

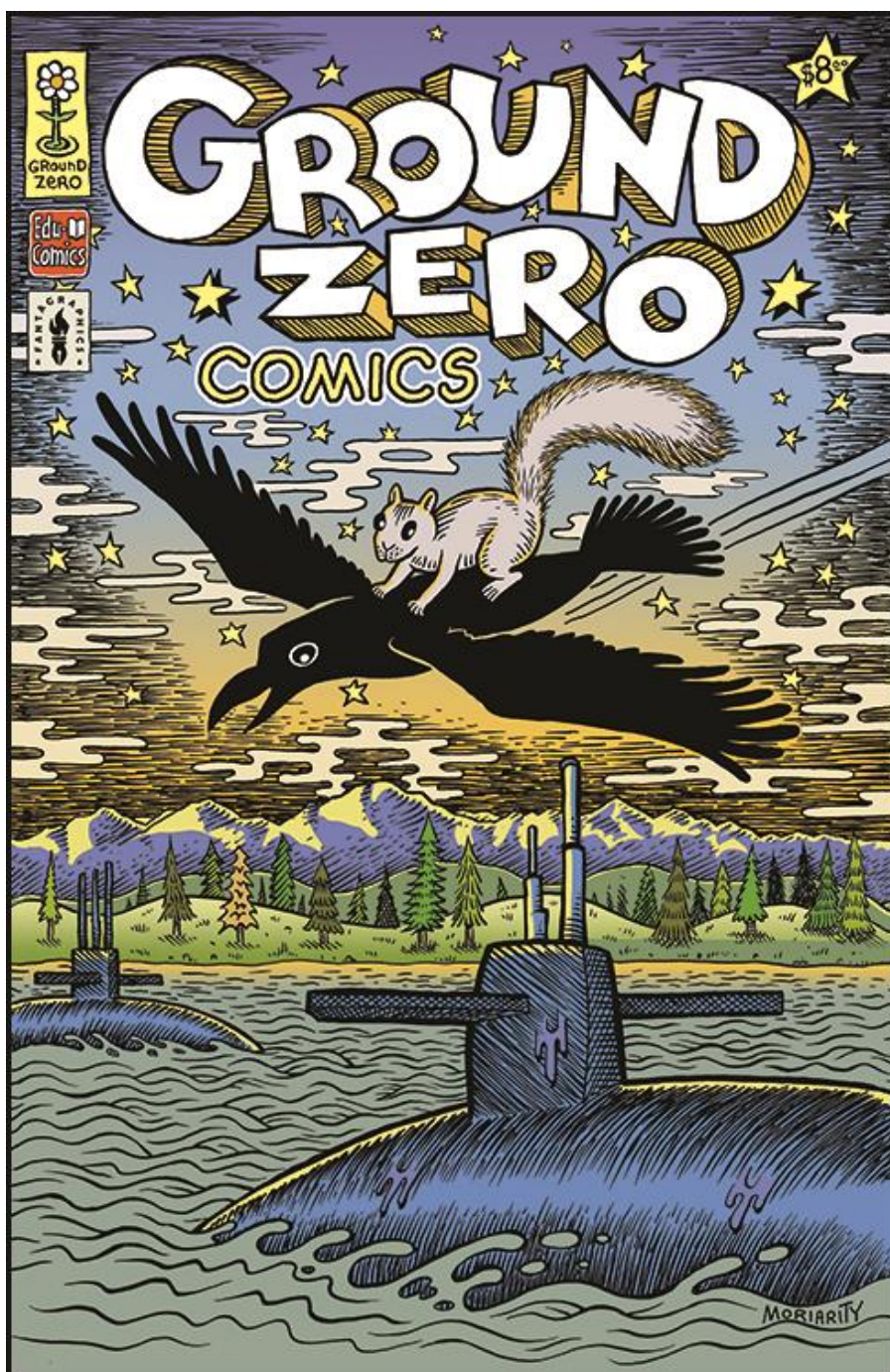
Ground Zero

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Introducing *Ground Zero Comics!*

By Leonard Rifas and Glen Milner



Coming in February 2024—a new, original comic book addressing nuclear weapons, the threat of nuclear war, and the movement for nuclear disarmament. The 32-page comic book features the collaborative work of five top Northwest cartoonists, and is sponsored by the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, EduComics, and Fantagraphics in Seattle.

Ground Zero Comics will be distributed both over the web and as a printed pamphlet in comic book format. The cover is by Pat Moriarity, who recently designed a Ground Zero billboard displayed in Gorst, Washington.

The comic will be in four sections on the following themes:

Part One: *It's Near.* This section (drawn by [David Lasky](#)) shows that nuclear war issues are very close to us in Washington state, with a particular emphasis in this issue on Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor.

Part Two: *It Would Be Severe.* This section (drawn by [Max Clotfelter](#)) helps readers gain a more realistic understanding of the power of nuclear weapons.

Part Three: *The Bomb Alone Did Not "Win the War" or "Keep the Peace."* This section (drawn by Leonard Rifas) introduces the ideas that the atomic bomb did not "win the war" at Hiroshima and that they are used for a different purpose than deterring invasions.

Part Four: *Our Power When We Speak.* This section (drawn by Kelly Froh) will retell the history of nuclear weapons with an emphasis on how people have

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made a difference by speaking out and taking action.

Ground Zero Comics will be available in February 2024 for \$8.00 a copy. Advance copies may be preordered by contacting info@gzcenter.org.

Leonard Rifas wrote the script for the comic book—as a dialog between a crow, squirrel and a young person, and a conversation between that young person and a peace activist grandparent. The comic includes educational activities which can be done either alone or as part of a group. It also includes maps and graphs, some created for this comic book.

The story is an attempt to present the threat of nuclear weapons and to ask the question—what do these weapons mean for us today?

The greater story, and the reason for this comic book, involves humanity's future—the struggle between the impulse to see and to know and to make things conscious—against the impulse to keep things dark and unconscious and secret and distorted. *Ground Zero Comics* hopes to make our world more understandable and to show that individuals can make a difference. And that each of us must find the truth for ourselves.

[Leonard Rifas](#) has been a comic book editor, founding proprietor of the educational comic book company EduComics, and a pioneering comics scholar. Through his company EduComics, he was the first to publish comic books translated from Japanese with Keiji Nakazawa's manga about surviving the Hiroshima bomb. He teaches at Seattle Central College. Leonard's extensive footnotes for *Ground Zero Comics* will be available on the Ground Zero website.

[David Lasky](#) serves as adjunct professor at Cornish College of the Arts. He co-authored the Eisner-Award-winning graphic novel, *Carter Family: Don't Forget This Song*. He is better known to children as the guy who colored Cece Bell's awesome graphic novel, *El Deafo*, a Newbery Honor Book. He teaches comics at numerous venues in the Seattle area, including a class in haiku comics through Push Pull. He also draws educational comics for Public Health - Seattle and King County.

Kelly Froh is a teaching artist with Seniors Creating Art, and she facilitates comic & zine making workshops for youth and adults through Short Run Seattle. She co-founded and serves as Executive Director of the Short Run Comix Festival. She has a portfolio page at <https://cargocollective.com/kefroh>.

Max Clotfelter is the creator of over 90 zines and minicomics. His comics have appeared in anthologies such as *NOW* and *Slow Death*. He received an MFA from The Savannah College of Art and Design in 2002.



Leonard Rifas has long been devoted to using the medium of comic books for social change.

Pat Moriarity is an award-winning animator, illustrator, comics artist and teacher. His work has appeared in *MAD* magazine, *Nickelodeon Magazine*, *MINESHAFT* magazine and in his own books, including *BIG MOUTH*, *LOOP-DE-LOOP* and Pat Moriarity's *DEEP ARTWORK*

in 3D. His animation includes the award-winning short *REALM BEYOND REASON*, *SHUTUP* (the official music video for THE REPLACEMENTS on Rhino Records) and shorts for Stand Up! Records and Abope (the software company). He is also a former art director of Fantagraphics Books.

Glen

Milner is an anti-nuclear weapons activist and a researcher with the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action since 1984. He co-edited *Ground Zero Comics*.

"The reason for this comic book involves humanity's future—the struggle to see and to know and to make things conscious..."

Gary Groth at Fantagraphics provides logistical support for production and

handling of the comic book. <https://www.fantagraphics.com>

Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action greatly appreciates the work of all the comic book artists involved in this project, and for the guidance and inspiration of artist/activist Leonard Rifas.

Leonard Rifas is a Ground Zero member. He was the first in the U.S. to publish comic books translated from Japanese with Keiji Nakazawa's manga about surviving the Hiroshima bomb. **Glen Milner** serves on the Communications Committee for Ground Zero, and leads legal efforts on behalf of the group. **Pat Moriarty** drew the cover illustration.

Nations Wasted \$157,000 Per Minute on Nuclear Weapons in 2022

According to a report by the International Committee to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, the U.S. spent \$43.7 billion on nuclear weapons last year—more than every other nuclear-armed nation combined. The full report can be read at www.icanw.org.

Ground Zero welcomes Korean Hibakushas

By Rev. Senji Kanaeda

On November 14, the Ground Zero Center welcomed Korean Hibakushas (A-bomb survivors, including second-generation survivors.) There were eight members of the delegation, including their organizers. This is the first time in 78 years since the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki that Korean A-bomb survivors have visited the United States as a group.

Almost 100% of Americans do not know of Korean Hibakushas and victims. They lived in Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 1945, where there were tens of thousands of Koreans due to the colonization by Imperial Japan. They were exposed to A-bombs, and two-thirds of them died. They have never gotten any compensation or apology from Japan, the United States or the Korean government (at that time, Korea as a nation did not exist.) Nobody knows that they have been abandoned.

Yoonja Kang, from Seoul, a second-generation A-bomb survivor whose parents were exposed to the bombing two kilometers from Hiroshima's hypocenter, said: "I would like to ask Oppenheimer if I can: Did you imagine that the next generation of survivors would suffer on their whole life ...when you invented and produced the atomic bomb?"

At Ground Zero, there were only four of us, including myself, who were able to welcome the Korean A-bomb survivors and listen to their words. Even so, it was an epoch-making event for me, because I was born and raised in East Asia (Japan, next to Korea). It's closer in reality for me much more than most Americans or any other people.

I think many people were surprised because they had never heard of Korean A-bomb survivors (Hibakushas). We've been welcoming people from the Marshall Islands for several years, and I think the significance of that interaction, even if it's small, is immeasurable.

I think it would be wonderful to eventually consider American Hibakushas (A-bomb downwinders and atomic veterans who are also A-bomb survivors.)

According to a 2021 report by Choi Feng Tae, *Current Status and Challenges of the Korean Atomic Bomb Victims' Rights Struggle*, the Korean people were damaged by the atomic bombs dropped by the U.S. military on Hiroshima on August 6 and Nagasaki on August 9, 1945. It has been estimated that about 70,000 Korean people were exposed to the atomic bomb, of which about 40,000 died. However, this scale is more than 10% of the total number of Japan atomic bomb survivors of about

690,000, and more than one for every six deaths compared to the approximately 230,000 Japan deaths.

About 23,000 A-bomb survivors returned to the Korean Peninsula, but in 1948 the Republic of Korea was established south of 38 degrees north latitude and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was established north of it. As a result, most of the A-bomb survivors returned to South Korea, but about 2,000 also returned to North Korea. The Korean War broke out in 1950, and the devastation of war was triggered, resulting in an armistice established in 1953 that continues to this day.



A delegation representing Korean Hibakusha were warmly welcomed at Ground Zero. *Photo by Goo Lee.*

In the 20th century, symbolized by imperialism and nuclear weapons, the Korean atomic bomb victims were the ones who carried the cross of humanity, and were often referred to as triple victims due to forced mobilization, radiation exposure, and neglect. Currently, 1,992 people are registered as members of the Korean Atomic Bomb Victims Association.

Currently, Korean atomic bomb victims have not received a single apology or compensation from the United States, which dropped the atomic bomb, or the Japanese government, which provoked the war.

Originally, the issue of Korean victims of the atomic bombing was an issue in which North and South Korea

Korean Hibakusha... continued on page 8

Reflections on challenges we face in 2024

By Leonard Eiger

It is no longer a choice, my friends, between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence. And the alternative to disarmament, the alternative to a greater suspension of nuclear tests, the alternative to strengthening the United Nations and thereby disarming the whole world, may well be a civilization plunged into the abyss of annihilation, and our earthly habitat would be transformed into an inferno that even the mind of Dante could not imagine. – Martin Luther King, Jr., Remaining Awake Through A Great Revolution (1968)

We are entering a new year in which we stand at a crossroad unlike any humanity has faced in its entire history. Arguably we face multiple, existential crises, among them a warming climate that is just beginning to demonstrate the disastrous consequences of our addiction to fossil fuels, a rise in authoritarianism in far too many countries, and wars that, at very least, continue to result in the tragic loss of so many lives, and could ultimately cause the end of civilization as we know it as the result of a nuclear war.

Pick a number: 20,000—the current number (as I write this essay) of Palestinians killed by the Israeli government (and lest we forget, over 8,000 of those dead are children), or billions—the staggering number of human beings around the globe who would perish, either immediately or over time, in any version of a nuclear war that is increasingly likely to occur due to the nuclear nations’ continuing threat of use of their nuclear arsenals. Nuclear weapons are the ultimate expression of violence.

In 1976 Father Richard McSorley wrote that, “The taproot of violence in our society is our intent to use nuclear weapons. Once we have agreed to that, all other evil is minor by comparison. Until we squarely face the question of our intent to use nuclear weapons, any hope of large-scale improvement of public morality is doomed to failure.”

In the age of nuclear weapons (which could easily be called the Age of Madness) and the violence to which we have become far too accustomed in this age we have come to the point at which the numbers of dead simply do not seem to matter. We are, in a very real sense, numbed to the point of accepting the deaths of others so long as we are able to go on with our lives without significant interruption.

As for the unimaginable number of deaths due to a nuclear war that is becoming more and more likely day by day, we cannot begin to face that possibility, so we push it out of our consciousness; it is a mere abstraction, something that we tell ourselves will never really hap-

pen. After all, the U.S. government tells us that our nuclear weapons are a “deterrent;” that they protect us from harm and keep the peace; we don’t intend to use them. We are in a serious state of denial.



A father bathes his children in the rubble of their destroyed home in the Gaza Strip. Most of the territory’s 2.3 million residents have been made homeless due to the attacks by Israel. *Photo courtesy of www.globo.com.*

As peacemakers, we are challenged to stand up and face down such violence at every level, along with the threat that nuclear weapons pose, and shout from the rooftops – ENOUGH!!!

NO JUSTICE, NO PEACE

The late prophet, pastor and peace activist William Sloan Coffin once asked, “Do peacemakers have, or need, a passion for justice? Yes! Is there any substantive peace stance or nonviolent action that is not rooted in a passion to see wrongs righted? In the sermon on the mount, the Beatitudes, Jesus mentions justice before he mentions peacemaking. He says, “Blessed are those who hunger and thirst to see right prevail, for they shall be satisfied.” Without that hunger and thirst, there is no tension with evil or oppression. Nonviolence is a way of dealing with the conflict which arises because justice is denied and right doing is sought. Coffin said, “If you lessen your anger at the structures of power, you lower your love for the victims of power.” Anger at the structures of power can be, should be, the result of hunger and thirst for justice/righteousness/to see right prevail.

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AN OASIS OF PEACE

On a hilltop between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv is a place known as the Oasis of Peace – Neve Shalom in Hebrew and Wahat al-Salam in Arabic – a village jointly founded by Israeli citizens and Palestinians as an experiment to demonstrate that two cultures can live together in peace.

The name was derived from a passage in the book of Isaiah: “My people shall dwell in an oasis of peace.” Father Bruno Hussar, an Egyptian Catholic (and Jewish by birth), set up a home at the site of the new village in 1972 and waited for others to join him. The land is now home to 80 families (half Jewish and half Arab).

Among its projects is the School for Peace (SFP), established in 1979 as the first Jewish-Palestinian educational institution to promote change towards “peaceful, humane, egalitarian and just relations between Palestinians and Jews.” Roughly 65,000 Jews and Palestinians have participated in its programs. In 2020, Jewish radicals set fire to the SFP, and just days later the village’s library was the victim of yet another arson attack. This was not the first time the village was subjected to violence by other Jews.

Oasis of Peace is truly an oasis in the midst of a violent region in which hatred, racism and xenophobia has resulted in discrimination, oppression, suffering and death for the Palestinian people for over three quarters of a century. The Oasis of Peace offers a model of equality, mutual respect and partnership, rooted in non-violence, challenging the status quo. Its role is even more critical given the current violent onslaught against Palestinians by the Israeli government.

THE BEGINNING OF THE END, OR THE END OF IT ALL?

The United States dropped two atomic bombs in August, 1945 on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. These horrific events ushered in a new age of violence, in which humanity had created the diabolical tools of its own destruction.

The critical question about the atomic bombings is, Would those two huge and horrific events remain a part of our collective memory, thereby helping keep our finger from the launch button that will one day unleash a destructive force that would humble even the designers of the first two atomic bombs?

The passage of time strongly suggests otherwise. It appears that we have no real collective memory. Those original genocidal events were “sanitized” from the start; from our government’s controlling what we saw (or didn’t see) of the devastation and death from the bombs to its justification for the bombings. History is written by the victor!

Since WWII we have (through some miracle) not yet used a nuclear weapon against another nation (although we have tested many). The US has, however, subsequently dropped countless conventional bombs in far too many places, including Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan. As the world’s largest arms dealer, we have provided weapons and weapon systems to other nations, including the Israeli government, which is using them indiscriminately in its “scorched earth” policy in Gaza.

Bombs quite simply are designed to destroy things and kill people, the larger the bomb the greater the destruction and death. We seem to think that we can bomb people into submission, but experience has proved otherwise, from Vietnam to Iraq (so much for “shock and awe”). Previous bombings of Gaza and Lebanon completely backfired on the Israelis. And recently, U.S. Retired General Barry McCaffrey publicly stated that the U.S. military would become directly involved in Israel’s current war on Gaza if Syria and Iran intervene on behalf of the Palestinians... a certain recipe for disaster!

Most people assume that the U.S. would never use nuclear weapons unless our nation was attacked with nuclear weapons. That was the basic plan (with caveats) during the Cold War, but everything has changed since the collapse of the old Soviet Union, particularly since the Bush administration created an explicit first-use doctrine, and to this day no U.S. president has excluded the first-use option.

A MIDDLE EAST POWDERKEG

Israel’s unrelenting killing of Palestinians in the open-air prison called Gaza is testament to Israel’s further descent into unending violence going far beyond the Hebrew Bible’s (Exodus) concept of an eye for an eye.

Taking its lead from the U.S., the nation that wrote the book on how to get its way (in foreign policy terms) through the possession of nuclear weapons, Israel, early on after its inception, created its own arsenal of nuclear weapons, which it sees as its hedge against the potential aggression of its Arab neighbors.

There is no real hope of any “improvement of public [or any] morality” in Israel’s foreign policy, and particularly in its treatment of the Palestinian people, so long as it holds onto the myth of redemptive violence and the threat of use of nuclear weapons.

As the U.S. continues its unquestioning military support of Israel, it is complicit in Israel’s crimes against humanity, and is further increasing the risk of use of nuclear weapons by Israel, should it become involved (which is becoming more likely each day) in a war with one or more Arab neighbors. The initial question is, How many dead Palestinians will it take before one or more Arab nations say “ENOUGH!”? The ultimate

Ground Zero members testify in District Court

By Mary Gleysteen

Michael “Firefly” Siptroth, Sue Ablao, Susie Delaney, Carolee Flaten, Sean Markarin, Anne Hall, Dave Hall and Mack Johnson appeared before Pro Tem Judge Kyle Joyce in Port Orchard District Court for a mitigation hearing on October 24, 2023. The charges stemmed from their action commemorating the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August.

The judge noted that there was a group of people whose offenses happened on the same day, and asked if they would agree to be represented by a single speaker and then fill in their own details if they didn’t feel they were adequately covered. Mack told the court that everyone had prepared a statement and wanted to deliver it.

Sue went first. The judge cautioned her to be brief saying the court had a tight schedule. (He had told the clerks earlier he was going to his son’s school conference later in the afternoon.) He asked Sue how long traffic had been stopped and when told five minutes, he said he would reduce the fine to \$25 since the harm done was so brief and that \$25 would apply to everyone on the calendar with the same offense.

Susie was next. Following her testimony the judge said he had utmost respect for her right to express her beliefs, but that he didn’t want to see her as a repeat offender. He went on to say that he would not call the other Ground Zero folks since he had already sentenced them, but they could make a statement to the court after everyone else on the calendar had been adjudicated.

After the other cases had been heard, Mack asked to address the court and, following his brief statement, the judge said that mitigation court was not the proper forum for people who wanted to testify as to their opposition to weapons. He said he didn’t want others in the court room to be held hostage to the recitation of beliefs and that Ground Zero activists should contest the charges if they want to be heard. Mack asked that he be given the full fine and the judge said that he had already ruled and that it would remain \$25.

Then the judge said the court was going off the record, and expressed concern for the integrity of the courtroom. He said that this was the first time he had heard a case like this, and the “system doesn’t tell him what to do. The judge said that he will put in a lot of thought about how to handle these cases between now and the next time one comes before him. He then shook hands

with several of the mitigants and accepted written copies of their prepared statements.

Caroline Wildflower and Denny Duffel appeared before the same judge November 28, and also had their fines reduced to \$25. The judge called the calendar in reverse alphabetical order and allowed both to speak.

Caroline told the court that she thought it important to stand in the road in front of the home of the most deployed nuclear weapons in the world to bring attention to the danger those weapons pose and that all our lives depend of the abolitions of those weapons, a cause she has been working most of her life.

The judge noted that Caroline had previously appeared before this court in May 2021 and 2022 and in August of 2022. He said he respected her right to express her opinion, but that people have a right to get to work on the base unimpeded. He reduced her fine to \$25, “like the others” and said that in light of her previous offenses, he would probably be unlikely to reduce her fine to \$25 in the future.

Denny freely admitted to having blocked the roadway in an effort to warn workers and the public of the nuclear weapons at Bangor. He told the judge that he has always worked for the Catholic Church, and because he lives in Seattle he could have participated in this hearing

via Zoom. However, he wanted to ask if the judge would consider taking a significant personal action by not holding those in the roadway to traffic laws when they were trying to obey a higher law.

Denny told the court that he had also asked his employers to take significant action to reduce the harm of nuclear weapons which resulted in his congregation’s vow of nonviolence. He noted that the archbishop of Seattle traveled to Hiroshima and Nagasaki to speak out against nuclear weapons with his Japanese counterparts.

Judge Joyce said that while he appreciated Denny’s passion he had taken an oath to leave his personal beliefs behind him and is bound to uphold the law. He said that he had read all the information presented to him at the previous hearing and can’t condone the actions of those before him in the courtroom, saying that his court was not the best venue for their efforts and that he wished there were a better one.



At the August action activists closed the main entrance to the Trident base for several minutes. *Photo by Glen Milner.*

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

A New Year's Resolution: RESIST TRIDENT!

By Leonard Eiger

THE PROBLEM: NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The United States government got everything on its 2023 Christmas wish-list, and 2024 is shaping up to be another banner year for the Pentagon, weapons contractors, and their lobbyists who swarm the halls of Congress like Cockroaches in a condemned New York City tenement (with apologies to Cockroaches for the analogy). And lest we forget, the countless members of Congress whose re-election campaigns are well-funded by the weapons makers' gracious largesse.

Looming large in 2024 are the many nuclear weapons programs our nation desperately needs to defend a fading empire against the enemy hordes ready to invade our shores and steal our freedom (and lest we forget, threaten us with nuclear weapons)... Russia, China, and North Korea are at the top of the Pentagon's list.

As for U.S. nuclear weapons systems to counter the countless growing threats, have no fear... the Pentagon has gone all out with an ever-growing wish list that will keep weapons makers busy for many years.

A recent report to Congress on "America's Strategic Posture" paints a dire picture with a very broad brush, paving the way for for endless nuclear weapons spending into the foreseeable future. Here is the beginning of the Executive Summary:

The United States faces a strategic challenge requiring urgent action. Given current threat trajectories, our nation will soon encounter a fundamentally different global setting than it has ever experienced: we will face a world where two nations possess nuclear arsenals on par with our own. In addition, the risk of conflict with these two nuclear peers is increasing. It is an existential challenge for which the United States is ill-prepared, unless its leaders make decisions now to adjust the U.S. strategic posture.

If that paragraph didn't terrify you into giving the Pentagon a blank check, it certainly seems to be working on Congress. The estimated cost of nuclear weapon pro-

grams (combined Department of Defense and Department of Energy) from 2023 to 2032 is a whopping \$756 billion!

And the crown jewel of all U.S. nuclear weapons programs is Trident, the nuclear weapon system that combines ballistic missile submarines and extremely accurate missiles, bristling with multiple thermonuclear-armed warheads.

Trident is able to silently, stealthily sail the seven seas with impunity, extending the power and reach of the US empire to every corner of the globe. 70% of the earth is covered by water and most of that is the oceans that allow Trident to sail unseen and unheard, yet bristling with enough thermonuclear firepower to cause the extinction of humanity. U.S.

Navy Rear Adm. Joseph Tofalo once declared that, "A single Trident submarine is the sixth largest nuclear nation in the world all by itself."

As stealthy as Trident is when on patrol, what is even stealthier is the program to build 12 new Trident submarines. Known as the Columbia Class, the new submarines will not only be quieter and harder to find by nuclear rivals, but the ultimate cost to build and operate the subs, not to mention the new missile system that will ultimately

be included, is like finding a Trident submarine in the middle of the Ocean.

The most current cost estimate is "around \$132 billion for the procurement of the dozen submarines, while the total lifecycle cost for the entire class is estimated at \$347 billion." And that does not include missiles, warheads, and all the associated costs such as basing and crewing. Preparing for the end of the world is a massive (economic) undertaking!

A 2023 Government Accountability Office (GAO) study found that, "After more than a year of full-scale construction on the lead Columbia submarine, the shipbuilders are facing delays because of challenges with design, materials, and quality." Translated from government-speak, this is a warning to taxpayers that we can expect the procurement cost estimate to continue climbing until



Blowing up resources that could be spent on human needs. The new Columbia Class submarines will cost \$347 billion over their lifecycle.

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must join forces to receive an apology and compensation from the United States and the governments of Japan, but North and South Korea are divided.

In 1965, during the Cold War, the Korea-Japan Agreement was signed between the Korean military junta and the Japanese regime, which had no remorse for the war of aggression. The Agreement focused on a claims agreement in the form of economic cooperation rather than recovering the damages caused by colonial rule. Without receiving any compensation, Korea-Japan relations were normalized and the struggle of the atomic bomb victims began to start with a blank slate.

In a situation where it was unclear to whom the Korean and Japanese governments would have to receive rights' redress, the victims' struggle for rights began.

In Japan, the struggle under the A-



A memorial to Korean Hibakusha was erected in Hiroshima Peace Park in 1970. *Photo courtesy of Wikimedia.com.*

bomb Survivors Support Act in Japan is the main focus on overcoming the discrimination experienced by Hibakusha. The legal struggle in Korea can be broadly divided into lawsuits for damages against Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, a lawsuit for the release of documents of the Korea-Japan meeting, a constitutional appeal lawsuit at the Korean Constitutional Court, and a lawsuit against the U.S. government and companies.

In other words, the effort for compensation and an acknowledgement of suffering has evolved to focus on these levels: Japanese companies, the South Korean government, the U.S. government, and corporations.

Rev. Senji Kanaeda serves on the Stewardship Council, and has led and participated in Peace Walks around the world.

Pacific Life Community and Ground Zero Friends Come Together To Commemorate Life of Eunice Tirado

By Elizabeth Murray

Members of the Pacific Life Community (PLC) and the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action joined family and friends of Eunice Tirado - the late mother of Ground Zero Center's former Member-in-Residence Elizabeth Murray - to commemorate her remarkable life at a Funeral Mass and Celebration of Life on November 29th, 2023 in Escondido, California.

Among those present were Father Steve Kelly, S.J. - longtime nuclear resistor, Pacific Life Community leader, and member of the Kings Bay Plowshares Eight - who officiated at the Funeral Mass; Dennis Apel and Tensie Hernandez of the Pacific Life Community and the Guadalupe Catholic Worker in Guadalupe, CA; and the Rev. Senji Kanaeda and the Rev. Gilberto Perez of the Nipponzan Myohoji Temple on Bainbridge Island, WA.

Distinguished friends of the Ground Zero Center Dr. Mohan Trivedi and Dr. Nayana Trivedi of San Diego, CA



were also in attendance to honor Eunice's life; the Trivedis were also the generous hosts and sponsors for the Nipponzan Myohoji monks.

Eunice - a longtime professional educator and peace activist - died at the age of 89 at her home in Escondido, California on September 13th, 2023. She joined her daughter Elizabeth in a number of nuclear resistance/peace actions with the Pacific Life Community and the Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in years past, and was also a passionate, lifelong advocate of justice and equal rights for the Palestinian people.

In her will, Eunice suggested that, in lieu of flowers, contributions could be made in her name to the Berkeley-based charity Middle East Children's Alliance (MECA), <https://www.mecaforpeace.org>

Elizabeth Murray serves on the Ground Zero Stewardship Council. She is also a member of Veterans for Peace and Veteran Intelligence Professionals for Sanity.

question is, What if Israel uses one or more nuclear weapons in response to an attack by one or more of its Arab neighbors, and how would the U.S. respond?

What would it take for Benjamin Netanyahu to order the use of nuclear weapons? As *The Nation* recently wrote, "A cornered, nuclear-armed Benjamin Netanyahu would be the definition of a perilous situation in a war where nothing, not journalists, schools, or even hospitals, has proven off-limits."

THE LAST WORD

Returning to Dr. King, we would do well to remember that the words of the prophets have always come home to roost sooner or later. The question for Israel, the U.S., and the other nuclear-armed nations is, Will we lay down our weapons (and convert them into instruments of peace) and create an oasis of peace, not just in one experimental community, but in our nations and in relations with other nations and peoples?

In a world where just a few nations hold the means (through their respective nuclear arsenals) to destroy not just another nation, but all of humanity (in the ultimate collateral damage), it is absolutely essential that we, as peacemakers, translate our passion for peace into collective nonviolent action, blazing a trail for others to follow.

The question for humanity is, Will we finally take the words of the prophets to heart and apply them, or be doomed to continue the downward spiral of violence and its ultimate consequence? Nonviolence is no pipe dream; it is an imperative in this age of violence!

As Dr. King said, "It is no longer a choice, my friends, between violence and nonviolence. It is either nonviolence or nonexistence." The existential question at this moment is, Which will we choose?

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

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the last boat is launched. Beyond cost, Congress should be asking whether General Dynamics Electric Boat can deliver a safe and reliable submarine for its crews.

And beyond all the issues related to costs and other procurement issues is the elephant in the room – Will the deployment of the most advanced, stealthy, and deadly nuclear weapons system ever built make our nation safer or instead increase the probability of nuclear war?

In a world becoming more destabilized each day due to global warming, increased belligerence by and among nations (evidenced by Russia's war on Ukraine and Israel's horrific genocide against Palestinians in Gaza), and increasing tensions among the nuclear-armed nations, it is only a matter of time before the unthinkable occurs and a nuclear war begins, either accidentally or intentionally.

THE RESPONSE: NONVIOLENCE AND SOLIDARITY

That nations still rely on nuclear weapons as tools of prestige and foreign policy speaks to the depths of the madness pervading our world today. We live in a fantasy world in which we believe that rational people are in charge of nuclear weapons and that they would never initiate a nuclear war. Of course, rational people can, and do, make irrational decisions, and under pressure are likely to make judgement errors. In the case of nuclear weapons, there is *NO* margin for error!

Speaking of bad judgement, our own government continues to marginalize every effort toward nuclear disarmament (refusing to sign the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons) while moving forward with its nu-

clear weapons agenda.

The U.S. Empire is fading and the old world of violence it represents is also coming apart; it will not go gently into the night. It will continue to use its military might, with an emphasis on nuclear weapons, to maintain hegemony.

And yet, there are many within civil society as well as the majority of nations within the United Nations working in solidarity with one another to build a new and better world – one in which we can live together free of the threats created by the old order.

Nonviolent resistance will continue to be at the center of these efforts, and we will not stop until the job is done. As Daniel Berrigan once wrote, "One is called to live nonviolently even if the change one works for seems impossible. It may or may not be possible to turn the U.S. around through nonviolent revolution. But one thing favors such an attempt: the total inability of violence to change anything for the better."

At Ground Zero we will continue to resist Trident (both old and new), while working for the abolition of all nuclear weapons, and staying centered on our core value of nonviolence.

So may the invitation for this New Year be a rededication to nonviolence and solidarity as we work toward a new world for the sake of future generations. **RESIST!**

Leonard Eiger is a longtime member of *Ground Zero*. He writes and edits the blog *the Subversive Peacemaker* at <https://subversivepeacemaking.blogspot.com>.

GROUND ZERO

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strategy, has kept nuclear
weapons from being used in
warfare for the past 78 years.”*

*— International Committee to
Abolish Nuclear Weapons*

January Events for Peace and Abolition

By Glen Milner

Here are some upcoming January events that Ground Zero members are sponsoring and participating in. We invite you to join us!

On Sunday, January 7, 2024, Ground Zero started the year with a full-page public service announcement in the Kitsap Sun—An Appeal to Navy Personnel—asking Navy personnel to resist illegal orders and to refuse an order to use nuclear weapons.

On Saturday January 13, at 11:00 AM, Ground Zero members and allies will meet at the Ground Zero Center in commemoration of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. A vigil/bannering will take place later in the day at the Main Gate of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor. Everyone interested in honoring Dr. King's prophecy and legacy is invited to attend.

On Monday, January 15, from 9:15-10:40 AM, Ground Zero Member in Residence Kathy Railsback will be part of a Martin Luther King workshop at Garfield High School, 400 23rd Ave. Seattle. Ground Zero members will join with other peace and justice activists in the annual MLK Day march in Seattle—meeting at the

grassy hill in front of Garfield High School around 11:00 AM. Please march with us. Please contact info@gzcenter.org for more information.



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