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VETERANS FOR PEACE NEWS

MINNEAPOLIS/ST. PAUL VETERANS FOR PEACE, CHAPTER 27

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

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

We pledge to use democratic and non-violent means to achieve our purpose.

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

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

Or e-mail:
vfpchapter27@gmail.com

Our website is:
www.vfpchapter27.org.

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

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

(Potter & Lambert)



all photos by Ellen Davidson

Chicago National Convention on "Education, Not Militarization"

by Ron Staff

Education; Not Militarization is a mouthful, but you can work it into a chant. At the Chicago convention, that happened the night a large portion of the attendees strolled down the avenue to the Trump building in protest of the violence in Charlottesville and the tweeter-in-chief's less-than-clear response. Among the public artifacts nearby is a three dimensional "real fake" metal sign within easy photo framing of the Trump building sign. One wonders if it is an accident in the windy city with its long labor history.

So with all the normal profound information didactically presented in the array of rooms off the elevator lobby on the sixth floor of the Palmer House and the opportune national events occurring at the same time, conventioners had something to engage their attention no matter which way they turned.

Chicago's Cpl. Joseph E. Powers VFP Chapter 26 production was both laid back and focused.

Many of the issues: Agent Orange, veteran homelessness, United Nations Nuclear Weapons Ban Treaty, terminating torture, resisting drone use, celebrating Japanese VFP, Iraq Veterans For Peace - about face report, GI rights and the economic draft, climate concerns, attention to Palestine and Israel, British VFP, Standing Rock, military rape culture, the tabling room. Some of the speakers: Paul Chappel, Andrew Lichterman, Rev. Lennox Yearwood, Tayyib Rashid, Rory Fanning, Ellen Davidson, Ray McGovern, Daniel Lenham, Rick Jahnkow, Monique Salhab and Col. Lawrence Wilderson's Banquet stimulator talk. There were many other speakers. Then the final concert with Jackson Browne who donated more than \$50,000 for our

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Notes from the President

by Dave Logsdon

“Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.”

-Martin Luther King

Easier said than done, but what is the alternative? So I sit in front of this little computer screen, this portal of communication, trying in some small way to serve the cause of a more peaceful tomorrow. We must all remember that we cannot save the world by ourselves, we need to do our best to heal ourselves and then to leverage whatever skill set we have to facilitate healing to all those around us. At Veterans For Peace we have an exciting and unique opportunity to amplify our voices. Thanks to the hard work of the staff of this newsletter we can do this.

“Imagination is more important than knowledge.”

-Albert Einstein

I just got back from the Veterans For Peace convention in Chicago and my head is exploding with ideas and images. We had a strong contingent from Minnesota in attendance. We will be hosting the convention next year (2018) in downtown St. Paul and we are figuring out what works and, especially, what doesn't work. I am very excited about the Executive Board of the National Veterans For Peace. The strong representation from a strong, young, and diverse group. Their energy and perspective is critical for our organization going forward. We are an all-volunteer group locally and we have lot going on. Our website is starting to shape up, the mobile peace center (the bus) is painted and rolling, and the opportunities to promote our message have never been better or more necessary.

“If my thought-dreams could be seen, they'd probably put my head in a guillotine.”

-Bob Dylan

The Harold and Louise Nielsen Peace Center is moving along (literally). The exterior lettering is complete and the mechanical work to make it road worthy has been done. The interior design is the next step. Craig Wood, Steve McKeown, Mike McDonald, and Doug Drews have put a ton of sweat equity into this thing already. Thank you gentlemen. We have driven it to Peacestock, the Art Car Parade, driven folks from the Democracy Conference to the Lake Harriet Peace Garden for the Hiroshima/Nagasaki Ceremony, and other events. Once the interior is finished, we can strategize for future events. The vision is to bring our message to the people and promote peace and under-

standing as well as grow our brand. It's been a long, convoluted, democratic process (believe me; democracy is messy), but the bus is a reality and we are under budget!

and in conclusion...

We ain't perfect, but we are doing our best. “Good” is often held hostage by “perfect,” yet we muddle through. We have a wonderful mix of veterans, some combat vets, some non-combat vets and, of course, our extremely valuable associate members! I'm so proud to be working along side all of these folks. They put up with my “unique” leadership style which is summed up in this quote from Jack Kerouac; “I have nothing to offer anyone except my own confusion”. Tune into the Veterans For Peace Hour, October 8th (10 AM) on KFAI 90.3 FM for a sample of that confusion!

Nuclear petition update

by Steve McKeown

With the willingness to use first strike nuclear weapons the United States policy of nuclear deterrence denies its own validity as a working solution. But the U.S. notion of deterrence is more rightly stated as one of dominance. There has been no exception to this since we dropped the first atomic bomb in 1945. This dominance has now extended into space, as was so well expressed by Bruce Gagnon from the Global Network against Weapons and Nuclear power in Space at the Peacestock gathering in Red Wing.

On July 7 this year, a historic agreement by 122 nations was put forward to not only end this dominance, but to banish nuclear weapons from the face of the earth. The End War Committee from WAMM initiated a petition drive that VFP and others from around the state of Minnesota have joined to call on our local Congress members and Senators to work towards. This includes our meeting with all of them. We have had preliminary discussions with the staff of Senators Franken and Klobachar and are in the process of setting up meetings with the rest.

As we go to press, we have 6,000 signatures from 244 cities and towns in Minnesota. Please help with this effort by contacting WAMM at 612 823 6547 or VFP 612 821 9141.

Convention, from page 1



national VFP efforts from that awesome, final evening.

Wednesday ended with “Beyond the Divide” after the poetry reading, Thursday concluded with the film, “A Bold Peace,” Friday’s wrap-up with Power To Peace Festival at



Jackson Browne.

the Vic Theater, a few blocks away was a resonant wandering through the fields of peace work. On Saturday, following Col. Wilkerson’s call for more choices, yielded that walk in protest and concluded with the film “Peace Has No Borders.” Sunday’s police-accompanied walk to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on the river left time to relax before Jackson Browne’s Benefit concert.

Education led at every turn and helps in finding peace at the core of the intersection with our present moment. Being prepared. Trained. Calmed into seeing the complex picture presented by all that is human, can open one’s senses to a clear vision of what is.

Is the current government-encouraged health insurance system really just a form of feudal health serfdom to the company? Does a statue preserve history or distort it? Do our secret organs of governance help quell conflict or create it? How has blowback been portrayed, without including refugees? Do terrorists arise from bombing the poor? Are wars for peace or profit?

Do we really ask too many questions? Or not enough? Think about it.

It's fall: time to spring into action

by Larry Johnson

The Nobel Peace Prize Forum will take place September 15 - 16. We will be doing a session September 16, with MN Alliance of Peacemakers, re-energizing this year's third annual LESLIE REINDL PEACE ESSAY CONTEST. We will encourage students in grades 9-12 to participate in an ACTION of their choosing or creation and then write about it in such a way that readers are inspired to do the same. We will also be mobilizing a "speaker's bureau" of peace activists, willing to speak to young people to inspire participation in this effort. WATCH FOR THE FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT SEPTEMBER 21, AND SIGN ON AS A SPEAKER at larryjvfp@gmail.com. Go to www.nobelpeaceprizeforum.org to register for the forum.

September 19 at Cedarhurst Mansion in Inver Grove Heights. Dick Bernard referred us to this stately mansion, now an Event Center. Their website, www.cedarhurstmansion.com, proudly proclaims the original residents as friends of Frank Kellogg and that the first draft of the Kellogg-Briand Pact was written in the house. On September 19, Steve, Dave Logsdon, and I are taking the tour to consider possibilities for future events, including the August 2018 National VFP Convention, locked in here by Wayne Wittman, to honor the 90th anniversary of the signing of the Kellogg-Briand Pact.

International Peace Day, September 21, at Carleton College in Northfield. We will have a strong presence in the 6:30 program, at the college where Paul Wellstone once taught, and where Al Montero currently teaches in the professorship endowed by Frank Kellogg to keep alive the legacy of the outlawing war. We will formally announce the PEACE ESSAY CONTEST, then RING BELLS OF PEACE before presenting the college with a Kellogg-Briand Pact banner. Incidentally, when Steve McKeown and I went to meet with Professor Montero, we were greeted with a sign reading THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD, AND A WHOLE LOT EASIER TO WRITE WITH.

Minnesota Remembers Vietnam. We are listed as partners with several institutions applying for community engagement grants in a Humanities Center/TPT partnership to create dialogue around the Ken Burns/Lynn Novick VIETNAM documentary. Whether or not we end up in a

grant-funded program, we should plan to SPEAK OUT. The way to start is to watch the 18-hour series and make sure the story is told honestly and accurately. When we did World Storytelling Day 2015 as SEVEN STORIES I WISH THEY'D TELL ABOUT THE WAR IN VIETNAM, I deliberately read the Tom Brokaw book about the 60s. I then wrote, "Brokaw's bestseller says his friend Les Gelb worked on what came to be known as the Pentagon Papers. It doesn't say what they were, and Daniel Ellsberg is never mentioned. The book virtually ignores such things as Gulf of Tonkin, Kent State, My Lai, draft card burning, Fulbright Hearings, rape in Vietnam, homeless veterans, and the travesty of Agent Orange." I don't know what the Burns documentary is like, but it airs in 10 parts beginning at 7 p.m. Sunday-Thursday, Sept 17-21 and Sept 24-28. I plan to watch, with mighty pen in hand, looking for what might be left out. The most effective way to mislead people is TO TELL THE TRUTH, BUT LEAVE OUT SIGNIFICANT PARTS OF THE STORY. I'm not saying they did that. I'm just saying that if they did, most people will just be in awe at how wonderful the documentary is. Our job is to provide the missing pieces for those who are trained to just be in awe of how wonderful the expensively produced stories are.

SNAP, CRACKLE, AND STOP, October 1 at 6 p.m. at the Black Dog Café. This is the show Gerald Ganann, Steve Gates, and I are doing to raise money for the 2018 PEACE ESSAY SCHOLARSHIPS. See flyer on page 10 and plan to come and bring all your money.

Soldiers: Know Your Rights

To Soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan:

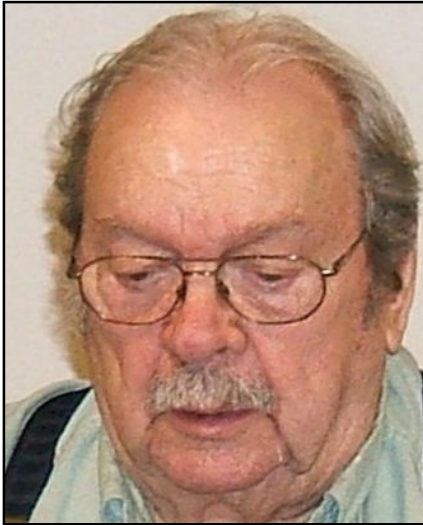
You took an oath to uphold the
Constitution, not to support policies
that are illegal. The GI Hotline phone
number is:

1-800-394-9544

In memoriam Tom Dooley

by Ron Staff

Thomas Dooley, known to all as Tom, died on July 4th. He was 91. When he was six months old his mother had died on the July 4. The holiday has gained enrichment with these two simple facts.



He had been trained as a bomber gunner during World War II but the war ended before he got into it. As a veteran, he had learned enough to be fertile ground when the American War in Vietnam began. He took to opposing it with a certain ease, which accompanied the rest of his widen-

ing understanding of corporate governance. His "Dear Fellow Commodity" greeting to many in his wide circle of friends saved them the trouble of looking to see who was writing the rest of the message.

Such habits endeared him to all who knew him.

Tom grew up around Loring Park, was an altar boy at the Basilica and experienced the Father Coughlin transition. He worked as a traveling salesman for Admiral appliances and then worked for the Minnesota Highway Department until retirement. He married and they had five children, Mary Kay, Kevin, JoAnne, Terry and Todd, all of whom live in the metro area with his five grandchildren.

His daughter, Mary Kay Edwards said, "(He) didn't serve overseas, and he was still opposed to war."

Twenty years after his active service, he protested the war in Vietnam while living in Blaine, not exactly a hot bed of activism. His reading always led him on and he did whatever he could to promote other's reading habits. He volunteered at whatever MayDay Bookstore tabling event was not otherwise covered.

Conversation was his specialty. Not many people pay attention to this skill he produced without hesitation. Listening after he had asked his first open-ended question gave him the next question, following his expansion on the answer. Everyone who spoke to him came away feeling

heard and understood. The continued hunt for the truth out beyond them both enriched them; expanding their enjoyment.

For Tom this was the heart of life's joy and he revelled in it at any and all opportunities.

Writing for the the *New Unionist* paper and this newsletter displayed his wry humor, his wide reading and clearly stated beliefs. Putting things right out in the public eye brought him lots of the interactions he enjoyed. His "This War Business" column always presented at least one fact, which could ignite a whole chain of incriminating understandings; new to most readers and designed to peak interest.

Lives lived in such a manner are gratifying to the end.

15th Northfield Community Celebration of the INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Thursday, Sept. 21, 2017 6:30 - 9:00 pm
Larson Family Room, Weitz Center, Carleton College

6:30 Reception and refreshments, welcome
and commemoration, Veterans for Peace and
Arts Peace Award

7:00 Program with music performances:
Taiko Drumming, Aztec Dancers, Nordic
Musicians, poetry and open mic

Supporting this year's theme, "Together for Peace Respect,
Safety, Dignity for All," the program continues to present
"The 17 Sustainable Building Blocks for Peace." Other topics
include "The UN Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear
Weapons," signed so far by 122 countries.

Hosted by the UN Stassen Fund of Carleton College via the
Political Science Dept & supported by peace & justice
groups in Northfield, the Northfield Human Rights
Commission, the Healthy Community Initiative, Northfield
Arts Guild, The Key, Northfield Youth for Social Justice & the
City Council. This event is free and open to the public.

We are bringing the VFP bus!

What should Hiroshima mean today?



Hiroshima Peace Memorial Park

by Hiromi Mizuno, Associate Professor of History,
Univ. of Minnesota, with Takashi Mizuno

I just came back from the annual Hiroshima Peace Memorial Ceremony of August 6. The hot, humid August day was tough on my aging body, but the City of Hiroshima decided to play my music piece 'Welcome to This City' for the ceremony, and I wanted to be there. It's been 30 years. I used to report the ceremony from the privileged seats reserved for media staff. This time I stood with the rest of 50,000 people at the epicenter. Except for the one-minute silent prayer at 8:15 a.m., which is always solemn, the ceremony felt hollow, to be honest. Prime Minister Abe Shinzō spoke of peace. Isn't he the one who wants Japan to have nuclear weapons like North Korea? Applause was sparse after his speech; it seems I was not the only one who was annoyed.

That is what my father Takashi Mizuno wrote to me after his trip to Hiroshima earlier this month.

This is an extremely precarious time for Asia, with hawkish Prime Minister Abe staying in power despite all the scandals, President Trump agitating numerous countries to beef up their militaries, and North Korea, the Philippines, and China challenging the status quo to the face of the U.S.

The Cold War continues to etch Asia's map, while WWII memories and issues are abused by post-Cold War politics of nationalism and militarization. At this precarious time, what does Hiroshima mean?

When the atomic bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, my father was in the second grade at the elementary school in Shimane, an adjacent prefecture to Hiroshima. In his remote, mountainous village, he did not experience any air raids and he knew little of Hiroshima. His wartime childhood consisted of teachers telling children to go home from school hurriedly, not to play outside, and not to wear white shirts to avoid American planes spotting them. They could hardly study. Their homework was catching grasshoppers, which were edible. The teacher collected them as food for soldiers.

The morning assembly was the most painful, my father says. Children recited the Imperial Script toward Emperor Hirohito's photo next to the school principal in formal black; children quietly chuckled at the Script's strange-sounding words, only to be harshly reprimanded by the teachers. Many villagers had family members who died on the front lines or came back with dysfunctional bodies and mind. My father lost his baby sister, barely two years old, in

Hiroshima, Continued on page 8

Hiroshima / Nagasaki Commemoration

by Joan Johnson

David Swanson shared some compelling insights with a group of about 80 of us who came out in the early morning of August 6th at Lyndale Park Peace Garden. Having spoken before very large assemblies and prominent people in the past, he said, “Here you are asking me to speak to hundreds of thousands of ghosts and billions of ghosts in waiting; to think about this subject wisely, we must keep all of them in mind, as well as those who tried to prevent Hiroshima and Nagasaki, those who survived, those who reported, those who forced themselves to remember over and over in order to educate others.”

My husband Steve, along with other VFP members, had been a docent at the Landmark Center’s “Hiroshima Nagasaki” Exhibit a couple years ago. I will never forget the photographs, the essays, the maps that showed where bombs landed, the graphic descriptions of carnage, the artwork, the poetry, the taped recordings and mementos depicting the post-bomb tragedy caused by our government, supported by our tax dollars. This museum display made it more “real” to me than anything else I had ever witnessed before. The stories of destruction and immense suffering, but also of immense courage, perseverance, and sacrifice — it all made a huge impact on me. I wish our leaders today could experience this exhibit the way I did.

David spoke of the folks responsible for these horrors: “Nice people. Decent people. People superficially similar to you. People who do not abuse their children or their pets. People perhaps like the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet who was asked last week if he would launch a nuclear attack on China if President Trump ordered him to. His response was a very principled and reasonable ‘yes,’ he

would obey orders.” David went on to say, “If people don’t obey orders, the world falls apart. Therefore one must obey orders, even when they rip the world apart — even illegal orders, orders that violate the UN Charter, orders that ignore the Kellogg-Briand Pact (outlawing war), orders that annihilate forever all existence or memory of every beautiful childhood memory and every child.”

Our Chapter 27 members rang bells 11 times in remembrance of the Armistice signed after World War I. This was followed by a time of silent reflection, thinking about the victims of the nuclear bombs dropped on Japan in 1945.

Renee Weeks-Wynne’s opening lines brought tears to my eyes as she re-told the story of Sadako Sasaki and the Thousand Cranes. After describing the beauty, the purpose, the sustenance of “Light” in the world, she went on to describe this new “Light” — this man-made one: “On that day, the Light was not beautiful or true; people who looked into this Light became blind, people within it or near it were scorched; many hundreds of thousands lost their lives; others were maimed for the rest of their earthly lives; much turmoil, tragedy and devastation resulted.”

This truly was the Light of Destruction and Death. On August 6, 1945, Sadako had been only two years old when the atomic bomb was dropped on her city, Hiroshima. She later died of leukemia, fallout from the effects of the bomb’s radioactive carnage. Her story lives on because of her will to persevere in the face of much pain and suffering. Not wanting to die, she was determined to fold 1,000 paper cranes. She wanted to prove to the world that she could beat the odds, and that peace was possible, that this kind of devastation and resulting illness never had to happen again to



Three young girls from Nagasaki singing songs of peace.

Commemoration, Continued on page 9

Hiroshima, from page 6

front of everyone's eyes, to an illness that would have been easily treated, had there been medicine — medicine that was readily available in Japan before the war.

My father moved to Hiroshima in 1956 to attend a university there. Scars from the bomb were still everywhere. Streetcars zigzagged to avoid destroyed buildings and blocks. He bathed with people with heavy keloids in the bathhouse every day. For a decade, Hiroshima was a taboo. The U.S. Occupation censored public discussions of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and the Japanese, fearful of A-bomb survivors, kept them at a distance and in silence. It was the irradiation of the Japanese fishing boat Lucky Dragon No. 5 from the American nuclear testing on Bikini Atoll in 1954 that angered the Japanese and lifted the taboo off of Hiroshima. My father joined the leftist study group on campus, which introduced him to many A-bomb victims. (Nobel Prize laureate Kenzaburo Oe's *Hiroshima Notes* is a good place to learn the politics behind this.)

After obtaining a Master's in philosophy, my father became a producer at a major Hiroshima broadcasting company and made programs with Japanese A-bomb victims in Hiroshima, Los Angeles, and the Dominican Republic (yes, they migrated far), anti-nuclear weapons activists, and the second-generation A-bomb victims. He has planted the aogiri trees globally. A music composer in his private life, he has contributed many songs to the cause.

He has been in the non-nuclear weapons movement for 60 years. Yet, the world remains full of nuclear weapons. More countries want nuclear weapons. Japan has gradually loosened up the restriction on the use of the Self Defense Forces, yielding to the pressure from conservatives and the U.S.

"It is demoralizing, to be honest," my father says. "What keeps me going is my memory of now-deceased A-bomb victims and thoughts for grandchildren whose future I feel responsible for."

When I moved from Hiroshima to Osaka for college, my experience was the opposite of my father's. Hiroshima disappeared from my awareness. I was shocked that, on my first August 6 in Osaka, people did not stop for a silent prayer at 8:15 a.m. This mega city—and the rest of Japan—simply kept going. This was not because people did not care; the early 1990s was a high point of progressive politics, with all the major high school history textbooks including subjects like the Nanjing Massacre and the Comfort Women, and the socialist prime minister officially apologizing to Asian neighbors for Japan's wartime aggressions.

You see, Hiroshima is a concept for those outside of the city, no matter how powerful. Caring about the concept

from afar is surely important but not enough. It is different from really sharing the anger and sadness that is etched deep into the daily lives of effected people, which the readers of this publican know very well.

This is why those who experienced it need to speak, loudly. This is why I, like many peace activists there, am deeply concerned with Japan after my father's generation is gone.

Lisa Yoneyama, professor at the University of Toronto, has examined the complex memory politics behind how Hiroshima was transformed from the site of war to that of peace. Scholars have also investigated how Japan came to embrace nuclear power despite Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Political ambitions, bribes, business interest, pressure from the U.S., all played the tune of "prosperity" and "progress." Fukushima reminded everyone in Japan (and the world) that the peaceful use of atoms is as irradiating as nuclear weapons. While the International Court of Justice rejected Marshall Islanders' contention against nuclear-possessing countries' failing to fulfill the nuclear disarmament agreement, North Korea's current agitation is leading some, both in Japan and the U.S., to support Japan's potential nuclear arms development. This is indeed a precarious time for Japan, Asia, and the world. **We really need to ask what Hiroshima should mean to the world, more than ever.**

VFP members in the news

by Steve McKeown

Former chapter President Larry Johnson had an excellent letter to the editor printed on Sun. Aug. 6th in the *Tribune* about arms merchants and war profiteering. Red Wing Chapter President Bill Habedank also had a letter published titled "Ban the Bomb" in the *Red Wing Republican Eagle* on Aug. 12. Chapter member Mike Madden was featured as the cover story in *City Pages* Aug. 9 and in the *St. Paul Pioneer Press* in a column written by Ruben Rosario on Aug. 7. Mike has been charged with misdemeanor trespass at the airport while he was peacefully holding a sign welcoming Muslims. Many of us from our chapter were at the overfilled courtroom in his support at a pretrial, which as we go to press is still to be decided on whether the judge will drop the charges or proceed with the ludicrous charges.

Commemoration, from page 7

anyone else.

Three young girls from Nagasaki sang songs of peace in Japanese. We were blessed by their presence, and we could feel the common bonds of peace and good will between our two countries, and the sense of urgency to never wage war again. As I looked into their faces, I could see Sadako. I imagined her singing with them, standing there in the midst of them, like the ghosts David spoke about. Sadako spoke to me through Renee's recounting of her story and through the songs of the "Nagasaki Singers."

The female duo Saturn Return Singers graced us with beautiful harmonies too, as they sang three different songs to inspire and motivate us. One line from their first song comes back to me again: "Keep me away from apathy while I am still awake."

As our group moved across the gardens to the Peace Bridge area, we sang a refrain with them: "This is our cry,

This is our prayer, Peace in the world." On the walk, we could pick up Haiku poem cards from stations along the way. Mine read "cicadas chirping / for the very last time / atomic explosion."

I think of crickets chirping in the back yard, the neighbor's dog whining for me to pet her, the neighbor kids asking to play or pick raspberries, all of the unique bird calls I hold dear, the phone calls from my mother, sister, brother or nieces, or my husband calling me to come witness another gorgeous brilliant orange summer sunset. Can I imagine all of these calls "for the very last time"? This is what happens when there is nuclear war.

Many thanks to the program participants and especially JoAnne Blatchley, who coordinated and emceed the event.

Kellogg Briand Goes To The Farmer's Market

by Craig Wood

Penelope Gardner and I were the first ones to show up at the Black Dog Cafe on the morning of Aug. 5th to distribute flyers about the Kellogg-Briand Pact, Minnesota's pledge to end war.

It wasn't long before Chapter 27 members Larry Johnson, Vern Hall and Steve McKeown drifted in. We were soon joined by a handful of visitors from out of town who were speaking and conducting workshops at the third annual Democracy Convention in Minneapolis.

Between a lot of informative and pleasant conversations, we passed out 500 flyers in less than two hours. Most who received our handouts didn't know Frank Kellogg was Minnesota's only Nobel Peace Prize winner even though Kellogg Blvd is only a block from the farmer's market. Those who attended Kellogg High School of course knew who he was and were quick to flash a smile and let us know that they were not going to be stumped on a pop quiz about Frank Kellogg. Almost everyone else seemed pleasantly surprised and even curious.

It was interesting talking with author Pat Elder from Washington D.C. about counter-recruiting while flyering. He, Penelope and I used a little levity when greeting others — a disarming tactic to let them know we weren't insuffer-

able zealots. Elder mentioned that people in St. Paul are easier to approach on the sidewalk than D.C. — "so many ignore you back there and still can't break out of the mold of wearing traditional black suits."

After the flyers were gone, we had a little open-air meeting near the Black Dog Cafe. There were perhaps a dozen of us and Larry had a bit more to say about distributing KBP information. It's always continuing education when David Swanson is around, and Kathy Kelly helped maintain an interchange of jokes and stories with her Irish brogue. What can I say; it's always good to slap shoulders with Ed Flaherty, a dedicated VFP member and beefsteak of the Iowa City Chapter.

Blue sky, wonderful people, fresh vegetables — not a bad way to spend a Saturday morning.

ed. note: Scott Shapiro, a Yale Law Professor, was also there. Scott has written a book called The Internationalists, which was published on Aug. 27, the anniversary of the signing of the Kellogg Briand Pact. The book is about the history of the legality of war until the Kellogg Briand Pact became law, which established the basis for International Law and War Crimes. These days, this basis is very precarious, according to him.

SNAP, CRACKLE, AND STOP

A Benefit for MAP Peace Essay Scholarships

October 1, 6-8 p.m.

BLACK DOG CAFE in St. Paul

308 E. Prince St., near the Farmers Market and the Saints Stadium

www.blackdogstpaul.com

In 2016, three veterans, a storyteller, a musician, and a visual artist, did a show at Patrick's Cabaret, using great art like Caravaggio's *JUDITH AND HOLOFERNES*, to explore the question:
IS IT EVER RIGHT TO KILL TO STOP EVIL?

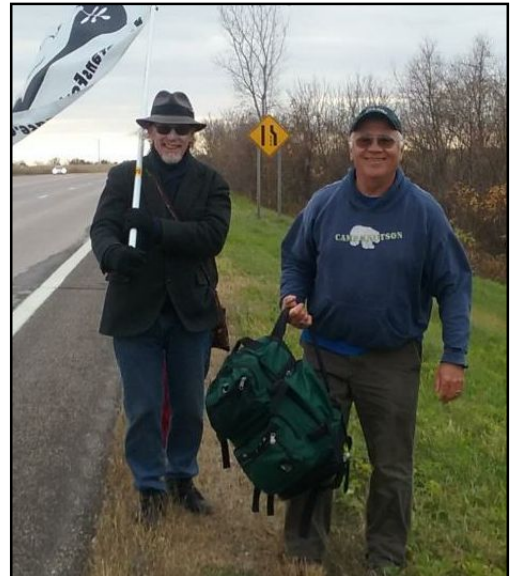
On October 1, *THE SEQUEL*, Gerald Ganann, Steve Gates, and Larry Johnson, will look artistically at nonviolent force to stop injustice. Each will use storytelling, music, and art. The audience decides which is the real storyteller, or musician, or artist.

The evening includes Armistice Bell Ringing by Veterans for Peace, as well as a cameo appearance by Steve McKeown, explaining why *KELLOGG BOULEVARD* has absolutely no connection to cereal that talks.

Contact larryjvfp@gmail.com to RSVP.
Come early for Happy Hour specials from 3-6!!



Gerald, working artistically under-cover, at an undisclosed location.



GATES AND LARRY on the Oct., 2016, BEATING WEAPONS INTO WINDMILLS WALK

SOAW 2017 Encuentro at the Border - November 10-12



Puppetistas from last year's Encuentro

by Mary McNellis

The SOAW (School of America Watch) movement began 28 years ago as a response to the people affected by the political, economic, and military U.S. intervention in Central America during the 1980s and 1990s. Sadly, the patterns of violence and forced migration established during the dirty wars of the 20th century have continued unabated. SOAW works to deepen our collective understanding of many systems of oppression – racism, colonialism, imperialism and capitalism. It denounces militarization in the U.S. and abroad and fights to restore the dignity of Black and Brown and Indigenous communities across the Americas.

After 26 years of history at the gates of Ft. Benning, last October SOAW held its first bi-national Encuentro at the militarized U.S./Mexico border of Nogales. Its mission is to challenge the racist status quo and push back against U.S. intervention in Latin America. As attention is called to the militarization of the border and Latin America, there is also a call for an end to state-sponsored terrorism and violence against communities inside the U.S. Similarly, the mobilization at the border in Nogales is one more way to fight for the closure of the School of the Americas/WHINSEC and an end to U.S. intervention in Latin America. The SOAW battle cry is: BASTA! ENOUGH!

This November 10-12, all are invited to Nogales for the second Border Encuentro: two stages – one on each side of

the border – but one program, one voice. Join human rights activists, torture survivors, union workers, veterans, community organizers, migrants, faith communities, students and educators from across the Americas in demanding:

- *An end to US economic, military and political intervention in Latin America;
- *Demilitarization and divestment of the borders;
- *An end to the racist systems of oppression that criminalize and kill migrants, refugees and communities of color;
- *Respect, dignity, justice and the right to self-determination of communities;
- *An end to Plan Merida & Alliance for Prosperity.

Tentative Schedule of Events:

Friday, November 10: Vigil at Eloy Detention Center, Welcome and Workshops in Tucson;

Saturday, November 11: Veteran-led march in Ambos Nogales, Workshops, Rally, Concert;

Sunday, November 12: Vigil in Ambos Nogales, Puppetistas and more!

Don't forget to bring your passport if you want to attend events on the Sonoran side of the border. For more info check out the SOAW website or call 202-710-2343 or 202-469-1696. Hope to see you at the border Nov. 10-12!

The peace index

\$300 million for Star Wars

by Frank Fuller

What a strange time. Nazis marching in the streets to stop a city from removing a statue of Robert E. Lee. Psychiatrists debating a professional rule prohibiting them from diagnosing the mental illness of people they haven't seen in person. They want to tell Americans that their president is mentally ill, but professional ethics are keeping them from doing that. About half of all Republicans think it would be OK to cancel the 2020 elections because they believe there is rampant voter fraud out there, even though it has been proven there isn't. And our president seems to think war with Venezuela would make good sense.

Amid all this, budget cuts continue. And as this newsletter is going to press, we don't know if the government will shut down because of spending cap limits and the inability of Congress to keep the government open. We also don't know if the government will default on its loans, which could cause major problems worldwide. So a look at the missile defense system might seem dated and unimportant when the newsletter comes out.

But spending on a missile defense system has surpassed \$300 billion over the last 30 years, and there is really nothing to show for it. No one seems sure if missiles will get through it or not, because tests are rigged to make it seem more accurate and functional than it is. So we might not learn what a boondoggle it is until our president does something else really stupid.

So what are we giving up when we spend \$300 billion (and counting) on a system that probably won't protect much of anything, except corporate profits?

Trump wants to **cut NIH funding** by 20 percent, or about \$5.8 billion. This would devastate scientific research, which has already seen its budget stagnate over the years as military spending has grown. On top of other cuts to medical and scientific research, America would be abandoning its position as a leader in scientific research. There are already indications that scientists are moving to other coun-

tries where scientific research is much better funded.

Trump also proposes to **cut the Teen Pregnancy Prevention Program**, which gives grants totaling \$89 million (a pittance compared to the defense budget) to fight teen pregnancy. For 25 years, teen pregnancy has been declining in the U.S. for a number of reasons, including sex education in schools and better access to birth control. Ending this program will certainly jeopardize that.

In a related topic, Trump signed into law a provision that allows states to **defund Planned Parenthood**. Much has been written about the Republican jihad against Planned Parenthood. But not funding it at the state level will impact

women's health adversely. Clinics that operate in areas of the country that are underserved will close and women will find themselves without access to

A growing number of Americans are now treating their cuts and infections with animal antibiotics, purchased in pet stores, because they cannot afford to see a doctor or to buy prescribed antibiotics.

doctors and basic diagnostic tests. This will create third world medical conditions in many parts of the U.S. for women's health. (And speaking of third world medical conditions, did you know that a growing number of Americans are now treating their cuts and infections with animal antibiotics, purchased in pet stores, because they cannot afford to see a doctor or to buy prescribed antibiotics?)

Trump signed into law an **expanded global gag rule** against funding abortions. In the past, this rule kept organizations that provided family planning from getting U.S. funding if they were involved in abortion in anyway. Under Trump, the rule now impacts any organization that provides medical services. The online magazine Slate wrote, "Rather than impacting \$600 million in U.S. foreign aid, the global gag rule will affect \$9.5 billion. Organizations working on AIDS, malaria, or maternal and child health will have to make sure that none of their programs involves so much as an abortion referral."

The Children's Health Insurance Program, which provides health insurance for children in families with incomes too high for Medicaid, expires at the end of September. So, of course, Republicans will hold these children hostage to try to repeal once again parts of Obamacare. Currently CHIP provides insurance for 8.9 million children.

Local versus national membership dues

by Barry Riesch
membership chair for Chapter 27

The question has once again risen about why we at Chapter 27 do not charge membership dues or have local membership. One of the most important reasons is that Chapter 27 is not the National Office. We are just a single chapter in a national (now international) organization. In order to be a full or associate member of Veterans For Peace, one must join on the national level and then they are automatically a member of their closest chapter or serve at large if no chapter exists.

We at Chapter 27 for a period of time had local member dues in addition to the national membership, and the result was that many seemed to think that by joining the local chapter they were joining the national. But this was not the case. Some also did not want to join the National because they wanted to support our local chapter. Facing much criticism on the national level and confusion locally, we decid-

ed to discontinue this practice. We now ask members to send their DD214s along with a membership application to the National office. Associate members just need to send in a completed application.

It is important for members and supporters locally to understand that VFP is a national and international organization, not just our local Chapter 27. We are connected to a large network of veterans around the U.S. and the world, all working diligently to educate on the costs of war and to abolish war. Very important work is being done by all. We do appreciate local support and are open to whatever contributions you want to send our way. We feel that this is more helpful to us than having a local dues or membership.

The national office address is: Veterans For Peace, 1404 North Broadway, St. Louis MO 63102. 314-725-6005. Online registration is possible at veteransforpeace.org.

Donations outside of membership dues to sustain our chapter are welcomed and needed.

Parallel Liberation Struggles:

**Palestinian, Native American, and Black American connections
and opportunities for cooperation**

Saturday, October 21, 2017
11:30 a.m. into the evening

Planning is underway. Tentative schedule includes:

12:15: "Parallel histories of liberation struggles" with first person presentations.
After lunch Representatives of the three main groups will describe examples from their struggles

First panel: Structural violence - Laws of land control and how people get moved out
Second Panel: Direct violence - How do dominant forces react when communities don't cooperate with the structural violence?

Third Panel: Cultural violence and the Role of mainstream media to justify and support structural and direct violence.

Dinner circles about 5:30 pm.

Location: Twin Cities, Minnesota. (Due to cancellations in the past due to Israeli lobby pressure at the last minute, the location is not set well in advance.)

FFI: MNBDSCommunity@gmail.com or <http://mn.breakthebonds.org>

2017 DEMOCRACY CONVENTION: Universalizing Resistance, Democratizing Power!

by Mary McNellis

The first Democracy Convention, organized by the Liberty Tree Foundation, occurred in 2011 in the weeks building up to Occupy Wall Street, against the backdrop of the turbulent Wisconsin Uprising. Since then a myriad of grass-root movements has emerged including Black Lives Matter and the People's Climate marches. As a result of the 2016 election and the obvious failure of the political institutions of the U.S. even more movements have been born, like The Women's March.

This past August, the third Democracy Convention was held on the West Bank of the U of M. Sponsors included Liberty Tree Foundation for the Democratic Revolution, Voting Justice, Citizens for Global Solutions, Free Speech TV, The Workable World Trust, Alliance for Democracy, American Monetary Institute, Center for Partnership Studies, Move to Amend and World Beyond War. Speakers included: Kathy Kelly, Leah Bolger, Norman Solomon, Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, David Swanson, Gar Alpertovitz, Medea Benjamin and Jill Stein, to name but a few. VFP#27 speakers included Larry Johnson, Steve McKeown, Dick Foley and Coleen Rowley. Keith Ellison took time away from his birthday celebration to address the crowd Saturday night. Simultaneous workshops covering a wide variety of topics were offered: Peace and Democracy, Media Democracy, Representative Democracy, Education United for Democracy, Earth Rights and Global Democracy, Racial Justice for Democracy, Community and Economic Democracy and Democratizing the Constitution.

Given the space restraints of this article, it is not possible to adequately summarize even one of the many plenaries or workshops. Instead I will quote the eloquent observations stated in the program from Democratizing the Constitution: "Current governmental, economic and social institutions – and the regulations, laws lawmakers and corporate leaders behind them – legitimize, if not legalize, injustice, state-sponsored violence and environmental plunder and devastation. Justice is frequently unequally administered based on race, citizenship and income. The Supreme Court's gutting of the Voting Rights Act, which increased voter disenfranchisement by states and impacted the last presidential election, will worsen. The epic U.S. and global wealth gap diminishes both economic opportunity and political influence for the majority of the population. The ability of corporations and the wealthy to dominate our political institutions and processes at the expense of the public is increas-

ingly due to Supreme Court-decided corporate constitutional rights and the doctrine that money is equivalent to free speech. Public assets are privatized/corporatized. Huge campaign contributions are legalized bribery, sanctioned by the courts. Citizen-driven efforts to pass laws protecting communities, workers, consumers and the environment are overturned by the courts as violating corporate "constitutional rights."

On Sunday morning, Aug. 6, there was a memorial program and bell-ringing at Lyndale Park Peace Garden commemorating the dropping of atomic bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, with remarks given by David Swanson.

For more information, please check out the Democracy Convention website: www.democracyconvention.org. For video footage check out the links in the August 11 Rise Up Times at riseuptimes.org/2017/08/11/peace-and-democracy-conference-talks-david-swanson-leah-bolger-norman-solomon/

ONGOING EVENTS

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

5-6 pm Weds. Lake Street/Marshall Ave. Bridge vigil.
Note: time changes Nov. 1: 4:30 to 5:30.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

Oct. 1, 6-8 p.m., SNAP, CRACKLE, AND STOP, A Benefit for MAP Peace Essay Scholarships, Black Dog Cafe, 308 E. Prince St., downtown St. Paul. See ad on page 10.

Oct. 21, 11:30 a.m.-into the evening, Parallel Liberation Struggles. Details to be announced.
See ad on page 13 for further details.

Nov. 11, Armistice Day, events, to be announced.

2017 Peacestock another great success

by Bill Habedank,
Exec. Dir., VFP 115

On July 15th, at the Hobgoblin Barn in Red Wing, MN, the 15th annual Peacestock took place. Veterans for Peace, Chapters 115 and 27, combined efforts to host another excellent event, something attendees continually advise the organizers. On a somewhat hot day, those in attendance were kept more or less comfortable with air conditioning efficiently run with the aid of solar panels.

There were two highly acclaimed speakers. In the morning, Jack Nelson-Pallmeyer, a professor at St. Thomas University and author spoke on the Peacestock theme "The Cost of War" a subject dear to his heart. We were given the where and how to effect change in dismantling the permanent warfare state. He stated that **militarism has become the dominant religion in the U.S.**

After the noon break we were highly entertained by the

music of The Bonnie and the Clydes led by VFP's dear friend Bill McGrath. Bill, I believe, has never missed a Peacestock event going back to the days when it was called Pigstock.

Our next speaker was Bruce Gagnon, Coordinator of the Global Network Against Weapons and Nuclear Power in Space and fellow Veteran For Peace. He primarily spoke of the demonization of Russia and China, showing the weapons the United States was deploying all around those two countries. He said that all U.S. efforts appear offensive in nature.

If you missed Peacestock, put July 14, 2018 on your calendars so as to not miss next year's event. Planning is already happening. It will be a very busy summer for VFP 27 and 115. Go to www.peacestockvfp.org to see video of this year's program.



Our newly renovated bus made the trek to Peacestock in July.



Veterans For Peace Chapter 27
4200 Cedar Av. S., Suite 7
Minneapolis, MN 55407

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Fall 2017 Newsletter

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SUPPORT THE TROOPS! BRING THEM HOME ALIVE NOW!

As of Aug. 25, 2017:

At least 7,036 dead in Iraq and Afghanistan;
over one million injured veterans.

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

WORLD BEYOND WAR

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

It is worth CHECKING out and
SUPPORTING this bureau.

www.worldbeyondwar.org/speakers/

Support Mayday Books

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

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

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

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