

**"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, Director

December 1997

Founded 1982

## Cassini was Launched - But Not Without Protest

by Patricia Altenburg



*"We've done everything that we could legally. We've petitioned, we've stood outside these gates with signs; we've gone door-to-door. There's nothing left to do now but go over that fence."*

— Peg McIntire, 87, GFP,  
anti-Cassini demonstration,  
Cape Canaveral Air Station, Florida,  
October 4, 1997

And that is what 27 Cassini protesters did. As the crowd waved posters and chanted "Go, Grandmothers," Peg led the grandmother contingent through the gate. Since they were unable to climb the eight-foot fence surrounding the Cape Canaveral Air Station, a prior agreement was made with the guards to open the gate so the grandmothers could walk in and be arrested. Following that, 18 protesters climbed the fence and were arrested.

With close to 1,000 cheering, chanting protesters in attendance, this courageous act of civil disobedience cast worldwide attention on the \$3.3 billion Cassini space launch containing 72.3 pounds of plutonium – one of the deadliest substances on earth. Ac-

ording to Bruce Gagnon, coordinator of the Florida Coalition for Peace and Justice, rally organizers, "... over 50 media outlets signed in at their press table and CNN was there the entire day, doing several live remote broadcasts throughout the day on CNN International and CNN in the USA. ABC International radio (broadcasting to 83 nations worldwide) also did several live remotes during the day."

Experts and government officials tell us we have nothing to worry about. But, NASA does not have a spotless record\* concerning space launches involving nuclear material.

- April 21 1964: a U.S. navigational satellite failed to achieve orbit and fell from the sky, disintegrating as it burned up in the atmosphere, releasing 2.1 pounds of Plutonium-238. As a result, Plutonium-238 was detected in the stratosphere in August 1964. Samplings taken in November 1970 and again in 1995 still detected it. This global spread is the result of 2.1 pounds of plutonium. Cassini carries 72.3 pounds.

- May 18, 1968: a meteorological satellite was destroyed because it failed to reach orbit – 4.2 pounds of Plutonium was retrieved from the Santa Barbara Channel off the California coast.

- April 1970: the Apollo 13 astronauts were forced to abandon their spaceship. They were rescued from the command module that landed in the Pacific Ocean. However, the Lunar Excursion Module, or LEM, with 8.3 pounds of plutonium was not recovered. It was aimed to a different area of the Pacific – to the "deepest water we can find...an especially bottomless patch of ocean...a spot



*Grandmothers for Peace lead the way at Cassini protest.*

off New Zealand." You didn't see this in the movie.

- 1989: the Galileo probe heading for Jupiter was plagued with technical problems caused by a stray signal. The Control Center was not always in control. You heard about the stuck antenna – did you hear about the second earth flyby, and the 49.25 pounds of plutonium on board?

The Russian nuclear space program has problems\* too. The most recent was November 1996 when their Mars space probe fell to earth and crashed on Chile and Bolivia. An unknown amount of plutonium was released.

Non-nuclear space launches also present problems for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Its most famous is the 1986 Challenger, which exploded on lift-off. Challenger's next mission\* was to have been the launch of the Ulysses space probe with 24.2 pounds of plutonium aboard. More recent was the January 1997 Delta II rocket explosion on lift off.

"We don't need to be rocket scientists to know that putting plutonium on Cassini

**Please see CASSINI, page 2**

## CASSINI: Odds of an accident

Continued from page 1

represents a threat to all life on this earth," said Barbara Wiedner, GFP founder/director, who was one of the arrested grandmothers.

Unfortunately, this demonstration and arrests did not halt the Cassini launch. Cassini will do an earth flyby in August 1999. If, during this 312 miles above the earth slingshot flyby, an "inadvertent reentry" occurred, NASA estimates the number of people who "could receive 99 percent or more of the radiation exposure" to be 5 billion. Our world population at that time is estimated to be 7 billion to 8 billion.

NASA says the odds of that happening are 1 in 1 million. What were the odds for the '64 navigational satellite failure, the '68 meteorological satellite failure, the '70 Apollo problem, the '89 Galileo problem, the '96 Russian Mars crash, and the '86 Challenger explosion? What were the odds this past summer when an 18 wheeler truck lost its brakes while traveling a California interstate highway, was not stopped by the emergency ramp set up for this, careened off the end of the ramp, continued over a cliff, landed on the railroad track, and was hit by a train? Odds look good on paper, but the truth is, accidents happen.

Not only were the odds of a nuclear accident uppermost in the minds of the Cassini protesters, but also, what they believe is our government's ultimate goal - nuclearization and weaponization of space.

Their concern and fears are borne out by this quote from John Shalishkavali, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, in the document *Shape, Respond, Prepare Now: A Military for a New Era*: "As we will continue to do at sea and in the skies, we will

also endeavor to maintain our current technological lead in space as more users develop their commercial and military capabilities. It is becoming increasingly important to guarantee access to and use of space as part of joint operations and to protect US interests. Space control capabilities will ensure freedom of action in space and, if directed, deny such freedom of action to adversaries." ✎

(\* *The Wrong Stuff: The Space Program's Nuclear Threat to our Planet* by Karl Grossman, source. Please see book review on page 9. —Editor)

### SEVEN MORE PLUTONIUM LAUNCHES ARE SCHEDULED

#### Moon

- Site Rover 1998 launch date with 29.70 pounds of plutonium
- Telescope 1999 launch date with 39.6 pounds of plutonium
- Network 2001 and 2002 launches with total of 19.8 pounds of plutonium

#### Mars

- MESUR with launches in 1999, 2001, 2003 with a total of 23.10 pounds of plutonium
- Mars SR with two launches in 2007, 2009 with a total of 14.30 pounds of plutonium

#### Outer Solar System

- Comet Nucleus Mission 2002 launch date with 56.10 pounds of plutonium
- Pluto Flyby 2003 launch date with 56.10 pounds of plutonium

## "Trust Us"

by Bernice Kring

It seems so benign - the "suits" are telling us again there is no danger to our lives and communities - they mean us no harm - why would they endanger the community - they live here too - the U.S. has this "responsibility" to guard the whole world from nuclear terrorism. But many of us see the U.S. turned into one giant nuclear waste dump from sea to glowing sea.

Foreign research reactor fuel will be brought from Europe and Asia through Concord, CA, and Charleston, SC. Both communities have a naval weapons station, which simplifies things for the federal government. It's a federal facility, the feds can do as they please there and the public be damned. The scientists and military have played with this deadly material for so long they have lost their fear of its lethal capabilities, and they say "Trust us"!

The Atoms for Peace program started by President Eisenhower in the '50s has come back to haunt us. The federal government, which leased these fuel rods to 41 countries, says it has promised to bring the irradiated fuel rods back to the U.S. to prevent their use as the "nuclear" part of nuclear weapons. Shipment through South Carolina started years ago, but the first shipment through Concord, CA, is not scheduled before April 1998. West Coast shipments will go by train through cities and mountain passes in California, Nevada and Utah to the Idaho National Engineering and Environ-



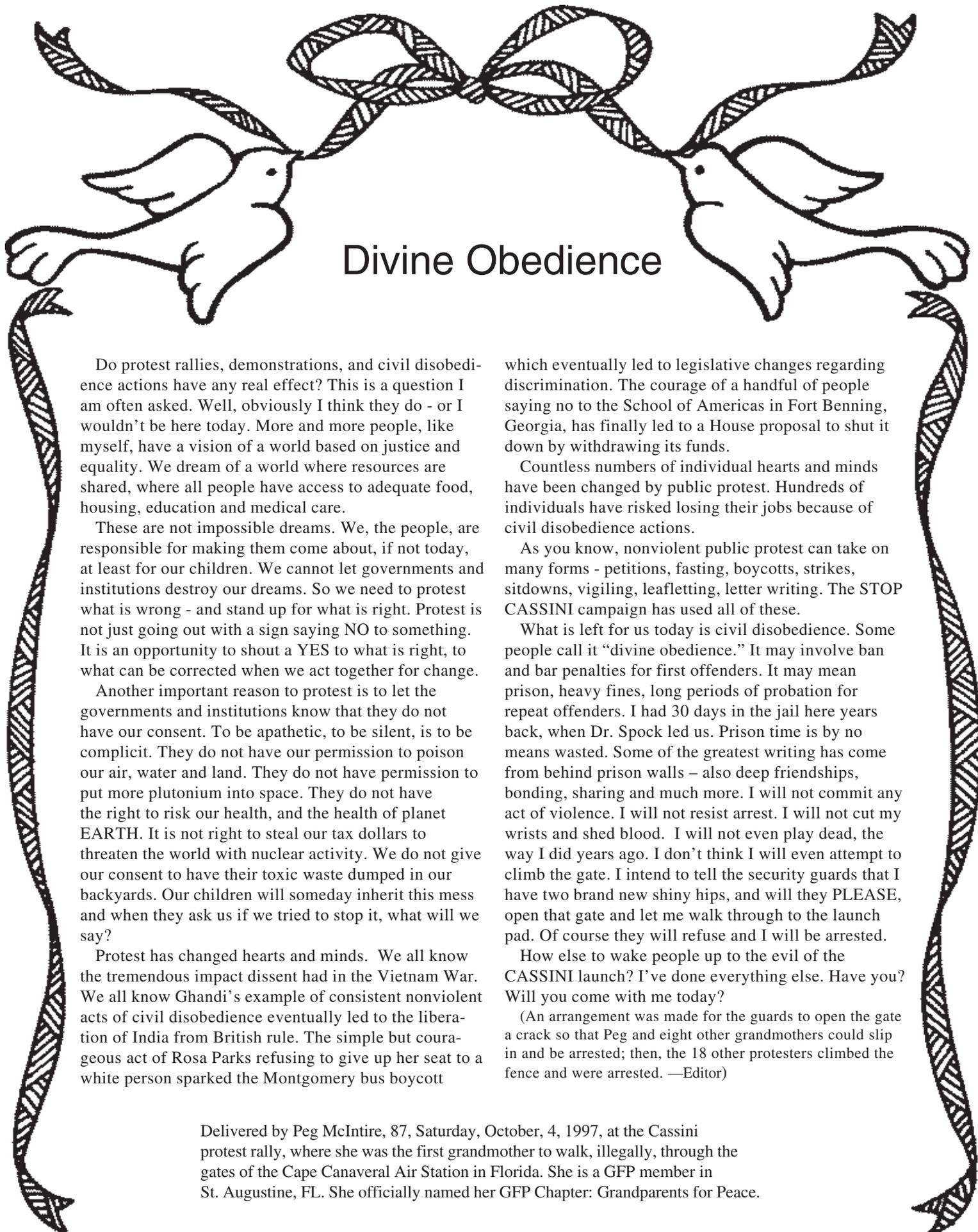
mental Laboratory (INEEL). This nuclear waste will travel by train over tracks and routes that have been the scene of numerous accidents in recent years. Idaho is not the planned final resting place for this deadly cargo. If the repository at Yucca Mountain, NV, ever opens, it will be moved there. The state of California and many communities along this western route have adopted resolutions opposing the shipments. Contra Costa County and the City of

Concord have filed a lawsuit against the Department of Energy (DOE) to stop the shipments; they are looking for other communities to join them.

While the federal government prattles on about preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons as the reason for taking back this fuel, it turns a deaf ear to our question - what about the spent fuel from commercial reactors in these countries? Those fuel rods can also provide plutonium for nuclear weapons.

There is a chain reaction in the nuclear industry fueled by profit. Until we harness this greedy demon, the proliferation of nuclear weapons and the mounds of nuclear waste will continue no matter how many

Non-Proliferation Treaties (NPTs) and Comprehensive Test Ban Treaties (CTBTs) we sign. We need to close down all the reactors. Stop ALL research and development of nuclear weapons. Disarm the nuclear weapons still out there. Clean up the contaminated sites. The U.S. wants to be the leader of the world. It's about time we showed some constructive leadership! ✎



## Divine Obedience

Do protest rallies, demonstrations, and civil disobedience actions have any real effect? This is a question I am often asked. Well, obviously I think they do - or I wouldn't be here today. More and more people, like myself, have a vision of a world based on justice and equality. We dream of a world where resources are shared, where all people have access to adequate food, housing, education and medical care.

These are not impossible dreams. We, the people, are responsible for making them come about, if not today, at least for our children. We cannot let governments and institutions destroy our dreams. So we need to protest what is wrong - and stand up for what is right. Protest is not just going out with a sign saying NO to something. It is an opportunity to shout a YES to what is right, to what can be corrected when we act together for change.

Another important reason to protest is to let the governments and institutions know that they do not have our consent. To be apathetic, to be silent, is to be complicit. They do not have our permission to poison our air, water and land. They do not have permission to put more plutonium into space. They do not have the right to risk our health, and the health of planet EARTH. It is not right to steal our tax dollars to threaten the world with nuclear activity. We do not give our consent to have their toxic waste dumped in our backyards. Our children will someday inherit this mess and when they ask us if we tried to stop it, what will we say?

Protest has changed hearts and minds. We all know the tremendous impact dissent had in the Vietnam War. We all know Ghandi's example of consistent nonviolent acts of civil disobedience eventually led to the liberation of India from British rule. The simple but courageous act of Rosa Parks refusing to give up her seat to a white person sparked the Montgomery bus boycott

which eventually led to legislative changes regarding discrimination. The courage of a handful of people saying no to the School of Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia, has finally led to a House proposal to shut it down by withdrawing its funds.

Countless numbers of individual hearts and minds have been changed by public protest. Hundreds of individuals have risked losing their jobs because of civil disobedience actions.

As you know, nonviolent public protest can take on many forms - petitions, fasting, boycotts, strikes, sitdowns, vigiling, leafletting, letter writing. The STOP CASSINI campaign has used all of these.

What is left for us today is civil disobedience. Some people call it "divine obedience." It may involve ban and bar penalties for first offenders. It may mean prison, heavy fines, long periods of probation for repeat offenders. I had 30 days in the jail here years back, when Dr. Spock led us. Prison time is by no means wasted. Some of the greatest writing has come from behind prison walls - also deep friendships, bonding, sharing and much more. I will not commit any act of violence. I will not resist arrest. I will not cut my wrists and shed blood. I will not even play dead, the way I did years ago. I don't think I will even attempt to climb the gate. I intend to tell the security guards that I have two brand new shiny hips, and will they PLEASE, open that gate and let me walk through to the launch pad. Of course they will refuse and I will be arrested.

How else to wake people up to the evil of the CASSINI launch? I've done everything else. Have you? Will you come with me today?

(An arrangement was made for the guards to open the gate a crack so that Peg and eight other grandmothers could slip in and be arrested; then, the 18 other protesters climbed the fence and were arrested. —Editor)

Delivered by Peg McIntire, 87, Saturday, October, 4, 1997, at the Cassini protest rally, where she was the first grandmother to walk, illegally, through the gates of the Cape Canaveral Air Station in Florida. She is a GFP member in St. Augustine, FL. She officially named her GFP Chapter: Grandparents for Peace.



## Thank you, Grandmothers

I went to the Cassini march on Saturday, October 4, 1997, to see my Aunt Barbara and to catch a glimpse of how free speech really works in America. I ended up with so much more...

The rally was wonderful. My brother, Jerry, and I donned our Grandmother's for Peace T-shirts and proudly walked behind the Grandmothers as they led the march towards the gates of the Cape Canaveral Air Station. I offered to take pictures, and found myself ahead of the march, looking back. It had the most profound impact on me. What I saw was an enormous group of people - in all shapes and sizes and from all walks of life - being led by a group of silver-haired grandmothers (68, 70, 87 years old!) who walked slowly, steadily towards the soldiers at the gates. The grandmothers had the most glorious expression on their faces - a mixture of love, compassion, joy... and absolutely no fear. It took my breath away.

As the Grandmothers for Peace walked through the front gates (the soldiers opened them for them!) and as others from the march scaled the fence I felt such a stirring within me. I prayed to God to "please let me do the right thing, no matter how hard it is" and He did. He guided me over that fence and into the arms of grandmothers. I did it in honor of my mother, Jan Provost, who couldn't be there. I did it for my brothers and sisters and their children and all the children in the world. I did it because it was the right thing to do.

I would like to help in any way that I can to promote the GFP organization, because I feel it carries the right message and truly has the power to change the world for the better. I am a runner. I will run with the grandmother's logo on my clothing, I would be honored to start a GFP chapter in St. Petersburg, FL. I will start a GFP Young Women's Auxiliary to encourage "young women and grandmothers-to-be" to participate in this wonderful organization.

Thank you, Grandmothers, both those that were there that day and for those who were there in spirit. Thank you for your wisdom and strength. Bless you for your courage. The world is a much less frightening place to live when there is Grandmother's love around us. You give us hope.

— Mary Provost Matthews



from the  
Volunteer Staff  
at  
the International Office  
of  
Grandmothers for Peace

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May The  
Holiday Season

And The  
New Year

Be Filled  
With

Love, Joy And Peace

For You

And

All Your

Loved Ones.



## From the Director's Desk

*As we come to the end of another year of activism, it is good to be able to share with you some of the "good news" stories of the year from our "GFP family." Too often we get bogged down in the enormity of the challenges we continue to face in our work for global peace and justice. I hope the following accounts will inspire and uplift as we prepare for the New Year!*

When I decided to start GFP in 1982, I imagined grandmothers from all nations holding hands around the globe – joining forces to bring an end to war and violence, and especially nuclear madness – motivated by love of their families and this planet. On October 4<sup>th</sup> as I marched with grandmothers from several different states - Florida, California, Georgia, Ohio, Iowa and North Carolina (representing all the GFP members around the globe who could not be there), in front of 1,000 demonstrators, I felt as if a dream had come true! The shouts of "Go Granny Go" still ring in our ears.

As I looked around the jail cell following our arrest (27 were arrested – nine were grandmothers), I wondered if the news had reached our longtime and beloved GFP member Helma Bellwinkle in Holland. I had carried with me a letter from Helma that I received shortly before this event, pleading with me to have grandmothers here in the U.S. "do something" to stop the Cassini launch which filled her with dread. She included in her letter a copy of a personal letter she had written to President Clinton requesting him to stop the launch. I felt honored to be with those courageous women in that cell, and knew that Helma and thousands like her were with us in spirit.

The tremendous publicity this protest has received has brought congratulations and thanks from our friends at the Menwith Hill Women's Peace Camp in England and from others around the world.

The 15 of us, who pleaded "not-guilty" for our acts of nonviolent civil disobedience, are scheduled for trial December 10<sup>th</sup> in Florida.

### The General and The Granny



*General George Lee Butler, USAF (Ret)  
and Barbara Wiedner*

In a recent mailing you received a copy of a newspaper article, "Grandma for Peace has reason to Smile," which told of our unique connection to retired Air Force Four - Star General George Lee Butler formerly in command of our nation's nuclear forces. (For a copy of that article, send a request to our office.) General Butler made national and international news when he announced in December 1996 that he

now advocates the complete abolition of nuclear weapons! His announcement and quotes from his speeches have given us reason to smile through thick and thin this past year. I had a very personal reason for the biggest smile of all!

In 1982, the General was a Colonel in charge of the nuclear weapons at Mather Air Force Base in Sacramento, CA, 15 minutes

away from my home. It was those weapons that brought me out of my kitchen and to the gates of Mather, resulting in my first act of civil disobedience, five days in jail, and my decision to found GFP. Needless to say, the General and I were on "different sides of the fence" for many years!

We treasure many of his now famous quotes, especially... "Nuclear weapons are inherently dangerous, hugely expensive, militarily inefficient and morally indefensible." We all know the General has faced much criticism from the nuclear establishment for "coming out of the nuclear closet." But, we respect and admire his courage so much that in February of this year we named the General our "Sweetheart of the Year" and sent him a framed certificate to hang on his wall!

The General and I had never met in person, but now, "the rest of the story."

On November 8<sup>th</sup> of this year, Gen. Butler received an award at the annual Gorbachev Foundation's State of the World Forum in San Francisco, CA. This is the first year the Forum has given awards to "individuals of wisdom and dynamism who have made extraordinary contributions to human development." I was privileged to be present, accompanied by one of my daughters and granddaughters, at the "Honoring the Change-Makers" awards dinner.

Prior to the dinner the General arranged for us to meet for a wonderful and lively conversation, and to meet family members who were there to share this remarkable evening. I brought him your best wishes; he sends you his. Now we are all on the "same side of the fence" working "shoulder-to-shoulder" for the abolition of nuclear weapons in the years ahead. I wish you could have been there for the evening I will treasure for the rest of my life.

### School of The Americas Demonstrations

In solidarity with the action at the SOA in Georgia (see report on page 7), over 100 demonstrators gathered at the Federal Post Office in Sacramento, CA, on Nov. 14<sup>th</sup> to participate in an action spon-



*Father Jerry Ryle, North Highlands, CA, blesses the  
Priority Mail Coffin addressed to the Pentagon.*

sored by the River City Pax Christi group, and cosponsored by the Sacramento Chapter of GFP. Normally we would have gathered at the Federal Building in Sacramento, but at present it is cordoned off for the Unabomber trial. So the organizers of this demonstration creatively addressed a coffin to the Pentagon and tried to enter the Post Office to mail it – Priority Mail! People were arrested, booked and released to appear before a judge at a later date.

### No-War-Toys Drive

The Northland Chapter of Grandmothers for Peace is sponsoring their annual No-War-Toys Drive in Superior, WI, and Duluth, MN.



(Left) Lucille LaGresse, Esther Denston, Carol Thompson wrap collected toys.

The toys they collect will be distributed to low-income children by local charities. Local business and churches are participating in this worthy effort.

Led by Jan Provost, these dedicated grannies continue their efforts to Stop Project ELF (Extremely Low Frequency signals to submerged nuclear submarines). They also hold an afghan raffle to raise money for their annual \$100 scholarship for a local student, cosponsor educational lectures at the local universities, and remain a vocal, visible presence for peace and social justice in their community. Kudos to Jan Provost who got more national publicity for GFP with her Cassini Letter to the Editor published in USA WEEKEND, Nov. 21-23, 1997 edition.

### Grannies and Doves

In May of this year we joined in a project with Gray Doves International to send desperately needed vitamins, eye glasses,



Cynthia Johnson looks on as Barbara Wiedner (left), on behalf of the Gray Doves, accepts the \$1,390 check from Natures' Life representative Mark James.

sewing materials and warm clothing to a group of 20 poor, elderly women in a village near Semipalatinsk, Kazakhstan, the former Russian nuclear testing site.

Through the efforts of Sarah and Cynthia Johnson, daughter and granddaughter of Corine Thornton, Pres. of our Hayward Chapter, contact was made with the Sacramento Natural Foods Co-op which generously took on this project and made it enormously successful!

While gathering the other items necessary was no problem (especially after an item in Steve Weigand's column in the Sacramento Bee), the donation of vitamins was not forthcoming...until the Co-op took on the task! May was Women's Health Month at the Co-op and they offered a percentage of their sales of Nature's Life vitamins to help pay the shipping cost. Nature's Life Supplements offered a year's supply of vitamins for each of the elderly women. The result was far more than Barbara Johnston, president of the Gray Doves, or I could have anticipated! The photo on this page tells the tale.

Gray Doves International does wonderful humanitarian work with poor, elderly women around the globe. If you are interested in helping, contact Barbara at the address on pg. 9 (Book Corner).

We have had a full and productive year. We have not spent all of our time at protests. One important part of our work is our Scholarship Program that was a huge success again in 1997. Your generosity provided funds enough for nine \$250 scholarships to deserving students who represent our best hope for the future. Their letters of appreciation are heartwarming.

One of our 1993 recipients, Joy Kalita, wrote to inform us that she graduated from Western Oregon University in Monmouth, Oregon, and is now employed as a Special Education teacher at Aumsville Elementary School in Aumsville, Oregon. Joy reminds us that this was her dream. She sends her heartfelt thanks (again) to all who helped make her GFP scholarship possible. What wonderful news!

I hope these few stories (many more remain to be told when funds permit) will warm your heart, add Peace, Love, Joy and Hope to your holiday season, and inspire you to continue your support of our efforts for global peace and justice in the year ahead. We can publish only when funds are available - so your donations are extremely important and deeply appreciated.

See page 8 for a special peace greeting from our friend and member Dr. Zoya Zarubina of Moscow. She hopes many of us will join her for a much-deserved holiday next June - cruising the Russian waterways. Think about it!

Blessings of the Season to you  
and all your loved ones,

*Barbara*

### Holiday Gift of Peace



This dove with the olive branch continues to be a symbol of all of us who seek to bring peace to this world.

Your donations are indeed "the wind beneath our wings" as we fly into a New Year of peacemaking. Please use the enclosed "dove" envelope for your holiday gift of peace. (If you wish to make a gift in the name of another, we will send an acknowledgment card.)

Our deepest thanks for your wonderful support this past year which has made this newsletter and all of our mailings possible!

## School of the Americas: your tax dollars support this school for killers

by Lorraine Krofchok  
GFP, SE Regional Coordinator

2,000 people participated in a demonstration to close the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia, on November 16, 1997. They came from all over the country, and from as far away as Latin America — young and old, fathers, mothers, grandparents, children, veterans, religious and lay people. 601 were arrested (last year's total attendance was 500!). They protested this US military facility, supported by your tax dollars, that trains Latin American soldiers to be some of the worst human rights abusers on the planet. Manuel Noriega, ex-dictator of Panama, is a graduate.

When the speeches were over, Father Roy Bourgeois, leader of the SOA Watch thanked everyone who had attended. The solemn moment had arrived. Six hundred and one protesters began the long march to the School of the Americas, "crossing the line" with pallbearers carrying eight coffins containing petitions to close the school. Holding crosses bearing the names of SOA victims, lines of mourners with tears streaming down their faces silently marched down the road, led by Father Roy Bourgeois.

Of the 601 arrested, all have since been released. Twenty-eight who had been arrested for crossing into Ft. Benning at previous protests were charged with a crime. As of this writing, three are facing six-month jail sentences.

Two bills are pending to close the school: HR611, sponsored by Rep. Joseph Kennedy (MA) and S980, sponsored by Sen. Richard Durbin (IL). We must continue to call on the President and Congress to close this school, and educate the thousands who still do not know of its existence. For more information, please visit the GFP website.

(Left) Lil Corrigan,  
Lorraine Krofchok,  
and Pat Chapman,  
all GFP members  
from Georgia,  
meet with  
Father Roy Bourgeois.



## GRANDMOTHER TOOK ON THE NUCLEAR INDUSTRY

# - AND WON !



"She may look like somebody's granny to you, but she was instrumental in putting a \$4-billion nuclear power plan in the deep freeze."

The state of Oklahoma has no nuclear power plants, and Carrie Barefoot Dickerson is the biggest reason why.

On May 8, 1973, Dickerson, a registered nurse and the proprietress of Aunt Carrie's Nursing Home in Claremore, Oklahoma, read a newspaper article entitled "\$450 M N-Plant Planned for Inola." Although not an activist, Dickerson had a habit of clipping and collecting articles on environmental issues. Inola was a nearby town, and Dickerson was concerned enough by what she read to take action.

First, she did some research on the hazards of atomic reactors, and then she made a point of attending the first public hearing on the proposed plant. A person who had always assumed that her government would protect her safety Dickerson was outraged to find that the government would allow construction of a nuclear reactor even though it knew a meltdown could render an area the size of Pennsylvania uninhabitable.

She threw herself - and most of her worldly goods - into the effort to stop construction of what was called the Black Fox

By Bill Magavern

nuclear power plant. To raise money for a legal challenge to the reactor's construction, she sold her nursing home. When those funds were depleted, she mortgaged the family farm. When even more money was needed for the cause, she stitched quilts and raffled them off all the while devoting hundreds of hours to learning all she could about nuclear energy.

Dickerson founded a group, Citizens' Action for Safe Energy (CASE), and attracted many dedicated allies to her cause. They reached a turning point in 1981 when the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, which regulates utilities in the state, held hearings on the high electric rates that consumers would have to pay if the expensive nuclear plant were built. After hearing testimony from Dickerson and many others, the Commission declared that Black Fox was no longer economically viable and that ratepayers would not have to swallow its construction costs.

After the regulators' decision, the utility threw in the towel in 1982, and Black Fox joined the ranks of reactors cancelled before they could contaminate a community.

Dickerson remains active in the fight for safe, renewable energy and against atomic power. She recently alerted Oklahomans to the dangers posed by nuclear industry plans to transport radioactive waste through the state.

Now a great-grandmother nearing her 80th birthday, Dickerson, who sacrificed everything and overcame powerful odds to further a cause she believed to be just, is presently living on modest means. When asked how she feels about having thrown so much money into the cause she replied, "I'm only glad I had it to spend."

(Dickerson wrote a book about her experience: *Aunt Carrie's War Against Black Fox Nuclear Power Plant*. To order: send \$30 (includes tax, S&H) to Carrie Barefoot Dickerson, 3609 East Blue Starr Drive, Claremore, OK 74017. See complete article on The Critical Mass Energy Project web site: <http://www.citizen.org/cmep> —Editor)

# Events & Announcements

## Cruise the Russian Waterways: June 11, 1998

### - With Dr. Zoya Zarubina as Lecturer

After 15 years of activism, it is time to take 17 days for pure fun and relaxation!

Put down the picket signs, give the White House Comment Line and the Mail Room a rest, let our typewriters and computers cool off, and leave our daily concern about saving the world in the capable hands of others as we peacefully cruise the Russian Waterways with old and new friends. We have earned it, and so have our family and friends who have been supportive of our efforts all these years. Invite them to come along. Much has happened and changed in Russia since our last visit.

Tour arrangements are made by the Golden Age Travelers, which is in its 29<sup>th</sup> year as a travel agency. An official tour guide is provided, plus optional lectures - Russia, past and present. The lecturer is someone many of you have met - Dr. Zoya Zarubina.

Professor Zoya Zarubina was our first GFP member in Moscow many years ago and was instrumental in our 1989 *International Grandmothers Walk for Peace in Moscow*. Some of you may remember Zoya from her 1993 visit to Sacramento, CA.

With Zoya as lecturer, this peaceful exploration of her homeland would be educational and fun. Pat and Don George, Citrus Heights, CA, (see photo) took it this past summer and haven't stopped talking about the wonderful time they had.

This *Russian Waterways 1998* trip is a 17 days cruise from Moscow to St. Petersburg aboard the M. S. Russ, a 300 - passenger ship built in Germany and commissioned in 1987. It is fully air-conditioned, has all outside cabins offering views of the passing countryside, and has modern amenities.

Shore excursions are included. Some of what you will see/tour: the Kremlin; Red Square; Lenin's Tomb;



Pat George; Zoya Zarubina; Don George  
*Russian Waterways 1997.*

St. Basil's Cathedral; Moscow Metro; Armory Museum; the 13<sup>th</sup> century Spassky Monastery; Museum of Romanov's family; Hermitage Museum; Pushkin, home of Catherine's Palace.

Tour prices include airfare and range from \$2199-\$2799 per person depending on deck selection, plus applicable taxes, plus documentation fees. Plane travel is round trip aboard Finnair from San Francisco, Los Angeles, or New York, with arrival in Helsinki and departure from St. Petersburg.

If you are interested in taking this tour, please contact Grandmothers for Peace by December 31, 1997.

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9444 Medstead Way  
Elk Grove, CA 95758  
phone: (916) 684-8744; fax: (916) 684-0394  
e-mail: [wiednerb@aol.com](mailto:wiednerb@aol.com)  
web: <http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org>

## 1998 Swackhamer Peace Essay Contest

This contest seeks suggestions for constructive approaches to the problems of war and peace. This year's topic: the importance of human rights and responsibilities as we approach the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. It is open to all high school students. Deadline is June 1, 1998.

First prize: \$1,500; Second prize: \$1,000; Third prize: \$500.

For information: Nuclear Age Peace Foundation, 1187 Coast Village Road, Suite 123, Santa Barbara, CA 93108; 805-965-3443; fax: 805-568-0466; email: [wagingpeace@napf.org](mailto:wagingpeace@napf.org); web: <http://www.wagingpeace.org>

## Congratulations, Jody Williams - Nobel Laureate

Jody Williams formally receives her Nobel Peace prize - a medal and a share of \$1 million - Dec.10, 1997, in Oslo, Norway. The world formally receives the fruits of her labor - an international treaty banning land mines - December 1997, in Ottawa, Canada.

One hundred nations will sign the treaty, and hopefully by then, the United States will be nation 101.

The International Campaign to Ban Landmines, directed by Williams, is a grassroots activists' coalition of which Grandmothers for Peace International is a member.



# Book Corner



## *Resisting the Bomb: A History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement, 1954-1970, Vol.2*

Lawrence S. Wittner  
Stanford University Press (Cambridge University Press Distributor)

Volume 2 of humanity's struggle against the nuclear bomb, begins with the atmospheric nuclear weapons tests of 1954 and describes the gradual development of a grassroots, worldwide movement for nuclear disarmament. Extensive research involved fifteen countries, more than a hundred peace groups, and government agencies. Until recently, many of the government documents were classified as top secret. *Resisting the Bomb* depicts the global anti-nuclear campaign and "the efforts of government officials to repress, contain, and, finally, accommodate to popular protest." (*Resisting the Bomb* is due out January 1998.) Vol. 1: *One World or None: A History of the World Nuclear Disarmament Movement Through 1953*.

The following prices are a 20% discount:

Vol. 2 paperback (3169-1) \$19.96; cloth (2918-2) \$52

Vol.1 paperback (2528-4) \$13.56; cloth (2141-6) \$44

Please mention code **ZF7bomb1** to receive the discount. S & H, applicable sales tax. Phone order: 1-800-872-7423. Write Cambridge University Press Distribution Center; 110 Midland Ave.; Port Chester, NY 10573-4930, ask for "pro former invoice."

## **\*\*Everyone's Mandala Coloring Book**

Monique Mandali  
Mandali Publishing

This book is a great gift for both little and big hands. GFP used it at the International Children's Day festival in Sacramento, CA. The children were invited to color one of Monique's mandalas on a "Peace Postcard" which was then mailed to friends and children all over the world. There are 22 original designs in each book to help set your creative juices flowing.

Traditionally, mandalas have been used by spiritual leaders, shamans, and healers as a meditation tool and source of wisdom. Both adults and children can use the coloring activity to become focused and peaceful.

There are 3 different volumes of *Everyone's Mandala Coloring Book* @ \$8.95 each, plus \$1.05 **per book** for S & H. To order: Mandali Publishing, P.O. Box 21852, Billings, MT 59104; phone: 1-800-347-1223; website: [www.mandali.com](http://www.mandali.com)

## *The Wrong Stuff: The Space Program's Nuclear Threat to our Planet*

Karl Grossman  
Common Courage Press

*The Wrong Stuff* details NASA's mishaps with plutonium-fueled missions and its unrealistic calculations about the probability of a major accident. Cassini's slingshot flyby, at 312 miles above earth, is scheduled for August 1999. Should an "inadvertent reentry" occur, NASA estimates the number of people who "could receive 99 percent or more of the radiation exposure" to be 5 billion. World population estimates at that time: 7 billion to 8 billion. The U.S. has a 12 percent failure rate with nuclear payloads. Grossman concludes with a warning about plans for multiple launches involving plutonium, and the U.S. military's desire to place orbiting nuclear power systems in space.

To order: phone 1-800-497-3207; Mail: Common Courage Press, Box 702, Monroe, Maine 04951. Price is \$22.95.

Karl also has a video: *Nukes in Space: The Nuclearization and Weaponization of the Heavens* available from Enviro Video, Box 311, Ft. Tilden, NY 11695. Phone order: 1-800-ECOTV46. Video price is \$19.95, plus \$2.00 S&H.

## **\*\*The Open Cupboard**

Gray Doves International  
Obagon Publishing

This book is presented by Gray Doves International, a non profit organization registered in Colorado, whose purpose is to assist elderly women of the world in need - here at home, as well as globally. *The Open Cupboard* contains excerpts from numerous interviews with ten elderly women from Belarus, a breakaway republic of the former Soviet Union. You will meet remarkable women whose courage, inspiration and philosophy of life will warm your heart. They also share the prayers that give them strength, the songs that fill their hearts, and a few of their favorite recipes.

This 5"x7" hardbound 80 page book, with illustrations, is \$9.95, plus \$1.50 for S & H. Make check payable to Obagon Publishing, 1358 N. Scandia Dr., Pueblo West, CO 81007. (Book can be gift wrapped at no additional charge, and, if you wish, sent to a different address. To receive information about Gray Doves International, contact the above address.)

(\*\*When ordering either of these books, please add "GFP member" to your order and the publisher will donate a percentage of the sale to our organization. —Editor)

## **Dorothy Vandercook Memorial Peace Scholarships Available**

Do you know a student who could use some financial aid for college? Since 1993, Grandmothers for Peace International has given **scholarships (\$250 each)** to students across the United States and one in Africa.

Our stated goal was to provide four \$250 scholarships per year. However, due to the wonderful generosity of members and friends, we have awarded a total of **38 scholarships**.

The requirements are simple. They must: (1) be a high school senior or college freshman; (2) write a brief biography of their activities relating to nuclear disarmament, or conflict resolution, or community service; (3) describe their plan for contributing to a

healthy planet; (4) provide information on their school and community activities; (5) include two letters of recommendation. There are no grade point or age requirements.

Tell your activist-student friends to send for an application form, and include a **self-addressed, stamped envelope**. Please return the application form by March 1, 1998.

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### Bravo!

Special "Granny Hugs" go to Bryan Krofchok of Alpharetta, GA, the GFP "Webmaster" who has developed our new website, and to Daniel Rosen of Lake Tahoe, who developed our original page and introduced us to the world of cyberspace. Please check out our new website address:

<http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org>

Send us your email address and join our email network: [wiednerb@aol.com](mailto:wiednerb@aol.com)

*Grandmothers for Peace International*

Editor/Publisher  
Patricia Altenburg

Contributing Writers

Bernice Kring, Lorraine Krofchok,  
Barbara Wiedner

## New Nuclear Weapons Revealed

"Despite pledges to the contrary, a wide variety of new nuclear weapons are under development in the United States," says defense analyst William Arkin in an article published this month in the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists. The article reveals new details about nuclear weapons design activities under way at the Lawrence Livermore, Los Alamos and Sandia National Laboratories under the guise of "Stockpile Stewardship," along with new Department of Defense (DOD) programs geared toward advanced delivery systems. According to Arkin, "Forget the notion that stewardship is about protecting a force adequate for deterrence in a post-Cold War world. Unreformed nuclear war planning – calling for many new nuclear weapons – continues in secret..."

Arkin's article includes information previously released by Natural Resources Defense Council, Tri-Valley CAREs and the other 37 plaintiffs challenging the Department of Energy's (DOE) "Stockpile Stewardship" program.

The detailed article warns that these large, unregulated DOE and DOD programs, which proceed despite numerous U.S. assurances to the contrary, undermine U.S. credibility in attempting to rein in nuclear proliferation around the globe.

### New nuclear weapons projects

- a replacement for current Trident submarine-launched warheads, the Trident missile itself, *plus* development of a new submarine;
- an upgrade to MX warheads and strategic bombs;
- nuclear glide bombs to make up for B-2 stealth inadequacies;
- an earth-penetrating bomb capable of ultra-low yields (recently deployed);
- a high-powered radio-frequency warhead to be used to take out a nation's electronic systems—a "black" or off-budget program; and
- a nuclear warhead for theater defense missiles, designed to intercept and incinerate non-nuclear warheads.



The new warhead and bomb programs are proceeding despite the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, the stated purpose of which is to stop such developments. Until recently, many arms control groups close to the Clinton Administration did not believe that U.S. labs would or even *could* design and certify new weapons without nuclear testing. It is now clear that these hopes were naïve. As Arkin concludes: "Bill Clinton says that 'advanced new types of nuclear weapons' are not being developed. He may want to check that out."

These nuke lab programs are being funded by a dramatic expansion in annual U.S. weapons budgets, which, after their initial post-Cold War decline, are now expected to rise by 33% in current dollars over the FY1995-FY1999 period. The program is currently projected to cost \$60 billion over a 13-year period, including some \$19 billion in new construction and equipment acquisitions. (Reprinted from the Tri-Valley CAREs newsletter. The Bulletin article/background information are available upon request from the Tri-Valley CAREs Citizen's Watch, 5720 East Avenue #116, Livermore, CA, 94550 —Editor.)

### Grannies in Cyberspace - GFP has a New Website Address

<http://www.netcom.com/~lorjacy/gfp>

If a computer is not in your home, try the local or university libraries. The people working there can help. Also ask children, grandchildren or friends. Our pages are updated frequently, and are filled with activist information. The site is growing and is becoming an informational contact worldwide.

Chapters- We will have a new on-line section listing Chapters and Organization contacts. Please send information to: Lorraine Krofchok, 5495 Taylor Road, Alpharetta, GA 30022; phone/fax 770-740-9738; email [lorjacy@ix.netcom.com](mailto:lorjacy@ix.netcom.com)

We also want to hear what chapters, groups, and individuals have done, and plans for the future. Your input is important.

# Grandmothers for Peace



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