

CORRECTIONS: ** Dave Logsdon's phone number: 612-203-9768 and the poet at the Kellogg event was Peter Rothstein. Person who read the Statement of Purpose, Lee Eklund.

SEE EVENT at end of Minutes: Telling Minnesota ~ 6 veterans tell their stories at the Guthrie Oct. 19th & 20th Event is FREE But MUST get tickets. Please try to show your support!

QUOTES:

* "I am not 'war-weary'; I'm angry
... angry at those who used sarin in Syria
... angry at those who think more killing is the answer
... angry at all presidents with blood on their hands
... angry at the talking heads who distinguish worthy from unworthy victims
... angry at politicians who care more about 'credibility' than about human life
... angry at those who call for war any time the flag is waved
... and angry at the endless headlines that claim we're just 'war-weary', as though one good head-clearing nap would make Americans see the wisdom of killing to punish killing".

~ (see rest below) **Kelly Rae Kraemer, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Peace Studies at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University in central Minnesota**

* "If it's natural to kill, why do men (and women) have to go into training to learn to do it?"
~ **Joan Baez (attributed)**

New Blog Suggestions:

http://wlajournal.com/24_1/24_index.html

<http://anthropologist.wordpress.com/2013/09/11/in-honor-of-the-day-war-literature-or-matters-related-thereto/>

New Movies at VFP: *Behind The Lines: In War, Sanity is the Ultimate Casualty* about WWI and the meeting of the psychiatrist and Siegfried Sassoon at the Scottish asylum. Conversation ensue about war, its consequences and anti-war and other life and death discussions.

The Invisible War documentary about Military Sexual Trauma {MST}, the stories and the deep impacts on victims, their families and the communities.

5 p.m. EXECUTIVE MEETING - October 13th, 2013

Attending: Chante Wolf, Dave Logsdon, Barry Riesch, Wayne Wittman, Andy Berman, Terry Burke, John Sherman, Greg Hagen, Steve McKewon, Molly Culligan.

Canoe Raffle Dinner: The winner: Heidi Eschenbacher, canoe was delivered yesterday, Oct. 12th, 2013. The event was fun, successful and that is the point.

Email Call for Officer Nominations: President/Vice President/Secretary & Treasurer & job descriptions. Each person currently holding a position ~ please ~ send what you do to Larry Johnson so he can put together the email call for Greg Hagen to send out. Please send to Larry NLT 5 November.

FBI Visitation: The FBI showed up looking for the other occupants in our office, Somali Yellow Pages. Then he left. They were not concerned with our activities.

Limiting Outside Presentations to Our General Meetings: Need for a standard rule for time limits and frequency. However, that is the responsibility of the keeper of the agenda for that meeting. Decision goes to the President.

Office Staffing: Try again to get folks to sign up for what they can give with a note to place on the door for those who wish to inquire to go to MayDay Books. Also cutting our hours back. Another suggestion is paid part time staff or interns. Suggested that we have more outreach on campus as well. Then there is the issue of their being a veteran or not. Tabled for now. To be discussed again.

VFP Book Group/Theater: Idea about veterans who can write, want to write and are willing to gather literature, writing articles etc. Will bring it up in General meeting. Anyone interested in this contact Chante Wolf, chantewolf7@gmail.com

Meeting Adjourned ---

BOOK Suggestion: *"Dear Mr. President"* Gabe Hudson {a personal story about the Gulf War Syndrome}

6 p.m. GENERAL MEETING

Attending: Chante Wolf, Dave Logsdon, John Sherman, Greg Hagen, Wayne Wittman, Mary McNellis, Andy Berman, Terry Burke, Molly Culligan, Barry Riesch, Steve McKeown, Pat Reisinger, Tom Sullivan, Ray DeVogel, Wes Davey, Vern Hall, Bruce Berry, Mike Madden and special guest with Wes, Joey the Peace Dog.

Call to Order and Statement of Purpose - Read by: Molly Culligan.

Check-in: Short introduction, check-in about the retreat for those who went.

Member Welfare: Charlie Bloss was at the event at St. Joan of Arc this afternoon, Oct. 13th, relayed his hello's to everyone. Jim Steinhagen, he will be speaking at Sister's of St. Joseph in the evening on Armistice. Andy still doing well. Pat Downey keeping his spirits up with his memory loss. Dale Lokken ~ our group needs to have a check in with him.

EXECUTIVE REPORT: Report above.

REPORTS: Thank you Bruce for the front door information!!

Secretary-Last Months Minutes: Moved to accept - second - passed.

Treasurer: Moved to accept - second - passed. Attached below. Bulk of donations was designated for Bob Heberle's memorial.

Armistice Day: Wayne has taken charge of the event. Bell ringing at the First Shot, 10:30, bell to ring at 11 am and speakers afterwards. Britt's Pub, "Partners in Peace, an Armistice Day Commemoration" will begin at 6 pm in the Club Room. Event is free, all are welcome to attend. 1110 Nicollet Mall, Mpls. At the Sister's of St. Joseph of Carondelet, Nov. 11th, at 6:30pm there is an annual event around peace and justice. Jim Steinhagen will be participating.

Communications: Any information needed to get out to membership, send exactly what you want to Greg Hagen ~ he does not make corrections ~ so make sure what you send. {email}. We had on the order of things 1) to get the email listing working 2) website updated and now, Thanks to Greg, we have this now in working order. Suzanne Linton wants to have VFP come on cable and talk about the history and functioning of our group. It will be a taped show. Those who have an interest of being on and giving our history, please contact Dave ~ 612-203-9768. Also talked about a literary/book group folks to get with interested veterans to put together a Writer's Group. They would help with letters to editors / newspaper / possible book publishing / and advise about books for VFP to read including movies etc. Interest in this contact Chante ~ chantewolf7@gmail.com

School Outreach: Larry and Steve will be at St. Cloud Pax Christi, Sister's of St. Joseph and St. Ben's peace club. Chante will be doing presentation on MST at Global Responsibility Conference at St. Cloud State University, Oct. 22nd at 11 am in the Attwood theater.

Newsletter: The committee is in need for people to join them. They put out a quarterly newsletter that entails the initial meeting to set the articles, invite guest writers and the proofing and mailing dates. Please if you have any interest in writing, please contact Steve McKeown ~ 612-869-2040.

MAP Annual Event: Gathered about Armistice Day and came up with resolutions: "Be it Resolved, that the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers issue a Press Release including the language that could be used in announcements in religious services or bulletins just prior to November 11, reminding people of the history of Veterans Day as Armistice Day, the ceasefire of World War I in Europe, and encouraging people to revere or celebrate the concept of Peace as opposed to having demonstrations of war and violence. Included in the message in the services or bulletins could be a statement about the Veterans For Peace local chapter #27 annual bell ringing ceremony on Armistice/Veterans Day at the First Shot Memorial on Minnesota's Capitol grounds, November 11th at 11 am. Members and supporters gather at 10:30 to participate in the ceremony. This is in remembrance that for one moment at the 11th hour of the 11th day on the 11th month, 11 am, on November 11, 1918, the World agreed that World War I must be the War to End All Wars. There was exuberant joy everywhere and many churches rang their bells, some 11 times, to mark the signing of the Armistice." October 21st, MAP event, Wayne has tickets, main speaker is Matthew Rothschild, "Our Vanishing Liberties. \$5, 6 pm beginning and presentation 7 pm. Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church, 511 Groveland at Lyndale, Mpls. 55403

Direct Action: Drone banner still exists and can be used for future actions if we want to.

Fundraising: Canoe delivered yesterday, see above.

Finance Committee: Table until next month.

Holiday Party: Suggested to bring in Sara Thomson to sing at our party. Tribute and farewell to Larry as president. Possibility of having it on a Sunday and reserve the same place at WAMM. Should we have an Ad Hoc committee put together for planning the party? Steve asked. Vern volunteered to make his gumbo. Pot luck suggestion. Wes volunteered to cook also and a list was sent around.

Nominations for 2014 Executive Officers: Email to be sent out with requests for nominations and job descriptions by 5 November to Larry Johnson. See above.

SOA: Only have 6 paid registered for the trip. Need more to sign up. If we don't have 1/2 the bus filled by the end of this month we will have to cancel the trip. Not looking up at this time, but still optimistic. We need 43 to 48 people.

Bell Making Meeting: Larry Johnson brought all the materials he had gathered around the history of bells and their use. What was discovered was that the biggest detriment to bells was not corrosion, but war. There was talk about getting this process and bells made to other chapters. The next meeting is scheduled for either October 24th 9-12 at Gita's art studio. There was talk about the process of making a bell and the needs for building the kiln. A follow up note will be sent out to the veterans who missed the meeting.

National Convention 2018: Wayne needs to have people help him get our chapter ready for the National VFP Convention in 2018. He needs to have folks go with him to review the motel site. He is making an appointment for October 25th, time TBA. Interested in going and helping Wayne with this contact Wayne ~ waynecwittman@gmail.com.

State Representative, Frank Horstien: Jobs and the military isn't how it is sold to us. Mr. Horstein is interested in getting a resolution going to that order about jobs and military spending taking the money not bringing it in to the state.

Retreat: Barry Riesch made a complaint that this needed to be talked about earlier in the meeting as he felt it was important to work on. He went on to tell what he felt about the retreat and about our needing goals and concentration of efforts. Always room for improvement but we are not sitting on our hands either. We have had a lot of huge events going and need to recognize those. Need to generate new membership. One goal, example, Kellogg/Briand Act to be something that was studied in schools.

Syria and Speaker Endorsement: Discussion ensued covering all aspects of who supports the rebels, Assad and should VFP endorse or not. Wayne made a motion: VFP, Chapter 27 acts to endorse the event and encourages its members to attend. Second. Discussion. Voted and failed. It was voted not to endorse the event the Anti-War Committee is holding, but members were encouraged to go and hear for themselves. The concern was that the main and only speaker, Dr. Matar a leader in the group, Freedom Road. Friends for a NonViolent World refused to endorse this event as well. On the website of Freedom Road, there is sentiment about the Syrian Government needing to be defended. Suggestion was also made afterwards that this be brought up at the next meeting: the need for VFP to define what it means for us to endorse an event.

Events: See listing below for additional events, Telling Minnesota at the Guthrie.

Meeting Adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted, Chante Wolf. chantewolf7@gmail.com (Any corrections, please bring to next meeting and they will be addressed in the minutes).

Bob Heberle VFP Award Nomination

Bob Heberle distributes, via daily emails, information to members regarding VFP actions and issues that advocate our VFP Statement of Purpose. He does this with sensitivity, not wanting to overload recipients, yet wanting to share important information regarding events and actions.

A long time leader and activist, Bob served as Chapter 27 Secretary for many years and has headed the Chapter Leadership Nominating Committee which seeks and recommends capable people.

When VFP chartered VFP Chapter 127 for homeless veterans, Bob and his wife of 55 years, Jean, had for several years been volunteers at Peacehouse, a drop-in center for homeless people in Minneapolis. Bob served as an officer of 127 and is currently its President.

Bob has missed few National VFP conventions in the last 20 years and has been active in promoting National VFP projects. He has made himself available to be a candidate for the National Board of Directors and served as its Secretary. He and Jean have opened their home to VFP guests when there are actions or meetings in Minnesota.

As editor of the chapter's 12 page newsletter for seven years, Bob has contributed articles for the chapter newsletter since 1991. The newsletter is currently available on the chapter web site at: vfpchapter27.org.

One of Chapter 27's first trips to the SOA rally in June of 1993 included Bob, and he subsequently made ten more SOA trips to Columbus, GA and Washington D.C.

Bob has taken the initiative to pursue actions calling the public's attention to U.S. crimes of torture. Protests began in 2006 when the University of St. Thomas School of Law hired Professor Robert Delahunty who coauthored with John Yoo the Bush administration memos that denied war detainees international protections called for by the Geneva Conventions. He promoted and participated in many actions highlighting the law school's hiring of Delahunty in spite of the school's Mission Statement to "...focus on morality and social justice". Focusing on his opposition to U.S. torture, Bob has long encouraged and involved the Chapter in these activities.

Bob also played a role in the successful passing of state legislation recognizing the health damage from D.U. in weapons. He has provided high school administrators with information and successfully worked to prevent local JROTC programs. In multiple actions he has

supported local peace activists. Demonstrating toward a more humane and non-violent government, he has been arrested four times. His latest arrest was a die-in in Minnesota Sen. Klobuchar's office to cut off funding for the war in Afghanistan.

Bob has a long history as a community peace and justice advocate, particularly related to Central America. He was instrumental in founding a Sister Parish relationship between his local church and a parish in Guatemala as a solidarity effort. He also served on the national board of Sister Parish Inc. for six years. His presence always adds to the value of the event and he is the first to pull out his checkbook when financial assistance is indicated for a worthy action.

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By: Roger Cuthbertson 9/11/13

Our dear friend, Bob Heberle, has passed away (9/6/13). In case you haven't heard, there will be a celebration of his life at St. Joan of Arc Church in Minneapolis on Sat, Sept 14, 2013, at 11 AM. Visitation will be before the service beginning at 9:30 AM. An obituary was in the Strib on Tue, 9/10. There will likely be a longer special obituary in the Strib on Thursday, 9/12/13.

The loss of Bob is a big blow to those who knew him. Our hearts go out to Jean, who has been giving heaps of loving care, and to the rest of the very supportive family. My wife, Jo, keeps saying, "Bob was a really nice man, and fun to be around" That he was. Also, he was a very close friend in quite a lot of peace and justice work. He was passionately against war and torture. He worked for human rights. His religion was important to him. When his church seemed to be complicit or silent with regard to aggressive war or violation of human rights, Bob spoke out. Bob was compassionate, hard working, and unafraid. He always did his homework so that he was informed and prepared. He kept working for peace and helping his fellow vets for peace even in the last weeks of his battle with cancer.

Some people have asked me if I would please tell, once more, the story about the Lake Minnetonka protest of Dick Cheney that ended with the arrest of Bob and I. Here is a short version. I was with Bob on many protests, but the one that has often gotten the most attention was on June 26, 2006. We learned, several days ahead of time that Vice President Dick Cheney was coming to a mansion on Lake Minnetonka to do a fund raiser for Michele Bachman. This party on the lake was not for the public in any way. You had to be invited and pay \$250 to attend or pay \$1,000 to attend and have your picture taken with Cheney and Bachman. We decided to crash the party by boat and by surprise. It was our

view that Cheney, perhaps more than any other public figure, had promoted the illegal, immoral, and aggressive war against Iraq, based on lies. We wanted to try to get to the party and give VP Cheney a stern talking to. In case we were stopped, we had our rather lengthy protest statements in our back pockets, sealed in plastic bags to stay dry. Maybe our peace messages could get through, even if we could not.

So we got some friends together. These friends were: Rhoda Brooks who had a pontoon boat for us to use, Mark and Hanna Stratman, who had a small runabout type boat, Patty Guerro, whom we knew from her work in an anti torture organization called Tackling Torture at the Top, Brigid McDonald whom we knew from her work at the weekly peace vigil at Alliant Tech, Meredith Aby, whom we knew from her active work with The Anti-War Committee, Jon Plotz, who was another member of the Anti-War Committee, my loving wife, Jo Schubert, Bob Heberle, and myself. Another person who had planned to be with us, Bruce Berry, got seriously injured a few days before the event and couldn't make it. We dedicated our protest to him.

On the day of the protest we got started early because we had to sail our flotilla all the way from Excelsior Bay all the way to Halstead's Bay, and we were not sure exactly when the party was to start. Our pontoon was festooned with banners and signs and flags. As it turned out, we got there well before invited guests arrived. Luckily, we had food and beverages and musical instruments with us so that we were able to entertain ourselves. Brigid led the dancing. Pretty soon, various police boats showed up including sheriff boats and secret service boats. We started protesting in earnest, using two megaphones to voice our complaints about the policies of Dick Cheney. The police boats kept moving us out away from shore – way farther than the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District rules generally allow.

Our plans called for Bob and I to launch one-man rubber rafts at 3:00 PM for our attempt to go ashore to protest Cheney at their fund raising party. Meredith Aby was connected to KFAI radio with a cell phone and gave a blow by blow description of our attempt to make an amphibious landing for the cause of peace. Bob and I didn't get very far towards shore before we were intercepted by police boats. My rubber raft was leaking and sinking pretty fast. When they grabbed a line and tried to tow me out away from shore, I untied the line. By the time they finally grabbed my raft I rolled off the raft and swam for shore. Eventually, I was intercepted again and told that I was under arrest, and that I had better comply for my own safety. Bob had a similar experience. Although he did not swim for shore, he eventually got arrested as he kept paddling towards shore.

We were then turned over to Secret Service officers, handcuffed and eventually taken to Mound City Jail where we spent a couple of hours. We were interrogated separately by secret service people. I

refused to answer most of the questions, but Bob, being the nice guy that he is, answered all of the questions. We left jail together.

There was to be a trial. We were eventually charged with “creating a public nuisance on watercraft”, although the original summons and complaint was for “disorderly conduct”. An attorney friend of ours from Alliant Action, Ken Gleason, agreed to help us with our case at no charge. We were very lucky and relieved to get his very good help.

As selecting a jury got under way for the trial, it became apparent to our attorney that the prosecution was basing its entire case against us on complaint made by some people who said they were in a boat trying to hear Cheney’s speech, but because of the noise that we were making the megaphones, they couldn’t hear the speech. Our attorney was able to point out that no one could have heard Cheney’s speech from that far out in the lake, because the speech was given either in the house or in the front yard opposite the lake. Further, by blind luck, neither Bob nor I had used the megaphones. There were many witnesses to these facts. So, the prosecution dismissed the case before a full panel of jurors could be selected.

We celebrated our court victory, but were astonished, when several months later, the prosecution came after us with new charges of “trespass and disobeying a lawful order”. We asked, “Isn’t this double jeopardy?” They said, “No, because we didn’t really have a full trial the first time – just partial selection of the jury.” The new charges were only a petty misdemeanor. There was no weeping when judge Jay Quam found Bob and I guilty and fined us \$100 each.

And so it went with Bob. This is only one example of his life full of compassionate and thoughtful actions for peace and justice. We will miss Bob a great deal. Hugs and deepest sympathy to Jean and close friends and family.

I am not 'war-weary'; I'm angry

- ... angry at those who used sarin in Syria
- ... angry at those who think more killing is the answer
- ... angry at all presidents with blood on their hands
- ... angry at the talking heads who distinguish worthy from unworthy victims
- ... angry at politicians who care more about 'credibility' than about human life
- ... angry at those who call for war any time the flag is waved
- ... and angry at the endless headlines that claim we're just 'war-weary', as though one good head-clearing nap would make Americans see the wisdom of killing to punish killing.

I am not 'war-weary'; I'm sick

- ... sick at the sight of so many dead from breathing poison in Damascus
- ... sick at the thought of so many dead or damaged by uranium in Fallujah
- ... sick at the thought of Afghans massacred in Kandahar
- ... sick at the memory of Japanese vaporized in Hiroshima and Nagasaki
- ... sick at the memory of all the young soldiers sent to kill and die
- ... sick at the thought of all those shot, bayoneted, bombed, gassed, and nuked in war
- ... and sick at the thought of those who will die in a US attack on Damascus, because a 'limited' attack is still an attack.

I am not 'war-weary', but I am tired

- ... tired of peace prizes going to warmakers
- ... tired of politicians who play games with people's lives
- ... tired of presidents and legislators who ignore the laws they've sworn to uphold
- ... tired of war drum beating that passes for journalism
- ... tired of the claim that war can be 'humanitarian'
- ... tired of indoctrination into the false belief that war can bring peace
- ... and tired, so tired of hearing there will be "no boots on the ground", as if a war that only kills foreigners is morally acceptable.

I am not 'war-weary'; I am anti-war

- ... because war is always a failure
- ... a failure of diplomacy and understanding
- ... a failure of will and effort
- ... a failure of imagination and creativity
- ... a failure of ingenuity and investment
- ... a failure of compassion and morality
- ... a failure to invent and practice real, nonviolent humanitarian action.

I am not 'war-weary'; I'm hungry for peace.

Kelly Rae Kraemer, Ph.D., is Associate Professor of Peace Studies at the College of St. Benedict/St. John's University in central Minnesota

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Telling: Minnesota

October 19 - October 20, 2013 in the Dowling Studio

- [About the Show](#)



Tickets may be reserved by phone at 612.377.2224 or toll-free at 1.877.44STAGE or in person at the Guthrie's Box Office.

**The Guthrie Theater presents
The Telling Project's production of *Telling: Minnesota*
in association with the Guthrie Theater's production of *An Iliad***

Saturday, October 19 at 10 a.m. and Sunday, October 20 at 1 p.m.

The performances are free, but tickets are required.

The Saturday, October 19 performance at 10 a.m. is being made available exclusively for active military service people, veterans and their families. The performance will be followed by a reception for attendees in the Pohlad Lobby.

The Sunday, October 20 performance at 1 p.m. is for the general public as well as active military service people, veterans and their families. This performance will be followed by a short discussion.

Detailing military service from Vietnam through to the present, six Minnesota veterans will step onstage at the Guthrie Theater's Dowling Studio to give their first-hand accounts of their lives and the military. *Telling:*

Minnesota is an original play written from interviews with the performers themselves, interwoven into three continuous acts.

Stories range from capture and escape in Southeast Asia and Scud missile attacks in Saudi Arabia, to accompanying Lynn Anderson to the Marine Corps Ball, flying injured soldiers out of Iraq and Afghanistan, repairing helicopters in South Korea and military sexual trauma in the Army. *Telling: Minnesota* is an unvarnished look at the heroism, absurdity, horror, wonder and banality of military life as told by the Minnesotans to whom these things happened.

About The Telling Project

A production of The Telling Project hosted by the Guthrie Theater, *Telling: Minnesota* is the 12th production of The Telling Project and the first in Minnesota. The Telling Project has performed previously at the US Library of Congress, Maryland Center for the Performing Arts, Portland Center Stage in Portland, OR, Lisner Auditorium in Washington, DC, and been supported by the National Endowment for the Arts, the Library of Congress, the Smithsonian Institute, the National Endowment for the Humanities, Metabolic Studios and others.

Seating in the Dowling Studio is general admission and begins 30 minutes before curtain.

This piece is recommended for adult audiences, as it contains mature content and themes.

Telling: Minnesota is made possible by a generous grant from the Bob Woodruff Foundation, with additional support from The Hubbard Broadcasting Foundation.