoda, we were told that the County considered the Pagoda to be a monument. We needed only a building permit in order to begin construction. We were told that the County would do its best to facilitate the process. And only because Tom and Glen continued to ask questions to clarify what they had just heard—our scheduled 1 ½ hour meeting lasted about 15 minutes.

Our eyes were wide open (and remain so) after the meeting with the County. The latest effort to build the Peace Pagoda had been stalled by the County since May 2016. During this time, Brother Senji Kanaeda had begun working on a revised plan for the Pagoda.

Because Ground Zero members approved the Peace Pagoda design and location on April 4, 2015, we thought now was a good time to review our original ideas about the Peace Pagoda. We discovered that we had much to learn.

After open discussions with Brother Senji Kanaeda and Lani Kawasaki, we soon realized that we had made a grave error when siting

the Peace Pagoda in 2015 at the northwest corner of the property. It became clear to all (again somehow with little discussion) that the Peace Pagoda belonged on the exact site of the Peace Pagoda that had been started by Nichidatsu Fujii (Guruji) in 1981. Ground Zero members agreed to this location, about 90 feet north and west of the Gendai Hoto.

This was all a miracle in the making. We are so fortunate to have our good friend Brother Senji Kanaeda, and to have this chance, at this time of blossoming.



NIPPONZAN MYOHOJI
Founder and Preceptor: The Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii
NAMU MYO HO REN GE KYO



"A miracle in the making." The location for the Peace Pagoda will match that originally envisioned in 1981. *Image courtesy of Kitsap County.*

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

Bannering for Abolition

By Leonard Eiger

Activists from Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action began their Summer of Resistance to nuclear weapons by holding banners over Interstate 5 in Seattle on June 11th.

The two banners read “ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS” and “RESIST TRIDENT—NO NEW NUKES.”

Monday morning’s action took place on the eve of the historic summit between the United States and North Korea to call attention to the very real danger of nuclear weapons and the need for the US to lead efforts toward disarmament.

While the US has been calling for the complete denuclearization of North Korea, it continues to modernize and upgrade its nuclear weapons and delivery systems. It has declared, along with some other nuclear weapon states, that it will never sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).

Eight of the US Navy’s fourteen Trident ballistic missile submarines are based just 20 miles west of Seattle at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. The Navy is moving forward with plans to replace the existing fleet, and the Pentagon is developing a low-yield version of the

“An informed citizenry is crucial to the democratic process.”

W-76 thermo-nuclear warhead deployed on the Trident II D-5 missile. US nuclear weapons modernization plans over the next 30 years, when adjusted for inflation, are estimated at \$1.7 trillion.

If the US is serious about denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula, it should begin by, at the very least, signing and ratifying the TPNW. Only then can it begin to negotiate, in good faith, with North Korea about its nuclear weapons.

Organizer, Rodney Brunelle, initiated the I-5 banner action because he believes that, “Nuclear weapons ought to be a major concern in a democracy. I think it is safe to say that the public is generally unaware and/or unconcerned that the U.S. has such a huge nuclear weapons stash so close to the heart of our city [Seattle]. I think it’s simply one thing we can do to put the issue [of nucle-

ar weapons] in front of people’s windshields. After all, an informed citizenry is crucial to the democratic process.”

Members of Veterans for Peace, Seattle, Chapter 92 joined Ground Zero members on the first Monday of bannering. At work on the overpass were Kim Loftness, Albert Penta, Rodney Brunelle and Glen Milner.



Thousands of commuters will view the banners held by members of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and Veterans for Peace, Seattle, Chapter 92 holding. *Photo by Glen Milner.*

Ground Zero Center plans to continue bannering every Monday from 8:30 to 9:30 AM on the NE 45th Street overpass throughout the summer. See the Ground Zero Events page for details. Please email organizer Rodney Brunelle at rodney.brunelle@gmail.com if you would like to participate in any of the Monday banner actions.



Leonard Eiger sends out press releases on behalf of Ground Zero, and leads the No the New Trident Campaign, at www.notnt.org.

venting a catastrophic nuclear explosion----let alone hundreds. To this purpose, Ground Zero is again teaming with other groups to organize symbolic and practical activities to call attention to the nuclear danger, build solidarity by witnessing against nukes and militarism, and celebrate our hopes for life and for the future.

The annual Peace Fleet protest against militarism and the Navy presence at Seafair occurs August 1 on the waterfront of Elliott Bay in Seattle. Demonstrators in the water and ashore will greet Navy ships and personnel to demand an end to wastes of taxpayers' resources. Boaters, paddlers, and landlubbers please join in! Contact Glen Milner for details: info@GroundZeroCenter.org

Peace walkers from the Nipponzan Myohoji Temple on Bainbridge Island will be concluding a three-week peacewalk at the grounds of the Ground Zero Center on 16159 Clear Creek Road in Poulsbo 10:30 August 4. They would love to have more walkers and supporters for all or part of their pilgrimage. Contact: Rev. Senji Kanaeda, Nipponzan Myohoji Temple; kanaedasen-ji@gmail.com; 206-780-6739 or 206-724-7632 (cell).



Boats by Bangor at the 2017 action was comprised of colorful kayaks and a friendly Labrador. *Photo by Glen Milner.*

Also on August 4, for the third straight year activists will convoy from Ground Zero to the old Bangor village on Hood Canal for Boats By Bangor, a symbolic water-borne protest of boats and kayaks that sail north past the Bangor shore installations, to witness against the existence of a nuclear weapons base on beautiful Hood Canal. There will be a picnic and on-shore music by The Irthlingz Duo from the San Juan Islands. Contact Mack Johnson or Rodney Brunelle to take part.

Sunday August 5 is our big program day, highlighted by two keynote speakers.

Ray McGovern is a former intelligence analyst and founder of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity (VIPS). Bill Moyer of Vashon Island is Executive Director of the Backbone Campaign, an artist-activist group that organizes for a just, sustainable world.

Along with ideas and inspiration from these two

experts, Ground Zero's August events team will be offering nonviolence training and discernment to prepare for the next day's nonviolent direct vigil and actions, coordinating roles and peace-keeping for the vigil, providing opportunities for contacting political leaders, and providing excellent hospitality and the use of Ground Zero's gorgeous facilities and grounds. Sunday concludes with a full concert in the house from The Irthlingz Duo. See <http://irthlingz.org/>.

August 6 is a significant day for Ground Zero and the world. It is the 73rd anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima in 1945, the first use of a nuclear bomb and a continuing warning to everyone of what a nuclear explosion really does and means. Ground Zero will commemorate this and all the other tragedies of the nuclear age by marching to the gates of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, vigiling to stop nuclear weapons and all the waste and horror they represent, and symbolically slowing "business as usual" by blocking the roadways that support the deployment of hydrogen bombs from there. We invite all people of conscience to join us for this important action, continuing over 40 years of witness to and resistance against Trident.

After the action, and the release of detained demonstrators, participants will return to their communities to carry on the "good work" of fighting for peace and a nuke-free world.

The final event of Hiroshima-Nagasaki remembrance week is the Hiroshima to Hope memorial and candle-lighting ceremony, at dusk Green Lake Park in Seattle on August 6th. This interfaith ceremony honoring nuclear victims and all victims of violence has taken place for decades and is a very moving ritual. Visit <http://fromhiroshimatohope.org/> for more details.

Come work with us for a nuclear-free world!

We need your participation and we all thrive on the fellowship of loving activists. Seven meals will be provided from Saturday breakfast through Monday breakfast before the action. Cooks for some meals are still needed; contact Elizabeth Murray or Mack Johnson to help. For more information, and a schedule to come, see gzcenter.org.



Last year's participants walk to the main gate. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

Mack Johnson serves on the Stewardship Council and is on the Planning Committee for the 2018 Hiroshima-Nagasaki commemorations.

maintenance period, to include an engineered refueling overhaul at Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and Intermediate Maintenance Facility. (U.S. Navy photo by Culinary Specialist Seaman Joseph W. Weiser/Released)

Nuclear weapons and resistance

In the 1970s and 1980s, thousands demonstrated against nuclear weapons at the Bangor base and hundreds were arrested. Seattle Archbishop Hunthausen had proclaimed the Bangor submarine base the “Auschwitz of Puget Sound” and in 1982 began to withhold half of his federal taxes in protest of “our nation’s continuing involvement in the race for nuclear arms supremacy.”

One Trident SSBN submarine at Bangor is estimated to carry about 90 nuclear warheads. The W76 and W88 warheads at Bangor are equal respectively to 100

kilotons and 455 kilotons of TNT in destructive force. One submarine deployed at Bangor is equal to more than 1,000 Hiroshima-sized nuclear bombs.

On May 27, 2016, President Obama spoke in Hiroshima and called for an end to nuclear weapons. He said that the nuclear powers “...*must have the courage to escape the logic of fear, and pursue a world without them.*” Obama added, “*We must change our mindset about war itself.*”

Glen Milner has resisted the Trident Nuclear Weapon system for over 35 years. **Rodney Brunelle** is the driving force behind the Ground Zero bus ad campaign, now in its third year of operation. Rodney serves on the Stewardship Council and in on the Media/Communications and Outreach Committee. .

Peace Fleet... continued from page 3

responsibility for the crimes of our nation. And because the celebration of warships in our harbor helps bring about the normalcy of modern war.

The fleet arrival at Seafair is a public relations and recruiting event for the U.S. Navy. Previous years have brought Trident nuclear submarines complete with nuclear warheads and Navy warships used to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles in the first and second Wars on Iraq and the seventeen-year War on Afghanistan. The fleet is displayed for five days in downtown Seattle at tremendous cost to taxpayers while crucial social services in education, health care, and transportation are impaired for lack of funds.

The Peace Fleet is an incarnation of earlier demonstrations: the People’s Blockade of U.S. Navy vessels carrying munitions during the Vietnam War; and the Peace Blockade in Hood Canal, demonstrating against the arrival of the first Trident submarine, the USS Ohio, at the Trident submarine base at Bangor in 1982.

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

This year, Ground Zero members filed a complaint with the Washington State Auditor’s Office regarding the Port of Seattle providing the Rooftop Plaza for Seafair for an entire week in 2017 without payment. Ground Zero has asked that Seafair pay for the use of the Rooftop Plaza in 2017 (in excess of \$100,000) and that the Port of Seattle should notify the public in advance whether the Rooftop Plaza is open in 2018.

On June 28, 2018, Ground Zero members were told that the Rooftop Plaza on Pier 66 would be open to the public this year during the Parade of Ships.

2012 was the first year for the Coast Guard’s permanent 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 in FY 2013 resulting from the Budget Control Act of 2011, also known as sequestration. 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 24, 2018, on a vote of 351-66, the House of Representatives passed a \$717 billion National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2019. Of the 10 Washington State representatives, only Representative Jayapal voted against the defense bill.

On June 18, 2018, on a vote of 85-10, the Senate passed a \$716 billion National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2019. Both Senators Murray and Cantwell voted for the bill.

Glen Milner leads legal efforts on behalf of Ground Zero, and organizes the annual Peace Fleet protest.

GROUND ZERO

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*“Though I am gone
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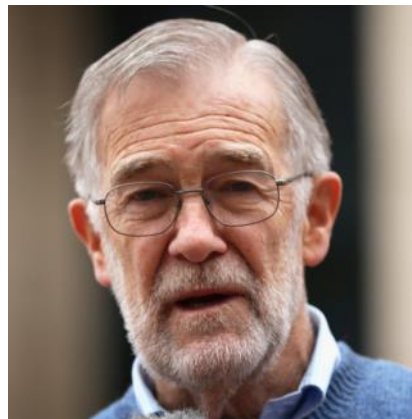
— Johnny Baranski

Join Ground Zero in August for an Amazing and Inspiring Program



The Irtthlingz Duo, above, consists of Mike Hurwicz and Sharon Abreu. The two have been performing together for 20 years, and has played in Mexico, South Africa, and England., *Photo courtesy of www.irthlingz.com.*

Bill Moyer, below, founded the Backbone Campaign in 2003, to teach people creative and nonviolent ways to resist the Bush administration. Fifteen years later the organization is still going strong, and more necessary than ever. *Photo courtesy of www.greenbiz.com.*



Ray McGovern, left, continues a remarkable second career as an activist after retiring from the CIA in 1990. In 2003 he founded Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity. He was most recently arrested on May 9, protesting the confirmation hearing of Gina Haspel for CIA director. *Photo courtesy of www.zimbio.com.*

Ground Zero has an important and exciting program planned for our August commemoration of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. On Saturday, August 4, the Peace Walk will arrive at Ground Zero; the same day, Boats by Bangor will sail the Hood Canal. On Sunday, August 5, we'll be joined by our remarkable keynote speakers, Ray McGovern and Bill Moyer. We'll plan for our action and also enjoy music by duo the Irtthlingz. Then on Monday, August 6, Ground Zero will sponsor witness and nonviolent direct action at the Bangor gates. See page 5 for full details.