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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 at Miami Beach



Local VFP members at the national convention in August in Miami Beach celebrated by towing this balloon asking the simple question: "How's the war economy working for you?" across the Venetian Causeway. See Larry Johnson's article on page 2 for more on the war economy and the VFP convention.

Time to "Speak Out, Not Hold Your Peace" about the Kellogg-Briand Pact outlawing war

by Steve McKeown and Coleen Rowley

On July 28th, 2012, Michael Wali, Megan Rice, and Greg Boertje-Obed entered the Y-12 National Security Complex at Oak Ridge, Tenn., in the pre-dawn hours by cutting a fence. They hoisted banners, spray-painted messages, and poured their blood on the nation's only storage facility for weapons-grade, highly enriched uranium. They were arrested and immediately charged with misdemeanor trespass. Several days later, charges were raised to felony level, so the trio is now facing up to a \$600,000 fine and 16 years in prison.

The plant was shut down for security reasons. In Congress, the uproar focused on how this could have happened. The "Plowshares" action, rightly named after the Biblical injunction

from the prophets Micah and Isaiah to beat swords into ploughshares, comes among similar acts of conscience that always leave authorities wondering how this could have happened. How is it that what they've come to see as their ultimate protection and salvation is so easily penetrated? The prosecutor went on and on how horrible this was: "They schemed and planned and coordinated this event. They snuck into the facility under the veil of night. These people are a catalyst for violence; they will offend again."

According to treaties, the "supreme law of the land" according to the Constitution and other international and domestic law, it is the weapons makers and weapons users who should be prosecuted, and many on trial for

Outlaw war, cont'd page 4

Turning public opinion against war by exposing its true costs

by Larry Johnson

Just before we left for the national convention in Miami, I was asked by Jack Nelson Pallmeyer's group, Minnesota Alternative Project (MnASAP), to speak to Arms Spending the St. Paul School Board on the MnASAP resolution. It turns out my remarks, below, were a good warmup to the convention call for a concerted campaign to expose the general public to war's full costs. The following are my remarks.

I'm Larry Johnson, president of Twin Cities Veterans For Peace, and I speak in favor of the MnASAP resolution that calls for extreme military cuts to replace depleted budgets in education and other domestic areas. This is in keeping with last year's U.S. Mayors Conference resolution to bring the war dollars back to American cities.

Eisenhower's 1961 "Military-Industrial Complex" is now an enormous infrastructure, but so invisible that if one says, "We don't have enough money for education because we spend too much on weapons," the reply is, "They're not related. Those are separate budgets."

Currently, the Army recruiting manual says, "Ownership of the schools is the goal." The National School Board Association offers a book, *Common Ground*, which suggests that we should align educational practices with those offered by the Pentagon, because they are the biggest employer in the country and we want students ready to go to work. Many of the companies offering educational testing and assessment have connections in this arena, and around the country, former military personnel are being groomed and hired to take leadership in school districts to improve student achievement. When these connections are questioned, which I have done, they say simply, "I'm just here to improve student achievement."

As a teacher and someone drafted during The Vietnam War, I believe an education suitable for the military or any of the large corporations that profit from perpetual warfare is vastly different from learning to read, write, and think successfully in a society dedicated truly to "Liberty and Justice for all."

My education taught me to look at all sides of issues, and I reject the current argument that "If we cut military spending, we'll hurt the economy." A war economy flourishes for those who service the war machine, but war always leads to cuts in jobs, education, and domestic needs. I

recently read Adam Smith's *Wealth of Nations* to see for myself what he said. Contrary to the way we spin economics and free enterprise in the popular culture, **Smith said that the general economy does better in peace than when ravaged by war.** He said that those who profit from war should be taxed to pay for it, and that paying up front would limit citizen toleration for war, especially those that are unnecessary.

I urge the school board to take the leadership to pass the resolution, saying, "We don't want our taxes paying to blow up and then rebuild schools overseas. We want them to provide everything we need to teach children to be constructive, caring citizens in a society truly striving for the ideals expressed in our founding

documents.

Roughly 70 percent of the American people agree with the VFP on the costs of war, but they're afraid to stand up and say so.

In news from the national convention, Leah Bolger, national VFP president, reminded us why we are the only veteran's organization focused on abolishing war, (parentheses are my comments):

IT'S ILLEGAL. (David Swanson's new book, *When the World Outlawed War*, on the 1928 Kellogg-Briand Act, is available at davidswanson.org.) **IT'S IMMORAL.** (The main tenet of the church's Just War Theory is no harm to civilians.) **IT'S INEFFECTIVE. IT COSTS TOO MUCH.**

Later the Board rolled out a Strategic Plan, suggesting that we maintain our individual chapter autonomy and creativity, while focusing on ways to **TURN PUBLIC OPINION AGAINST WAR, BY EXPOSING ITS TRUE COSTS IN ALL AREAS — HUMAN, ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, DOMESTIC AND MORE.**

The convention was full of sessions, so many that one couldn't attend them all, highlighted by full group events like Phil Donahue's new film, *Body of War*. Donahue juxtaposed scenes of an Iraq veteran recovering from multiple physical and emotional wounds with the individual votes in Congress on the 2002 war resolution, Senator Byrd's fiery speech against the resolution, and the rhetoric of Bush administration leaders calling for the illegal invasion. In the discussion afterwards, Donahue said that roughly 70 percent of the American people agree with the VFP on the costs of war, but they're afraid to stand up and say so. Our job is to

Continued next page

create a climate that removes that fear and empowers more to speak out.

The banquet keynote by Alice Walker was in the same vein. It's not possible to do it justice in a few sentences, but she wove a gripping story, beginning with the large number of returning soldiers who are taking their lives. They do it because they have faced the horror and inhumanity of war, and they are, in fact, the ones that are still alive. Those who order the killing and destruction and who profit from warfare are the ones who are dead, so our task is to remove the dead from power so those who are living can truly live.

At the end of the convention, Barry Riesch, Elaine and I joined Elliot Adams and seven others who didn't have to fly out right away in a spontaneous information campaign. We walked across the Venetian Causeway to Miami Beach, flying a large balloon with www.veteransforpeace.org on one side and "HOW'S THE WAR ECONOMY WORKING FOR YOU?" on the other. Children delighted in the large balloon, and many adults, including recently returned soldiers, stopped to hear our stories and talk about the issues.

Somehow, as we waited for our Miami grandchildren to arrive, I managed to finish Jack Nelson Pallmeyer's latest book, *Authentic Hope*. In a section on "legitimate defense," he says we call it a defense budget, but we could cut 70 percent of that "war budget" and still be spending considerably more than any other country out there. This is why it is so significant that Move to Amend (www.movetoamend.org) has offered to help us promote our 11 Bells Ceremony this year, calling for participants to commit to their own ways of working to abolish war. Move to Amend is about getting the corporate money out of our electoral and governing process, and too much of that corporate money is perpetuated and grown by keeping us in eternal warfare. When will we ever learn? Sometime we have to learn, and LET IT BE NOW.

"A newspaper is not just for reporting the news as it is, but to make people mad enough to do something about it."

Mark Twain

The War Crimes Times

Read what "THEY"
don't want you to read.
Know what "THEY"
don't want you to know.
www.warcrimestimes.org

This War Business: Memorial Day thoughts

by Tom Dooley

Last week in the course of a TV interview, a Middle East author was interviewed and in passing, remarked that the American War in Afghanistan is now over 10 years old and is our longest war! And, strangely, people like Rachel Maddow and even Amy Goodman said it. WRONG! The American war in Vietnam was longer and the American war in Iraq is now starting its 23rd year! Of course, the war against Native Americans has been going on for about 500 years!

But the war on workers by owners, a world-wide war, is the longest, having started when masters owned slaves, when nobility had serfs and indentured servants and continues today, when workers are wage slaves to employers. It's called the "class war."

At a Honeywell Project session in the early 1970s Marv Davidov made a point that "vocabulary" is important. His advice is why I use the term "American war in Vietnam" instead of the Vietnamese War. Likewise I try never to use Defense Department without stating "mis-named Defense Department" or "so-called" Defense Department or adding question marks, like: "Defense Department ???". Except for World War II, which was perhaps unavoidable, the war of 1812 was defensive. All the rest were offensive. The Mexican American War, which should be the American War on Mexico; the Spanish American war (American war on Spanish territories); the invasions of Haiti, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Nicaragua in the early 1900s, Grenada and Panama, were these wars "defensive"?

If you are interested in having a veteran speak to your school, community or church group, please call our office at 612-821-9141

Want updates by E-mail?

To receive Chapter #27 notices and information by email, please send the request to Bob Heberle, bjheberle@gmail.com. We now have a list of about 230 and would like to be able to reach more on a regular basis.

Outlaw war, from page 1

Plowshare actions have tried to explain just that. But one would think that the treaties are in an alien language, given how most judges strike them from consideration. Why should the judges really care if it seems that most of the populace doesn't? Yet this mainstream apathy was not always the norm. A recently published book by David Swanson, *When The World Outlawed War*, describes a different mindset, one that really existed only a few generations ago and would turn such accusations around and onto the weapons plants and other makers of war, asking them: "How could this have happened?"

Imagine this: an 85-1 vote was taken in the U.S. Senate, which stated that war was to be abolished as an act of state policy. The one dissenting voter claimed that the treaty wasn't strong enough! Imagine again that a U.S. President couldn't wait to sign it, and imagine again that this treaty was ratified into law. Finally imagine that the law is still on the books. This is not a figment of anyone's imagination. It is the TRUTH! It's called the Kellogg-Briand Pact, an international treaty first signed by the United States, France and 13 other countries on Aug. 27, 1928. It was later signed by an additional 47 countries — almost all of the established nations in the world — and subsequently declared in force by Herbert Hoover on July 24, 1929.

When David Swanson spoke in July at MayDay Books, Minneapolis and at the Peacestock gathering in Hager City, WI, he reminded us of the importance of the whole world outlawing war. He said he strongly believes that declaring a national holiday on Aug. 27th would help outlaw war again.

Given that the co-author of this unique treaty renouncing war was Secretary of State Frank B. Kellogg, from Minnesota, who had also won the Nobel Peace Prize for his



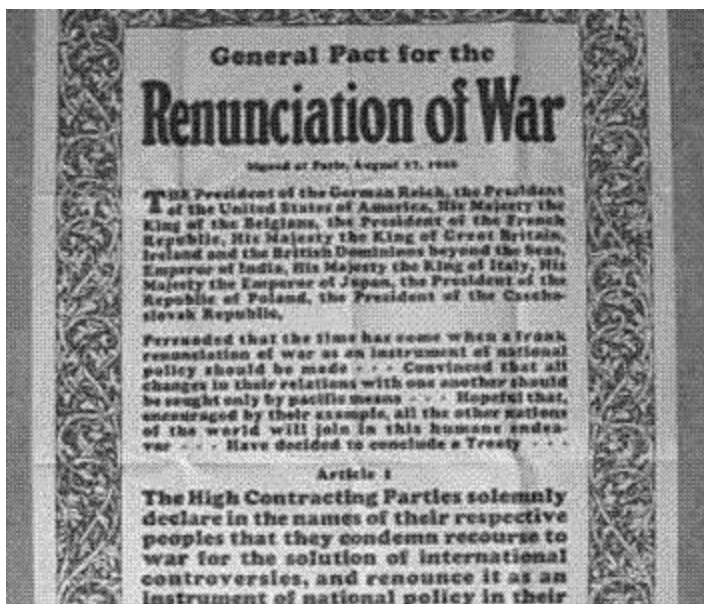
Mike and Liz Gibba sign VFP's Petition for a Kellogg-Briand Pact National Holiday

role getting the treaty enacted, it only seems fitting that our Twin Cities VFP chapter take a role in this project. Thus we decided to begin a petition drive to declare a national holiday on Aug. 27 to honor the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

Pursuant to this cause, on Aug. 27, 2012, the 84th anniversary of the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, our small group of Twin Cities Vets for Peace members stood at the doorstep of Frank B. Kellogg's Historical Landmark House. We first met with current residents Mike and Liz Gibba, who became the first signers on VFP's Petition for a Kellogg-Briand Pact National Holiday. By happy coincidence, Mike Gibba has been a VFP member of the Santa Barbara CA chapter, prior to moving to St. Paul.

Copies of *When the World Outlawed War* and the Kellogg-Briand Pact document were left with the home's residents to be placed into the Kellogg House's library as well as provided to its current owner. The "General Pact for the Renunciation of War" document contains Kellogg's own handwritten note: "I will not be satisfied until every home, school, office, factory, church and public building has a framed copy. Your desire expressed will be LAW and GOSPEL to millions. Speak out. Hold not your peace."

Afterwards, 11 bells were rung using recently and dearly departed VFP member Daniel Fearn's bell in a short Armistice Day ceremony in the garden behind the Kellogg House. Those who went to the Kellogg House on the 84th anniversary of the signing of the famous international renunciation of war embodied in the Kellogg Briand Pact were inspired to begin collecting signatures on the petition, which we hope will ultimately go national and be used to request Congress to declare Aug.27 a federal holiday. The Gibbas invited Veterans For Peace members back next year to mark the 85th anniversary of the Kellogg-Briand Pact, at which time we hope to have gathered tens of thousands of signatures.



Working for peace is breaking the silence

by Pepperwolf

"What is important: not the Words, but the Actions." Father Roy Bourgeois gave us plenty to ponder with his very inspiring message at Peacestock's annual gathering for peace on July 14.

Father Roy never fails to ignite a spark in his listeners to act. As Dorothy Day and others have said, "It is not about being effective, it's about being faithful." Roy is faithful. He has not backed down on his convictions about the importance of equality in the church. He has not backed down in working to defund the SOA. He has spoken out against the human rights abuses conducted by oppressive forces.

Under the Veterans For Peace tent on a glorious Saturday, Roy gave a story from his life — the theme was breaking the silence. He started with the racism he witnessed in his youth, when he was silent, when no one spoke out, even those who should have spoken out. He reminded us that silence is the voice of complicity. He learned over the years that our greatest enemy is often ignorance. "How little we know about our foreign policy, we need to ask very basic questions in life, so often we are silent."

In regards to Roy's lessons learned in the military: "They will take evil and call it good. They will take the lie and call it truth." Vietnam was a turning point for Roy. The violence. The death. Looking back, he has come to the conclusion that humans were not made for war. "PTSD, suicides, marriage break-ups, heavy drinking, murder . . . something happened. We are not made for war." But there is a glimmer of hope when he sees the love.

Love in ACTION. Stories of success, stories of people



Father Roy Bourgeois Photo by Tom Bottolene

coming together in the struggle for change. He recounted the stories of struggles for justice: the occupation of the Cathedral in St Paul, the President of Ecuador declaring "no more Ecuadorian troops to the SOA." When he was in prison, he received 50-100 letters a day to grow the new SOAWatch movement, and the Maryknoll leadership did not have enough votes to kick him out.

Of course he didn't end without a comment on the church. "Our church leaders are corporate executives, our shepherds have become sheep." Are we the

sheep or the one who breaks the silence?

"Be involved, never be silent, work for peace. Working for peace is breaking the silence. Make the struggle for justice OUR struggle."

Fr Roy's talk can be viewed at vimeo.com/45867085 and vimeo.com/45871090

Remembering Hiroshima



Charlie Blass holds the bell used in the 11 bells ceremony at the Aug. 6th Hiroshima remembrance. The bell is from St. Paul's sister city Nagasaki..

"When plunder becomes a way of life for a group of men living in society, they create for themselves, in the course of time, a legal system that authorizes it and a moral code that glorifies it."

Frederic Bastiat, French writer and economist

Healing workshops offered in September

by Amy Blumenshine

Recent research with military veterans points to the importance of addressing moral injury, which is the harm that arises from violating one's core moral beliefs. Many people who suffer from moral injury have an internal sense that tells them they deserve to suffer, be unhappy, or even die because their core moral identity has been destroyed. While some pioneers within the VA system are raising the issue of moral injury, treatment offered by the VA does not address it.

When healthy, moral people are trained to kill, they are learning acts that are regarded as criminal in civilian society, and there is no adequate system of basic training to restore traumatized soldiers to civilian life.

A promising modality — the Healing of Memories (HOM) workshop — is being offered to American veterans only in Minnesota by an ad hoc group birthed out of the Humphrey Institute's Warrior to Citizen campaign. Veterans who attended the previous HOM workshops locally (held five times since 2009) continue to report that they feel that their lives were transformed by the experience.

The next HOM workshop will be held locally (Dunrovin Retreat Center in Marine-on-the-St. Croix) Sep. 28-30. The facilitator is Fr. Michael Lapsley, a noted Anglican priest who survived a letter bomb attack that took one eye and both hands while he was serving as chaplain for the African National Congress during the anti-apartheid struggle. (For some video, podcasts, and Fr. Michael's book see www.facebook.com/HealingOfMemoriesMN)

Rather than remain a victim of the hate of others and his own pain, Fr. Michael went on to forge a healing pathway through trauma for himself and others. He describes it as growing from victim to survivor to "victor," even though the state-sponsored assassination attempt has left him needing assistance for the rest of his life.

Because of this, he became a visibly "wounded healer" as South Africa sought to find its moral compass. He found that while some people clearly needed clinical intervention in the aftermath of trauma, there was a tendency to "over-expertise" the human response to pain. Many trauma survivors functioned reasonably well and all they needed was a chance to hear and be heard.

"All of us have a story to tell. Every story needs a listener," he explains. "We are all in need of healing, because of what we have done, what has been done to us, and what we failed to do. This is true of individuals, communities and nations."

Fr. Michael encourages a kind of intentional and ritual-

ized storytelling where there is time and attention for the story to be acknowledged, revered, and recognized. Additionally, the workshop participants prepare and conduct a ritual as a significant part of the shared healing experience.

The workshop is open to veterans of any era who wish to recover from troubling memories or who wish to learn how to facilitate the healing of others. Organizers try to raise funds to cover the \$375 per veteran cost, and sponsors of scholarships continue to be sought. The local VFP chapter has provided scholarships for prior workshops.

For Fr. Michael, it is important that memories be acknowledged, revered, recognized, and given a moral context. Part of healing is the restoration of the moral order. Prayer, love, and support create the safe space necessary for this healing.

Contact Sheila Laughton to register and for more information: (651) 641-0008 ext. 13, or email sheila@loy-olaspiritualtycenter.org

Michael Lapsley Public Events

"Pain Knows No Boundaries: An Interfaith Journey of Healing and Hope." Presentation and book signing, Tue., Oct. 2, 8 p.m., Pellegrine Auditorium, Peter Engel Science Center, Saint John's University, Collegeville, MN 56321. (320) 363-5059. And Thu., Oct. 4, 7:30 p.m., at Bigelow Chapel, United Theological Seminary of the Twin Cities, 3000 Fifth Street NW, New Brighton, MN, (651) 633-4311

Chapel, Thu., Oct. 4, 11 a.m., Bigelow Chapel,

The House of Hope Worship, with Fr. Michael Lapsley as preacher, plus adult enrichment, Sun., Oct. 7. Worship: 10 a.m. Adult Enrichment: 11:15 a.m. 797 Summit Ave., St. Paul, (651) 227-6311,

House of Hope Educational Forum, Wed. Oct 10, 7-8:30 p.m., House of Hope, 797 Summit Avenue

Havel Symposium Lecture, "Courageous Citizenship: Redeeming the Past and Building the Future," Tue. Oct. 9, 7 p.m. O'Shaughnessy Educational Center Auditorium, Univ. of St. Thomas, 2115 Summit Ave., St. Paul, (651) 962-5337,

St. Joan of Arc Church Worship, Sun. Oct. 14, 9 and 11 a.m., 4537 3rd Ave. S., Mpls MN 55419, (612) 823-8205

Negotiate a compromise with Iran

by Robert Johnson

American hawks were calling for military intervention during the run-up to China's first nuclear test in 1964. China's leader Mao Zedong's political rhetoric used to satisfy super patriotic but frightened Americans with statements like: "As for China, if the imperialists unleash war on us, we may lose 300 million people. So what?" As Jonathan Schell reminds us in *The Nation*, "Mao was the Saddam Hussein or Mahmoud Ahmadinejad of his day, but that as soon as he got the bomb he adopted extremely cautious nuclear policies which have continued to this day."

Luckily, rationalists prevailed and diplomacy gave birth to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) of 1968, under which 184 nations voluntarily renounced nuclear weapons because the five nuclear nations, including China, promised in Article

VI of the treat to eventually get rid of theirs. Schell points out that prior to the end of the Cold War, "All previous non-proliferation efforts by the United States . . . had been conducted by diplomatic means alone."

In 1993, President Clinton went to the brink, threatening war with North Korea to prevent proliferation. Only the wise and courageous trip by Jimmy Carter to North Korea, in the face of fierce opposition of many, and his diplomatic negotiation effort brokered a deal in the final moment and prevented war.

When the U.S. strayed from prior success of diplomacy to prevent proliferation and instead invaded Iraq in 2003, we learned through the inspectors of the International Atomic Energy Agency that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction. The alleged threat from Iraq's WMDs was at best plain wrong or at worst propaganda.

Recently the mainstream media have been claiming that Ahmadinejad has said he wants to "wipe Israel off the map." Juan Cole, professor of History at the University of Michigan, says Persian culture has no such idiom. Trita Parsi, the founder and president of the National Iranian American Council and an expert on U.S.-Iranian relations, claims he did not actually use the words "Israel," "Wipe," or "map" but instead was quoting Ayatollah Khamenei's "The Zionist entity will evaporate from the pages of history."

Nearly every year since 2005, Khamenei has said essentially what he said last February: "The Iranian nation has never pursued and will never pursue nuclear weapons . . .

because the Islamic Republic, logically, religiously and theocratically considers the possession of nuclear weapons a grave sin and believes the proliferation of such weapons is senseless, destructive and dangerous."

Only diplomacy and cooperation with the IAEA and negotiations mediated by the U.N. can prevent proliferation. Many believe a unilateral military intervention by either Israel or the U.S. will drive Iran to make a bomb deeper underground after the temporary delay caused by air strikes or even military occupation, which can't last forever. Believing this could also lead other nations in the region to pursue the development of nuclear weapons.

Any successful negotiated compromise with Iran and North Korea has to include convincing evidence that the major nuclear powers are moving toward a comprehensive treaty to eliminate all nuclear weapons and a commitment to a nuclear-free Middle East

and East Asia.

We also need to give serious thought to how a war with Iran would effect efforts to prevent climate change and its potential disasters. Will it eliminate, perhaps forever, the vision of people like Lester Brown, who specifically formulates in his book *World On The Edge*, a detailed world development program, that for only 12 percent per year of the world military budgets we can "get rid of hunger, illiteracy, disease, poverty and we can restore the earth's soils, forest and fisheries. We can build a global community where basic needs of all people are satisfied — a world that will allow us to think of ourselves as civilized."

Send a postcard to President Obama, The White House, Washington DC 20500 and Secretary of State Clinton, Washington, DC, 20520, and demand a negotiated compromise with Iran and North Korea. Tell them that a policy of containment is better than war, which would be the worst outcome, and that covert action will hinder negotiations.

Finding new members

In recent years, U.S. military vets have been dying at the rate of 5,000 a week, but there's still a few million out there who would join VFP if they knew we existed and if they were asked. Give them our name and contact information. Better yet, give us their names and information and we'll contact them.

The moral value of nonviolence

by Duane Kamrath

When Jesus said, "Love your enemy," I think He probably meant "Don't Kill Them!"

The words of Jesus Christ appear in the Bible in the book of Matthew, chapter 5, verses 43-45. Jesus said, "You have heard it said, 'Love your friends, hate your enemies.' But NOW I tell you: love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, so that you may become the children of your Father in Heaven. For God makes His sun to shine on bad and good people alike, and gives rain to those who do good and those who do evil."

Today, many Americans who worship God have wandered far away from the Christian core moral teaching of "You shall not kill." Out of deep religious respect for all humans who indeed are created by a loving God, we Christians are not to hurt our neighbors (throughout the world) in any way. Instead, we must help them in all their physical needs.

Now in 2012, many Americans have been educated to disavow any moral value in the nonviolence that God in Jesus Christ has modeled for humankind. Instead, love of power, possessions and prosperity have replaced love of neighbors, whether friend or perceived enemy! American foreign and global policies basically laugh at such nonviolent beliefs. Instead, America increases its budget for weapons and now drone warfare is seen as a great leap forward because it will save our soldiers and kill the latest new enemy (terrorist).

My 40-page booklet *Wisdom About War And Nonviolence* is intended to help get Americans discussing important core moral values. To be discussed together are such daily new thoughts as: "war is a monstrous failure of imagination;" "the idea that violence is redemptive is a Christian heresy — violence and war do not create a better world;" "to those who have only a hammer, every problem may look like a nail;" "do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good;" and "we will end war or else war will end us."

Veterans For Peace folks are my American heroes these

days!! Thank you for daring to speak out against the evil and high costs of warfare!

I am not a veteran. My duty is to serve God in my calling as a Lutheran pastor who pays taxes as an American citizen. Well over 60 percent of taxes goes for various aspects of the military/industrial business complex. I believe discussing together the nonviolent teachings of God and seeing the face of Jesus in the poor and rich neighbor alike (Matthew 25) will help Americans perceive the folly of war and violence. All ages (especially youth) need discussions about how military training teaches them to kill. Today in 2012, many Americans may either not care or even know that that missiles and U.S. weapons kill innocent women and children every day in countries deemed our enemy.

Discussions between youth (ages 13-18) and their parents and/or grandparents for 10 to 15 minutes per day for 30 days is what this book helps bring about. Committing to discuss the 30 thoughts is vital. Youth deserve to make a moral and ethical choice about whether or not to work within the military-industrial industry. Many recruiting ideas that confront our youth need to be examined. An ounce of prevention (discussion topic) will be worth a pound of cure (healing the wounded soldier with PTSD or dealing with the high numbers of suicides).

So, what can Veterans For Peace do to make this booklet a helpful tool to stop military madness? I suggest that each Veteran purchase several books (\$2 per book or \$15 per dozen) to give to others who are willing to be in your discussion group. Then find three to six people, and within 30 days discuss the 30 thoughts (one thought per page) found in this book. The three to six might be veterans who aren't yet Veterans For Peace people, non-veterans, friends, family, grand kids, the neighbor boy or girl.

As my Mennonite friends say, "Stopping War One Soldier At a Time!"

Veterans For Peace, Thanks for encouraging DISCUSSION of War and Nonviolence so that many future lives won't become victims of the military industrial complex! Veterans For Peace, thanks for enhancing the lives of all God's people, rich and poor, throughout this vast world !

Once again, we are sponsoring a bus to go to the
School of the Americas at Fort Benning GA
 the weekend of Nov. 16-18.

Contact Jim Steinhagen at 612-722-1112

Are Our Security Fears Real or Contrived?

by Chante Wolf

I was recently looking at some combat photographs taken by Horst Faas (who died in May, 2012) during the war on Vietnam, and I came across one of a young medic with phone in hand awaiting medevac. I looked hard at the face of the young Army medic and remembered my cousin, a two-tour medic himself in Vietnam telling me one night that I would never know what it was like to put another man's brains back into his helmet. (He later killed himself.)

Over the past few weeks I have been struggling with what to say about all the violence in our country. And looking over the photographs and the faces of youth stolen, I blamed the generals. These are old men who studied violence in college and needed it for promotions and jobs, and the others too chicken to get their hands bloody, while they make a pile of money off ignorance, fear and the propaganda machine that spews lies about what war is: It isn't liberation or fighting for peace; it is pre-meditated murder.

Back in 1991, Jim Baker told Americans as we prepared for the first Persian Gulf War that it was about jobs, and then President Bush said it was about oil. But the truth didn't sell, so they had to lie and convince us it was about the Liberation of Kuwait. We always need an honorable cause to go to another country and murder its citizens, supposedly chasing the enemy of the moment. Now we have a never-ending reason to go into one more country, to kill the slithering cockroaches with heads wrapped in towels hiding in the shadows as they plan to do more harm against 'innocent' American citizens.

Rep. Michelle Bachmann and



Seriously injured by shrapnel, a U.S. soldier awaits evacuation from Vietnamese jungle by ambulance helicopter being summoned by a radio operator behind him on Dec. 5, 1965. (AP Photo/Horst Faas)



Empty artillery cartridges pile up at the artillery base at Soui Da, some 60 miles northwest of Saigon. (AP Photo/Horst Faas)

Rep. Joe Walsh, along with a small group of other GOP leaders are telling people: "Muslims have now infiltrated our government." It seems to me that is when the shootings began. (Though really, the shootings have been going on for a long time.) Police killing unarmed Latinos and Blacks (around the country, really) and young white men coming unglued in Colorado, Wisconsin and in Texas. One of the shooters was a devout Christian, another an Army veteran turned Neo-Nazi/White Supremacist, and the 'Joker', a Ph.D. candidate, was able to buy enough weapons and arsenal to make any militant group envious.

Were the shooters reported in the news as being "Terrorists?" "Guerrillas?" "Insurgents?" "Rebels?" "Murderers?" "Extremists?" Or just labeled "Insane?"

Whatever we call them, it is all murder. War is too, because it is deliberate and premeditated (planned, strategized and exercised) malice. The scorched earth policy used by General Sherman during the Civil War is one example. Other examples are: dumping tons of Agent Orange over the farmlands of Vietnam, also done with malice; the oil fires and oil spill during the Gulf War (done by U.S. Troops); our use of tons and tons of depleted uranium in Iraq, Bosnia, Afghanistan, and Vieques. War is terrorism, with the intention of terrorizing and intimidating a population into adaptation of a different political view. We were changing the Social Fascists of Germany, the Communists in Vietnam and now the supposed Terrorists of Islam, Al Qaeda.

So, what then was the point of the shooters? Were they feeling left out?

**Security fears,
continued on page 11**

EVENTS CALENDAR

ONGOING EVENTS

Second Sunday each month, 6-8:30 p.m.:
VFP Chapter 27 general meeting, St. Stephens Church.
Executive meeting at 5 p.m.
2123 Clinton Ave. S. Ring doorbell on north door.
FFI Larry Johnson at 612-747-3904

Friday, Sep. 21, 4 p.m. Protest the use of drones by the U.S. military and others. In honor of International Peace Day. Camp Ripley, Outside Front Gate, 15000 Highway 115, Little Falls. FFI: Robin at 320-360-3931.

Mon., Sep. 24, 4:30 p.m. Mpls. Federal Building, 4th St. & 4th Ave., downtown Mpls. Rally to support those raided by the FBI on Sep. 24, 2010 and subpoenaed to appear before a secret grand jury investigating "material support for terrorism."
Organized by the MN Committee to Stop FBI Repression

Mon., Oct. 3, 7 p.m. Macalester Plymouth United Church, 1658 Lincoln Ave., St. Paul. "Afghanistan and the Arab Spring: A Public Talk by Kathy Kelly." Kelly will discuss the wave of uprisings in the Middle East. Sponsored by: Macalester Plymouth United Church, Twin Cities Peace Campaign and Women Against Military Madness.

Fri., Oct. 7, 4:30 p.m. Anti-War Protest And Vigil to mark the 10th anniversary of the war in Afghanistan. Vigil at 4:30 on the sidewalks near the Walker Art Center, Vineland and Oak Grove/Hennepin and Lyndale. Initiated by Minnesota Peace Action Coalition.

Sat., Oct. 15, 1:30 p.m. Lake Street & Hiawatha Ave., Mpls. National day of local anti-war actions. Time To Leave: Get Out Of Afghanistan! 2 p.m. march (Closing rally location to be announced.) Anti-war protests and protests against austerity budgets and cuts to social services are planned in cities around the world the weekend of October 15-16.

Mon., Nov. 11, 11 a.m. Armistice Day celebration and 11 bells ceremony. Site to be determined.

Nov. 16-18. Bus trip to protest SOA in Fort Benning, GA. To reserve a seat or for further information, contact Jim Steinhagen at 612-722-1112.

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

NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

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

Daniel Fearn Honored at Memorial

By Bob Heberle

A memorial for Daniel Fearn was held Aug. 18, at the St. Paul Friends Meeting House, where Dan's spirit was embraced by 16 VFP members along with numerous friends, his former wife Clare, and Dan's 13-year-old son, Cian MacDaniel. A melancholy flute rendering of "Taps" was played by Cian's grandfather and chapter member Tom Chisholm. Dan died on his 53rd birthday, August 7, after a short illness with a serious brain tumor.

Guests and a number of the VFP members shared personal memories of Dan and also added to the solemnity when Barry Riesch explained VFP's bell ringing tradition, at which time the bell was rung 11 times by President Larry Johnson. It was significantly noted that the bell that was rung had come from the ship on which Dan's father, a captain in the U.S. Coast Guard, had served, and which Dan had earlier donated to the chapter.

As is the custom of Society of Friends (Quaker) Meeting for Worship, memories of Dan were offered by guests as the "Spirit of God" moved them. Their comments offered light as well as serious memories of the many associations and gifts that Dan had offered. As a past Chapter 27 vice president and gifted computer expert and artist, Dan had extensive national exposure in a popular web site managed by noted author and activist David Swanson.

The Friends program booklet also offered a short but impressive summary of Dan's many educational and artistic accomplishments and of course his service in the U.S. Marine Corps for eight years.

Those interested can learn more about Dan Fearn by checking out his artistic web site: thecelticcraftsman.wordpress.com/

SOA bus reservations

Chapter #27 will again sponsor a bus to Fort Benning Ga. in November in our continuing effort to close the infamous "SCHOOL OF ASSASSINS." We will again use Minnesota Coaches for transportation, leaving Minneapolis Nov. 16th, and overnighting in Columbus GA at Fairfield Inn and Suites Nov. 17th. Transportation will cost \$200, and hotel rooms for four persons are \$100. This is the same cost as our previous trip.

Please confirm your seat on the coach by sending a check to: Jim Steinhagen, 1790 Girard Ave. S, Minneapolis, Mn. 55403. FFI call Jim at 612-722-1112.

VFP conventioneers make every member eligible to vote

by Bob Heberle

Every national VFP member, aided by electronics, will be able to vote on resolutions and bylaw amendments in the coming year as the result of action taken at the 27th annual convention held August 8-12 in Miami, Florida.

The delegates voted to have every National VFP member vote with ballots that will be mailed out and must be returned by U.S. Mail. The details still have to be worked out, but the majority of those who attended this and past conventions have wanted greater inclusivity than just those relatively few members who attend. As one who has attended 19 national conventions, I agree. U.S. Mail will be the balloting procedure. All members will have access to the annual business meeting, and electronic messaging advances that possibility.

The Constitutional Amendment vote to mail out the ballots rendered the actual passage of resolutions at this convention moot and really only a straw ballot. A paper ballot will be mailed, but the pro and con discussions will be available on the national VFP web site to assist members' voting decisions.

A ballot will list items such as the 15 resolutions on this year's slate rescinding the 2011 convention's urging the impeachment of President Obama. This year's rescinding resolution failed on a 14 to 36 vote. The vote to impeach was similar to that approved at the 2004 convention when delegates urged that Congress begin impeachment proceedings against the winner, regardless of whether it were George W. Bush or John Kerry, if he did not order the removal of U.S. troops by the end of Feb., 2005. Rep. Kucinich did eventually introduce those recommended impeachment proceedings against President George W. Bush.

Also included was last the 2011 motion (re-written and re-titled as Resolution 2012-13) on Palestine/Israel. This year's Palestine/Israel vote won overwhelmingly with only one speaker against.

Local Chapter 27 members should be aware that the local Twin Cities donations do not make them eligible to vote at the national level and they will not receive ballots unless they pay \$40 National dues. Need reductions are allowed. Life memberships are \$1000 for which a number of Chapter 27 members have already paid.

Security fears, from page 9

Were they on overload from the violence of our movies, TV and video games? Where they trying to audition for a position on the newest reality show, *Stars Earn Stripes*? Or were they responding to the GOP rhetoric about the Muslim infiltration and fear entrapment? The Mexicans are coming! The Muslims are infiltrating! The Black Panthers are rising again! Oh, my! The white men are losing ground to the feminists, the military is not just for boys anymore, the Blacks are now able to be president, what is a white male to do? However, it is interesting that not much is being said about the multi-millionaire Latino Mormon running for President and his sidekick Paul Ryan who believes capitalism has morals (war is morally correct) and is intent on dictating what women do with their vaginas. With the unemployed and uninsured screwed, it is their fault anyway, isn't it?

Maybe it all just comes down to profit without responsibility, like Paul Ryan spoke of in a news account of his support for Ayn Rand: "And the fight we are in here, make no mistake about it, is a fight of individualism versus collectivism."

Fear is a very powerful psychological tool. Fear sells killing without question and has become for some a very lucrative businesses, like Xe, Lockheed Martin and other war industry businesses. When you start looking at it, the problem of unending violence becomes a huge issue for not only Americans, but other people around the world. Does this mean that capitalism could be the real problem, that it isn't sustainable without fear and violence? Are our fears legitimate or contrived by those who profit from our fears?

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



Veterans for Peace, Inc., Chapter 27
St. Stephens
2123 Clinton Ave. So.
Minneapolis, MN 55404

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Fall 2012 Newsletter

SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM HOME ALIVE NOW!

As of Sept. 10, 2012:
4,486 dead in Iraq and
2,114 dead in Afghanistan.

VFP office has moved

by John Sherman, Greg Hagen, Dave Logsdon

Our new location is at the corner of Cedar and Riverside (1806 Riverside Ave., #3a, Minneapolis, MN 55454, 612-821-9141), upstairs, above the Acadia Café, in the heart of the West Bank. The entrance is on Riverside Ave. and the street door is open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. We plan to set up regular office hours, staffed by members, so we will be very accessible.

All of you who visited the old basement office remember the view from there: none. Here, we see a bustling intersection of a diverse community and the sky is the limit to our view.

The proximity of The Cedar Cultural Center, May Day Book Store, KFAI RADIO, and The University of Minnesota presents opportunities to build connections, cooperation and activism around all the important issues we face as a society.

When things change, we have a golden opportunity to break the mold we have fallen into. Have you

heard of the pickle principle? The longer you stay in one place, the more likely you are to fall into a routine as everyone else who is sharing the pickle jar with you. A cucumber dropped into brine will over time become a pickle.

Let's seize this opportunity while things are fresh, and new ideas are flowing freely, to break out of the mold and initiate brave new initiatives to further the cause of peace.

What can we do differently or better than we have in the past? What opportunities do this location offer that were not previously available? What thoughts or ideas do you have? Join the newly formed Visions Committee and share your vision for the future of chapter 27. (Contact John Sherman at the VFP office for more information.)

If you haven't seen the new space, drop up, attend the monthly meeting (2nd Sunday of the month, 6 p.m.) And help create the next chapter of Chapter 27, Veterans For Peace.