

Ground Zero

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Yearning for Peace is Universal



By Michael "Firefly" Siptroth

During the 1980's there was a big effort to stop nuclear weapons and promote peace called "Target Seattle". I was involved in that and got the name of a school in Russia. My students at University Congregational Church Childcare made pictures, which I sent to Russia. In return we received the beautiful, powerful pictures created by children in Russia. As we know, most people

everywhere do NOT Want WAR! The Ground Zero Center has photographed the posters, and you can now [view all of the posters at our website](#).

Michael (Firefly) Siptroth serves on the Stewardship Council. He lives on an organic farm in Belfair.

Beauty and the Beast: Earth Day Counter-Military and Climate Action Planned at Manchester Fuel Depot

By Mack Johnson

It was a lovely late-winter day on the Kitsap Peninsula. The cold snap was still on, but the rain had stopped and the low sun warmed us a bit as it reflected off the waters into our eyes.

I was driving through south Kitsap with longtime Ground Zero stalwart Michael “Firefly” Siptroth and Ground Zero’s new resident Kathy Railsback. They had an interest in a nonviolent climate-peace-antimilitarism action targeting the Manchester Fuel Depot, and planned to explore the area to start planning an event. Since I had some familiarity with the area’s geography and am a frequent visitor to the nearby Manchester State Park, I offered to give them an “activist’s scenic tour.” We cruised along Beach Drive, inspected the Fuel Depot entrance and the hamlet of Manchester, then hiked through the park, home to amazing views of the Sound, Mt Rainier, ship and ferry traffic—and several defense installations.

As many who live in the Puget Sound region know, we are gifted with stunning natural beauty that is home to a large number of military bases and defense contractors. Locals who have their eyes open are constantly presented with an environment of exceptional ecological, scenic, and spiritual value, a landscape also dotted with our government’s activities that may destroy it. I regularly am touched by the juxtaposition of life-giving nature and death-dealing creations of humans.

A number of places in Kitsap County are striking examples of these themes. Bainbridge Island’s Pritchard Park, with forest paths, a nice sandy beach, and eye-popping views of the eastern Olympics, is one. This public park is bordered on one end by a closed creosote plant and \$1 billion Superfund site, and on the other by the Bainbridge Island Japanese-American Exclusion Memorial, commemorating the first community of Japanese and Japanese-Americans to be rounded up and shipped to concentration camps after Pearl Harbor in World War II. Perhaps one reason I am an activist is to ease the cognitive dissonance of my wonderful life here with the forces that could ruin it all: climate crises, nuclear weapons, preparing for war and death instead of love and life.

So, what about the Manchester Fuel Depot? Simply put, it is “the military’s largest gas station.” Since 1941 it has supplied a range of fuels and lubricants, and collects oily waste and bilge water. It serves Navy vessels via pier fueling, filling “oilers”, loading onto trucks and pipelines, as well as fueling ships of other nations. Dozens of tanks, both above and under the ground, store millions of gallons of fuels (“The Best Fuel Terminal in the World”, denix.osd.mil, 2006).

Several of the underground tanks have deteriorat-

ed and will be replaced with above-ground tanks, a \$200 million, nine-year project. Additionally, the entire depot and state park area are right on top of the Seattle Fault earthquake zone.



The Manchester Fuel Depot. The underground tanks are deteriorating and will be replaced for the mere sum of \$200 million. *Photo by Mack Johnson.*

In other words, while the Fuel Depot is only indirectly connected to the Trident weapons systems it is Ground Zero’s mission to abolish, it is a lynchpin of the Navy’s global operations. It has fueled many of the ships in many, many of the US’s wars. It is a major oil well of the military industrial complex, whose Defense Department is the world’s largest single consumer of oil. It is the Devil’s Inkwell. Despite its remote, scenic location, it is a potent symbol of the threat that militarism, and especially the military of this country we love so much, poses to humans and the health of the planet.

And that is why Kathy, Firefly and I went on our outing. By the time we had walked the shoreline, hiked the trails, inspected the torpedo-mine facilities of the old coastal fortifications at the state park, and scouted the area around the depot gate, there was a plan to demonstrate against the Manchester Fuel Depot for Earth Day. We hope that Ground Zero and its supporters will see the relevance and attend.

Here is the rough plan for the action; more details will be coming as well as possible co-sponsorship by other affinity groups.

The action will take place Saturday, April 23 (the day after Earth Day), at the Manchester State Park day use area, from noon to 3:00pm. The exact end time may be earlier., since the action itself will be short.

Military’s Largest Gas Station... continued on page 3

Group Picnic Area 3 has been reserved for that date. It is down by the beach and the day-use restrooms. There are two picnic tables and an awning.

Admission to the state park requires a Discover Pass or a daily fee. Once people enter they can park in the day use area, a short walk from the picnic site.

Participants should bring signs and banners that stress our opposition to burning fossil fuels and using our taxpayer dollars for war and destruction. The Ground Zero banner "The Earth is our Mother - Treat Her with Respect" will be deployed. Bring anti-war and pro-planet images!

Participants will organize, perhaps hear a speaker and a song or two, and then walk about three-quarters of a mile out Hilldale Road and south on Beach Drive to the Fuel Depot gate on the east, or water side, of the road.

Marchers will form as best they can for a quick photo and video session, then get back on the shoulder promptly and return to the state park. Due to the rural nature of Beach Drive, and the lack of vehicle and pedestrian space (the federal "blue line" literally touches the fog line in front of the gate) it will be a "flash-mob" style event: form a pose, take pics, disperse.

Contact Michael Siptroth, Kathy Railsback, or Mack Johnson for more details or to help out. The Event is [posted on our website's Events Page](#), and a flyer will soon be available to download and print.

It is a paradox that so many of our finest places are neighbored or altered by a war juggernaut. Our region's beauty is marred by the presence of a beast. The Manchester Fuel Depot is a prime example of the Navy's might and capacity to harm people and the planet.

This action is a bit of a new direction for Ground Zero. It will be an exercise in guerrilla theater and outreach to affinity groups, a photo-op. Because of the location and layout, it is not a good spot for civil disobedience or for locals to observe the action. But I love the image in my head of using a public park to launch a statement against the Navy's gas station, and use the beauty of nature to resist war and its waste. Please join us and support us.

Mack Johnson, co-secretary of Ground Zero, was found not guilty by a Kitsap County judge after holding a banner in the road to the Trident base last year. He can be reached at telemackj@gmail.com.

Meet Ground Zero's New Activist-in-Residence, Kathy Railsback!

By Kathy Railsback

Greetings to all. My husband, Bill Ung, and I moved into Ground Zero on February 1, 2022. It has been a bit of a whirlwind. We have not yet decided on our official "titles." Although we are sometimes referred to as the caretakers, we shy away from this title because we recognized immediately that Ground Zero in fact needs *many* caretakers to sustain not only the physical center and the beautiful grounds, but the large community of supporters and Ground Zero's important historical legacy.

Bill is gravitating towards cooking and starting a vegetable garden. Prior to moving back to the Seattle area last year after 20 years in Boise, Bill was an Executive Chef for one of Idaho's largest hotels. One of his first projects here at Ground Zero was getting the kitchen organized to his liking. He has also spent time working on a garden area, cleaning the roof of the tool shed and other parts of the center and grounds, and planting plum trees and leeks from Elaine Hickman's gardens.

I am gravitating towards a role as a resident activist – promoting nonviolent resistance (as Gandhi termed "satyagraha" or "soul force") as a way to build a beloved community. I like to write and give community presentations and participate in outreach activities. I see one of my roles as broadening the Ground Zero commu-

nity. Bill and I have a daughter in Brooklyn NY, a son and daughter-in-law in Boston, and another son who is a freshman at Boston College.

Bill and I and our 14-year-old dog, Buddy, enjoy our daily walks through the forest here and watching the progress on the Peace Pagoda. Everyone has been incredibly kind and hospitable to us. We are in a unique position to see the many ways in which Ground Zero supporters contribute their talents on a day-to-day basis – including participating in vigils, zoom meetings, administrative work, grounds work and gardening, communications, outreach, research, house repairs, building the Peace Pagoda, and making financial and other donations.

Soon after our arrival, we had a nice lunch (Bill's meatloaf and mashed potatoes) and conversation for a couple of hours with security officers from the base. We hope to welcome many more folks from all walks of life to join in Ground Zero's efforts to build a community where everyone can experience peace both within and without.

Kathy Railsback, husband Bill, and dog Buddy are the Ground Zero Center's new activists-in-residence (until they find a better description!). Ground Zero is grateful for their service.



Cautionary Stories In The Time of Nuclear Madness

By Leonard Eiger and Glen Milner

These are dark days for both our nation and the world. Climate change is wreaking havoc everywhere, a global pandemic continues its onslaught, our nation's experiment in democracy is threatened by a slow-motion insurrection and, to top it all off, our nation has taken the lead in pushing Russia into its current war in Ukraine that is capable of going off the rails into a full-scale nuclear war (and that is not hyperbole!).

There is no doubt about who started this war, this crime against humanity, and the full responsibility rests on Russian President Vladimir Putin's shoulders. Yet the litany of actions of other nations, led by our own, cannot be ignored. For the moment, however, let's focus on the very real and existential threat of nuclear war that has been thrust into the public dialogue.

At least four or five U.S. OHIO Class "Trident" ballistic missile submarines are currently at sea on "hard alert" in their designated patrol areas—ready to launch any or all of their 20 Trident II D5 ballistic missiles, bristling with thermonuclear warheads, at the command of the President. Another four or five boats could be brought to alert status in hours or days. For the record, ["Strategic deterrence has been the sole mission of the fleet ballistic missile submarine \(SSBN\) since its inception in 1960."](#)

All that changed when the Trump administration ordered that one of the existing warheads deployed on Trident missiles (the W76-1, 90 kiloton version) be converted to a low-yield variant (known as the W76-2; weighing in at an estimated 5-7 kilotons).

In response, Representative Adam Smith said, "We do not view nuclear weapons as a tool in warfare... It makes no sense for us to build low-yield nuclear weapons." But hey, things change. The problem is that the W76-2 is just that, a tactical nuclear weapon designed as a potential "tool in warfare" that could be used in a limited nuclear conflict, and in the case of any nuclear conflict with Russia it is hard to imagine the conflict remaining "limited."

After some vain attempts by Congress to stop the low-yield (W76-2), the Navy began deployment in late 2019. The Federation of American Scientists [published a report](#) detailing their belief that the USS Tennessee, based at the Kings Bay Trident base (in Georgia), was the first SSBN to carry the tactical W76-2.

Deploying the W76-2 essentially increased the probability of nuclear war. When Pentagon officials presented Trump with the option to kill Iranian General Qassem Soleimani, they didn't think he would take it. What's to stop them from including the use of the W76-2 in a list of options presented to President Biden during a tense situation with Russia?

One thing is certain; deployment of the W76-2 warhead on even one Trident missile signaled a watershed change in our nation's nuclear weapons stance.

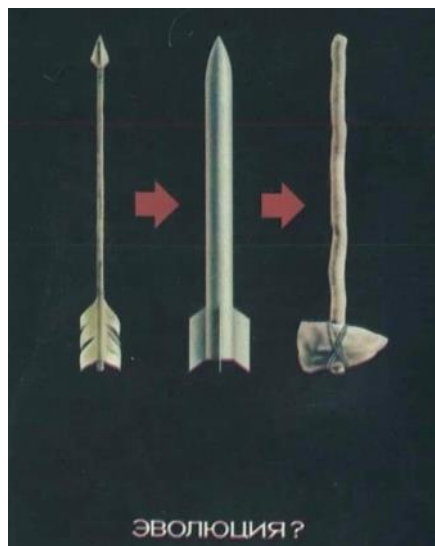
Trident missiles currently carry some combination of two large strategic warheads – the W76-1 (90 kilotons) and W88 (455 kilotons) and the W76-2, a low-yield variant, estimated to have a yield of five to seven kilotons. Just to make things really interesting, one or more Trident submarines currently carry some combination of all three warheads, thereby combining strategic and tactical nuclear weapons. Does this sound confusing (if not downright dangerous)? Consider the following scenario.

Tensions increase dramatically after a bloody skirmish between soldiers [wearing U.S. military uniforms](#) and Russian special forces in the former Soviet republic of Ukraine. The Russians launch a missile strike from Russian territory against that city they believe to be controlled by U.S. forces. Initial U.S. intelligence reports indicate, based on the devastation and radiation data from a U.S. Air Force WC-135W Constant Phoenix "nuke sniffer" aircraft, that at least one missile contained a small "tactical" nuclear warhead.

President Biden orders a retaliatory strike using a Trident missile carrying one or more "low-yield" W76-2 warheads against a Russian military base near the missile base from which the earlier strike was launched. The USS

Tennessee receives the launch orders. Minutes after the crew validates the order, a single Trident II D5 missile loaded with W76-2 warheads is on its way toward its Russian target.

The Russians have no way of knowing what warheads are on that missile. All they know is that their radar has detected a U.S. submarine-launched missile. As nuclear weapons expert Jeffrey Lewis, Middlebury Institute of International Studies, has said, "All the Russians are



A Russian antinuclear poster from the 1980s. The caption reads, *Evolution?*

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going to see is that a missile that only carries nuclear warheads is heading towards Russia [and would most likely retaliate with much more powerful long-range weapons]... Russian policy, as [President] Vladimir Putin has said, is not to wait for it to land.”

By now you’ve probably guessed the inevitable outcome. Within less than an hour the full-scale nuclear war (resulting from the initial exchange of “low-yield” nuclear weapons) would be over. End of story, and civilization as we know it. The survivors would envy the dead!

It is quite possible on close examination to see that the Ukraine crisis is shaping up to resemble the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis that came dangerously close to igniting World War III. Although retellings of the story almost always focus on US President John F. Kennedy and Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, there is a much more important person who is seldom mentioned.

Although Kennedy and Khrushchev deserve credit for scaling back and finding a resolution to the crisis, Vasili Arkhipov was a Soviet submarine officer who prevented a Soviet nuclear strike against U.S. surface warships during the Cuban Missile Crisis. Such an attack would have caused a major thermonuclear response.

In the fall of 1962, Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev secretly began the deployment of medium and intermediate-range ballistic nuclear missiles in Cuba. On October 22, 1962, President John Kennedy ordered U.S. naval forces to enforce a naval “quarantine” of

“January 30 would have been the 96th birthday of Vasili Arkhipov, who was born in 1916...”

offensive military cargoes en route to Cuba. On the same day, CIA Director John McCone informed President Kennedy that four Soviet submarines were positioned to reach Cuba within a week.

All four Soviet diesel-powered Foxtrot-class submarines in the flotilla were equipped with conventional torpedoes and one “Special Weapon”—a torpedo equipped with a 15-kiloton nuclear warhead. Soviet officers were told that in the absence of the possibility of communication with Moscow, only the agreement of the captain of the submarine and the political officer were needed to launch a nuclear torpedo. But on submarine B-59, due to Arkhipov’s position as chief of staff of the flotilla, all three officers on board B-59 had to agree unanimously to authorize a nuclear launch.



“The Man Who Saved the World.”
Vasili Arkhipov defied the pressure from other officers to launch a nuclear attack on the U.S.

On October 27, 1962, a group of eleven U.S. Navy destroyers and the aircraft carrier USS Randolph located Soviet submarine B-59 near Cuba. Despite being in international waters, the U.S. Navy started dropping signaling depth charges, explosives intended to force the submarine to come to the surface for identification.

At this time, the Soviet crew had been out of contact with Moscow for several days and the submarine was too deep to monitor U.S. civilian radio broadcasts. The submarine’s batteries had run very low and the air conditioning had failed, causing extreme heat and high levels of carbon dioxide inside the submarine. Under these extreme conditions, the captain of the submarine, Valentin Savitsky, decided a war might have already started. As the depth charges exploded around his vessel, Captain Savitsky ordered the arming of the nuclear torpedo and came within minutes of launching it.

According to a Soviet intelligence report, an argument broke out on B-59, with Arkhipov alone blocking the launch. Arkhipov eventually persuaded Captain Savitsky to surface amid U.S. Navy vessels and await orders from Moscow.

No one on the U.S. side knew at the time that the Soviet submarines were nuclear-armed; no one knew that conditions in the submarines were so physically difficult and unstable that commanding officers, fearing they were under attack by U.S. forces, might consider arming and launching their nuclear torpedoes.

On November 2, 1962, Kennedy addressed the nation regarding the dismantling of the Soviet nuclear missile bases located in Cuba. All Soviet nuclear weapons were removed in the following months.

Strangely, many historians view the Cuban Missile Crisis as a triumph of rational leadership in both the Soviet Union and the United States. However, it was the leadership in both countries that brought the world to the brink of annihilation in the first place—only to be prevented by a single Soviet naval officer.

January 30 would be the 96th birthday of Vasili Arkhipov who was born in 1926; retired as a Vice Admiral in the mid-1980s; and died on August 19, 1998.

Arkhipov’s courageous act is not only something to be honored, it represents a cautionary tale – blind reliance on heads of state to prevent the unthinkable is ultimately a futile gesture. Whether climate change, COVID, insurrection or nuclear war, it is up to us as global citizens to speak up, act up, and make the moral choices necessary to save humanity.

Mother's Day Action on Saturday, May 7 With Keynote Speaker Kathy Railsback

By Tom Rogers

Please join us at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, 16159 Clear Creek Rd NW, Poulsbo, on Saturday, May 7th to celebrate Mother's Day. We are a little light on details right now, but plans include a topical keynote presentation by our new activist-in-residence, Kathy Railsback, and a vigil and nonviolent direct action later in the day at the Bangor base. We have invited the Seattle Peace Chorus Action Ensemble to come out of Covid-induced hiatus and join us (at time of publication they have not yet committed).



Spring means cherry blossoms and the beautiful sight of antinuclear activists vigiling at the Trident base. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

Kathy Railsback has practiced nonviolent resistance for many years. After college, she worked on the Equal Rights Amendment campaign and with refugees in Southeast Asia and later went on to graduate from UCLA Law School. She has worked as an immigration attorney for most of the past 30 years in Washington and in Idaho, handling naturalization, asylum, family-based, and other immigration cases. In the late 90's Kathy became active with Christian Peacemaker Teams and the Mennonite church. With CPT, she traveled to Vieques, Puerto Rico to join in local protests against Navy activities. She also worked on CPT's campaign to stop the marketing of violent toys and video games to kids.

Over the past decade, Kathy has worked extensively with trauma survivors from around the world. In 2013, she completed certification as a facilitator with a trauma education program developed by genocide survivors in Rwanda and Burundi under the auspices of Friends Peace Teams. With FPT, she has traveled multiple times to East Africa and co-facilitated workshops in several countries, with a focus on the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Kakuma Refugee Camp in Kenya.

Her work with war survivors has strengthened her beliefs in pacifism and the need to promote nonviolence as a way of life. She believes that helping individuals heal from trauma strengthens families and communities and can lead to the prevention of conflicts large and small. She sees the production and possession of nuclear

weapons as an outgrowth of the mistaken view that we can find peace through creating fear of violence.

May is a beautiful time to visit Ground Zero. We can promise lush green grass in the meadow and lots of flowers and trees in full spring majesty. We can't exactly promise sun, but we'll settle for sunny dispositions. Our schedule will allow ample time for reflection, fellowship, connecting with old friends, making new ones, and enjoying the grounds and trails.

Note that this action is purposely scheduled for Saturday in order to not compete with family Mother's Day celebrations, not just for us, but for the military security and law enforcement folks who seem to enjoy attending our direct actions.

We'll provide coffee, tea, bagels, and cream cheese in the morning. Bring a bag lunch and something to share for a mid-day break. To get updated information about the day's schedule and events, please visit [our events page](#).

Did you ever wonder where the apostrophe, if any, goes in Mothers Day or Mother's Day, or Mothers' Day? If you have a few more minutes read on.

A short history of Mother's Day

At Ground Zero we most often attribute this day to Julia Ward Howe, who led a "Mother's Day for Peace" anti-war observance on June 2, 1872, which was accompanied by an "Appeal to womanhood throughout the world" (nowadays known as [Mother's Day Proclamation](#)). The observance continued in Boston for about 10 years under Howe's personal sponsorship, then died out.

In its present form, Mother's Day was established by Anna Jarvis following the death of her mother, a Civil War-era social activist, in 1905. Jarvis never mentioned Howe, always claiming that the creation of Mother's Day was hers alone. Anna Jarvis explicitly wanted an apostrophe, and she wanted it to be *before* the "s"... it was to be a singular possessive, for each family to honor their mother, not a plural possessive commemorating all mothers in the world.

To a greater degree, at Ground Zero we often celebrate the day as a tribute to Mother Earth. On this day we act out our obligation to protect our mother from the ravages of nuclear weapons.

Tom Rogers is a retired Navy captain and former nuclear submarine commander. He has worked with Ground Zero to rid the world of nuclear weapons for nearly 20 years.

Nonviolence or Nonexistence

How do we “undergo a radical revolution of values?”

By Glen Milner and Leonard Eiger

How do we compensate for the violence of our time? In what has become a cycle of unquestioned madness, we may be beyond the return to moral comprehension. Our condition may be so traumatized, so automatic, we become passive spectators of our own historic demise.

“Each of us is capable of facing the darkness in ourselves as well as the society in which we have been participants...”

It is as though the world ended some time ago, and only our violence remains. As James Douglass, author and Ground Zero co-founder, describes it in *Lightening East to West*, “Hiroshima was the end of our ability to imagine our destructive power, or to measure its consequences.” What followed was an insane buildup of nuclear weapons—bringing with every minute of every year—the threatened use of nuclear weapons and the destruction of our planet.

In the ashes of the World Trade Center and the Pentagon over two decades ago, many of us saw the next logical step in our succession of horrors. While political leaders told us of bringing “justice to the terrorists,” many of us knew the dangers ahead, among them—the detonation of a nuclear device in a U.S. city. In an interview, former Secretary of the Navy, John F. Lehman, stated, “They [terrorists] have the will, they now have the funding, and they have the nuclear materials. So it is only a matter of time before those are combined in New York Harbor or Baltimore Harbor or some other highly populated place. And then the casualties will be in the hundreds of thousands, not just the thousands.”

Meanwhile, our military planners were, and are now, advancing more useable types of nuclear bombs. The nuclear B61-11 “bunker buster,” “mini-nukes” for specific targets, and even the tactical or “sub-strategic” use of the Trident missile system have been realized. These new warheads and strategies could be used for preemptive strikes against suspected weapons facilities or as a wartime response. The fact that new nuclear warhead designs violate international agreements no longer mat-

ters to most of our political leaders.

One of the more cynical signs of our times was the assault in the media upon peace activists and “pacifists” as bombs fell on Afghanistan. As though voices opposed to war are actually given attention in the media, any thought of understanding or restraint became an act of treason. The peace movement became “irrelevant” as our political and military leaders paved the way for revenge.

As the Russian government continues its violence against Ukraine, the peace movement is ignored in the halls of power and by the corporate media. Violence is the order of the day as the U.S. continues to send countless weapons into Ukraine, and far too many members of Congress are parroting Volodymyr Zelenskyy’s call for a no-fly zone, which would be an act of war, and would likely lead to the use of nuclear weapons, whether intentional or accidental.

We now exist in a state of permanent war in which there are no announced boundaries. Declaring the rest of the world is “either with us or against us,” we become ill with our own sense of destruction. Biden’s declarations of Putin as a “war criminal,” a “murderous dictator,” and a “pure thug” are yet more phrases that blind us to the realities and perpetuate our own continuing violent military misadventures disguised as defending democracy. The myth of redemptive violence flows deep in our nation’s veins.

In 1967, our nation’s greatest prophet, Dr. Martin Luther

King, Jr., stated, “We can no longer afford to worship the God of hate or bow before the altar of retaliation.” Dr. King stated our only options for the future of humanity: “Nonviolence or nonexistence”. King, like Mohandas Gandhi, and their teacher, Jesus, felt that in truth there were no limits to nonviolence.

Dr. King states, “...we as a nation must undergo a radical revolution of values. We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society. This call for a worldwide fellowship that lifts neighborly concern beyond one’s tribe, race, class, and



“We must rapidly begin the shift from a thing-oriented society to a person-oriented society,” said Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
Illustration courtesy of Tokoko.

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Ditch the Nukes: It's the (International) Law!

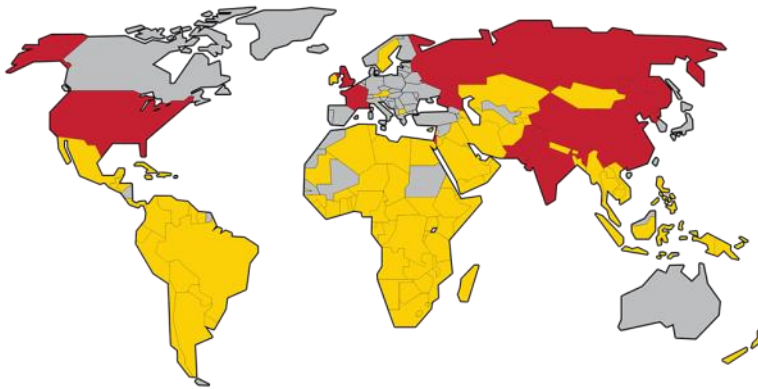
By Glen Milner

Editor's Note: This post is an edited and expanded version of a Paid Public Service Announcement that ran in the Kitsap Sun newspaper on January 16, 2022.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) is the first legally binding international agreement to comprehensively prohibit nuclear weapons with the ultimate goal being their total elimination. It was adopted on July 7, 2017, opened for signature on September 20, 2017, and entered into force on January 22, 2021.

The (TPNW) outlaws not only the use of nuclear weapons, but everything to do with nuclear weapons, making it illegal under international law for participating countries to “develop, test, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess, or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices.”

As of December 2021, 59 states have ratified or acceded to the treaty, most recently Peru in December 2021.. The first meeting of State Parties to the TPNW will take place at the United Nations in Vienna, March 22-24, 2022. None of the nuclear weapons states have signed the treaty.



The southern hemisphere knows something. The countries in yellow supported the NPT, and red countries are those that are nuclear weapon states. *Map courtesy of the Ploughshares Fund.*

While the treaty's prohibitions are legally binding only in the countries that become States Parties to the treaty, those prohibitions go beyond just the activities of governments. Article 1(e) of the treaty prohibits States Parties from assisting “anyone” engaged in any of those prohibited activities, including private companies and individuals who may be involved in the nuclear weapons business.

And while it is almost unknown in the U.S., a nuclear divestment campaign is already happening because of the treaty.

The second-largest pension fund on Earth, in Norway, has sold its investments in companies that pro-

duce nuclear weapons. ABP in the Netherlands, the world's fifth-largest pension fund, has done likewise. An ABP executive explained why: “Changes in society, also at an international level, [mean that] nuclear weapons no longer fit in with our sustainable and responsible investment policy.”

Nuclear weapons still exist largely because the companies involved in the business wield such enormous power over government policies and decision-making. They are among the largest donors to congressional re-election campaigns and spend millions of dollars on lobbying in Washington, D.C.

U.S. policy towards nuclear weapons will change when those companies involved with nuclear weapons start to feel real pressure from the TPNW and realize that their own futures depend on diversifying their activities away from nuclear weapons.

Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor is located a few miles from the cities of Silverdale and Poulsbo and is homeport to the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons 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.

Our proximity to the largest number of deployed nuclear weapons demands a deeper reflection and response to the threat of nuclear war.

The Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons gains importance at a critical time—while enormous resources are being poured into nuclear weapons “modernization” and with the growing risk of nuclear war. The TPNW is a significant tool for nuclear disarmament, providing a path for the future and a cause for celebration today.

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action – located next to the Bangor Trident base – is active in the movement to abolish nuclear weapons and, as part of that goal, works to build awareness of the importance of the TPNW. This is a critical time as the nuclear armed nations, led by the United States and Russia, continue to place undue (and a foolish) reliance on nuclear weapons as tools of foreign policy. Sooner or later, so long as nuclear weapons exist, and are deployed, ready to launch on warning, it is not a matter of if, but when a catastrophic nuclear war will occur, either by accident or intention.

“The second-largest pension fund on Earth has sold its investments in companies that produce nuclear weapons.”

Glen Milner serves on the Stewardship Council and works with the Media and Outreach Committee.

Goodbye to Dear Ground Zero Friend, Shirley Morrison

Obituary

Born on July 28, 1922 in Tacoma to Harold Lloyd Blancher and Bessie Irene Tucker Blancher, Shirley moved with her family to Seattle when she was two. Her parents lived in the Ravenna/Bryant area and Shirley graduated from Roosevelt High School in 1939. As a child she enjoyed reading, playing piano and drama, and traveling with her family.

Shirley went on to college at the University of Washington and for a couple of quarters at Central Washington University, but as many of her peers, her degree was interrupted by World War II. She worked for a stint at Boeing and also met and married her husband James Bryan Morrison within six weeks of meeting him, in February 1944. He was almost immediately sent back to the Pacific, where he flew photo reconnaissance missions and was missing in action when Linda Marie Morrison, her first child, was born in April of 1945. Reunited in June, Shirley and Jim went on to have four more children, Bradford Barclay, Bryan Tucker, Debra Jean, and Anne Virginia.

As the children grew up Shirley became active in efforts to desegregate neighborhoods in Seattle, and to end racial discrimination of all sorts, as well as working against war and nuclear arms. She also worked as a preschool teacher at The Little School and decided to go back to finish her college degree in Early Childhood education, finally graduating in 1971 at the same time her youngest daughter graduated from high school.

After divorcing in 1974, Shirley worked at the Northshore Multi-Service Center, and became active again in community theater, and various organizations promoting peace and nuclear disarmament.

She joined the Seattle Peace Chorus, and took two trips to the former Soviet Union in the 1980s to visit Seattle's sister city in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, to sing for peace with the chorus.

She also traveled to Nicaragua in the 1980s as part of a peace delegation and was involved in many anti-war activities against intervention in Central America.

Shirley also began to be an active part of Ground Zero actions at the Bangor Nuclear Submarine facility and was arrested many times for acts of civil disobedience. Around this time, she helped found the Seattle chapter of the international organization the Raging Grannies, and was able to combine her love of singing and theater with her political activism for the rest of her life.

In 2011 she had the amazing opportunity to star, along with her friend Hinda Kipnis, in a film by a Norwegian director, Havard Bustnes, that asked the question of whether we could continuously grow our economy without going beyond the limits of the earth's resources. The film, called *Two Raging Grannies*, was shown at the 2014 Seattle International Film Festival and won awards

all around the world for the spirited conversations and questions the two elderly co-stars brought to the screen. Shirley and Hinda traveled to Norway to tour with the film and to the Traverse City Film Festival at the invitation of Michael Moore.

She loved more than anything to spend time with her five children, 14 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren. She was a loving mother and grandmother, always ready to lend a helping hand, and always open to trying to understand and accept the many challenges that parenting and grandparenting brought her, and through all of them to love and cherish all of her offspring equally.



Shirley making friends. She radiated good humor, patience, and love with everybody. *Photo by Leonard Eiger.*

Shirley died peacefully at home, with ample time to say goodbye to her family and friends, and her life beautifully fulfilled the hopes expressed by Ralph Waldo Emerson that hung on her wall:

To laugh often and much; To win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; To earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; To appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; To leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; To know even one life has breathed easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded.

Ground Zero is indebted to Shirley's family for writing this obituary. A longer version can be found online at <https://returnhome.com/obituaries/shirley-jean-blancher-morrison/>.

Jay Bollman, Presente!

Obituary

Ground Zero friend and colleague, Jay Bollman, has joined the Cloud of Witnesses. Jay, beloved husband, father and friend, passed away peacefully with family by his side, after a short, non-Covid illness.

Jay was the first born of Presbyterian missionary parents in Manila, Philippine Islands, in December, 1935.

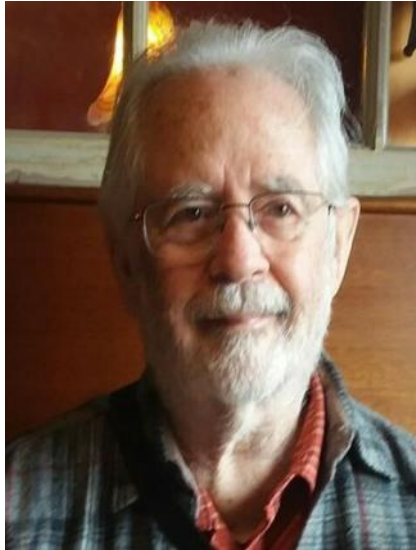
His family endured the trials of World War II, being imprisoned twice. Jay's family was fortunate to be rescued by the U.S. Armed Forces from a Japanese internment camp at Los Banos on February 23, 1945, arriving at San Pedro, California, in early May of that year. Jay started public school in fourth grade while living near relatives in Bremerton,

Jay is survived by his wife Louise; two sons, Kenneth (Jimi Couture), and Eric (Ginger); five grandchildren, Angela, Garrett, Elizabeth, James and Jessica; great grandson Marc; and his younger brother, Lynn (Mimi).

Louise and Jay met at Maryville College in Tennessee in 1956, and married on June 12, 1959. Jay was a Presbyterian minister for five years after graduating from San Francisco Theological Seminary in 1961. He served a dual parish in North Dakota, then a larger parish as co-minister of four churches in rural northwest Pennsylvania.

He returned to school to earn his Masters in Social Work at the University of Michigan in 1969. He worked in many social work-related jobs: a center director for Inter-Faith Centers for Racial Justice, Royal Oak, MI; Wayne County Dept of Social Services, Detroit, MI; State of Oregon Children's Services Division and Adult Services out of Corvallis and Salem, Oregon; Geriatric social worker, Wesley Homes, Des Moines, WA, from which he retired in 2001.

Jay and Louise loved to travel by car across the U.S., as well as to journey to a few overseas destinations. They spent more than 60 years tent camping. Being with family and friends was always a special treat. Keeping moving physically was a daily goal.



Jay epitomized calm and steadfastness. His thoughtful and caring presence will be missed by his Ground Zero community.

In retirement Jay and Louise were active with the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action through 2015. Jay served on the Board of the DuPont Historical Society from 2008 to 2012.

A Celebration of Life Service is scheduled for 2:00 pm on Saturday, May 14, 2022, at West Hills Unitarian Universalist Fellowship in Portland, Oregon. Donations can be made to: ACLU, Oregon Public Broadcasting, Oregon Parks Forever, West Hills UU Fellowship, and Five Oaks Museum.

Ground Zero is indebted to Jay's family for writing this obituary. A longer version can be found online at <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/jay-bollman-obituary?id=32906105>.

Cautionary Stories... continued from page 5

Regarding nuclear war, and its existential threat to all of humanity, we must demand that the heads of state of the nuclear-armed nations renounce the use of nuclear weapons. The recent joint statement by five of the Nuclear-Weapons States affirming "that a nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought" is an empty one without a clear demonstration of their commitment to abolishing nuclear weapons – the only way to remove the probability of nuclear war.

That would include signing and ratifying the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, along with concrete measures aimed at reducing nuclear stockpiles and decreasing the risks of accidental or intentional launches of nuclear-armed missiles, while moving toward total and complete disarmament.

As for the very real risk of nuclear war resulting from Russia's military onslaught against Ukraine, we must avoid anything that might precipitate any use of nuclear weapons, whether accidental or intentional. That includes avoiding (at a minimum) any confrontation with NATO (or other) forces and not establishing any no-fly zone. And the continuing, and escalating, shipment of weapons raises the ante. There is no viable military response by any outside party. So then what alternative exists?

Diplomacy, diplomacy, diplomacy!

Glen Milner leads legal struggles on behalf of Ground Zero. He lives in Lake Forest Park. **Leonard Eiger** chairs the Communication and Outreach Committee, and sends out press releases and information on behalf of Ground Zero.

nation is in reality a call for an all-embracing and unconditional love for all humankind.”

How do we make this transformation? Steps developed through action by Gandhi and Dr. King are well known, which include information gathering and education of self and others, negotiation, direct action, and reconciliation. After the September 11th attacks, people around the world were horrified and offered assistance. We lost our moral position, however, when we began dropping bombs on innocent victims, no less deserving of life than those in New York and Washington, D.C.

Since 9/11 the bombings, missile strikes, and targeted assassinations have continued under every president. We have also continued to use other governments as our proxies, as in the case of the U.S. providing weapons and support to the Saudi government in its relentless attacks on Yemen, whose people face a massive famine crisis.

Nonviolence is the unshakable belief, as Gandhi said, that everyone has a piece of the truth. Let the voices of alienated people of the Middle East be heard, not assaulted by our missiles in vengeance.

Jesus, a realist if there ever was one, said we need to settle our differences. As a Jew in a corner of the Roman Empire, Jesus of Nazareth knew what the center of power could do. Jesus knew that society in his time needed to understand and think beyond the spiral of violence. The destruction of Jerusalem, forty years later, prefigures the end of our own world, which we seem equally incapable of imagining.

“Each of us lives under threat of nuclear extinction, and each of us, therefore, must make a choice.”

“Love your enemies” as Jesus said, is in the nuclear age, not the counsel of perfection, but a ground rule for survival.

At the Riverside Church in New York City on April 4, 1967, one year before his death, Dr. King declared, “Now let us rededicate our-

selves in the long and bitter, but beautiful struggle for a new world. If we do not act, we shall surely be dragged down the long, dark, and shameful corridors of time reserved for those who possess power without compassion, might without morality, and strength without sight.”

We are not helpless, as daunting as it may seem. We still have a choice. Douglass tells us that “the Pentagon’s power comes from the grip of an illusion, our own egos. The force of truth and love lived in their depths is a force of unity, of life itself. That force is real. We need to join in a community committed to that nonviolent life-force, which is the power of the powerless. We need to test the truth by betting our lives on it in the world. If a community can experiment deeply enough in a nonviolent life-force, the power of the Pentagon will crumble.”

So just what are we to choose? Over three quarters of a century since we incinerated two cities with nuclear weapons, we continue to prepare for nuclear omnicide. Talking heads wring their hands over Putin’s nuclear threats, while mostly ignoring anyone else’s role in this nuclear madness.

Each of us is capable of facing the darkness in ourselves as well as the society in which we have been participants and therefore complicit through our cooperation as citizens. If we can look into that darkness we can discover a ray of light that will lead us into a new vision and way of living into the way of nonviolence, and that will necessitate uncomfortable yet necessary actions.

Ground Zero co-founder, Shelley Douglass, said, “The discipline of nonviolence requires of us that we move into the various forms of noncooperation. We will probably move slowly, one step at a time. Each step will lead to another step; each step will be a withdrawal from support of what is wrong and at the same time a building of an alternative.” Douglass’s words are an invitation; a challenge to look deep within, and take that first step, then another...

We stand on the same precipice as we have for over seventy-six years; the question is not if but when the unthinkable occurs. Each of us lives under threat of nuclear extinction, and each of us, therefore, must make a choice.

It is time we recognize what we are now choosing – nonviolence or the end of the world.



Leonard Eiger serves on the Stewardship Council and chairs the Communications and Outreach committee. **Glen Milner** has worked with Ground Zero since the days of White Train resistance. He lives in Lake Forest Park with his wife Karol.

GROUND ZERO

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*“Deployment of the W76-2
warhead on even one
Trident missile signaled a
watershed change in our nation’s
nuclear weapons stance.”*

*— Leonard Eiger
and Glen Milner*

Ground Zero Members Join Calls for Peace in Ukraine

On Feb. 5, Ground Zero co-sponsored a rally for peace with Code Pink and Lake Forest Park for Peace (photo below by Glen Milner). Activists also participated in a March 6 vigil in Silverdale at a busy intersection calling for an end to the violence. On March 11, Ground Zero organized a Lenten Vigil for disarmament at the main gate of Sub Base Kitsap-Bangor (photo at right of Tom Rogers and Carolyn Wildflower, taken by Mack Johnson).

See page 4 for analysis of Russia’s war on Ukraine and the vital role for antinuclear activists in these perilous times.

