

“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.” — Margaret Mead



# Grandmothers for Peace International

Barbara Wiedner, Founder, 1928 - 2001

Lorraine Krofchok, Director

Founded 1982

Spring 2007

## Happy 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary to Us!!!

1982

**April 20:** Barbara Wiedner's 1st Civil Disobedience arrest at Mather Air Force Base (Mather, CA), home to a local B-52 Bomber wing and storage facility for 150 nuclear bombs.

*“I was willing to risk jail in an effort to save the planet from nuclear annihilation! During my five days in jail, I realized that grandmothers have a very powerful and important role to play in the struggle to eliminate nuclear weapons from the face of the earth.”*

**May 19:** 1<sup>st</sup> Meeting of Grandmothers for Peace held at Barbara's home with eleven women participants.

**November:** Barbara's 15-day peace journey with 20 American women to Leningrad, Moscow and other Soviet Union cities.

**1983**

**April 1:** Four GFP arrested for CD at Mather AFB. **Trudi Britton:** “We did this because we love our grandchildren as well as children all over the world. An act of civil disobedience? I would call it an act of love.”

**July:** GFP **Janet Wenzholz**, Corpus Christi (TX) joins a Witness for Peace team to live in Nicaragua near the Honduran border acting as a deterrent to Honduras attacks, and challenging the U.S. policy in Central America.



**October:** At **Granny's Yard Sale**, “... distributed brochures and buttons, discussed our work. The end result was not

only delight at our financial success, but more important, the feeling that we had personally been able to touch the hearts of people with the message of peace. We also had the best bargains in town!!”

**Enroll** first Canadian GFP; world-wide requests for membership and information.

**1984**

**Jan Provost** (WI), Barbara's sister, starts GFP Northland Chapter. A few of their projects: the annual No War Toys Drive, an annual Peace Scholarship, regular protests at Project Elf. **April 20:** GFP **Betty Daniel, Chris Delany, Barbara Wiedner, Trudi Britton, Ida Curtice, Ella Lively and Marsha Frahman** arrested for CD at Mather AFB.

**1987-1989**

Barbara meets **Raisa Gorbachev** at the “World Congress of Women” in Moscow. They would meet again in 1988 and 1995. In 1989, Barbara and a GFP delegation, with banner flying, participated in the “Inter-



national Grandmothers for Peace March” in Moscow.

**1990**

**Grandmothers for Peace** adds **International** to its name to reflect its growing international membership. During Barbara's 19 years as Director, she made more than 20 international trips “... to many strange and wonderful places, but sometimes into humorous, bizarre, and even dangerous situations. ...”

**1991**

Members protest the Iraq War; conduct blood drives for U.S. troops; continue to work for a Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, and to demonstrate against underground nuclear testing at the Nevada Test Site.

**November:** Oslo, Norway, GFP receive prestigious “FrittOrds Honnorpris” award for 10 years of dedication to nuclear disarmament and peace.

**1992**

GFP **Dorothy Vandercook** (CA), for years an anonymous, generous financial supporter, dies. The **Peace and Justice Scholarship Fund** is established in her memory, and five scholarships are awarded in 1993; as of 2006, a total of 150 have been awarded.

**1993-1995**

**Global Citizen Diplomacy** grows as GFP members work with other groups: **Corine and Nate Thornton** (CA) traveled to Cuba to challenge the US ban

on travel to Cuba; **Hermine and Karl Dahmen** (TX) traveled to Nicaragua to visit the “Mothers of Matagalpa” - Contra and Sandinista widows and mothers working together to build homes and community for each other; **Leal and Lloyd Portis** (CA) traveled to Romania to deliver therapy supplies, medicines and gifts to an orphanage; **Barbara** traveled to Chiapas, Mexico, to deliver funds and medicine to the indigenous people.

**1996**

GFPI establish **web site**.

**September:** Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty signed. GFPI continues its information campaign concerning the need for complete abolition of nuclear weapons, the problem of nuclear waste transportation and storage.

**November:** GFP demonstrate at the School of the Americas (SOA).



**1997-2000**

**October:** Nine grandmothers arrested as GFP **Peg McIntire, 87**, (FL) leads the way to the Cassini launch pad to protest its launch carrying 72.3 lbs. of plutonium; GFP **Bernice Kring** (CA) continues to work with others for

# H I S T O R Y

responsible nuclear-waste disposal methods; Through Cas Fam, Inc., GFP Jackie and Larry Castagnola ▶ (CT) sponsor Haiti street children; On the **International Day of Protest Against Space Weaponization**, GFP stood in the rain outside the US Embassy in London and in the sunshine at the gates of Beale AFB (CA).



Jackie Castagnola and friend, 1999



Oslo, Norway, 1991



Barbara tells Yasser Arafat about GFPI. (January 1991)

## 2001

**October:** Barbara and her sister Jan Provost attend their very first ▶ protest together in Sacramento.

**December 2:** GFP Founder Barbara Wiedner dies. The continuation of GFPI - to eliminate nuclear weapons and to seek peace and justice - is accepted by Lorraine Krofchok.



Standing: Lorraine Krofchok, Jan Provost, Becky Kring, seated: Bernice Kring, Barbara Wiedner and daughter, Kathy



Cassini demonstration, Cape Canaveral Air Station, FL, 1994



Sibiu, Romania, 1999



Lorraine Krofchok and Barbara Wiedner (September 2001)



Anderson, Indiana, 2005



Barbara and Raisa Gorbachev, 1995



Ellen Murphy, WA, 2003



Lorraine Krofchok; Lindis Percy, Otley, England, in CA, 2002

## 2002

The California Legislature recognizes May 19, 2002, as the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Grandmothers for Peace International. (Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 80.)

**April:** From Spring to Fall, from coast-to-coast and beyond, GFPI and others hit the streets to protest the US plan to invade Iraq.

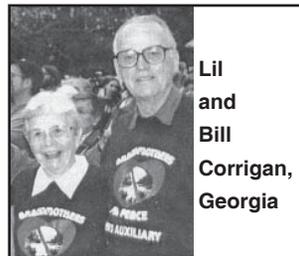
## 2003

**February 15:** Worldwide, millions march against the Iraq War, but Washington is deaf and blind.

**October:** GFPI members/chapters respond immediately to the Iraq Infant Care Project sponsored by American Friends Service Committee. Hundreds of infant kits go to Iraq's hospitals.

## 2004-2007

Members fill our newsletters with participation, activism and projects with other community groups.



Lil and Bill Corrigan, Georgia



Ella Lively



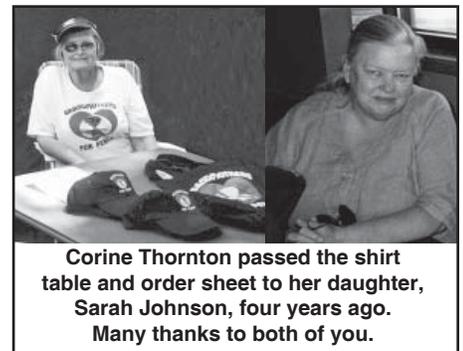
Lorraine Krofchok & kits



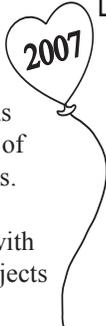
Dorothy Vandercook



Sandra Kay Patton, New Zealand, 2003



Corine Thornton passed the shirt table and order sheet to her daughter, Sarah Johnson, four years ago. Many thanks to both of you.



Barbara Wiedner, Founder



Ida Curtice, 2002



Johannesburg, South Africa, 2003

#### Summerland Key, Florida

**Anne Anthony**

Greetings from the Florida Keys. Thank you to all of you Grandmothers for Peace who have provided such excellent examples and inspiration for us in our beginning efforts in the Florida Keys. A special thank you to **Lorraine, Peg McIntire** in St. Augustine, FL, and to **Lillian Willoughby** (we “discovered” GFP through her daughter, **Sally**).

We have five official GFP members, many friends, including children, who join us for peace efforts, plus help from **Veterans for Peace** friends.



Florida Keys GFP and friends.

We were out on U.S. Highway 1, the only road connecting Key West to the mainland, for World Peace Day, United Nations Day, and a Peace on Earth Vigil. In January we started Sunday morning vigils at the Big Pine Key stoplight, where our captive audience is mainly hung over tourists, local church-goers, and “Snowbirds” crowding the popular flea market.

We are coordinating a Peace March on Jan. 28 in Big Pine Key, are making plans to combine our peace efforts with others in Key West, and are setting up a Keys Peace Network.

(E-mail: anth312@bellsouth.net)

#### Maryland

**Debbie Matherly**

**Central Maryland Grandmothers and Others For Peace** (slight name change) have been working on many fronts prior to and since the November elections to ensure that the message of peace has been prominent in local dialogue. We continue to meet on the fourth Sunday of each month (except December).

In September and October, we had tables at local festivals where we handed out balloons with “Elevate Peace” and a dove; helped children decorate “Pinwheels for Peace” (see [pinwheelsforpeace.org](http://pinwheelsforpeace.org) for templates and ideas); distributed literature about military

recruitment; and collected signatures for the Department of Peace and the Declaration of Peace. We also collected signatures outside a local library.

We continued our monthly film series, showing “Hijacking Catastrophe: 9-11; Fear and the Selling of American Empire” (July); “Stop the Abuse” (August); “Why We Fight” (September); “What I Have Learned about Foreign Policy” and “Iraq for Sale - the War Profiteers” (October, different nights); “Hidden in Plain Sight” - School of the Americas/ WHINSEC (November); and “Unconstitutional - The War on Our Civil Liberties” (January). Thanks to June Martyn’s efforts, we recently acquired another 100 CDs of “Waging Peace for Children and Other Living Things” to sell to benefit non-profit groups (we sold out of the first 200).

Several of us participate in the monthly vigils at a busy intersection near the Columbia Mall. Many of our group have been active writing letters to the editor and to our Senate and House representatives. We celebrated the “peace message” of November 7, 2006, and agreed that we have to keep that message front and center with the new Congress.

One of our members went to Fort Benning, Georgia, November 17-19, 2006, to join the vigil to oppose the School of the Americas. She met up with “1,000 Grandmothers,” including many with Grandmothers for Peace T-shirts and bags. It was truly inspiring.

On January 18, 2007, two of our members joined a delegation from **Maryland United for Peace and Justice** to meet with our Senators’ senior aides on foreign policy, giving them each a letter signed by many of our members, a GFP brochure, a pin, a copy of the International Crisis Group report “After Baker-Hamilton: How to Get Out of Iraq,” and a copy of our CD. A key point we made, with which our Senators agreed: **NO SURGE!**



**Ft. Benning, GA: Debbie Matherly, second from right in GFP shirt, joins other GFP at the SOA demonstration, November 17-19, 2006.**

We were joined by local members of the “Grannies Brigade.” One of the aides noted that much positive talk was going on among the aides about the visits and “presence” — showing up in person by arrangement and in numbers does make an impact.

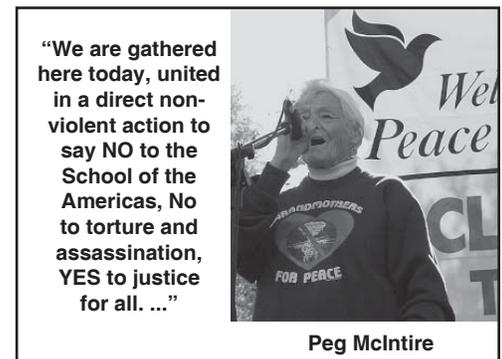
Next steps: Our group will continue to meet and show films. Many of us will join the January 27, 2007, March on Washington, maybe some future lobbying, definitely more letters. We are also planning a joint event with the high school group **Sister to Sister**, in March, to raise awareness on domestic violence and violence against girls and women in Darfur.

(E-mail: [dwmatherly@aol.com](mailto:dwmatherly@aol.com))

#### St. Augustine, Florida

**Denise Laffan**

**Peg McIntire** was one of the featured speakers at the School of the Americas demonstration at Fort Benning, Georgia, Nov. 17-19, 2006. SOAWatch estimated over 22,000 peace activists gathered to close the controversial US Army’s School of the Americas.



**Peg McIntire**

#### London, England

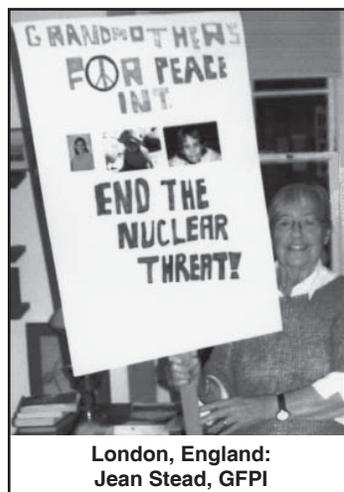
**Jean Stead**

The Prime Minister, Tony Blair, has said that before he retires, (expected to be Summer 2007) he intends to commit Britain to the next generation of nuclear weapons. An army of women have moved to stop him by organising a peaceful blockade for 365 days at the Trident nuclear weapons base in Scotland. Joined by men, there have been relays of scores of academics, local councillors, and groups from all over Britain as well as Finland and Sweden joining the blockade. Hundreds have been arrested, the largest group, being early on the scene, was the **Quakers** from southern England.

Earning the headline “Knitting Grannies Arrested,” it was grandmothers who were in

the forefront of the campaign last October. There were around 60 at the main gate, listening to music, dancing, and knitting, as part of their three-day nuclear action.

One of the main organisers of the year-long campaign was a grandmother, **Angie Zelter** (now recruited into GFP). Writing for the left-wing political magazine "Red Pepper," she maintains that we can stop Trident. "Already the UK's refusal to implement the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty is undermining international law and encouraging proliferation. The continuing deployment of the Trident system and the commitment to its replacement will further blur the line between lawful defence and preparations for war crimes ... there is no way that a weapon of mass destruction such as the Trident system could ever be used in accordance with international law."



London, England:  
Jean Stead, GFP

Down in the south-west of England, on the border of Devon and Cornwall, the four submarines carrying the Trident missiles, leased from the US, go for their refits to Devonport dockyard. This is now privately owned by a subsidiary of Halliburton, the US firm of which Dick Cheney was a senior executive.

**Raymonde Dainton**, an active Grandmothers for Peace organiser in the south-west, has been working with others to win local support for the banishing of the nuclear-armed submarines from Devonport dockyard - a difficult job because of the thousands of workers employed there. Five years ago, when the first sub arrived, people were wary of talking to the protesters. Now, in the annual Lord Mayor's procession in the city of Plymouth where the dockyard is sited, banners carried stating "Trident is Terrorism" get cheers and claps from watching crowds.

Raymonde, in her eighties, is proud that she and others managed to succeed in getting the Lord Mayor of Exeter, the leading Devonshire city, to sign the affirmation against nuclear weapons started by the Mayor of Hiroshima. Now it has been signed by hundreds of mayors throughout the world. After negotiations with the local council, they have been able

to plant a commemorative cherry tree with a brass plaque, next to the civic centre.

Perhaps when Tony Blair goes, Trident may be quietly on its way out too. We can hope. (E-mail: jeanstead@hotmail.com)

Fairbanks, Alaska

**Bryson Dean**

We have an active peace community here in Fairbanks. **Grandmothers for Peace, Fairbanks**, had a presence at the **SOAWatch** demonstration, Nov. 17-19, 2007, to answer the call for 1,000 Grandmothers. Grandmothers **Nancy Gowen and Bryson Dean** are pictured with 1,000 Grandmothers in the photo display in "Sojourners" magazine.

Hopes are high that legislation to close the school may pass this year. It became so much clearer after a weekend in Columbus, GA, at Ft. Benning, with educational seminars, meetings, protests, and a sacred ceremony to remember the murdered and disappeared, that strategies need to focus toward changes in legislation as a means of righting some of the wrongs.

Currently, we are researching the issue of depleted uranium and the need for Alaska to pass a law, as some other states have, to give returning service members who have been exposed to depleted uranium the right to be tested and counseled. Grandmothers published a letter to the editor encouraging this and quoting some military policies that purport to do this. We are now moving along in gathering data and will propose that the Alaska State Legislature introduce and pass a bill similar to that which passed in Connecticut and Louisiana.

**Suzanne Osborn** represented us in the "Peace Surge" rally January 27 in Washington, DC. January 11, 2007, we hosted a showing of the "Road to Guantanamo" at the **Alaska Peace Center**.



Suzanne Osborn, DC  
rally, January 27, 2007.

(E-mail: brysondean@acsalaska.net)

San Jose, CA

**MJ Marumoto**

Since October 2006, I have been able to assist the **Alaska Peace Center with their GI Rights Hotline program**. They needed a phone link between the continental United States and Fairbanks, Alaska. **Bryson Dean**, a GFP member, and **Alison Carter** of the hotline staff, both in Fairbanks, made known

the need to our Director. Lorraine sent out the word to everyone on her list. When I got the message, I knew I could provide that link, as I had an unused line at home.

Getting the link established was a challenge. Being technologically impaired, I had difficulty understanding the complexities of the service set-up process, but Alison was helpful and patient with me. Once established, the system has been working well, and their agency pays the phone bill. My phone automatically forwards calls from Oakland to Fairbanks. I'm so pleased to be able to provide this communication link for clients of the GI Rights Hotline!

*(Note from Lorraine: When I received this message from Bryson in Alaska, it was titled something like "off the wall request." I sent it out, with a little raised eyebrow, and I have to tell you, within a couple hours MJ Marumoto in San Jose, CA, said she could do this! We are an amazing bunch of connections and help!)*

Nevada City, California

**Shirley McDonald**

**The Nevada County (California) Grandmothers for Peace chapter** has been busy this past year:

\* started a "Grammy's Story Time" one Saturday a month at the local library where stories are read to 3-6 year-olds (from a rocking chair, of course) with themes about cooperation, making friends, diversity, problem-solving, etc.

\* hosted **Sharon Mehdi** with a reading of her book "The Great Silent Grandmother" at a local bookstore.

\* marched in both the Nevada City's 4th of July Parade, and the Constitution Day Parade (Sept. 10) carrying our messages for peace on open umbrellas. This has become another of our trademarks (along with rocking chairs and cookie give-aways). It is so utilitarian to keep off sun or rain and they fold up so handily to carry!

\* displayed a message of peace (in the form of paid advertising) on the back of our local city bus. The message of "PEACE: Imagine It, Live It, Teach It" has the Peace Center's phone number, our local e-mail address, and travels around town like a HUGE bumper sticker. Several people, who aren't associated with GFP, have come forward with donations to contribute to the \$75 monthly rent.



\* "infiltrated" the Nevada County Fair with entries that had messages of peace incorpo-

rated into knitted or crocheted items, poems, paintings, and collages. Even the photo of our sign on the back of the bus was an entry in the photography section. We also shared a booth at the Fair with our local **Peace Center, the Veterans For Peace, and Healthcare For All.**

\* picketed and gave out "Opt Out" forms in front of our local high school during the first three days of school. Several of our GFP are continuing, along with others from the Peace Center and Veterans For Peace, to have a counter-recruitment table on a weekly basis on the lunch quad at the high school.

\* exhibited an "altar" at the Nevada County Altar Show, which was mainly a rocking chair with a side table. Our statement was from the perspective of someone remembering "My grandmother was a peace activist," plus there were photos of peace marches, letters written to lawmakers, along with "grandmotherly" things like her knitting and a cup of tea.

\* displayed, for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year, an informational table in front of our local K-Mart for the five Saturdays of the holiday season. Sitting in our rocking chair, we gave out home-made cookies and suggestions for creative and cooperative, rather than violent, toys to shoppers.

Wow! It's great to see a summary of the entire year all together so we can see that the little things do add up, and to feel like we are *creating a world of peace for this, and future, generations!* Love to all, Shirley  
(E-mail: grannies4peace@hotmail.com)

Sacramento, California

Ellen Broms

**Sacramento Grandmothers for Peace** have been participating in the "Peace In" at our Congresswoman Matsui's office since Jan. 16, 2007. We are in our fourth week with no end in sight. The "Peace In" is an activity of the **Sacramento Coalition to End the War.**



Left: Zohreh M. Whitaker, GFP, whose son is in Iraq, Kathleen Saffin Schultz, GFP, and Cindy Sheehan at the Sacramento Federal Building supporting the Peace-In at Rep. Doris Matsui's office, January 22, 2007.

Even though Rep. Doris Matsui opposes the war and President Bush's plan to send more troops, she is reluctant to vote against spending bills that fund the war. At this time she has taken an important first step in supporting legislation that prohibits the use of funds for an increase in

troops, however, the Coalition seeks a pledge from Rep. Matsui to vote "no" on supplemental funding for the continued U.S. occupation of Iraq.



Ellen Broms represents GFP at the ongoing "Peace In" at Representative Doris Matsui's Sacramento office. Thank you, Ellen.

The Bush administration plans to request more than **\$100 billion of additional funding** to continue and to escalate the immoral and destructive military presence in Iraq. The Coalition wants the troops home now and understands that there is enough money already appropriated to do that.

GFP has been a member of the Coalition since it's inception in 2004. The first Coalition action was to lobby the Sacramento City Council members to develop a resolution to withdraw U.S. troops and bases from Iraq. That Resolution passed in November, 2005.

Another action was a campaign to inform students and parents about their rights under the "No Child Left Behind Law." This law provides the choice of "opting out" of allowing military recruiters to gain personal student contact by signing a form and submitting it to the school administration. Again GFP was instrumental in this action because the GFP "Opt Out" leaflet (see www.grandmothersforpeace.org) was used as a model by the Coalition.



Sacramento GFP Marjorie Boehm, left, Lorraine Krofchok, Diane Bader, and Sheila Compton at Arden Fair Mall to protest the proposed troop surge, January 27, 2007.

Indiana-Kentucky-Illinois

Patricia Galbraith

The following statement was presented to Representative Brad Ellsworth (Indiana):

*America is four years into a war based on lies and manipulation. Members of the 109<sup>th</sup> Congress gave the Bush administration a wink and a nod by way of a blank check for war. Congress cannot wash its hands of this debacle. Excuses such as: "We would never have voted for the war ..." is as dead in the water as our 3,000 plus veterans who gave up life for what the Bush Congress did. Twenty-five thou-*

*sand of our veterans wounded – some so seriously that what life is left for them and their families will not be what they might have once dreamed. Who knows the real number of Iraqis that have died, including the number of women and children? For what, Congressman Ellsworth? For what?*

*No one has yet given us a good enough reason to continue funding what's now a definite blood bath in a country we have shattered for a hand full of BIG oil conglomerates.*

*Grandmothers for Peace, Tri-State Chapter, stands in strong opposition to Bush's so-called 'surge.' Some of us are old enough to remember the Viet Nam surges and where they left the country. Some of us are smart enough to recognize manipulation and deception when we read, hear, and see it. Some of us are wise enough to predict what the outcome will be not only for Iraq, but for America too. This is why we call on you today, Congressman Ellsworth, to take a strong stand against funding more death and destruction. Millions of dollars were spent during the November election to make a change in Congress – to have a strong voice in the future funding of war. You are part of that change.*

*We are asking – no, we are begging you to co-sponsor and support H.R. 508, the "Bring the Troops Home and Iraqi Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2007."*

*A truly comprehensive piece of legislation, H.R. 508 would also do the following:*

- authorize U.S. support for replacing U.S. troops and contractors with an international stabilization force
- prohibit any permanent U.S. military bases in Iraq
- accelerate U.S. troop and contractor assistance for training of a permanent Iraqi police force
- authorize a wide array of non-military U.S. bilateral and multilateral assistance for reconstruction and reconciliation in Iraq, including a compensation fund for Iraqi noncombatant civilian casualties
- guarantee complete health care for U.S. veterans of military operations in Iraq and other conflicts.

*Keep in mind, Congressman Ellsworth, that the only way the war in Viet Nam was stopped was because Congress took a stand and withheld funding. For the sake of our children and grandchildren,*

restore some sanity to America through what you can do for peace and justice.

Respectfully yours,  
Patricia Galbraith (ret. RN), Representative, Tri-State Chapter, Grandmothers for Peace, International  
Evansville, IN 47725



The Tri-State GFP Chapter and other groups line a busy street in Evansville, Indiana, to protest the proposed troop surge, January 27, 2007.

Anderson, Indiana

Christie Stephens

Members of **Indiana Chapter Grandmothers for Peace** recently attended speeches in Anderson by **Sister Helen Prejean**, peace activist and author of “Dead Man Walking.” Sister Prejean spoke clearly against the death penalty and the great injustices within the justice system. She also spoke firmly and prophetically against the war on Iraq.

We continue our regular meetings, peace rallies, letters to editors, senators, representatives, support of the food bank and other peace activities.

As our gift this holiday season, we chose to support **Grandmothers for Peace Inter-**



Indiana Chapter GFP Norma Abbey, back left, and her three generations for peace family. Peace Rally, City Building, Anderson, Indiana, January 27, 2007.

**national’s scholarship program.** We believe that education is the way, the path to peace.  
(E-mail: ecstephens1@aol.com)

Washington

Susan Gual

Dear GFP, Hope? A word I have not felt for a long time. I participate with a group that is protesting the war - meet on a street corner once a week. We are being heard, keep going sisters.

Peace to all, Susan, Eastern Washington State Contact, E-mail: nimnal2@yahoo.com

Sun City West, Arizona

Ordell Nelson

**Grandmothers for Peace of Phoenix West Valley** have been demonstrating against the Iraq war since 2003, and our ranks have steadily grown to nearly one hundred. Twelve to fifteen members regularly meet along the area’s main thoroughfare, although as many as twenty-five may stand together or sit with signs advocating peace.



Grandmothers for Peace of Phoenix West Valley at their favorite street corner with their new, big sign, January 20, 2007.

As our weather has cooled, so have the passersby’s tempers at our demonstrations. There’s been a definite increase in supportive honks, ‘thumbs up’ and clapping, and a welcome decrease in ‘the finger’ and ‘thumbs down’ gestures.

In an effort to simplify our publicity, we have changed our demonstration schedule from every other Saturday to the first and third Saturdays. We are continuing our demonstration time of 9:30 – 11 am until it gets intolerably hot — then we hope to start earlier.

As a member of the **End The War** coalition, Grandmothers For Peace co-sponsor demonstrations across the Phoenix valley. In August 2006, we joined a large demonstration at Cheney’s \$500/plate fundraiser; cosponsored an October 2006 Town Meeting for “End the Occupation of Iraq.”

January 1, 2007, we held a vigil for the 3,000<sup>th</sup> U.S. military death in Iraq.

**American Friends** Service Committee’s “Eyes Wide Open” exhibit is coming to Phoenix in February. Quoting from their in-

formation, this exhibit “... features a pair of boots honoring each U.S. military casualty, a field of shoes and a Wall of Remembrance to memorialize the Iraqis killed in the conflict, and a multimedia display exploring the history, cost and consequences of the war.” Nine of our demonstrators will be volunteering at one of the exhibits. It’s a natural for us to be involved with “Eyes Wide Open.”

We finally have a large Grandmothers for Peace sign made it out of a white plastic table cloth and black duct tape. Now, there’s no doubt who we are!

(E-mail: grandmothersforpeace@cox.net)

Walnut Creek, California

Nancy Landfield

Several members of **Grandparents for Peace and Justice at Rossmoor** retirement community have been actively involved in the installation of the crosses on the hill overlooking Lafayette, CA. It is on private property and to date there are 1,300 crosses, some Star of Davids, and emblems of other religions including Islam and Buddhism.

A candlelight vigil was held New Year’s Eve marking the 3,000<sup>th</sup> U.S. military death in Iraq. A large sign at the crest of the hill shows the tally and is updated weekly. The **Gold Star Mothers of the Bay Area** held a vigil at the hill on Sunday, January 6, 2007, and read the names of the 300 Bay Area soldiers who died.

Events at the hill are being covered not only by local TV stations and papers, but also by the New York Times, by other US papers, and by papers in Britain, Europe and Brazil.

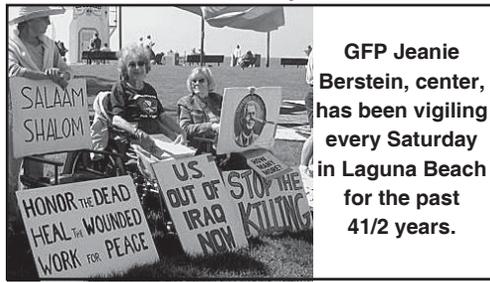
Soon after the display went up, the sign was torn down, crosses were knocked, over and a public hearing (packed house) was held in Lafayette. The purpose of the hearing was to determine if the display was legal and to question the size of the sign which is visible from the freeway. Most of the response was very positive with a few objections from those who felt the display did not honor or support the troops. There have been no further objections from the city fathers and the plan of course is for the crosses to remain, with more to be added as needed until the troops leave Iraq.

We members of GPF&J continue to voice our opposition to the occupation by going to Livermore Lab to hear about the proposed revamping of nuclear weapons, by attending rallies and gatherings, and by lobbying our congress persons, especially regarding the proposed surge in troops to be sent to Iraq.

The Friday afternoon vigils outside of Rossmoor are well attended with much vigorous honking by those driving past.

(E-mail: unclnan80@comcast.net)

Southern California



**GFP Jeanie Bernstein, center, has been vigiling every Saturday in Laguna Beach for the past 41/2 years.**

Superior, Wisconsin



**Ft. Benning, GA: Northland GFP at the SOAWatch demonstration, November 17-19, 2007**

**Thank You, Peace Activists**

From Paula Woodward, Sacramento, Calif.



Now that the elections are over, I've wept tears of relief, and thanked the Lord many, many times. However, it has occurred to me that I, along with many others, have neglected to credit the people who deserve it the most.

While Karl Rove blames loss of The House and The Senate on "The War," and Rahm Emanuele gives himself credit for the Democratic candidates wins, I want to give **Thanks to the Peace Activists who had the personal courage and moral integrity to stand up and to declare the war in Iraq is wrong.**

If it weren't for the brave efforts of GFP members and other peace organizations acting as America's conscience, the public would still be under the false impression that support for the troops equals support for the war, that calling for peace equates hatred of America, and that anyone who opposes Bush's war policies must be a communist, Godless hippie.

At times it felt futile and was often dangerous. Many were scorned by friends, family, co-workers, and even thrown out of their church.

In the end you prevailed. November 8, 2006, **YOU** shook America awake—one street corner, one community center, one person at a time. Thank-You from the bottom of my heart. America is a better place today and has a brighter future ... because of you.

# DIRECTOR'S NOTES

It is because of you, me, us, "**We the People**" that Grandmothers for Peace is 25-years old—a quarter of a century! We have been dedicated in our goal for a better, safer world for the future. Grandmothers are the "protectors" of the world's children, not just our own. Grandmothers for Peace was unique 25 years ago and other Grannie groups have spontaneously developed over time, especially now during this immoral war.

We have many new members since our founder **Barbara Wiedner** passed away in December 2001. Our history is rich and we have been involved in numerous peace and justice issues. Our roots go back to nuclear weapons on a military base near Sacramento. The nuclear issue is still before us, more dangerous than ever. Our outstanding shirts point to that each time we wear them!

The war in Iraq has filled our time and energy. Please read about the many actions that people are doing—don't miss the San Jose report! Additionally, **Pat Carmody** has a newly-formed Chapter in Santa Clarita, CA. Ten Grandmothers had a vigil on a busy corner and made the front page of their local newspaper! (Contact Pat at [pattyc@thevine.net](mailto:pattyc@thevine.net)). **Flo Weber** continues to work in the Southern CA area and supported Pat at this vigil, along with long time member, **Terry Koenig** a former WWII nurse there with her husband **Bob**.



**Flo Weber, left, with visiting Lorraine Krofchok, after Flo's weekly vigil across from the local farmer's market in Calabassas.**

And, in the past few weeks a large group of various Grandmother groups went to Washington, DC, to speak with Congress. We have all had enough of this war and are war weary.

Grandmothers have marched, have been to the gates of Ft. Benning, have risked arrest (some now going to prison), have protested at recruiting stations, are staging "peace-ins" at Congressional offices, writing letters, and calling and trying to bring our loved ones home. Each of us has "someone" in Iraq. They are all our young people—**each one is ours!**

Recently, I read an article in the San Francisco Chronicle about a family displaying

casualty numbers and crosses on their hillside property. Some people were offended. (See report in News, Walnut Creek group, page 6). The courage to do this so moved me that I immediately wrote a letter to the Chronicle, which they published:



*People are offended by the crosses in Lafayette? Why are they not offended by the war that has created this memorial? Would they like to be more offended? Let them take a trip down to Santa Monica or Santa Barbara and see all the crosses on the beach. Maybe it will awaken people to the realization that real people are dying and it does not get solved by putting a magnetic sticker on the back of your vehicle.*

*I have a memorial of sorts in front of my home. It is a white board with the number of casualties written in that I change almost daily. One day when I went out the board had been erased. I guess if you erase it the deaths do not exist? People all over the country should be setting up displays to remind people of this immoral war and the mess this administration has created over there.*

**ACTION!** Write (post cards are best because of the anthrax scare) and call Congress—continually. Demand an end to this war, stop the funding, stop the escalation, seek international help, bring the troops home! This occupation is a mess. Go to their offices and sit until someone speaks to you! **YOU** are their constituents and you should be able to walk in and talk to someone without an appointment. Point this out to them! Leave something with them: a statement, a short message, list the casualty numbers, list names and addresses of others (with their permission) who are supporting this action, print out the graphics of our "little soldiers" from the last newsletter, or get an update from me.



**"We the People" have the voices—let's use them!**

*Peace to all of us, Lorraine*

**U.S. Military Deaths: 3,126  
Cost of War: \$366,075,165,421**

## IRAQ: AN EXIT STRATEGY

Americans have been so traumatized by the issue of terrorism and politicians so scared of being thought to be “soft on terrorism” that no really serious proposals on the “in or out” issue can be put forward. Thomas L. Friedman in his article entitled “10 Months in Ten Years,” November 30<sup>th</sup>, says that “all the proposals of how to solve the problem seem laughable.” This is probably because most of the debate is in military terms. Even he suggests that “either we crush the dark forces and rebuild, or we leave.” Is that really a realistic strategy?

The women’s organization I belong to in Greece – Center for Research and Action on Peace – has had a long time connection with Iraqi women, working together for years on topics concerning equality and peace. As an organization that promotes the concept of resolving conflict without the use of violence, we have been devastated by the developments in that country since the US declared war on it, watching as we did the downward spiral into confusion, chaos and total destruction.

Instead of looking at this as a military problem, let’s look at it as a human problem. What do the Iraqi people want? They want first of all stability, security and peace. This means the Americans out, the return of their sovereignty, the control of their oil and the reconstruction of their country, its water system, electrical system, health system, education system. They want their jobs and careers back.

Given these needs, the first step the Americans can take is to announce a date of total withdrawal which will be flexible depending on the amount of violence each day prior to

that date. A day without violence will shorten by one day the date of withdrawal. A day with violence will add a day to the departure date. Meanwhile the US government will provide a large sum of money for reconstruction to be matched by funds from Arab states and hopefully EU countries to be deposited in a bank account and put under the control of a special consortium chosen by the UN. The consortium will be obliged to accept bids for reconstruction projects within a short given period of time from pre-determined areas, primarily Arab, and according to the percentage of money given by each state. American companies, no matter what amount of money given by the US cannot share more than 20% of the contracts. The oil, however, which will be put under control of the Iraqi government, will be sold at a reduced price to the US.

This should be an offer that the warring parties cannot refuse. It puts into Iraqi hands the possibility to end civil strife and start the rebuilding process. For the Iraqis it requires unity, perseverance and cooperation. For the Americans it requires pragmatism, generosity and guts. It will improve the lives of the Iraqis and improve the image of the United States. It is, I believe, a realistic solution.

Margarita Papandreou,

E-mail: mpap@ath.forthnet.gr

*(Ed: Dear Lorraine, congratulations on all of your fantastic anti-war actions of the past year. It showed perseverance and courage.*

*I think “Iraq An Exit Strategy” is the first real proposal that gives consideration to the human condition in Iraq, and also to the miserable affect this whole war has had on the image of America. Actions like the ones I have proposed could hopefully stop the violence, but would also redeem in some fashion the reputation of the U.S. Grandma Margarita)*

*(Margarita is the Former First Lady of Greece)*

## One Little Button

By Rita Ague



This morning [October 30, 2006] my husband and I went to downtown Colorado Springs to the El Paso county’s polling place to vote early. This building, Centennial Hall, primarily serves as the county’s offices for Clerk and Recorder.

One of the clerks in the office noticed that I was wearing my GFP button, the one with the logo, and asked me to leave the building because it might interfere with the voting. A second clerk was asked and she didn’t see a problem with the button.

I refused to leave and asked to see the County Clerk. On the way to his office I quickly dropped my completed absentee ballot into the box. He also stated I had to leave because the button might remind people about the war in Iraq and the stands the candidates take on it. He called security and an officer escorted me from the building.

None of the city, county or state referendums concerned war, peace or Iraq. The only national item on the ballot was a set of candidates to take Joel Hefley’s seat in the House of Representatives.

(Ed: Photo courtesy of The Gazette (Colorado Springs, Colorado) who published Rita’s story/photo October 31, 2006; an Editorial supporting Rita’s right to wear her GFP button at the polling place was published November 2, 2006.)

### No GFP POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS PERMITTED

**Although Grandmothers for Peace, as an organization or chapter, can not endorse any political candidate or group due to our non-profit status,**

**WE DO THANK EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS PEACE.**

## TODAY IS A GOOD DAY FOR PEACE

By Tricia Galbraith

Today is a good day for peace,  
When the old year is retiring,  
And a new year is teasing with hope and promise.

Today is a good day for peace,  
When the moon is round; the sea calm,  
And the children are still singing.

Today is a good day for peace,  
When the butcher smiles and says, “good-morning,”  
And the sweet bread is warm and mellow.

Today is a good day for peace,  
When bells in the church tower ring,  
And the neighbor next door tips his hat your way.

Today is a good day for peace,  
When the emergency rooms are empty,  
And the sky is full of grace.

Today is a good day for peace,  
When the first and last soldier empty their guns,  
and curse the impotent men who robbed them of  
Truth, justice, and dreams.

Today is a good day for peace.  
(Tricia is a GFP from Evansville, Indiana.)

In 1950, U.N. International Law Commission adopted the Nuremberg Principles. The basic premise of the principles is that no person, no matter what their office, stands above international law.

### Principle I

Any person who commits an act which constitutes a crime under international law is responsible therefore and liable to punishment.

### Principle II

The fact that internal law does not impose a penalty for an act which constitutes a crime under international law does not relieve the person who committed the act from responsibility under international law.

### Principle III

The fact that a person who committed an act which constitutes a crime under international law acted as Head of State or responsible Government official does not relieve him from responsibility under international law.

### Principle IV

The fact that a person acted pursuant to order of his Government or of a superior does not relieve him from responsibility under international law, provided a moral choice was in fact possible to him.

### Principle V

Any person charged with a crime under international law has the right to a fair trial on the facts and law.

### Principle VI

The crimes hereinafter set out are punishable as crimes under; international law:

#### a. Crimes against peace:

- i. Planning, preparation, initiation or waging of a war of aggression or a war in violation of international treaties, agreements or assurances;
- ii. Participation in a common plan or conspiracy for the accomplishment of any of the acts mentioned under (i).

#### b. War crimes:

Violations of the laws or customs of war which include, but are not limited to, murder, ill treatment or deportation to slave-labor or for any other purpose of civilian population of or in occupied territory, murder or ill treatment of prisoners of war, of persons on the seas, killing of hostages, plunder of public or private property, wanton destruction of cities, towns, or villages, or devastation not justified by military necessity.

#### c. Crimes against humanity:

Murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation and other inhuman acts done against any civilian population, or persecutions on political, racial or religious grounds, when such acts are done or such persecutions are carried on in execution of or in connection with any crime against peace or any war crime.

### Principle VII

Complicity in the commission of a crime against peace, a war crime, or a crime against humanity as set forth in Principles VI is a crime under international law.

## Jan Provost: Citizen of the Year - Superior, Wisconsin



Mayor Dave Ross presented Grandmother for Peace Jan Provost her award at his State of the City address, January 9, 2007, at the University of Wisconsin. His speech:

*"This Citizen award is presented to Jan Provost in recognition of your hard work and exemplary public service to the City of Superior. You have volunteered your time unselfishly and had more accomplishments than time would allow. You are known to friends and family as soft-hearted toward animals and people, the co-founder of the Northland Chapter of Grandmothers for Peace and probably best-known for the annual toy drive you helped launch 21 years ago. The Peaceful Toy Drive was created to give toys to children in need in the Twin Ports and to promote peaceful play. Toys are distributed to Loaves and Fishes in Duluth, CASDA in Superior and other organizations that distribute toys to children during the holidays.*

*Grandmothers for Peace was started by your late sister Barbara Wiedner in 1982, in Sacramento, CA. You started the Northland Chapter in 1983. You started with 3 members and now you have a membership of 90 plus, wonderful peace loving grandmothers. The main goal of the organization is to rid the world of nuclear weapons and supporting other Peace groups in their activities. This Chapter was instrumental in the closing of Navy's Project ELF in Northern Wisconsin. You continually protest wars around the world and encourage diplomacy.*

*Grandmothers for Peace Northland believes that peace begins at home and will*

*eventually spread throughout the world. You received the Wisconsin Peacemaker of the Year Award in 2001. Your friends describe you as, 'She really believes you get more flies with honey than with vinegar. She's extremely respectful and kind.'*

*Whether collecting toys or donations for the Grandmothers for Peace Scholarship, writing letters to the editor to promote peace, or welcoming friends into your cozy kitchen where pictures on your refrigerator reflect the loved ones who fill your life, you have managed to stay active and involved.*

*Grandmothers for Peace Northland grant monetary peace awards to local students involved in peace and social justice issues. You are also a member of the Superior Sister City Commission and have welcomed numerous Japanese friends into your house through the exchange program.*

*You have been active in your church, 4-H and school, as well as volunteering in your community. And, these days, in spite of Parkinson's disease, you still have not slowed down but devote much of your time taking care of your husband Ron.*

*Congratulations on receiving the Citizen Award and thank you for being such a great citizen."*

Jan shared her award with the Grannies telling them it wasn't about her, it was about them: "YOU make me look good!"



Jan Provost, left, MaryAnn Cashin, and Jean Kilgore at Jan's award ceremony.

## To my Grandchildren

To each and everyone of you I pledge that I will do all I can to make our world a safe place. I hope that you will never have to fight because the world leaders will have learned that we can solve problems by discussing and honoring differences between us.

May you know nothing but Peace in our country and around the world as you becomes adults and pass on to your families the goodness that lies in each and every person.

— Grandma Lane Willey  
2005



# What I saw in the Vietnam War Memorial Wall

By Rayilyn Brown



In August 1986, when I shot a slide of the Vietnam War Memorial Wall in Washington, D.C., for my students, I got the shock and lesson of my life.

All my years as a teacher of high school Advanced Placement classes in American, European and Art History, I had taught my students the interpretations of historical events, not just the facts.

Bringing the past to life is as important as analysis in helping students connect with the eternal struggles of the human race, most of which are wars. So, with great enthusiasm I was with Scipio Africanus destroying Carthage, Julius Caesar conquering the Gauls, and the Crusaders in the Holy Land.

In the New World, I was at Bunker Hill and Yorktown, and in the Mexican War with future Civil War generals. It is estimated that 23,000 Union and Confederate soldiers died on one bloody day at Antietam, Maryland.

My enthusiasm began to wane with the Spanish-American War, a "splendid little war" with more deaths from disease than battle. Since this war was designed to distract the country from internal problems, I wondered whether the policy of "my country right or wrong" was really right.

The United States Civil War ushered in colossal body counts because of the industrialization of warfare. This more lethal combat blossomed in World War I, the "Great War" to end all wars and to make the world safe for democracy. One million men died at Verdun alone, "The Front" in France. I haven't been there, but it is said you still can see pieces of bone and metal on this battlefield.

In World War II, 25-million people died in Russia alone, but I wasn't there. My German neighbor's brother was and he took a bullet in

the forehead. In my AP classes we argued the pros and cons of our government's decision to drop not one, but TWO atomic bombs on Japan as payback for Pearl Harbor and to end the war quickly.

By mid-century we were not through with war, we were just getting started. The world was not safe for democracy. The Korean War took the lives of many young Americans of my generation and basically ended in a draw.

During the Vietnam War, I struggled to know what to say when writing to one of my former students who spoke of any place outside of Nam as "the world." I hated this war, but did not join those unpatriotic hippies protesting it. Even my dog barked at them because they didn't look right to her.

War protests were long forgotten in August 1986 when I aimed my camera at the Vietnam War Memorial Wall. It is surprisingly shiny. I was stunned to confront my own reflection drawing me into the monument among the names of the dead who had died in vain and were asking me why I didn't do anything to stop this senseless, stupid war. I will never forget that sight of my own responsibility.

I am speaking now to oppose the Second Iraqi War because I have seen the "enemy." And that enemy is *the crime of silence in the face of war*. I ask you to look into the mirror of your soul before you answer the call to arms. Leo Tolstoy questioned it so eloquently in his essay at the end of his great work "War and Peace."

Shall history repeat itself? The answer is up to you and you don't have to be a history teacher to get it right ... this time.

(Ed: GFP Rayilyn Brown, 71, has Parkinson's disease and has had two surgeries to help control her tremors. She drives short distances and joins with Grandmothers for Peace regularly to demonstrate from a seat on her walker.)

# FUTURE



Grandma Lynn, Finley, Keely, husband Dave, and son Dave with his wife Amanda



Sean and Liam, grandsons of Rita Ague



Erika, granddaughter of Jeanne Norris



Grandchildren of Corine and Nate Thornton



Hawk with his mother Becky and Grandmother Bernice Kring



Luca, grandson of Germana Nijim



Evan, grandson of Myrna Seto



Norma Abbey, back left, and her three generations for peace family

## THINGS TO KNOW

Dallas, Texas  
July 10-15, 2007

You are invited to change the world



The purpose of the Women's Peace Conference is to "empower peacemakers" through education, networking, interactive workshops and peace skills seminars, such as mediation and negotiation. Women from all over the world are invited to speak of their lives and their work for peace in their own countries.

Three Nobel Laureates, as well as many other amazing women, are among the speakers.

Contact: [www.womenspeaceconference.org](http://www.womenspeaceconference.org)

Sacramento, California  
August 25, 2007, 9:30 am

Women's Equality Day Parade

This second annual statewide parade at the Capitol features displays, vendors, and outreach to women. Portray historical women, or dress up as suffragettes and march to celebrate having won the vote, reclaiming rights won and lost, and moving forward toward real equality.

Contact: [www.womenequalityparade.com](http://www.womenequalityparade.com)

**"Her writing ... reminds us that dissent is what rescues democracy from a quiet death behind closed doors."**

— Lewis Lapham, former editor of Harper's Magazine, in eulogy of Molly Ivins

# Grandmothers for Peace

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2/2007

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It is important that President Bush, key people in his Administration, and members of Congress hear from you 

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