



# 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)



Crosses with the names of SOA graduates' victims are carried to the gates of Fort Benning in a march held annually at the SOA. photo by Barry Riesch

## Area students join protests at SOA

by Steve McKeown

On a chilly November morning, protesters, some for the first time, and some who have persisted for years, carried crosses to the closed gates of Fort Benning in Georgia, home to the School of the Americas (SOA). As a name was read off that was on the back of an individual cross that each person in a solemn procession carried, we raised up thousands of crosses to acknowledge each person's presence - *PRESENTE* - a presence proclaimed in the face of graduates who were trained on the other side of the fence by a school that has killed thousands, including the names we carried.

After the crosses were placed in the fence, bubbles were blown signifying our spirits

crossing the fence. The puppeteers then came as angels of the Resurrection. This was a liturgy, and I couldn't help but notice the many Security Police listening and paying attention. Others noticed this also. I can't help but think that some of them would like to open those gates.

Along with us gray hairs in our bus from Minneapolis, there were students and teachers from the U of M, St. Catherine University, Macalester College, the Univ. of St Thomas, and Cretin Derham Hall High School, and interns from the St. Joseph Worker House. Milt and Dave from Minnesota Coaches were our drivers once again, and they went beyond the call of duty in accommodating us. Beth Anne Nelson, also called "Bus Mom" by the

Protesters, cont'd page 13

## The divine is in the details

by Larry Johnson, President, Chapter 27

This is my last newsletter article as chapter president. When asked five years ago to serve, I went through all the reasons I couldn't or shouldn't and then felt honored to be asked. I've been pleased with the opportunity, but now I feel a need to turn over the details of the "presidency." I've worked as a storyteller/educator all my life, and I want to focus more now on the work we do as veterans, for peace, in the schools. So, a few final details:

**WAR IS OBSOLETE** Thanks to Father Tony Kroll and Sister Merle Nolde for asking Steve McKeown and me to speak on this topic at St. Benedict's College and at Pax Christi. The St. Ben's Peace Club recruited extra listeners, many of whom got behind the obsolescence of war, implied by the Kellogg-Briand Pact. They will continue.

**THANK PRO-PEACE BUSINESS** I'm always alarmed when I hear people talking like all business is bad. My reaction is always: "Where do you think the money comes from to run your non-profit?" Yes, there are enormous corporations, harming us all by making excessive profits on warfare and devastating the environment, but the majority of businesses are small businesses, providing jobs and services. The "powers that be" misquote Adam Smith, classical guru of free enterprise, the same way they do the Bible.

Smith, often used to support deregulating everything, actually said, "If it looks like war is coming, leaders should tax people up front to pay for it. If they know they have to pay, they won't allow it to happen unnecessarily or go on indefinitely. This is important because nations, as a whole, have more prosperity during times of peace." The 1920's outlawry movement (leading to the Kellogg-Briand Pact), was started by Chicago businessperson, Sal Levinson, who set out to do something about his discovery that World War I had devastated many small businesses. So the best way to thank a business is to utilize their services.

I want to thank Hendlin Communications this way. When I started as president, they rescued our dysfunctional website and managed it until last year when member Greg Hagen took it over. Hendlin provides full business communications support (they also did all the media and communications work for our 2008 National Convention), and a referral to them is a solid "thank you." If you just need a small website built, talk to Greg. He's in business doing that, but his main mission is ours.

### THE MIDDAY RIDE OF BOB AND ROGEER

After Bob Heberle died, I wrote this for Jean Heberle and Roger Cuthbertson, about the famous June 26, 2006 boat ride. WAMM sent it out, but I realized we haven't:

Listen my children, and you shall hear  
of the midday ride of Bob and Rogeer.  
Trying to make a statement to Cheney,  
they couldn't get in, so it just got zany.

By land \$250, so they tried by lake.

What this is about, just makes my heart ache.

They went by pontoon. Police stopped their craft.

Everyone cheered. They left by raft.

The raft got closer; the men arrested,  
for bringing some sense to the party invested

In war profiteering and hurting us all,  
by shrinking our assets down ever so small.

The fine was \$100, but that was a deal –  
A Justice Adventure, not a \$250 rotten meal.

I apologize to Dr. Seuss and to Roger for spelling his name wrong to make it sounds like Longfellow's *Midnight Ride of Paul Revere*.

**LONGFELLOW'S BELLS, AND OURS** Speaking of Longfellow, I just found out he also wrote "I heard the bells on Christmas day, their old familiar carols play," with its refrain of "peace on earth, good will toward men" in the benign manner of a card message, having nothing to do with working to make it happen.

I found out because we have a State Arts Board grant for veterans to cast bells with sculptor, Gita Ghei, in the wake of our long-time Armistice effort. Last year it spread to over 50 cities in the U.S., with civic ceremonies, and churches joining in, ringing bells 11 times at 11 a.m. on November 11, with a moment of silence to commit to working for peace. The effort will culminate with an event on March 20, World Storytelling Day, with songs and stories of bells for peace, and an invitation for bells of peace to ring around the world. In searching for material, we learned that Longfellow's son was severely wounded in the Civil War, and the last verse "speaks out," which is probably why we haven't heard it, why it's not out there to inspire more to join us:

Continued next page

In despair I bowed my head;  
 "There is no peace on earth," I said.  
 "For hate is strong and mocks the song of peace  
 on earth, good will toward men"  
 Then peeled the bells more loud and deep:  
 "God is not dead, nor doth he sleep.  
 The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,  
 with peace on earth, good-will toward men"

**DO WHAT YOU CAN** I got a letter last month, addressed to "President Johnson," telling me that since I hadn't denounced either of the wars, Iraq and Afghanistan, started since I was President, it was long past time for my "reign to end." Well, I said it's ending, but I'm going to ask that criticism be predicated with fact check. I didn't even belong to Veterans For Peace when the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan started. I was speaking out, from other platforms, and I know VFP leadership was doing the same.

More importantly (or seriously?) I'm going to encourage living by the "Wisdom of Wayne" (Wittman), who advised me once, "Encourage people to do as much as they can, but praise them if all they do is wear a VFP hat in public."

We're all volunteers, so I'm thankful for whatever each of us can do. In that vein, Don Irish sent us encouragement to continue to fight for release of unlawfully detained prisoners at Guantanamo, coupled with a way, through American Friends Service Committee, to sign on and mentor released captives back into moderately sane, civilian life. Don can be reached to discuss this at 612-724-3061.

Also, Will Shapira has found a way for individuals, so inclined, to write letters of hope and encouragement to people judged to be political prisoners. The website, giving addresses and more information, is [www.thejerichomovement.com](http://www.thejerichomovement.com) It includes known people like Lynne Stewart and Leonard Peltier, as well as many more we've not heard of. Chelsea/Bradley Manning isn't there (yet?), but that address can be accessed thru [www.couragetoresist.org](http://www.couragetoresist.org)

### ***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**

## ***This War Business: If only . . .***

by Tom Dooley

If the U.S. had stayed out of Vietnam, the Viet Minh would have taken over in short order and there would not have been 58,000 dead Americans and 3,000,000 dead Vietnamese and 2500 U.S. MIAs and 30,000 Vietnamese MIAs and hundreds of thousand of Vietnamese and U. S. children with birth defects due to the war crime of Agent Orange.

If the U.S. had stayed out of Vietnam, they would be way ahead of where they are today WITHOUT the bloodshed on all sides. And we have made the same mistake around the world, especially in the Middle East. The only winners have been the "merchants of death," who have made FORTUNES on these illegal, immoral, undeclared wars!

\* \* \* \* \*

When you donate to the Marine Corps "Toys ForTots" campaign, ask them how many toys they are giving to children in Iraq and Afghanistan.

\* \* \* \* \*

Heard on NPR: a report on composer Benjamin Britten: He was openly gay and a conscientious objector in WWII. Which takes the most guts, coming out or refusing a military draft? I'd say more guts than either homophobes or war-loving patriots have.

\* \* \* \* \*

And remember what Cowper said: "War is a game that kings would not play, were their subjects wise".  
 Wise Up!

**LEADERS HAVE POWER....POWER CORRUPTS!**

## **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](http://www.warcrimestimes.org)**

## Armistice remembrances

by Steve McKeown

On a bitter cold morning at the First Shot Cannon Memorial near the State Capitol, our VFP chapter once again conducted an Armistice Day Remembrance, which was organized by Wayne Wittman. Speakers included Robin Monahan from Move to Amend who spoke about corporate personhood and the inherent dangers this brings. Bruce Stahlberg with Mn Truth talked about the need for an investigation into 9/11, because of the wars that were predicated on the official version of the event. Jack Nelson Pallmeyer spoke about the Minnesota Arms Control Spending Project and what kind of future we could have without the obscene military spending our nation has undertaken for some time. All the speakers encouraged our involvement in these issues. Jack in particular urged VFP to become as public as possible in all these efforts.

At 11 a.m. Bruce Berry and Barry Riesch rang the bells. Shortly afterwards, the 21-gun salute by other veteran organizations near the Vietnam Memorial rang out. Larry Johnson, our President has pointed out that traditionally when there was a truce between enemies to gather up the dead and wounded the 21-gun salute meant it was time to start fighting again. Armistice Day meant to stop fighting. Is it no wonder the name was changed? Gita Ghei then displayed one of the bells that she is teaching some of us in a class she is leading. (See page 15.)

For the fifth year we have worked with the Sisters of St Joseph Carondelet on Armistice evening. Each month since 9/11 they have held a Peace Prayer Event, and on November 11th they choose the Armistice Remembrance. I planned this year's event with Ginger Hedstrom from Carondelet. On Nov 11th, her father died and she wasn't able to emcee

the event, but she was there to film it so it could be sent throughout their community. Just as the bells that were rung in joy in 1918 that "the war to end war" was over, the bells this year had a somber meaning for the families of those who didn't come home, and I am sure that was part of the tone for Ginger. Joanne Tromiczak Neid, Social Justice Coordinator, emceed the event. Also participating were:

**St. Paul City Councilman David Thune**, who read the Proclamation recognizing the 85th anniversary of the Kellogg Briand Pact that he was instrumental in getting passed unanimously. David also reflected on several occasions in his past that helped him to unhesitatingly agree to recognize this historic pact when we asked him. One occasion was when he planted wheat seeds on nuclear missile silo sites when he was younger in North Dakota, and how the mayor refused to prosecute him. Another time was at a Nagasaki commemoration he attended with his wife to lay a wreath on behalf of St Paul, which is their sister city.

**Jim Steinhagen** read *The Voice of God* by Kurt Vonnegut in which Kurt interviewed old veterans who remembered the silence at 11 a.m. on Armistice Day and swore it was the Voice of God. David and Brigid McDonald sang "Last Night I Had the Strangest Dream," a song of disarmament. Brigid also sang "The Patriot Game." Shana Berg, an actress in the upcoming play called *Lonely Soldiers: Women at War in Iraq*, did a powerful reading from that play (see calendar events). I rang the bells, and we closed with "Silent Night" in memory of the Christmas Truce of 1914 in which soldiers from both sides of the trench warfare in WWI dropped their weapons and celebrated Christmas together in the middle of no-man's land.

## Immigration issue related to SOA

by Steve McKeown

Invited by Father Tony Kroll, Larry Johnson and I spoke to the Student Peace Club at St. Benedict College in St. Joseph, and later to the St. Cloud PAX CHRISTI chapter. Tony also told us about an action at Rep. Kline's office that he was helping to plan. He invited us to come, so I brought the VFP banner to support their action, which was to ask Kline to support immigration reform with a path to citizenship. There were approximately 300 people of all ages present in support, and since they hadn't

gotten anywhere with Kline, ten people including Tony took part in civil disobedience.

There were at least 15 marked squad cars from two municipalities and a number of unmarked ones present, and they closed Burnsville Parkway. The police were lined up along the boulevard staring everyone down, even in some cases little children. No doubt this protected all the commuters from these dangerous children, their parents, teachers, religious leaders, and other dangerous dissidents,

Continued next page

## Drone use around the world

by Bruce Berry

Although it was a beautiful, sunny, November afternoon in front of the White House, a somber direct action was taking place. A 10-foot wide model of a killer drone hovered over symbolic tombstones, recognizing and honoring the victims of drone warfare. Stories from Yemen delegates present for the 2013 International Drone Summit (Nov. 15-17 in Washington D.C.) filled the air. A march to the General Atomics offices (drone makers) followed the summit's opening action. The first day ended after an evening reception at Bus Boys & Poets, which featured the film *Unmanned: America's Drone Wars* by Robert Greenwald.

Saturday morning, the numbers swelled at Georgetown Law Center's Hart Auditorium where the Summit, themed "Drones around the Globe: Proliferation and Resistance" took place. CodePink was the lead organization and over the next two days put together panel discussions and workshops with over 40 speakers. About 400 attended, out of which there were about a dozen Veterans For Peace members.

To watch/listen to some coverage via C-Span, including the opening by Medea Benjamin and featured speaker Cornel West, go to [www.c-spanvideo.org/program/GlobeP](http://www.c-spanvideo.org/program/GlobeP) or [Codepink.org](http://Codepink.org)

The program provided valuable information, including

who were asking only for some of their people to be able to become American citizens. The ten activists were arrested and "civilization" was saved for the time being! The whole thing reminded me of the overkill at the SOA by security types.

The connection here is that often a good number of these immigrants originally came to the U.S. because of our repressive foreign policy, which is carried out by the military muscle of the SOA.

There were buses of people from S.t Cloud. and Holy Rosary and Incarnation Churches in Minneapolis in support. You can help by calling your Congressperson, and as an extra John Kline even if you are not in his district. After all the Border Patrol and raids do not recognize Legislative lines. Kline's number is 952 808 1213.



Protesters outside The White House. photo by Josie Lenwell

the legality of drone strikes, drone proliferation, and the domestic use of drones. Speakers came from Yemen, Pakistan, Germany and the UK. Even our own Minnesota poet/activist, Misty Rowan, attended and not only performed her brilliant art form but helped conduct a workshop titled "Art, Poetry and the Words of Resistance."

In closing, a short personal note: Not only did I walk away from the Summit with a continued commitment to help expose the truth of militarized drone use by air, but also learned much about the current autonomous robotic use worldwide "on the ground!!"

## 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.

# The Power of the ‘Spitting Image’

by Chante Wolf

A few weeks ago in a writing class I am taking, someone offered a few pages of their story to our group for critique. In the story, two gay men confront a group of angry anti-war protesters in 1968 who had just thrown a plastic bag of urine on a returning Vietnam veteran. The protesters then turned against the gay men calling them faggots and other nasty things. I had serious misgivings right off about that particular scene and said so, then offered a list of books to read and suggested the DVD *Sir! No, Sir!* to watch, feeling confident that I held more answers and experience than that Desert Storm veteran who wrote the story.

In the past I never used to challenge the testimony of a veteran telling me they had been spit on; I just assumed it may have happened to a few. Besides, what the heck did I know? I was in junior high and high school back then.

A few days later I had lunch with a fellow woman veteran who was an officer in the Air Force in the late 70's and told her about this article I was preparing to write around the myth of the spitting image, when she told me she was spit on by a very angry older male passenger on the bus she had just boarded, wearing her full dress uniform. She said that the man went on and on, cursing her relentlessly, but over what she did not know. She told me that she just sat there totally revolted by what had just been done to her that she couldn't really understand what he was going on and on about.

I sat there dumbstruck, as I had just told her about the book I read, *The Spitting Image*, which stated that most of the veterans who claimed they had been spit on hadn't been. And I was at a total loss for what I was even going to attempt to write about. I felt like my ego was slimed all over me and that I was back in high school during my haze week for a new woman's club. I certainly was not going to argue. How was I going to tell someone sitting across from me whom I totally respected and considered my friend, that they were wrong and that I knew it all? I did the best I could to tap dance and regain my composure without looking like I had just been run over by a train and just told her honestly that I was wrong. No matter how much backtracking I did, I still felt I had insulted her experience and others who may have really been spit on, though I still feel it didn't happen as much as it has been played up for us to believe.

All of a sudden, I was back to square one. What was it really that I wanted to write about? How could I keep going in the direction I was, all confident that I held all the answers, when I didn't? What was motivating me to sit down at my computer and type out something that others

would actually be interested in reading about anyway? Having such a bad taste in my mouth around the recent Veterans Day, I knew I wanted to address our country's disinformation and propaganda program going full tilt against us in the peace movement.

The conversation with my friend transported me back to 1980 and my first base after basic training, Keesler, AFB, Mississippi. I was there for air traffic control training, a field that had just been opened to women. The first time I left the base since my arrival I recalled that we were to be in our dress blues when in the civilian public. I had taken our military bus to the local shopping mall and the whole time I walked around I felt as if all eyes were burning a hole into my back. I swear I felt as if I had the plague or something more heinous and sinister that the military hadn't told me about. Perhaps deep down I had been paying attention when I was in high school to Vietnam on TV every night. Perhaps what I was feeling was the residual resentment and anger from civilians who felt they had sacrificed too many of their loved ones in Vietnam for war crimes, rape and torture, not honor, freedom and liberation as it was being sold to them. Stopping Communism over there was to prevent the domino affect. All bullshit, just like now and our need to export Democracy through violence to Afghanistan and Iraq.

Perhaps it was that we new recruits all knew deep down inside that our jobs, whether it was a medic, an air traffic controller, a clerk or a security police personnel, had everything to do with killing other human beings, destroying villages and winning war using all means available. We just couldn't speak it. The depth of being paid to support or carry out killing others was just too old and evil for our simple, young, virgin minds.

The power of fear is immense. Most of us fear to be seen as weak, as not supporting the people who join the military, and yet unable to stand up to bullies. Some of our leaders have shelled out billions of dollars to PR firms who are masters of masquerade, chilling our minds with illusions of heroism, freedom and myth and daggers for those who dare to challenge the lies.

So, who did spit on whom and how many? Does it matter? What are the ways to challenge that image when it comes up without anger or indifference? I think it is really important to just keep talking, questioning and daring those holding tight to those spitting myths to let go and dig deeper into the power if those myths and that they are really using shame and fear to conform whole populations for the benefit of the few in power.

## Chapter retreat sets goal of increased membership

by Barry Riesch

How are we doing on our mission of abolishing war? Are we using our time to our best advantage? Are there better ways we could be using our energy? These are questions several members of Chapter 27 took on as we acted on the suggestion of taking an internal look at our chapter.

Rekindling the VFP retreat experience on a cold windy October weekend at a cabin on the shores of Lake Superior. Just past Two Harbors, this cozy retreat was provided for us by Dave Logsdon, a perk from his employer. The view was beautiful, the wind howling and waves crashing up against the stony shore line just a short distance away, and made for an exciting experience.

With ample time for playing, hiking and socializing, we also had a couple of sessions with serious discussion about how we are doing and setting some goals. What we determined is that we are doing many things right (Kellogg-Briand, SOA, Armistice Day, Memorial Day, school-speaking engagements, anti-drones) and we hope to continue to

expand and broaden these efforts. We did conclude that an area which needs work is our growth as an organization.

As Michael McPherson, acting executive director of National states: "Our membership is graying and time is diminishing our ranks. We need to break the code on attracting and maintaining new members for our success and to continue to have the impact we seek to make."

One of the goals we set at the retreat was to focus energy on recruiting new members. We want to have ten new members by the end of next year. Also we want to reactivate those who have joined but not kept up their membership. How will we go about this? The strategic planning part is still to come. We will be having another gathering in the near future focused on laying out a plan to accomplish this and other goals.

We will need all of your help to accomplish this mission. Veterans For Peace is too valuable an organization to let die due to an aging population and lack of activism.

Please stay tuned and join in.

For more information, contact me at 651-641-1087

## Acting against war and the threats of war.

by Marie Braun

The WAMM End War Committee (formerly the WAMM Iraq Committee) is dedicated to ending U.S. involvement in war, the threats of war, and the use of weapons of war.

The committee began in 1998 with a focus on ending the economic sanctions on Iraq, which were responsible for the deaths of up to 5,000 children a month. Following 9/11, the committee also focused on the U.S. war on Afghanistan and later on the threats of war against Iraq, Syria, Iran, and North Korea.

Our weekly Wednesday vigil on the Lake Street/Marshall Avenue Bridge began in April, 1999. This vigil is an important ongoing public witness against war; it also reminds us of the terrible plight of the people, especially children, who live with the suffering and deprivation that war brings. On April 30, we will celebrate 15 years of resistance to war and hope that Veterans For Peace and others who have come to the bridge over the years will join us for this special event. (See calendar listing.)

The committee has also organized many peace events,

including demonstrations, fasts, educational forums, and visits to the offices of our congressional leaders. We have worked with various peace and justice coalitions, organized an annual candlelight service for the child victims of war and sponsored several speaking tours for peace activists Sami Rasouli and Kathy Kelly.

We appreciate the work of Veterans For Peace and are especially honored to join with them in reminding the American people of the true meaning of Armistice Day, the day the world agreed to end all wars, and the Kellogg Briand Pact, another effort to renounce war.

While we may never be able to fill their shoes, we hope to do our best to follow in the footsteps of peacemakers who have gone before: Dorothy Day, Mahatma Gandhi, Jane Addams, Howard Zinn, Martin Luther King, Jr., Daniel Berrigan and so many others who believed in the dignity of every human person and understood the immorality and the futility of war, war which is the ultimate form of violence and certainly a crime against humanity.

# Honoring Edward Snowden with the Sam Adams Award for Integrity in Intelligence

by Coleen Rowley

Last month Ray McGovern, Jesselyn Radack, Thomas Drake and I got a wonderful opportunity to fly to Moscow to present our “Sam Adams Award for Integrity in Intelligence” (<http://www.raymcgovern.com/sam-adams-award.html>) to NSA whistleblower Edward Snowden. The annual award goes to someone facing a moral dilemma similar to that faced by the late CIA analyst Sam Adams, a colleague of Ray McGovern’s, who, in the late 1960’s discovered the truth about Vietnamese troop strength being double what U.S. Generals were willing to admit in order to mislead the American public that they were making progress in the war on Vietnam.

Our trip fell under the humanitarian category for Russian visas but there were some tense moments waiting in the Russian Consulate in Washington D.C., just a couple days before our plane was set to depart, to find out if all the “t’s” had been properly crossed and “i’s” dotted on our visa application paperwork. Although the plane trip was uneventful, the train and various cab rides were a unique experience given Moscow’s unusual traffic. We stayed in a nice hotel, just about a 20 minute walk from “Red Square” but different cab drivers got lost taking us back. We found little time to sightsee but did manage to see the Red Square at night and, on our last evening there, we were able to take in (the highly recommended) Moscow River cruise which passes by some of the city’s main points of interest.

The highlight of our trip, of course, was our Oct. 9th honoring of Edward Snowden held at an undisclosed location. (See Ray McGovern’s full description at <http://consortiumnews.com/2013/10/10/snowden-accepts-whistleblower-award/>, my interview on local FOX 9, and a Democracy Now group interview after our return.) The award ceremony was also attended by Snowden’s attorney, Anatoly Kucherena, his translator and Wikileaks journalist Sarah Harrison who had helped Snowden seek foreign asylum. Jesselyn Radack of the Government Accountability Project, put it well when she told The Nation, “We believe that Snowden exemplifies Sam Adams’s courage, persistence and devotion to truth, no matter what the consequences. We wanted Snowden to know that, as opposed to the daily vitriol from the U.S. government and mainstream media, 60 percent of the United States supports him, including thou-

sands in the national security and intelligence agencies where we used to work.”

We found Edward to be highly intelligent, squared away, sincere and serious about the need for reform. We told him that his goal of starting a debate had already been achieved and that congressional committees were holding hearings and proposing reforms of the NSA’s dragnet data collection. Snowden, in turn, expressed his belief that the NSA’s surveillance programs put people in danger, hurt the U.S. and its economy, and “limit our ability to speak and think and live and be creative, to have relationships and to associate freely” as well as putting people “at risk of coming into conflict with our own government.”

*The type of spying the NSA is now doing is exactly the kind of thing King George imposed on the American colonists that led to the Revolutionary War.*

In our view, this makes Edward Snowden a true patriot whose truth-telling is sincerely motivated, geared solely towards reform, reining in the NSA and

curtailing human rights abuses in order to improve the situation of the U.S., and its own as well as the world’s citizens. We talked into the wee hours about the fact that the truth has a way of eventually coming out, citing the examples of other great historical figures, like Albert Einstein and Martin Luther King Jr., who were falsely accused and tarnished by the spymasters of their day. In fact, experts say that the type of spying the NSA is now doing is exactly the kind of thing King George imposed on the American colonists that led to the Revolutionary War. It was none other than Benjamin Franklin who leaked documents (in 1774) showing colonists’ rights were being abridged by British officials. And for that, Founding Father Franklin also had to endure being called every name in the book.

What can we do to help the courageous NSA whistleblower get the truth out and further the reform process? For starters, there’s this Roots Action petition to sign, asking Secretary of State Kerry to reinstate Snowden’s passport (since his only “crime” was to educate Americans and the world about the dangerous growth of the U.S. surveillance state). Also be aware that “The Battle of the NSA Surveillance Bills” has begun. Senate Judiciary Chair Patrick Leahy and House Representative James Sensenbrenner (author of the Patriot Act who claims the Executive’s secret interpretations were never what legislators intended) have co-sponsored the USA Freedom Act.

Snowden, continued on next page

## A view on Syria and Israel

by Mary and Nick Eloff

Recently, at a Middle East Peace Now meeting, we listened to Syrian-American Mazen Halabi make an impassioned plea for his people. The revolution in Syria, he said, began three years ago when school kids were writing slogans on a wall. They were taken by security and tortured. The community organized and rallied with the slogan, "Freedom and Dignity." Perpetually oppressed by dictators (19 presidents since 1936) who ruled with martial law and suspended the constitution, the Syrians did not want communism nor capitalism. They wanted liberation of the economy, employment and civil rights.

The Damascus Spring was a conversation of people talking about a democratic state. In response, the strategy of the regime was to kill a few people and then blame it on Islam, the Taliban or the terrorists. Since 2000, President Bashar al-Assad has controlled 23 million people with power and fear. transferring public properties into private establishments, building prisons and allotting nearly a billion dollars for intelligence services. "Dictatorship," Mazen remarked, "is like organized crime." It is documented that Assad used chemical weapons 12 times before the recent revelations. As the repression and violence mounted, the people took up arms.

And what about the U.S.-Syrian relationship? The U.S., he maintains, has always seen the countries of the Middle

East as either an enemy or a gas station. U. S. foreign policy has been to protect Israel, protect oil and keep Iran from getting nuclear weapons. Our aid needs to be used for jobs, seeds and machinery, NOT weapons. The U. S. needs to see the people of Syria as human.

With respect to Israel, the November 2013 issue of the magazine *The Washington Report on Middle East Affairs* lists the current estimate of cumulative total U.S. direct aid to Israel from 1949 until 2013 as \$130,212 billion and \$3 billion, 624 thousand in the year 2013. It is an estimate because arriving at an exact amount is not possible since parts of the aid to Israel are buried in the budgets of various US agencies or in a form not quantifiable, such as early disbursement of aid resulting in a direct benefit of interest income to Israel and the corresponding loss to the U.S. Treasury. Israel is the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. aid since World War II. Keep in mind, that Israel is a first-world country.

Another benefit to Israel that is an unquantifiable cost to the U.S. taxpayer is the private, tax-exempt money (probably in the hundreds of millions of dollars) that is collected by charitable U.S. Jewish and Christian Zionist groups that send the money to support Israel's settlement policies and settlement-related causes, including groups designated by the U.S. as foreign terrorist organizations. Since every tax-exempt dollar that goes to the settlements represents a loss to the U.S. Treasury, that means the U.S. taxpayer has indirectly subsidized Israel's settlements to the tune of tens of millions of dollars, or more.

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## Snowden, from previous page

This bill would end the NSA's bulk collection of phone call records and significantly curb its ability to sweep up other private information of Americans.

On the other side, Sen. Diane Feinstein, head of the powerful Senate Intelligence Committee, has already succeeded in pushing her FISA Improvements Act through her Committee (undoubtedly supported by House Intelligence Republican Chair Mike Rogers). Their bill would actually codify and expand the NSA's illegal spying.

It's crucial therefore for everyone to contact your own congresspersons to let them know you want them to oppose the Feinstein bill and support the Leahy-Sensenbrenner bill. Personal calls are needed as well as emails.

In addition, Minnesota Senators Klobuchar and Franken have tended to defer to Feinstein on such issues even though they sit on the Judiciary Committee. So it's especially important to call them.

### 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 so please let us know. Thank you

**"It's really not a number  
I'm terribly interested in."**

**Colin Powell responding to a question about  
the number of Iraqis who were slaughtered by  
Americans in 1991**

# The Unspeakable

*JFK and the Unspeakable: Why He Died and Why It Matters*  
(Orbis Books, 2008) by James Douglass

Reviewed by Gerald Ganaan

First, let me say that this is hands-down the best book ever written about the assassination of JFK. Everyone who is interested in JFK's presidency or his assassination (and by association the MLK and RFK assassinations) should without question read this book.

Having said that, I promise to avoid revealing too much about the book, which would deprive new readers the delicious experience of discovery through reading.

James Douglass, a long-time activist, really needs no introduction to the peace community. His on-going struggle against war and nuclear weapons (particularly the Trident submarine) is well known.

In *JFK and the Unspeakable* Mr. Douglass has produced a thoroughly readable, well-reasoned and meticulously researched book (100 of the nearly 500 pages are reference notes); so for readers like myself, who frequently check footnoted references, this is a two bookmark book.

The term "The Unspeakable" in the book title refers to the term as used in the writings of Trappist monk Thomas Merton. Throughout the sixties, until his death in 1968, Merton wrote with determined eloquence on the evils of racism and war (especially nuclear war), and the national security state dependent on war. Following the assassinations of JFK, Malcolm X, MLK and RFK, and the escalation of the Vietnam War, he coined the term "The Unspeakable" to refer to the evil he sensed behind all of these terrible events. It is an evil so horrible that there is no vocabulary to describe it.

The subtitle "Why He Died and Why It Matters" conveys the true import of this book. In exploring the question of why he died, Douglass presents a tour-de-force of scholarly research that reveals JFK as a cold warrior turning to peace in the pressure cooker of the Presidency.

From JFK's initial rejection of the Unspeakable when

he refused to commit the U.S. military to the invasion of Cuba following the "failed" Bay of Pigs operation, Kennedy was locked in a battle with elements of the government he purportedly was in charge of. Kennedy repeatedly rebuffed pressures from the national security state for nuclear strike options and military solutions to political problems. Then in October of 1962, Kennedy and Khrushchev brought the world to the brink of a nuclear exchange. The dogs of war strained at their leashes and howled for the confrontation they had long desired: to unleash their terrible weapons and see who, if anyone, was left standing. Khrushchev was under similar pressures in the Soviet Union. Only through

back-channel communications (initiated by JFK) between these two men were they able to avoid a nuclear war that elements on both sides dreadfully sought.

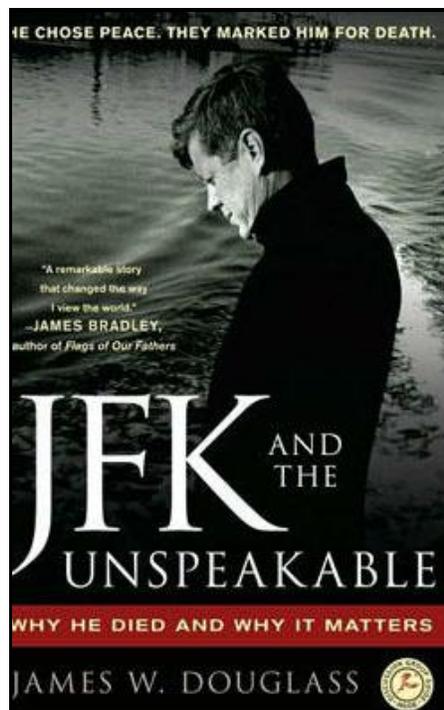
This close and personal brush with nuclear annihilation served to fortify JFK's turn away from war, to peaceful means of conflict resolution. Throughout 1963, Kennedy pursued peace. In the month preceding his death, he had signed NSAM 263, revealing the first step in the plan he had worked on all summer for complete withdrawal from Vietnam.

Using heretofore classified information that was not available to earlier writers, Douglass reveals JFK's secret back-channel initiatives with Khrushchev and Castro to end the cold war, to normalize relations with Cuba, and to pursue complete and total disarmament.

So if Kennedy had lived to pursue the goals of his second term, where might we be today? Certainly there would have been no Vietnam War for the U.S. (and probably no CIA); complete nuclear disarmament, and with no nuclear weapons, no nuclear reactors, which only make sense when they produce materials for such weapons, therefore no Chernobyl, no Three Mile Island and no Fukushima. The full extent of the ramifications of a second term for JFK are difficult to imagine, but they certainly would have been preferable to the reality delivered by the "Unspeakable."

Douglass constructs a compelling portrait of a man who looked into the eye of The "Unspeakable" and turned away and who actively sought to save us all from the evils of the "Unspeakable."

They could not allow that.



## A Busy Armistice Weekend

by Dave Logsdon

KFAI is a community owned and operated radio station situated right next door to our Veterans For Peace office here in the West Bank Neighborhood of Minneapolis. Every Sunday morning they invite various groups to put together an hour-long program. Our VFP chapter took advantage of this opportunity and on the day before Armistice Day, we presented "The Veterans for Peace Hour"!

The show was a mixture of anti-war music and my interviews with guests. My two guests for this show made my job very easy. Regis Tremblay, who is the Director of a new Documentary called *The Ghost of Jeju Island*, talked about what inspired him to do the film and some of the brave protesters fighting the building of a U.S military base where there once was a quiet fishing village. The film was screened that afternoon at the Parkway Theatre, so the interview was timely. (See article on page 12 for more information on the film.)

Longtime VFP member Steve McKeown was on next and talked about the origins of our bell-ringing here at Chapter 27. As usual, Steve, our resident visionary, was succinct and informative. The hour flew by so fast, I barely had time to get announcements about our Armistice Day events out. Lydia Howell, who hosts her own progressive show on KFAI, was our engineer and helped us immensely!

On Armistice Day itself, we had a full day of activities. Starting with the 11 a.m. bell ringing at the First Shot Memorial on the State Capital grounds and ending with a couple of programs in the evening.

The program I participated in was at Brit's Pub in downtown Minneapolis. This was our third year of helping sponsor and participate in this program. Some of the mainstream military folks that are a part of the program have been more than a little skeptical of the "anti-war" Vets reminding people that war is not a football game, but a horrific arena of suffering and terror. I was able to get our own Michael Orange on the program reading from his book, *Fire in the Hole; A Mortarman's year in Vietnam*, and Steven D'Ambrose from the History Theatre doing a reading from their spring production of Tim O'briens book *The Things They Carried*. We followed those emotional readings with our bell ringing.

It was a very powerful evening and especially significant in that we weren't just preaching to the choir but reaching out with our message to the greater community.

## Tech companies take on NSA

by Frank Fuller

It's not just that the NSA is trashing civil rights. It turns out that it is damaging the bottom lines of some of the largest tech companies in the world. Sen. Ron Wyden, who has been trying to rein in the NSA, said last month, "If a foreign enemy was doing this much damage to the economy, people would be in the streets with pitchforks."

Now AOL, Apple, Facebook, Google, LinkedIn, Microsoft, Twitter and Yahoo are joining together to rein in NSA. They have published letters in major newspapers and have started a website outlining their position at [ReformGovernmentSurveillance.com](http://ReformGovernmentSurveillance.com).

These companies have never been too concerned with the privacy of their users; their business is to collect and sell personal information. But now bottom lines are being damaged. The following are just some of the damages as reported by The Electronic Frontier Foundation ([eff.org](http://eff.org)), Quartz ([qz.com](http://qz.com)), an online business magazine, and the economics blog Naked Capitalism:

Cisco Systems, which makes networking hardware, saw its sales fall 12 percent in the developing world in the last few months. New orders fell by 25 percent in Brazil and 30 percent in Russia, and Cisco predicts its overall sales could drop by as much 10 percent this quarter. Its CEO John Chambers said this was the fastest swing he had ever seen in emerging markets, which analysts say will be an \$8.9 trillion market by 2020.

AT&T has been trying to buy European company Vodaphone but is facing roadblocks because of its known collaboration with the NSA.

U.S. companies are losing business in the move to cloud services, streaming video and machine-to-machine communications. In the long run foreign companies could come to dominate this area.

A survey conducted after the Snowden leaks found: 10% of the foreign companies using cloud computing services said they'd already cancelled a project with a U.S. cloud provider and 56% said they'd be less likely to use U.S.-based providers. Among U.S. companies in the cloud sector, 36% said that the NSA leaks would make it more difficult doing business outside the U.S. The report estimated that if U.S. cloud companies lose between 10% and 20% of their foreign business over three years, it will cost them between \$21.5 billion to \$35 billion.

But the report cautions it could get much more expensive "if foreign governments enact protectionist trade barriers that effectively cut out U.S. providers." In Europe, momentum in that direction is growing.

## Activists protest construction of U.S. base on Jeju Island

by Joan Johnson

Imagine having to quit your teaching job, ending your much-loved career, so that you can spend time daily confronting forces that are systematically destroying a 400-year-old island village and way of life, not to mention destroying wildlife and marine life, while polluting air, land, and water. This is the ongoing story of 27-year-old Jane who left Seoul to work day and night to defend Gangjeong Village, located on Jeju Island, which is 70 miles south of Korea. She is joined by Jeju Islanders, other Koreans from the mainland and many concerned global citizens as they peacefully protest the construction of a massive U.S. naval base that will house 8,000 marines.

I became acquainted with Jane and fellow protesters through *The Ghosts of Jeju*, a film by Regis Tremblay, who spent three weeks last year with them, day and night, documenting their struggle. In this remarkable film, he interviews several anti-base activists, who I found to be informed, passionate people, connected to the earth, spiritually alive and completely dedicated to their cause. They come from all walks of life: fishermen and women, mothers, fathers, grandparents, children, business people, teens, religious leaders, farmers, college students, and shop owners. And many endure countless occasions of police brutality as they block the entrance, hold up signs, sing songs, say prayers, and plead with construction workers, authorities, and armed guards to stop the destruction. Many have been hospitalized with injuries, thrown into jail, and some are serving prison terms. Undaunted, they remain steadfastly determined to save Gangjeong village, the villagers' way of life, their heritage and the fragile ecosystem of this pristine Pacific island home.

Later in the film, Jane was seen limping, and explained that her foot had been stomped on and broken by one of the guards, but she resolutely declared, "I want to continue this

work to the end."

One of many of the nuns present at the gates, Sister Stella Soh's relentless determination was also remarkable: "Whenever I have time and money, I come HERE. America and their companies construct the base of the war, and I don't want to be a slave of the war. America is imperialistic. They dominate our country and prey on the weaker."

The protesters' fervency and dedication is certainly



made evident through watching these interviews, but we also were made aware of the hardships endured just to show up each day; many use all of their vacation time to be there, but it seems that most of the people had to forego work and paychecks to make this their life's mission. Despite setbacks and difficult circumstances, activists display so much resilience and hopefulness. At the end of each day, together they eat a meal, and together they sing and dance. In the midst of so much anguish and hardship, their singing has an uplifting quality, and the joy they exude is so contagious!

Tremblay gives us a much-needed historical perspective, so that we can better understand what some of the protesters and/or their parents and other relatives have suffered in the past. A brutal 35-year occupation by Japan had kept islanders under tight control since 1910, followed by a short-lived 1945 liberation. After the U.S. helped rig Korean elections, resulting in the North/South Korea division, Jeju Island fell under the control of a U.S.-backed Korea. In 1948, desiring self-governance and self-determination,

Continued on next page

islanders rose up in a peasant rebellion, were subsequently labeled “communists” by the U.S., and became victims of a scorched earth campaign, organized and abetted by the U.S. Under their command, thousands were exterminated, 60 percent of the island’s villages burned, and survivors rounded up into concentration camps. Gen. Curtis LeMay, when confronted by soldiers who were disturbed by the atrocities they were committing, cavalierly said, “Every soldier thinks something of the moral aspects of what he is doing. But all war is immoral, and if you let that bother you, you’re not a good soldier.”

After enduring this period of genocide and unimaginable suffering, Jeju Island was designated in 2005 by Roh Moo-hyun, South Korea’s president at that time, as an “Island of World Peace.” Caving to U.S. pressure to have Jeju be the “pivot” into the Asia-Pacific, the Republic of Korea is breaking that promise of peaceful existence by building this monster naval base. One of 40 U.S. bases in the region, Jeju’s base would be instrumental in containing China; for example, it would have the ability to stop China’s oil shipments in the event of war.(1)

Oliver Stone, interviewed by Tremblay and also quoted in a 2013 “Space Alert” periodical, has pledged his support to the villagers, inviting the world to understand that this situation “goes beyond South Korea and has turned into a worldwide issue.” He cited the destruction of “beautiful soft coral reefs and contamination of water” as problems that affect all of us.(2) Echoing Stone’s plea for outside support, Sung-Hee Choi, coordinator of the International Team that publishes “The Gangjeong Village Story” newsletter, reminded us, “This is not a regional or local struggle, but an international struggle.” She pleaded with us to do whatever

we can to help. (See #5 below) Our local Korean Quarterly editor Martha Vickery reminds us of Tremblay’s words when asked what people can do to help, “With knowledge comes responsibility, and the least we can do is to amplify the voices of the people of Gangjeong village, and.... share the film with as many people as they can reach out to....(The activists) are so beaten down and depressed now, that any support from outside gives them a real boost of energy.”(3)

At the film’s screening, Tremblay provided banners for people to sign with our names and words of encouragement that he would later bring to them. I encourage readers to order a DVD of Regis Tremblay’s “Ghosts of Jeju” (4), watch it a couple of times, and then share it with others, as Tremblay suggests, and think about other creative ways to help the Gangjeong villagers in their struggle to stop the construction of the U.S naval base. Thank you, Regis, for opening our eyes!

## For more information on Jeju

1. <http://www.veteransforpeace.org/pressroom/news/2012/04/27/us-and-south-korea-assault-an-idyllic-island-not-for-the-first-time>
2. “Oliver Stone Goes to Jeju,” by Bruce Gagnon, Space Alert Fall 2013 (p. 3)
3. “A Haunting Truth,” by Martha Vickery, Korean Quarterly Fall 2013 (vol. 17, no. 1, p. 49)
4. <http://www.theghostsofjeju.net> (to order “The Ghosts of Jeju” DVD)
5. <http://savejejunow.org/gangjeong-village-story-october-2013> (Newsletter)

## Protesters, from page 1

students, did a superb job in coordinating our trip.

The attendance at the SOA protest is down from years ago, but the attendance of countries committed to not sending soldiers to the school is up to six, now largely due to the efforts of the founder of SOAWatch, Father Roy Bourgoise.

Claire Winzeberg, who is writing an article on the SOA and the trip for the St. Thomas newspaper, wrote this for us: “My experience of the SOA was incredibly powerful. I learned so much. I am so overwhelmed by the immensity of the issues we face in our world especially the issue of militarization and its lasting harm. Although I am overwhelmed, I am also hopeful. It was so inspiring to see such a diverse group of folks come together to protest the SOA and remember the lives that have been lost. I have truly never been part of something so powerful, and I hope to

God that the SOA is closed someday soon, although I know this would only be a small symbolic step towards peace. There is so much work to be done, and my trip to the SOA protest and vigil has sparked a fire in me to keep actively working for a more just and peaceful world. There’s work to be done, and I am so willing to do it. Thanks for having Students for Justice and Peace from UST on your bus! I really do appreciate it!”

Claire’s writing would probably have not taken place without the encouragement and organizing of Pepperwolf, the director of Women Against Military Madness, and our own chapter member Mary McNellis, who both recruited and organized the bus. Thanks also to all the teachers who accompanied the students.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Second Sunday** each month, 6-8:30 pm:  
VFP Chapter 27 general meeting,  
1806 Riverside Ave., #3A.  
Executive meeting at 5 p.m.  
FFI: Larry Johnson at 612-747-3904.

**4:30-5:30 pm** Weds. Lake Street/Marshal Ave. Bridge vigil.

### OTHER EVENTS

Dec 19-22, *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914* a theater production based on the true story that starts when a German soldier steps into "No man's Land" singing *Silent Night* during WWI. Directed by Peter Rothstein at the Pantages Theatre, 710 Hennepin, Mpls. [www.LatteDa.org](http://www.LatteDa.org) 612 339 3003

Mar. 16-April 6. Regional premiere of *Lonely Soldiers: Women at War in Iraq* at History Theatre. Play follows the experiences of eight female soldiers who were on the front lines in the early years of America's recent war, told in their own words. Special offer for veterans: 2 for 1 tickets to any performance. Use promo code "Veterans Day." 30 E. 10th Street, St. Paul. 651-292-4323

April 30. 15th anniversary of vigil at the Lake Street Bridge. Help celebrate 15 years of resistance to war. We hope that Veterans For Peace and others who have come to the Lake Street Bridge over the years will join us for this special event.

For information on vigils, go to the VFP website at [vfpchapter27.org](http://vfpchapter27.org) or call 612-827-5364 or visit [www.worldwidewamm.org](http://www.worldwidewamm.org)

**"War deprivation has never caused a single case of post traumatic stress."**

- from a 2012 Armistice Day talk in California by David Swanson, author of *"War is a Lie and When the World Outlawed War"*

## Writing and Calling requests

by Steve McKeown

VFP Chapter 80 from Duluth is asking to have letters in support of the Transform Now Plowshares resisters sent to their sentencing judge. VFP member Gregory Boertje-Obed, Vietnam veteran Michael Walli, and Sister Megan Rice are awaiting sentencing on Jan. 28, 2014, for their nuclear disarmament action at the Oak Ridge nuclear weapons plant. Letters are being sent in care of their lawyer, who is delivering them. Please join the thousands who sent letters already.

Invite Judge Thaper to think about sentencing in light of the fact that this was an act of non-violent civil disobedience intended to awaken the conscience of the nation, and no evidence was presented that it was an act of terrorism meant to harm anyone. Letters can be sent to:

US District Judge Amul R Thaper  
c/o Professor Bill Quigley  
Loyola Law Clinic and Center for Social Justice  
7214 St. Charles Avenue  
Campus Box 902  
New Orleans, La 70118

### *In memoriam*

## Harold Nielsen

by Wayne Wittman

We are saddened to learn of the death of Harold Nielsen. Harold died peacefully in his sleep on Armistice Day. After serving 40 months in the Merchant Marine during WWII, he and his wife Louise found Veterans For Peace in our early days. They both attended regular meetings and they guaranteed our first bus trip to our first rally to Columbus, Ga., in January 1994, which we now call the trip from hell as we encountered a blizzard on the way home.

Harold and Louise, through their foundation, funded the establishment of our first office including rent and part-time staff. Through their financial help they assisted us in the first video "Veterans For Peace" along with other videos and the funding of the book *Disturbing the Peace, the story of Father Roy Bourgeois* by James Hodge and Linda Cooper. Harold was recognized at the VFP National Convention with an award and public recognition for his assistance to Veterans For Peace. It is obvious we cannot know or acknowledge all the contributions he has made to our world, but we do know that his spirit continues to inspire us and motivate us.

## Bell project has January openings

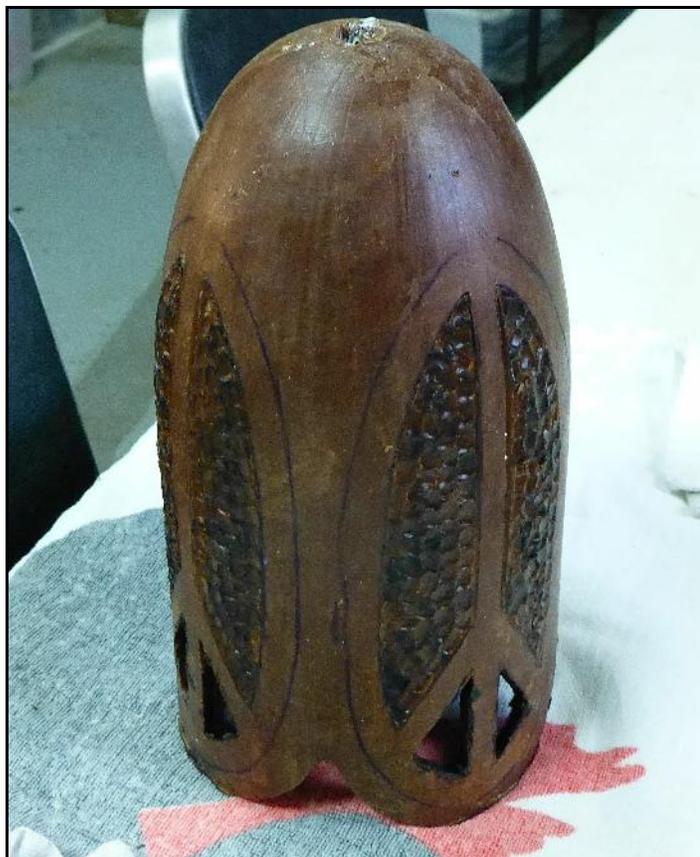
by Gita Ghei

Members of the Minneapolis Chapter are creating bells by lost wax casting at Gita's studio in Minneapolis. The group began with research on bells. Steve McKeown recounted that bells were rung throughout the world on the first Armistice Day. Larry Johnson and Chante Wolf read about the use of bells during wartime and peacetime. Historical inscriptions, anecdotes and other stories will be compiled by the group for a showcase event on International Storytelling Day, March 20, 2014.

Thus far the group has made a "bell jig," a turntable



*Bruce Berry removes wax bell from mold in Gita Ghei's studio.*



*The wax bell above after it is carved.*

centered for creating a quarter-inch thick wax original bell. The jig has now turned out six plaster cores and five wax pieces. We will spend the next six weeks detailing these "bells" with designs and preparing them for casting. We will also be creating other smaller sized artwork out of the wax. We will hold a get-together for our metal pour when we cast the bells. This will probably take place in early February.

Conversation is lively in our workshop. Please feel free to visit, just to see what we are up to or as a potential project for you to join. Please note that beginning in January there is room for up to six more participants in this project. VFP membership status is not required, nor veteran status, for the second half. The bell project originates from a place of consideration of the concept of peace and the ideal of non-violence as an active method in the promotion of peace. These are concepts we consider as we gather for the complex work of lost wax casting. Please contact gita ([gitag66@yahoo.com](mailto:gitag66@yahoo.com) for the details) We will keep you updated here as time rolls on and would be glad to show you our project first-hand.

### NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

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



Veterans for Peace, Inc., Chapter 27  
1806 Riverside Ave., #3A.  
Minneapolis, MN 55454

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## **SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM HOME ALIVE NOW!**

As of Dec. 6, 2013:  
4,486 dead in Iraq and  
2,292 combat deaths in Afghanistan.

An estimated 18-22 veterans commit suicide each day,  
amounting to 35,770 over the past five years.

### Canoe Winners for 2013



by Barry Riesch

Congratulations to this year's lucky winners of the Cedar Strip Canoe: Heidi Eschenbacher and her husband Gabe Ormsby.

Our call came as quite a surprise since they didn't buy the winning ticket; Heidi's father Joe Eschenbacher, who has been buying our raffle tickets for years, did, but he doesn't put his name on them because "he never wins any-

thing."

Heidi said: "We're so excited to have won the wood strip canoe and to have such a beautiful boat for us to share and use. As a kid, we used to go on father-daughter canoe trips."

Heidi works in education internationally on educational system development through the University of Minnesota and was on her way to Zambia when she received our call. Heidi and Gabe assure us they will make good use out of the canoe.