

Ground Zero

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Ground Zero Honors Archbishop Hunthausen's Legacy



By Leonard Eiger

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action pulled out the stops this past August with its events commemorating the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The weekend included keynote addresses by former CIA officer and peace activist Ray McGovern and Backbone Campaign executive director Bill Moyer, the annual Boats by Bangor, music by The Irthlingz Duo, and a traditional vigil and nonviolent direct action at the Bangor Trident base.

McGovern's presentation was titled "Miracle and Myth: We Have Not Yet Blown Up Our Planet = Miracle. Our Luck Will Hold Indefinitely = Myth." He explained that it is a myth that attacking Japanese cities with atomic bombs was needed to end WWII, though that's what we were told. Six of the United States' seven

five-star officers who received their final star in World War II—Generals MacArthur, Eisenhower, and Arnold and Admirals Leahy, King, and Nimitz—rejected the idea that nuclear bombs were needed to end the war. Sadly, though, there is little evidence that they pressed their case with then-President Truman before the fact. So why did Truman do it? McGovern made the case that Truman and Secretary of State Jimmy Byrnes were incorrigible bigots. And that bigotry continues to drive our nation's foreign policy and continued pursuit of nuclear dominance.

McGovern recounted story after story of Cold War near misses that could have easily erupted into WWII had individuals, on both the U.S. and Soviet

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sides, not acted on conscience and with common sense. He also spoke to the acts of conscience by so many people, like Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen and Daniel Berrigan, that had an impact on and moved so many others to follow in their footsteps. In a nation where results are revered, McGovern reminded us of a quote by Berrigan, who once said, that “the good is worth doing because it’s good; that results are not unimportant, but they’re secondary; they’re secondary to the action that is good.” As for the good work we do, which can often seem like a drop in the ocean, McGovern cited another quote by Berrigan, in which he said, “The difference between doing nothing and doing something is everything.”

Moyer’s presentation, titled “Love Wins—Grand Strategy in a Battle of Paradigms,” weaved principles from Sun Tzu’s “Art of War” and Col. John Boyd’s “Grand Strategy Briefings” into lessons learned from 14 years of artful activism in his work with Backbone Campaign. He explored the protection of things that are beyond price, against forces that seek to commodify everything and everyone. Moyer introduced key concepts from Backbone’s Theory of Change with case studies to lay the foundation for growing a robust, vibrant, and sustainable social change that transcends “mere resistance to the profanities of corporatism, to deliver victories for our communities and future generations.”

Moyer also remembered Archbishop Hunthausen as a very strategic communicator who taught us “to overcome this principle of the difficulty of despair; he gave people an action they could take - tax resistance.” Tax resistance became an integral part of Hunthausen’s resistance to nuclear weapons. Moyer also spoke to one of Hunthausen’s most controversial quotes bringing it into the context of our work. “In his [Hunthausen’s] comparison of Trident submarines to the ‘Auschwitz of Puget Sound,’ which everybody quotes, it wasn’t so much that they are a tool of genocide, which, of course, they are... but it was that they are invisible; the neighbors of Auschwitz didn’t want to know what was going on; they felt more comfortable when it was under the surface; so he [Hunthausen] in collaboration with you all [Ground Zero] helped make the invisible visible, and that’s what we do as change agents, as people who are looking forward to what we want rather than what we’ve been given.”

Ed Mays of Pirate Television (www.edmaysproductions.net) videotaped both presentations and has posted them on YouTube; to find them, search for “Ground Zero” and “Ray McGovern” or “Bill Moyer.”

Members of the 2018 Pacific Northwest Interfaith Peace Walk arrived at Ground Zero Center on Saturday, August 4, after a nearly two-week walk that started in Oregon. This was the 14th year of the peace walk, and it carried the theme: “No More War—A World without Nuclear Weapons.” Participants walked, listened and shared the voices of the victims of warfare.

Later on Saturday, kayaktivists and a sailboat plied the waters of Hood Canal in the third annual “Boats by Bangor” waterborne protest against nuclear weapons. The activists kept well outside the base’s security perimeter, sailing by the Delta Pier, where submarines are maintained and prepared for their patrols, and the two Explosives Handling Wharves, where Trident II D5 thermonuclear-armed ballistic missiles are loaded and offloaded.



“Boats by Bangor” sailors and kayaktivists brought waterborne attention to Bangor’s Delta Pier, visible just behind them. *Photo by Glen Milner.*

In addition to the speakers, fellowship, nonviolence training, and action preparations, The Irthlingz Duo provided musical entertainment and inspiration throughout the weekend. Sharon Abreu and Michael Hurwicz bring a deep social conscience and creative talents to their music. In 2017, they released “Songs to Save the Salish Sea” to raise awareness about the local communities’ efforts to prevent coal, oil and gas projects in the Salish Sea. Also in 2017, they provided music for the BlueGreen Alliance “Clean and Fair Economy Summit” in Olympia, Washington, and the “War and the Environment” conference in Washington, D.C.

Participants held a vigil at the Bangor Main Gate beginning on the evening of August 5th and continuing into the morning of August 6th, the anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima. Approximately sixty activists were present at the morning vigil, and twelve participated in a nonviolent direct action in which participants blockaded the base at the peak of the morning shift change by carrying a banner onto the roadway of the main entrance gate. The banner read, “Trident is the Auschwitz of Puget Sound—Archbishop Hunthausen.” The activists stopped traffic entering the base for ten minutes before being removed from the roadway by Washington State Patrol Officers, cited for being in the roadway illegally, and released on the scene. Those cited were Phil Davis, Susan Delaney, Lisa Johnson, Mack Johnson, Ann Kittredge, James Knight, Brenda McMillan, Elizabeth Murray, George Rodkey, Ryan Scott Rosenboom, Michael Siptroth, and Jade Takushi.

The banner used in the action was the result of a collaboration with Moyer, who brought his experience, skills and tools from his work with Backbone Campaign. Participants outlined and cut the letters, and then applied them to the massive banner mesh to send a clear message to those entering the base on their way to work. It was a bold statement with a strong historical context.

Raymond Hunthausen, retired archbishop of Seattle, died on July 22nd at age 96. Frank Fromherz, author of the soon to be released book, "A Disarming Spirit: The Life of Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen," said of Hunthausen:

"It was in the early 1980s that Archbishop Hunthausen denounced the Trident nuclear submarine fleet harbored in his archdiocese, famously calling it 'the Auschwitz of Puget Sound.' His opposition inspired Catholics worldwide, but gained him powerful opponents in the U.S. government during the era of President Reagan's military buildup. Catholic peace activist Jim Douglass, a

native of British Columbia, introduced Archbishop Hunthausen to the practice of contemplative nonviolent direct action."

"Douglass once described his longtime friend as 'a holy prophet of nonviolence in the nuclear age.' In what would become a truly historic address on June 12, 1981 at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Hunthausen spoke these prophetic words: 'Our security as people of faith lies not in demonic weapons, which threaten all life on earth. Our security is in a loving, caring God. We must dismantle our weapons of terror and place our reliance on God.'"

As journalist Terry Messman describes it, "In the immediate aftermath of the archbishop's uncompromising call to resistance, many Catholic bishops, Protestant ministers and Jewish rabbis were moved to speak out against nuclear weapons. And the peace move-

ment found new hope. At last, someone with the power to



Processing to the main gate. Ground Zero activists exit Clear Creek Parkway and enter the path leading to the base entrance. *Photo by Glen Milner.*

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Shape Ground Zero's Future At Our Annual Meeting

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. Please consider serving on a committee or on one of the positions listed below.

The meeting will take place on Saturday, November 10, at 1:00, at Ground Zero. We'll have a potluck lunch at noon beforehand for all who want to join.

The annual membership meeting was established in November 2002 as part of the organizational structure of Ground Zero.

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 is currently one ad hoc committee – 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.

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."

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action 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 has worked with Ground Zero since the days of White Train resistance. He lives in Lake Forest Park with his wife Karol.

Archbishop Hunthausen at Ground Zero

Prophetic Voice and Patient Organizer

By Jim Douglass

Editor's Note: Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen, retired Archbishop of Seattle, died on July 22. In the 1980s Hunthausen famously denounced the Trident nuclear weapon system as "the Auschwitz of Puget Sound." While his bold leadership inspired Catholics worldwide, it was anything but popular with those in the government and church hierarchies. Ground Zero co-founder Jim Douglass introduced the Archbishop to the practice of contemplative nonviolent direct action, at the heart of Ground Zero's mission. He once described Archbishop Hunthausen as "a holy prophet of the nuclear age." This reflection, written by Douglass, provides a glimpse into what we are both called to and capable of.

You can learn much more about Archbishop Hunthausen in the soon to be published book, "A Disarming Spirit: The Life of Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen", written by Frank Fromherz. All profits from the sale of this book will be given to the Ground Zero Community, a nonprofit established for Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action's educational work.

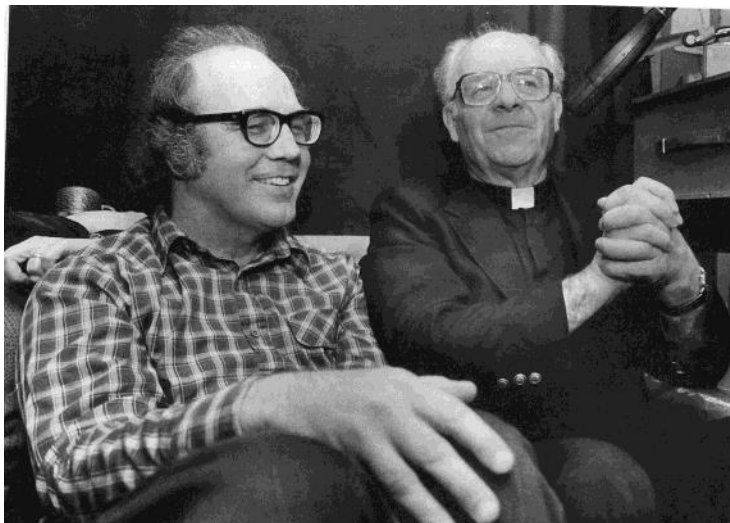
In his early days, Raymond Hunthausen was a teacher at Carroll College in Helena, Montana, and coach of its football, basketball, baseball, and track teams. As a coach, he was named to the National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics

"In his humble, faithful way, his leadership helped created hopeful consequences."

Hall of Fame. The man knew teamwork – how to encourage folks to work and play together in a disciplined way. His basketball team was once in the closing minutes of a game against a superior opponent whose home crowd was cheering them on to 100 points. Calling a time-out, coach Hunthausen convinced his discouraged players to ignore the score and stall, playing keep-away with the ball. The tactic worked so well the other team panicked, Carroll outscored them in the final minutes, and they didn't reach 100 points. It changed the whole dynamic.

Archbishop Hunthausen brought that kind of gift to Ground Zero. He was not only a prophetic voice for

peace but a patient organizer. On one of his visits to Ground Zero, he brought with him his leadership team in the Seattle Catholic Archdiocese to join us in a day of reflection. On that rainy Saturday in our geodesic dome (soon to be burned down), we heard a woman from Hiroshima describe the darkness and horror of August 6, 1945. We heard the Archbishop proclaim Jesus' beatitudes, while wiping raindrops from his Bible where they'd fallen from the holes in the dome. And we experienced together the beauty of this place at the edge of destruction. Some of those who came with the Archbishop that day have made waves at Ground Zero ever since, such as Kim and Bill Wahl and Jim Burns.



"He had no regrets." Jim Douglass and Archbishop Hunthausen share a laugh during the early days of Trident resistance. *Photo courtesy of Jim Douglass.*

Archbishop Hunthausen inspired a group of Seattle church leaders to vigil with him in a boat in support of the Peace Blockade of the first Trident sub. He also went through a nonviolence training session at Ground Zero. I recall being opposite him in a hassle line. As a great athlete, he was more than capable of climbing over the base fence. What he chose to do instead was refuse to pay half his income tax in resistance to war-making. His voice and actions were a jarring, chain-reacting example to others. In a

humble, faithful way, his leadership helped create hopeful consequences, including the American Catholic bishops' pastoral letter, "The Challenge of Peace." It all resulted in deep suffering to himself, from both church and state. He had no regrets. He lived to see Pope Francis turning the whole church toward peacemaking.

Mike Ryan, in his homily on the Archbishop, said that when word of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima reached Raymond Hunthausen's seminary in August 1945, there was "general jubilation" among his fellow seminarians that "the enemy was finally vanquished." All the young Hunthausen could think about were "the 70,000 people who had been incinerated in a matter of seconds." He shared with Ryan "how he went off to the woods for a walk, and then to the chapel, where he buried his head in his hands and wept."

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We can see in that weeping seminarian the seeds of the compassionate prophet we came to know at Ground Zero.

Archbishop Hunthausen had the gift of leading us into genuine community. He lived out that gift fully, sharing it with us on holy ground. I believe he will always be present at Ground Zero. He is hope in our midst

- a profoundly good man whose enduring life in the world will make peace more powerfully than ever.

Jim Douglass founded Ground Zero with his wife Shelley in 1977. Today the Douglasses live in Birmingham, Alabama where they extend hospitality at the Mary's House Catholic Worker.

Metro Bus Ads Extended Through October

By Glen Milner

On September 2, Ground Zero extended its King County Metro bus ads for an additional two months for a much-reduced fee of \$5,000. Because of the extension, the bus ads will continue to run at least until October 28.

The first two months of the ad, which began on July 9, cost Ground Zero a total of \$15,000, which included \$150 for design and \$4,999 for the production of the ads. In August, Intersection, the advertising agency for King County Metro, proposed a two-month extension of the ads for \$9,346. Rodney Brunelle countered their offer and the advertising agency agreed to run all the ads for \$5,000.

The Ground Zero bus ad was central to an eight-page article by Ron Judd that appeared in the Seattle Times Pacific Northwest Magazine on August 23. Judd initially contacted Ground Zero on July 11, when he stated, "I'm interested in writing a piece this month about the peace movement on Puget Sound – past, present and future, that educates some of our many newly arrived residents about the nuclear arsenal in the region." The resulting article was a thoughtful description and commentary about the local peace movement. Judd concluded in his Backstory piece, "We hope the piece provides a bit of historic background, and serves as a conversation-starter about citizens' responsibilities... It's hard to imagine a serious local issue that gets less 'airtime' in general media."

Intersection appreciated seeing their bus ad featured in the Seattle Times. This might have contributed to their offer for an extension at a reduced fee by Intersection and King County Metro. In any case, Ground Zero was compelled to accept the offer, which was one-third of the price for the original two-month period.

As successful as the bus ads have been, we need to find a way to continue to pay for the ad campaign next

year. Likely, Ground Zero will continue to inform Puget Sound citizens that the end of the world is in their own backyard.

On August 23, Hans Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists tweeted to his followers, "Interesting article by @roncjudd in @seattletimes about local anti-nuclear activism... Honored to help the local activists and journalists with factual information about the nukes in their backyard."

On July 9, Ground Zero began running 39 Metro downtown bus ads displaying the following paid advertisement: Puget Sound: Home to one-third of deployed U.S. nuclear weapons... Accept Responsibility. Included in the advertisement is a map showing the proximity of Seattle to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, home port for 8 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 on July 9, three larger versions of the ad began to run on three Metro downtown electric buses. Both ads ran an additional four bonus weeks. 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.

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.

Glen Milner serves on the Stewardship Council and coordinates the annual Peace Fleet action.



The King County Metro bus ads were central to an eight-page article in the Seattle Times. Photo courtesy of Intersection.

Peace Fleet! 2018

13 Peace Fleet sailors and 15 Peace demonstrators on the shore met the U.S. Navy at Seafair

By Glen Milner

After seventeen years, the Coast Guard, Navy, and the Port of Seattle appeared to finally recognize that the Peace Fleet and supporters have an equal right to public resources both on the shore and on the water in Elliott Bay.



A Coast Guard helicopter buzzes overhead as a Coast Guard boat stands watch by a Peace Fleet sailboat and kayak. *Photo courtesy of the US Coast Guard.*

Peace Fleet participants on the shore had access to the elevator and the Rooftop Plaza on Pier 66, where the Veterans for Peace flags and Ground Zero banners were on full display. About 15 peace activists were on the rooftop—about a third of all present there to view the fleet arrival.

On the water, thirteen Peace Fleet sailors in four sailboats, one kayak and a 16-foot skiff assembled inside Bell Harbor Marina, next to Pier 66, before the event. Rodney Brunelle launched his kayak at Bell Harbor Marina after taking it down the ramp. For the first time, Peace Fleet sailors were able to enter and depart from Bell Harbor Marina without being restricted by the Coast Guard.

Peace Fleet vessels, displaying peace flags, VFP flags, and anti-nuclear weapons banners, maneuvered freely between the Seafair Reviewing Stand on Pier 66 and the Parade of Ships throughout the event, always in the foreground for the assembled dignitaries and guests to observe our peaceful message.

Alan Brisley gave us all a sailing demonstration at Pier 66 in his 21-foot cat ketch. Bob Freitag's boat displayed a Peace Corps flag, reminding everyone of a peaceful alternative to military service.

Navy vessels passed Pier 66 at a greater distance from the waterfront than in past years. The Coast Guard

told us that the nautical track for the Parade of Ships in past years had been inaccurate and had been too close to the shoreline. This all resulted in a greater presence for our message of peace.

Videographers for the Navy seemed to embrace the presence of the Peace Fleet., with an eight minute and 50 second video on the Department of Defense website. The end of the video featured Peace Fleet vessels, as though to say—see you next year!

On the shore: Mona Lee, Bob Trutnau, Mary Hanson, Sigrid Salo, Alice Friedman, Chris Rogers, Annie Warmedahl, Karol Milner, Alisa McFeron, Hannah McFeron, Brandon Ates, and a large number of Veterans for Peace members, including Ray Nacanaynay, Dan Gilman, Mason Rhoads, Pete Schoonmaker, and others.

On the water: Rodney Brunelle and kayak; S/V Silent (24-foot sailboat) with Mary Gleysteen, Dirk Gleysteen and Michael Siptroth; S/V Ranger (20-foot sailboat) with Salaha Warsi-Brighton and Ed Brighton; S/V Nootka (33-foot sailboat) with Bob Freitag, Marti Schmidt, and Tom Rogers; 21-foot cat ketch with Alan Brisley; and 16-foot skiff with Michael Hill, Mack Johnson, and Glen Milner.



Strong support on the shore. From left to right, Mary Hanson, Alisa McFeron holding Hannah McFeron, and Sigrid Salo. *Photo by Karol Milner.*

Many thanks to Bob, Ed, and Dirk, for their generosity and willingness to take others in their beautiful sailboats for this event.

The next Peace Fleet event will likely be on Tuesday, July 30, 2019 or Wednesday, July 31, 2019.

Glen Milner has served as one of the main organizers for the Peace Fleet for each of its 17 years.

Disarmament as a Humanitarian Issue

By Glen Milner

Ground Zero joined with Pax Christi Northwest on September 15 to promote Humanitarian Disarmament and to honor Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen. The event featured Yeshua Moser-Puangsuwan, a long-time human rights and humanitarian disarmament activist, author, and friend and colleague of Ground Zero. It was one of over 2,650 events around the world as part of the 2018 Campaign Nonviolence National Week of Actions (September 15-23).

Moser-Puangsuwan recounted the history and development of the Humanitarian Disarmament movement, beginning with his work on the International Campaign to Ban Landmines in 1994. He had just returned the previous week from an inter-governmental meeting in Geneva debating international regulations to ban fully autonomous weapons—killer robots. Other Humanitarian Disarmament campaigns include the Cluster Munition Coalition, the International Network on Explosive Weapons, and the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN).

The Humanitarian Disarmament movement works for the prohibition of weapons by focusing on their impact on human beings and societies, rather than the traditional state security framework. This includes nuclear weapons, as well as cluster munitions, anti-personnel mines, depleted uranium, and the use of explosive weapons in densely populated areas. Humanitarian Disarmament groups are also working to stop new weapons technology, such as fully autonomous weapons currently under development—the so-called “killer robots”.

The Humanitarian Disarmament movement carries out a large proportion of its work within international coalitions, such as the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN) of which Ground Zero and Washington PSR are members. Efforts for disarmament may target an entire chain of conflict: from the development of new weapons, the investments by financial institutions in the production of such weapons, through the arms trade, and the use of these weapons in conflicts. Yeshua suggested that one approach in the Puget Sound region would be to urge people to withdraw their financial support from industries, banks, and other institutions that earn income from the nuclear weapons industry.

Core elements of Humanitarian Disarmament include three main concepts: (1) to develop a body of

law; (2) a norm or guideline in which civilians and the environment on which they depend will not be harmed; and (3) a movement.

The body of law is made up of treaties and protocols brought about by civil society which have humanitarian characteristics, are people-centered, with remediation elements, monitoring and advocacy by civil society.

These conventions help to create a norm that is

‘policed’ by civil society through data gathered during monitoring and “naming and shaming”.

A necessary element of Humanitarian Disarmament is to develop a movement, with large numbers of individuals and civil society organizations. In the U.S., although our military is resistant to agree to humanitarian restrictions, public pressure can help enforce a new norm that makes it more difficult for the military to use certain weapons. One example is the inhibition of the U.S. to use antipersonnel

landmines and cluster munitions due to pressures from outside the U.S. The norm must be constantly reinforced. Ground Zero members know that the public must be constantly reminded of the harm and risk from the development and possible use of nuclear weapons.

Public polls all over the world (including the U.S.) show that people support abolishing nuclear weapons, even if they think they have little, if any, ability to affect change. We know this, in part, from the positive responses to Ground Zero’s Summer banner campaign. Our challenge, as activists, is to create campaigns that are accessible to, and empower, them.

Yeshua’s presentation was well-received, and many of the concepts he shared have been an integral part of our work. Yeshua has given us a much clearer understanding of effective strategies and new directions in our work toward the abolition of nuclear weapons.

After the presentation and discussion, participants marched from Saint Patrick Church to Saint James Cathedral for a prayer and reflection on Archbishop Hunthausen and his contribution to nuclear disarmament.

You can learn more and find valuable resources on humanitarian disarmament at our website at www.gzcenter.org.



Yeshua Moser-Puangsuwan, an international peace activist, spoke during the Campaign Nonviolence National Week of Actions. *Photo by Glen Milner.*

Glen Milner leads legal struggles on behalf of Ground Zero. He lives in Lake Forest Park.

Ten Resisters Sing Their Way to Court

By Tom Rogers

Ten nuclear resisters, who blocked the entrance to the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the United States, appeared in court to plead their cases for peace and nuclear abolition. They were in court on July 26 as a result of their nonviolent direct action last Mothers Day weekend when they symbolically closed Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, by blocking the entrance gate to the base.



Demonstrating their commitment. The 10 defendants gathered outside the Courthouse prior to the hearing. *Photo by Mary Gleysteen.*

The 10 activists and about the same number of supporters met at Givens Park, a few blocks from the Kitsap County District Courthouse in Port Orchard, for a picnic lunch and pretrial socializing and song. Then they marched and sang their way to the courthouse where they sang on the courthouse steps, and handed out leaflets.

The mitigation hearings were in Judge Jeffrey Jahns' courtroom at Kitsap District Court. Judge Jahns started off by explaining that he had been a prosecuting attorney in the Kitsap County Prosecutor's Office for 14 years prior to being appointed to the bench in 2009. He was involved in trials of Ground Zero members during that time, and each time offered any of the mitigants a continuance with a different judge if this was an issue. No one took him up on the offer.

At this most recent trial the mitigants were given ample time to deliver testimony about why they had blocked the main gate to Bangor. All were beautiful, heartfelt and compelling statements. Larry Kerschner's testimony summarized International law regarding nuclear weapons in a very well-researched statement. Margarita Munoz sang her testimony. The judge was very attentive and respectful of each mitigant, commenting on many of the statements. Fines ranged from zero to ten dollars depending on the number of previous offenses. Even Larry Kerschner, who might still face Federal charges stemming from his arrest at Bangor last August, had his fine cancelled.

The Judge closed the hearings by thanking all of the mitigants for their commitment. He said that ethically he couldn't tell us to "keep up the good work, but well, you know."

You can read some of the mitigants' statements to the court on the Ground Zero website.

Tom Rogers is a former Navy submarine Captain who now works to rid the world of nuclear weapons. He co-chairs the Stewardship Council.

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make his voice heard had the courage to call the Trident nuclear submarine what it truly was: an oceangoing Holocaust, an underwater death camp loaded with weapons of mass incineration that could ignite a firestorm and slaughter millions. Most importantly, Hunthausen didn't merely call for a lukewarm set of reforms. He called for immediate nuclear disarmament and massive civil disobedience because of his conviction that nuclear weapons are criminal and immoral."

Messman also described how "Ground Zero's adherence to nonviolence and its sincere and friendly attempts to communicate with base workers influenced many naval base employees to resign for reasons of conscience. This led to the highly visible resignation of the chaplain of the Trident base, Father Dave Becker, who decided he could no longer attempt to be 'the chaplain of the Auschwitz of Puget Sound.'"

And so the Bangor base continues to be, for the most part, "invisible," as Moyer described, hidden behind the fences and dense stands of conifers. The Trident submarines, bristling with

enough nuclear firepower to bring an end to life on Earth, sail the Seven Seas, hidden "under the surface," while Bangor's neighbors pretend to not know what is really going on – the horrible reality that these submarines, and the crews that operate them, are prepared to unleash annihilation on a potentially global scale.

A small band of activists attempted this past August to both remember the horrors of our nuclear past and do "something" to prevent far greater horrors in the future. In the spirit of Archbishop Hunthausen, and all the others who have gone before us, may we continue to be agents of change, seeking a better future, one free of the threat of nuclear war.

"Hunthausen didn't merely call for a lukewarm set of reforms. He called for immediate nuclear disarmament and massive civil disobedience."

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

From Bangor to Kings Bay: Trident Equals Omnicide

By Leonard Eiger

In good conscience and in a longstanding tradition that began in 1980 in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, seven Catholic Plowshares activists entered Kings Bay Naval Submarine Base in St. Mary's, Georgia on April 4, 2018. They went there in order to en flesh the words of the prophet Isaiah, that "They will beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks."

Kings Bay Naval base, which opened in 1979 as the Navy's Atlantic Ocean Trident port, is the dreadful twin to Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. Together, the two Trident bases represent just over half of all thermonuclear warheads deployed by the United States, holding humanity under the constant threat of nuclear annihilation.

The Kings Bay Plowshares chose the 50th anniversary of the assassination of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., who called out the "triple evils of militarism, racism and materialism." Carrying hammers and baby bottles of their own blood, the seven attempted to convert weapons of mass destruction. Their action calls attention to the ways in which nuclear weapons kill every day, by their existence and constant preparation for, and threat of, use.

The activists went to three sites on the base: the Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic administration building, the D5 Missile monument installation and the nuclear weapons storage bunkers. The activists used crime scene tape, hammers and hung banners reading: "The ultimate logic of racism is genocide—Dr. Martin Luther King," "The ultimate logic of Trident is omnicide," and "Nuclear weapons: illegal/immoral." They also brought an indictment charging the U.S. government for crimes against peace.

The activists at the nuclear weapons storage bunkers were Elizabeth McAlister, 78, of Jonah House, Baltimore; Fr. Steve Kelly SJ, 69, of the Bay Area, California; and Carmen Trotta, 55, of the New York Catholic Worker. At the Strategic Weapons Facility Atlantic Administration building were Clare Grady, 59, of the Ithaca Catholic Worker; and Martha Hennessy, 62, of the New York Catholic Worker. At the Trident D5 monuments were Mark Colville, 55, of the Amistad Catholic Worker,

New Haven, Connecticut; and Patrick O'Neill, 61, of the Fr. Charlie Mulholland Catholic Worker, Garner, North Carolina.

The Kings Bay Plowshares action was the beginning of a long journey for these seven courageous peace-makers; a journey that will include a trial and most certainly prison time, something for which they are well prepared. Currently, Kelly and McAllister remain in prison, while the others are out on bond and are on electronic monitoring.



The seven brave Plowshares activists prior to their Georgia action. *Photo courtesy of www.kingsbayplowshares7.org.*

In a recent motions hearing in Federal court, Bill Quigley, law professor at Loyola University New Orleans and long-time Plowshares defender, "spoke at length about the defendants' assertion that the United States is in violation of its own laws, international laws and treaty obligations by possessing nuclear weapons, which he argued would render the prosecution moot. By being indiscriminate and genocidal by nature, Quigley said, nuclear weapons are a war crime unto themselves."

More recently, attorneys for the defendants filed a memo in order to justify the defendants' use of the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) in de-

fense of their religious beliefs. In the associated affidavits, the defendants speak about their beliefs and how they motivated their nonviolent acts of prophetic witness against the government's possession of nuclear weapons, and the use of such weapons to threaten people, nations and all life. In her affidavit, defendant Clare Grady referred to "the Trident weapons system as a crime, a crime against God, against humanity, and against all God's Creation."

We stand in solidarity with our comrades who, in acting on deeply held beliefs, will attempt to put the real culprits on trial – Trident and the US government's dangerous, illegal, and immoral nuclear posture. More on Kings Bay Plowshares, including their recent affidavits filed with the court, at their web site kingsbayplowshares7.org.

Leonard Eiger serves on the Stewardship Council and chairs the Communications and Outreach committee.

GROUND ZERO

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*“I could never accept the
bomb. I could never accept
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*— Archbishop Raymond
Hunthausen*

Bannering Up (and Down) the Sound

By Rodney Brunelle and Leonard Eiger

On Monday morning, June 11, commuters heading into Seattle on I-5 looked up at the NE 45th Street overpass and were greeted with two large banners. One read: “ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS” and the other: “RESIST TRIDENT – NO NEW NUKES.” The timing was excellent – nuclear weapons were in the news as President Trump and North Korea’s Kim Jung Un were to meet June 12. Lots of honking and joyful waves greeted us especially that day and every week until our last Monday for the summer season, September 24.

Although initiated by Ground Zero, we owe the project’s success to the faithful participation of banneristas from Pax Christi Northwest; Veterans For Peace Greater Seattle, Chapter 92; Washington Physicians for Social Responsibility; Dominican Sisters; and 350seattle.org.

Project coordinator Rodney Brunelle, in speaking to the importance of an informed citizenry to the democratic process, said that bannering is “simply one thing we can

do to put the issue of nuclear weapons in front of people’s windshields.” The morning bannering certainly got the attention of tens of thousands of morning commuters over the course of the long, hot summer. It was a brilliant strategy for reaching a huge number of people with our message.

The Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons has also been bannering over I-5, and some Tacoma area Ground Zero members will also be bannering with one of Ground Zero’s new “Abolish Nuclear Weapons” banners. Who knows? Perhaps one day we will have a continuous banner wave up and down the I-5 corridor from Vancouver to Blaine. Now that would certainly get some attention!



Leonard Eiger leads media outreach efforts on behalf of Ground Zero and maintains the No to New Trident campaign, at www.notnt.org. **Rodney Brunelle** is a member of Pax Christi and serves on the Stewardship Council.