



VETERANS FOR PEACE NEWS

MINNESOTA VETERANS FOR PEACE, CHAPTER 27

Veterans For Peace News is published quarterly by Minnesota Veterans For Peace, Chapter 27.

Veterans For Peace works to increase awareness of the costs of war, restrain government from intervening in the internal affairs of other nations, end the arms race, reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons, seek justice for veterans and victims of war, and abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

We pledge to use democratic and nonviolent means to achieve our purpose.

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"There won't be any trumpets blowing come the Judgement Day — on the bloody morning after, one tin soldier rides away..."

(Potter & Lambert)



VFP cart with the bells cast by members last year. photo by Mary McNellis

VFP adds props to MayDay Parade

by Mary McNellis

May 3rd was a beautiful day to march in a parade, as our chapter did again this year to celebrate the 41st MayDay Parade. Organized and staged by In the Heart of the Beast Puppet and Mask Theatre, this strictly non-motorized parade features amazing costumes, floats, stilt-walkers, over-sized paper mache puppets. The parade route travels down Bloomington Ave. from 26th St. all the way to Powderhorn Park, where the afternoon culminates in the inspiring Tree of Life Ceremony.

The theme of the parade this year was "And Still We Rise," drawing inspiration from the vital local and national work of Black Lives Matter. As always it was an integrated, grass-roots community effort.

We march at the end of the parade in what is known as the Free Speech section, along with WAMM, Animal Rights Coalition, MN Atheists, MN NORML, Dances of the Universe, and other "out there" colorful groups drawing attention to their message.

This year VFP added a couple of props to the usual flags, banners, placards and signs. We used a pull-cart on which hung four of the

hand-cast bronze bells our members created last year. The idea was we would ring them whenever we stopped, but what became apparent was that we could engage children in the audience by letting them ring the bell. This was a HUGE hit, a tradition that will surely continue. We also had a vintage kid's wagon dubbed "The VFP Peace Wagon" decorated with flags, tinsel and bumper stickers promoting peace. Our VP, Mike Madden, rode his bike with a trailer attached carrying his beautiful Siberian Husky; this was also a bit hit with the kids who came to pet it.

Now that we've had a dry run with our bell cart and Peace Wagon, we're planning to enter the River Falls Days parade on July 10th. It falls the day before Peacestock (Sat. July 11). Since River Falls is just a half-hour away from Redwing, we're hoping to both promote Peacestock and to raise awareness of VFP by reaching out to a broader audience. This author is an alumnus of UW-River Falls and is certain there are many liberal thinkers there who would support Peacestock and VFP if they knew about it. Let's hope this is true!

Notes from the President

“It is easier to fool people than to convince them that they have been fooled.” (Mark Twain)

by Dave Logsdon

May was a terrific month for old Chapter 27! Did we end war? Did we disarm the world’s nuclear weapons? Well no, but we continued to do a lot of small things and kept on moving forward, never turning back.

Healing...is not a small thing

A magnet supply company where I get my magnet supplies (and my magnetic personality) offered to make 250 magnets the size of business cards with the number and information about Veterans Crisis Line, a suicide prevention service. A small magnet on a cluttered refrigerator may not seem important, but if one veteran’s life is saved, the small thing becomes a big thing.

It’s easy to burn out as activist when you focus on big victories solely. The little healing and educational opportunities feed us, nurture us, keep us in the game. Yes, we always want to maximize our leverage and energy to achieve the bigger goals, but never underestimate the power of the many small ones to keep us in the game.

The MayDay Parade was a perfect example of a lot of little things, a lot of small connections, some as small as four years old, ringing our peace bells. These connections to the greater community are important as we gain visibility and credibility through each small interaction.

The friendliness and interactions, not to mention the networking that went on at our first two canoe-raffling events, were priceless. Any questions about whether we should continue the canoe raffle would be answered with a day of raffling! Two big opportunities to join the fun camaraderie and spirit of canoe raffling are coming up in June at Grand Old Days and Gay Pride! Come for an hour, come for the day, get to know some amazing people, your sisters and brothers at Veterans For Peace!

The number of folks that keep “the little engine that could” going up that hill is amazingly small. When any one of these maximum “shower uppers” stop showing up, the results can be chaotic! When John Sherman, the ultimate dairy farmer of VFP, stopped showing up because of a serious health crisis, it created our monthly who-usually-takes-care-of-that moment at our monthly meetings. This is why developing relationships with WAMM, the Anti-War Committee, the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, area schools, and our myriad churches, mosques, and syna-

gogues is so vital to our vision of peace.

For the second year in a role, Augsburg College had a student that provided us with an intern who had to work 40 hours for the chapter. Last year A.J. Anderson and this year Synoeve Moe were interns who selected us. Unfortunately with A.J., I was not prepared as a rookie president to find enough for him to do nor did I have the energy to show him! With Synoeve, I was determined to do better! I wanted the experience for her to balance the envelope stuffing, data gathering with seeing the functioning (and dysfunctioning) of an all-volunteer non-profit! She did a bang-up job and she had to put up with me! I did give her a “start your own chapter” package to bring back home to Oslo with her.

Part of what we did was to initiate a reaching out to the places of worship. Partnering with religious institutions has so much potential in leveraging our brand for the greater vision of world peace. Being involved with the Ascension Episcopal Church in Stillwater with two events when we explained how we made our bells and why we ring them really opened my eyes to this potential. Our focus on arts, education and action is served well by these partnerships. Let the healing continue!

Well, my fellow travelers, it’s three in the morning (I love press deadlines!) and I have to climb back in bed. Keep working it, keep showing up, see you in the streets!

This war business

Stop terrorist recruitment

by Tom Dooley

Nineteen years old and wounded, Dzhokhar Tsarnaev fled a shootout and was able to hide in a Boston resident’s rowboat. The owner called 911; police came and fired 108 bullets, while the wounded Tsarnaev wrote in pencil on the inside of the boat: “Muslims are all one body,” “You hurt one you hurt all,” “I don’t like killing innocent people,” “I can’t stand to see enemies go unpunished,” “He who Allah guides cannot be misled,” and “What we are promised we will surely get.”

He also said that if the U.S. government would stop killing our people, we would stop killing theirs.

If a U.S. Marine kicked in the door of a house in Iraq and shot the husband, wife and child and was caught and jailed, what would he write on the walls of his cell to explain why he did it?

The quickest way to reduce terrorist recruitment is to close all U.S. military recruiting offices.

Transform Now Plowshares update

Excerpted from "Transform Now Plowshares" news briefs by Joan Johnson.

In the early morning hours of Saturday June 28, 2012, long-time peace activists Sister Megan Rice, 82, Greg Boertje-Obed, 57, and Michael Walli, 63, cut through the chain link fence surrounding the Oak Ridge Y-12 nuclear weapons production facility and trespassed onto the property. Y-12, called "the Fort Knox of the nuclear weapons industry," stores hundreds of metric tons of highly enriched uranium and works on every single one of the thousands of nuclear weapons maintained by the U.S.

Describing themselves as the Transform Now Plowshares, the three came as non-violent protesters to symbolically disarm the weapons. They carried Bibles, writ-

ten statements, peace banners, spray paint, flowers, candles, small baby bottles of blood, bread, hammers with biblical verses on them and wire cutters. Their intent was to follow the

words of Isaiah 2:4: "They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more." Sr. Megan Rice has been a Catholic sister for over 60 years. Greg Boertje-Obed, a married carpenter who has a college-age daughter, is an Army veteran and lives at a Catholic Worker house in Duluth. He is also a member of Duluth VFP chapter 80. Michael Walli, a Vietnam veteran turned peacemaker, lives at the Dorothy Day Catholic Worker house in Washington DC.

On Aug. 7, 2013, the U.S. added two more charges against the peace activists in addition to the original charge of damage to Y-12, which is punishable by up to five years in prison. The second charge was damage to federal property in excess of \$1,000, punishable by up to ten years in prison. The third was a trespassing charge, a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in prison.

On Tues., Feb. 18, 2014, Judge Amul R. Thapar passed sentence on the three activists in federal court in Knoxville, Tennessee. Michael received a sentence of 62 months on each of the three counts, to be served concurrently, followed by three years of supervised release. Greg received a sen-

tence of 62 months on each count, to be served concurrently, followed by three years of supervised release. Sister Megan received a sentence of 35 months on each count, to be served concurrently, followed by three years of supervised probation.

On August 5, 2014, two years after the Y-12 action, lawyers for the "TN Plowshares" resisters filed an appeal in the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati challenging the government's use of the Sabotage Act, and the prosecution's efforts to prejudice the jury by inappropriately presenting testimony of prior offenses and invoking a comparison of the nonviolent demonstrators to 9/11 terrorists.

The appeal asked the Sixth Circuit to reverse the defendants' convictions. The arguments articulated what many supporters witnessed during the proceedings firsthand: that

The court ruled 2-1 in a decision handed down on May 8 that the government failed to prove the Transform Now Plowshares activists intended to "injure the national defense," a requirement for conviction under the sabotage act.

the prosecution twisted the law in a way that would achieve a conviction but in so doing subverted justice. The appeal cites "Berger v. United States" in pointing out that "a prosecu-

tor's interest is not simply to 'win a case, but that justice may be done.' While he (sic) may strike hard blows, he may not strike foul ones." The appeal asserts that the prosecutor knowingly and wrongly conflated harm to the Y-12 Nuclear Weapons Complex with harm to the national defense, and the court failed to distinguish between the symbolic action of the Transform Now Plowshares resisters and previous Plowshares actions that damaged actual apparatus of nuclear attack. The appeal also notes that motive — wishing to advance the cause of global nuclear disarmament — is not the same as an intent to disrupt Y-12 operations.

The court ruled 2-1 in a decision handed down May 8 that the government failed to prove the Transform Now Plowshares activists intended to "injure the national defense," a requirement for conviction under the sabotage act. Disposing of the government's arguments one by one, the court finally stated simply: "The defendants' convictions under §2155(a) must be reversed."

On May 15, in an amazing turn of events, the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ordered the immediate release of Megan, Michael and Greg!

VFP meets with Archdiocese to discuss war, nuclear weapons and day of fasting to end nuclear threat

Letter from the Archbishop

Thank you for your letter of February 18th regarding the comments of Pope Francis in his “message on the Occasion of the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact of Nuclear Weapons” last December 7.

For decades, our popes and our own United States Catholic Bishops Conference (USCCB) have made many strong statements against illegitimate recourse to war, against grossly disproportionate arms spending, and against the global arms trade. The USCCB website offers a long list of interventions in this regard.

(See: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/nuclear-weapons/index.cfm>)

As recently as October of 2014, the US Bishops sent a letter to the Secretary of Energy with their concerns about arms spending versus spending on humanitarian needs.

(See: <http://www.usccb.org/issues-and-action/human-life-and-dignity/war-and-peace/nuclear-weapons/upload/Letter-to-Secretary-of-Energy-from-Bishop-Pates-on-Nuclear-Spending-2014-10-30.pdf>)

I am grateful to Pope Francis for raising this important issue again and for his emphasis on the humanitarian implications of militarism. As Pope Francis said, “A world without nuclear weapons is a goal shared by all nations and echoed by world leaders, as well as the aspiration of millions of men and women. The future and the survival of the human family hinges on moving beyond this ideal and

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This conversation with Jason Adkins came about because of Pope Francis’s statement that spending on military weapons was “robbing our youth’s future.” We wrote a letter to Archbishop Nienstedt asking to talk to him about this and he graciously replied (in the letter printed at left), suggesting we speak with Jason Adkins, the executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference, the public policy voice of the Catholic Church in Minnesota. Representing VFP at the interview were Joan Johnson, transcriber; editor Frank Fuller; and Roy Wolff who along with Steve McKeown conducted most of the interview with Jason because of their Catholic background. Mr. Adkins’s comments reflect his personal views and do not represent an official statement of the Minnesota Catholic Conference. This interview has been edited to fit into the space available. We have summarized everyone’s statements but we believe the meanings of everyone’s comments are unchanged.

Roy: I have had a fair amount of involvement in educating parishes about some of the documents mentioned by the Archbishop, especially the American Bishops Peace Pastoral. I know that many parishes in the dioceses have had to cut back on their budgets and staff. Given that, do you think there will be this kind of education about the statements by Pope Francis,

Too often Catholic lay people are Americans first and Catholics second, and we need to challenge some of our fundamental assumptions about what it means to be a disciple in America today, especially in the area of war and violence.

and how can this best reach the parish levels ?

Jason: We have limited resources and have to prioritize our advocacy efforts on where we can move hearts and minds, and we have made some progress, particularly on issues such as immigration and the criminal justice system.

One of the biggest problems is that to begin with most Catholics don’t understand basic Catholic Social doctrine contained in the Compendium [of the Social Doctrine of the Church]. It is like a well kept secret. Too often Catholic lay people are Americans first and Catholics second, and we need to challenge some of our fundamental assumptions about what it means to be a disciple in America today, especially in the area of war and violence.

Steve: What is your Conference’s sense of where Pope Francis’s statement about nuclear deterrence “robbing our youth’s future” going to

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go within and beyond the archdiocese?

Jason: Our American society is plagued by consumerism, and the American empire's imperialistic foreign policy protects the corporate welfare/warfare state. We need to challenge that system. I think there is a lot of nervousness among some in the Church about doing just that, because they are not well informed, or do not want to be seen as unpatriotic. That they are not well informed is not due to the lack of Catholic Social teaching, because that is available. Our bishops publish materials that go right to the heart of the matter. But because people are uninformed and wedded to the system, the seed does not fall on fertile ground. Right now, for example, the biggest pushback we get from people in the pews is about MCC's gun control advocacy. So we have a lot of work to do getting people to embrace a message of peace and non-violence.

Pope Benedict XVI reminded us that war is often a conflict over nat-

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ural resources, and the Church in the United States could do a better job of informing people about the witness of Pope John Paul II and Pope Benedict about the connection between international conflict and scarce natural resources, which could alleviate some of that fear more conservative minded people have in talking about these issues. Their witness, however, should also lead us to an examination of conscience about how we perpetuate the conflict over natural resources based on our consumer choices and lifestyles.

So many people including Catholics see America as an exceptional country, and do not accept challenges to American superiority/right to be the "biggest, strongest, and best" nation. Too often they see challenges to its superpower status as un-American or unpatriotic.

Roy: Have you heard of Father George Zabelka, the Catholic priest chaplain who blessed the crew prior to their dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima?

Jason: No, I haven't heard of him.

Roy: He also knew that Nagasaki was a potential target with a large Catholic Community, and many were killed when there was an opening in the clouds and the bomb was dropped, centered on a church. Initially he was for the bombing, but later had a conversion experience, and said it was wrong.

Jason: I did not recognize the name, but now that you mention his work, I am familiar with his story.

Steve: Father Zabelka came to our parish, Assumption Catholic Church in Richfield to say Mass and give a homily in the early 80s at the time of the Nuclear Freeze proposal. He was on his way to the state of Washington where some of the deadly Trident nuclear submarines were docked. He used the Gospel about the first miracle by Jesus, the changing of the water

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ensuring that it becomes a reality."

Excerpts of statements such as these from Pope Francis, as well as updates on the Holy See's work in the international arena, are found regularly in *The Catholic Spirit*, the newspaper of the Archdiocese of St. Paul and Minneapolis, which seeks to inform Catholics in this local church about the matters you mention and many others of concern to local Catholics.

As you know, the Catholic Church is not alone in her concern regarding the presence and potential use of nuclear weapons in our world. We are happy to work together with all people of good faith, both ecumenical and interfaith, to bring about justice and peace.

The challenges are always both political and spiritual. We need strong ongoing advocacy for greater economic and social justice to create better conditions for peace. But, as you know, peace is more than the simple absence of physical conflict. It is the "shalom" that comes from deep communion with Christ.

As for the matter of climate change, the Minnesota Catholic Conference, the public policy office of the state's Catholic bishops, will be hosting an event on Sept. 9 at the University of St. Thomas tentatively entitled, "A Catholic Conversation on Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship." I hope your organization can make plans to attend.

I will continue to look for other opportunities to advance this message within the Catholic community here in the Archdiocese.

Should you have further questions, I recommend that you reach out to Fr. Erich Rutten, chair of the Archdiocesan Commission of Ecumenical or Interreligious Affairs, or Mr. Jason Adkins, executive director of the Minnesota Catholic Conference. I am sure that both would be happy to sit down with you for an interview.

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into wine where Mary had to prod him into it, and then told those with the vases to do what He says. Father Zabelka used this imagery to point out that nuclear disarmament is going to take a miracle, but that we had our part to play in it. He also said not to underestimate the power of prayer and fasting. In light of Pope Francis's statement on nuclear deterrence, do you think the Archbishop would consider a day of fasting and prayer for discernment on this very issue?

Jason: I like that idea, but I think it would be better to make reparation on the broader issue of violence, and how we have embraced it as a principal way of solving problems and let it shape our society. This is part of what Pope Francis has called the "throwaway culture." There is so much diversity and polarization in some churches that it is often difficult to reach a broad sector of the Catholic community on issues of war and peace. One issue in particular was the Iraq War. Most people don't even know that Archbishop Nienstedt opposed it, and noted his opposition in his installation homily here in the Archdiocese. With recent popes, we must ask ourselves whether there can ever be a just war anymore given modern weapons? How do you change the structure of sin? I think it comes first with a revolution of heart, and an opportunity for fasting and prayer is a great place to start.

We need to think critically about the national security state. For example, we spend incredible resources on implementing surveillance tools to spy on Americans, yet an 85-year-old religious sister and two guys in their sixties still broke into one of the military's nuclear sites (in Oak Ridge TN). I don't know if I agree with their methods, but they were trying to expose that structure and have done us a great service. One of the recent federal defense funding authorization acts approved by Congress essentially undid parts of the Magna Carta, which has been for hundreds of years the foundation of civil liberties.

Roy: The Bishops usually make positive statements, but most people miss it or choose to ignore them. We have a special opportunity in that what Pope Francis is saying presents a very teachable moment. If we were to have an event what are the ecumenical possibilities?

Jason: There is a lot of common ground, and even evangelicals are coming around. Focusing on fasting and prayer on violence could depoliticize a Church-related

event, to create a "revolution of the heart" rooted in prayer. It should speak from an integrated perspective, and encourage bridge building in today's polarized nation, and I'm willing to work with VFP on this matter. From my experience you can engage more Catholics more by framing issues in a Catholic lens first and then trying to build ecumenical bridges.

Steve: Could parishes in the Archdiocese be encouraged to invite Ploughshare speakers, especially Catholic ones such as the Transform Ploughshares trio you spoke of?

Jason: Again, there is some disagreement about methods, but the pacifism of Ploughshares activists is not a barrier.

Joan: Their methods are nothing in violence compared to nuclear weapons.

Jason: I understand, but one would have to find a group within the church to support it, and a forum to host the speakers; I would personally endorse their being heard. I also think we need to ask ourselves how complicit we are with a culture of violence. Do we give politicians a pass on these questions, or do we hold them all more accountable? I can't promise anything, but I would very much like to see your proposal on an event, and would like to continue this dialogue.

ADDENDUM

by Steve McKeown

Our interview lasted over an hour, and we couldn't include everything here. One of the things we did discuss were possible dates for a prayer/fast, something we will continue to work on. I mentioned the anniversary of the Cuban Missile Crisis this fall, and Jason suggested Advent, which Roy thought was a good idea.

Jason also gave me a copy of a column he had written for *The Catholic Spirit* dated April 26, 2012 which I found to be an excellent piece of writing about the intercession of Pope John XXIII between President Kennedy and Soviet Premier Krushchev, which is not largely known today.

We Cannot Let History Repeat Itself

by Bill Habedank

This originally appeared as a letter to the editor in the Red Wing Republican-Eagle.

The Republican presidential hopefuls are now scrambling to answer the question: Was the Iraq War a mistake? Watching these people squirm away from trying to answer this question, where a “yes” response is now politically correct, is like watching a bunch of clowns perform. The reason they squirm is because the Republican Party has not changed one iota since the decision to invade Iraq in 2003. The Republican candidates know this. They know they have to appear to be still falling in line with the aggressive, warlike foreign policy positions of the right wing of the party yet stay in touch with the voters. Don’t forget however, there are aggressive, warlike elements in the Democratic Party as well.

All of these candidates are now saying that the invasion of Iraq in 2003 was a mistake knowing what we know now. However, they say if they got the same intelligence that was provided back in 2002-3 they would again support a war like this. They fall into a trap because they now know that

the intelligence provided can be twisted, yet they would again make the same decision (mistake) again.

One thing you will not ever hear these Republican presidential candidates say is “some people were right about the Iraq War being a mistake before it even started and that these people were too smart to believe the ridiculous rationales for war.” Thing is, you didn’t need to be that smart. What you merely needed to do was to think a little farther down the road and envision the probable outcome: a broken country (Iraq) we could not fix; opening Pandora’s box of more Islamic extremism; bankrupting our treasury where we cannot fix the things we need to fix in our own country.

Now these people want our vote again, or in other words betray us again, and lead us into more wars; wars more dangerous than the last. If we support these people again we are fools and deserve the consequences.

We cannot afford to be deceived again because we must begin fighting the right battles; battles we can win if we put our minds to it, battles like education, economic and social justice, renewable energy, and infrastructure. If we fail to fix these problems, being kings of the world won’t matter in the least.

Ringling bells for peace on Memorial Day



Dave Logsdon, Steve McKeown, Steve Gates, Craig Woods and John Sherman ring the bells for peace on Memorial Day near the Minnesota Vietnam Memorial at the State Capital. Wes Davey led a reading of the names of those from Minnesota killed in Afghanistan and Iraq. Music was furnished by Phil Graham.

On the outreach education road with VFP

by Larry Johnson

This is a reminder that any and all of us are empowered to speak and act for Veterans For Peace, aligning what we do as best we can with the STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, printed with every newsletter, and read at the beginning of each regular meeting. I'm going to just report here on some recent things I personally know about:

March 7 Steve McKeown, Jack Nelson Pallmeyer, and I led a session at the Nobel Peace Prize Forum on SHOULD IT BE LEGAL TO PROFIT FROM SELLING WEAPONS? DOES THE PROFIT MOTIVE DRIVE INTERNATIONAL CONFLICT. We wondered if anyone would come to this topic, which the forum has not directly addressed in the past, but the room filled with college students, I think because unconsciously they're thinking, "We've got massive student loan debt and don't know if we can get a job and people are making big profits selling stuff to kill people?" Astounding discussion.

March 20 We did *Seven Stories I Wish They'd Tell About the War in Vietnam* at Macalester Plymouth Church in St. Paul. The point is to empower people to tell the stories missing from the public glorification of that time in our history. If people don't know, they forget and accept. If people of good will remember the travesty, we have a chance to prevent its recurrence. We also raised enough money to send \$336 to National's effort on Agent Orange Relief.

April 27 Steve and I spoke on the Kellogg-Briand Pact and war profiteering to the honors class at Kellogg Middle School in Rochester. We presented the KBP banner to the school, which will hang in a trophy case in this school of 1,000 students. The teacher, Bruce Rodgers, keeps the memory of the school namesake alive. He showed us an Amy Klobuchar video greeting for their 50th anniversary in 2013 and directed us to the site of the farm where Kellogg grew up. We rang bells and took home a Kellogg farm piece of limestone and then wrote to Klobuchar's office and asked for help putting a statement and plaque on the site of the farm.

May 7 Semi-regular gathering of peace activists in Rep. Keith Ellison's office. Much good discussion, including Keith's strong statement about how wrong the Netanyahu

speech/action to Congress was. He announced co-sponsorship, with Bernie Sanders, of the END POLLUTER WELFARE ACT, and we urged them to extend the language to include WEAPONS WELFARE.

May 16 MOVE TO AMEND celebration of Robin and Laird Monahan's 2010 walk across America, to call attention to the need to end corporate personhood and big money control of our democracy. I spoke briefly in the program, but my real tribute to the Monahans will be to walk to Peacestock July 11. Because of the Climate Change theme, I will walk via Prairie Island, carrying my property insurance policy, which covers none of us for disaster at nuclear power plants. The government as insurer amounts to an enormous subsidy. I will also carry the END POLLUTER WELFARE ACT, and because we swore to protect the Constitution from all enemies, including corrupt corporate personhood, I will carry my copy of *Horton Hears a Who*. The famous Dr. Seuss character said, "A person's a person no matter how small." He said nothing about "No matter how big." Steve Gates, Gerald Ganann, and I will do a show reflecting all of this on July 8, the night before the walk, at Patrick's Cabaret.

In all these efforts, our message was consistent. We have long felt that profits in weapons' sales drives international conflict. For the first time I remember, we saw a mainstream media article (*Star Trib*, April 19, 2015) imply that very thing with its title "U.S. Arms Sales Fuel Wars Across the Middle East." My attitude and statement has been that if there is a perceived need for a war, the weapons makers should show the same sacrifice they asked of us when we were drafted or enlisted.: MAKE WHAT'S NEEDED, PAY THE WORKERS, BUT NO PROFIT TO CEO TYPES OR SHAREHOLDERS. We believe the end of profit will slow the violence down enough to allow diplomacy and negotiation to work. We also believe the otherwise illegal profit should be plowed into ending veterans' homelessness and enforcing zero tolerance on sexual assault in the military, as well as sex trafficking everywhere. These are all traumas produced primarily by perpetual warfare, and the end result is always more poverty and more trauma dumped on the next generations. We also support an end to some supposed 2nd Amendment right to own assault weapons or to own any gun without background checks and the kind of security now required simply to be a post-9/11

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Arts and healing, bells and Mother's Day

by Mary McNellis

The invitation to speak at the Arts and Healing Forum on March 21st came to Stephen Gates because of art connections; initially it had nothing to do with being a veteran. The organizers of the event, David Peterson and Thea Ennen, own an art gallery and alternative healing and yoga studio directly across the street from the National Guard armory in Stillwater where Gates hangs some of his pastel prints. David received grant money to stage a three-day Arts & Healing Forum and asked Gates to speak about how art had helped his healing process.

In the time between writing the grant and planning the actual event, some of the healing practitioners began conversations with National Guard troops across the street. They were disturbed to hear the many stories involving suicide and PTSD and began thinking of ways to serve them. David thought hearing the story of a veteran dealing with these issues might attract their attention and entice them to attend the Forum (at no cost). Thus he asked Gates if he would focus his presentation on how art has helped him deal with the PTSD and suicidal ideation that has plagued him since his service in Vietnam. Chante Wolf joined him in telling her story.

Chante and Gates both spoke and displayed some of their art work. Gates spoke of last year's bell-casting project and what a positive healing experience that was. The benefits included learning to trust other veterans, feeling safe and accepted, enjoying the camaraderie, a sense of pride and accomplishment in his ability to learn sculpture, satisfaction in his ability to assist those with less art experience. He spoke of one of the other bell-casting veterans who, after the fact, suggested he might not still be alive were it not for the project.

Closing their presentation, Gates and Chante invited Bruce Berry and Steve McKeown to join in a bell-ringing ceremony. McKeown presented David Peterson with a Kellogg-Briand banner to display in their building. Although no National Guard troops showed up, the audience offered extremely positive remarks about the presentation.

The ripple effect of their presentation is already paying off. Reverend Grace, who is the priest at Ascension Episcopal Church, where the Arts and Healing Forum was held, heard about the presentation and invited VFP to speak and ring bells during his two church services this past Mother's Day. On May 10th Steve McKeown spoke to the congregation about the origins of Mother's Day, about Julia Ward Howe, who was active in the peace movement and the



Ringing bells are (L-R) Rev. Grace, Steve McKeown, Stephen Gates, Dave Logsdon. photo by Mary McNellis

women's suffrage movement and the first person to fight for an official Mother's Day celebration in the US.

In 1870 she penned the Mother's Day Proclamation, which states: "Arise then. . . women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts! . . . We, the women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with our own. It says: Disarm! Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice, blood does not wipe our dishonor, nor violence indicate possession."

McKeown remarked further about the VFP bell-casting project, why we ring bells, how churches around the world rang bells on Nov. 11, 1918 when the Armistice Day Treaty was signed, declaring an end to the Great War. At this point Stephen Gates and Dave Logsdon rang their bells 11 times. McKeown concluded his presentation by giving Rev. Grace a copy of the Kellogg-Briand banner to display in the church, explaining who Frank Kellogg was and the significance of this document, in which all signatories agree to "renounce war as an instrument of national policy."

Wouldn't it be wonderful if, on some distant Mothers Day, the wishes of Julia Ward Howe could be fulfilled and the human race could celebrate a day when, all over the world, no mother would have to mourn the death of her child lost in war or terrorist attacks?

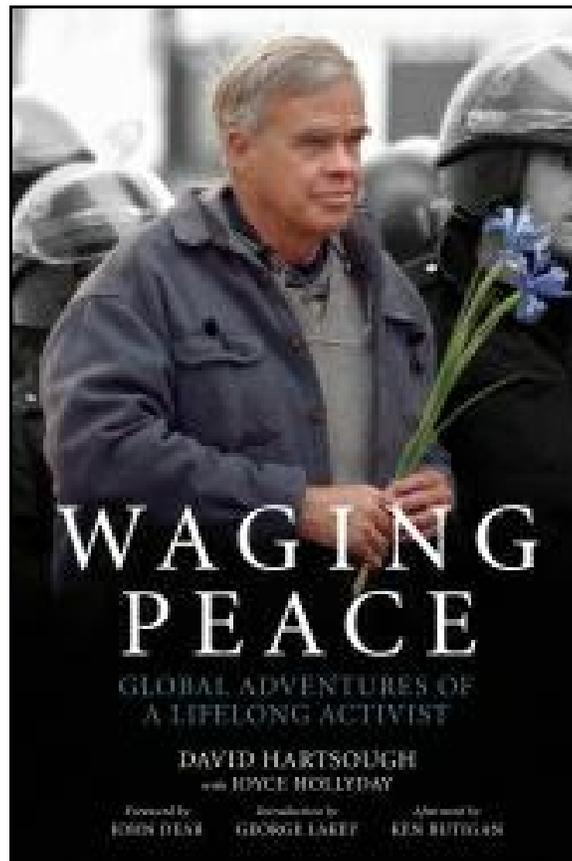
Book looks at last 60 years of war and peace

by Ron Staff

Last year (so this is old news), my wife and I went to Vietnam on the annual VFP spring fundraising tour of that country. I believe David Hartsough joined the group at our stop in China just before getting to Hanoi. He is a Quaker, a peace activist and as of last year an author. During our tour, at the first diplomatic gathering in Hanoi welcoming our group, he read a prepared statement from the wife of a Quaker peace activist who attempted to divert our country from warring on the Vietnamese by immolating himself outside the Pentagon. There was a picture of this man displayed in the meeting room. There were many pictures of Vietnamese heroes, but I think his was one of the few Americans.

Hartsough's book, *Waging Peace, Global Adventures of a Lifelong Activist*, is a solid book that reviews much of the warring and war posturing of the last 60 years or so. He came to his activism early. His father was a peace worker in the 50s, and as a 15-year-old high school student he organized a protest at a Nike nuclear missile site. His arrest record is much longer than most, all for non-violent peace issues.

He's a quiet, unassuming man, who just shows up. He makes his position known and accepts the consequences knowing that those in authority will have to live with theirs, also. That is enough for him. To change minds, one at a time, helps bend the arch of justice. It is quiet, unassuming



Outreach, from page 8

airline passenger.

We also support the HR 3612, Agent Orange Relief Act, lamenting the excessive tardiness of such efforts. Treating the more recent impacts of depleted uranium and toxins lumped under the term Persian Gulf Syndrome must be sped up, as it is unconscionable these toxins were dumped on soldiers and civilians, and worse they must fight for relief. We support the famous words, "LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL," not just the few.

work that builds rather than lays low.

His non-violent foundation clearly grew directly from his own father's seminary training and studies of Gandhi. His father gave him a copy of *All Men Are Brothers*, one of Gandhi's books while he was yet in high school.

He decided to go to an all black college, which I find to be a prescient decision for a high school student to even think to make. It was surprising to note that both he and I had been at Dr. King's "I have a Dream" speech in Washington, D.C. Our next activity together was on the plane into Hanoi. He took it all in and was always ready to get a clarification.

I gave him the copy of the "Peace in Our Times," (the Number 2 edition) which has Brian Wilson's review of his book. When David was in Minneapolis

on a speaking tour and selling his book, I bought a copy based on Brian's review. Veterans For Peace members will continue to cross his trail if they stay the course to peace. He was there the day Brian was run down by the speeding munitions train calling it "the most horrible experience of my life."

Minnesota's own Mel Duncan found David at The Hague, in the Netherlands, among 9,000 peace activists. From David's suggestion of an "international nonviolent peace army" and Mel's collaboration grew the Nonviolent Peaceforce, which is currently in many places including the Ukraine.

If Veterans For Peace is one's introduction to the peace community, you are blessed with a whole world of learning to occupy your lifetime, and his book provides a good outline. If you come into the organization with experience, David's book is a great review of nearly all of the issues the community has faced in challenging government to meet its human responsibilities.

Learning about him, and now having read his book, I get a sense of what Thich Nhat Hanh means when he says, "There is no way to peace; peace is the way."

Crossing the Divide director leads discussion of movie

by Mary McNellis

Jan Selby, an Emmy award-winning video producer, calls her film *Beyond the Divide* a feature-length, character-narrated documentary about war, peace, and the courage to find common ground.

Almost 50 years have passed since the beginning of the Vietnam War. The politics and casualties are history yet deep scars remain between those who served and those who fought a different war at home. In Missoula, Montana, a mysterious graffiti peace symbol inflamed the enduring animosity, dividing a community for decades. *Beyond the Divide* illuminates a path to healing these old wounds and demonstrates authentic peace building. The story inspires audiences to take courageous first steps to reach beyond polarization in search of what unites us instead of what divides us.

Since first viewing it in Asheville during the national convention last August, VFP member Barry Riesch has been tirelessly promoting the film, arranging to have a special screening at the Parkway Theater in Minneapolis on April 30th. He contacted every VFW and American Legion post in Minnesota that he could, inviting all veterans to see the film, in hopes that, regardless of politics, veterans could listen to and understand opposing points of view.

Viewers were invited to the VFP office the following Monday to discuss the film. Twelve people showed up, half of whom had never been to our office before. Jan Selby graciously agreed to attend the meeting. Everybody took turns holding the “talking stick” to discuss their reaction to the film, being very thoughtful and insightful. Everyone was impressed by the making of the film; no one was offended by its premise. There was some discussion about two audience members who heckled one of the characters in the film, which most people felt was inappropriate.

Selby spoke at length about the process of making the film, how it became longer and more involved than she first expected. She discussed her financial constraints in making the film, i.e. contributing her personal savings and raising money to finance the film and when that ran out having to rely on her photography director to shoot footage when she couldn't afford to travel to Missoula.

The film didn't end when she thought it would and surprised her when it kept on going. Because she became friends with the two main characters, Betsy and Dan, one question I wished I had asked her was if making the film somehow changed the outcome? Was she somehow instrumental in the reconciliation that occurred?

Jan stressed that she was not looking to influence the



Jan Selby in upper left corner discusses her movie at the VFP offices. photo by Mary McNellis,

outcome. Her intent was simply to explore the perspective of everyone in the film, to shine a light on their viewpoints, including the VFW, the townspeople, and the telephone company that owned the property. We need to search for what we have in common. She believes the film is a microcosm of the world, that if we can learn to listen to our “opponents” without judgment we can better understand them and enter a dialogue without trying to “win” the argument. The heckler in the audience who yelled “war criminal” at Dan was judging him. Betsy showed us that peacemakers need to learn to listen rather than placing our values on others, assuming the other side is “wrong.” Every day we all need to practice crossing the Divide.

VFP#27 owns DVD copies of the film that are for purchase. We also own a licensed version that Barry plans to screen again. TPT is planning to air the film in November, we'll keep you apprised.

Correction

In our last newsletter, we misspelled Clayton Ratliff's name in his obituary. He died last September and served in the Army in 1940-41. He was vehemently anti-war and attended several demonstrations as a Veterans For Peace, Chapter 27, member. We apologize for our error.

Reflecting on “The War Within”



by Ron Staff

Back to the past, I sit in this “Crystal Court,” which was my home away from the apartment while unemployed after Vietnam. There is a veteran’s “The War Within” exhibit of pictures of veterans in uniform in lavatory situations looking at themselves in a mirror or mirrors with and without their uniforms on. I was taken back by it.

There is part of me that would love to make such a strong statement about my own experience. However, I step back from it because I always want it to be so strong and revolutionary as to cause enough of a stir to actually end war and waring. I sense humanity is getting closer to this positive eventuality, but constantly steps back from the abyss of peace not knowing what to expect. If war ended, then what?

The endless positive possibilities are likely daunting to most humans. Many might be the individuals who would do almost anything to get back to the familiar of injuring one

another rather than helping those who have stumbled or been held back. Everywhere one looks there is peace work to do.

How to learn to identify what needs to be done to reassure one another, assist one another in ways which honor the recipient rather than the helper. Starting where people are and empowering their movement to the place they want to be may take special training. Kindness conditioning may not be easy but is likely essential. It is most important to the kind one to know their own wholeness.

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 Please let us know if you want to receive our newsletter by email.
 Contact: chantewolf7@gmail.com

Changing Address?
 If you are moving please let us know, so you can receive your newsletter. Even if you leave a forwarding address with the post office, it still may cost us an additional \$ 1.10 each time Thank you

Movie night
 Chapter 27 began showing documentary features last March on a large flat screen in the common space of our office at 1806 Riverside Ave., # 3A, in Minneapolis.
 These movies are scheduled every Wednesday following Chapter 27’s general meeting on the second Sunday of each month.

Soldiers: Know Your Rights
 To Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan: You took an oath to uphold the Constitution, not to support policies that are illegal. The GI Hotline phone number is:
1-800-394-9544

Dear Daddy

by Chante Wolf

This is part of a letter I wished I had written to my Father, a Navy veteran. I am doing this now in memoriam to those who no longer have a voice and for those who have yet to find the words to use their voice.

Dear Daddy,

I have something to tell you, but the words only dance between worlds in my dreams, and the emotions attached are too deep to embrace.

I know you and Mom have always been proud of my 12 years (active duty) in the Air Force, my accomplishments, travels and courage during Desert Storm. But things weren't always that simple. I suppose I survived for a reason. Perhaps to bring attention to how large a problem military sexual trauma is? Perhaps to assist other women in freeing our bodies from harassment, being touted as 'fresh meat,' 'booty,' and our breasts and asses used as advertisement tools selling race cars, alcohol and football? Or, perhaps to join the chorus of women who are tired of having our bodies used as assistance for men to jack off? For some reason it was thought that my watching porn films with my husband was to be supportive of him, that watching strangers mount other women like horses was suppose to turn me on too. Actually, I felt embarrassed and ashamed that my husband felt I needed such violence in order to become aroused. Upon retrospect, in my opinion, I see it as one of many mechanisms men use to get women off balance, making them, out of self-preservation, to go along with it all, and some feel going along with that type of attention because it is better than none at all.

Certainly you never were like that as a man, Daddy. My memories of you were always very loving towards Mom, my sister and myself. We were affectionately called "your girls."

Did you ever dream that it would be open season on the precious jewel between my legs not only in civilian life, but more so when I joined the military? Did you ever imagine that my body would become an unwritten, open invitation for unwanted, unsolicited touching, roaming hands, comments about being put into the sex trade, physical violence, stalking, nasty commentary and jokes? That even the sanctity of my marriage was not recognized by a male captain who invited my husband and I to join a wife swapping

group at our base overseas.

Were you aware that the language of war, weapons and cadence calls are about sexual violence towards women? That dehumanizing the enemy and making them seem weak is the use of misogyny and homophobic, homoerotic commentary. It is always mentioned that somehow they banged little boys up the ass and raped little girls and women, and we need to stop them from doing that, which is sort of like bombing and destroying the village in order to save it. Interesting that in reality rape is the very nature of warfare in which both sides do things not thought of in polite company. These are actions taught to them through history books, novels, men's magazines, porn and the silent voices under the desks in basic training.

"Ah, boys will be boys," is the common phrase explaining and exempting such behavior. I have heard that all my life, Daddy. "Oh, that happened a long time ago, women aren't treated like that anymore," is what I recently heard from my uncle. However, according annual surveys, military sexual assault rises an average 30-50 percent each year, including the growth of male on male rape. The stories of retribution against women coming forward are happening still. In recent headlines:

"After a U.S. Marine reported her rape, someone posted, 'Find her, tag her, haze her, make her life a living hell' on social media."

Certainly, you would have been one of those men who stepped forward to stop such behavior and actions against others. That is the man I believed you to be. I heard that during your Navy experiences, you got into serious trouble for diving overboard to save a fellow sailor who had slipped and fallen into the water.

Did you ever hear the tales of U.S. soldiers returning from Vietnam talking about the 'gooks' they gang raped before shoving an M-16 up their cunt and pulling the trigger? They were after all the enemy and open game. A Vietnam veteran told me that before they left ship, their commander commented, "the 'gook' women are not your mothers, wives, girlfriends or daughters, do what you want, just don't kill them." It has happened in every war and no amount of silence will ever prove one side more 'gentlemanly' than the other.

Daddy, did you know that outside every military base are titty bars, strip clubs, whore houses and cheap motels? Perhaps you had forgotten your time in the Navy and what happened when the ships came into port? I suppose that you didn't remember the Playboy type of magazines that touted

Daddy, why did you want me to become part of a machine that 'penetrates,' 'ejaculates,' and uses rape as an instrument of torture and warfare?

Daddy, continued on page 15

EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

Second Sunday each month, 5:30--7:30 pm:
VFP Chapter 27 general meeting,
1806 Riverside Ave., #3A.
Executive meeting at 5 p.m.
FFI: Dave Logsdon at 612-203-9768.

5-6 pm Weds. Lake Street/Marshal Ave. Bridge vigil.

OTHER EVENTS

June 20, 11-5pm. 4th Annual Central Mn Peace Fair, Lum Park, 1619 Washington St., Brainerd, Mn. Vigil, Food, and Music along with VFP bell ringing. Speakers are Coleen Rowley and Ken Pentel. FFI Dave 612 203 9768.

July 7, 7 pm. Can the Earth Survive Endless War? by Kathy Kelly. Holy Trinity Lutheran, 2730 E. 31st St. Mpls.

July 8, 7 p.m., Patrick's Cabaret, 3010 Minnehaha Ave., Mpls. SNAKES AND STONES MAY BREAK MY BONES, BUT WORDS CAN REALLY HURT ME. Larry Johnson, Gerald Ganann, and Steve Gates use storytelling, music, and art to explore the idea of killing one person to stop the killing of many, ala David and Goliath, Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Perseus and Medusa, or Jael and General Sisera. \$10 at the door, but \$8 in advance by calling Larry at 612-747-3904.

July 10, 2015, 6:30 pm, River Falls Days parade, River Falls WI.

July 11, 9 am, 13th annual Peacestock at Hobgoblin Barn, Red Wing. See article on page 16.

Aug 5-9, VFP National Convention, San Diego, CA

Aug. 5-9 Hiroshima and Nagasaki commemorations.

Aug. 5, 5 pm, Commemorative Tea Ceremony, Lyndale Park Peace Garden, Mpls.

Aug 6, 7:30 am, Ceremony of the Cranes, speech and stories, Lyndale Park Peace Garden, Mpls. Moment of 8:15 am, Moment of silence and ringing of bells followed by vigil near the Peace Garden Bridge

Aug 8, 7 pm, Nagasaki Commemoration, Global Harmony Labyrinth, Como Park, with Junshin Peace Singers from Nagasaki, speech and KAIROS dance.

Aug. 9, 6-8 pm, Reception and Art Exhibit commemorating 70th anniversary of dropping of atomic bomb and Concert, St. John's Episcopal Church, 4201 Sheridan Av. S., Mpls.

For information on vigils, go to the VFP website at vfpchapter27.org or call 612-827-5364 or visit www.worldwidewamm.org

Bus to SOA Vigil

by Mary McNellis

Mark your calendars; we will once again charter a bus to the SOA Watch in Fort Benning this November. There's not much to report at this point except to say we're making plans. Once we have a bus and hotel contract we will be able to determine the cost of the trip and will begin advertising and accepting registrations. Wayne Wittman has volunteered to once again be the "on-board" activities director, screening DVDs and hosting discussions. I will be processing registrations.

The bus trip will depart Minneapolis Friday, Nov. 21 at 7:30 a.m. and arrive in Columbus GA Saturday morning. We will depart Fort Benning on Sunday Nov. 23 around 2 p.m. and arrive in Minneapolis Mon., Nov. 24 around 2 p.m. Stay tuned for details!

Peace essay contest

The Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, (www.mapm.org), announces the first Leslie Reindl Peace Essay contest to coincide with the 20th anniversary of our founding. The Alliance is a coalition of over 60 peace and justice organizations throughout the state of Minnesota working toward a more peaceful and just society.

The essay contest is open to all Minnesota high school juniors and seniors. Three prizes will be awarded: first prize is \$1000; second prize is \$750; and third prize is \$500.

The essay must be the student's original work and be 800-1000 words long, word-processed. The essay must not have been published elsewhere or submitted to other contests. A teacher, youth leader, or parent must sign a statement on the application form, confirming that the essay is the student's original work.

The topics will address questions of peace and justice, and those interested are encouraged to read widely through the summer, as well as visit exhibits like Landmark Center's Nagasaki Peace Exhibition (Aug. 22 to Nov. 28).

The winners will be invited to speak at the award ceremony.

The contest timeline is: Aug. 31, announcement of specific topics and distribution of application forms; Oct. 15, deadline for submission of essay and application form; Nov. 2, winners announced; Nov. 10, prizes awarded at MAP Annual Celebration

FFI: contact Larry Johnson. (larryjvfp@gmail.com or 612 747-3904).

Daddy, from page 13

the bodies of women for the enjoyment of men in your barracks, on the ship and in the maintenance rooms. That even during WWII women were painted on the planes in such a manor giving the message: "we support you, boys and we will fuck your brains out when you come home, because you earned it!" I never found anything 'erotic' about violence, obedience and submission of women for sex and found it especially disconcerting in a 'working' environment.

Were you aware that all the nasty language I learned to say derives from negative connotations against women? Daddy, why did you want me to become part of a machine that 'penetrates,' 'ejaculates,' and uses rape as an instrument of torture and warfare? All the weapons are phallic in nature and all ejaculate violence and death against the earth, people, mainly women and children.

I had stories to tell but kept them to myself out of my own embarrassment, shame, and guilt. Plenty of time men told me, "Why don't you just not say anything and smile?"; "You just haven't had the right dick yet."; "You asked for it!"; "You lying bitch!"; "No one will believe you, it's your word against mine!"; "You know you want it!"; "Just sit right here and I will make your Daddy jealous"; "You know how much money we would get for your sweet ass in the sex market?"; "You can suck on this baby anytime!"; "Ah, come on, it was all out of fun, no one hurt you. Can't you take a joke?"; "Boys will be boys."; "Better watch your back out at night, it isn't safe for you."; "Well, you weren't raped or gang raped, what exactly IS your problem?"

Well Daddy, for me, things began pretty much out of the starting-gate from basic. We arrived with clean sleeves, the lowest on the power heap, to Keesler, AFB, Mississippi in 1980. My bunkmates were being invited by the commander

of the base, a 4-star general, to parties for the visiting fighter pilots and they were raped. I know, you are gasping, thinking "that can't be the truth! They would never do such a thing!" Right? Just like people responded to the accusations against the Catholic priests doing the same thing to the little girls and boys in their sacred care.

How could I even come close to telling you about being with men, the ones I could tolerate touching me, just to keep my sexual body my own, on my own terms and not taken by violent force. That I really didn't care much for the acts I did just to hide my own lesbianism and how many really nice young men I messed with on the heart level just to keep from being raped, beaten or disappeared. Worse yet, to be discovered as a lesbian and kicked out with such hateful disdain. How I had to navigate the labels of being either a bitch, dyke or whore, which regretfully, I ended up fitting into each category.

Daddy, the real question for you is, why would you want your 'little girl' to join the military anyway? Of course women are brave, strong and can do any type of job, plus have what it takes to defend not only their country, but their own children. What I do not understand is why you wanted me to learn how to accept sexual violence against others as normal and train to kill people, just to get college money, have medical, dental, travel and retirement security. People should never have to kill others just to get a job, education, medical, retirement or respect as some type of hero. Nor should our sexual safety be compromised, dismissed and taken just because, "Boys will be boys."

Your very loving daughter, Chante

VFP Ch. 27 will be marching in the River Falls Day Parade Friday July 10 at 6:30 p.m., in downtown River Falls. We will again have our our bell cart and Peace Wagon. Join us!

WORLD BEYOND WAR

VFP members Leah Bolger, Bruce Gagnon, and Paul Chappell are among the impressive International Speakers Bureau headed up by David Swanson. Very worthy of CHECKING out and SUPPORTING.

www.worldbeyondwar.org/speakers/

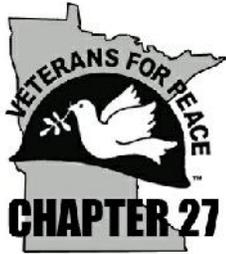
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Find a wide range of books and periodicals at 15% off cover price. All the time!

301 Cedar Ave., West Bank
(downstairs under the bike shop)

Mayday Books has been a consistent and significant supporter of Chapter 27 for many years. The volunteer staff has provided help with mailings and has donated books for the use of our group. It is also a great place to drop in and have a cup of coffee and talk with whomever happens to be there and find that book you have been looking for.

Hours: M-F noon to 7 p.m, Sat. noon to 6 p.m.



Veterans For Peace, Inc., Chapter 27
1806 Riverside Ave., #3A.
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Summer 2015 Newsletter

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SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM HOME ALIVE NOW!

As of June 7, 2015:

**At least 6,849 dead in Iraq and Afghanistan;
over one million injured veterans (see below).**

**An estimated 22 veterans commit suicide each day,
amounting to over 24,090 over the past three years.**

Peacestock opens July 11 near Red Wing

The 13th annual Peacestock will be held Sat., July 11 at the Hobgoblin Barn west of Red Wing on Hwy. 19. It is sponsored by Veterans For Peace, Chapter 115, with close cooperation with VFP, Chapter 27.

It begins at 9 a.m. with a bell ringing. The morning program will focus more directly on VFP issues. Father David Smith from the University of St. Thomas will speak on the exploitation of Native Americans and their lands, followed by Kathy Kelly, who will speak on her recent activism

This all-day event has featured highly acclaimed speakers over the years and draws interest from a wide area surrounding Red Wing, where the event is held.

Our theme this year is **The War On Our Climate**. We have two highly renowned speakers to address this issue for our afternoon program. First, Dr. James Hansen, formerly director of the NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies, is Adjunct Professor at Columbia University's Earth Institute where he directs a program in Climate

Science, Awareness and Solutions. He has long been a leading voice addressing global climate change and will be speaking via Skype.

Secondly, we have a worldwide authority on the economics of climate change, Nathan Hagens, speaking in person. Dr. Hagens has appeared on PBS, BBC, ABC and NPR, and has lectured around the world. He holds a Masters Degree in Finance from the University of Chicago and a Ph.D. in Natural Resources from the University of Vermont.

Both speakers will additionally address the role the United States military plays in global climate change.

The wild Colonial Bhoys are back by popular demand and will play at 1 p.m. Enjoy listening to Adam and Tony perform Irish tunes and ballads.

Go to www.peacestockvfp.org for updated information as the full program develops and to get tickets or get in touch with David Logdsen at VFP27 or Bill Habedank at VFP 115 at 651-764-1866.