

Ground Zero

April 2019

Volume 24 Issue 2

An Appeal to Navy Personnel



Brothers and Sisters in the Navy: “Refuse to engage in nuclear annihilation!”

Peace activists in the Puget Sound region have worked to stop the threat of nuclear weapons since the 1970s. We have learned that we share a common concern with members of the armed forces—that the use of nuclear weapons would lead to unimaginable destruction to innocent populations and to our planet.

While the danger of nuclear war is as great as ever, little is being done to curb this threat. One person in our country, our President acting as Commander in Chief, may alone order the launch of nuclear weapons. No single person should have the power to end life on the planet.

We, the undersigned, are convinced that nuclear weapons are the greatest evil on Earth. We believe that humankind created these weapons, and that only humankind can prevent their use.

We bring our plea to you, sisters and brothers, in the armed forces:

Resist illegal orders.

Refuse to kill innocent civilians.

Refuse the order to use nuclear weapons.

We know your resistance will be difficult and require great courage. But please reflect on what it means to vio-

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late your conscience and to destroy all hope for future generations.

International decisions have ruled that the use of nuclear weapons is illegal, including decisions at the International Court of Justice in 1996; the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights; the 1949 Geneva Convention; and the 1977 Geneva Convention protocol. The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons will soon enter into legal force when 50 nations have signed and ratified it.

The Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) makes it clear that military personnel have an obligation and a duty to only obey lawful orders and indeed have an obligation to disobey unlawful orders, including orders by the president that do not comply with the UCMJ. The moral and legal obligation is to the U.S. Constitution and not to those who might issue unlawful orders, especially if those orders are in direct violation of the Constitution and the UCMJ.

Knowing that submarines from Bangor are ready to immediately launch as many as 270 nuclear warheads, an order to launch nuclear weapons would signify the final failure of nuclear deterrence and bring about unprecedented destruction. Do not obey an illegal order. Instead, choose to protect all of creation.

Contact Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, at 360-930-8697, or info@gzcenter.org for more information.

"The moral and legal obligation is to the U.S. Constitution and not to those who might issue unlawful orders..."

We make this plea to you knowing that federal agencies may see this appeal as a violation of 18 U.S. Code § 2387 and possibly other federal statutes. If you choose to oppose nuclear war please know that our hearts and homes are open to you. We

will do what we can to support your decision.

18 U.S. Code § 2387 - Activities affecting armed forces generally

(a) Whoever, with intent to interfere with, impair, or influence the loyalty, morale, or discipline of the military or naval forces of the United States:

(1) advises, counsels, urges, or in any manner causes or attempts to cause insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or refusal of duty by any member of the military or naval forces of the United States; or

(2) distributes or attempts to distribute any written or printed matter which advises, counsels, or urges insubordination, disloyalty, mutiny, or re-

fusal of duty by any member of the military or naval forces of the United States—

Shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both, and shall be ineligible for employment by the United States or any department or agency thereof, for the five years next following his conviction.



The graffiti artist Banksy is responsible for this image, which first appeared in 2001 outside of the British Parliament. Photo courtesy of www.banksyeditions.com.

(b) For the purposes of this section, the term "military or naval forces of the United States" includes the Army of the United States, the Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Navy Reserve, Marine Corps Reserve, and Coast Guard Reserve of the United States; and, when any merchant vessel is commissioned in the Navy or is in the service of the Army or the Navy, includes the master, officers, and crew of such vessel.

On June 11, local peace activists will greet and distribute the Appeal to Navy Personnel at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor during the morning commute into the base. Ground Zero members recently developed the Appeal to Navy Personnel and have been sharing the statement with other peace organizations. Dozens of people have signed on in support, including Dr. Helen Caldwell, Kathy Kelly, Ray McGovern, and the Rev. John Dear. To see the full list of signatories and add your name, visit www.gzcenter.org or contact info@gzcenter.org. Cover photo courtesy of the US Navy.

Tom Shea—Rest in Peace and Power

By Leonard Eiger

My dear friend and fellow Ground Zero member Tom Shea passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of April 3 at home with family.

Earlier in his life Tom had been a Jesuit, a high school teacher, and had started an alternative high school and Jesuit Volunteer Corp: Midwest. He had also been involved in social justice issues on the national level with the Jesuits. Ground Zero member Bernie Meyer remembers Tom with great fondness, from being a student at St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland where Tom was teaching, to resisting together at Ground Zero many years later.

Tom was 47 when he left Cleveland for Traverse City, Michigan in 1977. There he met his partner Darylene, and they were inseparable from then on. Together, they participated in the Nuclear Freeze movement, and were part of the Michigan Peace Team. They travelled to New York for the second Conference on Disarmament in 1982. They protested both the first Gulf War and the war in Iraq. They also engaged in war tax resistance.

At Darylene's suggestion, they attended a course in conflict mediation in the early '80s at a time when there was little written on the subject. That experience led them to a course taught by Quakers at Swarthmore College in 1986. In 1990 Tom and Darylene founded the five-county Conflict Resolution Service in Northern Michigan and trained the first group of volunteer mediators. Their mission was to promote peace and civility in the community through the use of mediator-guided dialogue. In the early days of the program, volunteers met in church basements and around kitchen tables to train, role play and share experiences. They would travel to the homes of people needing mediation, focusing on resolving family and neighborhood conflicts.

Tom and Darylene moved to Snoqualmie, Washington in 2007 to spend more time with Darylene's children. Tom got involved in community issues and continued his war tax resistance work. You could find him every April 15, in front of the local post office, offering tax

resistance information.

I was still leading a social justice ministry at the Snoqualmie United Methodist Church when one day Tom called the church office and asked who was doing social justice work in the area. We connected immediately due to common work and friends. Soon, Tom and I were

making the pilgrimage together across the water to Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, and the rest (as they say) is history.

I have spent countless hours with Tom and Darylene, discussing world affairs and working together on strategies and tactics for our work with Ground Zero. Tom and Darylene have been inseparable as both life partners and co-conspirators for peace. Tom once said that Darylene is like a Jesuit herself: "Jesuits are taken as very scholarly people and she's very scholarly."

In addition to working on media and communications for Ground Zero, and planning vigils and nonviolent direct actions at the Bangor Trident nuclear submarine base, Tom put himself on the line many times, often entering the roadway blocking traffic, both on the County and Federal sides, symbolically closing the base and risking arrest. Tom also created street theatre scripts that have



Tom embraced working for peace with his positive, committed, and caring energy. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

been used during vigils at the submarine base to entertain and educate people.

Robert Burrowes, who founded *The People's Charter to Create a Nonviolent World*, said that, "Tom was one of the true legends in my life. A long-standing symbol of, and nonviolent fighter for, everything that could be in our world." When all is said and done, Tom's life can be summed up by A.J. Muste: "There is no way to peace. Peace is the way."

"One day Tom called the church office and asked who was doing social justice work in the area. We connected immediately..."

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Celebrating the true meaning of Mother's Day

By the Mother's Day Action Planning Committee

"DISARM, DISARM! THE SWORD OF MURDER [TRIDENT] IS NOT THE BALANCE OF JUSTICE."

These prophetic words were spoken by Mothers Day founder Julia Ward Howe in 1870. They remain a clarion call to us today as the drumbeats of war, both conventional and nuclear, ring throughout the land. Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action will honor the true meaning of Mothers Day (For Peace) on Saturday, May 11, 2019.

We are honored this year to welcome Kathy Kelly, of Voices for Creative Nonviolence, who will give the keynote address. We will also have our traditional vigil and nonviolent direct action at the Bangor Trident nuclear submarine/weapons base.

Kelly has traveled to war zones and lived alongside ordinary people in Afghanistan, Iraq, Gaza, Lebanon, Bosnia and Nicaragua. She and her companions in Voices for Creative Nonviolence believe the U.S. should end all U.S. military and economic warfare and pay reparations for suffering already caused by U.S. wars.

In the past two years, Voices has helped organize vigils and forums about conflict-driven near famine conditions in Yemen and northern Africa.



Kathy Kelly lives her belief that "where you stand is what you see."
Photo courtesy of the Irish Times.

Kelly has joined with activists in various regions of the U.S. to protest drone warfare by holding demonstrations outside of U.S. military bases in Nevada, California, Michigan, Wisconsin and Whiteman Air Force base in Missouri. She served three months in prison in 2015 for carrying a loaf of bread and a letter across the line at Whiteman AFB.

From 1996 to 2003, Voices activists formed 70 delegations that openly defied economic sanctions by bringing medicines to children and families in Iraq. Kelly traveled to Iraq 27 times during that period. She and her companions lived in Baghdad throughout the 2003 "Shock and Awe" bombing.

She was sentenced to one year in federal prison for planting corn on nuclear missile silo sites at Whiteman Air Force Base, and spent three months in prison in 2004 for crossing the line at Fort Benning's military training school. As a war tax refuser, she has refused payment of all forms of federal income tax since 1980.

You can read Kelly's writings and learn more about the work of Voices for Creative Nonviolence at www.vcnv.org. For more information on our Mothers Day weekend event, including the day's schedule, please see our events page at www.gzcenter.org.

Thank you to the Planning Committee for the Mother's Day Action. The draft schedule for the day is at right.

Mother's Day at Ground Zero

May 11, 2019

Draft schedule

9-9:15 AM - Registration and light breakfast

9:15-9:30 AM - Welcome to Ground Zero

9:30-9:45 AM - Morning sing-along with Seattle Peace Chorus

9:45-11 AM - Know your Rights! - legal workshop with Tacoma attorney Blake Kremer

11-11:10 AM Q & A

11:10-11:20 Break

11:20-12:30 - Potluck lunch

11:45-12:45 - Keynote address - Kathy Kelly, Voices for Creative Nonviolence

12:45-12:55 - Q & A

12:55-1:00 - Break

1-2:30 - Discernment and Action Planning - (facilitated by Ground Zero member Rev. Anne Hall)

2:30 - 2:45 - Gathering Circle, safety briefing by lead Peacekeeper

2:45 - Depart for Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor (carpool and/or walk)

3-4 PM Nonviolent Action at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor; musical accompaniment by Seattle Peace Chorus

4-4:30 Return to Ground Zero

4:45 Closing Circle - comments, impressions, closing meditation/prayer/song

“Every War is a War Against Children”

We have yet to realize both the futility and immense consequences of war

By Kathy Kelly

At 9:30 in the morning of March 26, the entrance to a rural hospital in northwest Yemen, supported by Save the Children, was teeming as patients waited to be seen and employees arrived at work. Suddenly, missiles from an airstrike hit the hospital, killing seven people, four of them children.

Jason Lee of Save the Children, told The New York Times that the Saudi-led coalition, now in its fifth year of waging war in Yemen, knew the coordinates of the hospital and should have been able to avoid the strike. He called what happened “a gross violation of humanitarian law.”

The day before, Save the Children reported that air raids carried out by the Saudi-led coalition have killed at least 226 Yemeni children and injured 217 more in just the last twelve months. “Of these children,” the report noted, “210 were inside or close to a house when their lives were torn apart by bombs that had been sold to the coalition by foreign governments.”

Last year, an analysis issued by Save the Children estimated that 85,000 children under age five have likely died from starvation or disease since the Saudi-led coalition’s 2015 escalation of the war in Yemen.

“Children who die in this way suffer immensely as their vital organ functions slow down and eventually stop,” said Tamer Kirolos, Save the Children’s Country Director in Yemen. “Their immune systems are so weak they are more prone to infections with some too frail to even cry. Parents are having to witness their children wasting away, unable to do anything about it.” Kirolos and others who have continuously reported on the war in Yemen believe these deaths are entirely preventable.

They are demanding an immediate suspension of arms sales to all warring parties, an end to blockades preventing distribution of food, fuel and humanitarian aid and the application of full diplomatic pressure to end the war. The United States, a major supporter of the Saudi-led coalition, has itself been guilty of

“We rob ourselves and others of resources needed to meet human needs.”

killing innocent patients and hospital workers by bombing a hospital. On October 3, 2015, U.S. airstrikes destroyed a Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders) hospital in Kunduz, Afghanistan, killing forty-two people. “Patients burned in their beds,” MSF report-

ed, “medical staff were decapitated and lost limbs, and others were shot from the air while they fled the burning building.”

More recently, on March 23, 2019, eight children were among fourteen Afghan civilians killed by a U.S. airstrike also near Kunduz.

Atrocities of war accumulate, horrifically. We in



Two million Yemeni children are unable to attend school, a significant increase since the Saudi-led coalition began attacks in 2015. *Photo courtesy of www.theglobepost.com.*

the United States have yet to realize both the futility and immense consequences of war. We continue to develop, store, sell, and use hideous weapons. We rob ourselves and others of resources needed to meet human needs, including grappling with the terrifying realities of climate change.

We should heed the words and actions of Eglantyne Jebb, who founded Save the Children a century ago. Responding to the British post-war blockade of Germany and Eastern Europe, Jebb participated in a group attempting to deliver food and medical supplies to children who were starving.

In London’s Trafalgar Square, she distributed a leaflet showing the emaciated children and declaring: “Our blockade has caused this, - millions of children are starving to death.” She was arrested, tried, convicted, and fined. But the judge in the case was moved by her commitment to children and paid her fine. His generosity was Save the Children’s first donation.

“Every war,” said Jebb, “is a war against children.”

Kathy Kelly is the co-founder of *Voices in the Wilderness*, and currently a co-coordinator of *Voices for Creative Nonviolence*.

New warhead undermines Trident mission

W76-2 opens dangerous new front in arms race

By Leonard Eiger

The US Navy's ballistic missile submarines have always had one sole mission, in the Navy's own words: "strategic deterrence, which is the act of deterring a nuclear attack with a safe, secure, and effective nuclear-deterrent force." In other words, the belief that another nation will be deterred from using nuclear weapons as long as it believes it will be destroyed (by nuclear weapons) as a consequence. Should deterrence fail, we would end up with what is known as mutually assured destruction (MAD) and, in the case of a nuclear war with Russia, essentially the end of civilization as we know it.

Now the Trump administration has embarked on a totally mad plan of its own to make Trident a dual use system by employing both (the current) high-yield W76 and W88 thermonuclear warheads and a new "low-yield" nuclear warhead. One has to question the sanity of anyone who would make Trident both a strategic and tactical nuclear weapon platform. It just doesn't work!

Each of the US Navy's deployed OHIO Class "Trident" ballistic missile submarines currently sails the seas loaded with twenty Trident II D5 missiles in its launch tubes. The missiles are loaded with W76 and/or W88 thermonuclear warheads. The W76-1 has an effective yield of 100 kilotons, and the W88 has a yield of 455 kilotons. These two warheads are known as strategic (as opposed to tactical) nuclear warheads. For comparison, the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima was approximately 15 kilotons.

The Trump administration's 2018 Nuclear Posture Review (NPR) recommended "lowering the yield of some existing submarine-launched ballistic missile warheads..." in order "to keep our deterrent effective for our world today." The government's idea was to create a tactical nuclear warhead that would be carried on existing submarine launched missiles as a way of countering Russia. If this sounds crazy, well... it is!

Deploying both low-yield and high-yield nuclear warhead-loaded Trident missiles is a recipe for disaster,

particularly if we ever launch (either) one at an adversary (which would most likely be Russia).

In September 2018 the Congress provided \$65 million for the low-yield Trident warhead as part of an annual spending package in landslide votes in both the House and Senate. One article reported that, "the funding is a victory for the military, Trump administration and congressional Republicans who believe a smaller warhead that can be fired from submarines will deter Moscow from using its own tactical nuclear weapons."

I think it safe to say that if war broke out between NATO and Russia, and even small, tactical, nuclear

weapons were introduced (by either side), the results would be beyond imagination – with the likely escalation that would result, besides the countless lives lost on the European continent, such a conflict would quite probably break out into the worst-case scenario of a full-scale nuclear war between the US and Russia, and it is safe to say that the survivors would envy the dead.

Production of the new "low-yield" version of the W76-1, known as the W76-2, called for by the Trump administration in 2017, is already

underway at the Pantex Plant in Texas and, according to the National Nuclear Security Agency, the first warhead has been completed. Delivery of the first warheads to Bangor and Kings Bay Trident bases is scheduled for September 2019. The W76-2 is essentially a modified version of the W76-1, in which part of the warhead is disabled to provide a yield of less than 10 kilotons.

Assuming that the new Congress does not stop this madness, the W76-2 warheads will be deployed on some number of Trident II D5 missiles on some or all of the Navy's fourteen Trident submarines (Ten are estimated to be at sea at any given time). The assumption would be that a certain number of Trident missiles would be reconfigured to carry only the W76-2, and a certain number of these missiles would be deployed on each Trident



Just following orders. Two Pantex workers put together the new W76-2 "low-yield" warhead while a third reads the procedure. *Photo courtesy of the NNSA.*

New warhead... continued on page 7

submarine while on patrol.

The real questions (that no one in the Pentagon seems to be asking) are: What happens when a Trident missile is launched against an adversary (most likely the Russians)? How will that adversary react? There is absolutely no way an adversary can know which warheads are on the missile(s) headed in their direction (if it was a “tactical” versus a “strategic” strike). They would most likely assume the worst-case scenario, and then respond with a larger nuclear response, resulting in full-scale nuclear war.

Hans Kristensen, director of the Nuclear Information Project at the Federation of American Scientists, nailed it on the head when he said, “It’s not like the Russians are going to be sitting there saying, ‘Well, let’s wait to see this one detonate first. Oh, it’s a small mushroom cloud! Well, in that case...’ A nuke is a nuke. Once it’s used, the gloves are off.”

The Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) has published a fact sheet quoting a number of security experts saying that, “Perhaps the biggest fallacy in the whole argument [for the low-yield warhead] is the mistaken and dangerous belief that a ‘small’ nuclear war would remain small... These so-called ‘low-yield’ nuclear weapons are a gateway to a nuclear catastrophe.”

We can only wonder what conversations are going on among [Trident] submariners regarding the implications of the W76-2. Should this warhead be deployed it will undermine Trident’s sole, stated mission of strategic nuclear deterrence, and will greatly increase the likelihood that sooner or later one or more Trident submarines will launch their missiles in what will likely be a first nuclear strike!

There are fundamental questions we should ask about the sanity of people who spend their time preparing for nuclear war. That being said, there is no question that the plan to mix low and high-yield warheads on Tridents is categorically INSANE! There is no sound logic in the Trump administration’s plan to mix low and high-yield warheads on Trident submarines. It is quite simply a recipe for nuclear disaster on a global scale.

It is not too late to stop production of the W76-2!

Bills have been reintroduced in the new Congress to stop the W76-2 warhead. Representative Ted Lieu has introduced H.R. 1086, and Senator Ed Markey has introduced S. 401; both bills “prohibit the research and development, production, and deployment of the Trident D5 low-yield nuclear warhead, and for other purposes.” Both bills introduced in the previous session of Congress were called the “Hold the LYNE Act”; LYNE standing for low yield nuclear explosive.

It is critical that we get every possible member of Congress to support these bills. Ground Zero Center for Non-violent Action has launched a campaign to stop the W76-2 warhead. Please go to our [Take Action page](#) to learn more and contact your members of Congress to cosponsor these important bills. Future generations will thank you.

Leonard Eiger updates the Ground Zero website, issues press releases on behalf of the group, and documents actions through photographs.

Save the date! Plans shaping up for August Hiroshima/Nagasaki events

By Michael “Firefly” Siptroth

“Nukes: What Are They Good For? Uhhh! Absolutely Nothing!” is the theme for August 2-5, 2019 Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration at Ground Zero. We will be remembering the tragic disaster these bombings represent and the horrible suffering with the pledge to never allow another nuclear bomb to be used. Ground Zero is committed to the complete elimination of all nuclear weapons and supports the United Nations Treaty on the prohibition of nuclear weapons which 122 nations signed (sadly no nuclear states).

The Trident submarine system based at Naval Base Kitsap near Poulsbo is an eminent threat to life on Earth and daily robs citizens of true security: When \$100 billion is spent every year, and a projected \$1.7 trillion over 10 years to rebuild the nuclear weapons systems, we don’t have enough money for healthcare, green low-income housing, environmental protection, climate change action, education, social security, green jobs, green transportation, and the arts! Unless we change our direction soon, there will be too little left of life!

Ground Zero will host social justice/ environmental groups for a potluck in Poulsbo on Friday, August 2, to highlight what WE CAN do to change things from bad to better. Saturday August 4 we will welcome the Peace Walkers who will have traveled from Eugene, Oregon. In the afternoon, we will do banner waving and leafleting at the Kitsap Mall. That evening at 7:00pm we host duo Hank and Claire for a performance of resilience and resistance songs.

Sunday morning we are pleased to have author and peace/justice organizer David Swanson speak to us about the consequences of continuing to violate international laws in the production, preparation, and threat to use nuclear weapons. In the afternoon we will have nonviolence training and discernment about what actions to take. Monday morning, August 5, there will be nonviolent actions at the Trident Base, opportunities to join in a flash mob, and more.

WE CAN stop nuclear weapons and provide for all!

Michael “Firefly” Siptroth serves on the Stewardship Council and on the planning committee for the August action. He lives in Belfair.



David Swanson will travel from his home in Virginia to join us. *Photo courtesy of www.beyondwar.org.*

Bruce Gagnon Outlines Confidence-Building Steps To Help Bring Nuclear Parties Back To the Negotiating Table

By Elizabeth Murray

This year's Pacific Life Community retreat in Menlo Park, California featured a thought-provoking presentation by peace activist Bruce Gagnon.

Gagnon compared belligerent US behaviors toward Russia, China, Iran and Venezuela to the final thrashings of a desperate and dying animal. Indeed, he called the United States "an empire in collapse."

Gagnon, who is coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space (www.space4peace.org), said the US is actively preparing for war with Russia and China and has been scuttling

strategic defense, the other would build up its offensive nuclear forces to offset the defense. The superpowers would therefore quickly spiral into a never-ending offensive-defensive arms race as each tried to balance its counterpart's action.

Over time, most countries, including the US until President George H.W. Bush took office, had referred to the treaty as a "cornerstone of strategic stability" because it facilitated successive agreements to both limit and reduce US and Russian deployed strategic nuclear arsenals.

More recently, President Trump has abrogated the United States' landmark 2015 nuclear treaty with Iran - the JCPOA or Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action - and also withdrew from the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, signed in 1987, which required the United States and the Soviet Union to eliminate and permanently forswear all of their nuclear and conventional ground-launched ballistic and cruise missiles with ranges from 500 to 5,500 kilometers. The treaty marked the first time the superpowers had agreed to reduce their nuclear arsenals, eliminate an entire category of nuclear weapons, and utilize extensive on-site inspections for verifications. As a result, Washington and Moscow destroyed a total of 2,692 short-, medium-, and intermediate-range missiles by the treaty deadline of June 1, 1991.

In discussing the current US agenda for global domination, Gagnon cited a 2004 policy articulated by Thomas Barnett, a Rumsfeld aide and military strategist/futurist. In his work, "The Pentagon's New Map," Barnett explained that in the future the US would no longer be signing treaties with other countries, since such agreements would limit the extent of US global "reach." Instead, Barnett called for a policy to militarily decapitate out-of-favor and hated regimes (through a military force he called "Leviathan") to be followed up by the occupation of the country (through a team of what he termed "Systems Administrators") in order to administer the country in accordance with US political, social, religious, and economic rules.

Despite this bleak and depressing scenario, Gagnon said that it is still possible for the US to pull back from its path to almost certain nuclear disaster. He said the US could take several confidence-building measures that would create a suitable climate for nuclear disarmament negotiations with other major nuclear powers. Among them, he cited:

- Saying 'no' to first use of nuclear weapons (Russia



Attendees at the 9th annual Pacific Life Community gathering pose to express their solidarity with the Kings Bay Plowshares. Photo by Len Tsou.

treaties that might complicate its plans for nuclear buildups and space-based ballistic missile systems.

Gagnon argued that at this time Moscow and Beijing cannot seriously consider nuclear disarmament in light of Washington's forward deployment of a NATO Missile 'Defense Shield' in Eastern Europe (which he said is clearly offensive, not defensive), as well as Washington's refusal to abrogate its first-strike nuclear policy — a position underscored by Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Policy David Trachtenberg in remarks to the House Armed Services Committee on March 28, 2019 in which he stated that the US would reserve the right to a nuclear first strike in response to a conventional attack.

Gagnon said Washington's dangerous withdrawal from landmark nuclear treaties began in 2002 when it walked away from the 30-year-old Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty signed in 1972 by Washington and Moscow to slow the nuclear arms race. The ABM Treaty had barred both superpowers from deploying national defenses against long-range ballistic missiles and from building the foundation for such a defense. The treaty was based on the premise that if either superpower constructed a

Bruce Gagnon... continued on page 9

and China have declared their adherence to this policy, but Washington refuses to do likewise).

- Ending the President's unchecked nuclear launch authority.
- Saying 'no' to endless renewal and replacements of the US nuclear arsenal (which Washington is now doing to the tune of about \$1.6 trillion over three decades).
- Saying 'yes' to an abolition agreement among nuclear-armed states.

However, Gagnon said the US must first end its encirclement of Russia and China with its 'Missile Defense' and stop expanding NATO bases. He also pointed out that both Russia and China have consistently stated for more than a decade that nuclear disarmament negotiations are "dead in the water" as long as the Pentagon is developing its space-based Missile Defense Shield.

Elizabeth Murray serves as Member-in-Residence for the Ground Zero Center, and is also a member of Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity.

Pacific Life Community is going strong

By Felice Cohen-Joppa

For the third time in nine years, the Pacific Life Community (PLC) met in Menlo Park, California for their annual gathering, each time concluding with a blockade of the main gate at the nearby Lockheed Martin factory in Sunnyvale that produces the intercontinental ballistic missiles for launching nuclear weapons from both U.S. and British Trident submarines.

On Monday, March 18, about 50 people from the Pacific Life Community were joined outside the Lockheed Martin gate by members of Code Pink and the Musicians Action Group, a marching ensemble of percussion and horns who enlivened the crowd with rollicking renditions of Down by the Riverside and other peace and labor rights songs. A large banner made for the last PLC blockade at Lockheed Martin – four feet tall and long enough to block four lanes of traffic – was rolled out and carried around the intersection with a bold-lettered message for the auto and rail commuters passing by: Lockheed Weapons Terrorize the World.

To the rhythm of the band, most of the group followed the banner-carriers a hundred yards down the sidewalk to the main "Gateway to Space", as an arch over the Lockheed entrance declares.

Lockheed security forces pulled a low fence across the road while Sunnyvale police stopped traffic at the intersection from approaching. As the banner was carried into a blocking position from one side of the road, a line of police marched in from the other, positioning themselves between the blockaders and the gate. The protesters carried with them copies of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons to inform Lockheed workers and management that when the treaty is ratified, building nuclear weapons and their delivery systems will be in violation of international humanitarian law.

After a while, formal warnings of trespass and

imminent arrest were given, along with the opportunity to leave. But none of the blockaders did. One by one, eleven people were arrested, the large banner slowly dropping to the ground as each in turn was handcuffed and taken into custody.



One of 11 arrestees is handcuffed by Sunnyvale police.
Photo by Len Tsou.

Near the end of the banner, a sign held in front of it read "The Pacific Life Community Supports The Kings Bay Plowshares – Resist Trident!" a reference to the April 4, 2018 nuclear disarmament action at the Kings Bay base in Georgia. That base is home to the Atlantic Ocean Trident submarine fleet, and it is where the British Trident fleet picks up Lockheed's missiles to load with their own nuclear weapons.

Arrested for trespass were Dennis Apel, Susan Crane, Clancy Dunigan, Calia Kammer, Andrew Lanier, Elizabeth Murray, Larry Purcell, Rush Rehm, George Rodkey, Charlie Smith and Sam Yergler. Susan Crane, a member of the Musicians Action Group, handed her saxophone to a supporter just before being arrested. They were taken to the Sunnyvale police station for processing, and all were released before noon with an initial court date in May.

The Pacific Life Community is a network of spiritually motivated activists from the U.S. Pacific coast and other western states who are committed to nonviolent action for a nuclear-free future. In addition to demonstrations and blockades at Lockheed-Martin, the PLC has come together each year since 2007 for actions at the Kitsap-Bangor submarine base in Washington State, homeport of the Pacific Trident fleet; Vandenberg Air Force Base, where the Trident missile is test-launched; the Los Alamos nuclear weapons factory in New Mexico; at the Nevada nuclear weapons test site and elsewhere.

Felice Cohen-Joppa edits the *Nuclear Resister*, where this article first appeared. She and her husband Jack have edited the newsletter since 1980.

"A Disarming Spirit"

New biography of Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen

By Leonard Eiger

The year 1981 was the beginning of the final decade of the Cold War. The United States and the Soviet Union were making massive investments in the ongoing arms race, and nuclear war loomed large. 1981 was also the beginning of an immense journey of conscience for Raymond Hunthausen, who was, at the time, the Archbishop of the Catholic Archdiocese of Seattle, Washington.

On June 12, 1981, Archbishop Hunthausen shared what author Frank Fromherz calls "a personal story of awakening" in his famous "Faith and Disarmament" speech at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. The speech was, in Fromherz' words, "a prayerful invitation to examine personal and collective conscience on great moral questions regarding nuclear arms." It was also the "shot heard round the world," and one that landed firmly in the Vatican.

In that speech Hunthausen made an extraordinarily powerful, and controversial, statement: "We must take special responsibility for what is in our own backyard. And when crimes are being prepared in our name, we must speak plainly. I say with a deep consciousness of these words, that Trident is the Auschwitz of Puget Sound."

Fromherz' new book, "A Disarming Spirit: the Life of Archbishop Raymond Hunthausen," examines this tumultuous period of Hunthausen's life and the central questions (and challenges) he posed to not only himself, but also to his country and to his church. Hunthausen "voiced a personal need to take up his cross in the nuclear age. He felt he had to take risks, including civil disobedience, for personal conversion." That civil disobedience came in the form of war tax resistance.

As the book explains it, "The real reason behind the U.S. arms buildup, argued Hunthausen, was to retain power and privilege. Weapons protected and produced wealth. He confronted the defense industry." And, although he deeply believed in the church he served, Hunthausen was also confronting that church, which benefited materially from its relationship with the empire in which militarism was so deeply embedded. The book thoroughly documents the investigation of Hunthausen by the Vatican, along with the difficulties it created for him.

In reflecting on his decision to call Trident "the Auschwitz of Puget Sound," Hunthausen said that, "God

calls us to name the evil our society has embraced so wholeheartedly in our nuclear arms, and to do so clearly. Trident is the Auschwitz of Puget Sound because of the massive cooperation required in our area [Puget Sound] — the enormous sinful complicity that is necessary — for the eventual incineration of millions of our brother and sister human beings..."

Fromherz has done a thorough job of researching and writing about a controversial figure, and brings in both the voices of those who supported the Archbishop as well as those who vilified him. In doing so, he has provided context to the story that makes it that much more powerful and compelling. It paints a picture of a person who was (to me) the epitome of a servant leader.

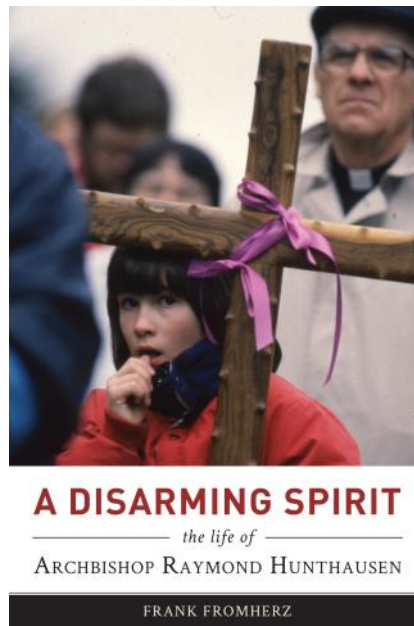
Fromherz told me that he held on to an article and photo from the Seattle Times for nearly thirty years. That photo, taken on April 1, 1988 during the Good Friday nuclear demonstration at the Bangor Trident base, was of Janice Duffell (10 years old at the time) carrying a cross, and Archbishop Hunthausen following behind her. Fromherz brought that photo to his publisher, who chose to use it for the cover of "A Disarming Spirit." It is a fitting symbol, as Hunthausen, through his Faith and Disarmament speech and subsequent tax resistance, chose to pick up the cross and carry it on a long and difficult journey

that is well documented in this book.

"A Disarming Spirit" is a book for our time — a time in which our nation is beating the drums of war, abrogating nuclear weapons treaties, and preparing to fight nuclear war. It is a book that calls each of us to speak truth to power (in both church and society) and help pave the way for the abolition of nuclear weapons.

Fromherz has designated that "all profit made from the sale of A Disarming Spirit will be given to the Ground Zero Community, a nonprofit organization established for the educational work related to the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action... Those who founded this community inspired Raymond Hunthausen and encouraged his witness for justice and peace."

You can find a link to order "A Disarming Spirit" at the www.gzcenter.org home page.



Leonard Eiger leads media and outreach efforts for Ground Zero, and coordinates the No to New Trident campaign at www.notnt.org.

We will be scattering some of Tom's ashes (per his wishes) at Ground Zero Center during our August Hiroshima-Nagasaki weekend of remembrance and action.

I invite you to honor Tom's memory by supporting the work of the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee. There are many ways we can engage in war tax resistance in the context of a broad range of nonviolent strategies for social change. Learn more at nwtrcc.org.



Leonard Eiger co-chaired the Communications Committee with Tom Shea for many years.

I-5 Bannering to Start Up Again for the Summer

Rodney Brunelle will begin freeway bannering at a different time and day of the week--on Friday, June 7th between 3:00 and 4:00 PM on the NE 45th Street and I-5 overpass in Seattle.

Traffic is very heavy at this time of day. After a few weeks we may change the day and time to spread the coverage. Rodney has the banners and signs. Please let Rodney know in advance if you are able to join him at rodney.brunelle@gmail.com or 425-485-7030. Please join us.



News item submitted by bannering supporters. The photo above is courtesy of the Seattle Times.

My Statement to the Court

By Mary Hanson

One half of the U.S. submarine-based nuclear arsenal is based in Washington State, at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, making us a prime target -- I would say, a sacrifice zone, if a nuclear war breaks out. U.S. nuclear weapons constantly threaten to sacrifice all the places that our arsenal is targeting.

In 2017, 122 nations adopted the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, but nuclear-armed states are ignoring their pleas, instead increasing the risk of nuclear war with plans to deploy missiles that blur the line between conventional and nuclear missiles, and by eliminating treaties that were intended to decrease the risk of accidental nuclear war. We do not need nuclear weapons. We need diplomacy. We have a moral duty to protect our children, and right now we cannot do that. Only by eliminating nuclear weapons can we protect them from this constant threat. Thank you for taking this issue seriously. Please contact me and/or go to www.gzcenter.org to continue this conversation.

Thousands of Washington State citizens protest-

ed nuclear weapons in Seattle at Target Seattle in the early 80s, and in protests against the arrival of the USS Ohio, the first Trident submarine. I was new to Seattle then, preoccupied with learning my new job at the Seattle Water Department, buying my first house, and settling in. I must have tuned it out. But when missiles in Europe with short flight times began to be protested, I began to notice and became alarmed. When I read Daniel Ellsberg's writings on the scores of times the U.S. had threatened to use nuclear weapons, I became committed to their elimination.

When I learned that the largest concentration of nuclear weapons in the Western Hemisphere were 20 miles from Seattle, I was astonished, and more importantly, motivated to break the silence around this reality. We can, and must, end the nuclear threat.

Mary Hanson provided this testimony to Kitsap District Court on February 21, 2019. Mary is a longtime Ground Zero activist, and lives in Seattle.

GROUND ZERO

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*If you no longer want to receive our
newsletter, just let us know and
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*“Nuclear weapons are
present in my most
mundane tasks. Nuclear weapons
are present in all my major
relationships.”*

—Frida Berrigan

Peace Pagoda Progress: Building Permit Submitted

By Glen Milner

On March 19, Tom Rogers submitted the application and supporting documents to the Kitsap County Department of Community Development for the Peace Pagoda building permit.

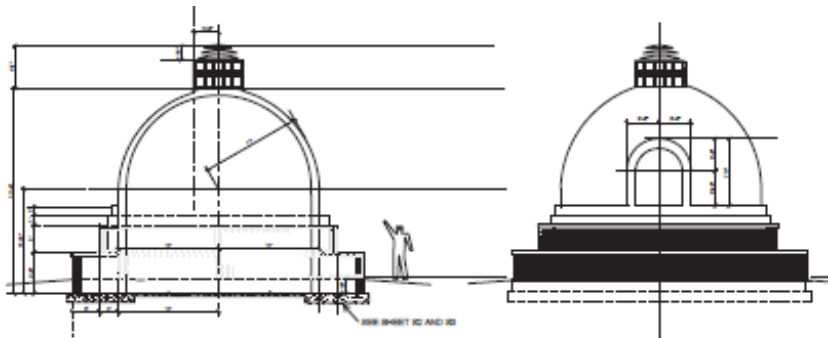
County employees were expecting the application and seemed willing to help us. Approval of the application is expected.

Many thanks to architects Rachael Kitagawa, Johnpaul Jones, and Mike Casey, and structural engineer Gerald Howe for completing the latest version of the Peace Pagoda construction drawings and for getting them ready to submit to the County.

The Pagoda will be built by the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Order on Ground Zero property.

When the application is approved, the Ground Zero Peace Pagoda Committee will take the next steps to coordinate the construction of the Peace Pagoda with Rev. Senji Kanaeda. We will likely work to formally provide permanent access for the public to visit the Peace Pagoda and Ground Zero.

Rev. Kanaeda will be planning a ground purification ceremony when the permit is approved. Likely the ceremony will be in the next few months. The long dream is closer to reality.



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