

Ground Zero

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Flash Mob Blockades Base

By Leonard Eiger

This past August, shortly after President Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces (INF) Treaty, people around the world remembered the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki and said: Hiroshima, Nagasaki, Never again! We, at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, held our annual observance in which 60 people showed up on August 5th at a flash mob demonstration against nuclear weapons at the Bangor "Trident" submarine base. The (nonviolent) mob filled the roadway, blocking the Main Gate, during rush hour traffic. To see the flash mob performance and related videos, please see <https://www.facebook.com/groundzerocenter>.

At around 6:30 AM on Monday, over thirty flash mob dancers and supporters entered the roadway carrying peace flags and two large banners stating, "We can all live without Trident" and "Abolish Nuclear Weapons." While traffic into the base was blocked, dancers performed to a recording of *War (What is it good for?)* by

Edwin Starr. After the performance, dancers left the roadway and eleven demonstrators remained. The eleven demonstrators were removed from the roadway by the Washington State Patrol and cited with [RCW 46.61.250, Pedestrians on roadways](#).

About 30 minutes later, and after being cited, five of the eleven demonstrators reentered the roadway carrying a banner with a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which stated, "When scientific power outruns spiritual power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men." The five were removed by the Washington State Patrol, cited with [RCW 9A.84.020, Failure to disperse](#), and released at the scene.

Flash mob performers largely consisted of fourteen members of Susan Delaney's extended family. Main performers included seven-year-old Adrianna and twenty-year-old Anteia. *War (What is it good for?)* was one of the first Motown songs to make a political statement.

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War, written by Norman Whitfield and Barrett Strong, performed by Edwin Starr and released in 1970, became an [anti-war anthem](#) during the Vietnam War era. The flash mob video on Facebook has reached over 16,000 people.

Susan Delaney is no stranger to Ground Zero, having participated in other nonviolent direct actions at the Bangor base. In her statement to the court following her participation in a prior direct action at Bangor, Delaney said, "It is time to take another big step to make the world safer, but instead, our current president [Trump] has stated that we need to increase our nuclear weapons capability by a factor of ten! I understand that just a few of us standing in the road at the submarine base is unlikely to counter that plan, but we believe it is the right thing to do and so we offer our peaceful protest to the court and to our community and invite you to join us so that we can continue to bring attention to this issue."

Delaney's desire to magnify the nuclear abolition message motivated her to involve three generations of her family, bringing a deep sense of conviction, courage and creativity to this year's action. Delaney's choreography was witnessed by a long line of commuters who were on their way to the work of maintaining the Trident nuclear weapon system.

Those cited by the Washington State Patrol for remaining on the roadway after the flash mob performance were Susan Delaney of Bothell; Philip Davis of Bremerton; Denny Duffell and Mark Sisk of Seattle; Mack Johnson of Silverdale; and Stephen Dear of Elmira, Oregon.

Those cited by the Washington State Patrol both for remaining on the roadway after the flash mob performance and for reentering the roadway a second time were Joy Beaver of Sequim; Michael "Firefly" Siptroth of Belfair; Glen Milner of Lake Forest Park; Charley Smith, of Eugene, Oregon; and Victor White of Oceanside, California.

The demonstration on August 5 was the culmination of a four-day event at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. On Sunday, August 4th, [David Swanson](#), a longtime peace activist, author, and radio host spoke at the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action. You can see the video of his presentation, *The Myths, the Silence, and the Propaganda That Keep Nuclear Weapons in Existence*, at www.gzcenter.org.

There are [eight Trident ballistic missile submarines deployed at Bangor](#). Six Trident ballistic missile submarines are deployed on the East Coast at Kings Bay, Georgia.

Each Trident submarine was originally equipped for 24 Trident missiles. In 2015-2017 four missile tubes were deactivated on each submarine as a result of the

New START Treaty. Currently, each Trident submarine deploys with 20 D-5 missiles and about 90 nuclear warheads (an average of 4-5 warheads per missile). The warheads are either the W76-1 100-kiloton or W88 455-kiloton warheads.

The Navy is currently planning to deploy 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 House of Representatives has voted against funds for deployment of the W76-2 in consideration of the defense appropriations bill, whereas the Senate version has funded the program for deployment.

One Trident submarine carries the destructive force of over 1,300 Hiroshima bombs (the Hiroshima bomb was 15 kilotons). Just imagine the immensity of death and suffering should even one of the many deployed Trident missiles be launched in a nuclear war. Let's be clear – Even limited nuclear war would change the course of humanity's future in ways only conceived of in the darkest science fiction.

Trump's abrogation of treaties did not occur in a vacuum. Although Trump continues to make one danger-



The Peace Walkers, led by Rev. Senji Kanaeda, center, began in Oregon and completed their multi-week walk at Ground Zero. *Photo by Dave Patterson.*

ous decision after another, our current situation is an inevitable consequence of a long history of militarism and its relationship with nuclear weapons. It will take huge numbers of citizens taking to the streets in concerted nonviolent direct action (and thousands of flash mobs) to magnify our message that there is only one way to ensure that there will be No More Hiroshimas, No More Nagasakis, and that is to ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS! Please join us!!!

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

Ground Purification Ceremony Marks a Magical Day

By Glen Milner

One hundred and fifty people were present on August 24, 2019 for the Ground Purification Ceremony for the Pacific Northwest Peace Pagoda in Poulsbo, Washington. This is the site where Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist nuns, monks, and supporters will build their first Peace Pagoda on the West Coast of the United States.

The Ground Purification Ceremony (Jichin-sai) is a traditional Buddhist and Shinto ceremony in order to receive permission for construction from the local guardian god (spirit) and to purify the building site. It is also the means to pray for the safety of workers during the construction project and for prosperity.



Brother Utsumi Gyoshu from the Great Smoky Mountains Peace Pagoda talks with Shelley and Jim Douglass after the Purification Ceremony. *Photo by Karol Milner.*

Speakers included: Doshi-Master Monk Rev. Imai Gyoko of the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Order; Shelley Douglass and Jim Douglass with Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action; Pastor Jessica Rockers of the Kitsap Unitarian Universalist Fellowship; Zann Jacobson; Rev. Dee Eisenhower of the Eagle Harbor Congregational Church; Johnella La Rose of the Shoshone Bannock, Ute, and Carrizo Tribes; Clarence Moriwaki of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Community; Johnpaul Jones, architect; and musicians Craig Jacobson and Mark Babson.

At the ceremony on August 24, Rev. Imai Gyoko stated: "...It is of great significance to have a Peace Pagoda on the West Coast. At the same time there is another Peace Pagoda construction in process at the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee which is close to Oak Ridge facilities where the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb was produced... Today, the development of science & technology has the potential to eliminate all living beings. This is not the power of machines, but a misled human mind. So, we have to focus on the mind of ourselves. Violence is not the way of directing our minds, but non-violence is the way."

Shelley Douglass stated: "...all of these years, thirty-nine years, the Peace Pagoda has been building and now we are at the stage where the Peace Pagoda can manifest. But we are not finished. Those weapons are right on the other side of the trees... So we need to keep going. We need to keep resisting. People need to keep going to prison.

"Right now, not on this side of the country, at the other Trident base In Kings Bay, Georgia, there are seven people on trial who might go to prison for as long as twenty-five years because of their resistance.

"So there is a movement, a nationwide movement, and there are pagodas now. We are part of the whole, but the whole is built kind of the way the shoveling process happened, where I move a shovel-full and you do a shovel-full. Everybody moves their own shovel-full and it comes together.

"In that way we can continue to build the Pagoda. You will see it. I've seen pagodas come together and that's how they happen--people come and do their shovel-full and it builds up.

"Peace is built that way, too. And our shovel-full includes some suffering and some risk and quite a lot of puzzlement and wait-and-see, because as I said, when Guruji came we had no idea what we were getting into. And I think now we still have no idea what we are getting into. We don't know what's going to happen. We just have to wait in faith.

"One thing we can be sure of is that there will be difficulties. When something as good as a pagoda is built there are always difficulties. In the South they say, 'When God is active, Satan comes along.'

"When something really good is happening then the forces of opposition also come along. So we need to be watchful over ourselves and maintain our nonviolence when we disagree among ourselves and when there is opposition from the County, when the weapons are still there. We are still building the Pagoda and we can't forget that."

Jim Douglass stated: "We are united, across this fence and around the world, by the global fire that threatens us. We are responsible for abolishing it. The Peace Pagoda will embody that responsibility in a way that will build the peace movement... We shall continue building the Peace Pagoda in our lives, step by step, until all of humanity can live in peace. Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo."

Johnella La Rose, Shoshone Bannock, Ute, and Carrizo Tribes, living in California stated: "...The trees are witnessing, you know they are witnessing the work that is being done. And the earth is witnessing everything we are doing. And I think that is just so much more pow-

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Annual Meeting on October 19

Join us to shape Ground Zero's future!

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, October 19, 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 serves on the Stewardship Council and works with the Media and Outreach Committee.

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erful than nuclear weapons and I feel like creator god wants us to have this. The creation wants the circle here [gesturing to the Peace Pagoda site].

“And when it’s built it will draw people in because people are looking for something. They are looking for something other than war. And then we have to offer that—we have to offer that thing—we have to offer that circle. We have to offer that sacredness.

“And myself personally, am now looking at ways to change the way we speak, how do we not use words of violence. And now that I notice it in my speech, I am able to change that. So I think in ourselves being mindful of the words we are using when we speak to each other. But also that in the ceremonies, they say, extend your hand—extend your hand and show your good face—show your good face to the people.

“I have grandchildren of course and I’m worried, and I am worried about what it looks like for the world, but I feel through the spiritual teachings, ceremony and staying centered and heading towards the circle, I think that it is very powerful...”

The wonder, the mystery, and the beauty of the August 24 Ground Purification Ceremony cannot be described in words or in photos. The sun was gentle with a

slight breeze for the entire ceremony. The vision of the Peace Pagoda cannot be captured in any form.

On June 30, 1982, after spending most of the month of June in the United States, including at the United Nations and at Ground Zero, The Most Venerable Nichidatsu Fujii spoke at the Los Angeles Dojo. His words may have been more for members of the Nipponzan Myohoji Order, but they apply to us all: “...It is said that ‘one must accomplish the relationship of water and fish eliminating the mind to distinguish oneself from others.’ Water is enlivened with fish. Fish cannot live without water. We must become one with others. No matter how righteous one may be, never forget to comply and work together with the entire group. Oneness will be maintained if you work with the group without insisting on your righteousness. When we move as one body, we will be able to influence the world wherever we are....”

Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo

Glen Milner has worked with Ground Zero since the days of White Train resistance. He lives in Lake Forest Park with his wife Karol.

“Peace Pagodas Surround the Land of America”

Remarks by Rev. Imai Gyoko at the Ground Purification Ceremony

By Rev. Imai Gyoko, translated by Rev. Gilberto Peres

This is the English-language translation of the dharma talk delivered at the Ground Purification Ceremony on Aug. 24 by 89-year-old Reverend Imai Gyoko, master monk and the second most senior member of the Nipponzan Myohoji order. Rev. Imai gave the speech in Japanese, which was followed by the English translation read aloud by Rev. Gilberto Perez. Rev. Imai entered the Nipponzan Myohoji order at age 17.

Today, we will hold the Ground Purification Ceremony for Ground-Zero Peace Pagoda at Poulsbo, in the state of Washington. The very first construction of the Ground-Zero Peace Pagoda was 1982. However, the construction had to be stopped because of an unfortunate incident. That was a bitter history... But with the great efforts of the friends of Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, we have finally received the approved permits for the Peace Pagoda construction.

Today, the Peace Pagoda in Grafton, New York and Leverett, Massachusetts perform the peace prayer ceremonies every year. It is of great significance to have a Peace Pagoda on West Coast. At a same time there is an another Peace Pagoda construction in process at the Great Smoky Mountains of Tennessee which is close to Oak Ridge facilities where the Hiroshima Atomic Bomb was produced.



Nipponzan Myohoji priests led the ceremony to bless the land. Rev. Imai Gyoko bows at center. *Photo by Glen Milner.*

Now, I see the Peace Pagodas are East, West, and South, surrounding the land of the America.

And, it will be symbolic structures of America's peace culture and giving out lights of peace.

After all, true peace is achieved by only peaceful ways. All weapons, and guns need to be abandoned, why,

because it interrupts peace.

Costa Rica is a country who abandoned its military in 1949. Since then, they do not have a single soldier throughout, and living a peaceful life without major problems. The military budget they used to spend is now used for social wellness, and education. Therefore, the world needs to be led with tolerant minds, and follow the way of a disarmed Costa Rica.



Practicing peaceful performances. A crowd watches as the ceremony is conducted around an altar erected for the day. *Photo by Karol Milner.*

Today, the development of science and technology have the potential to eliminate all living beings. This is not the power of machines, but a misled human mind. So, we have to focus on the mind of ourselves. Violence is not the way of directing our minds, but non-violence is the way.

At a Peace Pagoda, we practice peaceful performances. There are no terrorisms nor wars. All of us here understand that the military solution can never reach a peaceful world.

Buddha teaches us that absolute peace is symbolized into the “Gohonzon” of Peace Pagoda and to chant NaMuMyoHoRenGeKyo.

Chanting NaMuMyoHoRenGeKyo is the only way to create peace in humankind and foundation of world peace.

Therefore, happiness of humankind is here in front of us. Gassho, palms together, head bowed.

Rev. Imai Gyoko and Rev. Gilberto Perez serve in the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order, dedicating their lives to bringing about peace.

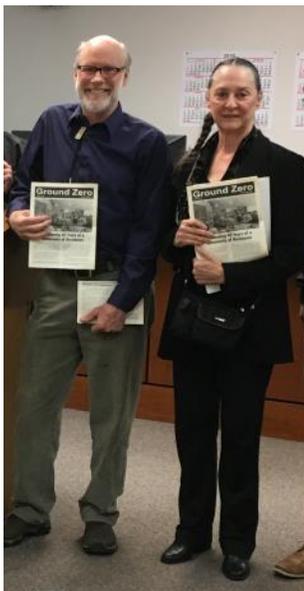
Opportunities to Witness for Disarmament Continue After Actions Ground Zero Activists in and out of Court

By Mary Gleysteen

James Manista of Olympia crossed the blue line and walked onto Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor at the Mothers' Day action on May 11, 2019, and was charged with trespass, subjecting him to a possible 6 months in jail and \$5,000 fine. James pled "not guilty" at his arraignment on September 4, in U.S. Federal District Court in Tacoma.

According to James, "Encouraged by the heroism of protestors and filled with a hope we can respond rationally and creatively to the threatening curse of planetary horror, I carried my banner asserting nuclear weapons are immoral (to produce, stockpile, and use) onto the ground of those most likely to need reading it and taking its message to heart."

James Manista's trial is set for October 23, at 1:30 pm before U.S. Magistrate Judge Theresa Fricke in Tacoma. Please check the Ground Zero website for details on the trial and the courthouse, parking, ID requirements, etc.



Mack Johnson and Susan Delaney hold up copies of the Ground Zero newsletter at the hearing for a 2017 action.

Photo by Leonard Eiger.

Nuclear Weapons" and "We Can All Live Without Trident."

Ten of the eleven demonstrators have chosen mitigation hearings in Kitsap County traffic court where they

will explain to the judge why they felt compelled to act and why their fines of \$65 should be reduced or dismissed. Their hearing is scheduled for September 26,



Kathy Kelly, center, read excerpts of the Nuremberg Judgement through a bullhorn at the May 2019 Mother's Day Action. *Photo by Glen Milner.*

Eleven demonstrators--Susan Delaney of Bothell; Philip Davis of Bremerton; Denny Duffell and Mark Sisk of Seattle; Mack Johnson of Silverdale; and Stephen Dear of Elmira, Oregon, Judith Beaver of Sequim; Michael "Firefly" Siptroth of Belfair; Glen Milner of Lake Forest Park; Charley Smith, of Eugene, Oregon; and Victor White of Oceanside, California--were charged with the traffic offense "Pedestrian in the Roadway" during the August 5, 2019 "Flash Dance Not Nuclear Flash" demonstration. Demonstrators commemorated the 74th anniversary of the bombings at Hiroshima and Nagasaki by blocking Monday morning traffic entering Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. Demonstrators carried banners reading "Abolish

2019 at 1:30 pm.

Glen Milner, who is contesting the "Pedestrian in the Roadway" charge itself, will present his defense in a separate Kitsap County District Court hearing October 2, at 2:45 pm.

Five of the eleven demonstrators--Joy Beaver, Glen Milner, Victor White, Charley Smith and Michael (Firefly) Siptroth who were cited for "Pedestrian in the Roadway" were also cited for "Failure to Disperse" for having re-entered the roadway, effectively blocking traffic twice. They carried a banner with a quote by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., which stated, "When scientific power outruns spiritual power, we end up with guided missiles and misguided men."

The five were removed by the Washington State Patrol, cited with [RCW 9A.84.020, Failure to disperse](#), and released at the scene. The five were scheduled for arraignment on September 4. Defendants facing this charge are entitled to a Kitsap County District court jury trial of their peers. However, on September 3, the five were notified by the court that those charges were never filed. A court officer told one of the five that prosecutors thought "the citation [Pedestrian in the Roadway] was enough."

Mary Gleysteen lives in Kingston where she volunteers serving homeless residents. She has worked for nuclear disarmament for over 40 years.

An Activist's Voyage

Crossing the Pacific in the Golden Rule

By Tom Rogers, First Mate

We start looking for land from 100 miles out. Hawaii is a big island with high mountains; we should be able to see them over the horizon. It's been 20 days of water and sky. Each of us visits the bow pulpit and scans the horizon, nothing but water and a layer of clouds. Look at the chart plotter, still 25 miles out. It's hard to miss the Big Island. The horizon ahead is still nothing but water and clouds. Are these clouds different from the rest? We've been watching the movement of clouds for three weeks. These clouds aren't moving. Finally, a narrow band of green between the water and the clouds. Check the chart. We're 10 miles out... OK, we're here.

I started this voyage in 1966 when my draft notice arrived. Friends were fighting and dying on the ground in Vietnam. I took my notice to the navy recruiter and signed up. Later I volunteered for submarines, competed for a college program and earned a degree and a commission. I served in four different nuclear submarines as a watch officer, chief engineer, executive officer, and finally commanding officer. I'm not sure when I decided to make the navy a career; they just kept making me offers I couldn't refuse. But I was always just a hippie who joined the navy to dodge the draft.

A second wave hit me in the chest, threw me out of the cockpit, and I landed against the hard case of the life raft...

I lived with nuclear warheads for most of my career. I understand the unlimited destructive power of thermonuclear weapons. After the end of the Cold War in 1991, I started to question the role of nuclear weapons in US national security policy. By 1995, after the fall of the Soviet Union, I was openly criticizing our government's failure to pursue nuclear disarmament from a position of strength. I retired as a Navy Captain in 1998.

I found the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in 2003. Since then I have been a nuclear weapons abolitionist. Nuclear weapons are evil. We owe it to the children to rid the world of this threat to human life on our planet. Now, with scientific understanding of the effects of nuclear winter, we must accept that a major exchange of nuclear weapons will kill billions. If I understand this and fail to act, I am complicit. So I act.

While I was doing Ground Zero's work next to the Trident Submarine Base in Bangor, Washington, Chuck

DeWitt and his crew of Veterans for Peace volunteers and activists were restoring *Golden Rule* in Leroy Zerlang's boatyard in Humboldt Bay, California. In the summer of 2016 *Golden Rule* visited the Pacific Northwest. I embarked as a crew member and helped sail *Goldie* during the Portland Rose Festival military parade of warships. We showed our VFP colors to thousands of citizens, including many sailors on the navy warships. Later that summer in Puget Sound, I was privileged to sail *Golden Rule* on the Hood Canal in the first waterborne nonviolent action against the Bangor Trident Base since the arrival of USS Ohio in 1982.



First Mate Rogers is all smiles after crossing the Pacific. *Photo courtesy of Tom Rogers.*

When Albert Bigelow and his Quaker crew sailed *Golden Rule* into the Pacific in 1958, they demonstrated their willingness to confront nuclear weapons in the most direct way they could imagine. They sailed to disrupt atmospheric nuclear testing and raise

public awareness to the immorality of those horrible weapons. Sixty-one years later I was honored to reenact their voyage. Our mission was to sail from California to Hawaii across 2200 nautical miles of open ocean. Apart from some modern electronics and safety equipment, we sailed the same way the original crew did, alone on a vast ocean. *Golden Rule* is a 60-year old wooden gaff rigged ketch. She steers with a tiller. There is nothing remotely comfortable about living on board.

This was the third try. The last try ended 300 nautical miles southwest of San Diego with an engine full of seawater. Helen Jaccard and the Golden Rule Project brought a new crew together. I was the only returning member of the last crew. With a new engine and redesigned exhaust system, we met on board for the first time on June 16.

Our captain, Milosz Kaczorowski, 30, is a professional sailor from Warsaw, Poland. Chris Mayer, 58, is a retired computer programmer. Tate Furr, 19, is a college student. I'm first mate, 72. We worked together for three weeks getting *Golden Rule* seaworthy again. There were setbacks, but everyone pulled together behind Milosz and we finally headed west on July 11.

My personal low point came on day three. I was on night watch tethered in the cockpit. We were on a broad reach in a force 6 wind with two reefs in the mainsail. A large wave filled the cockpit and dislodged the wooden grate from the deck. As I positioned myself to put the grate back in place a second wave hit me in the chest,

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Peace Fleet! 2019

11 Peace Fleet sailors and 25 Peace demonstrators on the shore met the U.S. Navy at Seafair

By Glen Milner

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 25 peace activists were on the rooftop—amounting to half of the civilians there to view the fleet arrival.



A study in contrasts. Barbara and Michael Hill, Glen Milner, and Ian McFeron sail a 16-foot skiff by a Navy Destroyer. *Photo by Karol Milner.*

On the water, eleven Peace Fleet sailors in two sailboats, two kayaks and a 16-foot skiff assembled inside Bell Harbor Marina, next to Pier 66, before the event. Kayakers were again allowed to carry their kayaks down the ramp to the water at Bell Harbor Marina.

For the first time, U.S. Navy vessels were not announced in advance for Fleet Week. Some wondered if the Navy might be bringing a Trident ballistic missile (SSBN) submarine to Seattle, something the Navy has not done since 2000. However, just two U.S. Navy surface vessels arrived on Monday, leaving at mid-day on Friday after a four-day display in downtown Seattle.

Sean Hughes of Navy Region Northwest stated the two warships, the USS Spruance and USS Mobile Bay, could not stay over the weekend due to “increasing demands on Pier 66.” KING 5 news reported the ships had to leave to make room for an incoming cruise ship.

On the shore: Mary Hanson, Sigrid Salo, Karol Milner, Alisa McFeron, Hannah McFeron, Sue Ablao, David Ablao, Marti Schmidt, Carly Brook, Fred Miller,

Jack Smith, Michael “Firefly” Siptroth, Kim Loftness, Albert Penta, Mason Rhoads, Dan Gilman, Pete Schoonmaker, Allen Tlusty, Randy Rowland and other Veterans for Peace members. As in past years, other people on the rooftop and shoreline were cordial and thanked the peace activists for being there.

On the water: Rodney Brunelle in a kayak; Lisa Marcus and John Bito in another kayak; S/V Silent (24-foot sailboat) with Mary Gleysteen and Dirk Gleysteen; S/V Ranger (20-foot sailboat) with Salaha Warsi-Brighton and Ed Brighton; and a 16-foot skiff with Barbara Hill, Michael Hill, Ian McFeron and Glen Milner.

The Navy’s slideshow of the event showed Peace Fleet vessels in three of their twenty photos of the event (photos 15, 19, and 20.) See <https://www.dvidshub.net/image/5624173/parade-ships-kicks-off-70th-annual-seattle-seafair-fleet-week>.

The next Peace Fleet event will likely be on Monday, July 27, 2020, Tuesday, July 28, 2020 or Wednesday, July 29, 2020.

Glen Milner has served as one of the main organizers for the Peace Fleet for each of its 18 years.

Peace Pagoda Funded by Nipponzan Myohoji Order

To our many faithful donors, please know that Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and our nonprofit Ground Zero Community will not be providing funding for the Pacific Northwest Peace Pagoda.

The Peace Pagoda is being built on Ground Zero property. However, all funding and construction of the Pacific Northwest Peace Pagoda will be by the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Order. If you wish to make a donation for the construction of the Peace Pagoda, please send donations to Rev. Senji Kanaeda, Nipponzan Myohoji, Bainbridge Island Dojo, 6154 Lynwood Center Rd., NE, Bainbridge Island, WA 98110.

Thank you for all your support!

“Someone’s Gotta Do It!”

Mack Johnson’s Statement to the Court

By Mack Johnson

I was born August 26, 1955 and grew up in Connecticut. Coincidentally, Albert Einstein, whose work in physics helped lead to the atomic bomb, and who was deeply concerned about nuclear weapons, died four months earlier. My father, a U.S. Navy officer in the Bureau of Cryptography working on deciphering Japanese codes, used to say that as soon as he heard of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki he decided that pacifism was the only way to respond to war in the nuclear age. Our parents had a liberal bent in their beliefs and family backgrounds. Seeking meaning in their lives in the late 1950’s, and a religious denomination that would give their children a cultural and moral foundation, they chose the Religious Society of Friends, commonly called Quakers.

My brother and I were exposed to the evils of war and nuclear weapons from an early age. One Sunday school teacher, Albert Bigelow, a Navy veteran, was one of the original Freedom Riders in the Jim Crow South, and was an originator and the skipper of the first water-borne protest ship, *The Golden Rule*, which in 1958 attempted to sail into the southern Pacific’s atomic test site and jump-started the anti-nuclear weapons movement.

Our parents engaged in a variety of peace- and social-justice-related activities in their lives. I remember learning in elementary school about US government recommendations for families to build bomb shelters in their backyards, thinking it was cool and asking my mom if we could build one for ourselves, and her saying, “But building bomb shelters helps the government plan for nuclear war, and that would be wrong.” Huh?!?! I was nine years old and just wanted to play in a hole! Anyway, our family has always had a progressive peacenik bent. Civil rights, Vietnam, nuclear arms reductions: all issues that have been addressed and improved through activism by ordinary citizens and that included my family.

As I grew and became an adult, I was occupied with school, being active in the mountains, a teaching career, and my wonderful wife and our son. Activism was something we engaged in only occasionally. In 1989 we moved to Kitsap County from New Hampshire, and in 1994 we had a house built off of Olympic View Loop Road by Hood Canal. Every time I leave or return to my home, I drive along the fence that guards over a thousand

hydrogen bombs — horrifically destructive weapons that the government of the country I love uses to threaten the entire world, and that cannot be used without totally disrupting the world’s climate and killing millions. However, like most people, I ignored these terrible weapons, went about my life, and assumed other people were doing something about them. The Cold War had ended, and many Americans assumed that nuclear weapons would become a thing of the past.

Then, in 1998, Pakistan conducted its first successful tests of nuclear weapons, and India quickly followed with another test of its own. The world was suddenly talking and learning about nuclear weapons again! For a whole week! Then public attention shifted to something else, as it too often does. Monica Lewinski? As a world history teacher, I decided my students needed to know more. I contacted both the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action and the Bangor nuclear-missile submarine base and invited them to speak to my classes.

A few months later, on August 9, I first went to Ground Zero, and was

arrested with eight others in a protest action blocking the main gate. We were eventually acquitted of obstruction of traffic by a jury that concluded that America’s nuclear arsenal could be in violation of multiple treaties signed and ratified by our government; these treaties forbid using weapons on civilians and causing unnecessary harm and suffering.

I have stayed involved with Ground Zero for over 20 years now, serving in several leadership positions, being arrested or cited multiple times for blocking the Bangor approach road, and developing friendships with some of the most courageous and committed people I have ever known. Someone’s gotta do it! It is worth asking this question: “What would the world’s history of nuclear weapons be like if concerned citizens all over the world did NOT stand up and say, “No! Not in my name!””

One very likely answer is that many nuclear bombs might have been detonated in Korea, Vietnam, or other war zones, with effects too destructive to contemplate.

And now we are well into the 21st century. There is no global threat of communism, but the United States still



Mack, a repeat offender, is pictured at a 2017 action after being cited by a Washington State Patrol Officer. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

“Someone’s Gotta Do it!”... continued on page 11

Why I Protest: Reflections on Stepping Outside of the Dream

By Bob Delastrada

The Matrix is a movie about people trying to unplug from a collective dream, controlled by machines. The energy generated by living humans provided the power for the machines to operate. People are plugged into a computer program that keeps them happy and content, although none of it is real. It's a story about not accepting an illusion, about wanting to be free.

I can't help but compare the movie to acts of civil disobedience against nuclear weapons. American business interests extend to every part of the world with a sense of entitlement and manifest destiny. U.S. military bases in 86 countries are positioned to keep other countries in line, and the threat of nuclear weapons is an integral part of the system. It becomes more apparent that the concepts of deterrence and mutually assured destruction are rationales for first-strike capability. In light of ongoing missile programs by the U.S. and others, the Non-Proliferation Treaty is a meaningless piece of paper. The nuclear weapons industry is big business, and the collective dream is funded by the political and military machinery that keep it alive.

It concerns me that in retirement many former high-ranking military leaders go on record against nuclear weapons but didn't do so while on active duty. Even Daniel Ellsberg in the book *Doomsday Machine*, admits he didn't want to be locked up for life by revealing the U.S. nuclear program. We know that the government comes down hard on anyone who steps outside the status quo. American society functions as a prison without walls. The objective is to keep people comfortable and thereby controlled to keep the program running smoothly.

My challenge is trying to step outside the dream when it comes to nuclear weapons. I'm always trying to see the big picture connecting military spending to a neglect of poverty, homelessness, racism, healthcare, education, housing, care for children and the elderly, infrastructure, and other human concerns. Addressing these issues is seen as expendable, while spending \$100 billion on a new missile system is somehow seen as acceptable. The unthinkable becomes unquestioned reality.

I live in Olympia, about 70 miles from the Navy's submarine base in Bangor. The base is home base for eight Trident submarines. Each Trident has 20 missile tubes, and each missile can carry up to eight warheads ranging from 100 to 450 kilotons. Each sub could destroy the planet. And yet, much of the population is either oblivious or thinks this armament necessary—perhaps the only ways to cope with a situation so unbelievable. Or, you can do something about it.

On Mother's Day 2019, when a peaceful demonstration against nuclear weapons took place at Bangor, I decided to cross the county line blocking traffic to the base. This was a modest proposal, perhaps equivalent to the "widow's mite" in the Christian Bible (Mark 12: 41-

44, Luke 21: 1-4). I was arrested, but I was not facing years in prison as a consequence. For me it was a chance to "unplug" from the system by contributing to the reservoir of energy that counters the status quo. Landmines, chemical and biological weapons are considered unacceptable by most of the international community. We must move nuclear weapons into that same category of collective thinking.

The United Nations' Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons is a step in the right direction despite the unwillingness of nuclear nations to sign on. It is my hope that there is a rising awareness of the problem and that individuals, cities, states and nations will do what they can to confront and reject the nuclear option in whatever ways are available to them.

I see my small gesture as part of a much larger movement that hopefully will prevail. There is no guarantee of success, but people of goodwill still need to do what they can despite uncertainty. We carry on in faith, full of meaning and purpose, because we believe in the goodness of life, not death and destruction.

The mitigation judge in Kitsap County Court was extremely attentive to our presentations and reduced our fine to \$5.00. I remember making several comments: One was about wanting a future for my children and grandchild; another was about imagining, when I'm bannerizing against nuclear weapons on the highway overpass, what it would be like to see a mushroom cloud on the horizon, and to wonder what I would do?

Usually when bannerizing for the weekly one-hour event, despite the hundreds of horns and waves in support, there are three to four incidences of obscene gestures. Without exception, they come from young men in vehicles that embody a macho image—like a pick-up, Jeep, or sports car. It's painful to see, in that it reveals how deeply invested the dominant culture is in thinking nuclear weapons are needed or even helpful. We are plugged into the dream and, if unchecked, it has the power to completely absorb the populace.

Lastly, the hardest thing for me to grasp, much less to communicate, is that with nuclear weapons there are no second chances. It's not like we will be able to sit around and think about what just happened; we will simply cease to exist. And perhaps those of us who are killed instantly will be the lucky ones.

These are the thoughts that underlay both my decision to cross the line and my showing up, week after week, to banner against nuclear arms. I want to be awake and alert to what might help prevent these weapons from ever being used again.

Bob Delastrada is a member of the Olympia Coalition to Abolish Nuclear Weapons. He retired in 2012 after 36 years as a nursing assistant in long-term care. This article first appeared on www.uua.org, the Unitarian Universalist site.

threw me out of the cockpit, and I landed against the hard case that protects our life raft. My ribs were injured and one kidney was bruised. Milosz took my watch. It was a time for discernment. Can I continue the voyage? Even if I can, how long will it take me to recover? In the space of a minute I went from being an asset to a liability. It took 12 hours to decide whether to abort the mission and return to San Diego. It was my call. I decided I could work through the injury. It took about two weeks before I was 100 percent again.



The Golden Rule. Photo courtesy of Tom Rogers.

After we passed halfway we finally got the “fair winds and following seas” that sailors wish for. We ran with twin headsails making about 5 knots. It got warm. Tate caught some fish. We stood three hour watches. Fifteen nautical miles per watch. One hundred twenty nautical miles per day. Even though *Goldie* never stopped pitching, rolling and cork screwing, this was the time for reflection. We are this tiny boat on a vast ocean, sailing to abolish nuclear weapons. We know there are people watching our track. Many send words of encouragement over the satellite link. This voyage is important.

We arrived on July 31. *Golden Rule* is in Hilo. Milosz, Chris, Tate and I have gone our separate ways. It was a privilege to sail with those young men. I hope the next crew is just as good. I know that *Goldie* is seaworthy enough to continue the voyage, but she will need a pile of money and continuing maintenance to keep her that way. On to the Marshalls, Guam, Okinawa, and finally Hiroshima a year from now for the 75th remembrance of the bombing.

Nuclear weapons, climate change and rampant militarism continue to threaten human existence. How many times must the cannonballs fly before they're forever banned? The answer my friend is blowing in the wind...

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

maintains the world's largest military and the most powerful array of nuclear weapons. The biggest collection of these weapons is found in our own Kitsap county at Bangor, where approximately 1000 hydrogen bombs, each several times more powerful than the atomic bombs that destroyed Hiroshim and Nagaski and killed hundreds of thousands, are deployed on Trident submarines that can launch them over four thousand miles. Americans and people all over the world who expected and deserved a “peace dividend” after the end of the Cold War instead have been given bloated military budgets, a deteriorating environment, rising global inequality and the specter of endless war and nuclear Armageddon.

The greatest threats to America, the homeland that I love deeply and have served in my teaching career and as an engaged citizen, are of our own making!

That is why the anti-nuclear movement and the climate-crisis action movement are converging: If the United States cuts and then eliminates its nuclear arsenal, other countries will follow suit. The U.S. government plans to spend over \$1.7 trillion dollars in the next 30

years to modernize its nuclear forces. If that money is transferred to developing an economy that does not rely on fossil fuels, and the scientists and workers now assigned to nuclear weapons are redirected to renewable energy industries, we can save ourselves. That is the vision of climate and peace activists. The alternative is to continue to warm and degrade the planet until wealthy nations must use their military might to slaughter all the desperate refugees fleeing ecological destruction that they did not create and have no way to stop. That is a nightmare vision of the future that is all too possible. It is morally depraved and impracticable, and I refuse to accept it.

That is why my fellow activists and I block the highway at Bangor, that is why we and so many others took part in the global climate actions, that is why we lobby our leaders to spend money on a life-affirming future, and that is why you should reduce our fines from our August 5 demonstration at the Bangor main gate. It is far better to spend our time, money and resources trying to save the world instead of shrugging our shoulders and wishing someone else will. You can expect that we will be back!

Thank you very much for your time and your empathy. Ground Zero has worked with and challenged the Navy and Kitsap County for over 40 years of anti-nuclear activism. I believe that overall our military does not want to ever use nuclear weapons, and the only way to guarantee that is to abolish them. We lift our voices for everyone.

Mack Johnson is a retired social studies teacher. He and his wife Lisa, also a retired teacher, live in Silverdale.

It is far better to spend our time, money, and resources trying to save the world instead of shrugging our shoulders...

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*“The acknowledgement of a
single possibility can
change everything.”*

— Aberjhani

Time to Stand Up for Disarmament

By Joy Beaver, first published in the Peninsula Daily News

On August 5, I knowingly and purposefully became a pedestrian in the roadway at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor in a peaceful and nonviolent protest to the presence of nuclear weapons there. When I was four years old, unbeknownst to me at that age, the government of my country unleashed a horrific weapon of war – an atomic bomb – on the citizens of Hiroshima on August 6, 1945, and three days later on the citizens of Nagasaki.



After receiving a ticket for that offense, I then reentered the roadway and was cited for failure to disperse.

I will be making a statement at the hearings for my offenses as a conscientious objector, in honor of Desmond T. Doss of Newport News, Va., who survived World War II and received a Medal of Honor, as well as Tom Bennett of Morgantown, W. Va., and Joseph G. LaPointe, Jr. of Dayton, Ohio, both of whom were killed

in combat in Vietnam and received the Medal of Honor posthumously. All three were conscientious objectors in the service of our country.

Now is the time for all men and women of conscience around the world to unite in our common humanity by standing up to our governments and demanding a universal, unequivocal and insoluble treaty preventing nuclear war and all other forms of armed conflict.

War is never a solution; it always creates horrific consequences.

To quote my favorite World Beyond War T-shirt: “The first casualty of war is truth. The rest are mostly civilians.”

Joy Beaver pictured at left, had been a volunteer at the City of Sequim Police Department for 3 ½ years. On the day after Joy was cited at Bangor, she took her two citations to the Police Department to inform her supervising officers. Joy was immediately put on suspension and asked to surrender her badge until the Staff Sergeant, her immediate supervisor, could investigate the incidents and talk to the arresting officers. Ten days later, Joy was called in by the Staff Sergeant and told that he had no choice but to fire her; however, he then gave Joy the option of resigning, which she decided to do.