

# Ground Zero

July 2021

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## Five Activists Cited at Mother's Day Action "The nuke's days are numbered"



By Leonard Eiger and Glen Milner

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action celebrated the original intention of a Mother's Day for Peace on May 8 with a demonstration against the Trident nuclear weapons system at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.

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

While participants vigiled along the roadside, five demonstrators blocked the main highway entrance into the base for over 20 minutes. The five demonstrators entered the highway carrying two large banners stating, "CONGRESS WANTS \$1 TRILLION FOR NUKES—What will be left for our children" and "TRIDENT

THREATENS ALL LIFE ON EARTH" and blocked all incoming traffic at the Bangor Main Gate. They were removed from the highway by the Washington State Patrol.

All five demonstrators were cited for violating RCW 46.61.250, Pedestrians on roadways, and released at the scene. Those cited by the Washington State Patrol: Brenda McMillan and Caroline Wildflower of Port Townsend; Sue Ablao of Bremerton; Elizabeth Murray of Poulsbo; and Michael "Firefly" Siptroth of Belfair.

Earlier, on Saturday morning, Fr. Steve Kelly, a longtime anti-nuclear peace activist, spoke of his last three years in prison for a Plowshares action — known as

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the Kings Bay Plowshares - at the Atlantic-based Trident submarine system at Kings Bay Georgia.

Fr. Kelly stated, "...no matter what line of activism you are [in]—it's all making a contribution to keeping that we never forget [Hiroshima and Nagasaki], that we keep the memory alive. that these weapons are right now aimed at innocent people.

*...we have today as a witness, we are going to walk down to the gates of this base, this, as Phil Berrigan would call—this hellhole—and create a witness there reaching out to others who are caught up in this system. And so I think this ongoing campaign here, the efforts that are being made here—I have total confidence that the nuke's days are numbered."*

Also on Saturday morning, Vicki Elson of NUCLEARBAN.US spoke in a Zoom presentation on the U.N. Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) and how diverting military spending to green jobs is possible. NUCLEARBAN.US is committed to the total elimination of nuclear weapons and the use of all those wasted human, financial and political resources to address the climate crisis and global inequality through a Green New Deal. See [nuclearban.us](http://nuclearban.us).

Four of the five cited – McMillan, Murray, Siptroth and Wildflower – will appear before a judge in Kitsap County District Court on Tuesday, July 27 at 1:30PM to present individual arguments in defense of their actions on May 8. Ablao will appear on a different date, not yet confirmed. Siptroth stated that he will be there "to argue that nuclear weapons are illegal and immoral; plus a huge yearly financial drain on our nation; and a threat, especially to the global environment and the poor."

Supporters are welcome to join a brief pre-hearing vigil in front of the courthouse on the day of the hearings, beginning at 1:00PM. Ground Zero members will bring "Abolish Nuclear Weapons" signs, as well as a leaflet to offer to people passing by. More information, including the court's location, will be available on the Ground Zero Events page.

Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor is homeport to the largest concentration of deployed nuclear warheads in the U.S. The nuclear warheads are deployed on Trident D-5 missiles on SSBN submarines and are stored in an underground nuclear weapons storage facility on the base. There are eight Trident SSBN submarines deployed at

Bangor. Six Trident SSBN submarines are deployed on the East Coast at Kings Bay, Georgia. One Trident submarine carries the destructive force of over 1,200 Hiroshima bombs (the Hiroshima bomb was approximately 15 kilotons).

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 90-kiloton or W88 455-kiloton warheads.

The Navy in early 2020 started deploying the new W76-2 low-yield warhead (approximately eight kilotons) on select ballistic submarine missiles at Bangor (following initial deployment in the Atlantic in December 2019). The warhead was deployed to deter Russian first use of tactical nuclear weapons, dangerously creating a lower threshold for the use of U.S. strategic nuclear weapons.

You can watch the Mother's Day event presentations by both Vicki Elson and Steve Kelly at our website's homepage.

Here are some action opportunities and learning links provided by NUCLEARBAN.US (from Vicki Elson's presentation):

1) Urge federal, state, and local legislators to sign the US version of ICAN pledge:

[www.NuclearBan.us/nationalmap](http://www.NuclearBan.us/nationalmap) or [www.NuclearBan.US/ICANpledge](http://www.NuclearBan.US/ICANpledge).

2) Urge legislators to co-sponsor NORTON HR 2850:

[www.nuclearban.us/join-the-campaign](http://www.nuclearban.us/join-the-campaign).

3) Write to President Biden: [www.NuclearBan.US/dear-president-elect-biden/](http://www.NuclearBan.US/dear-president-elect-biden/). (Yes, we know he's not president-elect any more – letter is updated but link

name is not.)

4) Disarming the Nuclear Argument by Timmon Wallis: [www.DisarmingArguments.com](http://www.DisarmingArguments.com).

5) Short videos: "The world has spoken" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=MiyTK1uApRQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MiyTK1uApRQ) and "What if we nuke a city?" [www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iPH-br\\_eJQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5iPH-br_eJQ).

6) Educational tools: [www.NuclearBan.US/quiz](http://www.NuclearBan.US/quiz).



**Our four-legged friends agree:** nuclear weapons need to be relegated to the dustbin of history. *Photo by Glen Milner.*

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**Leonard Eiger** chairs the Communication and Outreach Committee, and sends out press releases on behalf of Ground Zero. **Glen Milner** leads legal efforts for Ground Zero and took the photo on the cover.



# 2021 Pacific Northwest Interfaith Peace Walk

*"The time has come to abolish nuclear weapons"*

By Rev. Senji Kanaeda

No Nukes - Stop Global Warming - Racial Justice

南無妙法蓮華經

Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo—In Respect of All Life

Friday, July 23—Saturday, July 24: Eugene, OR

Sunday, July 25: Salem, OR

Thursday, August 5: Tacoma

Friday, August 6: Lake Forest Park to Seattle Lantern Ceremony

Saturday, August 7: Poulsbo to Ground Zero Center

Sunday, August 8—Monday, August 9: Hiroshima/Nagasaki Commemoration Weekend at Ground Zero

This annual peace walk is sponsored by Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Order, Eugene and Tacoma Catholic Workers, Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, Lake Forest Park For Peace, American Indian Organization for Change, Footprints for Peace, Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap Interfaith Council and more. The walk will start July 23 in Eugene, OR, and finish on August 7 at Ground Zero.

On January 22, in the winter of the world's COVID-19 disaster, a landmark treaty for the realization of world peace came into force at the United Nations. That's TPNW (Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons). Our earth is filled with events that make us realize that we are on a big turning point during this world-wide calamity. There is a movement for Black Lives

Matter. On the other hand, global warming has not stopped, and the future is dark and uneasy.

The future of humanity is certainly in jeopardy. Now, with the opportunity to enter into force of the TPNW, we will walk and pray and convey the message of peace and nuclear abolition. I believe that is one of the things we can do. We want to walk together in parts of Oregon and Washington State for an hour, a day, or a week in this moment.

We are currently building a spiritual symbol for world peace—the Peace Pagoda—at our destination at Ground Zero Center.



**Unspeakable.** Days after the Nagasaki bombing, a boy carried his deceased brother to a cremation site.

**Senji Kanaeda Shonin** serves on the Stewardship Council, and has led Peace Walks around the world. To join up with the walk, contact him at (206) 780-6739 or (206) 724-7632, or [kanaedasenji@gmail.com](mailto:kanaedasenji@gmail.com).

## Peace Fleet Marks 20 Years of Protesting Seafair's Militarism

By Glen Milner

For the twentieth year, Peace Fleet demonstrators will gather at noon on Wednesday, August 4, on the Seattle waterfront. Peace demonstrators will hold a short vigil for peace on Elliott Bay to protest against the normalcy of modern war displayed at Seafair.

Demonstrators will gather near Pier 66. Bell Harbor Marina will be open for kayakers and for mooring vessels.



On April 21, the Seafair organization announced the cancellation of most major events for the second year in a row, including the Blue Angels for 2021, due to the COVID

-19 pandemic. Instead, Seafair will host online activities including virtual ship tours, online simulated performances by the Blue Angels, and online coloring books.

Ground Zero activist and Peace Fleet sailor Mary Gleysteen stated, "It is time that Seafair and the Port of Seattle promote peaceful maritime events at the annual Seattle Seafair festival. How sad that the festival must promote online coloring books with weapons of war."

Peace Fleet sailor Glen Milner stated, "A virtual U.S. Navy Fleet Week seems like a much better idea. It will be a lot less costly for taxpayers and will result in a lot less carbon emissions put into the atmosphere. But as a community event, why not promote peace?"

**Glen Milner** has worked with Ground Zero since the days of White Train resistance. He lives in Lake Forest Park with his wife Karol, who took the picture of Mira Leslie (at left) at the 2013 Peace Fleet.

# Ground Zero hosts August 2021 Events in Remembrance of Hiroshima and Nagasaki Atomic Bombings

By Mack Johnson

The Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action will observe the 76th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Japan in 1945, along with events and presentations that call for the abolition of nuclear weapons and repeat the exhortation of "Never Again!"

This year's observances start with the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Temple's Peace Walk to Green Lake for the From Hiroshima To Hope ceremony Friday, August 6. The gathering begins at 5:30 and the program starts at 6:30. This remembrance with floating candle lanterns has been held every year since 1984 and is a very moving experience.



On Saturday, August 7 the peace walkers will trek to Ground Zero, arriving around 12 noon. Participants should bring their own lunch. There will be a tour of the pagoda site and a review of the history of the efforts to build a Peace Pagoda at Ground Zero starting in the 1980's. The afternoon will have an educational component, with an update on the current state of nuclear weapons and a screening of a June 10 Democracy Now! story on current spending by the 9 nuclear powers. Free camping on the grounds is available.

Sunday, August 8 will focus on preparation for the vigil and action the following day. There will be a discussion of the effectiveness of civil disobedience, a discernment process for those considering direct action, nonviolence training, and role-plays for the action.

An exciting feature of this year's events is the return of the "WAR!" flash-mob dancers featuring the talented Delaney family; a good part of the afternoon of the 8th will be rehearsal and coordination of several dance teams, who will perform Monday morning at the Bangor main gate. The day will conclude with a return performance from longtime Ground Zero associate, musician, and songwriter Tom Rawson.

Monday, August 9 is our morning of action! A light breakfast will be available. The gathering circle for the march, vigil, and action will form at 6:00 am, with a

blessing from KUUF minister Jessica Star Rockers and recitation of the pledge of nonviolence.

The vigil will include songs, signs, banners, the flash-mob performance, and direct action as determined through the discernment process. Vigilliers will likely witness the symbolic shutdown of the Bangor main entrance, as Ground Zero activists use their bodies and their consciences to call attention to the great crime that nuclear weapons constitute.

Due to the pandemic, a number of restrictions, guidelines, and modifications are in place. Those who have been double-vaccinated may enter and use the GZ house; all others must stay outside, use masks, practice social distancing and handwashing, and use general common sense. Partly due to COVID concerns, meals will be a combination of brown bagging, potluck, catering or takeout, and some basics prepared in the house kitchen. Please come prepared to be flexible and provide some of your own vittles! See the Events page at [gzcenter.org](http://gzcenter.org) for updated information and schedule.

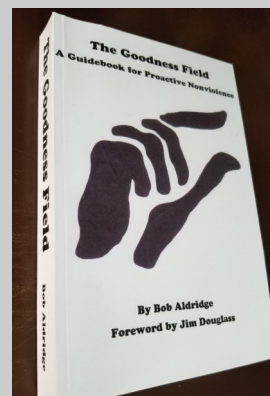
**Folk singer and activist**  
Tom Rawson.



*Mack Johnson is a retired social studies teacher. He and his wife Lisa have been active with Ground Zero for over 20 years.*

## Copies of "The Goodness Field" Available

For single paper copies of *The Goodness Field: A Guidebook for Proactive Nonviolence* by Bob Aldridge, please contact [info@gzcenter.org](mailto:info@gzcenter.org). Books, offered by Bob and Janet Aldridge as their personal contribution to Ground Zero, are provided for a suggested \$15.00 donation, which includes postage via media mail service.





# Joy Goldstein, Rest in Peace and Power

By Members of the Stewardship Council, edited by Alice Zillah

*Our friend and fellow conspirator for peace Joy Goldstein passed away on June 19 after a long life spent causing "good trouble." In 2003, Joy was asked by a reporter why she decided to risk arrest for the first time at a Ground Zero action in 2000. She replied, "I thought, 'I'm retired; I don't have a husband; all my kids are out of the house; all my plants are outside plants, they'll get rained on. I am out of excuses.'"*

*A service will be held from 2:00 to 5:00 pm on July 25 at the red barn at the AYH Ranch on Vashon Island.*

*Below, members of the Stewardship Council share some of their remembrances of this remarkable woman.*

Leonard Eiger: "Words fail me; and yet, there was the infamous episode in August 2009 in which Joy, accompanied by Swaneagle, drove her little red sedan (yes, the one plastered with bumper stickers) through the Main Gate, where she was told to turn around, and as she did so she somehow backed over those pesky one-way tire shredding spikes, and punctured one tire, drove back out and over onto the side of the road where State Patrol and the Department of Transportation response truck emptied the contents of her trunk, finally digging out the spare. Now, THAT is what I call an ACTION! As I recall, the little red sedan met its early demise in a ditch on Vashon Island sometime later on, and I don't think Joy drove after that. Yet she never stopped acting up... Joy Goldstein, Presente!"

Mary Gleysteen: "Joy was an amazing human being, a role model in so many ways. Am I imagining it, or did the sheriff's department get a step stool for their pad-dy wagon just for Joy?" [Note: yes, they did!]

Br. Gilberto Perez: "Joy was so cool that she was dangerous...Loving warrior of peace. I see her limp and smiles of pure joy!"

Mack Johnson: "Joy was such a delight. Her personality helped to draw Lisa and me. deeper into Ground Zero. And she was a hardcore activist: For several years in the aughts, she drove to our house once a month from

Vashon in the evening, slept on a bench in our laundry room, and left the next morning in the dark to leaflet! She was a tough and loving lady. After she became less active at Ground Zero, base security guys asked after her for a long time. Her outreach and loving heart made connections. Wish we'd seen her one last time..."

Lisa Johnson: "I was honored to spend time in the holding cell at Kitsap County Jail the first time I got arrested at the Bangor gate. I was nervous, and Joy was kind and tough. I always loved talking with her when she stayed at our house before leafletting, and at Ground Zero events. Like Mack, how I wish I could have seen her one more time. I know she will continue to be with us as a loving ancestor. Bless you, Joy!"

Cathy Palzkill: "I remember Joy with much fondness. She was an inspiration to me to resume the leafletting at the base. Presente! Joy welcomed with open arms by all those who have gone before!"

Mary Hanson: "Joy created the banner 'The earth is our mother. Treat her with respect.' She was a key leader in establishing a good relationship with law enforcement, not seeing them as an enemy. She valued story-telling, and had a great sense of humor and so much wisdom too. I will remember Joy."

Sue Ablao: "Joy lived her name. A life-long Quaker, she worked for peace and social justice with humor and perseverance. She loved pottery. I still have the personalized mugs she made for Jackie and me. Condolences to her family. Joy Goldstein, Presente!"

Rev. Senji Kanaeda: "When I started to join Ground Zero around 2003, I remember that Br. Gilberto

purchased lovely coffee cups she made. I remember her humor, smiles and stable commitment to the actions for peace. Na Mu Myo Ho Ren Ge Kyo and gassho (palms together) to her soul.



**Joy was a sunny presence** at Ground Zero actions, such as this one in 2008. She often sang and performed with the Raging Grannies. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

*Thank you to the Ground Zero members who contributed to this story.*

# Father Steve Kelly is Free

**“We cannot be fully human while one nuclear weapon exists”**

By Leonard Eiger

When Father Steve Kelly, a nuclear resister and Jesuit priest, walked out of a Tacoma, Washington courthouse on April 13, 2021, he was still wearing his prison khakis. When he was taken from jail in Georgia in mid-December to be transported to Tacoma, he had left in chains.

Now Kelly was a free man. But for how long? In Tacoma, Magistrate Judge David Cristel sentenced Kelly to time served, and released him without conditions. Kelly had effectively served the maximum six-month prison sentence for violating conditions of his supervised release for a 2017 trespass conviction at the Trident nuclear submarine base in Silverdale, Washington during a Pacific Life Community nonviolent direct action.

But now Kelly must report to the probation department in Georgia to begin three years of supervised release to fulfill the terms of an earlier sentence for his part in the April 4, 2018 trespass onto the Kings Bay Trident submarine base there, an action by the Kings Bay Plowshares 7. And that will likely spell more necessary trouble.

Prison garb and chains are not unfamiliar to Kelly, a man of conscience, who is unlikely to give up his peaceful non-violent protests against nuclear weapons any time soon. As he told the Tacoma court:

“This is the way to love everyone in this courtroom. This is the way to love our fellow human beings, is that I had to take a stand against the nuclear weapons. And of course what happened in Georgia... was a continuation of my acting in conscience. I think that it’s probably best said that while there are nuclear weapons out there, my conscience will probably be very consistent about this.”

Kelly won’t go to Georgia. It will be up to US marshals to bring him back there.

Kelly has consistently refused to cooperate with any probationary terms — community service, fines or supervised release — throughout his history of resistance. He has also been clear and direct with judges as to his intentions. When asked by the judge during his original 2017 sentencing in Tacoma if he would participate in supervised release, Kelly replied, “Please, please, I cannot do supervised release. I’m asking you to translate it into a period of incarceration.”

By the time of Kelly’s later arrest in April, 2018 at Kings Bay, a bench warrant had already been issued for

his arrest for violating the terms of his supervised release by not reporting to the federal probation office in Washington state.

The Jesuit priest remained in jail in Georgia from the time of his Kings Bay arrest through trial in October, 2019 and his sentencing in October, 2020 to 33 months in prison plus restitution and three years of supervised release.

With credit for time served, he had essentially completed the custodial sentence but remained in federal custody pending the April 13th hearing in Tacoma. The journey from Georgia to Washington state took more than 3-1/2 months, with stays at three more private prisons and jails along the way in Florida, Oklahoma and Nevada.

In April, Blake Kremer, Kelly’s lawyer, successfully persuaded the Tacoma probation office that Kelly would have served his maximum sentence by the April 13th hearing date and therefore the court could not impose any additional conditions. Kelly appeared in court in person for his sentencing while his supporters were able to listen in by phone. Many greeted him joyfully outside upon his release.

Kelly, 72, was ordained a Roman Catholic priest in the Jesuit order in 1990, and engaged in his first Plowshares action — “Jubilee Plowshares” — in 1995. Since then, he has participated in numerous Plowshares actions and other witnesses against nuclear weapons and war making. In that time he has spent over 10 years behind bars, and roughly one-third of that time in solitary confinement (for non-cooperation).

Kelly is deeply committed to the Biblical vision of Isaiah 2:4 that nations “shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more.”

Most recently, on April 4, 2018, on the 50th anniversary of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Kelly and six others, known as the Kings Bay Plowshares 7, entered Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay, the US Navy’s East Coast Trident nuclear ballistic missile submarine base.

All seven defendants pled not guilty, insisting that they had not entered the base to commit a crime, but ra-



**“It is my lifelong quest to imitate the Good Shepherd.”** Father Steve Kelly. *Photo courtesy of the LA Catholic Worker.*

**Father Steve Kelly... continued on page 7**



ther to prevent one from occurring, the crime of “omnicide”, the destruction of the human race which is possible in a nuclear war.

In the face of this threat that the US nuclear arsenal poses to the world, they believed what they had done was not illegal, but a “symbolic disarmament”, an act of necessary civil resistance. All seven were found by a jury to be guilty on three felony counts and a misdemeanor charge.

Prior to the action at Kings Bay, Kelly and four others, in what is known as the Disarm Now Plowshares, were arrested at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor on All Souls Day, November 2, 2009, after entering the nuclear warhead storage depot (Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific), to expose the nuclear warheads that are deployed on OHIO Class “Trident” ballistic missile submarines. Bangor is home to the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the U.S.

There are fourteen ballistic missile submarines at Bangor and Kings Bay, carrying the Trident II D5 ballistic missile armed with some combination of W76-1 (90 kiloton) warheads and W88 (455 kiloton) warheads, in addition to a small number of the newer “low-yield” W76-2 warhead.



**Our prayers are with you.** Father Steve Kelly kneels at the center of supporters in front of the Tacoma Federal Courthouse. *Photo by Blake Kremer.*

In addition to being what the US government calls “the most survivable leg of the US nuclear triad,” they are arguably a first-strike nuclear weapon, which is inherently destabilizing to any efforts toward cooperation and disarmament with Russia.

The continuing warhead modernization and current construction of the next generation of ballistic missile submarines, with plans for a new warhead and missile, is contributing to a new and dangerous nuclear arms race.

As a person of deep spiritual convictions, Kelly understands that “It’s a Sin to Build a Nuclear Weapon,” as

Jesuit Father, Richard McSorley, once wrote. McSorley explained that, “The taproot of violence in our society today is our intention to use nuclear weapons. Once we have agreed to that, all other evil is minor in comparison. Until we squarely face the question of our consent to use nuclear weapons, any hope of large scale improvement of public morality is doomed to failure.”

Reaching to the heart of Gospel teachings, in Kelly’s own words: “The Gospel has many instances of the parables of Jesus inserting himself between the flock and the dangers; namely the thief and the wolf. In today’s or rather contemporary application of the Gospel, Christ is incarnate in the poor in the flock and the thief is the budget dedicated to war profiteering and nuclear annihilation. The wolf is the ever-present danger of the threat and, God forbid, the use of nuclear weapons. So it is my life long quest to imitate the Good Shepherd. I will insert myself between the dangers and the flock.

“In order to use my limited time I will, along with others, try to embody the vision given to us through the prophet Isaiah. It is a conversion of weapons to devices for human production. The gift of Isaiah 2:4 is an economic, political, and moral conversion of the violence of nuclear annihilation. With others, I hope to be instruments in God’s hands for showing a way out of the escalation, the proliferation of this scourge of humanity. I feel strongly that Martin Luther King Jr. would agree with the principle I attribute to Gandhi that we cannot be fully human while one nuclear weapon exists.”

Aside from Fr. Kelly’s deeply held, and practiced, beliefs, courts in the US have consistently refused to allow Kelly (and other Plowshares activists) to present any kind of reasonable defense. Federal prosecutors have asked, and judges have agreed, in nearly every case, to prohibit the defendants from introducing anything constituting a reasonable defense — including religious motivations, international law and treaties, Nuremberg principles, necessity defense, or the existence, numbers, or lethality of nuclear weapons, all of which are established, public knowledge and/or precedent.

In contrast to the repressive court system in the US, Plowshares actions have also occurred in Australia, Germany, Holland, Sweden, New Zealand, Scotland, Ireland, and England, and many of the trials in these cases resulted in jury acquittals. In the case of the Pitstop Ploughshares, five members of the Catholic Worker Movement who damaged a United States Navy C-40 transport aircraft (en route to Iraq) at Shannon Airport, Ireland in 2003 were allowed to present a reasonable defense and were acquitted by a jury that determined the defendants had acted to save lives and property in Iraq.

Rather than prosecute Kelly and others who attempt to shine the light of conscience on nuclear weapons, which represent an omnicidal threat to humanity, the US

# "Wake Up, the World is Dying:" Now Do Something About It

## Angie Zelter's New Memoir *Activism for Life*

By Leonard Eiger

Longtime activist Angie Zelter, in the preface to her newest book, *Activism for Life*, says "It is 50 years since I left university, started my real education and began thinking how I could help create a better world." That introduction sets the stage for 50 years of activism for the sake of that world she seeks.

Lest you think *Activism for Life* might be just another memoir, that would be an injustice. Angie not only reflects on her involvement in campaigns around the world—Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp, SOS Sarawak, Trident Ploughshares, Save Jeju Now, Extinction Rebellion, and many more—but builds on the practical lessons she has learned along the way, offering insights into mobilizing for effective and sustainable action.

This book is a reference for activists of all ages. And yet my hope, after reading it, is that young people, the people preparing to enter adulthood, as Angie was 50 years ago, will pick up this book and find a way to start *their* "real education." I wish this book had been available before I graduated university!

I have known Angie through our connections as activists campaigning against nuclear weapons, and although I thought I had a fair picture of her life as an activist, reading her life story was a new adventure. I found her story inspiring, educational and, above all, hopeful. It embodies the Angie I have had the honor to work with over the years. Having developed an understanding of the connections between war, poverty, racism, environmental destruction and species loss, civil and military uses and abuses of nuclear power, consumerism, and the climate crisis, she has faced down the perpetrators and called them out with clarity.

In the chapter on "Linking Our Struggles in One World," Angie is clear and blunt when she states that, "for life on our planet to survive we must pressure governments, corporations and every institution to change radically from an exploitative, extractivist, growth-at-any-costs society to a sustainable, steady-state economy within an egalitarian and compassionate society." She also calls out the insidious and destructive connections that have brought us to the brink: "Climate Justice and war have the same root causes as structural inequality, racism and violence against women. They are the consequences of military-industrial systems of unsustainable growth, profit, aggression and exploitation."

Whether protesting the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the continuing siege of Gaza; protecting old-growth forests in Sarawak, Finland, Canada and Brazil; or blockading the UK's Trident

nuclear submarine base at Faslane, Scotland; Angie is always creative, collaborative, and above all nonviolent. She shows how the different issues facing humanity are deeply intertwined, and how we need to act in solidarity across issues and nations.

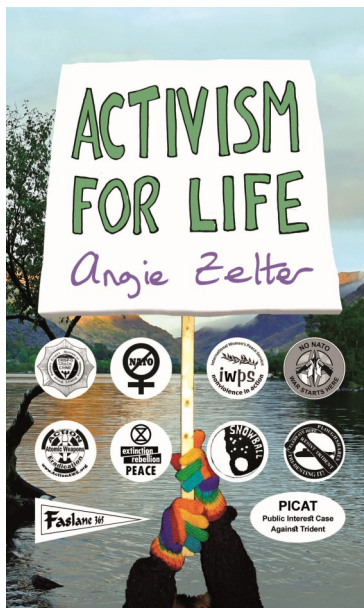
Chapter 12, "Lessons Learnt," begins with "Never give up," and contains a long list of the lessons Angie has learned along the way. An example is that "There is no 'right' way to protest or resist or defend yourself [in court] — each person must find their own voice." Angie ends the chapter with, "And never, ever give up. Did I say that before?" Now, *that* is definitely the Angie I know! Although obviously passionate and dedicated, Angie never preaches to us. She simply tells her story and offers her experience for us to draw upon on our individual activist journeys.

Towards the end of the book 69-year old Angie answers questions from 17-year old activist Jasmine Maslen on nonviolent direct action. It was refreshing, and not at all surprising in the context of Angie's journey, to read this sharing of elder wisdom with the next generation of activists.

Angie was a recipient of The Right Livelihood Award in 2001. In her acceptance speech, which you can read in her book, she stated right up front that, "Our planet is dying — both spiritually and physically," and speaks briefly to the factors that have brought us to the brink. From there she only speaks with positive and hopeful voice, speaking to "the very many different ways in which ordinary people are taking responsibility... creating the changes needed to pass beyond war and injustice, control and dominance and towards a free, just, loving and diverse world."

Her examples are compelling and her closing message is clear: "Killing is wrong. Mass killing is wrong. Threatening mass destruction is a denial of our own humanity and is suicidal. When something is wrong we have to stop it. Dismantling the machinery of destruction is thus a practical act of love that we can all join in. Please join us — together we are unstoppable."

Perhaps that last sentence is the crux of Angie Zelter's thesis. Each of us "ordinary" citizens are capable



"Never give up." Angie Zelter's memoir is available now through your favorite bookseller.

*Activism for Life...* continued on page 9



of doing anything we put our minds to, and we become a powerful force to reckon with when we are in solidarity with each other, working in concert. If enough of us can come together, we can be, as Angie says, “unstoppable.” Dig down inside yourself and determine what you are able to contribute, and then DO IT!

There is much more to discover in *Activism for Life* that I will leave for you to discover. I invite you to read *Activism for Life*, and if you find it worthy, buy additional copies and give them as graduation gifts for young people you know, and help them start their real education and activism for their lives, and for the sake of the world in which they live.

*Activism for Life* is published by Luath Press Ltd., and is available from a number of booksellers. All royalties will go to Trident Ploughshares, a campaign to disarm the UK Trident nuclear weapons system in a nonviolent, open, peaceful and fully accountable manner.

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

government should instead listen to their warnings. The US should begin, as required by Article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) — and to which the US is a signatory — to “pursue negotiations in good faith on effective measures relating to cessation of the nuclear arms race at an early date and to nuclear disarmament, and on a treaty on general and complete disarmament under strict and effective international control.”

Kelly made a surprise appearance at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action during its recent Mother’s Day weekend event. He updated attendees on the current status of his fellow Kings Bay Plowshares co-defendants, and said he feels strongly, thanks to the ongoing campaigns of organizations like Ground Zero, that “the days of the nukes are numbered.” A video including his remarks is available on the Ground Zero website’s homepage.

For now, Kelly is free from incarceration, yet he will continue in his holy resistance to nuclear weapons because of his deep faith, and his understanding that so long as the nuclear-armed nations hold humanity under the threat of nuclear omnicide, no one can be truly free.

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**Leonard Eiger** notes: *Linda Pentz Gunter of Beyond Nuclear contributed to this story. Thanks also to Jack Cohen-Joppa of the Nuclear Resister, and the Kings Bay Plowshares, for their contributions to this article. This article was originally published by Beyond Nuclear International on April 18, 2021, and has since been updated.*

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## Banneristas send a clear message: *Abolish Nuclear Weapons!*

By Leonard Eiger and Rodney Brunelle

Ground Zero activists started their summer banner-ing season on June 7, reminding Seattle commuters of the imperative to abolish nuclear weapons.

The Ground Zero Banneristas will continue banner-ing over I-5 in Seattle with messages stressing the imperative to *Abolish Nuclear Weapons* throughout the summer. They plan to be there every Monday between 8:00 and 9:00 AM on the NE 45th Street overcrossing.

At a time when a new Cold War, involving not only the US and Russia, but also China, is heating up, the banner-ing is intended to remind citizens of Puget Sound to accept their role and responsibility—as taxpayers, as members of a democratic society, and as neighbors to the Trident nuclear submarine base in Hood Canal—to work to prevent the use of nuclear weapons.

According to banner-ing organizer Rodney Brunelle, three or four core participants show up every Monday. Even with traffic moving at or near the limit, they do get some encouraging honks, waves and smiles.

With the largest concentration of deployed nuclear warheads in the U.S sitting just 20 miles west of Seattle, Brunelle hopes banner-ing over I-5 will motivate more local residents to learn about the threat of nuclear weapons, and better understand that only an informed citizenry can bring the necessary pressure to bear on our elected

leaders to reduce the risk of nuclear war now, while moving towards the day when that risk is eliminated.

The Puget Sound region would be a primary target for a nuclear attack, which would cause complete and total devastation for which there is no effective response or recovery. When citizens become aware the prospect of nuclear war, or the risk of a nuclear accident, and the consequences, the issue is no longer an abstraction. Our proximity to Bangor demands a deeper response.

On May 27, 2016, President Obama spoke in Hiroshima and called for an end to nuclear weapons. He said that the nuclear powers “...must have the courage to escape the logic of fear, and pursue a world without them.” Years before that, President Ronald Reagan questioned the value of nuclear weapons: “A nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. The only value in our two nations possessing nuclear weapons is to make sure they will never be used. But then would it not be better to do away with them entirely?”

Reagan would have probably smiled at our our banner – **ABOLISH NUCLEAR WEAPONS!**

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

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*“Nuclear weapons make  
our communities and  
our world less secure and drain  
resources that could be used for  
human development and  
addressing the underlying  
inequities and injustices that  
fuel conflicts.”*

*— Stephen Colecchi*

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## The white bright light

By Larry Kerschner

backs to the white bright light  
young men wearing goggles  
a boy soldier among many  
dug into the Nevada desert  
sand scoured grey mesquite  
secure the area  
following orders  
he knew no  
Korea no  
Viet Nam no  
his was an Eisenhower  
time of piece

now his Auschwitz eyes in sunken sockets  
this atomic vision  
shadowed him  
these twenty-five years  
sallow grey  
against white sheets  
death fetid breath

stomach gone to gastric cancer  
100 milligrams of morphine each hour  
bring  
a time of peace

dying  
he spoke briefly  
of a bright white light



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**Larry Kerschner** is a poet and member of the Ground Zero Stewardship Council. He has written several books of poetry including "Grave Lines" and "US Military Diplomacy: From Wounded Knee to Afghanistan." He dedicates this poem to John Dubeck, former sheriff of Jefferson County, WA.