

“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

February 2005

Founded 1982

Happy New Year - We're still Here

I've Got To Take Back My Country

By Joan Wile

The caribbean cruise will have to wait
The bridge club is on hold
It happens i've a very full plate
So i've no time for growing old

I've got to take back my country
And i've got no time to waste
Because we're facing catastrophe
The worst we've ever faced.

I've got to take back my country
Find out where it went
Its principles are a mockery
And its promise has been spent
I see the children's hopeful eyes
I wonder what they have in store
Will a tyrant's lies
Have them trapped in endless war
The young ones all count on me
To fix things where we've failed
I can't allow their futures to be
Needlessly derailed.

I always thought i'd make the world a better place
And i would settle snugly in my rocking chair
Today i find i'd leave behind a tarnished space
With ever-rising poverty, pollution and despair.

The kids are dying
Far away in foreign lands
I must keep on trying
Their lives are in my hands
In the time that's left to me
I'll continue to strive
To take back my country
As long as i'm alive!
Save our children
Save our city
Save our country
Save our plaaaaan-et!!

(Ed: See pg. 2, New York.)



Superior, Wisconsin, GFP: Jan, Dorothy, Katie, and Karen celebrate closing of Project ELF, September 30, 2004.



Elk Grove, California, GFP at the Candlelight Vigil, September 9, 2004, to honor the 1,000 American Soldiers killed in Iraq.



Grass Valley/Nevada City, California, GFP: Mary Liebke, left, Leal Portis, Shirley McDonald, Claudette Paige distribute "No War Toys" information at K-Mart.



Anderson, Indiana, GFP: left, Christie Stephens, Lois Rockhill, Norma Abby, Juanita Leonard, Dondenna Caldwell, Sandra Clark, Nancy Hoffman, Gail Smith, Kay Shively with donated food for Second Harvest Food Bank.



Loretta Schmitz, Sacramento, CA, vigils weekly.



Lil Corrigan, Marietta, GA, joins 16,000 Activists at SOA Protest, Fort Benning, GA, Nov. 20-21, 2004.



Nate Thornton, left, Corine Thornton, Fr. Roy Bourgeois, Bryan Krofchok, Lorraine Krofchok in Stockton, California, September 2004, for Fr. Roy's SOA presentation.

GFPI CHAPTER ACTIONS

FROM COAST TO COAST AND BEYOND

Superior, Wisconsin *Janet Provost*

After 20 years of spending my Mother's Day with strangers, I can finally stay home with my family!

For the past twenty years, members of **GFP Northland Chapter** have been making a two-hour journey deep into the north woods. We were on a quest (along with hundreds of others) to close down the Navy's "first strike" trigger which connected to many nuclear subs lying in wait, deep in the ocean.

This "trigger" was named Project ELF, which sounds innocent enough, doesn't it? This system (costing \$400 million) was built as a way for missile-packed submarines to stay hidden and undetected, giving us an edge over the Soviet Union

Our main objection was that ELF was obsolete and costing taxpayers too much money - money that could be spent on humanitarian needs.

Hundreds of people have served prison time because they "crossed the line," climbed the fence or cut down transmission poles over these many years. Some are still waiting for sentencing.

On Thursday, September 30, 2004, the Navy shut down this monster!!!! We were stunned!! We were all elated!! We gathered at the site on that day with Geiger counters in hand just to make sure it was true. Except for birds singing,, the forest was quiet, the transmitter silent.

We hugged each other, cried, rejoiced and went to the gates and shook hands with local law enforcement. They said they would miss us, but the fact is they will lose their jobs. For that we feel bad, but somehow they will survive.

I will miss those strangers who seem like family to me now. Although there is a feeling of accomplishment for all of us, we are not naive enough to think the Navy bowed completely to our pressure. They do have newer ways of doing "business." However, I can't help but think that we were a thorn in their side.

This day will remain a glorious memory. We brought a cake and they left the handcuffs at home!

Surprise, Arizona *Nancy Caddick*

Last Saturday 20 concerned grandmas

and grandpas held a peaceful demonstration near Wal-Mart in Surprise. **It was a successful first effort.** The local newspaper covered the story - I was interviewed and told them I was inspired by the ongoing vigil of the New York-based Grandmothers for Peace whose slogan is: "*The Grandmas won't go home, until the troops come home.*"

We received more positive responses and a few very vocal negative remarks. Our focus was on the women, for it will be women who will make a difference. We bear the children - we need to support those children.

I did have a confrontation with the manager of Wal-Mart. He stated he sympathized with our cause but asked us to leave or he would call the police. There were customers who told him, "*If the grandmas go, I won't shop here again.*"

After a brief and polite discussion with the police officer, I asked that the Wal-Mart Security cart escort us to the sidewalk as a protection from the traffic. The sidewalk is located beside a busy highway and we continued our demonstration for another hour. Many cars honked and gave us the thumbs up. Of course, a few motioned the other way.

Most of the women had never been in a demonstration or protest and said it felt good to let their feelings out in such a way. We all wanted to do it again in two weeks regardless of who was elected. So, we have started.

New York City, New York *Joan Wile*

Grandmothers Against the War, the New York City affiliate of Grandmothers for Peace International, continues to hold their weekly vigil in front of Rockefeller Plaza. During this Christmas season we are competing with the giant Christmas tree which stands near us, but that just means more people than ever walk by and see us.

We continue to get an enormous amount of positive feedback from passersby, both domestic and foreign. Recently, a man walking by came over and kissed all 21 of us on the cheek.

Our group has gotten quite a bit bigger - we rarely have less than 15 and often go over 20! Also, our reputation seems to be growing, because now people come to the

vigil who none of us know - they just heard about it somewhere, somehow.

We also participated in other actions. November 11, we were part of a group protesting in front of Hillary Clinton's office building in response to her statement about the "necessity of fighting in Falluja to bring stability to Iraq." Later that day, we participated in a candlelight service at Columbus Circle, a popular tourist location, where we read the names of Iraqi and "coalition" dead.

But, we have fun, too. We now have a vocal group, the **New York Granny Chicks**, who have been busy performing at various peace meetings, political rallies (Democrats, of course), and the monthly Theatres Against the War FREEDOM FOLLIES shows at various off-Broadway theatres. We don't want to brag, but we are a huge hit whenever we perform!

(*Editor: The NYGCs perform material written by singer-songwriter Joan Wile.*)

Columbia, Maryland *Deborah Matherly*

The Maryland Chapter of Grandmothers for Peace was formed in early 2003. Not all of us are grandmothers, but close (great aunts, etc.) We meet the third Sunday of the month at Owen Brown Interfaith Center in Columbia to have great conversations, talk about our exploits, and make plans for more!

We are open to all who share our vision of peace, not war, to resolve conflict. Nevertheless, we support our children and grandchildren serving our country in the armed forces. We are saddened by the election results; however, we knew going in, that whoever won, we would have our work cut out for us.

We believe that we can make the world the kind of place we want for our children, grandchildren and future generations. We are active on many fronts and support each other's pursuit of peace and justice.

One of our members has been a leading spokesperson in the state, working to protect our right to vote and to have our votes counted. We have participated in many demonstrations both as individuals and as a group. We routinely work with a coalition of community activists groups to strengthen all of our voices.

◆ PLEASE SEE CHAPTER NEWS, PAGE 3

Our chapter has sponsored film presentations at a local library every month: screenings included "Uncovered," "Poetry in Wartime," "Outfoxed," "Highjacking 9/11," and "Oh What a Lovely War." At various times we have led "tabling" efforts outside libraries to distribute literature or publish events.

We regularly participate in community events, establishing a highly visible presence by handing out balloons imprinted with "Grandmothers for Peace" or "Elevate Peace" (with a dove) as well as distributing literature, buttons, and bumper stickers. Some of our members are great at writing letters to elected officials and newspapers. We also have harnessed our talents in creating and producing art and music in the cause of peace.

Recently, we completed a full one-hour CD: "**Waging Peace for Children and Other Living Things.**" June Martyn from our group, a former executive radio producer at Greenpeace, spent months of planning and weeks of concentrated effort in a labor of love producing the CD at a local studio - the Chicken Coop in Fulton, Maryland.

Production and creative works were donated; proceeds will go to **Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders** and other non-profit groups.

(Editor: Please see pg. 10 for more CD information.)

Anderson, Indiana

Lois Rockhill

Our Indiana Chapter made "**Food for a Hungry World**" our peace project for the holiday season. Our focus was two-fold: contributions to the local **Second Harvest Food Bank** and to the **Heifer International** project which assists hungry people worldwide.

Members volunteered at Second Harvest Food Bank and donated peanut butter, tuna and ham as well as funds to provide food for 900 additional meals. We also volunteered at a food bank fund raiser, "**Tips for Hungry Lips**" at the Texas Road House.

We also gave money to the Heifer project to purchase two goats and two flocks of chickens. These will be sent to third world countries to assist people in their efforts to become self-sufficient. The goats provide milk and the chickens' eggs provide much needed protein for malnourished children.

(Editor: More information about Heifer International: <http://www.heifer.org/>)

Grass Valley/Nevada City

Shirley McDonald

Our GFP chapter was formed in March 2004. Local, individual GFP members tabled at the "Gather the Women" conference held on "Women's Day" and attracted 23 interested women.

Initially, we had low attendance at our meetings, but after 4-5 monthly meetings we began to focus on voter registration. This focused activity, rather than just a meeting, brought people out. In the fall, we became an official affinity group of the **Peace Center of Nevada County**. Holding our monthly meetings in the PCNC office increased our visibility to others in the peace community and we started having more involvement at our meetings.

For three days after Thanksgiving and every Saturday until Christmas, we had a "**No War Toys**" information table in front of K-Mart. We wore apron-shaped "sandwich" boards with our message on them, we sat in a rocking chair and handed out free cookies (so people would stop long enough for us to give them our printed information), and we had photos of our grandchildren displayed on the information table.

We make a point of not being viewed as "protesting" or "boycotting." K-Mart permits only two different community groups out front at any given time so customers aren't hassled by so many people asking them to donate/buy goods/adopt puppies, etc.

People's response to us was great. We got a front page article in the newspaper, four radio interviews, and coverage on the evening news. Next year we would like to expand our "No War Toys" effort to include contacting the stores' managers with our informational literature **BEFORE THEY PUT IN THEIR CHRISTMAS ORDERS**. This might prevent the toys from even coming into the stores.

We will be one of the sponsoring groups participating in the "**Season of Non-Violence**," the 64 days between January 30th and April 4th, the anniversaries of the deaths of Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King. We haven't figured out yet what we will do to contribute, but we are such a creative and enthusiastic group of women; we'll come up with something wonderful!

Geneva, Switzerland

Susan Tiberghien

Greetings to all from a Grandmother for Peace in Geneva, Switzerland. The election deception remains bitter here in Europe as

in the States. It is all the more important to plant seeds of peace wherever we are - for our grandchildren, for a more peaceful tomorrow.

I do not have an article to contribute, just lots of appreciation for all that you are doing, and for the presence of all us grandmothers around the world. We will continue to stand for peace and justice. It is more important than ever. With love, Susan

Hayward, California

Corine Thornton

The Hayward Grandmothers for Peace worked in conjunction with local peace and justice groups to help two Bay Area activists to travel to Ft. Benning, GA, for the SOA protest this year. We also participated at the annual August event at Livermore and attended various anti-war demonstrations.

We continue to keep ourselves informed and educated at seminars, meetings, and gatherings of the peace and justice community.

Las Vegas, Nevada

Norma Price

We are sort of like the walking wounded here in Las Vegas. Grandma Ginny is having trouble with her back and does not drive very far. She has passed the torch to me.

I took her lovely knitted items and a bag of stuffed animals to Child Haven. We also donated some used items to Safe Nest.

Although we have not formalized any new meetings for the coming year, we have a huge jar of Grandmothers for Peace buttons along with some badges to wear to future demonstrations and meetings.

South Puget Sound, Washington

Monet Lion

In November, I attended a special Peace Retreat in Assisi, Italy, the home of Saint Francis and Saint Clare, 13th century exemplar peacemakers. On my pilgrimage to this ancient spiritual site, I gifted 14 sister retreatants with GFP brochures and buttons. Everyone enjoyed hearing about the organization and the projects being undertaken.

Those taking home buttons were from wide ranging locales: Oregon, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Virginia, California, and Ireland. I wore a GFP t-shirt and carried a tote bag as often as possible!

In January, we will officially form and brainstorm on ways we can promote Peace in 2005.

Fact-Finding in Lebanon and Syria

By *Mary Bisharat, GFP*
Carmichael, CA

In May, 2004, local activist Don Knutson, my granddaughter Jumana Bisharat, and I journeyed to Lebanon and Syria. We were part of a fact-finding group organized by Dr. Elaine Hagopian, professor emeritus of sociology of the Middle East at Simmons College in Boston. The group was made up of activists from all over America and a journalist from the United Kingdom. Our focus was the status and welfare of the Palestinian refugees in both countries.

In 1948, by creating their Jewish-only state, Zionist military forces drove out 780,000 Palestinians from their towns and villages; some went south to Gaza, some went east to Palestine's hills, some to the Jerusalem area, and many from northern Palestine - the coastal area, and Galilee - went on foot to safety in Lebanon and Syria. Fifty-six years later, they are still stranded in these 2 countries and their descendants now number about 800,000. There are another 2.4 million in Jordan, and millions in the Diaspora (the places where they settled; any scattering of people with a common origin, background, beliefs, etc.).

Our first stop was Lebanon, population 4 million. Called "the precarious republic," Lebanon's pluralistic politics were shattered by a combination of its civil war and Israel's repeated raids since 1968, along with its massive invasion in 1982. Israel's occupation of southern Lebanon, 1/5th of the whole country, continued until its unceremonious withdrawal in 2000.

It is against this tragic Lebanese background that we look at the Palestinians in their midst. The Palestinians have been labeled Lebanon's "uninvited guests" and number about 10% of the population. Some of Lebanon's Christians view them with suspicion. They live in 12 camps in the slum belt around the city of Beirut and are heavily dependent on the United Relief and Works Agency formed in 1949 to care for their needs. Sad to say, America and Israel are pressing the UN to decrease financial support for the refugees.

We visited five of the refugee camps; the inhabitants live in abject poverty. The director of Al Najdeh (Arabic for aid) greeted us warmly. The goal of Najde, which is active in all 12 camps, is to empower women to become more productive and self-reliant through vocational training.

However, employment opportunities are extremely limited because Lebanon protects the jobs of its own citizens and forbids Palestinians from working in 70 occupations - from taxi drivers to teachers and physicians.

Let me introduce you to Nuhad Hammad, now in her 40s. She was a teenager living in the camp called Sabra, when Israel invaded and laid siege to Beirut. Headed by then Defense Minister Ariel Sharon, the Israeli military stood by when right-wing Lebanese troops massacred more than a thousand Palestinians in Sabra and its sister-camp, Shatila. Nuhad saved her life by running through Sabra, across Shatila and out the other side.

Nuhad's warm smile and gentle confidence belie her amazing escape from death and the daunting circumstances in which she lives. The gritty camp where she directs the Najdeh projects reminded me of nightmares of medieval suffering - no utilities, crowded tiny cinderblock homes. Yet, Nuhad and her staff are active and positive. She represents the resilience of the Palestinian people, the will to succeed in the worst of circumstances. I presented Grandmothers for Peace tee shirts, caps, and lapel pins to Nuhad which she took gratefully.

Palestinian refugees in Lebanon, like Nuhad, face an unknown fate. They do agree on one thing: they want to return to Palestine. Their return was guaranteed Dec. 11, 1948, by UN Resolution 194, which requires the unconditional return of all homes and property to these refugees. However, for the past 56 years Israel has refused to implement Resolution 194. Instead, the Israeli government passed the "Law of Return" legislation which allows Jewry to "return," but not the rightful owners - the Palestinians.

Many, perhaps most, of their Lebanese neighbors, despise the refugees. They are stateless, and have no protection whatever. The refugee grandmothers and mothers struggle every day to raise their daughters and sons. America must not forget them.

To learn more, visit www.palestineremembered.com, the website created by our group member, Salah Mansour.

November 20-21, 2004

16,000 Activists at SOAWatch

By *Bryson Dean, GFP*
Greenville TN

More than 16,000 people, including Grandmothers for Peace, were at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia, to participate in a beautiful and massive funeral procession led by Father Roy Bourgeois, Martin Sheen, Neris Gonzalez, torture survivors and others on Sunday. They remembered the thousands of martyrs who have been killed by SOA/WHISC graduates.

These graduates of the School of the Americas/Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation are linked to almost every major human rights violation in Latin America since the school's inception over 50 years ago.

Saturday's activities included speakers, music, and people listening and walking around interacting with people at tables representing the various groups present. It was both festive and solemn.

The Puppetistas' presentations were fabulous. They use huge cardboard puppets for parades and creative skits, accompanied by drumming. That weekend the word democracy was used a lot and it seemed that many who used it only thought of elections. One of the Puppetista's signs spelled out some of the other dimensions of democracy: Dissent, Empowerment, Movement, Open, Coalition, Rights, Action, Community, You.

There were many acts of kindness throughout the weekend. For instance, the Sisters of the Precious Blood from Dayton, Ohio, gave out free bottles of water ("a cup of cold water"); a nun, and long-time friend of Father Roy, handed out peanut butter and jelly sandwiches as people left the funeral procession.

Some of the GFP members in attendance were: Lil Corrigan, Marietta, GA, who said this gathering was the beloved community spoken of by Martin Luther King, Jr.; Kate Neis, Minneapolis, MN, said the weekend gave her and her friends inspiration and energy to continue their peace and justice work throughout the year; Penny Cragun, Duluth, MN, was also there.



*Lil Corrigan,
Marietta, GA,
joins 16,000
Activists at SOA
Protest, Fort
Benning, GA,
Nov. 20-21, 2004.*

The serious problem of Depleted Uranium is not going to go away, even though our government appears to ignore the issue as best it can. Many of our military are coming home sick with "mysterious illnesses."

I became aware of the DU issue in January 1995 from a National Catholic Reporter article "Depleted Uranium: First Used in Iraq, Deployed in Bosnia" written by Kathryn Casa. In October 1996 The Nation ran "The Pentagon's Radioactive Bullet."

In Davis, CA, a few years ago, I heard Dr. Doug Rokke, a health physicist in charge of cleaning up American tanks hit by DU "friendly fire" in the first Iraq War. Rokke is sick because of his exposure to DU and speaks out internationally about the horrors of depleted weapons. Numerous articles are available about DU. In our November 2003 Newsletter there was a report by Ellen Murphy about her reasons for protesting against DU at a Recruiting center in Bellingham, WA, and her subsequent arrest and trial.

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom has issued this resolution on Depleted Uranium. Please feel free to use and distribute giving credit to WILPF. Lorraine

RESOLUTION

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, United States Section, believes depleted uranium weapons are illegal under existing treaties, and calls for the immediate cessation of their manufacture, sale and use worldwide:

The United States Section of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Deplores the use of depleted uranium munitions by NATO in Kosovo and Serbia and by the USA and UK in Iraq that are pyrophoric and ignite on impact, are radiologically and chemically toxic weapons that are primarily alpha emitters with beta and gamma decay products with a half life of 4.5 billion years,

Understands that after impact with a hard target, DU weapons produce very small, volatile and "ceramic" particles of uranium oxide which release long term, low level radiation in the human organism and system (if exposed or ingested), in which they remain for many years;

Believing that the use of these weapons is illegal under existing international humanitarian law because they fail the four main tests of weapons under international humanitarian law: temporal (continues after war), environmental (soil and water contamination), humaneness (unnecessary suffering beyond that required for military purposes) and affecting non-combatants under the Martens Clause;

Believing that because depleted uranium weapons are also chemically toxic, they are illegal under existing treaties against poisonous weapons;

Demands the immediate cessation of the manufacture, sale and use of DU weapons in maneuvers and in war situations worldwide;

Demands that countries that have used these weapons take financial and moral responsibility for de-contaminating the areas in which the munitions have been used;

Demands that the UN Sub-Commission on Human Rights take up the use of DU weapons as a blatant violation of human rights;

Demands also that those countries that have used DU weapons guarantee life-time health care for all those civilian populations in Kosovo, Serbia and Iraq potentially affected, as well as veterans of several nationalities in the Gulf War and those active in Kosovo;

Deplores the denial by authorities of the danger caused by low-level radiation exposure to internalized radionuclides linked to depleted uranium, which only serves to perpetuate the nuclear power and weapons industry. Such denial is reinforced by the inability of the World Health Organization to properly investigate the health effects of radiation due to the 1959 agreement it has with the International Atomic Energy Agency;

Insists on the immediate provision of information on protective measures in the languages of those populations potentially affected, focusing on prevention of inhalation and ingestion of re-suspended radioactive insoluble particles;

Insists on the immediate commencement of long-term epidemiological studies of all affected populations, and biological studies on all plants and animals affected, paid for by those countries that have used DU weapons; and

Insists on the implementation of the Precautionary Principle to guide decisions about the use of all such weapons systems that potentially violate international law (thereby limiting or prohibiting their use in combat).

Adopted October 2, 2004 by Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, United States Section Board of Directors.



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Director's Notes

Please note: I started this message before the devastating, tragic news about the tsunami in Asia. At the end of this message you will find an action.

Happy New Year! And may we find peace and justice in the coming year. This is to let you know we are here, we are working, and we never give up!

In the darkest hours of November 2 and into the rainy morning of the third I wrote these words:

"What can I say? Will we ever have an honorable, peaceful country? I just don't know. My heart is heavy and I wonder where we all go from here. The problems are the same, they will continue. Are we up for the "fight"? The vote is a result of too much money spent on bombs and "toys for the boys" and too little on education and our needs as a country.

"We, and I say "we" because all of us who live in the USA - whether we like it or not, are "we," - have become a selfish lot, our cars, trucks, SUV's have become the center of some lives. "We" are willing to risk and kill our young to keep our lifestyles. Luxury surpasses charity or humanity. Can we survive? It will be a long slow process back.

"Every problem, every issue is still there. I could list 100 or more of them. You have seen them, you know what they are. My message is simple, keep on working. We work for a better, safer, world for the future. I think the future of peace is more distant than it was, but things will change. We will go broke in a never ending war, tax breaks only for the rich, borrowing on our nation's future, and terrorizing the world. We sacrifice education, healthcare, and taking care of our country - for imperialism. How long will we succeed in that? For the short term it is depressing. For the long term, we shall prevail. There is NO other way."

That was a truly depressed "me," but over the last few weeks I see glimmers of hope.

No one has given up, things may get worse, but we have to move forward a few steps at a time.

Before the election we all worked hard because America had to see the light - it didn't, the war continues, the casualties increase. This past September we reached the gruesome mark of 1,000 dead Americans in Iraq (countless Iraqis, no one knows how many).

MoveOn.org, in a matter of hours, put together a nationwide "Candlelight Vigil" action. With trepidation and unease that perhaps only six or seven would show up, I went onto their website and signed up for a vigil in Elk Grove. Our state Capitol had 250 participants that evening, and Elk Grove had 59! What an impressive turnout for a short notice event. And GFP made the front page of the local Elk Grove paper!

On Veteran's Day in Sacramento this past November, during pouring rain and drizzle, 75 of us gathered in North Sacramento, CA for a Veterans for Peace action. Locally, they go to high schools and colleges, offering alternatives to signing up for the military in a program called Operation Enduring Reality.

As we gathered at the MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Station), there were

also a half dozen very nasty counter protesters. However, as we marched away in the pouring rain, they did not follow and stand on a street corner with us.



Determined peace activists gather at MEPS on a very soggy Veteran's Day in North Sacramento, California.

It was energizing and uplifting to see so many people come out in the rain. It was as though we all wept for our country, but we were going to stand for her also. We honored Veterans, with signs that said **"Bring Them Home Alive"** and **"Honor Veterans, No More War."**

Across the country there were parades and tributes, memories of battles and lost warriors. And there were also people shopping and enjoying the day off. But, 75 of us stood in the rain: GFP, Veterans for Peace, Physicians for Social Responsibility and others who came for peace. It was an honor to stand on a street corner with all of them.

Recently I received a message from our chapter in Las Vegas. They were feeling pretty discouraged (See GFPI Chapter



Sacramento, California, GFP: left, Lorraine Krofchok and Diane Bader at Veteran's Day action.



Sacramento, California, GFP: left, Mary Bisharat, Lorraine Krofchok, Noralee Jennings-Bradley at Veteran's Day action.



Mill Valley, California,: Lorraine Krofchok, standing, visits with Seniors for Peace, who have been vigiling every Friday for almost two years.

Actions, pg. 3). I had to respond back immediately:

“Dear Norma and Ginny: Do what you can, whenever you can. Meetings are not required; the solidarity is what is important. Just talking and keeping in touch, letting people know you are there. Actually, your message is lovely and truly you are doing. We all don’t have to march in the streets, stand on corners - it ALL means something!

“Thank you for writing. Ya know, you folks are an inspiration and I don’t even know if you know it! You just keep trying and your message shows me that you succeed. Peace, Lorraine”

“Lorraine - Thank you for your warm thoughts and for your expression of appreciation. You have revived sagging spirits! Ginny”

When I took over the care of

Grandmothers for Peace three years ago upon the death of Barbara Wiedner, it was an awesome responsibility. I had told Barbara I was not a grandmother, but now realize “grandmother” can be a concept as well as biology - the idea that with grandmothers we all feel a bit safer and loved - and I have new members because of that!

I have never been arrested, have not traveled the world, but realize there is a place for all of us. We do what we can, how we can do it and help each other to grow.



Dublin, California: The prison release of SOA protestors Peg Morton, Eugene, Oregon, left, holding flowers, and Leisa Faulkner-Barnes, Sacramento, California, right, holding flowers. Supporters Lorraine Krofchok, Elk Grove, California, center; Mario Galvan, Sacramento, California, behind Leisa; and an unidentified man behind Peg greet them, July 2, 2004.

Solidarity is the key; we must network and continue to work with each other. I have met extraordinary people through the computer - and on street corners! How else would we have found each other so quickly?

And, dear Grandmothers for Peace, think about what we have, what we have accomplished and what we WILL accomplish in the coming year!

Peace to all of us, Lorraine

10 Points to Know Before You Sign the Dotted Line

There has been much talk, reporting, and discussion about aggressive military recruiting, and also about the possibly of resuming the draft. Here is a list of suggestions for anyone considering the military.

Also, at the end, is contact information for both American Friends Service Committee and the Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors. Please use this information for your children, grandchildren and friends.

Ten Points to Consider Before You Sign a Military Enlistment Agreement

1. Do not make a quick decision by enlisting the first time you see a recruiter or when you are upset.
2. Take a witness with you when you speak with a recruiter.
3. Talk to veterans.
4. Consider your moral feelings about going to war.
5. Get a copy of the enlistment agreement.
6. There is no “period of adjustment” during which you may request and receive an immediate honorable discharge.
7. Get all your recruiter’s promises in writing.
8. There are no job guarantees in the military.
9. Military personnel may not exercise all of the civil liberties enjoyed by civilians.
10. Many other opportunities exist for you to serve your community and enhance your skills.

This list is courtesy of **American Friends Service Committee**, National Youth and Militarism Program, 1501 Cherry St., Philadelphia, PA 19102; Phone: 215-241-7176; email: youthmil@afsc.org; website: www.afsc.org/youthmil.htm

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GI Rights Hotline: 1-800-FYI-95GI
Military Out of our Schools Hotline:
10800-NO-JROTC

Help Support Disaster Relief in South Asia

The devastation and death in several Asian countries from the tsunami is growing each day. We must lend a hand, no matter how small. Think about it, if every man, woman, and child in the USA sent \$1.00, the relief efforts would have over \$260 million! If each of us does a little, then a few won't have to do an enormous task. Except for a few of us, money is the only way to help right now. The US first pledged \$15 million and then upped it to \$35 million, the cost of the war in Iraq for four hours! Now, the US has pledged \$350 million, the cost of the war for a little less than two whole days. The war in Iraq has cost over \$100 billion so far. Amazing what we could do if we "helped" instead of destroyed.

We as people of peace and justice need to help in any way we can in this tragedy of enormous proportions in a part of the world ill prepared. Yes, there are many tragedies all over the world, but this one signals immediate humanitarian attention before it gets worse. I have read that an entire generation of Asian children is gone.

If you have a favorite charity, please send your donations to them. Help in any way you can.

GRANDMOTHERS FOR PEACE DIRECTORY

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The World Pledge Project

I pledge allegiance to the world,
to care for earth and sea and air,
to cherish every living thing,
with peace and justice
everywhere!

The World Pledge Project is comprised of a beautifully designed poster and an informative study guide. The World Pledge is not meant as a substitute for the U.S. Pledge of Allegiance, but rather as a supplement to provide children with an impetus to gain better understanding about the planet on which they live, the people who inhabit it, and the ecosystem of which they are a part.

The World Pledge Study Guide, an educational supplement to the poster, is for parents, teachers, counselors and environmentalists. It is based on the substantive values found in the poster. The study includes questions to stimulate discussion, individual and group activities, an extensive reading list for K-12, and an international, national and local list of resources.

Posters are \$10.00 each (a 10% discount for 20 or more.); Study Guide is \$5.00. Apply \$3.00 S/H to order.

Contact: For mail order: a check or money order (payable to Wayne State University and designated to the World Pledge Project) to: The World Pledge Project, The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies, Wayne State University, 656 West Kirby, 2320 F/AB, Detroit, MI 48202
Phone Order: 313-577-3453;

Website Order: www.pcs.wayne.edu/wpp.htm

The Center for Peace and Conflict Studies is celebrating its 40th anniversary at Wayne State University.



**Barbara Wiedner and Dorothy Vandercook
Memorial Scholarship Foundation**

By Leal Portis

Barbara would be so proud of her angels down here who made it possible for us to award 13 scholarships in 2004. We gave two for \$500 and 11 for \$250. While the amounts are not high, many of the winners expressed pleasure at having their peace efforts recognized. These “kids” worked hard under some difficult circumstances: the murder of a younger brother, the death of a father, and continued unrest in a distant homeland.

Since we received 843 applications for the 2004 scholarships, we revised the 2005 application form with the aim of attracting only student applicants who participate in our targeted activities: peace and social justice, nuclear disarmament, and conflict resolution. It is amazing how many people miss that stipulation.

Thank you for supporting the **Barbara Wiedner and Dorothy Vandercook Memorial Scholarship Foundation**. Soon you will receive our appeal letter with the bios of the recent winners - we hope you will be as generous this spring as you were last spring.

(Editor: An insert of the 2004 scholarship winners is included in this newsletter.)

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\$30 Family/yearly \$100 Sponsor/yearly

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Mail to:
Grandmothers for Peace International
P.O. Box 580788
Elk Grove, CA 95758 USA

World-Wide

March 19-20, 2005

Global Day of Mass Action

On this second anniversary of the invasion of Iraq, the **A.N.S.W.E.R. Coalition** (Act Now to Stop War & End Racism) invites all antiwar and people's rights organizations to join together in action and global solidarity.

Contact: www.internationalanswer.org for up-to-date information.

Cambridge, Massachusetts

April 8-9

Hope & Hard Work

A major New England-wide conference sponsored by **American Friends Service Committee** will cover topics ranging from Social Security privatization, protecting civil liberties, inequitable trade agreements, to the Bush's agenda for home and abroad.

Contact: Joseph Gerson: JGerson@afsc.org

New York City, New York

April 29-30

Full Spectrum Resistance

Attend this International Space Organizing Conference, sponsored by **Global Network**

Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, to share information, develop new strategies, and inspire each other to continue the efforts to ensure space is kept as an environment of peace. One key obstacle to global disarmament is US determination to move the arms race into space – to create “full spectrum dominance.”

Keynote speaker is **Dr. Michio Kaku**, a co-founder of string field theory, and a leading candidate in the search for a “theory of everything.”

Contact: Global Network, Phone: 207-729-0517; www.space4peace.org; www.abolition2000.org

International**Swackhamer Peace Essay Contest**

The Swackhamer Peace Essay Contest is an annual international high school essay contest answering topical questions related to global peace and security.

The 2005 theme will be posted on the website in the near future.

Contact: The Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, www.wagingpeace.org

**NO GFP POLITICAL
ENDORSEMENTS PERMITTED**

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

New York City, New York

May 1

Nuclear Disarmament March/Rally

Join this march and rally to demand total and immediate nuclear disarmament. This demonstration will precede a month-long meeting of world governments at the United Nations Headquarter in NYC to discuss the fate of the **Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty**.

The Bush administration continues to demand disarmament from other countries while expanding US production and development of nuclear weapons.

Contact: www.abolitionnow.org

Los Alamos, New Mexico

August 6

A Day of Disarmament

The Los Alamos Study Group (based in Albuquerque, New Mexico) will be hosting a day of disarmament-related action centered in Los Alamos at Ashley Pond Park and nearby Los Alamos National Laboratory. There will be a variety of artistic, musical, and direct-action events occurring throughout the day and evening. Many organizations will attend and be involved, both in the park and at the laboratory.

Contact: Event information, or to help with the project: Greg Mello, Phone: 505-265-1200, gmello@lasg.org <http://www.lasg.org>

Conscientious Objectors**Two Websites for COs**

The American Friends Committee was founded by Quakers in 1917. **AFSC's** desire for peace and social justice attracts the support and partnership of people of many races, religions, and cultures.

Contact: www.afsc.org/youthmil/Default.htm

The Central Committee for Conscientious Objectors was formed in 1948. **CCCO** supports and promotes individual and collective resistance to war and preparations for war.

Contact: www.objector.org

**Barbara Wiedner and Dorothy Vandercook
Memorial Scholarship Foundation**

for information, and/or donation,

Contact: Leal Portis, 16335 Patricia Way,
Grass Valley, CA 95949, USA,
phone/fax (530) 273-6018;
e-mail: hopione@sbcglobal.net



“The more he [Fr. Roy] studied history in the light of the Scriptures, the harder it was for him to swallow the concept of God being on our side. Was God on our side when we virtually annihilated one race and enslaved another? When we dropped atomic bombs on civilians in Hiroshima and Nagasaki? When we burned kids with napalm, massacred entire village? If God took sides, he certainly took the side of the victims. Bourgeois wondered if the phrase ‘God and country’ even made sense: one can’t serve two masters ...”

Disturbing the Peace, by James Hodge and Linda Cooper, is the story of Father Roy Bourgeois and the Movement to Close the School of the Americas. It covers his life from his military service and Purple Heart to the present - how he got to the gates of the SOA.

Contact: Phone: 1-800-258-5838, Fax: 1-914-941-7005 to place an order for this \$20.00 paperback book.

**The Maryland Chapter of Grandmothers for Peace, International is “Waging Peace for Children and Other Living Things”**

through the release of a one-hour CD filled with original music, uplifting poetry, and stirring quotations.

Production and creative works are donated; proceeds benefit **Medecins Sans Frontieres/Doctors Without Borders** and other non-profit groups.

Themes of children, families and the connections between peace, justice, human rights, and the survival of humankind on earth, carry the listener on a compelling journey of hope and inspiration.

Executive producer, June Martyn, a former radio producer for Greenpeace, beautifully blends music, poetry and quotations from recent major figures to tell the story and connect the dots.

A few selections include: *“Please Bring My Daddy Home,” “Propagandy,”* and *“Peace Rap.”*

Contact: Ordering information for this \$10 plus S/H CD is at the website: www.waging-peace.com

*“There are not enough jails,
not enough policemen,
not enough courts,
to enforce a law not supported
by the people.”*

— Hubert H. Humphrey, 1965

Grandmothers for Peace

P.O. Box 580788 • Elk Grove, California • 95758 • USA • phone: (916) 685-1130
 e-mail: lorraine@grandmothersforpeace.org • web: http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org

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Take Our Message Wherever You Go!



Sew-on Logo Patch

Hats on to GFP
 We have new items for peaceful protesting — an adjustable Baseball Cap with the GFP Logo — \$11.00 each.
&
Bumper Stickers
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 Volume discounts available.



Children's T-shirts & Sweatshirts



Navy Tote with colorful GFP logo

Grandmothers for Peace International

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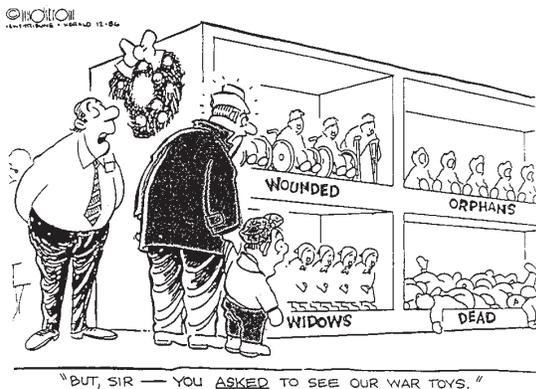
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“... costs of war, personal and financial, are not revealed by official casualty counts. “People see the figure of 1,200 dead,” said Dr. Kanter, of Seattle, referring to the number of Americans killed in Iraq. “Much more rarely do they see the number of seriously wounded. And almost never do they hear anything at all about the psychiatric casualties.”

As of Wednesday [Dec. 15, 2004] 5,229 Americans have been seriously wounded in Iraq. Through July [2004], nearly 31,000 veterans of Operation Iraqi Freedom had applied for disability benefits for injuries or psychological ailments, according to the Department Veterans Affairs.”

From an article By Scott Shane, The New York Times, Dec. 16, 2004.

A TRUTH for ALL SEASONS.



Numbers You Need

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



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e-mail: secretary@state.gov

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Leal Portis, President

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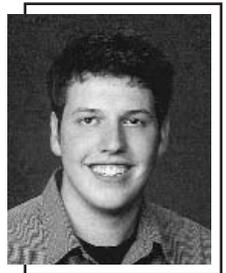
Oona Grady DeFlaun: Ithaca, New York - \$500



For the past 6 years, Oona helped organize the local School of the Americas Watch. She traveled to Georgia five of those years and risked arrest in 1999. In 2002, she and 12 others protested at their local military recruitment center the impending Iraq war. They "died in" and were arrested. Since she and three others were minors, they worked with a lawyer to change their "youthful offender" status so they could join with the adults who were arrested. After numerous hearings, the four went to trial and gave opening statements, testimony and closing statements. Oona also works on a variety of social justice issues as well as facilitating nonviolence training for young people.

Jacob Milner: Seattle, Washington - \$500

Jacob has been politically active and involved with the peace movement since 1998. He was a volunteer and activist at Ground Zero Center for Nonviolent Action in Poulsbo, WA. In 2000, he was a crewmember of protest at Meet the Fleet (US Navy fleet arrival including Trident nuclear submarine, USS Alabama). He has written numerous articles on peace. Since Dec. 2002 he has regularly stood on a street corner in Lake Forest Park (WA) and picketed with others against the war in Iraq. On Martin Luther King Day 2003, Jacob was one of 60 people gathered at the gates of the Bangor Trident Submarine Base, the Pacific home of the Trident submarine system. He was arrested and put in jail in a juvenile detention center.



Nickole Evans: Kennewick, Washington - \$250



Nickole is an amazing young woman who has won numerous awards for her projects. She raised over \$20,000 for September 11, 2001, relief efforts. When the disaster at Columbine High School took place, Nickole put together presentations to the community, which said: "It Could Happen Here!" – "Youth Speak Out" – and "Becoming a Peacemaker." Then she developed a website, Y2KYouth.org, where youth from around the world could obtain resources to make their own communities better. She continues to maintain this website to further tolerance and social justice around the globe.

Nancy Fuller: Oklahoma City, Oklahoma - \$250



Nancy is a 37-year-old, non-traditional freshman at the U of OK. Due to some poor choices made when she was 20, she was incarcerated for 5 years. During that time, she turned her life around and realized that incarcerated women need training in vocational skills. Since then, Nancy has testified before the Oklahoma House and Senate, seeking change and equal opportunities for

Oklahoma's female inmates. She volunteers at Peace House and is also involved with the Oklahoma Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. She also worked with death row inmates, being present for them and their families when needed.

Sarah Janko: San Anselmo, California - \$250

Sarah helped organize a Camden, Maine, chapter of FOOD NOT BOMBS. She was active in obtaining sponsors (bakeries and grocery stores) to donate food that would otherwise be thrown away. Her concern for feeding the poor extends to exposing the wastefulness of our society. She took part in the San Francisco protest against the war in Iraq and continues to protest every Friday in Mill Valley as part of the Marin Peace and Justice Coalition. She has high hopes of making this a better world in the future.



Natalie Jesionka: Middlesex, New Jersey - \$250

When Natalie first started high school she realized there was no program that raised global awareness or promoted change. She immediately founded a chapter of Amnesty Intl. and ran the club for four years. Then she applied for a job with Amnesty's Intl. office and became Student Area Coordinator for the State of New Jersey, which made her director of all the Amnesty Chapters in the state. Natalie also worked with Nuclear Disarmament issues through the model UN program in New Jersey. In 2002, Natalie launched a North Eastern campaign to Free Harvard Professor Yang Jianli who was unjustly arrested in China.

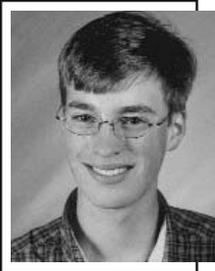


Jamila McCoy: Silver Spring, Maryland - \$250



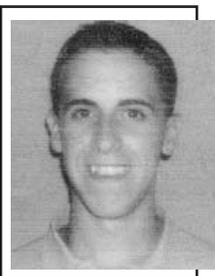
Jamila was selected as International Delegate to the 2003 World Conference Against Hydrogen and Atomic Bombs by the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Peace Committee of the National Capital Area. She also worked with BAHM – the Coalition to Defend Affirmative Action and Integration and Fight for Equality By Any Means Necessary. She started a Student Awareness Club in her school, which protested the war in Iraq. Another of its activities was to let students voice their opinions on Gulf War II. In her free time, Jamila attends political education events and rallies.

James McSpadden III: Rock Hill, South Carolina - \$250



Thanks to his participation in the Model United Nations, James learned about International issues and became involved in other political and peace programs. During the 2002 election, James worked for the Democratic party and, in 2004, he was a poll worker for the Democratic primary. This past year, he was elected president of the school political science club and he encouraged students to boycott Taco Bell for its unjust labor practices. He is currently chair of the school Adopt-A-Minefield Committee, which will be raising money to remove landmines in Cambodia.

Luke Norris: Summerland Key, Florida - \$250



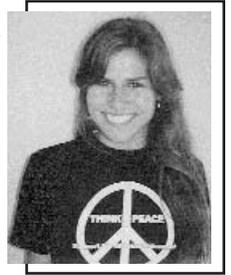
Luke was able to speak on a local public TV program called Target Terrorism. He discussed the importance of nuclear disarmament and stressed that we should be thinking about action here at home to dismantle our own nuclear arms. Luke has written letters to his state senators regarding disarmament and non-proliferation as a member of SMART (Sensible Multilateral American Response to Terrorism). Recently, as a member of the college Democrats, Luke designed a petition entitled: Operation Nuclear Disappear, which was sent to George W. Bush and will be sent to other colleges for signatures. Luke is a leader with a strong commitment to nuclear disarmament and avoiding war.

Nermina Nuhodzic: Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina - \$250



Because of her experiences as a refugee, Nina traveled to Macedonia where she worked in a refugee camp for three weeks. Next she worked in Kosovo, where she was a translator for the UN. Back in Sarajevo, she also worked on refugee issues for a long time. For the past two years, Nina has worked with "Children's Movement for Creative Education" from New York, which deals with post-traumatic feelings and encourages children to express their feelings through art. She attended a meeting at the UN in New York to open her own exhibit and she spoke to 400 VIP's and journalists. Nina is a courageous and passionate Granddaughter for Peace.

Caitlin Orr: Fullerton, California - \$250



In November 2002, Caitlin designed a "Think Peace" T-shirt in protest of the Iraq war. After an article appeared in the *Los Angeles Times*, Caitlin sold over 700 T-shirts! She formed a Peace club on campus and members wore their T-shirts and held up signs protesting the war on a local street corner for many hours each weekend. Next, Caitlin established a Think Peace website, participated in the Great American Write-In, encouraging people to write letters to the White House stating disapproval of the war. The words this peace activist put on the back of her T-shirts speak for themselves. "War decides not who is right, but who is left."

Larissa Simpson: State College, Pennsylvania - \$250



Larissa has been a public speaker on subjects ranging from civil liberties to the war in Iraq. She helped to create a Human Rights film series at the local high school. Larissa was also a key organizer, planner and participant in the Nov. 2003 SOA Watch actions at Fort Benning, GA. She was also a founding member and organizer for the State College Area SOA Watch Group. She was a founder of the State High National Affairs Club, which transformed into the World Affairs Club. She is also the founder, editor and designer for the State High Underground Newspaper which is a free speech forum and was founded in response to newspaper censorship.

Eleanor Heidkamp-Young: Wauwatosa, Wisconsin - \$250



Eleanor joined the movement to close the School of the Americas and traveled to Georgia three times and Washington, DC, twice to do so. As a freshman, she founded a discussion group called "The Other Side" which was an attempt to help students discover their own beliefs and understand and respect the views of others. She did campaign work for the 2000 presidential election and other national, state, and local elections. She spent a year in Germany as a Congress Bundestag Exchange Student during the build-up and exchange of the war against Iraq. The experience of seeing her country's actions through another culture's eyes made her realize even more that we need discussion instead of bombs to solve international problems.

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