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VETERANS FOR PEACE NEWS

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL VETERANS FOR PEACE, CHAPTER 27

Veterans For Peace News is published quarterly by Mpls./St. Paul Veterans For Peace, Chapter 27.

Veterans For Peace works to increase awareness of the costs of war, restrain our 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 non-violent means to achieve our purpose.

To subscribe to this newsletter, please call:
612-821-9141

Or write:
Veterans For Peace Ch. 27
4200 Cedar Ave, S. #7
Minneapolis, MN 55407

Or e-mail:
vfpchapter27@gmail.com

Our website is:
www.vfpchapter27.org.

Newsletter committee:
Frank Fuller, editor;
Tom Dooley, Pat Downey, Jennie Downey, Jean Heberle, Joan Johnson, Mike Madden, Steve McKeown, Mary McNellis, Barry Riesch, Craig Wood

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

Imagine, Resist, Heal: the 2017 MayDay Parade



by Mary McNellis

Sunday May 7th, was picture perfect, a glorious spring day to celebrate the 41st annual May Day Parade. In its festive, circus-like atmosphere, the Parade and Festival is an opportunity for people of all ages and ethnicities to come together in camaraderie, celebrating art, music, individuality, common purpose and free speech. The senses are bombarded with a jumble of smells, sounds and incredible displays of color: fantastic costumes, oversized paper mache puppets, stilt-walkers, indigenous dancers, improv comics interacting with the audience, hula-hoopers, jugglers, unicyclers and bicyclers and human-powered floats. The parade lumbers and careens down Bloomington Avenue until reaching Powderhorn Park, where festivities continue through the afternoon.

The Heart of the Beast Puppet Theater organizes the Parade and Celebration, telling a different story every year. This year's theme "Imagine, Resist, Heal" tells the story of people "coming together in this time of great

upheaval to IMAGINE a just and joyous future for all; HEAL personal, cultural and historical wounds; and stand as a circle in RESISTance to false myths of separateness that perpetuate violence and inequality."

Following the "organized" parade is the free speech section, where various, often marginalized groups, proudly promote diverse causes and points of view not typically seen at your "average" parade. As usual, Vets For Peace #27 joined in this year, with our new banner and flags unfurled. We were, as always, enthusiastically greeted by the crowd as we offered solidarity with the community; spreading the message of imagining a world without war, healing our collective wounds and continuing to resist the false myth that the U.S. is somehow exceptional, that people killed outside our borders don't matter. Kudos to Bruce Berry for making the new VFP #27 banner. Thanks to all who contributed their time and energy in marching and, as always, thanks to Steve McKeown for his persistent anti-nuke petitioning!

Notes from the President

by David Logdson

"You must be the change you wish to see in the world."

Gandhi

Easier said than done, being the change you wish to see in the world! Yet we are running out of time to get our collective shit together. Healing ourselves, finding that powerful inner voice is pretty much a work in progress for most of us. Raging against the machine, speaking, in a loud voice, your truth to power is all part of the process. Yet, at some point we need to start planting seeds. At our local chapter we are blessed with some very good "peace farmers" who understand that planting a successful garden is more than flinging seeds randomly in the air. It takes strategy, patience, and daily care. I am so proud and humbled to be the "red arrow on this graph of revelation."

speaking of a work in progress

Work on the bus is inching along: new tires, brake and steering fixed, school bus stencils off, leaky roof sealed, now sanding prep before painting and removing unwanted seats! We are planning a working party which should amp up the project. We should be on the road within the month! First stop will be in Kenyon to celebrate Harold and Louise Nielsen's lives in their home town. We will be christening the "Harold and Louise Nielsen Mobile Peace Activities Center" because of the generous bequeath from their estate.

"Non-violence is not a garment you put on and off at will, it's seat is in the heart and it must be an inseparable part of our being."

Gandhi

On Saturday, July 15th, the Hobgoblin Barn (on the north end of Red Wing), will be the site of the annual gathering called Peacestock. Bill Haberdank, the Red Wing chapter president and toastmaster extraordinaire, and his crew have a great program planned for this year's really big show! He's lined up two wonderful speakers for the 15th annual event. This year's theme is "The Cost of War: Why is the U.S. doubling down on military spending?" Bruce Gagnon, Coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space and recipient of the Dr. Benjamin Spock Peacemaker Award, will be one of the speakers. Bruce is an active member of Veterans For Peace! Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer will be the other speaker. Jack is

well known to many of us as an activist academic associate professor of Peace and Justice Studies at St. Thomas University in St. Paul. Jack headed up the very successful MNSAP (Minnesota Arms Spending Project). I was fortunate enough to see the Minneapolis City Council unanimously pass MNSAP's resolution calling for the reallocation of defense dollars to local communities. Should be a full day with music by Bonnie and the Clydes, a lunch wagon and big dinner at the end! Program starts at 9 a.m. sharp! (For more information see page 15.)

notes and observations

At the beginning of April, we hosted a wonderful evening of "Peace and Curry" at the Gandhi Mahal restaurant in south Minneapolis. What a perfect place to initiate our campaign to rededicate and help create more designated Peace Sites. The Peace Site Project is the vision of the late Lynn Elling. Public institutions, schools, churches, and restaurants can apply to World Citizen (Lynn's group) for this designation. Our vision at Vets For Peace is to stage and promote these rededications with programs that include music, spoken word, food, and, of course, bell ringing. The event was very successful, and I hope it will serve as a template for many future evenings and events!

Veterans For Peace is a national organization that is open to veterans to join and also for non-veteran associate members. While our chapter's executive committee must be veterans, many important associate members have contributed greatly to VFP's success, both locally (thanks Mary and Penny), and nationally. When you join Vets For Peace, you join nationally, and the membership fee goes to the national Veterans For Peace. We fundraise locally for our chapter's expenses.

On Aug. 9-13, the National Convention for Veterans For Peace will be held in Chicago. The site is in downtown Chicago at the historic Palmer House Hotel. We will be doing some car pooling, but the Amtrak station is downtown, the Mega Bus stops downtown, and Midway is accessible by public transportation as well. These conventions are usually loaded with opportunities to meet wonderful activists and attend educational workshops. You can go to the National VFP website for more information. These conventions are transformative events. The 2018 Convention will be right here in downtown St. Paul and, committee chairperson Penny Gardner and crew are already working to

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Vfp ignites anti-war movement



by Barry Reisch

Veterans For Peace takes the lead on reigniting the anti-war movement that has been out of action during the Obama administration. There is a new energy that is sparked in part by our new administration and its desire to add still another \$54 billion to the Pentagon.

Other concerns include the 59 Tomahawk missiles fired on Syria, actions in Yemen, dropping the largest non-nuclear weapon on Afghanistan, the aggressive words and stances taken toward North Korea, and, thanks to the hawkish Neocons and our influential Military Industrial Complex, a possible war with Iran. All this while the White House is aiming to reduce health care, gut the EPA, pull out of the Paris Climate Agreement, and drastically decrease funding for social programs from food stamps to Meals on

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make it a memorable experience!

"You may say that I'm a dreamer, but I'm not the only one, someday you can join us and the world can be as one."
John Lennon

That's all for now, see you in the streets, peace out!

Wheels. Time for action.

On Memorial Day, our action was what is now a tradition for VFP: invite people to send letters to the Vietnam Memorial Wall, where we read them and leave them at the wall for others to read. This effort started as a way to counteract our government's efforts to rewrite the history of the Vietnam War, a project we call "Full Disclosure."

This year marks the 50th anniversary of Dr. Martin Luther King's "Beyond Vietnam Speech," so we also marched to the Martin Luther King Memorial, where members read King's speech. All readers projected his energy and passion. Coincidentally, Dr. King was assassinated one year later to the date.

Asheville, NC member Roger Ehrlich transported and erected his self-designed "Swords to Plowshares Belltower" alongside the Lincoln Memorial. Here, passersby engraved the names of loved ones on recycled metal cans, hung them on the tower and rang the bell to memorialize them. This tower brings in many who pass by and is a great educational tool for VFP.

With things in the U.S. as they are, it made sense for VFP to lead the charge and demand that our new leadership to put an end to endless war and begin a genuine peace-building movement. Our National VFP President Barry Ladendorf sent a letter to President Trump requesting a

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meeting with him in front of the White House to discuss our demands on May 30.

On that day, our actions began in front of the Lincoln Memorial with a full lineup of powerful speakers, including: President Ladendorf, VFP National Director Michael McPherson, VFP member and Iraq and Afghanistan vet and former State Dept. official Matthew Hoh, Chris Hedges, Medea Benjamin, Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Jonathan Hutto, David Swanson, Mara Verhaden Hilliard and Bruce Gagnon. It was co-emceed by Col. Ann Wright and Tarak Kauff. Music was provided by Pat Scanlon. The event ended with an exorcism of the White House by the New York experimental musical group The Fugs with full audience participation. The Fugs did something similar 50 years ago in Washington, DC.

The speeches were all very powerful. In the words of one speaker, Matt Hoh, a former Marine Captain, “Donald Trump and company are hell-bent on destroying what’s left of our democracy, the environment, and whatever chance we have of world peace. Veterans will not be silent while he does it.”

Following the action at the Lincoln Memorial we marched down Constitution Avenue to the front gates of the White House to demand a meeting with President Trump. Here we heard from VFP member and former CIA analyst Ray McGovern who spoke about the difference between patriotism and faux patriotism. VFP member Bruce

Gagnon, coordinator of Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space, blasted the US/NATO War Machine and referenced the White House as a “black, dark, evil house.”

This action was concluded by reading Barry Ladendorf’s letter to President Trump, which stated in part: “We speak for the majority of U.S. citizens, who believe your policies are taking innocent lives and endangering more of our young soldiers, who have already given so much in needless wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. Now we have sent more Marines into Syria. Your policies are also causing suffering and despair among immigrants, Muslims, communities of color, women, Native Americans, and LGBTQ communities, and if implemented, these policies will further destroy the environment. Ultimately, they make all of us considerable less secure.”

Local members Mike McDonald, Tom Bauch, Bruce Berry and Barry Riesch joined Veterans For Peace in Washington for these events.

NOTE: On the matter of Full Disclosure on the Vietnam War, watch for the upcoming documentary by PBS and Ken Burns and Lyn Novice on Vietnam to be presented on PBS beginning Sept 17, 2017. It promises to present a balanced viewpoint despite being financially supported by the Koch Brothers among others. VFP requests a place at the table to discuss the real truth about Vietnam.

Give us the America we deserve

by Larry Johnson

In 1953, in his “Chance for Peace” speech, President Dwight Eisenhower, a Republican, said that every weapon in war is a theft from those who are poor, that the cost of one modern bomber could have built new homes for 8,000 families. Today, we’re watching that play out, perhaps more graphically than ever before, as flamboyant comments and military attacks become a dramatic excuse for the recent, proposed \$54 billion Pentagon budget increase. At the same time, scores of support and protection systems for poor and ordinary citizens are being dropped or dismantled. I oppose the military increase, if only because, historically, Pentagon waste, as well as spending for overpriced, defective weapons, becomes more than enough to maintain domestic, social programs.

I would thank the president for proposing more money

for veteran’s health care, but not if it’s coupled with efforts geometrically and unnecessarily expanding numbers of veterans. If the President wishes “flamboyant distinction,” I urge him to carry out the bold proposal in his 2000 book, *The America We Deserve*. That book, virtually AWOL during the campaign, said “American foreign policy needs a dealmaker.” Then he claimed if he were President, he would impose a one-time net worth tax of 14.25 percent on all individuals and trusts worth over \$10 million.

“That,” said then-businessman Trump, “would raise enough revenue to pay off the national debt, saving so much in interest payments, we could give all middle class citizens an enormous tax break.” I believe it could also allow robust funding for strong, international war crime enforcement for all attacks killing civilians, and an end to Eisenhower’s 1953 concerns about marauding weapon gangs stealing from the poor.

The Korean War - Then and Now

by Craig Wood

The Korean War, fought between North and South Koreans between 1950 and 1953, is sometimes called "The Forgotten War" or an unknown war. Since no side decisively won or lost, it might also be called a stalemated war.

Sixty-four years later, thousands of soldiers continue to watch over the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), a heavily militarized area spiked with guard towers that roughly divides the Korean Peninsula in half. Although the DMZ has seen a rise in tourism in recent years, it's still one of the tensest places on earth and a grim reminder of a brutal and reckless civil war.

Sixteen countries were involved, but it was never considered a world war; President Truman didn't even ask Congress for permission to declare war. So it's technically a police intervention responsible for the deaths of 40,000 to 54,000 American troops and the wounding of at least a 100,000 more.

Estimates of Korean casualties vary too. The BBC figured South Korea lost about 46,000 soldiers with 100,000 wounded. Another 215,000 North Koreans were killed along with the 300,000 wounded. That doesn't include an estimated 100,000 North Koreans who were captured or went missing.

Professor Charles Armstrong of Columbia University believes those numbers are low. His estimate of Koreans killed or wounded approaches three million, about 10 per cent of the Korean population. Most casualties were in the North even though they had about half the population of the South. Some estimates put the death count just shy of five million.

The United States dumped 635,000 tons of bombs and 32,557 tons of napalm on the besieged North, which was 132,000 tons of bombs less than the U.S. used throughout the Pacific during World War II, according to University of Chicago Professor and Korean War author Bruce Cumings.

The destruction was so horrific it prompted Colonel Dean Rusk to say the U.S. bombed "everything that moved in North Korea, every brick standing on top of another" including irrigation and hydroelectric dams. There were complaints from brass about how hard it was to locate structures over one-story to bomb.

The aftermath of war was tough on both sides, espe-

cially the North which didn't have U.S. aid to repair infrastructure and modernize. Northerners did manage to rekindle their economy, although it stalled out again in the 1990s. Now it's rebounding according to some reports and the 33-year-old leader Kim Jong-un is putting a lot of money into upgrading weapon systems. This is worrisome to a number of countries who wonder if he's mentally unstable.

President Trump hopes the baby-faced Jong-un is reasonable (comic relief anyone?) and has added his voice to those in other countries who have condemned recent North Korean missile tests. There is fear the North will soon have the capability to deliver nuclear, chemical or biological warheads.

It is estimated that existing missiles can already hit the U.S. hub Guam within 15 minutes and Seoul could be devastated with a conventional artillery attack in six minutes. If long distance ICBMs were successfully developed, bombs could be delivered to the American West Coast in about half an hour. It would take less than 40 minutes to reach New York or Washington, D.C.

Despite an increased U.S. military presence in the Asia-Pacific region the saber-rattling continues, but the defiant Korean dictator shows no signs of backing down. He refuses to stop testing missiles while arguing that he's trying to protect his country from "hostile aggression abroad" according to a Chinese ambassador.

Regardless of the outcome it's worth noting that U.S. involvement with the Korean War has already cost taxpayers over 67 billion dollars or 535 billion in 2008 dollars. The hidden costs of the war are harder to calculate.

Who can put a price on the loss of skilled and unskilled workers on both sides? Or the side effects from water that flooded farmland when a dam was blown up, or the increase in debilitating diseases after years of living in squalor.

The psychological toll may be impossible to measure. Apart from, pain, suffering, heartbreak and PTSD, there are repercussions from other behaviors such as prostitution. There's at least one report about South Korean women who were expected to sexually service as many as 29 soldiers a day. It's believed the U.S. collaborated with the South Korean government with this to some extent.

Now the powers-that-be have changed tactics and keep

The United States dumped 635,000 tons of bombs and 32,557 tons of napalm on the besieged North, which was 132,000 tons of bombs less than the U.S. used throughout the Pacific during World War II.

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Peace and Democracy Conference at the Democracy Convention August 2-6, 2017, Minneapolis

(compiled from the conference webpages)

If you want to strengthen democracy where it matters most ... in our communities, our schools, our workplaces and local economies, our military, our government, our media, our constitution ... you will find something inspiring in Minneapolis Aug. 2-6. Join us at the third Democracy Convention.

More than one conference, the Democracy Convention houses many conferences under one roof, as well as cross-conference tracks and plenaries. It is a multi-issue platform seeking to build a more unified movement. As the great progressive reformer Fighting Bob La Follette said, "democracy is a life," and "involves constant struggle" in all sectors of society. With the Democracy Convention, we recognize the importance of each of these separate democracy struggles, as well as the need to unite them all in a common, deeply rooted, broad based, movement for democracy.

World Beyond War is organizing the Peace and Democracy Conference portion of it, which will run along with nine other conferences under one roof at the University of Minnesota. The Peace and Democracy Conference will explore the many ways that democratic principles are abandoned in the name of "national defense" and will move forward efforts to establish a democratic alternative to endless war. On both small and large levels, the federal and state governments turn blind eyes to the Constitution, international law, labor rights of military employees, and the will of the people in issues regarding the military and war. And the increasing dependence on drones and a robotized military threatens to undermine what democratic control over our foreign policy remains.

Some issues of focus include:

How is it possible for the President to ignore the Constitution and enter military conflict without the approval of Congress?

What role does the will of the people have in beginning or ending military conflict?

Can we have democratic control over weapons dealing and profiteering?

What is the impact on a democracy of hosting or imposing military bases?

Can secret forces, military drones, and robot armies

play any positive role in a democratic society?

Should soldiers be forced to work beyond the terms of their enlistment "agreement?"

Can global justice be advanced through the rule of law?

By what stages might war be abolished, and what would a war-free world look like?

This conference will look into these questions and many others with experts from both the legal and peace communities. Its program is not fully set, but here is a sample of what has been set and will be led by some of our local people:

Do People Want Peace? The State of Public Opinion, the Peace Movement, and Governance. Leah Bolger, Norman Solomon, Kathy Kelly.

Peace Culture and Peace Celebrations: Outgrowing Nationalism, Materialism, Machismo, and Exceptionalism. Suzanne Al-Kayali, Steve McKeown, Larry Johnson, Kaila Abraham, Timon Jones.

The Case for War Abolition. Why We Can and Must End Our Greatest Crime. David Swanson, Medea Benjamin, Replacing War Systems with Peace Systems. Kent Shifferd, Tony Jenkins, Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer.

Hole in the Ground. Dramatic Reading. Coleen Rowley,

Counter-Recruitment: Lack of Rights Within the U.S. Military. Pat Elder, Bob Fantina, Dick Foley.

Nonviolence Training. Mary Dean, Kathy Kelly.

Ending the Nuclear Nightmare. Marie Braun, Ellen Thomas, Bonnie Urfer, Alice Slater.

Law vs. War and Global Governance Beyond Nations. David Swanson, Ben Manski.

For more information or to register, go to: <https://www.democracyconvention.org/>.

Updates to agenda being added at <http://worldbeyonddwar.org/democracy>

Sign the Declaration of Peace. Find events all over the world that you can take part in. Join us on Facebook and Twitter.

Making the story of peace ripple out into every pond we can

by Larry Johnson

Since the last newsletter appeared, I've been able to stalk/tell our story in nine different places. Part of this is due to the recent publication of my book, *SIXTY-ONE*, but the other part is that I regularly get invited to be a guest storyteller. My long association with Veterans For Peace has helped me become very adept at sliding our message even into grade school presentations focussed on love of environment, reading and writing. These days I always bring the Armistice Bell that 11 of us veterans made a few years back with an Arts Board grant. Whatever else I'm doing, I tell the story of how and why I made the bell and then let the children help ring it 11 times. Then I tell the story of my grandpa, who, while patriotically raising the flag, would tell my brother and me, "Boys, war is a horrible thing. I was in World War I, and my brother died there. I hope neither of you ever has to participate."

I participated in a peace studies class at Bethel University, a couple of book/literary events in N.E. Minneapolis, a couple of schools, several churches, and the Festival of Nations. Ron Staff and I both spoke, at different times, with a group of students at CHOF Academy, working on a History Day project about Siegfried Sassoon, World War I soldier/poet. When it was over, they wrote:

*"Thank you for the help you gave our History Day group. The information you shared helped us greatly with our analysis. We competed in the State Competition and came in 5th place with our performance, **Siegfried Sassoon: Taking a Stand Against War Through Poetry**. Our interview with you gave us the knowledge to really show the lasting effect Sassoon had on the world."*

Reality? Most adults have never heard of Sassoon, because the powers-that-be generally try to keep these stories out of reach. Now a whole lot of History Day students and judges have heard the story.

Last year I worked with a different group of students at this school on a History Day play about Sadako's Peace Cranes, and they won first place. Too many schools have bad water because we're always cutting education funding for the war effort. This school obviously has some kind of peace mineral in the water.

At the Festival of Nations this year, several other story-

tellers and I were asked to tell tales reflecting our "ethnic" background, so I said I'd do Scandinavian and German, and wrote my program description:

"Larry Johnson tells tales from Scandinavia, Germany, and the North Sea that separates them. Since the Nobel Peace Prize comes from Scandinavia, and Larry's people all come from the "make do on nothing" land of Smaland, Sweden, Larry also plays 'Music for Weapons and Waste Reduction' on items rescued from the landfills of the world."

This allowed me to use my Armistice Bell and tell the quick story of Frank Kellogg (Kellogg Blvd. goes right by River Centre where the Festival is held), and a goofy story referencing the Swedish founder of the Nobel Peace Prize. I ended with "Beethoven's Ode to Joy," played on a FRENCH SHOE HORN, and told a story I translated from German about two enemy soldiers on guard duty. Each decided not to shoot the other, and finally, starving, came together to cook and eat a trout one of them caught with his bare hands in the river that separated them. The ending was something like, "Would that all the countries, represented here at the Festival, could learn to live this way with each other."

Now, here's maybe the best part. Three years ago when we made our Armistice Bells, the Festival theme was PEACE AMONG THE NATIONS. They found us because of the publicity generated through our Kellogg-Briand Pact event at the Frank Kellogg house, and they asked us to have a Peace Bell exhibit at the Festival. They also asked us to tell the Sadako Peace Crane story, as well as the story of Frank Kellogg.

When I was putting the Kellogg story together, I found that he gave an enormous endowment to Carleton to fund the continuous presence of a Professor of Peace and International Relations. Steve McKeown and I just returned from meeting with Al Montero, the professor who has held this position for 20 years. He was very interested in the work we do as Veterans For Peace, particularly the way we've used the Kellogg story to promote the viability and the need to end war. We agreed to stay in touch, and he thought we should be part of an upcoming International Peace Day (September 21) celebration in Northfield, where the college is. STAY TUNED.

The peace index

The trillion dollar defense budget

by Frank Fuller

Another year, another trillion dollar defense budget. A lot has been written about Trump's proposed budget increasing the defense budget by \$54 billion to over \$600 billion. But that figure leaves out almost a third of what is actually spent on defense. It does not, for instance, include retirement costs, overseas contingency operations, nuclear weapons, retiree health care costs, homeland security, or even the Pentagon's share of interest on the national debt, (which is about \$113 billion in 2018).

It all comes to about \$1.069 trillion, up from \$1.045 trillion in 2017.

When we spend that much money and increase it every year, it's hard to believe that this country can't afford to have nice things, like: a reliable transportation system, clean air waterways, social safety nets, dependable retirement income, healthy food and accessible healthcare.

There are lots of things that money could be spent on. Here are a few areas it's not being spent:

Public schools. "Education Week" reports: "The American Society of Civil Engineers gave public schools a D-plus in its report card on the nation's infrastructure.

"A D grade means that buildings are in fair to poor condition, with many elements nearing the end of their useful life according to the report.

"Among the findings: Nearly a quarter of permanent public school buildings were in fair or poor condition, in more than 30 percent of public school facilities, windows, plumbing, and HVAC systems were in "fair" or "poor" condition; 53 percent of public schools needed to make repairs, renovations, or upgrades to be in "good" condition.

"A growing number of teachers nationwide are turning to GoFundMe to pay for classroom supplies, according to new data released by the fundraising website.

"Teachers have long reported reaching into their own wallets to pay for the resources their students need to learn. My colleague, Madeline Will, reports in the Teaching Now blog on a survey by the education company Scholastic of 4,271 public school educators who, on average, spent \$530 a year of their own money on classroom items and basics their students needed, like food and clothing. Teachers in high-poverty schools spent 40 percent more,"

Research. The proposed Trump budget continues to fund Alzheimer's research at its current amount of \$19 million. But whoever wrote that amount in the budget added some epic snark by pointing out that the number of cases

will increase by 40 percent over the next eight years: "An estimated 5.2 million individuals in the US are living with Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias; that number is expected to increase by about 40 percent by 2025. Consolidating similar Alzheimer's Disease activities into a single grant program will provide great flexibility to States." I don't think flexibility in local programs was ever a concern to scientists.

The U.S.-Mexico border. Sewage and garbage from Mexico frequently sweeps into San Diego during winter rainstorms. The EPA has funded work there to slow the flood of garbage into the Pacific Ocean. Its program to address problems like that would be cut from \$3 million to \$275,000.

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busy estimating missile trajectories, time-frames and kill ratios, constantly speculating about future conflicts fraught with faster missiles and bigger bombs. Perhaps it's time for an old soldier to balance the perspective...

"I was drafted during the Korean War. None of us wanted to go . . . It was only a couple of years after World War II had ended. We said, 'Wait a second? Didn't we just get through with that?'" (Clint Eastwood)

NOTE by Steve McKeown: VFP chapter member Barry Riesch and Maine chapter member Bruce Gagnon, Director of the Global Network Against Weapons in Space, have participated in resistance actions at Jeju Island which is just off the coast of South Korea and is the site of a very large naval base just constructed by South Korea and the U.S. This base is correctly called the linchpin of the U.S. military presence to Southeast Asia, and just as correctly perceived by China and North Korea as a direct threat. Gagnon will talk more about this at his July 15th talk in Red Wing at Peacestock.

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

“I Just Want to Get Back to 9/10”

by Mike Madden

The headline is a quote from National Security Agency (NSA) whistle-blower Thomas Drake, who spoke at Mount Olivet Church on May 2, 2017. He was referring to both the constitutional order of his country, and his own personal life, which was shattered by an overzealous criminal prosecution under the Espionage Act.

Thomas Drake served with distinction in both the U.S. Air Force and Navy. He also served briefly in the Central Intelligence Agency before being hired at the Signals Intelligence Directorate of the NSA on September 11, 2001. There he earned top secret security clearance and became familiar with tools the NSA was developing to collect intelligence. He discovered that one in particular, Trailblazer, was sweeping up data on American citizens in violation of the Fourth Amendment. He was aware of an alternative analysis tool available, Thin Thread, which had the potential to detect security threats anonymously, thereby protecting privacy until a warrant could be obtained. So, he sought to end the unconstitutional practice of bulk collection and retention of data by reporting through proper and protected channels. **He would eventually discover that these supposed protected channels were actually “exposure channels.”**

Drake swore an oath to the Constitution four times in his government career. He holds the Constitution to be the law of the land; there is no law before or after it. He went to his supervisor to ask about the unconstitutional practices he was seeing and was told, “It’s all legal. The White House approved it.” Of course the President is not above the law (as Richard Nixon learned the hard way), and so Thomas Drake made the conscious decision to defend the Constitution against his own government. He would find that reporting state crimes had become a crime of state.

In addition to his boss, Drake complained to the NSA Inspector General, the Pentagon Inspector General, and the Intelligence Committees in both the House and the Senate. He was told again that approval of the President was sufficient authority to surveil American citizens and that “the

constitution is not a suicide pact.” In 2005, he decided to go to the press.

He contacted Siobhan Gorman of the *Baltimore Sun* with the understanding that he would not share any classified information. He knew he was risking his job, but thought he would be in no legal jeopardy absent the release of classified material. Gorman won a journalistic award for her series of articles on waste, fraud, and abuse at the NSA. Journalist and author James Risen also wrote on domestic spying in a article for *The New York Times* and in his book *State of War*.

These revelations prompted an all out hunt for the leakers. Drake fell under suspicion as did other critics of the Trailblazer Program such as fellow NSA employess William Binney, Ed Loomis, J. Kirk Weibe, and Diane Roarke, who had been a staffer for the House Intelligence Committee responsible for oversight of the NSA. All had their houses raided by the FBI in 2007. In 2010, Drake was indicted on multiple counts of Willful Retention of National Defense Information, Making a False Statement, and a single count of Obstructing Justice. The chief prosecutor threatened him with life in prison. His movements were restricted to the local area. His passport was revoked.

As it turned out, some of the classified information he was accused of possessing was contained in the Inspector General’s report that was issued in 2003. His possession was not willful, complainants are actually advised to retain copies of reports responsive to their complaints. Other documents were declassified shortly after his indictment and should never have been classified in the first place. The obstruction charge related to his alleged deletion of documents at a time when the prosecutor thought he should have known an investigation was underway. The making false statement charges were themselves false.

The prosecution sought to prevent the defense from introducing any arguments related to whistleblowing, First Amendment protections, or over-classification schemes. But on the eve of trial, realizing their overreach would likely fail before a jury, prosecutor William Welch dropped all charges and agreed not to seek any jail time in exchange for a plea of guilty to a single misdemeanor, misuse of a government computer system.

Faced with tactics of intense intimidation, and persecuted for upholding his oath to the Constitution, Thomas Drake did not back down. When he repeated his words that were initially spoken during the worst days of his ordeal, “**I will not plea bargain with the truth**”, he drew the greatest applause of the night. The government may be omnipotent, but the rectitude of a whistle-blower is more powerful yet.

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

Time to Ban the Bomb

by Alice Slater

This week, the Chair of an exciting UN initiative formally named the “United Nations Conference to Negotiate a Legally Binding Instrument to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons, Leading Towards their Total Elimination” released a draft treaty to ban and prohibit nuclear weapons just as the world has done for biological and chemical weapons. The Ban Treaty is to be negotiated at the UN from June 15 to July 7 as a follow up to the one week of negotiations that took place this past March, attended by more than 130 governments interacting with civil society. Their input and suggestions were used by the Chair, Costa Rica’s ambassador to the UN, Elayne Whyte Gómez, to prepare the draft treaty. It is expected that the world will finally come out of this meeting with a treaty to ban the bomb!

This negotiating conference was established after a series of meetings in Norway, Mexico, and Austria with governments and civil society to examine the catastrophic humanitarian consequences of nuclear war. The meetings were inspired by the leadership and urging of the International Red Cross to look at the horror of nuclear weapons, not just through the frame of strategy and “deterrence,” but to grasp and examine the disastrous humanitarian consequences that would occur in a nuclear war. This activity led to a series of meetings, culminating in a resolution in the UN General Assembly this fall to negotiate a treaty to ban and prohibit nuclear weapons. The new draft treaty, based on the proposals put forth in the March negotiations, requires the states to “never under any circumstances ... develop, produce, manufacture, otherwise acquire, possess, or stockpile nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices ... use nuclear weapons ... carry out any nuclear weapon test.” States are also required to destroy any nuclear weapons they possess and are prohibited from transferring nuclear weapons to any other recipient.

None of the nine nuclear weapons states, US, UK, Russia, France, China, India, Pakistan, Israel and North Korea, came to the March meeting, although during the vote last fall on whether to go forward with the negotiating resolution in the UN’s First Committee for Disarmament, where the resolution was formally introduced, while the five western nuclear states voted against it. China, India and Pakistan

abstained. And North Korea voted for the resolution to negotiate to ban the bomb! (I bet you didn’t read that in the New York Times!)

By the time the resolution got to the General Assembly, Donald Trump had been elected and those promising votes disappeared. And at the March negotiations, the US Ambassador to the UN, Nikki Haley, flanked by the Ambassadors from England and France, stood outside the closed conference room and held a press conference with a number of “umbrella states” which rely on the US nuclear

US Ambassador to the UN Nikki Haley, flanked by the Ambassadors from England and France, . . . announced that “as a mother” who couldn’t want more for her family “than a world without nuclear weapons,” she had to “be realistic” and would oppose . . . efforts to ban the bomb.

‘deterrent’ to annihilate their enemies (includes NATO states as well as Australia, Japan, and South Korea) and announced that “as a mother” who

couldn’t want more for her family “than a world without nuclear weapons,” she had to “be realistic” and would boycott the meeting and oppose efforts to ban the bomb adding, “Is there anyone that believes that North Korea would agree to a ban on nuclear weapons?”

The last 2015 Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) five-year review conference broke up without consensus on the shoals of a deal the U.S. was unable to deliver to Egypt to hold a Weapons of Mass Destruction Free Zone Conference in the Middle East. This promise was made in 1995 to get the required consensus vote from all the states to extend the NPT indefinitely when it was due to expire, 25 years after it entered into force. The five nuclear weapons states in the treaty, US, UK, Russia, China, and France, promised to make “good faith efforts” for nuclear disarmament. In that agreement, all the other countries of the world promised not to get nuclear weapons, except for India, Pakistan, and Israel who never signed and went on to get their own bombs. North Korea had signed the treaty, but took advantage of the NPT’s Faustian bargain to sweeten the pot with a promise to the non-nuclear weapons states for an “inalienable right” to “peaceful” nuclear power, thus giving them the keys to the bomb factory. North Korea got its peaceful nuclear power, and walked out of the treaty to make a bomb. At the 2015 NPT review, South Africa gave an eloquent speech expressing the state of nuclear apartheid that exists between the nuclear haves, holding the whole world hostage to their security needs and their failure to comply with their

Continued on next page

Petitions to ban nuclear weapons continues

by Steve McKeown

The grim Hiroshima collage that my son put together would unfortunately be a utopian picture of what would happen today if, God forbid, there would be any nuclear exchanges. If there were any survivors there would be untold years of a dark cloud with no sunshine, creating a nuclear winter where nothing could grow. Along with the radiation after the fire blasts, anyone surviving could very well envy the dead.

Even so, we are told these are tactical weapons where every thing is on the table. Others, including a number of deadly Christians, see this as all foretold or hastening the time of the return of Jesus.

We have a President who wonders why we have these weapons if we can't use them. The good news is that 123 nations have signed on to banning them. None of the countries that signed are nuclear nations.

So the End War Committee from WAMM and our VFP chapter is collecting signatures on paper petitions that we will turn in to our Congresspeople from Minnesota. We plan to meet with their offices and hopefully each representative to encourage them to commit to banning these weapons that would be forwarded to the UN. We plan on turning these petitions in during the month of October.

As this goes to print we have 3562 signatures from over



collage by Josh McKeown

100 towns and cities in Minnesota. When I was waiting with my family for a table at a Minneapolis restaurant recently, I had my clipboard and asked those waiting with me to sign. A three-year-old girl was taking this in, and (I kid you not) she took the clipboard to other tables and got some more to sign. Therefore all who read this are encouraged to do likewise. For a petition(s) call WAMM at 612 827 5364 or VFP at 612 821 9141. We need your help to spread the word and collect signatures.

from previous page

obligation to eliminate their nuclear bombs, while working overtime to prevent nuclear proliferation in other countries.

The Ban Treaty draft provides that the Treaty will enter into effect when 40 nations sign and ratify it. Even if none of the nuclear weapons states join, the ban can be used to stigmatize and shame the “umbrella” states to withdraw from the nuclear “protection” services they are now receiving. Japan should be an easy case. The five NATO states in Europe who keep U.S. nuclear weapons based on their soil (Germany, Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, and Turkey) are good prospects for breaking with the nuclear alliance. A legal ban on nuclear weapons can be used to convince banks and pension funds in a divestment campaign, once it is known the weapons are illegal. See [\[bomb.org\]\(http://bomb.org\)](http://www.dontbankonthe-</p>
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Right now people are organizing all over the world for a Women's March to Ban the Bomb on June 17, during the ban treaty negotiations, with a big march and rally planned in New York. (See www.womenbanthebomb.org/)

We need to get as many countries to the UN as possible this June, and pressure our parliaments and capitals to vote to join the treaty to ban the bomb. And we need to talk it up and let people know that something great is happening now! To get involved, check out www.icanw.org

Alice Slater serves on the Coordinating Committee of World Beyond War This article was originally published by World Beyond War.

Bill Mauldin: A Life Up Front

reviewed by Ron Staff

Todd DePastino wrote this biography in the early years of this century (2008 publication date). Under “Other Work” in his Wiki scoop, he is identified with the Pittsburgh-based Veterans Breakfast Club, a radio show. Hope he’s still listening to veterans. Sometime he might take on any member of Veterans For Peace, if he has a couple of months programing he needs to fill.

Be that as it may, his story about the trajectory of Bill Mauldin’s life mirror’s the anti-communist hoopla of the McCarthy period in American political life. While Bill worked to oppose racism, Jim Crow blossomed under the radar of the fourth (lazy) estate. I do not think of our media as being particularly free, except to be “never-never land” free. Donald, the current Commander In Chief, (CIC) might have something. There’s a lot of “fake” news or maybe that’s lazy news out there.

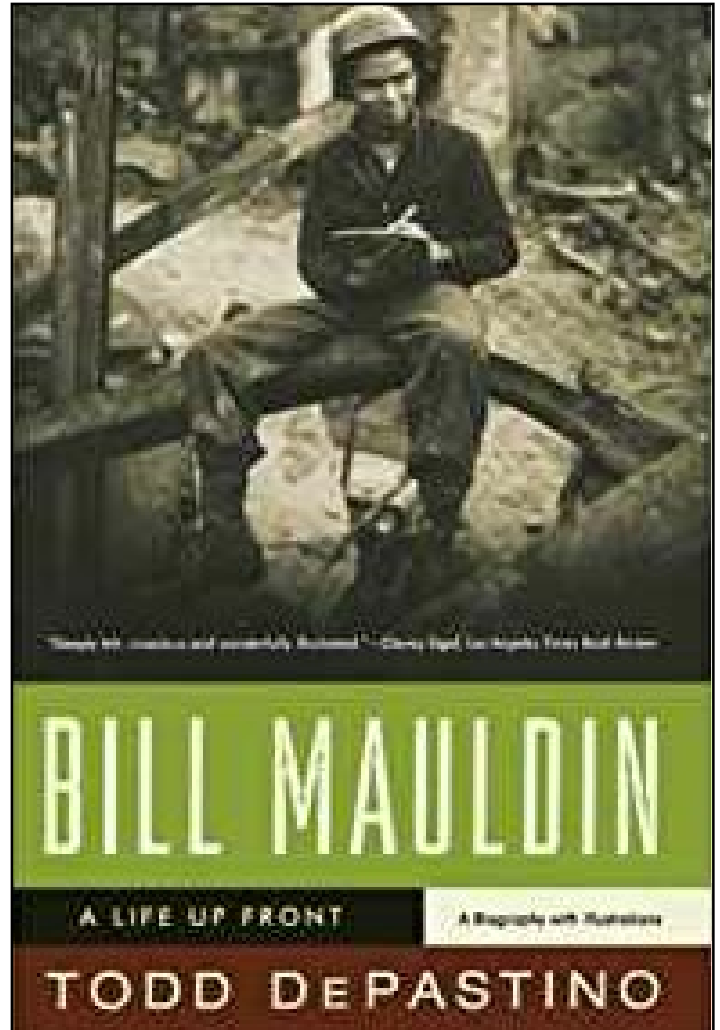
The “current occupant’s” chest-thumping over showing the world how sensitive and caring he is about chemical warfare by Middle Eastern tyrants wins him plaudits in that same “lazy news,” he otherwise opposes. Unfortunately, some of that story does not hold up to simple scrutiny. Public reports of the terrible smelling chemicals means the gas was not Sarin as proposed by the presidential hero worshipers. But that would take some assessing by the “lazy estate.”

Facts still speak more clearly than Rupert’s rumblings.

But back to Bill. The author suggests that he had a healthy attitude towards authority, which he had picked up observing his father. “Whimsical, delusional, self-centered” does appear to some in the public domain as a sharp image of the “current pooh-bah.” One assumes that military officers in Mauldin’s day had no idea of the instrument he might be using to measure characters in his Willie and Joe cartoons about life in the military machine.

He was intent on making a living as a cartoonist long before Pearl Harbor happened. He followed the skill building formula of many artists, with classes, mentors and practice, practice, practice. He attended art school and apprenticed, always drawing. He had cartoons published in Arizona Highways and the American Legion Magazine before the war.

Also before the war, he was entranced with military uniforms and marching. ROTC was the only class he maxed, even perfecting “the Queen Anne salute (which) involves a cadet tossing his rifle in the air and landing its butt on the ground just behind a bent right knee. The rifle then somer-



saults overtop the shoulder as the cadet rises back into the right shoulder arms’ position.”

How to make a living brought him into the reserves and active military duty, also before Pearl. His military aptitude test score was the highest in his division, yet only earned him the enlisted man’s dreaded kitchen duty.

The military newspaper he worked for grew out of a single officer assigned to the intelligence section of the 45th Division, who promoted a free press in the service. The whole story of public relations and unit morale evolved as Bill was seeking to work his way into that field before it was a field. What officers might have seen as funny and what the enlisted men laughed about have usually been different. What amuses one does not amuse all. Perspective is not just a concept in drawing.

Personally, I had never connected the intelligence sections (S-3) and the informational services office (ISO), in which I had served. I always was a bit slow. Slow does have its up side, providing time to observe the terrain and the

Continued on next page

landscape. Mauldin's sharp eye for the ironic and iconic gave his cartoons the verisimilitude, which enlisted men grew to trust to their core. I have heard stories from that generation of enlisted men that he was one of the few they trusted as their lives progressed through and following that war and its subsequent period of maintaining an enemy for the sake of military procurement. He always had the straight dope on things.

Censors did edit his cartoons, but only it seemed if they contained new, secret equipment. We had the same kind of oversight in Vietnam. One radio piece made it all the way through our division office down to the Combat Information Bureau in Danang and was ready to be released. Then someone noticed that the fact we were coordinating radar and cannon fire to shoot down North Vietnamese helicopters along the Demilitarized Zone was top secret. Oops.

The story was an interesting one and true; just not for distribution.

Mauldin's cartoons were honest, like the two guys talking in a foxhole, while bullets are whizzing by. One says, "I'm beginnin' to feel like a fugitive from the law of averages." It doesn't take long in "the bush" to recognize that sort of feeling. His connection to the men at the front led

him to defend his work even to General Patton. He and Patton were ordered to meet by General Eisenhower. Bill had to explain a cartoon to the General.

Mauldin, who had long derided "brass," portrayed it as the using of one's position to aggrandize oneself. He would later, after the war, say it "is an alloy which knows it is not gold, and mistakenly tries to hide this fact by polishing itself to a high shine which removes it even farther from the true, mellow, dull, twenty-four-carat glow."

His biographer, Todd, puts this piece of information just

before describing what Bill called, "the most moving gesture I ever saw."

The commander of the U.S. Third Division, General Lucian Truscott in giving a Memorial Day speech to "a crowd of army luminaries and VIPs from the States, including several U.S. senators," turned his back to the gathering, informed them that his address was for those lying beneath

the endless rows of graves and apologized to those men for sending them to their deaths. He took responsibility for his mistakes, acknowledged he expected no forgiveness, and rejected any honor or glory for their sacrifices but gave them a promise. He said if he ever ran into anybody, especially old men, who thought death in battle was glorious, he would straighten them out. It was the least he could do. Despite his promise, honor and glory in war have been front and center ever since.

Reading this biography can put one in a hopeless place about turning our citizens away from war's cliff of violence and all its poisons.

We have been told that war is the failure of diplomacy. Yet, our democratic leaders who lead us into wars seem to find reelection a song. Something seems wrong about one side or the other of the proposition.

Either war is a failure of diplomacy or diplomacy is a failure of war.

So with a total war neophyte in high office and his Secretary of State no more war experienced, and floundering around in diplomacy, it looks like the fascism is alive and well in Washington, D.C. It looks like once again bigotry and brassiness has distracted the populace from the glow of the golden rule.



National VFP Convention in Chicago Aug. 9-13

by Ron Staff

The National Convention of Veterans For Peace 2017 in Chicago goes from Wednesday, August 9th (Nagasaki Remembrance Day) to Sunday, Aug. 13th. The registration has been open for a while online. You can even print out the registration materials and snail-mail them in or do it all online.

Col. Lawrence Wilkerson will be the banquet speaker and Paul Chappell has confirmed that he will speak. Both talks will undoubtedly engage with the current weird political waters in which we find ourselves.

The on-line address is veteransforpeace.org. Questions not answered online can be directed to Shelly (National Office) by entering shelly@ before the online address or calling her at 314-725-6005.

The web site also lists the local contact as Frank Fitzgerald at fitzgerf@me.com. See you there!

Geography of the Heart

by Steve Mckeown

While pursuing my degree in Geography at the U of M, I took a graduate class taught by a Chinese Professor who emphasized the human perception of Geography, an experiential view we give to space and place. My instructor has long since passed on, but I think he would have been interested in helping us flyer near Kellogg Blvd in St. Paul to make better known what, why, and for whom the street is named after. For those in the Peace Movement perhaps he would have called it "The Geography of the Heart" that goes beyond the physical.

On Aug 5th, come join us at the St. Paul Farmers Market from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. to flyer to make this street which is named after the only person from Minnesota to ever win the Nobel Peace Prize for his work in writing and passing the Kellogg Briand Pact which outlawed WAR, and still does. This was the top news story in 1928 and Kellogg Blvd, which is close to the Farmers Market, is relatively unknown in its meaning, much less the Greatest Peace Movement the world has ever seen, which brought this Pact to its head. Come also to meet David Swanson who wrote the book about this Pact called "When the World Outlawed War." It will do your heart good.

ONGOING EVENTS

Monthly meeting, 2nd Sun., 6:30 pm, 4200 Cedar Av. S Please note day change.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

July 15, Sat., Peacestock, Red Wing, MN. See article on opposite page.

Aug 2-6 Democracy Convention at U of M. See article on page 6.

Aug 5, 8:30 to 9:30 am. Farmers Market St Paul, flying by Democracy Convention, WAMM. and VFP re Kellogg Briand Pact.

Aug 6, 7:30 am. Lyndale Peace Garden, Mpls, Hiroshima Remembrance Day, Music, Sadako story, bell ringing, and the keynote speaker from World Beyond War, David Swanson.

Aug 9-13, National VFP Convention, Chicago, see article on this page.

Aug 27, Kellogg Briand Pact 89th Anniversary. (TBA).

Sep 15-16. Nobel Peace Prize Forum, Augsburg College, Mpls with MAPP and VFP hosting workshops on Mobilizing High School Peace Activism.

Sep 21. International Peace Day. See Larry Johnson's article on page 7.

Jackson Browne to perform at National Convention

by Steve McKeown

The songwriter and singer Jackson Browne said: "I want to add my voice to that of Veterans For Peace in calling for the dismantling of our war for profit economy, and working to end all wars."

In fleshing this out Browne will perform on the last day of the VFP National Convention, Sun. Aug 13th at 7:30 p.m. at the Copernicus Center in Chicago with all net proceeds to benefit VFP. Tickets available at Ticketfly.com.

PEACESTOCK 2017

The Cost of War: Why is the U.S. doubling down on military spending?

Starting at 9:00 am Saturday, July 15, 2017

Hobgoblin Barn, 920 Hwy. 19 Blvd., Red Wing MN

15th annual event devoted to peace and justice. Sponsored by Veterans for Peace, Chap. 115, Red Wing and Chap. 27, Minneapolis
www.hobgoblin-usa.com

Bruce Gagnon



Bruce is the Coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons & Nuclear Power in Space and a recipient of the Dr. Benjamin Spock Peacemaker Award. In addition to discussing how space technology directs and controls all US military operations, Bruce's talk will explore the U.S. decision to encircle China and Russia, the provocative nature of NATO becoming an expanding global

military alliance, and the impact of our ever-increasing military budget has on domestic policies and expenditures.

Between 1983-1998, Bruce led the Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice. In 1987 he organized the largest peace protest in Florida history when over 5,000 people marched in opposition to the first flight test of the Trident II nuclear missile.

Bruce was the organizer of the Cancel Cassini Campaign (launched 72 pounds of plutonium into space in 1997) that drew enormous support and media coverage around the world and was featured on the TV program 60 Minutes. In 2003, Bruce co-produced the documentary Arsenal of Hypocrisy that spelled out U.S. plans for space domination. In 2009, he initiated the Maine Campaign to Bring Our War \$\$ Home, a campaign connecting the dots between endless war spending and the 2008 fiscal crisis. In 2010, Bruce was featured in the award-winning documentary Pax Americana and the Weaponization of Space. Bruce is host of the public access TV show This Issue that currently runs in 15 Maine communities. He is an active member of Veterans for Peace.

Contact Bruce at: P.O. Box 652, Brunswick, Maine 04011, globalnet@mindspring.com, www.space4peace.org.

Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer



Jack is an Associate Professor of Peace and Justice Studies at the Univ. of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Jack is an activist academic whose life and work are focused on addressing the political, economic, faith, and foreign policy dimensions of hunger and poverty. Jack is the author of 13 books, some of which have been used by progressive social change movements in this country and throughout the world.

His new book, *Authentic Hope: It's the End of the World as We Know It but Soft Landings Are Possible* is available from Orbis Books. Jack is one of the founders of the Minnesota Arms Spending Alternatives Project (www.mnasap.org), a grassroots initiative to build a state-wide movement to shift federal spending priorities from militarization and war to meeting essential needs

Music with Bonnie & the Clydes

Music performed by Bonnie & the Clydes can best be described as the kind of songs you listened to when you and friends were renting your first apartment near the campus sometime in the sixties or early seventies and your entire furniture contribution to the apartment consisted of a mattress and a coffee table made from a telephone company wooden spool that you snatched from a construction site next to the natural food grocery that was up the rear stairway above the paraphernalia shop where they also sold posters and lava lamps and had a cat in the front window named Quagmire who was the mother of one of your girlfriend's kittens that is now sleeping in your guitar case in the back of your VW microbus next to Ken Kesey's book, a bottle of Boone's Farm Apple Wine and a stack of signs protesting the government's policies in some far-off country.

\$30 per person; \$15 for students & youth; no one refused entry for inability to pay

Day's events include: speakers; music; noon lunchwagon; evening supper included. If camping, call for information.

For more information: www.peacestockvfp.org. Bill Habedank 651-764-1866 email: whabedank@yahoo.com



Veterans For Peace Chapter 27
4200 Cedar Av. S., Suite 7
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Summer 2017 Newsletter

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SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM HOME ALIVE NOW!

As of June 12, 2017:

At least 6,919 dead in Iraq and Afghanistan;
over one million injured veterans.

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

WORLD BEYOND WAR

VFP members Leah Bolger,
Bruce Gagnon, and Paul
Chappell are among the
impressive International
Speakers Bureau headed up
by David Swanson.

It is worth **CHECKING** out and
SUPPORTING this bureau.

www.worldbeyondwar.org/speakers/

Support Mayday Books

*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.