



# 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)



*Protesters marching at the Vigil to Shut Stewart Down at the School of the Americas in Fort Benning GA in November. photo by Steve Pavey.*

## SOA protests detention of immigrants

by Dr. Mike Klein  
Justice and Peace Studies  
University of St. Thomas

We are standing in a public square in Lumpkin, Ga., in front of the red brick, white trimmed city hall typical of a small town in the Southern US. The air is mild and humid compared to the frozen landscape of Minnesota we left behind 24 hours, and a thousand miles, before. Our small group from Justice and Peace Studies at the University of St. Thomas traveled with 40 others overnight to gather on this street with hundreds from around this country and this hemisphere. We stand together in solidarity with immigrants to the U.S., detained at a nearby private prison, the Stewart Detention Center. Operated by the

Orwellian-sounding Corrections Corporation of America, this for-profit jail holds 1,750 inmates, outnumbering the local population, and making it the largest such facility in the United States. Detained for months at a time, in deplorable conditions, most people are deported after the judgment of an in-house tribunal.

Speakers and musicians inspire the growing crowd at the corner of MLK Drive and Main Street. Then we march from the town center past broken homes and boarded-up storefronts that have not benefited from the jobs CCA was supposed to provide. Two miles down a rural road and up a long hill we look back at the crowd, now 1,000 strong. Turning

SOA, Continued on page 3

## Greetings from the President

# It was a great year

by Dave Logsdon

*"You'll never have a quiet world till you knock patriotism out of the human race."*

George Bernard Shaw

As we look forward to the new year our chapter has much to work on and much to get excited about. In my first year as your president, my job was to manage the diverse, creative, and strong personalities of our membership. Like a jockey on top of a prize thoroughbred, I just needed to stay on the horse and guide it to the finish line!

Just like Steve McKeown's heroic efforts to educate the public about the Kellogg-Briand Treaty in 2013, Larry Johnson was relentless in 2014! It started with the amazing Bell Ceremony in March on National Storytelling Day. Then, through Larry and his wife Elaine Wynn's long involvement with the Lake Harriet Peace Garden programs, they were put in touch with Dale Rott, who was building an indoor peace garden at the Xcel Center for the annual Festival of Nations event. With this year's festival theme being "Peace Among the Nations," Dale met with Steve McKeown and Larry. He subsequently made a large Kellogg-Briand exhibit for the festival, educating thousands. Larry and Elaine told stories to groups of festival attendees about Sadako and the paper cranes, and the Kellogg-Briand pact history. Many good contacts were made with teachers and students.

Catching his breath, he was back at it, making the Hiroshima/Nagasaki ceremony at the Lake Harriet Peace Garden (along with his wife Elaine) a profound and memorable event. Larry then organized our six-mile march from the Lake Street Bridge vigil to Kellogg Boulevard in St.

Paul to commemorate the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Treaty. He then topped off his whirlwind year by planning, along with the Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, the week-long appearance of Capt. Paul Chappell. This week included a day-long workshop, school and church appearances, and it culminated with a big event at the Landmark Center in downtown St. Paul. As I write this he's working on a December 7th program at the Landmark Center. I'm exhausted just writing about his year!

We have a very dedicated and inspiring group. Larry would be the first to tell you he could not have done it alone. In June, Chante Wolf stepped down as our Secretary. She set the bar high in what is a very thankless job. Ron Staff jumped into the void to take on the unenviable task of following Chante! At years end, Tim Hansen, after six years of being Treasurer, will also step down. He also raised the bar and will be an extremely tough act to follow. Our deepest



*VFP members join in a SOA solidarity march with Native Americans in Minneapolis protesting the Washington football team's name when they played the Vikings.*

gratitude for their service!

Arts, education and action were all on display as we closed out the year with a bang! Bronze Star recipient Dick Foley was the Energizer Bunny of our Speakers Bureau, speaking to classrooms at Hill-Murray, Cretin-Derham Hall and Washburn High Schools. Michael Orange and Larry Johnson spoke to nine classes at Holy Angels; Steve McKeown and Wayne Wittman made presentations at St.

**Great year, Continued on page 13**



## SOA from page 1

down “CCA Road,” we gather in front of a private water tower that proclaims: “CCA - America’s Leader in Partnership Corrections.” Deportation buses block our view of the prison and a fence encloses the property.

We stand on rocky ground in front of a makeshift stage to hear the claims against CCA and the stories from a man unlawfully detained for 18 months under wretched conditions rooted in cost-savings that enhance profits at the cost of human dignity. Musicians move us with their music. Organizers proclaim a vision of detention centers turned welcome centers for the immigrant laborers who contribute to the well-being of this country, as they have for generations. We call with one voice for transformation of abusive and exploitative public policy into one grounded on human dignity and compassion. At the conclusion of the short rally, five advocates cross into the facility to be arrested by local authorities, raising the media profile of the story and bringing our claims into the public record through the ensuing court case.

This solidarity action for immigration has been integrated into the annual School of the Americas Watch Vigil and Conference events in Columbus, Georgia. In the same way Veterans For Peace, Chapter 27 has integrated into its annual SOA trip students from St. Thomas, St. Catherine University, and Cretin-Derham Hall High School, in addition to St. Joseph Worker volunteers and others going to protest the SOA.

Our annual pilgrimage has been deepened by the example of Veterans For Peace who continue to serve their country, now through their call for democracy and human digni-



*Family at SOA protests of immigration detainees. photo by Steve Pavey.*

ty in U.S. foreign and domestic policy. During the bus ride we hear the stories of veterans, about their work as election monitors, as advocates against oppression in Latin America, and as ambassadors of peace through travel and exchange programs. We march alongside veterans down a rainy Victory Drive toward the gates of Fort Benning. We are inspired by their conversion: from soldiers of war to soldiers for peace. Generations come together on this weekend to forge a coalition of peacemakers, and then disperse from the weekend to promote a more just and peaceful world.

We thank you, Veterans For Peace Chapter 27, for your generous hospitality, your shared wisdom, and your example of a life-long dedication to peace!

### ***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**

## Vietnam: What will be commemorated?

by Steve McKeown

During a recent panel discussion at the Parkway Theater, following the film *The Great Divide* (see Joan Johnson's article on page 8), I asked the audience if anyone believed our government's version regarding the August 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident. No one raised their hand. The audience included a number of veterans who were not members of Veterans for Peace. I then asked if anyone believed that our government did not tell

the truth. I think most of the hands in the theater went up.

Although our involvement in the American War in Vietnam actually began before the Tonkin event, the thrust of our country's escalation of the war was predicated on the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution authorizing the President "to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the United States, and to prevent further aggression." According to an article published in *Naval History Magazine*, President Lyndon Johnson was delighted because the resolution "was like Grandma's nightshirt – it covers everything." Only two Congressmen voted against

### The propaganda wars begin

*"Let's never forget that most of those who served in Vietnam did so by choice. So many of you volunteered. Your country was at war, and you said, 'send me.'"*  
(President Obama in a 2012 commemoration ceremony of the 50th anniversary of the Vietnam War.)

*"By God, we've kicked the Vietnam syndrome once and for all!"*  
(President George H.W. Bush, at end of the Gulf War.)

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## Vietnamese families continue to suffer dioxin effects

by Frank Fuller

Some of the most powerful photographs to come out of the Vietnam War are the photos of children and families suffering the effects of Agent Orange and dioxin even two or three generations after the war ended. That suffering, however, has been ignored here in the U.S., as has been our country's responsibility for it.

But a number of photographers have slowly been gaining international recognition for documenting this tragedy, one of them a St. Paul photographer and teacher, Petronella J. Ytsma. She received a Minnesota State Arts Board grant in 2007 to travel to Vietnam to interview and take photos of Vietnamese families and children (some of them in their 30s and 40s and still dependent on their parents) still suffering from the 20 million gallons of herbicide we dropped on Vietnam. She visited various dioxin hot spots, interviewed government and community officials, visited 75 families and several long-term care facilities, and documented how children and their families are living with the severe physical and mental disabilities caused by exposure to dioxin.

She took two trips and in 2009, her photos were exhibited at St. Catherine University's Catherine G. Murphy

Gallery. A *Star Tribune* review of that show stated: "Decades later Vietnamese children are still being born mentally disabled and with hideous birth defects – eyeless, with swollen tongues, overwide mouths, flattened noses, flipper-like arms and hands, twisted feet, shrunken torsos. Some are now more than 30 years old but have the bodies of children and are essentially brain dead."

Ytsma wrote at the time of her exhibit: "These images . . . are my testimony to the children, their families and to the mystery of what makes us human. For them and millions of others, that war is not over."

She is not the only photographer to record this suffering. At about the same time she was in Vietnam, another American photographer, Brian Driscoll, was also taking photos of Vietnamese families suffering from Agent Orange and dioxin exposure. Some of his photos appeared last year in the British newspaper *The Daily Mail*, and his photos were widely viewed on the Internet after that.

A number of other photographers have also documented this ongoing tragedy.

But now with this 13-year, \$30 million commemoration of the misadventures in Vietnam, it is fair to ask what will

the resolution, yet the war hawks then and now shriek that the politicians “tied our hands.”

Over a span of 13 years, from May 28, 2012, to November 11, 2025, the Department of Defense (actually, the “Dept. of War”) will be spending over \$30 million to fabricate the “real story” in its 50th anniversary/commemoration of the war. As with all propaganda efforts, how real will this be? How far they will go in describing how the pilot Hugh Thompson interceded to stop the My Lai massacre of innocent women and children? How our “tied-hands” carpet bombing of B-52’s shook the earth 20 miles away? How Daniel Ellsberg was facing treason charges (like today’s Manning and Snowden)? How the Guardsmen’s “tied hands” at Kent State opened fire on innocent young college students? And how handcuffed our government’s hands were during Operation Phoenix (assassination program)?

Perhaps Puff the Magic Dragon could be on live exhibit along with some Napalm . . . if only we had drones! No doubt there will be good-will tours across the country, and maybe we can have a rendezvous at Dow Chemical Company or even Monsanto Corporation, where there must be a real homecoming awaiting us, especially those of us

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happen to this issue. Will it be dealt with honestly? Or will it be reburied, ignored, forgotten under an outpouring of feel-good patriotism?

Only recently has the U.S. stepped up to provide money and expertise to clean up some of the worst toxic sites in Vietnam, a commitment it ignored for 30 years, even though it was bound by treaty to clean it up. Even as it does that, the Dept. of Defense still says there is not proof that dioxin or Agent Orange is the cause of these birth defects and cancers. And our Congress is on a cost-cutting binge that puts at risk even the relatively small amount of money currently committed to this cleanup.

But 40 years after the war ended, children are still being born with mental and physical disabilities. The McClatchy Foreign Press has estimated that three million Vietnamese spanning three generations have been effected by dioxin, and least 150,000 of those are children born with severe birth defects.

*For more information, or to view some of these photos, go to <http://petronellaysma.com/legacy01.html>.*

living with the life-altering effects of Agent Orange. The real story would not be complete without official appreciation extended to all those god-fearing Christians who want to make sure there are wars and rumors of wars. Rest assured that we vets will be thanked for that; after all, “they” (whoever the enemy is) don’t value life the way “we” do.

For my part, I am tempted to carry around a megaphone upon such occasions blaring Steppenwolf’s song “God Damn the Pusher Man,” but I would probably be seen as another one of those “crazy Vietnam vets,” so I defer to national Veterans For Peace, which has created the website “FULL DISCLOSURE TOWARD AN HONEST COMMEMORATION OF THE AMERICAN WAR IN VIETNAM.”

*For more information, go to [www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org](http://www.vietnamfulldisclosure.org).*

## Agent Orange comes home

The EPA has approved Dow Chemical’s new “Enlist Duo” herbicide, which is a mixture of glyphosate (the active ingredient in Monsanto’s Roundup) and the very toxic 2,4-D, a component of Agent Orange that has been linked to a number of illnesses including Parkinson’s disease and non-Hodgkin’s lymphoma. This new herbicide is for genetically modified crops, replacing Roundup/glyphosate, because weeds are becoming resistant to Roundup after years of its heavy use on “Roundup Ready” GMO crops. Now a stronger herbicide is required for these GMO crops, and what would be better than Agent Orange?

Please call President Obama at 202-456-1111 and remind him how much he likes Vietnam veterans and to show his appreciation by prohibiting this deadly toxin from ever being manufactured, stored, sold, or implemented again.

The VA, by the way, does not treat vets for Agent Orange-related illnesses, which is something most Americans and possibly even the President are not aware of.



## Strategic, innovative education coalitions for peace

by Larry Johnson

In the 80s, when Elaine and I lived on the West Bank, we belonged to the Twin Cities Peace and Justice Coalition. TCPJ, housed in the Meridel LeSeuer Center, on the corner of Riverside and 20th Avenue, was, I think, a predecessor of the current Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers (MAP at [www.mapm.org](http://www.mapm.org)), with whom we partnered to make the wonderful November week of WAGING PEACE happen with Capt. Paul Chappell.

In the 90s, when we were on the board of Cultural Environment Movement, an early Media Reform group, we created a local CEM chapter, joined MAP and once filled the Humphrey Center auditorium for a talk by George Gerbner, founder, with his nonviolent battle cry, “We must get the stories into the hands of those with something to tell, not just something to sell.” I used some of those 20-year-old lists of media activists, mostly without email, to promote the Chappell events, because I think we need to build up more media supporters committed to getting our stories out. KFAI, Elaine Klaassen of *Southside Pride*, and Mary Treacy, former director of Metronet, all did a great job for us with the Chappell events, but we need to lean on more media types to dare to tell the truth about how and why we do war. I believe in the potential for coalitions of like-minded people truly focused and working together. It was troubling, when I was President of Vets For Peace, and we were trying to find additional VFPer who would volunteer to represent us at MAP events. I was so pleased when Mary McNellis and Steve Gates stepped up to represent us regularly and well.

When Dave Logsdon took over as VFP President, I chose to focus on our work with young people and education, but also, because I work part-time for Plymouth Church, I was able to join their Global Connections committee. This allowed MAP to move its regular meetings to Plymouth, the SOA bus to leave and return from their parking lot, and cosponsorship, free use of rooms for events, like the bells program on March 20th. In my mind, the idea is to create a structure for outreach, then fill the rooms with people, many of whom might not necessarily align with our point of view. We did that a lot when Paul Chappell was in town.

I will admit to starting with the idea of just strengthening our work with schools, started by John Sherman, shortly after I became president. However, about a month ago, Greg Hagen and I went to talk with George Mische, one of the leaders of the Catonsville 9 and draft-card burning days. Greg and I were among the few from our group who went

to the showing of a documentary on the Catonsville effort at the Film Society. We started a discussion to brainstorm actions and efforts that might be more effective and strategic, and a month ago we finally sat down and started. Greg is looking at things through the filter of his Strategic Action Committee. I personally locked on to something George said about education: “If you’re doing education, it has to not just be students and teachers, but also journalists, and legislators.” In my mind, this is an argument for even closer alignment with MAP, working with groups like Minnesota Peace Project on educating legislators, as well as finding the journalists and writers in MAP, like Bert Berlowe and Philip Lund, to build stronger connections to get the message out. Craig Wood, in our chapter, has signed on to do media work and made some good things happen during the Chappell week.

I saw a fair amount of MAP end-of-the-year feedback, suggesting they find a way to put less emphasis on announcing different group’s events and more on finding a few focused projects that all can join in and make something happen. I’m proposing education in the vein I’m discussing here.

With everyone working together, that could include getting the film *Beyond the Divide* into schools, building alliances to get more “young people” of all ages to plays like *Grounded*, the Frank Theatre production on drones, and supporting a current effort (I’m not going to name names, in case it might blow someone’s cover) to get a larger church denomination to expose all young people to “alternatives” like conscientious objection. We’ve been promoting the Kellogg-Briand peace essay contest, and MAP is working on another one focused on peacemaking in general. These are good ways to be connected with schools, with something they need to do, teach writing.

We broke new ground last year by maintaining an exhibit and presence on the stage at the Festival of Nations, when we were asked to bring our peace bells because the theme was “Peace Among the Nations.”

It was a lot of work, but worth it because we talked to and gave literature to so many people who might never come to an overt Peace and Justice event. Next year the theme is “Art Around the World,” so I talked with IARP because they have the international children’s art exchange. We also have art, as do many other groups, but if the larger MAP coalition allows different groups to step up and share the major organizing work, it’s better for everyone. I’m also

Continued next page

aware of how Paul Chappell points out that the Pentagon has issued a Sustainability Report, saying that climate change and economic insecurity are major threats to future world peace. The Bioneers environmental group and Occupy are both represented at MAP, but too often issues are considered not about ending war if they don't regularly use the words "End War Now." We separate into disparate groups and issues, rather than working together to end environmental or economic devastation because they have so much to do with perpetuating war.

I just went to a talk by Mukesh Kapila, former ambassador to Sudan and courageous whistleblower on the genocide in Darfur. The morning event was at the Nonviolent Peaceforce office, because he's going on their board. The evening program was at Plymouth church, because it was cosponsored by Global Connections. Mukesh told a story about women going out to collect firewood and being raped with regularity. When asked, "Why do you go out, when you know this might happen?" One said, "It doesn't happen every time, and I need firewood to feed my children." They asked the UN guards, atop their towers, to help, and they said, "Our rules just say guard the area. They don't say anything about this." Rather than simply complaining about how horrendous that attitude is, the Nonviolent Peaceforce workers organized so all the women went out at once in a group, with several male NP personnel who went along to intimidate the would-be rapists. The problem was solved.

Of course, Nonviolent Peaceforce works in other countries, but the story can serve as a brainstorming springboard for solving other problems. Innovative education is primarily about problem solving, and maybe there's something in that third world story that could be adapted elsewhere. Maybe rape on campus, or in the military, or guns in the neighborhood. If you teach a violent person to stop one violent act, maybe he or she could learn to stop the bigger ones that lead to war.

The massive, focused peace movement that led to the Kellogg-Briand Pact after World War I, was begun by some small business types who realized they had been horribly injured by the war. Once they got going, the many peace groups, like the Friends, FOR, and WILPF got behind it and pushed legislators till they decided war was not healthy for children, small business, and other living things. Granted, it was all squashed by the big businesses who had profited immensely from the war, many of whom were already selling weapons to Nazi Germany. That doesn't mean this kind of movement couldn't happen again, and stick this time. Some of us have been working at all this so long that I think there's a hidden thought: "This is important to do, but we

probably can't make much change."

**I love the young, fresh voice of Capt. Paul Chappell, saying, "If a bunch of people could work together and end state-sanctioned slavery, or end the acceptability of saying women are inferior and shouldn't be allowed to vote, we can end war."** All of these things, resisted by those who could gain from them, had to do with corrupt business practice.

When people say, "Thank you for fighting for our freedom," I say something like, "Thank me for fighting for the truth that great spiritual leaders say really makes us free." I think there are some people so beyond redemption they'll perpetuate any lie, no matter who it hurts, if it means driving CEO and shareholder income up 400 times as much as ordinary workers. Most people, if given a chance to calmly grasp the truth, are capable of seeing it, but there is so much delusion.

Small business, operating ethically, creating quality products, and providing good jobs, generally can't afford expensive ads on TV, so most folks are left with the impression that companies like BP and Monsanto are great environmentalists and humanitarians. They leave out the parts like driving jobs overseas to increase profit and making people sick *en masse* by poisoning the environment that gives us all life. We truly need to GET THE STORIES INTO THE HANDS OF THOSE WITH SOMETHING TO TELL, NOT JUST MASSIVE CORPORATIONS WITH SOMETHING TO SELL.

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

## Beyond the Divide: A Must-See Film

by Joan Johnson

I was glad I was able to attend a screening of the film “Beyond the Divide” on Sunday, November 9th at the Parkway Theater, and I highly recommend it. Jan Selby, the film’s producer, said that she really appreciated the support and encouragement she received from Veterans For Peace Chapter 27 and Larry Johnson, our chapter president at the time she was working on it.

In it, we are first introduced to Vietnam veteran Dan Gallagher, who hails from Missoula, MT. He vividly remembers the day he returned

home from war. The bus in which he rode with fellow soldiers had been surrounded by war protesters, and one woman in particular caught his attention. She was especially vitriolic in her angry chanting, looked Dan right in the eyes and seemed to convey hatred as she screamed “baby killer!” at him. Dan couldn’t shake the image of this “peace” woman who seemed to hate him, and from that day forward, did not want to have anything to do with war protesters or peace people. He probably assumed that anyone involved in peace efforts disrespected and possibly hated all veterans, as this woman had shown him.

Until my mid 30s, I also held a skewed perception – not of protesters, but of veterans. I naively thought that all veterans unquestionably supported war, and did not participate in peace vigils. As Gallagher had made assumptions about all “peace” people being hateful, I had wrongly pegged all soldiers and veterans as “pro-war” or even “anti-peace.” It’s clear to see how these entrenched perceptions and stereotypes only serve to create rifts between us, blocking our ability to understand each other and engage in healthy communication.

Jan’s goal in producing *Beyond the Divide* was to show respect for differing points of view in matters of war and peace, find what we have in common, and open up a conversation based on respect, dignity and healing. Her film begins by exploring peoples’ opinions about a giant graffiti-painted peace sign on a high hill overlooking Missoula,



*The peace sign on a hill overlooking Missoula*

Montana. As many different residents express their strongly-felt views regarding this giant peace sign, the beliefs of two people in particular stand out. Gallagher despises the peace sign and wants nothing to do with protesters or “peace people,” and Betsy Milligan-Dague, who runs Missoula’s “Jeanette Rankin Peace Center” and spends every day advocating for peace in a

variety of ways, is comforted by seeing the peace sign on the hill. After listening to Dan’s and Betsy’s contrasting stories and perceptions, I could not, in my wildest imagination, envision them ever sitting down and talking together, much less becoming friends and speak-

ing at each others’ events, but incredibly, this is what transpires.

Betsy, along with friends of hers, took the initiative to reach across the “Divide,” by first attending Dan’s veteran programs and donating to the center to help homeless vets. Eventually, Dan reached across the “Divide” and invited Betsy to speak at one of his outdoor “Legion” events, where she apologized for “peace” people who promoted hatred instead of love towards fellow veterans, and explains her position of desiring a peaceful world. Later in the film, she actually dialogues with Dan on his weekly veteran-centered hour-long radio show. The film takes us on a journey of their transformative relationship, and, wow, the ending is something you ought to see for yourself; it is truly amazing!

Jan said that veterans experience a myriad of different feelings as they view this film and that many have experienced healing after watching it too. The film naturally fosters dialogue among viewers, and a panel of veterans, most of whom were members of VFP, described their reactions to the film and then answered questions from the audience. Many thanks to Joe Menjares, who generously provided the venue and facilitated the event, and to Minnesota Alliance of Peacemakers, who were sponsors of this screening. A million thanks to Jan for making this excellent film (on a shoestring budget)! Put it on your “must-see” list!

*FFI: BeyondtheDivideFilm.com.*



# Seeing Hope In a Time of Gloom

by Chante Wolf

I read this morning news accounts of riots in Ferguson, “Hands up, don’t shoot” support rallies in NYC Times Square and downtown Philadelphia, with others across the nation. We also face strained nuclear talks with Iran; fears of Ebola; ISIS men in black robes with knives and swords scaring rational suburban ‘Joe the Plumbers’ into believing they will hit their communities next; drone attacks killing only the ‘bad guys;’ and Israel preparing to wipe what is left of Palestine off the map. In addition, climate change is ringing the incoming bell to deaf humans whose heads are buried in the sand as large meteors whiz by Earth at ear shattering speed.

Meanwhile our politicians, sit-com comics that they are, try to convince the rest of us that they are really sane and speak for ‘we’ the people, not just the corporations. No wonder liquor stores and marijuana businesses are raking in big bucks as people rush around with their shoulders hunched and heads down tweeting as they move forward, “Did you see how big Kim Kardashian’s ass is?”

Where is the hope? Obama didn’t bring it to us. Nope! He paid off the bankers instead of the homeowners, expanded the Middle East wars and made drone companies and universities vying for more grant money salivate over the growth in business. This from a man given the Nobel Peace Prize for spreading more trauma across the world.

As Chellis Glandinning wrote in her book, *My Name is Chellis & I’m in Recovery from Western Civilization*, “Every trauma that occurs is an individual trauma perpetrated by individuals and experienced by individuals. Every trauma is a social trauma with roots in social institutions and implications for society at large, and every trauma is a historic trauma, fostered by the past and reverberating into the future. Our society is made up of vast numbers of traumatized individuals, and our culture has come into being through a universally traumatizing process.

“Since both our psychological and ecological problems arise from an all-pervasive state of mind whose hallmark is amnesia and denial, it makes sense to initiate the mending process by borrowing from an organization that specializes in this first stage of recovery, Alcoholics Anonymous. ‘We admitted we were powerless over alcohol, that our lives had become unmanageable.’”

Mamma-Mia! We can’t be powerless while trying to fix serious issues of our world? What do we do now that the sky is soon to fall in on us too? There are so many important things to change and too little time. How do we keep our sanity safe in our stuff sacks without pulling out a 9 mm and

end the pain right now? How is it that evil seems to be 31 links ahead of us, like Secretariat was in the Triple Crown?

A Cherokee story comes to mind. A grandmother was telling her granddaughter about this huge fight going on inside her heart between two wolves. One was love, peace, compassion, generosity, empathy and faith; the other was sheer evil, self-pity, resentment, arrogance, greed and seething violence.

“Oh, but grandmother, which wolf will win?” she asked.

“The one I feed,” grandmother replied.

In her book, *Scarred By Struggle, Transformed By Hope*, Joan Chittster explains, “Life is a series of lessons, some of them obvious, some of them not. We learn as we go that dreams end, that plans get changed, that promises get broken, that our idols can disappoint us. We learn that there is such a thing as human support and that there is also such a thing as paralyzing isolation. However hard I strive to prove it otherwise, I know that there is no such thing as life without struggle. . . . It is a function of the spirit. It is an organic part of the adventure of development that comes only through the soul-stretching process of struggle.”

I believe our biggest challenge is to turn off the Faux News blonde news anchors. We already know what needs to be worked on; besides TV is just a distraction and an instrument for propaganda. Don’t forget to take a walk, breathe, laugh, go to a movie and sit on the floor with your cat and play. Hold the door open for the person behind you and say hello to the cashier at the grocery store. Don’t look into the rearview mirror to see the angry dude in the SUV ride your bumper, smile at it all and know that you have done 100 times more than most American’s have in their own lives to make it a better world.

## Movie night

Chapter 27 began showing documentary features last March on a large flat screen in the common space of our office at 1806 Riverside Ave., # 3A, in Minneapolis.

These movies are scheduled every Wednesday following Chapter 27’s general meeting on the second Sunday of each month.

# The War Criminal Support Network

by Mike Madden

Among the largest and most energetic protests of the past year was that of Condoleezza Rice's appearance at the University of Minnesota on April 17th. She was the Humphrey School's selection as the distinguished lecturer in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

The protest focused on Dr. Rice's promotion of the illegal invasion of Iraq and her authorization of torture. As it was being organized, and the case was made for rescinding her invitation, the institutional/media network supporting her rehabilitation came into full view. The war criminal support network would simultaneously do public relations work for her while denigrating her critics and misrepresenting their views.

The public relations campaign was rolled out immediately with the announcement of the Northrop event. While presenting a speaker's resume is expected and appropriate, this announcement strayed well beyond that line and into rehabilitation without accountability. It proclaimed: "Her great love of America and her faith in its core values are the foundational strength of her presentations regarding foreign policy, education, and the empowerment of women."

Only by omitting reference to her considerable contributions to an act of military aggression and America's descent into torture could the University laud her faith in America's core values.

Critics of Rice's appearance were clear that it was her actions, not her speech, that was objectionable, and that a person credibly accused of war crimes should not be bestowed with the honor of 'distinguished lecturer.' They further argued that she lacked academic credentials to speak to the issue of civil rights and that, throughout her career, she has held views outside those of the mainstream American Civil Rights movement. Many of her critics emphasized that she would be welcome on campus to address those issues central to her legacy; torture and aggressive war. Minnesota Public Radio's Bob Collins was among the first "newsmen" to shape the rehabilitation strategy for the media arm of the war criminal support network.

In his March 28th NewsCut blog, he framed the effort

to dis-invite Rice, organized by Students for a Democratic Society, as one to "prevent you from hearing what she has to say." He characterized their effort as a "tantrum" and ridiculed their name as "some irony." He inexplicably cited the University of Michigan's dis-invitation of Alice Walker for her support of a boycott of Israel. Is there some comparison to be made? Does Alice Walker bear responsibility for hundreds of thousands of deaths in an unjust and unnecessary war. Were scores of detainees tortured to death under her watch? Has she committed any crime at all? There is agreement that speech should not be censored, but reprehensible and illegal conduct demands accountability, not veneration.

As objections to her appearance grew, University President Eric Kaler set forth the institutional narrative at the April 3rd meeting of the University Senate; to rescind the invitation would be a denial of free speech, academic

freedom, and the "boundless exchange of ideas." Absent from his speech was any mention of Rice's role in promoting the Iraq war and authorizing torture, or any explanation as to

why the exercise of free speech required the extension of an honored podium.

An April 16th staff editorial in the *Star Tribune* renewed the attacks on SDS and found it necessary to disparage dissenting faculty as they had recently published a statement in opposition to honoring Dr. Rice. Citing inspirational words from the University mission statement, they accused faculty of "flinch[ing] from that noble mission." They characterized faculty concerns as political in nature and their views as intolerant. Even though the statement made clear that faculty's objection was to Rice's violations of domestic and international law, and twice welcomed her to campus to speak to those issues, the *Strib* concluded that they just

Continued next page

## WORLD BEYOND WAR

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

[www.worldbeyondwar.org/speakers/](http://www.worldbeyondwar.org/speakers/)

## War criminal from page 10

wanted a speaker that they “agree with next time.”

Humphrey School Dean Eric Schwartz would also serve as moderator of the lecture. To get a sense of how Dr. Rice came to be invited, he was asked on March 28th, through his communications director, if the selection committee recognized that torture had occurred, or that the invasion of Iraq was an act of military aggression. His written response arrived on April 17th: “individuals at the Humphrey School may have views on this issue, but this is not an issue on which the Humphrey School, as an institution, would have a position.”

When he took the stage later that day to ask questions of Dr. Rice, he showed no inclination to press those issues. The most probing question he would ask was: “What was your most significant achievement and what issue would you most like to revisit?” “We stood for freedom,” she said. “We kept America safe.”

Mission accomplished for the war criminal support network.

## The Christmas Truce of 1914

by Steve McKeown

Near the end of the film *Beyond the Divide*, Vietnam veteran Dan Gallagher talked about following our better angels.

This is certainly what happened when the trenches on both sides were emptied Christmas Eve in 1914 in the “war to end wars,” WWI.

They met in no-man’s land between the barbed wire and celebrated. It is not too much to say that they were following their lesser angels when ordered back in the following days to resume the slaughter that eventually killed 10 million and wounded over 20 million.

Suppose the question were posed to any and everyone as to which angels they admire. I think the answer would be a self evident truth. To go further, which band of angels does any religious body claim to follow in singing: “Glory to God in the Highest”? This is a story that the whole world needs to hear.

### 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

## In Memoriam

### Mary Eoloff

by Florence Steichen

Mary Eoloff died about 9:30 a.m. Saturday, October 11. We all know she was ready to join Nick and other loved ones.

Mary lived nonviolence in her personal life, teaching others and in her prayer.

In conversations that bordered on debates about the Palestinians and Israelis, Mary was strong and clear, confident in her information without being confrontational.

She and her husband, Nick, adopted Israeli whistleblower, Mordechai Vanunu, while he was serving an 18 year sentence for leaking the news of Israel's nuclear weapons program. They visited him and were strong advocates for Mordechai during his imprisonment and after his release in 2004.

I was impressed by her presentations on "nonviolent resistance to personal assault." She also taught about conscientious objection and how to gain that status.

Mary worked against military recruitment in schools; and ROTC programs, especially in our Catholic schools, were troubling to her.

Mary was active in Pax Christi, the Catholic Peace Movement, and in Middle East Peace Now, among other groups.

Even with many interests, Mary's life was an integrated whole, rather than a fragmented one.

At the 8 a.m. Mass at Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mary consistently prayed that we will follow the nonviolent Jesus, and that's how she lived.

Well done, good and faithful servant; enter into the joy of your God. Another friend, Sister Kay O'Neill wrote: May she never rest in peace as she continues to advocate from heaven and motivate the rest of us to rest not in peace until there is peace.

## LIGHT RAIL ACCESS TO OUR OFFICE AND MAYDAY BOOKS

**The new Green Rail Line between Minneapolis and St. Paul now has a West Bank stop that is one block north of Mayday and two blocks from our office.**



# The bigger the haystack, the harder the terrorist is to find

by Coleen Rowley

The UK parliament's intelligence and security committee report this week into the murder of Lee Rigby described British intelligence and law enforcement agencies' multiple failures to prevent the terrible crime.

Rigby's killers together had figured in seven prior surveillance operations during the course of which officials learned that one of them had travelled to Kenya in an attempt to join the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabaab.

The shocking failures and bungling that ensued in the years the two men were tracked is, tellingly, chalked up to the "extreme pressure" brought on by the fact that at any one time, MI5 is investigating several thousand individuals suspected of links to Islamic extremist activities in Britain.

Yet this is a similar narrative to that which underpins many previous terrorist incidents.

In 2009, for instance, US officials failed to prevent army major and psychiatrist Nidal Hasan from shooting dead 13 and wounding 30 military personnel at Fort Hood, Texas, despite knowing that Hasan had written 20 emails to Anwar al-Awlaki, a Yemen-based imam known to have helped three of the 9/11 hijackers, and who later became the first American placed on the drone assassination "kill list". (Awlaki was subsequently summarily executed.) Another case only two "hops" out (within two degrees of separation) from the 9/11 attackers, if the dots had been connected, took place on Christmas Day 2009 when a Nigerian, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, boarded a flight to Detroit and ignited his "underwear bomb". Only the quick action of fellow passengers prevented the downing of the plane.

Again, evidence surfaced in the US and UK's massive data collections showing Abdulmutallab had been in contact with al-Awlaki, spent time in al-Qaida training camps, and there was even an urgent warning to CIA operatives at the Nigerian embassy from his own father. His name had been on a terrorist watch list of over 500,000 but none of this information prevented Abdulmutallab from nearly succeeding. (The same list is now reported to have doubled in size, containing about one million names.)

Another famous instance of "failure to connect the dots" occurred in 2013 when Russian intelligence agencies warned the US about one of the Tsarnaev brothers but the FBI bungled the Russian tip, doing little to prevent the

brothers from successfully planting a bomb at the finish of the Boston marathon.

Hindsight is always going to be 20-20. But, as an FBI whistleblower and witness for several US official inquiries into 9/11 intelligence failures, I fear that terrorists will succeed in carrying out future attacks – not despite the massive collect-it-all, dragnet approach to intelligence implemented since 9/11, but because of it. This approach has made terrorist activity more difficult to spot and prevent.

Almost no one now remembers the typical response of counter-terrorism agency officials when asked why, in the spring and summer of 2001 in the lead-up to 9/11, they had failed to read and share intelligence or take action when "the system was blinking red" (the actual title of chapter eight of the US's 9/11 commission's report) and when the US direc-

tor of central intelligence and other counter-terrorism chiefs were said to have had "their hair on fire".

The common refrain back then was that, pre 9/11, intelligence had been flowing so fast and furiously, it was like a fire hose, "and you can't get a sip from a fire hose". Intelligence such as the Phoenix memo – which warned in July 2001 that terrorist suspects had been in flight schools and urgently requested further investigation – went unread.

Although "can't get a sip" was a somewhat honest excuse, it was undercut when the Bush administration, days after the attacks, secretly turned on their illegal "Presidential Surveillance Program" to collect more, by a factor of thousands, of the communications of innocent American citizens, as well as those of billions of people around the globe.

So the "fire hose" turned into a tsunami of non-relevant data, flooding databases and watch lists. The CIA had only about 16 names on its terrorist watch list back in September 2001 and probably most were justified, but there's no way the million names reportedly now on the "terrorist identities datamart environment" list can be very accurate. The decision to elevate quantity over quality did nothing to increase accuracy, unblock intelligence stovepipes or prevent terrorist attacks.

In fact, years ago a study commissioned by Homeland Security and conducted by the National Academy of Sciences found that no existing computer program was able

**Haystack, Continued next page**

*Governments rely on costly "security theatre" – the practice of investing in countermeasures to provide the feeling of improved security while doing little or nothing to actually achieve it.*

## Great year, from page 2

Paul's Como Park High School on the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

On Armistice Day, we rang bells at 11 a.m. near the Capitol, then later at Sisters of Carondelet where Larry Johnson was the keynote speaker. Also that evening other chapter members rang bells at the Armistice Day event at Brit's Pub, where I explained why we ring bells, and Michael Orange read from his Vietnam memoir, *Fire in the Hole; A Mortarman's Year in Vietnam*.

We also travelled to Hammond, Wisconsin, where we were warmly received at a veterans art show. Steve McKeown explained why we ring the bells and together we rang the bells hand-cast by Bruce Berry and Stephen Gates.

At the annual School of the America's protest held at the gates of Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia, we rang bells from the stage in solidarity with our fellow VFPer, Father Roy Bourgeois.

When the Native American community protested the racist mascot of the football team from Washington, we marched with them to the stadium with our flags flying.



*VFP members on their October retreat near Two Harbors.*

Many of us participated in a panel following the Frank Theater's powerful play, *Grounded*, about a female drone pilot in Nevada's Creech Air Force base.

Arts, education, and action, and often times all three at once. What a year we have had! Peace be with you and keep on truckin'.

## Haystack, from previous page

to distinguish the real terrorists – those who would go on to commit violent acts – from all the “false positives”.

This was corroborated when NSA director Keith Alexander and others, under great pressure to justify their (illegal) “bulk” collection of metadata, pressed underlings to produce 54 examples to prove that “total information awareness” type collection “worked” to identify and stop real terrorism, only to have the proffered NSA examples fall apart under scrutiny, leaving only one flimsy case of a taxi driver in San Diego who had donated a few thousand dollars to al-Shabab-connected Somalians.

Governments rely on costly “security theatre” – the practice of investing in countermeasures to provide the feeling of improved security while doing little or nothing to actually achieve it. But it seems to do more to dupe fearful taxpayers into believing that massive, unwieldy “intelligence” systems will protect them, than to intimidate would-be attackers or reduce terrorist organisation recruitment.

After Edward Snowden described just how massive and

irrelevant the US and UK monitoring had become, people started to grasp the significance of the saying: “If you're looking for a needle in a haystack, how does it help to add hay?”

The fearful citizen may not realise how difficult it is to search and analyse content due to sheer volume. They want to believe in the magic of data-mining to somehow predict future criminal behaviour. If only more contractors are hired and more money is spent to increase monitoring, if only laws can be passed forcing internet companies to constantly surveil every post and kitten image, coded and uncoded, in a multitude of languages, for signs of danger, the Orwellian argument goes, we will find the enemies.

But the real purpose in the egregiously stupid push to assign Facebook the fool's errand of monitoring everything seems to be to spread the blame. Leaving aside the privacy implications, what people need to grasp is that this is the kind of security thinking that doesn't just fail to protect us, it makes us less safe.

## EVENTS CALENDAR

### ONGOING EVENTS

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

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

### OTHER EVENTS

Dec. 17-21, *All Is Calm: The Christmas Truce of 1914*, Pantages Theater, 710 Hennepin Ave., Mpls. FFI : 855-705-7413.

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)

## Winter reading suggestions from the newsletter committee

Joan Johnson: *Shock Waves: A Practical Guide to Living with a Loved One's PTSD* by Cynthia Orange; *People's History of the United States* by Howard Zinn; and *The Help* by Kathryn Stockett.

Steve McKeown: *This I Believe and Other Essays* by E.F. Schumacher author of *Small is Beautiful*; *When the World Outlawed War* by David Swanson; *The Last Farmer* by Howard Kohn about his father who I took my Dad to meet in Michigan. Kohn also wrote *Who Killed Karen Silkwood?*

Chante Wolf: *My Name Is Chellis and I'm in Recovery from Western Civilization* by Chellis Glandinning; *Start Where You Are: A Guide to Compassionate Living* by Pema Chodron; and *I Have a Dream: Writings and Speeches That Changed The World* by Martin Luther King, Jr.

Frank Fuller: *Pay Any Price; Greed, Power and Endless War* by James Risen; *One of ours* by Willa Cather.

## Drones killed over 1100 in attempts to kill 41

by Frank Fuller

In a study just released, the British human rights group Reprieve says that U.S. attempts to kill 41 terrorists with drone strikes in Pakistan and Yemen killed as many as 1147 others, including 142 children in Pakistan.

The organization sifted through reports of those killed who were on the U.S. Kill List and found 41 who were targeted as many seven times. By going through newspaper reports of these attacks, they determined how many others were killed in each drone attacks.

They also found that seven of the 41 "are likely still alive and a further individual died not from drone strikes but rather natural causes."

The report goes on to say: "While the U.S. refuses to say who is on the Kill List, a look at the reporting around drone strikes gives the names of dozens of individuals who have been targeted or reported killed once, only to be targeted again, and again, and again. . . . some of them as many as seven times."

FFI go to [reprieve.org](http://reprieve.org).

## Canoe winner

by Greg Hagen

The winner of the 2014 canoe raffle was Charles Mackey of Robbinsdale.

He purchased the winning ticket from our table at Grand Old Days. Charles was very excited when we notified him that he had won the canoe.

We delivered it shortly after the drawing in September and he told us that he would be taking it out for a test ride along with his wife and his aging black lab.

Charles also mentioned that one of the reasons he purchased the ticket from us was that his father was a WWII veteran.

### NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL

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



# Military Sexual Trauma (MST) During Perpetual War IS a War Crime

by Chante Wolf

According to her book, *Ideologies of Forgetting: Rape in the Vietnam War*, Gina Marie Weaver points out that, “the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda “articulated a broad, progressive definition of rape, defining it as a ‘physical invasion of a sexual nature, committed on a person under circumstances which are coercive’” and declared that rape does constitute torture and is therefore a war crime. Following this new designation of rape as torture, the first successful international conviction of soldiers (three Bosnian Serbs) for the crime of rape finally occurred in 2001.

In his book, *On Killing: The Psychological Cost of Learning to Kill in War and Society*, Lt. Col. Dave Grossman points out that, “In rape the psychological harm usually far exceeds the physical injury. The trauma of rape, like that of combat, involves minimal fear of death or injury; far more damaging is the impotence, shock, and horror in being so hated and despised as to be debased and abused by a fellow human being.”

He continues, “Those who command atrocities are powerfully bonded by guilt to those who commit atrocities, and to their cause, since only the success of their cause can ensure that they will not have to answer for their actions.”

That sexual violence, rather “sexual torture,” is growing within our military ranks, is a worrisome sign that the institution as a whole is very deeply broken at the nucleus. In

addition, this criminal behavior is costing American taxpayers deeply and indefinitely. And lastly and most importantly, the fact that our country is in a state of perpetual warfare makes ALL incidents -- female or male of Military Sexual Trauma (MST). Torture = war crimes.

As women veterans in Minnesota and across the nation work hard with congressional representatives to remove the investigative and judicial power from the military command level, it is important for us to know that our communities are behind us. No matter how hard it may be for American civilians to understand, MST is at epidemic levels in the U.S. Military. For the last three years alone, the rate of MST has increased an average of 50 percent each year, with the number of reported sexual assaults being over 5,500 for 2013 alone. What it does to the quality of life for the victims is lifelong and has no place in our military, country, or communities, period.

I do hope members of our Minnesota communities will support women veterans in the struggle to remove investigative and judiciary power from commanders, and that the Dept. of Defense begins to understand that rape during wartime is torture and is considered a war crime, and that they be charged thus forward. Of course I do not need to say that rape is a crime to begin with, but the point I feel that gives it more severity as it is, is when it is considered a war crime.

## Pope rejects nuclear weapons

As we went to Press, Pope Francis called for nuclear disarmament.

He renounced the Catholic Church’s conditional acceptance of the policy of deterrence and declared, through the apostolic nuncio, “We go back to the position that the possession and use of nuclear weapons is not at all acceptable,” in a message to the Vienna Conference on the Humanitarian Impact on Nuclear Weapons on Monday, December 8, 2014.

## Some of the Costs of U.S. Military Action

**Every hour, Americans pay \$312,500 for Cost of Military Action Against ISIS.**

**Every hour, we pay \$10.17 million for Cost of War in Afghanistan.**

**Every hour, taxpayers in the United States are paying \$365,297 for Cost of War in Iraq.**

**The Total Cost of Wars Since 2001 as of 12/8/2014 adds up to \$1.5 trillion.**

(from National Priorities Project at [nationalpriorities.org](http://nationalpriorities.org))



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. 1, 2014:

At least 4,493 dead in Iraq and  
2,353 combat deaths in Afghanistan.

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

### Lyrics of Theme Song for movie soundtrack from *Beyond the Divide*

*(Written and sung by Chris Koza during the credits, See review on page 8.)*

way up there you can see it  
standing in the mountain air  
looking down on everywhere  
dividing a town in two  
and somewhere on the road less traveled  
where we met  
I saw something in you despite the differences  
beyond the divide  
we're the same kind  
I stumbled through the missteps  
searching for a better way  
everyone has something they need to

say  
and the view gets pretty grey  
I thought I'd never see them the way  
they must have seen themselves  
waiting on an empty well  
ringing like a broken bell  
and I've been waiting for this moment  
to arrive  
to see the enemy and who they are  
inside  
slowly to realize that through these  
wretched miles  
we meet together in the fog of denial  
beyond the divide  
we're the same kind