On May 12th, as part of a weekend-long gathering at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action, six activists were detained and cited for blocking traffic entering Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor during a peaceful vigil and non-violent direct action.

While others maintained a vigil along the roadside at the Bangor Main Gate, six activists entered the roadway, temporarily blocking access to the submarine base. Washington State Patrol officers removed the protestors from the roadway and issued citations for Pedestrian in Roadway Illegally.

Those cited were Gilberto Perez, Bainbridge Island; Sue Ablao, Bremerton; Carolee Flaten, Hansville; Caroline Wildflower, Pt. Townsend; Michael Siptroth, Belfair; and Mack Johnson, Silverdale.

The Bangor base is homeport to eight of the US Navy’s 14 OHIO Class Trident ballistic missile submarines. The other six are based at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay in Kings Bay, Georgia. The Bangor base represents the largest concentration of deployed nuclear weapons in the world.

Activists started gathering on Saturday to share meals and discuss abolishing nuclear weapons. A discussion was led by Naiome Krienke, from Longhouse for the People, on Indigenous ways of peace and raising children. Naiome is a Chemakum rebuilding her people one longhouse at a time and with a desire for us all to live in

Mother’s Day Action… continued on page 2
harmony with each other and nature.

Nuclear weapons Abolitionist Ward Hayes Wilson addressed the group by video, and led a discussion about the very real possibility of abolishing nuclear weapons. While these discussions were going on, activists prepared paper poppies and placed them along the Ground Zero Center’s fence line with the base to spell out “LET GAZA LIVE!”; while others planted sunflowers, poppies, and other plants in a peace garden.

Resist US-Led War member Eddie Hunt led a discussion by video from the University of Washington. He talked about the ongoing “Liberated Zone” encampment at the QUAD and building a global movement to resist war and dismantle the war machine. One Resist US-Led War member stated, “Imperialism in general is a huge system that we are up against. Even though it seems like it is a really big problem to fight—the fact that it is everywhere means that anywhere you are—you can fight back.”

The weekend was capped with a gathering for breakfast, morning discernment, and training on nonviolence and nonviolent resistance. Afterwards the activists marched in silence to the beat of a lone drum, in solidarity with all the mothers and their families lost to war and famine, down to the Bangor Main Gate. Bangor’s role in the war machine is to maintain and supply submarines with the power to destroy the world many times over.

Setting the tone for the action, Sue Ablao read Julia Ward Howe’s Mother’s Day Proclamation, a portion of which reads:

“From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice. Blood does not wipe out dishonor, nor violence vindicate possession. As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war, let women now leave all that may be left of home for a great and earnest day of council.”

After the commemoration, nurturers spoke about why they were standing in solidarity with mothers. Kathryn Railsback, Ground Zero’s Activist in Residence, highlighted how the money we spend on the war machine should be spent on food, shelter, and education in the U.S. and worldwide. Peace instead of war, food not bombs.

Sean Makarin is an attorney based in Port Orchard. He served on the planning committee for the Mother’s Day gathering and nonviolent action. The cover photo is a still from a video recorded by Ed Mays.

Mourning on Monday
Join Ground Zero to Commemorate the Bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki

By Susan Delaney

On the morning of August 5, Ground Zero activists will gather at the entrance to the Bangor submarine base. The victims of the nuclear bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki will be remembered by a solemn funeral procession of mourners. Some will be dressed in black robes. The others will wear black t-shirts that read: Pope Francis says, “Possessing Nuclear Weapons is immoral.” Each participant will carry a large photo of a child, either a past victim or a future victim of nuclear war.

The marchers will proceed in sync to music toward two large “tombstones.” One tombstone will be labeled “Hiroshima” and the other “Nagasaki”. In the last part of the action, the mourners who intend to stay in the road and risk arrest will form a circle, kneel down and display their photos over their heads.

There will also be activists on the sidelines and in the road with banners and signs as we commemorate the horror and tragedy of the bombings of Nagasaki and Hiroshima. Together we will continue to work for abolishing nuclear weapons by raising awareness of the issue through civil disobedience. Please come and be part of the action.

Susan Delaney has volunteered with Ground Zero for five years. She lives in Bothell and hosts foreign students in her retirement after 60 years in the hospitality industry. Kathryn Railsback designed the flyer on page 3.
Remembering the Bombing of Hiroshima & Nagasaki

“The whirlpool of fire . . . approached us . . . The fire and the smoke made us so thirsty . . . people opened their mouths and turned their faces towards the sky and try to drink the rain . . . It was a black rain with big drops.”

Painting and text by Hiroshima bombing survivor Akiko Takakura.

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Two Upcoming Water-Based Demonstrations

Peace flotilla to visit Hood Canal on July 27

By Glen Milner

Local activists will stage a water-based nonviolent protest and witness for peace in Hood Canal at the Trident nuclear submarine base. Peace activists will travel along the Bangor waterfront where nuclear warheads and Trident missiles are loaded onto submarines and where submarines are resupplied for ballistic missile patrols in the Pacific Ocean.

The witness for peace at the nuclear submarine base marks the 79th commemoration of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Japan. This is the third year since 2016 for the demonstration, called “Boats by Bangor.” The event will take place on Saturday, July 27, around 9:30 am. Kayaks will enter Hood Canal south of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor at King Spit, as sailboats come from various locations.

Sailboats and kayaks will travel along the entire length of the waterfront of Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor, including the Delta Pier and the two Explosives Handling Wharves at Bangor where Trident submarines are maintained and nuclear warheads and Trident D-5 missiles are loaded upon submarines. Participants will not be risking arrest in Hood Canal.

The peace flotilla, titled “Boats by Bangor”, will include the original peace ship, the Golden Rule, that set sail in 1958 to the South Pacific to stop nuclear bomb testing in the atmosphere. A National Project of Veterans for Peace, the Golden Rule continues to inspire many peacemakers and peace ships around the world.

The flotilla is part of a continuing effort by activists to lift the veil of secrecy involving nuclear weapons in Puget Sound.

Hood Canal is tightly controlled by the Navy with multiple easements from State agencies that restrict access and development near the submarine base, and with a series of federally established security zones that are enforced by Coast Guard, Navy, and Marine Corps personnel. Participants in the flotilla do not intend to enter the federally designated exclusion zone around the Bangor waterfront.

The Golden Rule first sailed for peace 66 years ago. Photo courtesy of Veterans for Peace.

Peace Fleet will set sail on July 30 in Elliott Bay

By Glen Milner

For the 23rd year, local activists will stage a nonviolent protest against the glorification of weapons of war at the Seattle Seafair festival. Peace activists will meet the U.S. Navy fleet in Elliott Bay. The entire Seafair Fleet Week, featuring militarism and weapons of war, is sponsored by the Boeing Company, the second largest military contractor in the U.S.

This year the Peace Fleet will be joined with the original peace ship, the Golden Rule, that set sail in 1958 to the South Pacific to stop nuclear testing in the atmosphere, and which inspired the many peace makers and peace ships that followed. See http://www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org.

Other peace activists will meet on the Seattle waterfront, at Pier 62, and/or on the rooftop of the Bell Street Pier Cruise Terminal at Pier 66, at the same time for a nonviolent demonstration against weapons of war and against environmental harm caused by the U.S. military during Seafair.

Water-based activists will gather at noon on Tuesday, July 30. Land-based activists will convene at 1:00 pm.

Why would we demonstrate for peace at a Seattle maritime festival? Because the celebration of warships in our harbor helps bring about the normalcy of modern war. The fleet arrival at Seafair is a public relations and recruiting event for the U.S. Navy.

Previous years have brought Trident nuclear submarines complete with nuclear warheads and Navy warships used to launch Tomahawk cruise missiles in the first and second Wars on Iraq and the War on Afghanistan. The fleet is displayed for four days in downtown Seattle at tremendous cost to taxpayers while crucial social services in education, health care, and transportation are being cut for lack of funds.

The Peace Fleet is an incarnation of earlier waterborne demonstrations: the People’s Blockade of U.S. Navy vessels carrying munitions during the Vietnam War; and the Peace Blockade near Hood Canal, demonstrating...
agains the arrival of the first Trident submarine, the USS Ohio, at the Trident submarine base at Bangor in 1982.

The Peace Fleet began on August 2, 2000 when the Trident submarine, USS Alabama, arrived in downtown Seattle for Seafair, complete with up to 192 nuclear warheads. Since 2000, the Coast Guard, Navy and oftentimes the Port of Seattle, have been involved with spying, unlawful regulations, improper enforcement of existing regulations, false criminal charges, endangering kayakers, and intimidation against nonviolent peace activists.

In 2023, the Coast Guard established an unlawful and expanded temporary no-protest zone prohibiting all peace vessels within 100 yards in front of Pier 62 and Pier 66 and blocking peace vessels from leaving Bell Harbor Marina. Inquiries by U.S. Representative Pramila Jayapal likely influenced the Coast Guard’s decision to allow peace vessels to pass through the zone on the day of the event.

Below is a Coast Guard drawing showing the permanent no-protest zone, first implemented by the Coast Guard in 2011 and last revised in 2018 as 33 CFR § 165.1333. This no-protest zone is unlike any other Coast Guard “safety” zone in the United States—unique only to Elliott Bay with the sole intention of unlawfully preventing the movement of peace demonstrators on the water. On December 14, 2023 Congress approved an $886 billion defense bill for FY 2024. Of the 10 Washington State representatives, only Rep. Pamalia Jayapal voted against the defense bill. Both Senators Murray and Cantwell voted for the defense bill.

The Peace Fleet this year, as in past years, will require no public funds or public resources.

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

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Pacific Northwest Peace Walk — 20 Years and Going Strong

By Rev. Senji Kanaeda

NA MU MYO HO REN GE KYO

On May 26th, a peace march and rally called the “25 Mile Walk,” which is the length of the Gaza Strip from north to south, was held from SeaTac to Ballard in Seattle. On the way, we had lunch at the Seattle Native Duwamish longhouse, where there were more than 1,000 participants, most of whom came from a variety of racial and ethnic backgrounds. Many of them were young people who had never experienced or planned a peace walk of this kind, and more than two-thirds of them were women.

On that day, at that moment, I drew a picture of hope and a good outlook for the future of humanity. Not only was it a very moving event, but it was also very epoch making. The people who participated in this walk will surely remember the experience for the rest of their lives. It will become a feathered seed and fly all over the world in the future.

It may seem small in comparison, but this is the twentieth time that we have organized the Pacific North-West Peace Walk to abolish nuclear weapons, which includes being at Ground Zero to commemorate Hiroshima -Nagasaki Day every year.

Over the years, thousands of people have participated in the walk and events, including downwinders who are scattered throughout the United States, Marshall Islands radiation survivors, and even those who have suffered firsthand from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

This time, the Lantern Ceremony in Seattle on August 6 will be the last event on this walk. Martha Bryce, who has been organizing the event with Shirley Shimada for more than 40 years, celebrated her 90th birthday this year. I feel that we can pass the baton to the next generation, including myself.

We believe that an average of 13 miles a day, even just a single step, or even joining a potluck, will contribute to the realization of peace.

Please walk with us. The smallest contributions are gratefully received.

This annual Peace Walk is organized by the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist Order, and is sponsored by Tacoma Catholic Workers, Indian People Organizing for Change (California), the Ground Zero Center, Veterans For Peace, and more.

“Over the years, thousands of people have participated in the walk...even those who have suffered firsthand from the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.”

Peace Walk... continued on page 9
Transformation or Annihilation?
A message from two of the founders of Ground Zero

By Shelley and Jim Douglass

Ground Zero is the name given to the place at which a nuclear bomb explodes. Hiroshima was ground zero; Nagasaki was ground zero; Bangor could be ground zero, as could be many other places all over this world.

In December 1977, nine members of Pacific Life Community, committed to a nonviolent way of transformation to stop the Trident submarine and missile system, founded Ground Zero.

We chose the name Ground Zero for the land that our community bought beside Trident’s Bangor base to remind ourselves that we were (and are) a prime target in a nuclear extinction war. We chose to name it Ground Zero because the place at greatest risk of destruction can be the place that begins transformational change.

We believed that transformation has to take place on two levels: the personal and the political, the local and the global. Our own change was begun by Bob Aldridge, designer of the re-entry vehicle for the Trident D5 missile. When Bob realized that he was working on a first strike weapon, he and his family decided to make a radical change. Bob resigned from Lockheed, the family took a big cut in income, Janet began to teach again – and their story inspired the campaign against the Trident system. Bob became one of the foremost analysts of nuclear policy, working with peace people all over the world.

Bob’s change inspired change in us, resulting in the founding of the original Pacific Life Community, then in the founding of Ground Zero. Over time as the Trident system became well known, thousands of people demonstrated against it, and many of us went to jail. There was an amazing peace blockade when the first Trident submarine, the USS Ohio, arrived at the base. A nation-wide community grew up around the trains that carried the nuclear weapons to the base. Initially stretching from Amarillo, Texas, to Bangor, the Agape Community eventually extended to the East Coast, where another base was being opened at Kings Bay, Georgia—which is how Shelley and Jim wound up in Birmingham, Alabama. We were also able to forge relationships with indigenous peoples who suffer still from atomic testing, and with people in England and Scotland who resist their own Tridents.

The transformation is slow but it has been ongoing. As a result of Ground Zero’s presence, and especially the leaflets we handed out for years, base workers and military personnel have left their work, as Bob did, for reasons of conscience. The story of our friends, Al and Jerrie Drinkwine, is an inspiring example from the GZ leafleting.

August 12, 1982 was the day on which 99 Coast Guard boats (its entire West Coast fleet) were deployed to deal with the Peace Blockade, when the USS Ohio came into Bangor. On that same day, Al Drinkwine resigned his $22,000 a year job at the base. In a prophetic sense, that step by Al and Jerrie – like Bob’s and Janet’s – was another beginning to the end of Trident, even as the crowds cheered its arrival. Al had been reading leaflets passed out by Ground Zero volunteers every Thursday morning since September 1978. In the winter of 1982, Al and Jerrie attended a Wednesday night meeting at Ground Zero. In June 1982, Al risked his job by testifying in a Kitsap County court in support of arrested Ground Zero leafleter Karol Schulkin. A spiritual chain reaction was in process.

A month after Al’s resignation, he and Jerrie wrote a letter to Bangor friends and workers, which was then passed out as a Ground Zero leaflet to those entering the base. At its heart was the passage: “As a person, a couple, a family in the human race, do we honestly believe that ‘peace at any price’ is how our Creator wishes us to live? Peace, at the expense of all mankind? Is it right to use nuclear arms against any other human in the name of defense or peace? Could we continue being instruments in the potential destruction of all life?”

Because of the participation of people like Al and Jerrie and many other questioning base workers in touch with Ground Zero, things began to change – by the weekly leafleting, our home meetings with worker families, our Wednesday Night meetings to explore key questions, and the mutual respect involved in a whole range of GZ activities. We were overcoming the fences between us – and not just by climbing over them in civil disobedience, though that was important in our noncooperation with the evil of Trident.

Over 47 years, many changes occurred. Our geodesic dome was burned down – by two Bangor Marines, as we learned years later by Glen Milner’s Freedom of In-
Shelley and Jim Douglass were instrumental to the founding of Ground Zero in 1977. Today the Douglasses live in Birmingham, Alabama where they extend hospitality at the Mary’s House.

formation Act request. Our Ground Zero house was burned down – probably by arson but by whom we don’t know. There is now a beautiful eco-conscious house at Ground Zero, and an ongoing relationship with the base built up from 47 years of Ground Zero’s open, nonviolent resistance. Ground Zero folks were not about to go away. And they didn’t. And won’t.

Perhaps the biggest change of all has been the recent support of the County for the building of the Peace Pagoda, after 40 years of obstruction and refused permits. When the Rev. Nichidatsu Fujii came to Ground Zero – on the night Ronald Reagan was elected president – he said that because of the history of nonviolent resistance to nuclear destruction here, and because of the jail sentences and other suffering for peace, this should be the place for the first Peace Pagoda in the United States. Early attempts to build the pagoda soon met massive resistance, especially since it was a Japanese effort in a heavily Navy county that still remembered Pearl Harbor. But the Gandhi-like monks of Nipponzan Myohoji, with persistent Ground Zero comrades by their side, are prevailing against all obstacles. Lo and behold, the Ground Zero Peace Pagoda is arising! A miracle of nonviolence.

So where is Ground Zero today, after a near half-century working for what some might think is the equally impossible dream of abolishing Trident? Is it time to fiddle away, shout Ole, and head for the hay?

In 1921, Gandhi said to the people of India: “Noncooperation with evil is as much a duty as cooperation with good.” His people heard Gandhi, joining with his ashram community in a nonviolent campaign of satyagraha (“truth-force”) to overcome their oppression by the British Empire. Gandhi believed – just as the community that has founded and sustained Ground Zero believes – that nonviolent truth-force is the greatest power in the Universe. It is what Dr. King called its moral arc, where we can walk through the light of the stars by nonviolent living and action.

Yet the daunting question today is: Will we humans draw deeply enough and soon enough on that universal force in our being, as the light fades, to beat the Doomsday Clock – now at 90 seconds to midnight, ticking away, second by second? (The Doomsday Clock of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, in 1973, was set at 12 minutes to midnight. It is now closer than ever before to nuclear apocalypse.)

So, for us all, the work of change isn’t done – especially since the grace of the Aldridge family, of Al and Jerrie Drinkwine, and of a host of other nonviolent warriors has given us a piece of the rock at Ground Zero. The reign of nonviolent change is at hand – our hands.

Ground Zero shares 330 feet of barbed-wire fence with “the Auschwitz of Puget Sound,” as Archbishop Hunthausen called what lies behind those beautiful trees on the other side of the fence – where the deer jump. But as you keep going, you reach the higher, double fences and the lit-up darkness of Strategic Weapons Facility Pacific (SWFPAC) – 1.4 miles from Ground Zero with its approximately 500 nuclear weapons, not far away at all. Ground Zero is the blessed place where we can realize that truth. We have been given that piece of the truth and its invitation to action that is vital to our global human transformation. Beginning at our gathering circle of prayer around the Peace Pagoda. Come and see.

What a gift. And what an invitation to Ground Zero to make a crucial difference by keeping those SWFPAC weapons from destroying the world. Which otherwise, loaded inch by careful inch onto Bangor’s eight Trident submarines, make up “the most powerful military force on the planet” (Hans Kristensen, Federation of American Scientists), bound for their deep journeys and launching points to many ground zeroes.

So how can our Ground Zero make the difference between humanity’s transformation and its annihilation?

Hopefully we shall see.

“We believed that transformation has to take place on two levels: the personal and the political, the local and the global.”

At an early demonstration, Jim and Shelley took a quiet moment to observe the crowd of activists gathered to oppose Trident. Photo courtesy of the Kitsap Sun.

Shelley and Jim Douglass were instrumental to the founding of Ground Zero in 1977. Today the Douglasses live in Birmingham, Alabama where they extend hospitality at the Mary’s House.
Trident Nuclear Weapons Update at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor

By Glen Milner

“...that pool of eight ballistic missile submarines that operates out of Bangor, that is the most powerful military force on the planet.” - Hans Kristensen, Federation of American Scientists

Each Trident submarine (SSBN) carries 20 submarine-launched ballistic missiles (SLBM, also specifically known as the D5LE). Each D5LE (Trident II D5 “life extended”) missile has a range of 12,000 km—equal to 7,460 miles or 6,482 nautical miles. Estimated number of warheads per submarine: 90 warheads on 20 SLBMs.

Each submarine is estimated to deploy with the following nuclear warheads:

Trident warhead Total kilotons
2 W76-2 (8 kiloton) 16 kt
20 W88 (455 kiloton) 9,100 kt
68 W76-1 (90 kiloton) 6,120 kt

The total of 5,236 kilotons is equal to the explosive force of about 1,000 Hiroshima-sized bombs. The tactical W76-2 (8-kiloton) warhead gives each submarine the capability to “deter limited nuclear use” while other warheads on the submarine provide the capability of striking as many as 88 different targets with warheads equal to approximately six times and 30 times the explosive force as the Hiroshima bomb.

Of the 14 Trident ballistic missile submarines (SSBN) in the entire fleet—eight are deployed at Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor (Washington) and six are deployed at Naval Submarine Base Kings Bay (Georgia). From the deployment of the first Polaris SSBN in 1960 to the end of the Cold War in 1991—nearly all deterrent SSBN patrols were in the Atlantic. In contrast, over 60 percent of SSBN patrols are now in the Pacific.

An estimated four to five Bangor-based SSBNs are at sea at any given time. Of this number, approximately 2-3 Bangor-based SSBNs are thought to be on “hard alert” in their designated patrol areas. Another 2-3 Bangor-based SSBNs could be brought to full alert status within hours or days. Accordingly, the Pacific Fleet based at Bangor could strike as many as 450 to 540 targets either within minutes or hours/days.

The payload of five Trident SSBNs is equal to approximately 76,180 kilotons (or 76 megatons of explosives) which is more than 25 times the total explosive force for all munitions used in the WWII.

There are approximately 1,920 warheads assigned to the entire SSBN fleet, of which approximately 950 are deployed on submarines. Accordingly, approximately 500 warheads are stored on the Bangor base at the Limited Area Protection and Storage Complex (LAPSC). One Trident submarine could strike any target within approximately 60 percent of the Earth’s surface.

Since the 1970s, the Pentagon has continuously worked to develop a more accurate and deadly warhead delivery system for the Trident system. One recent contract is a $2.2 billion award to Draper for guidance systems that is expected to be completed by October 2028. Another $1.2 billion contract was awarded in October 2023 to Lockheed Martin for D-5 missile production and deployed systems support services for the U.S. and U.K. navies.

In 1973, Bob Aldridge quit his job at Lockheed Missiles and Space Company, in protest of the disarmament first strike capability of the Trident missile system. The “Doomsday Clock” of the Bulletin of Atomic Scientists, in 1973, was set at 12 minutes to midnight. Today, the clock is at 90 seconds to midnight—now closer than any other time to nuclear apocalypse.

What does this mean—our close proximity to such unimaginable destruction?

The fact that Ground Zero members and peace activists across the Earth continue working for nuclear abolition is a sign of hope and must continue.

2. U.S. nuclear weapons, 2024 pg. 192. See https://thebulletin.org/premium/2024-05/united-states-nuclear-weapons-2024. This number is reduced from 24 missiles originally deployed on SSBNs to meet limits of New START. No more than 240 missiles (on 12 SSBNs) will deploy at one time.
3. Ibid. According to Google Earth, it is approximately 4,700 nautical miles from Naval Base Kitsap-Bangor to Beijing. The minimum range for the D-5 missile is 2,000 km or about 1,250 miles. See https://missilethreat.csis.org/misssile/trident.

Trident Update continued on page 9
5. Ibid, pg. 183 and 193. “We estimate that no more than 25 [W76-2] were ultimately produced, and that one or two of the 20 missiles on each SSBN is armed with one or two W76–2 warheads each, while the remainder of the SLBMs will be filled with either the 90-kiloton W76–1 or the 455-kiloton W88.” (Arkin and Kristensen 2020)
6. Ibid, pg. 183. The W88 is a more modern and more powerful substitution for the W76 Trident warheads. Approximately 400 of an expected 4,000 W88 warheads were made. https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/W88 The W88 is currently undergoing a modernization program in which half have been delivered (W88 Alt 370) in 2023 and the remainder by 2026. 384 W88 warheads distributed on 14 SSBNs would be approximately 27 W88 warheads per SSSBN. Because of the ongoing modernization—the writer’s estimate (not FAS) is that the Navy deploys approximately 20 W88 warheads per submarine. Regarding the end of production of the W88, see https://www.npr.org/2012/06/12/154839592/under-the-nuclear-shadow-of-colorados-rocky-flats and https://outrider.org/nuclear-weapons/articles/rocky-flats-raid.
8. The Hiroshima bomb here is estimated at 15 kilotons. It is listed at 12-15 kilotons at https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/bombing-of-hiroshima-and-nagasaki
9. Ibid, pg. 193. Note—this summary does not address the purpose of the Trident program—whether for what has been called deterrence, warfighting ability, first strike capability, survivable second-strike capability, etc.
10. Ibid, pg. 192.
12. Ibid. Between 2002 and 2005, five Trident SSBNs were transferred from Kings Bay, Georgia to the Bangor base. https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2004/sep/16/two-more-sub-moving-to-bangor This was the beginning of a major shift of U.S. naval forces that would later be known as the “Pivot to Asia.” Also see https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/East_Aisan_foreign_policy_of_the_Barack_Obama_administration
13. Ibid, pg. 192. This is based on a total of Kings Bay and Bangor-based submarines of 8-10 at a sea at a given time and the estimate that 60 percent of SSBN patrols are now in the Pacific.
14. Ibid. “Hard alert” is when SSBNs are in designated patrol areas within range of the targets specified in their assigned target package in accordance with the strategic war plan. U.S. Nuclear Forces, 2013. See https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0096340213477999
15. Ibid. These SSBNs at sea are in transit to or from their patrol areas.
16. Each warhead has its own independently targetable reentry vehicle. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Trident_(missile)
17. History StackExchange, https://history.stackexchange.com/questions/56193/what-was-the-total-megatonnage-of-all-munitions-expended-in-world-war-2 The total tonnage of munitions used in WW2 equal 3,000 kilotons or 3 megatons of explosives. This figure includes atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.
19. The number of stored nuclear warheads depends upon numerous factors, such as: the number of W88 warheads either in transit or undergoing modifications at the Pantex Plant in Texas; whether warheads have been removed for SSBN servicing (which would depend upon the type of servicing of the submarine); and likely numerous other factors. See https://fas.org/publication/pacific-ssbn-base-where in 2016, approximately 1,000 warheads were estimated to be stored at the LAPSC. The majority of these warheads in storage are the 90-kiloton W76–1 warheads.
20. See https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Earth%27s_circumference 7,460 miles distance per D5LE X 2 (14,920 mile for opposite directions from the SSBN) divided by 24,901 miles at the equator of the Earth. This would exclude areas within the minimum range of the SLBM—the area within approximately 1,250 miles in all directions of the SSBN.
22. Contract to be completed by September 30, 2028. Lockheed Secures $1.2B Navy Contract Modification for Trident II Missile Production - GovCon Wire


Peace Walk… continued from page 5

The walk will start on Sunday, July 28, covering 13 miles in Vancouver. It will resume on Thursday, August 1 and travel through Tacoma, Lake Forest Park, Seattle, Bainbridge Island, and Poulsbo, before spending August 4 and 5 at Ground Zero. The walk will then go to Seattle for the Floating Lantern Ceremony.

To find out how you can join, contact Rev. Senji Kanaeda at 206-780-6739, 206-724-7632 (cell), or by emailing kanaedasenji@gmail.com.
future of global justice

By Larry Kerschner

if nature abhors a vacuum it must scream in Gaza where the soil is soaked in darkening red

sometimes it appears all that can be done is to wait silently at the brink of mourning

even if we could find them partially alive what comfort or solace could we provide

will any bandage or remedy be provided by nearby cousins who find suffering a bore

is there a god watching the discarded people or has she pretended that mercy is optional

people, the land and the culture is targeted found blameworthy for the final solution

Poets can imagine

By Larry Kerschner

poets can imagine a world where peace is more valued than war

the occupying force destroying cemeteries in an attempt the annihilation of the history of a people won’t succeed as long as ghosts and poets remain

poems can’t stop a bullet but may affect members of the chosen people testing the effects of new weapons on the vermin of Gaza

poets can dream of olive trees where laughter reigns and peace finds its way occupied streets, where children play of houses again becoming homes with kites soaring above in a blue sky friends clipping mint into steaming white teacups

poets can imagine a world where peace is more valued than war

slow—children at play

By Larry Kerschner

psychology departments at Harvard and the University of California, Berkeley found that play is an incredible motivator where children learn to challenge themselves. play lets children choose to explore and discover new things

families in Rafah built a playground to help their children deal with the fear and anxiety from living under the constant threat of death

today the Israeli Defense Force fired a drone into that playground in killing at least eleven children

this is just to say

By Larry Kerschner

when words degrade into bullets lives break

when bullets transmute into words possibility begins

Larry Kerschner is a poet and activist who lives in Centralia. He is a long-time member of Veterans for Peace and Ground Zero. His poetry can be read at https://larrywrites.livejournal.com.
We ask the Universe now

By Alice Zillah

At the beginning we were polite.

“Dear President Biden, I urge you to demand an immediate ceasefire and to condition aid to Israel on its adherence to international law.”

We pointed out that Israel was using October 7 to justify an escalation in its 75-year project of erasure of Palestine of Palestinians.

We pointed out that the US treats Israel as its proxy. Supplying billions each year to maintain a nuclear-armed hammer. Ready to pound any Middle Eastern countries that intrude upon our business interests.

Weeks passed by.
Then months.

“President Biden,
I demand you stop sending arms and bombs to Israel.
Half the people of the Gaza Strip are children! It’s the most densely populated area on earth! It’s an open-air prison and there’s nowhere for families to go!”

We pointed out that infrastructure was being destroyed – every university, every health clinic, schools, water treatment facilities – all crimes against humanity.

We pointed out that sheer racism was enabling the killing. That the media coverage, that the societal acceptance would be different if the bodies in the destroyed streets were white.

Weeks passed by.
Then months.

Our hearts broke again and again and we felt sick with the knowledge that we could look away whenever we needed a break, we could turn away from the agony and bottomless grief of a mother with no more children, from the terror of a child with no more parents.

And still it continues.

We tried pleading, on our own behalf.

“President Biden,
I cannot bear to see any more pictures of dead babies and children. My heart cannot take this level of cruelty and pain.

I cannot bear to know people are capable of doing these things

to women

to men

to children

Please please make it stop.”

And still it continues.

Our government -- the government that slaughtered indigenous people here and in Japan in Vietnam in Laos and Cambodia and Guatemala and El Salvador and Nicaragua and Panama and Iraq and Afghanistan

Does not lose any sleep over Palestinians.

We ask the universe now.

Dear Universe,

Make me an instrument of your peace.
Make me an instrument of your justice.
Keep my heart open to the grief.
Help me take brave steps.
Help me end my complicity.
Help me act.

Help us act.

President Biden, I urge you to demand an immediate ceasefire and to condition aid to Israel on its adherence to international law.”

Dear President Biden, I demand you stop sending arms and bombs to Israel. Half the people of the Gaza Strip are children! It’s the most densely populated area on earth! It’s an open-air prison and there’s nowhere for families to go!”

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Alice Zillah participated in her first Ground Zero action in 2003, and started editing the newsletter in 2005. Today she lives in Tucson with her family.

Ourselves or Nothing

By Carolyn Forché

There is a cyclone fence between ourselves and the slaughter and behind it we hover in a calm protected world like netted fish, exactly like netted fish.

It is either the beginning or the end of the world, and the choice is ourselves or nothing.

“If humanity hopes to avert its doom, a spiritual power that surpasses material power must be exerted.”

— Most Venerable Fujii Nichitatsu

Honoring the first Peace Pagoda

By Asahi News

A memorial service was held in front of the Hanaokayama Peace Pagoda on May 12, to commemorate the 70th anniversary of its completion at the top of a mountain on a southern Japanese island. Ground Zero’s Rev. Senji Kanaeda traveled to Japan to participate in the ceremony.

The pagoda was built in 1954 by the Most Venerable Fujii Nichitatsu (1885-1985), who founded the Nipponzan Myohoji Buddhist order. This was the first peace pagoda built by the order and it was constructed entirely by hand tools over the course of seven years. It stands 82 feet high and overlooks the city of Kumamoto.

The Hanaokayama Peace Pagoda contains ashes from the historical Buddha donated by the then Prime Minister of India, Jawaharlal Nehru.

The memorial service was attended by the Consul General of India in Japan and the Ambassador of Sri Lanka. In addition, people came to show their respect from the United States, India, Austria, Poland, Italy, U.K. and other countries.

Today there are over 80 peace pagodas throughout the world. Soon there will be one more—at the Ground Zero Center.