

“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

August 2005

Founded 1982

1,872 U.S. Military Casualties - And Still Counting



Arlington West: Santa Monica, California.
A temporary cemetery erected every Sunday by the Veterans For Peace.



Eyes Wide Open Exhibit: Sacramento, Calif., March 2005. Each white-tagged pair of boots honors a U.S. military casualty.



Eyes Wide Open Exhibit: Sacramento, Calif., March 2005. These few civilian shoes represent thousands of Iraqi casualties.

Arlington West is a tribute not only to the fallen U.S. soldiers, but also to the countless innocent Iraqi citizens.

Every Sunday **Veterans For Peace** erect temporary cemeteries in Santa Barbara, Santa Monica, Oceanside and other locations around the United States.

Over 1,700 crosses, a flag-draped coffin, and a 20-foot board listing the names of the dead servicemen and servicewomen invite the public to honor these unacknowledged fallen, and to ponder the cost of war. Visitors may write the name of the dead on a slip of paper, and along with fresh flowers, place them on a cross.

A separate sign informs: “If we were to honor the Iraqi Dead, it would fill this entire beach.”

Arlington West has been built every Sunday since February 2003, and will continue to be built until the war ends in Iraq.

The goal of *Arlington West* is “to honor the fallen and the wounded from the Iraq War, to provide a place for Americans to grieve and to encourage dialogue about America at war.”

(Ed: See pg. 10 to order the *Arlington West* video.)

On March 29-31, 2005, the **American Friends Service Committee** brought the “**Eyes Wide Open**” presentation to Sacramento. The exhibit speaks directly to our hearts—reminding us of the human cost of war and honoring the sacrifice of all who have died in the Iraq war. The exhibit has visited over 40 cities with extensive local, national and international media coverage. Over 1,000 boots are tagged for the US war dead, empty shoes and a Wall of Names represent the Iraqi civilians killed.

Grandmothers for Peace International co-sponsored the Sacramento event. We had ten volunteers helping at the exhibit. Because of rain, the first day was indoors at Trinity Cathedral in downtown Sacramento. The display had “only” the California casualties—about 150 boots on display, along with hundreds of civilian shoes representing the dead Iraqis. When I walked in the door that morning I gasped, with tears flooding my eyes, and thought “I won’t be able to stay.” But, as I gained my composure I walked among “The Boots,” the empty boots.

Sunny days brought the full exhibit to Capitol Park in Sacramento, in sight of our Capitol building and next to the All Wars Monument. Roberta Penrose and her husband Richard walked among the boots and related this experience. “We were there the last day and near two women who were placing a remembrance on the boots. A man came up to them and said ‘is that your son?’ One replied, ‘no, it’s my granddaughter, and her great granddaughter.’ He said, ‘my son is over here.’ All I could manage to get out was ‘I’m so sorry’ and they said ‘thank you.’ It will be with us for a very long time.”

I urge you to come to this exhibit. It is heart wrenching, but it is necessary for you to see for yourself the human cost of war. Of course we know the cost, but seeing the exhibit makes it so real. The visuals are heartbreaking; the impact is astonishing. Please remember this is what we, Grandmothers for Peace, are about. We must break the cycle of violence and war, seek peaceful conflict resolution, and strive to live in peace—for a better, safer world for the future.

(Ed: See page 9 for EWO Exhibit dates; for more formation: <http://www.eyes.afsc.org>)

GFPI CHAPTER ACTIONS FROM COAST TO COAST AND BEYOND

Columbia, Maryland Deborah Matherly

Bette Hoover, who traveled with **Mothers for Peace USA**, reported on her recent trip to the **Women to Women for Peace Conference** in England. She told us the people of Yorkshire are very aware that the intelligence gathered from major communications (spy) facilities there (staffed almost entirely with US personnel) is going back to Maryland.

The conference included representatives from Japan, who are very concerned that the Japanese government, with US urging, is attempting to change the 9th Article of its constitution. That article specifically disavows warfare and avows peace, and precludes Japanese troops from fighting in Iraq. The women of Japan are seeking support from peace-loving people in the US and elsewhere to help them preserve this peaceful legacy resulting from the violence of World War II.

Also discussed at the conference was the desire to promote formation of the US Department of Peace. The bill will be resubmitted by US Representative Elijah Cummings of Maryland and others on September 13th. Great Britain has a Ministry for Peace- as do other nations.

Elaine Andrews and I reported on the May 21st Wilde Lake Festival. In addition to



Columbia, Maryland, GFP: left, Helen Kolbe, Bobbi Koons, Virginia Bates, Linda Kreplin, Lynne Brallier, Elaine Andrews, Bette Hoover, June Martyn, and Debbie Matherly.

“Elevate Peace” balloons, we had substantial information from AFSC, CHOICE and others on military recruitment, the delayed enlistment program and alternatives, as well as cards that students could sign to “opt out.” There was quite a bit of interest from parents as well as students, some who were not aware of the recruiting law, and others who were aware that recruiting was going on but did not know what to do about it. It felt very rewarding to start “getting the word out.” We discussed other ways of disseminating the

information both locally and nationally.

On the national front, we discussed the idea of working with other groups to establish a day (perhaps the Saturday before Mother’s Day) to gather at military recruiting stations to present alternative material to potential recruits.

(Ed: www.thepeacealliance.org for US Department of Peace information.)

New York City, New York

Joan Wile

Grandmothers Against the War, the New York City affiliate of Grandmothers for Peace International, has a vocal group called the New York Granny Chicks. We were invited to perform January 18, 2005, for the Martin Luther King Day celebration at Holy Name Church in Manhattan. It was a HUGE success! Our greatest yet. There were about 120 people, including Father Berrigan. At the end, we got a standing ovation.

Between songs, I gave this speech:

I founded Grandmothers against the War in November 2003 because I could no longer bear to read the daily toll of Iraqi and American casualties, who were being slaughtered and maimed for a war I considered, to quote Martin Luther King’s words about Vietnam, “Unjust, abominable and evil.” I believed it was time to do more—to attempt to help make a dent in the concrete wall of deceit and misconception that separated President Bush from reality and which enabled him to continue his criminal policy of decimating a sovereign nation which had meant us no harm.

Thus began a year of vigils, which we hold every Wednesday in front of Rockefeller Plaza on Fifth Avenue. It is hard to know specifically what we accomplish by these actions, but I am convinced that our being there radiates positively in many unseen ways. Hundreds of foreign tourists pass us each week, and often stop and thank us. They reveal their disdain for the war and their hope that we can turn it around. Many Americans do the same. We believe it is important to send the message here and around the world however we can, that there is a resistance in America to

these destructive policies, and we feel certain that our little vigil helps accomplish that.



New York City, New York, GFP: left, Helen Miles, Joan Wile, Tommy Goodman, Rosemarie Jun at the Martin Luther King Day celebration, January 18, 2005.

London, England

Jean Stead

In the past few months, our GFP have been in the news.

Helen John, a campaigner against Menwith Hill the American “listening post” for the Star Wars project, has been banned from entry to the United States. She applied to have it lifted so she could attend the United Nations nuclear non-proliferation talks, but her case has been delayed due to a backlog of court cases. During the past General Election, Helen ran on an anti-nuclear platform and gained votes and publicity for her cause. She stood with Parliament against Tony Blair.

In early July, Helen and many other grandmothers attended a mass demonstration at Faslane base in the west of Scotland where submarines carrying the Trident nuclear weapons are based.

One of our long-standing members, **Raymonde Hainton**, attended a meeting in Exeter, to sign a nuclear-free world petition that was to be presented at the New York Non-Proliferation Treaty talks by Bruce Kent. At the Exeter meeting, Hilda Sperry, the Lord Mayor of Exeter, signed the petition on behalf of the Exeter nuclear-free local authority.

Raymonde also attended a United Nations Association meeting at the ancient city of Bath where a panel of University academics spoke against nuclear proliferation. Trident is due to be replaced by a new generation of nuclear weapons. A regional paper published a letter from Raymonde pointing out that replacement of Trident would be incompatible with Britain’s original agreement to support the elimination of nuclear weapons.

◆ PLEASE SEE CHAPTER NEWS, PAGE 3

Anderson, Indiana

Christie Stephens

Our Indiana Chapter participated in the Peace Day events in Anderson which included a presentation by **Colin and Wendy Parry** of “**Children for Peace**,” and the planting of a Peace Pole in the Anderson Town Center. The Islamic Center in Muncie, Indiana, invited us to their open house dinner.

Lois Rockhill represented us at the National Hunger Awareness Day convocation at the Washington National Cathedral, Washington, D.C. She lobbied Senators Lugar and Bayh and Congressman Pence regarding hunger issues in America. Lois also attended the 40th anniversary reunion of Peace Corps volunteers who served in Turkey in the 1960s.

Kay Shively presented a conference on peace and reconciliation at the North American Convention of the Church of God. **Norma Abby** continues to write articles and letters regarding the politics and actions of the Bush administration that are published in the Herald Bulletin here in Anderson. The Indiana Chapter meets weekly sharing needs, concerns and resources.

St. Paul, Minnesota

Constance Fleisher

Black Dog Cafe, a peacenik coffee shoppe/restaurant/peace mission establishment, in St. Paul, Minnesota, has offered to display our huge St. Paul Chapter banner on one of their walls when we are not using it for peaceful demonstrations and peace fairs. We are able to promote our chapter through free newsletters and G4P buttons.

We are planning our first Peace Essay project for the public high schools and charter schools in the St. Paul area.

We are active in the Boots exhibit that will be at St. Catherine College in September.

Superior, Wisconsin

Dorothy Wolden

The GFP Northland Chapter was one of the sponsors for a Peace is Patriotic concert and forum on July 4, 2005. The concert was held at the historic Norshor Theater in downtown Duluth, Minnesota. Over 120 people attended an evening of music, poetry and speeches by representatives of local peace groups, including **Karen Barschdorf** of Northland GFP. Information tables were set up in the theater lobby and copies of the GFP Opt-Out pamphlet were distributed.

It was an inspiring evening of sharing and hope for a more peaceful future, a poignant counterbalance to the militaristic fervor of many July 4th events.

Meet Lindis Percy: 150 arrests and 5 jail terms



Lorraine Krofchok, left; Lindis Percy, GFP member from Hull, England; Lockheed-Martin demonstration; Sunnyvale, California, May 10, 2002.

Lindis Percy, 64, has campaigned non-violently and peacefully against nuclear weapons for nearly 30 years. She has been arrested more than 150 times, 30 in the past year, and served five jail terms. Her main campaign is against

Menwith Hill, occupied since 1966 by the U.S. National Security Agency, and reportedly the biggest communications and satellite eavesdropping post in the world.

Along with Anni Rainbow, Lindis formed CABB, the Campaign for the Accountability of American Bases. It is “grounded in a deep concern and opposition to weapons of mass destruction in general and nuclear weapons in particular ... raising public awareness, scrutiny, and accountability of American bases in the UK.”

In May 2005, Lindis faced sentencing for the recent conviction of five offenses of obstructing traffic outside MH. At the May sentencing, there was the possibility she would be the first peace campaigner to be served an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO). The government has been trying to use ASBOs to intimidate and restrict the right to protest. However, Judge Anderson dismissed the attempt stating: “the law clearly intended the orders to be used against ‘oafish and intimidating’ behaviour which bore no resemblance to the long and dogged activities of Percy.”* He did go on to give her an eight-week, night curfew. However, she was not electronically tagged, as expected. “I was relieved—that is so humiliating, like a medieval form of ball and chain,” Lindis said.

A June 10, 2005, protest by Lindis merited this June 11th headline in The Guardian: “*Flag waver and scourge of US bases thwarts a five-star general.*”**

GFP member Lindis Percy sent us this email concerning the article:

Just thought you might be interested in this account when Colin Powell came to Harrogate recently. If you use it please would you add that I did not

hide, there was no ‘ambush’ and I did not flap the flag—all a bit of poetic licence! But I did ‘bump’ into Colin ... and he did not get to have the photocall with the steam train (must have cost an awful lot of money to bring it) and the 2,000 business delegates! I later shook hands with Desmond Tutu who happened to arrive by helicopter—so much for ‘tight security’ as reported in the local press ...

In another non-Menwith Hill protest, Lindis was arrested Nov. 17, 2003, after climbing the 20-foot-high gates at Buckingham Palace to protest President George Bush's state visit. She clung there for over two hours before voluntarily coming down.

Lindis is married to a Church of England chaplain, has three children and six grandchildren. She is a register nurse and midwife, but “I actually now work as a Health Visitor (equivalent to Public Nurse in the US). Jean Stead sent a very generous cheque which I say thank you so much for. None can do this work without support in so many ways.”

Contact: email: caab@btclick.com; percy@lindisandchris.freemove.co.uk; website: www.caab.org.uk

(Ed: *The Guardian, “Anti-war protester escapes asbo,” by Martin Wainwright, May 18, 2005; **The Guardian, “Flag waver and scourge of US bases thwarts a five-star general,” June 11, 2005).

STEPS ACROSS THE OCEAN TO PEACE

BY JOAN WILE

The Grandmothers Against the War affiliate in New York City has made some valuable connections with two Japanese women through its weekly vigils in front of Rockefeller Plaza on Fifth Avenue. Since it is one of the main tourist centers of the City and attracts people from all over the world, quite often Japanese visitors stop and talk with us.

Recently, a Japanese woman named **Kazuko Tatak**i spoke with us and then returned to Japan where she wrote a letter about the vigil which was published in a major Japanese newspaper. This is her letter, in her own translation:

Granma Against The War Want to Communicate

from Kazuko Tatak (housewife, Izumi ward, Sendai, 49 yrs.)
2005 May 12th

I had a chance to know the group of

◆ PLEASE SEE Letter, PAGE 4

To the British people:
Grandmothers for Peace send our concern, regrets, and sympathy for the July 7th attacks in your city of London

“Grandmothers Against the War” when I visited New York in the beginning of this April. Every Wednesday, from 4:30 to 5:30 (for an hour) some relatively old women stand in front of Rockefeller Center with placards appealing for their opinion against the dispatch of soldiers in Iraq.

No marching, no shouting in chorus. But the flier they gave me moved me a lot.

The main members of this vigil movement are ‘granma’ generation. They say they’ve lost fathers in World War II; husbands in Korean War; sons in Vietnam; and now they are losing grandchildren in Iraq. Their sorrow inspire them to keep on vigiling till the day all soldiers come back from Iraq.

Not only ‘granma’ generation but young and old, male and female gather including teachers, lawyers and veterans. They support the principle of GATW.

I wish Japanese people who’ll visit New York go to Rockefeller Center and watch their vigiling. They’d like to communicate with Japanese women’s groups against all the wars, especially ‘granma’ generations.

Kazuk was so inspired by our vigil that she started a peace group with some of her friends.

Another Japanese lady, **Chiyoko Tanaka**, read her letter in the paper and was similarly inspired to the extent that she emailed me to express her appreciation for our activities. She then mailed me a series of cards on which she had painted absolutely beautiful little miniature scenes of peace birds, the New York City skyline, other images and, often, a cello, representing her love for Pablo Casals and his peace concerts. They are truly exquisite. Chiyoko has incorporated little bits of glistening matter into the paintings which give them a unique sparkle.

Dear Ms. Joan Wile,

I’m very happy to know that you have really enjoyed my little cards, and the cards have inspired you so much. I wish to tell my deepest thanks for your kind and amiable comment on my cards.

Indeed, across the oceans, we have the same strong desire to promote world peace, which is the most important as mothers, as grandmothers and as human beings. I’m very glad to be able to send my picture cards to peace vigilers who have the same desire.

My deepest respect to your valuable activity,
Chiyoko Tanaka

Darfur, Sudan: “Never Again”— Is Again

In 1994, the world stood by and watched as the Rwandan genocide claimed one million lives. Afterward, world leaders vowed that genocide would never again happen.

Sadly, they were wrong. Genocide is occurring once again in the Darfur region of Sudan. Government-backed Arab militias, called Janjaweed, are targeting the ethnically African population of Darfur. To date, over 400,000 people have died and more than 2.5 million people have been displaced.

The violence in Darfur began in February 2003 when two rebel groups, frustrated with discrimination and poverty, led an insurgency against the government. Fearful that the rebellion would encourage others to follow suit, the Sudanese government launched a scorched earth campaign to silence the rebels.

Millions of people have since been forced to flee as their homes and villages were destroyed. The Janjaweed terrorize the region with murder, rape, and torture. Those in the refugee camps face malnutrition, starvation, and disease due to the lack of basic health-care and sanitation.

Violence against Women:

The situation on the ground is especially dangerous for women. Rape is the signature crime of this genocide, and the UN has said it is being used as a “systematic weapon of war.” The attacks are not isolated crimes of opportunity but part of a deliberate campaign to destroy the social fabric of the entire community. As a weapon of genocide, rape is used in three ways—to impregnate women with children who are not ethnically African, to ostracize unmarried women so that they can’t begin families, and to damage women’s bodies so they are unable to have children.

Women—from young girls to grandmothers—are raped and gang-raped during attacks on their villages and as they attempt to flee. Women who reach the relative safety of refugee camps are susceptible to further attacks as they leave the camps in search of water and firewood. Many women and girls are abducted and forced into sexual slavery in Janjaweed camps. Women are often raped in front of their families and neighbors, leaving survivors with extreme emotional damage in a society that shuns rape victims.

The African Union Peacekeepers:

While many organizations provide aid to the victims of the genocide, the African Union (AU) is the only group providing protection for the people of Darfur. Where AU peacekeepers are present, violence is lessened; when humanitarian convoys come under fire, AU peacekeepers come to their aid. In particular, AU peacekeepers prevent further rape by escorting women when they leave refugee camps in search of water and firewood.

However, the AU lacks sufficient resources to protect all civilians in need. While the AU has deployed 3,200 peacekeepers to Darfur, the International Crisis Group (ICG) estimates that 12,000–15,000 peacekeepers are needed to adequately protect the civilian population in Darfur, a region the size of Texas.

The Genocide Intervention Fund:

Recognizing the world’s repeated failure to stop genocides, the Genocide Intervention Fund (GIF) aims to help people keep the promise of “never again.” The GIF’s current campaign for Darfur combines fundraising for the African Union peacekeepers with education and advocacy efforts. By engaging citizens and pressuring international governments, the GIF reminds people of their responsibility to help protect victims of genocide. After only a few months, GIF has raised nearly a quarter of a million dollars, mainly donated by concerned citizens.

What You Can Do to Help:

The details of the crimes being committed in Darfur are heartbreaking. But although the situation is bleak, it is far from hopeless. Everyone can and must take the initiative to prevent further violence against the people of Darfur. There are many things you can do to help bring an end to the genocide:

- Organize an awareness event in your community.
- Hold a fundraising event for the African Union Peacekeeping Mission.
- Organize a letter writing campaign to urge your Congressperson to co-sponsor the Darfur Peace and Accountability Act, H.R. 3127.

The Genocide Intervention Fund urges you to help end the violence in Darfur. Please visit our website at www.GenocideInterventionFund.org to learn more about these and other ways to take action and to sign up for our monthly newsletter.

Director's Notes

On Friday, February 25, 2005, I lost a dear friend.

Actually, we all lost a friend. **Bill Corrigan** was one of our best. He spoke out for peace and justice, never with anger but with joy and hope. Bill went to jail for two months in 1995 for his beliefs, as a prisoner of conscience protesting the School of the



Lil and Bill Corrigan at an SOA demonstration, Fort Benning, GA.

Americas. Up until the very last months of his life he and Lil would protest the war in Iraq on the Square in Marietta, GA.

I met Lil and Bill when I lived in Georgia, right after Bill went to prison. Our friendship continued throughout our years in Georgia and continues today with Lil between phone calls, mail, and faxes. The strength and faith of both of them inspires me always.

Our Community Speaks out Against War was held May 1st at the State Capitol, Sacramento, CA. Several of us were asked to speak about how war harms people.

Obviously the war hurts us: nearly 2,000 dead Americans and 10's of thousands of Iraqis; over \$180 billion and counting spent for this war built on lies; and we are harmed because it divides our country. When will it stop? The war affects each of us, but to those of us who are middle aged and older, it has a ring all too familiar. These are my words that day:

For our oldest senior citizens, in WWII parents and sometimes spouses were lost.

In yet another war, Korea, spouses were mourned.



Lorraine Krofchok, Our Community Speaks out Against War, at the State Capitol, Sacramento, CA, May 1, 2005.

In Vietnam, husbands, wives, and children were killed.

Those of us in middle age and beyond have suffered immeasurable losses!

In Gulf War I, children and grandchildren were killed, and in Gulf War II, grandchildren and even great grandchildren are dead in this war built on lies.

We who have lived this long say: Silence is affirmation. We speak out! No more monuments to war, no more tombstones in Arlington, no more Vietnam walls of names, and certainly no more empty 'Boots and Shoes.' Enough already!

If your children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren believe they are conscientious objectors, it is time to start building a "file." Their participation in peace events, talks, rallies, and gathering should be kept, dated, and put away into a file. Include pictures, where possible. The time to start is now, before a draft.



Evan Roth, 2, is building his CO file. He is the grandson of Myrna Seto, Sacramento, Calif.

You can even begin a file for very young children. The "powers" should know what kind of family the CO comes from. Remember this, "I will not raise my child to kill your child," from a poem by Barbara Choo.

In early March 2005, I traveled with **Fr. Roy Bourgeois, Janice Freeman of S O A W a t c h Sacramento and Leisa Barnes, Prisoner of Conscience.** We were gone for four days.

Our first stop was S o n o m a State University, where we were hosted by **Peter Phillips of Project Censored;** then on to San Mateo at Junipero Serra High School where over 600 young men heard Fr. Roy speak.



Back, left: Janice Freeman, Leisa Barnes, Fr. Roy Bourgeois, Lorraine Krofchok

Some of them will be traveling to Ft. Benning, GA, this November.

Then we traveled to Redwood Country and Garberville, the home of a dynamic Veterans for Peace Chapter, hosted by **Fredy Champagne.** This is a truly dedicated group of Veterans, very honored to have Fr. Roy speak. After that we headed for the beautiful Northern California coast and Ft. Bragg. We had a very large turnout at the Town Hall, hosted by **Tom Wodetski and Janie Rezner, Alliance for Democracy,** Mendocino Coast chapter. We went on to Ukiah for an event sponsored by **Steve Scalmanini** and then to Willets, CA, hosted by **Sue Parkinson.** Many people helped put these venues together and those mentioned were initial contacts who helped get everything "rolling"! We were greeted at each stop with outstanding hospitality, great interest and generosity.



Fredy Champagne, Pres. of VFP, Garberville, CA

Now we must go to work! **Bill HR 1217, the Latin America Military Training Review Act of 2005,** calls for the Close of the School of the Americas. It will suspend the authority for the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation—the successor institution to the United States Army School of the Americas. We have 113 co-sponsors, but need more. Please take the time to make an appointment at your local Congressional offices to lobby for your Congressperson to sign on. If you need to get more information about the School of the Americas, please visit www.soaw.org.

I have an excellent resource: a long list of Organizations and Groups calling for the close of SOA. I will send this to anyone who wants it. It is very useful to leave this in the hands of whomever speaks to you. We must strongly urge Congress to finally close this school which furthers the agenda of a destructive foreign policy. George Bush has said we must close all the terrorist training camps. We can start with the School of the Americas at Ft. Benning, Georgia.

While writing this article, I learned that Fr. Roy's mother died in early July in Louisiana. Personally and organizationally we extend our deepest sympathy to him and his family.

Peace to all of us, Lorraine

FYI: Why the Opt-Out Insert

A History of Its Travels — So Far

BY LORRAINE KROFCHOK

Grandmothers for Peace developed the enclosed information booklet about recruiters after a meeting several months ago at an **Elk Grove, CA, Peace and Justice** gathering where **Sacramento Veterans for Peace** presented their “alternatives to the military” - the presentation they give to local high schools.

Military recruiters are relentlessly targeting young students for enlistment. Federal public law 107-110, section 9528 of the ESEA, “No Child Left Behind Act” requires school districts to release student names, addresses, and phone numbers to military recruiters upon their request. The military uses this information to recruit students. The law also requires the school district to notify you of your right to Opt-Out from this by requesting that the district not release your information to military recruiters. The completion and return of an Opt-Out form serves as your request that private information be withheld. However, many times the **Opt-Out information is buried** within a “welcome” book distributed at the beginning of the school year.

Recruiters get home phone numbers, go to teen “hangouts,” take young people out to eat, and make promises that can not be kept. In a case that made national news, a recruiter in Houston told a young “possibility” that if he did not come in for his appointment interview he would be arrested. Fortunately, the call was recorded on the young man’s answering machine.

In June it came to light that for the past 2-3 years, the **Pentagon** has been working with the private marketing firm BeNow, Inc. of Wakefield, Mass. **to create a huge database of million of high-school students, aged 16 to 18.** The database includes names, dates of birth, genders, addresses, Social Security numbers, e-mail addresses, ethnicity, telephone numbers, and even grade point averages. The purpose, according to a Defense Department statement, is “to assist” in “direct marketing recruiting efforts.”

Students have the right to Opt-Out and not be subjected to recruiters’ interviews. This is NOT anti-military; it is anti-the Bush Agenda of aggressive actions against the world. The troops are being used as cannon fodder by the current administration! There are no better words to describe this than in a quote by **George Main, President of Veterans for Peace, Sacramento, CA:** *“I support our troops and their sacrifices. I do not support sacrificing our troops.”*

After consultation and fine tuning, **Marjorie Boehm, Shirley O’Key** and myself came up with this booklet version.

It has been extraordinarily well received in just a short time. Please **copy it, use it, take it, distribute it** and let people know they have the right to opt out their children from being interviewed by military recruiters.



Arlington West: Santa Monica, California.
A temporary cemetery erected every Sunday by the Veterans For Peace.

THE TRAVELS OF OUR BOOKLET

My first introduction of the booklet was at a meeting about a month ago. I passed out 120 and a man came up to me and said he “*walked precincts and would copy and pass out hundreds*” in the coming months.

Marjorie Boehm and Ellen Schwartz are distributing copies at their weekly literature table at Farmers’ Markets in Sacramento. Both are members of GFP and **WILPF.**

Sacramento GFP **Loretta Schmitz** has given out 200 on her own, at a July 4th parade, and to jr. high and high-school students.

Veterans for Peace and Peace Action in New York City have printed up hundreds and will distribute to schools and meetings.



Steve Weiss, VFP, stood at attention for two hours while the names of casualties, U.S. and Iraqi, were read at the Sacramento, California, Eyes Wide Open display on March 29, 2005.

Grandmothers Against the War vigil each week across from Rockefeller Center and pass them out.

Our GFP, **Faith Woolson**, in Fredonia, NY, said their **Center for Peace and Justice** offered \$25 to print 250 copies to give out at a large festival in August. The local **Friends’ Meeting** saw the pamphlet and wanted 250 to give away at their Sunday Meeting for Worship at Chautauqua Institution. Perhaps 10 to 20 people attend the Quaker Meeting, but we reach an entirely different crowd during the Chautauqua Institution’s nine-week summer program—it has an attendance of 10,000 people. *“We are trying to find the cheapest printing rates, but even if it costs a bit more, can you think of a better way to spend a few dollars? Think what just one of these booklets might do for someone: save a life!”*

Dorothy Wolden of Northland GFP (Wis.) is working to distribute copies of the Opt-Out pamphlet at local high school orientations this fall. It is a very valuable tool for counter-recruiting and will be very helpful to parents and students. *“We must stop this exploitation and coercion of our children, their names and personal information handed over to military recruiters by the ‘No Child Left Behind’ Act which is sometimes rightly referred to as the ‘No Child Left Unrecruited’ Act.”*

In Florida, GFP **Peg McIntire** made 100 copies. *“I will include it in my next GFP newsletter also.”* In addition, on July 12th, **Peg, Anne Galloway and Laura Braly of People for Peace and Justice** requested the St Johns County School board meeting make the Opt-Out form available to the students and their families. No action was taken at this time.

In Minnesota, GFP **Constance Fleisher** tells me her chapter spent the evening of July 15th at bookstores handing out the Opt-Out Form to parents/guardians accompanying children, and young adults waiting for the Harry Potter one-minute after midnight book release. **Sonia St. Charles**, of Shoreview, Minnesota, has hosted a number of high teas for mothers of teenage sons and daughters to inform them about the Opt-Out forms—plus, her own 15-year-old son is giving out brochures.

In the Bay Area our GFP **Ginny DeMartini and Corine Thornton** are handing out brochures at meetings and events they attend. They are being distributed at the annual Livermore Labs demonstration where hundreds gather each year on August 6th.

In Houston, Texas, GFP **Susan Wright** and her “team,” **Beth, Jodi, Misty, and Colin**, Susan’s 27 year-old son, will distribute the opt-out fliers during the Texas Tax Free week-

◆ PLEASE SEE TRAVELS, PAGE 7

end, prior to the start of school. They plan to distribute 2,000 in malls and stores where people shop. Susan says "That's our goal. In fact, two of us are even using vacation days to do this project because we are so committed to getting the word out to other parents. I'm sure there are so many out there that do not even realize that the military has access to their children's records! I'm also glad that I found GFP, it has given me courage to stand up for my convictions when I live in an area where being against Bush isn't always popular."

In Washington state, GFP Ellen Murphy has made copies to hand out at a Peace Action meeting near Seattle. She also will give them to the local Peace & Justice Center counter-recruiting group, and "continue to take them with me wherever I can." Ellen was arrested and went to trial a few years ago for handing out information at a recruiting station about Depleted Uranium.

And, because of the efforts of Corine Thornton in Hayward, CA, the opt out form is on the website of Representative Pete Stark! Corine gave it to Rep. Stark at a Town Hall Meeting and he promised to post it, which he did. (Ed: At his website, type "opt out" into the search area.)

Recruiters Avoid Veterans For Peace

In June, a small group of local activists went in solidarity support to the MEPS (Military Entrance Processing Stations) here in Sacramento, CA. It is where the young recruits are tested and processed into the military after the promises of their recruiters. The military chose to take a five- minute action and blow it into a full blown media event!

George Main, President of Veterans for Peace Sacramento Chapter had a "Petition for Redress of Grievance" that he wanted to leave with the officer in charge at the facility. Essentially the petition asked the Department of Defense to recognize and honor a 72-hour cooling off period for persons under the age of 21 who sign the Enlistment/Reenlistment Document Armed Forces of the US. It would give our young people the same "right" as buying a product and changing your mind after thinking about what you have done.

The doors were locked and no one was answering the knocks or the bell, although many were gathered inside. After about 40 minutes, the police came out and said George could slip his list between the slats of the locked door! No one would come out or let him in to exercise a First Amendment right. We pay the salaries of the people behind that locked door! As we left, the paper remained on the floor.

Veterans for Peace and others gather at 4:30 a.m., four days a week as the young potential recruits are bused in to MEPS for their final paperwork and exams. They attempt to tell them there are alternatives to the military, and in some cases have had success.



CONSENT DENIED

WOMEN REJECT WAR

Women's Pledge to Protect and Resist

I, _____ am not raising/did not raise my son, daughter, or the other children in my life to wage war on or to harm the sons and daughters of women anywhere. Nor will I myself ever agree to fight in war.

I will support and assist my spouse/partner, children, grandchildren, or other family and friends in registering as Conscientious Objectors and/or refusing to serve in the US military.

Signature _____

Address _____

Date _____

Additional statement:

A conscientious objector is one who gains legal status for opposition to serving in the armed forces and/or bearing arms, on the grounds of moral or religious principles.

This pledge is sponsored and supported by
Consent Denied: Women Reject War
118 1/2 W 10th St
Duluth MN 55806
218-724-1891

GRANDMOTHERS FOR PEACE DIRECTORY

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"Boots" On The Move

Sept. 9-11: Baltimore, MD
Sept. 23-25: Lancaster, PA
Sept 29-Oct. 1: The College of
St. Catherine, Minneapolis/
St. Paul, MN
Oct. 6-9: Ithaca, NY
Oct. 10-18: Newark, NJ

For future dates and more information
please go to the EWO Exhibit:
<http://www.eyes.afsc.org>.

The American Friends Service
Committee exhibit, "Eyes Wide Open,"
speaks directly to our hearts — reminding
us of the human cost of war and honoring
the sacrifice of all who have died in the
Iraq war. The exhibit has visited over 40
cities with extensive local, national and
international media coverage.

Ed: See page 1 for the entire article.

*Barbara Wiedner and Dorothy Vandercook
Memorial Scholarship Foundation*

2005 Scholarship Foundation Winners

- Jason D. Crowe: Newburgh, Indiana - \$500
- Niko Milonopoulos: Studio City, California - \$500
- Louis De Sitter: Hood River, Oregon- \$250
- Given Kachepa: Colleyville, Texas, (citizen of Zambia, Africa) - \$250
- Sydney McGrane: Reading, Massachusetts - \$250
- Brett Schilke: Neenah, Wisconsin - \$250
- Amanda Gelender: Castro Valley, California - \$250
- Amelia Pelly: Asheville, North Carolina - \$250
- Max McDaniel: Grass Valley, California - \$250
- Bethany Woolman: Albany, California - \$250
- Anne Johnson: Mindcqua, Wisconsin - \$250
- Hillary Livingston: Enon, Ohio - \$250

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

**GFPI MEMBERSHIP
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- Renew
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- New
- Remove me from the mailing list

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Mailing Address _____

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Email: Put me on the GFP email alert list.

Please make **membership check** payable to **Grandmothers for Peace Int'l.**

- \$25 Regular/yearly
- \$25 Mens Auxiliary/yearly
- \$15 Senior Citizen/yearly
- \$50 Patron/yearly
- \$30 Family/yearly
- \$100 Sponsor/yearly

\$ _____ Donation to Peace Education. If your donation is \$25.00 or more,
it is tax-deductible, and please make your check payable to the
AGAPE Foundation.

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

Washington, D.C.

September 10-12

Department of Peace Conference



Join the peacemakers in our nation's capitol to lobby for a Cabinet-level Department of Peace. Legislation will be re-introduced in the House of Representatives as a tribute to victims of September 11th.

A Dept. of Peace would establish nonviolence as an organizing principle of American society, providing the U.S. with an array of peace-building policy options for domestic and international use.

A few of the guest speakers are Walter Cronkite, Dennis Kucinich, Marianne Williamson, and Azim Khamisa.

Contact: www.ThePeaceAlliance.org;
Phone: (586) 754-8195.

Washington, DC; San Francisco, Calif.;

Los Angeles, Calif.

September 24, 2005

The A.N.S.W.E.R.Coalition urges the antiwar movement to come together for a united demonstration demanding the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of the U.S. from Iraq. The military spending level for the next year will be over \$600 billion. The lives of our sons and daughters, and our tax dollars are being spent to wage a global war for domination that will benefit U.S. banks, oil monopolies, and transnational corporations. Many Americans are seeing their jobs, wages, health care coverage, and pensions cut. Instead of paying for endless war, demand that resources be used to meet human needs here and abroad.

Contact: www.answercoalition.org;
e-Mail: info@internationalanswer.org

Vancouver, BC

June 23-28, 2006

The World Peace Forum

The city of Vancouver, a *Nuclear Weapons Free Zone*, unanimously passed a motion to support, to help fund, and to actively participate in the World Peace Forum. The theme of the Forum is "*Cities and Communities: Working together to End War and Build a Peaceful, Just and Sustainable World.*"

Contact: World Peace Forum, 10-111 Victoria Drive, Vancouver BC, Canada V5L 4C4; www.worldpeaceforum.ca; Phone: (604) 687-3223; eMail: admin@worldpeaceforum.ca

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.

Fort Benning, Georgia

November 18-20

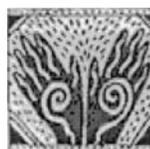
Close the SOA!



Plan now to gather with student, religious, labor, veterans, human rights, and social and global justice groups at the gates of Ft. Benning to demand justice for the martyrs and for the thousands that continue to suffer the brutal consequences of the combat training taught at the SOA/WHISC.

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. **Your TAX \$\$\$\$\$ support this.** Notify your Congressperson to support **Bill HR 1217 to close the SOA.**

Contact: SOA Watch: PO Box 4566, Washington, DC, 20017; Phone: (202) 234 3 4 4 0; e-Mail: info@soaw.org; www.soaw.org to order your November 2005 Organizing Packet.



The Shanti Foundation for Peace is a non-profit organization, est.1993, that fosters the practice of non-violence in everyday life. Through arts and education, they create and implement programs that help children develop lifelong non-violent decision making skills.

A variety of Peacemaker gift cards, and a handbook for educators are available.

Contact: Shanti Foundation for Peace, 917 Fowler Avenue, Evanston, Illinois, 60202; Phone: (847) 492-0955; www.shantifoundationforpeace.com

Video

Arlington West



Arlington West, produced by **Peter Dudar and Sally Marr**, is a 56-minute tribute not only to fallen U.S. soldiers, but also to countless innocent Iraqi citizens.

A variety of opinions are presented: active duty military, military families, veterans, children, and the general public. See pg. 1 article for more information.

Contact: Phone: (323) 650-8166; www.arlingtonwestfilm.org



STOP THE NEXT WAR NOW!

Effective Responses to Violence & Terrorism, by peace activists **Medea Benjamin and Jodie Evans**, educates and reflects on the effectiveness of peace-movement activities.

Over 70 experts, scholars, artists, activists, and journalists offer hope—through shared ideas, action steps, and practical checklists—to transition from a culture of violence to a culture of peace.

Contact: Your local bookstore; order online at www.codepink4peace.org



"These stories of Kathy Kelly's life and work, touch our soul and renew our hope and belief in humanity. They inspire and challenge us to work for justice," states

Mairead Corrigan Maguire, Nobel Peace Laureate, 1976.

Other Lands Have Dreams: From Baghdad to Pekin Prison, by **Kathy Kelly**, founder of **Voices in the Wilderness**, is a collection of her journals, letters, and reports from Iraq, Haiti, and two US prisons.

It covers her time in Iraq from the first Gulf War through 12 years of harsh sanctions to the 2003 US Invasion and continued Occupation.

Kelly spent four months at Pekin Federal Prison Camp (Illinois) for protesting the US Army's military combat training facility, the School of the Americas in Ft. Benning, Georgia. These graduates are linked to massacre, torture, assassination, and the disappearance of thousands of people in Latin America since the school's inception over 50 years ago.

This three-time Nobel Peace Prize Nominee has been arrested over 40 times in the U. S. and has been arrested or detained numerous times in other countries.

Her love of others and her commitment to nonviolence enables her to tell the truth ... "through the eyes of Iraqi mothers, children, students, doctors and musicians, whose lives have been overturned by more than a decade of war and deprivation, inflicted in the name of humanitarianism."

Contact: Your local bookstore; order online at www.vitw.org

"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
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Take Our Message Wherever You Go!



Sew-on Logo Patch

Hats on to GFP
 For peaceful protesting — an adjustable Baseball Cap with the GFP Logo — \$11.00 each.

& Bumper Stickers
 \$2.00 each, postage included.
 Volume discounts available.



Navy Zipper-Top Tote

NEW



Navy Open-Top Tote



Grandmothers for Peace International

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The Starfish Flinger

Thousands of starfish washed ashore. A little girl began throwing them in the water so they wouldn't die.

"Don't bother, dear," her mother said, "it won't make a difference."

The girl stopped for a moment and looked at the starfish in her hand.

"It will make a difference to this one."

I Will Not Raise My Child To Kill Your Child

I will not raise my child to shoot your child
I will not raise my child to shoot guns
I will not raise my child to kill your child
In a war with your daughters and your sons.

I'm told that freedom is something to die for
Of all nations we are the most free
But where is the freedom if the children go to war
If we're all afraid to walk down the street
We were raised to accept all this bloodshed
It's the last one surviving that wins
We've allowed it too long, we must make it all stop
It's the child who will suffer for the sins.

— Barbara Choo

Numbers You Need

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



President George W. Bush

Phone: (202) 456-1111 [comment line]

Fax: (202) 456-2461

e-mail: president@whitehouse.gov

First Lady Laura Bush

e-mail: first.lady@whitehouse.gov

Vice-President Dick Cheney

e-mail: vice.president@whitehouse.gov

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice

Fax: (202) 261-8577

e-mail: secretary@state.gov

Secretary of Defense

Donald H. Rumsfeld

Phone: (703) 697-5737 [Dept. of Defense]

Members Of Congress

(Capitol Switchboard)

Senate & House: (202) 224-3121

**OPT-OUT FORM PROHIBITING SCHOOL OFFICIALS FROM
RELEASING YOUR NAME, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE
NUMBER TO MILITARY RECRUITERS**

School _____

Date _____

Student Name _____

Date of Birth _____

Dear _____
(Name of School)

I understand that the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 allows a student or a student's parent the right to prohibit a school from providing the military with a student's personal information.

_____ I request that this student's name, address, and telephone number not be released to Armed Forces, Military Recruiters, or Military Schools.

Signature of parent or guardian _____

– or –

_____ I am 18 years old and request my own name, address, telephone number and school records not be released to the Armed Forces, Military Recruiters, or Military Schools.

Signature of student _____

Federal public law 107–110, section 9528 of the ESEA, “No Child Left Behind Act” requires school districts to release student names, addresses, and phone numbers to military recruiters upon their request. The military uses this information to recruit students. The law also requires the school district to notify you of your right to Opt-Out from this by request- ing that the district not release your information to military recruiters. The completion and return of this form serves as your request to withhold your private information.

WHAT FAMILIES NEED TO KNOW ABOUT MILITARY RECRUITING IN HIGH SCHOOLS AND COLLEGES

- Recruiter Access to Schools and Students
- Recruiter Promises
- Making Enlistment Decisions
- Ten Points to Consider Before Signing a Military Enlistment Agreement
- OPT-OUT FORM

Pamphlet prepared by:
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PO Box 580788
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<http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org>
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Permission to Copy/Reprint - Please Spread the Word.

RECRUITER ACCESS TO SCHOOLS AND STUDENTS

- **Students have a choice** on recruitment interviews. They do not have to submit to an interview. (See back page for opt-out form.)
- **Ask your school about their procedure** once the opt-out form is turned in. Specifically, ask what is done with the form, where the information goes, and who is notified.
- **Schools receiving federal funds must**, by law, allow military recruiters on campus. Schools have the right to set reasonable rules for recruiters to follow. Ask what the rules are at your school.
- **Insist that the school set rules** and monitor overly aggressive recruiters contacting students on campus or at home.

RECRUITER PROMISES

- **Ask if your school has a monitoring system** for recruitment promises. Reports have surfaced that indicate recruiters have misrepresented requirements and benefits of military service, such as length of enlistment, health and education benefits, and training possibilities.
- **Parents should talk to recruiters themselves** to make sure the student has not been bullied or pressured, and that all information is truthful and understood by the student.

MAKING ENLISTMENT DECISIONS

- **There is no cooling-off period** for enlistment. It is not possible to legally change one's mind after signing.
- **Be aware** that the basic military commitment is subject to change and can be extended at the discretion of the government. The enlistee has no rights in the matter, regardless of what recruiters claim.
- **Students and families should take as much time as they need to make a decision.** All school and career options should be considered. Enlistment is a long-term obligation and the student should enter his/her contract with a clear understanding of the commitment and responsibility.

TEN POINTS TO CONSIDER BEFORE SIGNING 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 the civil liberties enjoyed by civilians.
10. Many other opportunities exist for you to serve your community and enhance your skills.

*Courtesy of American Friends Service Committee,
National Youth and Militarism Program*