

"Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has." — Margaret Mead



Grandmothers for Peace International

Barbara Wiedner, Founder, 1928 - 2001

Lorraine Krofchok, Director

Founded 1982

Fall 2011

Decisions, Decisions

Turn to Hope

Many of us are at the crossroads and need to make decisions. We might be depressed, disillusioned and wondering what to do next as a peace group. There comes a time when one has to decide not to work harder, but to work on what is important and can matter to you. Find something that is important to YOU in your community and work on it. No matter how small – or large – your project is, it ALL COUNTS.

I recently sent out, in part, this message for the newsletter. "This time we will ask for something different. Please send me your thoughts on what we should be doing, might be doing, or what YOU want to do. There is a lot of turmoil, disappointment and yes, apathy happening and we have to find a way to encourage ourselves – perhaps through the thoughts of others. How can we work for peace when, sometimes, it seems impossible? Our newsletter is the chance to connect and encourage. Please note that at least half of our members are not e-mail connected and we can inspire each other with our connection to Grandmothers for Peace. My hope is that this will be a very important issue OF hope and encouragement amongst us. We all need that right now."

Amongst these pages are what our Grandmothers for Peace sent to me.

A few years ago Sandra in Henderson, Nevada, contacted me and wanted to join GFP. She said there were not many, if

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Road to Apathy

Are you tired, depressed, disgusted and do not want to hear another word about politics, peace, and our government? Well, it would seem many of us are feeling that way. We are at the crossroads that can lead to apathy, if we aren't there already. We can turn our backs on everything. Hey, we have put in enough years. Let someone else do it. How has our country fallen into such "disrepair"? Or were we always in need of repair?

I am "too old, too tired, too busy, or not, don't care, can't deal with it, lost interest, disappointed, get no support, am alone ..." It is all there. The decision to quit. I can relate to that. Frustration abounds.

Earthquakes, hurricanes, tornadoes, shootings, and horrible stories abound. Is it more than usual, or just a 24-hour news cycle?

Our country needs repair, yet we are spending billions building in Afghanistan. Yes, rebuild what we have destroyed, but what is being done is over the top profits for contractors. The "building boom" in Afghanistan is shocking, considering how we are struggling with jobs here in the US. "Contractors are about a quarter of the way through a \$11.4 Billion effort to erect 10,000 buildings – about 100 bases for the Afghan army and nearly 1,000 sites for the police – though a large number of projects are expected to be complete by spring. They range from small police outposts to the \$200 million National Defense University in

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- US Military Deaths, 2001-2011: Iraq War = 4,475; Afghanistan War = 1,777

- Cost of The Wars, 2001-2011: \$1,252,755,589,828.00 (TRILLION)

- Civilian Deaths, 2001-2011: Iraq = 102,629-112,160; Afghanistan = 9,997

(costofwar.com; icasualties.org; iraqbodycount.org; guardian.co.uk; UN PoC Report Afghanistan; 9-21-2011)

any, like minded people in her community and what could she do. I did try to connect her, unsuccessfully, with others in Nevada. And Sandra went and did something! She started a food collection and does exactly what a Grandmother for Peace does – finds a way to bring peace, which comes in many forms. Peace is not just the absence of war, it is peace in your heart and the heart of others. Please see Sandra’s message in another part of this newsletter. I am proud she is part of GFP!

My longtime friend Fr. Roy Bourgeois, Founder of the School of the Americas Watch, is being excommunicated. His “sin”? He chose to follow his conscience, speaking out for the ordination of women in the Catholic Church. Conscience is a strong, powerful way of thinking and believing. Many of our elected officials could use a lesson from Fr. Roy. It is shameful when a political party means more than the people in the USA. As we struggle, political posturing is the agenda of the day.

We all had such hope, such promise for the future in January of 2009. Many of those hopes have slipped into just a memory. How DO you work for peace when it seems impossible to achieve? You now must concentrate on the hope a future can bring by educating the younger people around you. We have years of experience and stored memories. The country and the world can be a better place – alas, perhaps not in our lifetime. But, we can continue to try. Do we have a choice?

GFP do do extraordinary things. In two short weeks, back in January, we were able to donate a classroom of desks to Malawi.

Over the past several years of war, I have participated in many, many antiwar protests. Some that I attended in San Francisco had tens of thousands of people. It was energizing and strengthened our solidarity of purpose. Those are gone now, at least the enormous protests. Yet, many of you continue to stand on corners, perhaps a few at a time, but your message of peace is the same. It doesn’t matter how small or large you are – it all matters.

It comes down to one simple question, asked over and over:

If not us, then whom?

Peace to all of us, Lorraine

Kabul.” * This is enough to turn anyone off and become lost in apathy.

The wars continue, discouraging and disgusting to all of us who work for peace. The President delayed establishing critical new national ozone standards until at least 2013. Shocking!

We expected a lot, probably too much from our new President. When he didn’t deliver what we wanted, did a lot of things we did not agree with, we turned away. Dashed hopes can have many of us walking away.

It is a choice. What will you do?

Lorraine

**Partlow, Joshual. U.S. pinches pennies in Afghan troops’ gear. The Sacramento Bee, Aug. 29, 2011. Original article: The Washington Post, Aug. 26, 2011.*

Connection & Encouragement

Grandma Jeanne, Constable, New York

To Grandmothers For Peace: We are very energized here in upstate New York as the progressive coalition we formed last year continues to expand and begins focusing on things we can do locally to bring about some positive changes. We have had street demonstrations this year regarding the Supreme Court’s Citizens United decision, as well as several in support of local unions.

There is a weekly demonstration waging peace also. We can do little to influence the state or national governments, but we can do a lot locally. One small step at a time! I would encourage all of you to rejoice simply in the fact of our continuing existence and not to be discouraged by what you hear daily on the news. Make the LOCAL news in your community note what you are doing. One of our demonstrations supporting the local civil service union made the front page of our daily paper and there have been several articles, press releases and of course letters to the editor, to keep us and our ideas in the news. Wage peace!

England

We asked members of GFP in the UK what we should be doing to combat the apathy and discouragement now felt by many members and how we could find encouragement for our aims.

Helen John is a veteran peace campaigner and former midwife, now founding a new peace camp to protest against drone bombers. *“We have to stop being polite. We should be spreading the word and giving our views to everyone we meet. There should be more determined and stronger public protests, better targeted.”*

Kate Holkham, a sheep farmer from the West of England, who keeps her sheep for their wool, said: *“Everyone is so apathetic now about this. Protesters are ignored. People should be getting more militant and banding together. Civil rights to protest and disclosure of information are being cut down. People are too afraid of the law, and of being stigmatised.”* She pointed out that recent lawless riots and student

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The Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament organization had their bus ad campaign up and driving around Liverpool, England, September 12th prior to the September 25-29, 2011, Labour Party’s conference. Our GFP Jean in London is supporting this project in our name.

protests against cuts had been given huge and immediate publicity. The peace movement has to work out its aims to get equal publicity.

Rosemary North, a journalist and former naval officer living in Cornwall, said: *"The focus has shifted so much. Everyone now is thinking about money and how to survive - they don't think about the world. Everything is in a state of flux. The issue of Trident has been put on the back burner. We need more articles to be published, and a good quality documentary film showing graphically what the situation is."*

Jean Stead, journalist, London: Many left the Labour party and in the last election voted for the Liberal Democrats, who have an anti-nuclear weapons policy. They are now in a coalition government with the Conservatives, but their policies are not being carried out.

The decision on whether to update the Trident weapons system and the submarines has merely been delayed. We should remember that Britain has the equivalent of 1,000 Hiroshimas in its nuclear weapons, that the US and Russia has many thousands more, and Pakistan, with an unstable and divided population, between 70-90 nuclear warheads. Each Trident warhead is 13 times the size of the Hiroshima bomb.

It took a few hardy souls to start the Aldermaston marches and the Trafalgar Square meetings long ago to raise the profile of the danger to the world of nuclear weapons. There is a strong anti-Trident group in the Labour Parliamentary party, as well as the Liberal Democrats, but they need more support.

There is one point to be made, at a time when everyone is worried about cost and the cutting of public expenditure, and that is the huge cost of Trident and the Iraq and Afghanistan wars. At least constant reference to this whenever possible might make people think harder about the value of peace.

Most importantly, the international links must be strengthened. This is where GFP is so valuable. We need links with peace campaigners in all the other countries, so that we visit each other, get to know each other by name and have international marches and statements. The late Petra Kelly, leader of the Greens in Germany, showed us the way and we have to follow it and expand our movement.

Sandra J. Collier, Henderson, Nevada

What have I been doing? Talking up Peace!

Signing all documents with peace, signing computer petitions, placing multiple peace signs in my windows and on my cars.

The food drive goes on, slowly but surely, with donations to Salvation Army. Our Neighborhood Watch Program is revitalizing.

Peace comes from many angles. First at home, and then abroad. I have been calling government officials regarding peace and ending the wars. We seem to be making very slow progress here (peace). However, we must keep whittling away. Have you noticed how many more people are talking about the end to these endless and senseless wars? I have.

Keep the peace within you and keep caring about your brothers and sisters, wherever they may be.

Peace and love to you this day and every day. Sandra

ps: I have noticed my granddaughter is wearing the peace symbol on her T-shirts. More and more of them are coming on the market. Go kids!

Lyn Clark Pegg, GFP Northland Chapter

Our Northland Chapter of Superior WI and Duluth MN has a long history of protest and advocacy for peace in the Superior WI/Duluth MN area. In the spirit of coalition building, we decided that we want the Grannies to show their support for the newly formed Duluth United For All Fami-

Why we continue -

The future of our country.



Sammy, left, and Mia, grandchildren of GFP Margaret Hoskins.

lies at the Pride Fest on Saturday, Sept. 3rd (Labor Day weekend) at Bayfront Park in Duluth. We shared the resource table with DUFAF, handing out our flyers about the economic impact of endless wars and also about our own Grandmothers for Peace chapter. Also, to show our love and goodwill for all families, both gay and straight, we handed out homemade cookies! The next day GFP members marched in the Pride Parade in Superior, WI, carrying our beautiful GFP banner.

And from Jan Provost

Hi Lorraine: I am taking your great advice and concentrating on the "little" things because the "big" things are so overwhelming. And you know what?? Doing the little things (like standing on our corner on Fridays) has taken on a new meaning. We can make a difference! We affect the folks driving by who smile, wave and give us the thumbs up:)

Our Core Group continues to come up with ideas and they follow up with action.

We are looking forward to preparing for our annual Christmas Peaceful Toy Drive for underprivileged children in our community.

Thanks so much Lorraine for keeping Barbara's legacy alive!! Love, Jan

Leal, Nevada City

I feel the way to peace is to act on broader definitions and increased tolerance of differences. I coordinate dinner once or twice a month for the homeless folks at Hospitality House, and I manage to obtain eye glasses and hearing aides for folks in need.

Corine Thornton, Rohnert Park, CA

The Hayward Chapter of GFP no longer exists as such. Those of us still living have been subject to vast changes, along with most of the rest of the planets' creatures. I don't think any of us have had a changed heart about opposing nuclear power or fascism or inequality or injustice.

This year (2011) we have lost two of our most loyal Men's Auxiliary supporters, **Nate Thornton** and **Peter Hendley**.

Because of age I have had to move from Hayward to Rohnert Park, CA. That is what happens to Grandmas, they get older. I do belong to Sonoma Peace and Justice and I certainly am still a member of GFP forever! Also School of the Americas Watch and important to mention these days – an active member of ILWU pensioners (Inter-

national Longshore and Warehouse union) and HERE pensioners (Waiters Union).

In spite of all the propaganda about this being a democracy, it is a class divided society. The rich and the poor. That is why we poor need to organize in unions and coops. In unity there is strength. An injury to one is an injury to all.

Helen Michelson, Glen Rock, NJ

Let's share our opinions and thoughts with our neighbors, passersby on the street, in the subways and as we drive along, by wearing our buttons and outrageous T-shirts, decorating our car bumpers with stickers and front yards with signs.

In my small New Jersey town, my house and car are the only ones I've found with a sign of any kind. On my front porch window I have "War is not healthy for children and other living things," left over from the Vietnam disaster, and another sign made recently, "Bring our troops home from Afghanistan NOW" on my front steps. My car bumper is festooned, too, and I have assorted buttons and T-shirts I wear often. One of my favorite buttons is "Who would Jesus bomb?"

My neighbors are lovely people and we're all friendly, but only one has ever commented on my signs (she agrees with them!). That tells me something.

In the summer I go to my house on Cape Cod and to an entirely different atmosphere. There, every car has stickers, people wear fun T-shirts and buttons, have demonstrations along the only road going the length of the Cape, and we discuss politics at the town dump. One day after shopping I found a woman waiting for me by my car. She just wanted to tell me how much she liked my stickers!

But there have been confrontations, too. I love them and handle them with a laugh. In a NJ town a man screamed furiously at me "I suppose you're a Socialist!" after reading my AFSC bumper sticker, "No human being is illegal." My delighted reply was, "Oh, I'm way to the left of that."

Rev. Sherry Champagne, Garberville, CA

It is 9-11-2011, the 10th anniversary of a sad day in the history of the world.

What has it led to? Unjust war all over the place. People died in the towers that day and in airplanes, later many died from the dust and ashes inhaled – still dying.

Wars against terrorism increased, but to do what? More people die – tens of thou-

sands have died in the last 10 years.

The Japan nuclear power plants add to the destruction of our earth. What can I do as a Grandmother for Peace? I can write and I can talk and say it is time to stop war, nuclear power plants and nuke weapons. Yet, I am just a grain of sand on the beach of life. War has to stop. And how can we do that?

We are working on the project *Veterans For Peace Golden Rule Project*. We started it about a year ago in our **Chapter 22 Veterans For Peace** in Garberville, California. The Golden Rule Boat is in the Humboldt Bay area being restored.

I have been dealing with veterans for over 30 years. The ones in combat have a difficult time with their lives. This is a great big reason for them to do something hands-on that would lead to sailing this little boat against the war machine and nuclear weapons as it once did in 1958.

Once upon a time, this boat tried to stop nuclear testing in the Marshall Islands. The four men on board were hauled off to jail. In 1958, these brave people knew that nuclear testing and bombs were awful. They knew about Hiroshima and the ones who survived with many health problems leading to death.

How can I do less than stand with these men and women who went before me? I plan on protesting nuclear power and weapons for the rest of my life.

I challenge Grandmothers for Peace to stand up for whatever path you can find to stop war and stop nuclear power plants and nuclear weapons.

We have all stood and walked for peace. Now, how can we step up the protests? I don't know. I am looking for that path. We are losing our children and grandchildren to war and depression.

Kristina Burnett, Hayward, CA

I find hope in the fact that we are Grandmothers for Peace. My hope is in today's children – tomorrow's workers, voters, decision makers.

My own grandsons live too far away for me to be a constant influence in their lives, but I don't worry much about them. They are growing up in a stable household with two loving parents who have a good education and good moral and ethical values that they are trying to instill in the little ones.

But, I have been blessed by the presence of other children in my life, children from households where the mom didn't finish

high school, the dad is incarcerated, and in one case, the mom and her three kids don't have a home. They stay with different relatives, often in cramped, crowded, dirty conditions, for a few weeks at a time. For them and their relatives this kind of life is nothing out of the ordinary. Almost everyone they know has been either incarcerated, addicted, homeless, or any combination of these. They don't see how disadvantaged their children are before they even start school.

I have come to love these children and their mothers. I try to expose them to different experiences and ways of thinking: going to the park with farm animals, visiting the zoo, singing preschool songs together, and hugging them every chance I get.

My professional life, too, allows me to work on behalf of these children: I help adults, quite a few young single mothers or young men with criminal records, to finish their high school education so that they may have a better chance of finding jobs and being able to create a better life for their children. Too many of them have no hope for the future. ("What are your plans?" - "I just want to make it to 21.") Unfortunately, for many of them the only realistic, legal way out of poverty and gang-infested neighborhoods is to join the military.

Some of us need to learn all about the "big picture" and pass along what they know. Others prefer to go out and demonstrate. I have done (and still do) both of these, but I have found tremendous satisfaction and hope in helping these underprivileged yet highly resilient children find a way to a better future. I believe that without social justice there can never be peace in this country or in the world.

It is my hope that all of us Grandmothers for Peace have children for whom we can be the stable "grandmotherly" influence that they need in order to become healthy, informed citizens who will make this world a better place. This vision gives me hope.

Enid, Albuquerque, New Mexico

Esteemed* Lorraine: Yes, I have felt/am feeling all the negatives you described.

Nonetheless, this is my attitude, this is why I keep on keeping ON – I feel strongly that I owe dedicated, continuing peace action not only to my better Self, but to humanity, to ALL living creatures, no matter what way the winds blow. It is my responsibility as a sentient, caring, loving human

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being. And I try not to let despair get the better of me. Yours In Earnest Hopes for Peace, Enid
*Thank you Enid. "Esteemed" put a smile on my face - I needed that!" Lorraine

Joan Kroll, Sun City West, AZ

I try to be visible and vocal to show my commitment to Peace. In addition to demonstrating two Saturday mornings per month, I ALWAYS wear my Grandmothers for Peace button and an item of peace jewelry. When people notice and comment, I tell them about GFP. If they seem really interested I invite them to join us. I recently signed and forwarded an e-mail petition regarding ending the never ending wars. I have marched with the Veterans for Peace in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade and in other years stood along the route with Peace signs. Our Christmas decorations include a huge lighted Peace sign on the outside of our house. We have business cards that include our demonstration information on the back side.

Things that I haven't done but could consider: 1. Letters to various newspapers; 2. Phone calls to talk radio shows; 3. Inquire if local television stations would do a segment on Grandmothers for Peace?

I am not involved in either Facebook or Twitter. Would getting involved be useful in the Peace effort?

Judy Miner, Wisconsin

In Wisconsin, we Grandmothers for Peace are singing - which lifts the spirits, regenerates hope for a better world, offers camaraderie, and educates the public in a non-threatening and creative way that another world - without war and greed - is indeed possible! Many GFP participate with the Raging Grannies in the daily Solidarity Sing-along held in the Madison Capitol Rotunda each noon for an hour - going on for over 6 months now!

Selma Blackburn, Little Rock, AR

Lorraine and other peace seeking leaders need an injection of healing serum to keep on working for a better world, especially when our times are so inhumane, so uncivil, so unfair, and so harsh for so many, not just here but around the globe. More people need to hear and imagine the world as you (Rob Branch-Dasch - see article on this page) propose is possible, and perhaps putting these ideas and words in the GFP newsletter can stimulate awakening and hopefulness.

GRANDMOTHERS FOR PEACE DIRECTORY

www.grandmothersforpeace.org/directory
OR, phone: (916) 730-6476

Why we need to end complete dependence upon oil

BY ROB BRANCH-DASCH

According to most geologists on the record, global oil production peaked sometime between 2005 and 2010. This doesn't mean we've run out of oil, but that we've hit the half way point. Moving forward, oil will become increasingly difficult to locate, it will be of poorer quality, and these two things coupled with higher demand from countries like China and India will drive up the cost.

It was important then for the West, and for the US in particular, to secure oil supplies in some individual countries that hadn't yet reached their peak production. This explains our presence in some places, and the sudden popular uprisings that have changed the political climate in many others. *Of course we will help you rebuild your infrastructure, your economy, your government, your military.*

These are the places our troops are being sent. When they arrive they find out that Americans are not saviors, Americans are despised. These people aren't stupid, they know that their countries are being manipulated and destroyed and their families and friends murdered so that American politicians and American corporations can string out the American way of life as long as possible.

I give it twenty years. A gallon of gas cost about \$1.16 in 1990. The current average California price is \$3.80, or \$2.64 more than in 1990. That means that twenty years from now a gallon of gasoline may cost \$6.44 (2011 terms), and that's before adjusting for the law of supply and demand.

With the additional demand of the world's emerging economies the US will get less of the even smaller available supply, driving the cost up further. In today's terms a lot of people might think "well, I'll just drive less."

But consider that oil fuels everything in our economy, and oil by-products like plastics are actually a component of almost everything in our homes and workplaces.

Chew on this: practically all agricultural pesticides are made from oil, combine harvesters and other equipment are fueled with oil, foods are transported to processing factory by oil and packaged in plastic, then transported to distribution centers then to markets by oil, then consumers drive to the grocery store by oil. When gasoline goes up to \$6.44 and more a gallon, what will the cost of food be like? Will America be able to eat?

The one and only thing that George W Bush got right in eight years was when he correctly pronounced five words prepared for him by his speech writer: *America is addicted to oil.* Being part of the oil business he did nothing to break our addiction; instead he fought as hard as he could to ensure we were hooked.

Oil is a finite resource though and is now running out; in the coming decades the world is going to change drastically. After a painful period of adjustment, people are going to realize that a world without oil is a surprisingly beautiful place. A world without oil will see a reawakening of human health, of human spirit, of human creativity. A world without oil will render many of our weapons of war useless, and will make many of the reasons we now go to war meaningless.

I look forward to this world. I'm planning for it. I can taste it, see it, and even smell it. The transition period will be very difficult for a lot of people, but once we're settled our re-birth, our renaissance, will be spectacular.

(Rob is the son-in-law of GFP, Selma Blackburn of Little Rock, Arkansas.)

November 18-20, 2011



Join thousands of human rights advocates, students, musicians, community leaders, religious workers, activists, and labor organizers from around the world at the gates of Fort Benning, Georgia. Send the message that we won't stop until the School Of the Americas (SOA/WHINSEC) is shut down and the U.S. Government has stopped relying on violence - be it military, political, or economic - to enforce its oppressive foreign policy in

Latin America and the Caribbean.

Thirty-one years ago, Maryknoll missionaries Maura Clark, Jean Donovan, Ita Ford, and Dorothy Kazel were brutally killed by graduates of the SOA in El Salvador. They are four among thousands of victims and survivors of the ongoing SOA / WHINSEC violence.

Come stand with those who have been directly affected by the violence of SOA graduates. Come stand with those who are taking a stand for their sovereignty and dignity.

Info: SOA Watch, PO Box 4566, Washington, D.C. 20017, USA; Phone: (202) 234-3440; e-mail: info@soaw.org; web: soaw.org

United Kingdom: Political Situation is Volatile

By JEAN STEAD, GFP

The political situation in the United Kingdom at present is volatile. Any coalition government finds the constant need to compromise and negotiate difficult, and Britain's new coalition is no exception. It is not helped by the scandals before they were elected over M.P.'s overcharging on their expenses (several are serving prison sentences for this) and trust in journalists damaged by revelations about private phones being hacked into by some working for Rupert Murdoch's papers.

Add to this the disclosures about doubtful government policies which came about through the WikiLeaks publications, and the drastic cuts in the economy affecting people's standard of living, and it isn't difficult to see why there is little space left for protests against the Trident weapons system - it has fallen out of the news. (But there is protest against the war in Afghanistan, as there was against the one in Iraq.)

The Campaign against Nuclear Disarmament is preparing to launch a new, high-publicity campaign to persuade the government not to replace Trident. **Kate Hudson**, the general secretary, says replacing Trident squanders well over £100 billion and she recalls the 140,000-340,000 deaths caused by single atomic bombs at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Yet, in spite of this, and the recent riots in some areas, London is probably the most plentiful and inspiring home of the arts, theatres, and free galleries in the world, and filled with foreign tourists. The last night of the long-established Promenade Concerts at the Royal Albert Hall this week saw it filled to capacity as well as the overflow in Hyde Park outside.

As always on the last night, the audience waved national flags and sang "Rule Britannia, Britannia rules the waves, Britons never, never, never shall be slaves." It was a far cry from the disputes and talk of a "broken society" over the past weeks.

So was the scene a couple of hundred miles away that night, where one woman sat in lonely vigil in the darkness outside the Royal Air Force camp at Waddington in the north of England. **Helen John**, an heroic peace camp veteran, was determined to get her new peace camp established as a protest against drones.

Waddington is to become the home base for British pilots who control the armed Reaper drones which have killed many innocent victims in Afghanistan. They are reminiscent of the Nazi VI and V2 bombers - the "pilotless

planes" which nearly bombed London at the end of the last war, dropping without warning on the civilian population.

The camp is to be of indefinite duration and the protesters against drones have been allocated a space by police, according to Helen who is joined by **Kate Holkholm** as founder of the camp.

Helen has a banner proclaiming "Assassination" and "Grim Reaper" drones and says their major aim is to persuade the young men coming to the base that this is not fighting a war, but taking part in indiscriminate killing from long distance. The targets for the drones can be tapped out on computers.

"We are going to tell the young men that operating drones from long distance is nothing to be proud of," says Helen. "Only the arms manufacturers will benefit. They breach international law. They are now designing them to make them even more tiny and to look like birds, and they can carry 500 bombs."

The public is asked to bring food and tents, but no alcohol or drugs, and to join the attempt to stop these savage new weapons.

U.S. Mayors adopt Mayors for Peace Resolution



On June 20, 2011, the US Conference of Mayors, unanimously adopted a resolution calling on President Obama to work with the leaders of the other nuclear

weapon states to implement the United Nations Secretary-General's 5-point plan to negotiate the elimination of nuclear weapons, by the year 2020, and calling on Congress to terminate funding for modernization of the nuclear weapons complex and nuclear weapons systems, to slash spending on nuclear weapons well below Cold War Levels, and to redirect those funds to meet the urgent needs of cities.

Mayors for Peace is the leading international organization devoted to protecting cities from the scourge of war and mass destruction. Their 2020 Vision Campaign aims to establish a nuclear-weapon-free world by the year 2020.

As of September 1, 2011, there were 4,984 member cities in 151 countries and regions.

www.mayorsforpeace.org/english/membership/map.html

War & Suicide

In July, 2011, the U.S. Army recorded a record 32 suicides. They struggle with what to do about this crisis.

"At an Army base near Seattle, soldiers are committing suicide, murdering their families — and in one case, waterboarding their own kids," reports Winston Ross in *Army Base on the Brink* for *The Daily Beast*, Sept. 9, 2011.

Megan McCloskey's June 7, 2011, *Stars and Stripes* article, *One Army, Two Failures*, states: "Since the start of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, more than 1,100 soldiers have taken their own lives, with the numbers escalating each year for the last six years. Last year alone, 301 soldiers committed suicide — a new record."

An NPR's Morning Edition program, in June 2010, reported that "Nearly as many American troops at home and abroad have committed suicide this year as have been killed in combat in Afghanistan."

Causes being debated are post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injuries, and the repeated, prolonged deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Over the past few years, the Army has launched studies and revised training, but a 2010 study of soldiers in the combat zone found that a stigma against seeking mental health care remains strong.

And the tragedies continue.

"The world is a dangerous place; not

because of those who do evil, but because

of those who look on and do nothing."

— Albert Einstein —

Ending Nuclear Evil

DESMOND TUTU

CAPE TOWN – Eliminating nuclear weapons is the democratic wish of the world’s people. Yet no nuclear-armed country currently appears to be preparing for a future without these terrifying devices. In fact, all are squandering billions of dollars on modernization of their nuclear forces, making a mockery of United Nations disarmament pledges. If we allow this madness to continue, the eventual use of these instruments of terror seems all but inevitable.

The nuclear power crisis at Japan’s Fukushima power plant has served as a dreadful reminder that events thought unlikely can and do happen. It has taken a tragedy of great proportions to prompt some leaders to act to avoid similar calamities at nuclear reactors elsewhere in the world. But it must not take another Hiroshima or Nagasaki – or an even greater disaster – before they finally wake up and recognize the urgent necessity of nuclear disarmament.

This week, the foreign ministers of five nuclear-armed countries – the United States, Russia, Britain, France, and China – will meet in Paris to discuss progress in implementing the nuclear-disarmament commitments that they made at last year’s Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) review conference. It will be a test of their resolve to transform the vision of a future free of nuclear arms into reality.

If they are serious about preventing the spread of these monstrous weapons – and averting their use – they will work energetically and expeditiously to eliminate them completely. One standard must apply to all countries: zero. Nuclear arms are wicked, regardless of who possesses them. The unspeakable human suffering that they inflict is the same whatever flag they may bear. So long as these weapons exist, the threat of their use – either by accident or through an act of sheer madness – will remain.

We must not tolerate a system of nuclear apartheid, in which it is considered legitimate for some states to possess nuclear arms but patently unacceptable for others to seek to acquire them. Such a double standard is no basis for peace and security in the world. The NPT is not a license for the five original nuclear powers to cling to these weapons indefinitely. The International Court of Justice has affirmed that they are legally obliged to negotiate in good faith for

the complete elimination of their nuclear forces.

The New START agreement between the US and Russia, while a step in the right direction, will only skim the surface off the former Cold War foes’ bloated nuclear arsenals – which account for 95% of the global total. Furthermore, these and other countries’ modernization activities cannot be reconciled with their professed support for a world free of nuclear weapons.

It is deeply troubling that the US has allocated \$185 billion to augment its nuclear stockpile over the next decade, on top of the ordinary annual nuclear-weapons budget of more than \$50 billion. Just as unsettling is the Pentagon’s push for the development of nuclear-armed drones – H-bombs deliverable by remote control.

Russia, too, has unveiled a massive nuclear-weapons modernization plan, which includes the deployment of various new delivery systems. British politicians, meanwhile, are seeking to renew their navy’s aging fleet of Trident submarines – at an estimated cost of £76 billion (\$121 billion). In doing so, they are passing up an historic opportunity to take the lead on nuclear disarmament.

Every dollar invested in bolstering a country’s nuclear arsenal is a diversion of resources from its schools, hospitals, and other social services, and a theft from the millions around the globe who go hungry or are denied access to basic medicines. Instead of investing in weapons of mass annihilation, governments must allocate resources towards meeting human needs.

The only obstacle we face in abolishing nuclear weapons is a lack of political will, which can – and must – be overcome. Two-thirds of UN member states have called for a nuclear-weapons convention similar to existing treaties banning other categories of particularly inhumane and indiscriminate weapons, from biological and chemical arms to anti-personnel land mines and cluster munitions. Such a treaty is feasible and must be urgently pursued.

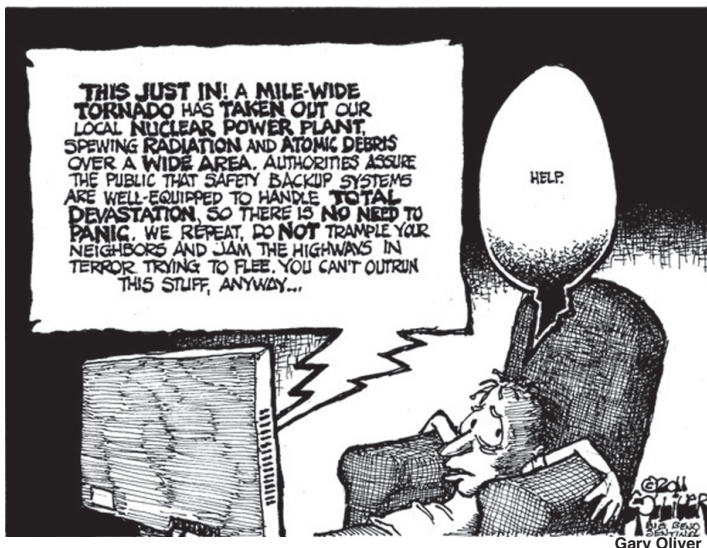
It is true that nuclear weapons cannot be uninvented, but that does not mean that nuclear disarmament is an impossible dream. My own country, South Africa, gave up its nuclear arsenal in the 1990s, realizing it was better off without these weapons. Around the same time, the newly independent states of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine voluntarily relinquished their nuclear arms, and then joined the NPT. Other countries have abandoned nuclear-weapons programs, recognizing that nothing good could possibly come from them. Global stockpiles have dropped from 68,000 warheads at the height of the Cold War to 20,000 today.

In time, every government will come to accept the basic inhumanity of threatening to obliterate entire cities with nuclear weapons. They will work to achieve a world in which such weapons are no more – where the rule of law, not the rule of force, reigns supreme, and cooperation is seen as the best guarantor of international peace. But such a world will be possible only if people everywhere rise up and challenge the nuclear madness.

Desmond Tutu is a Nobel Peace Prize laureate and supporter of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (www.icanw.org).

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www.project-syndicate.org

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Taxes should be an investment in America.

Sadly, taxes are also used to fund wars and pay billions to the war profiteers.

We don't "like" taxes, but think about some of the things that taxes DO fund, and if you want them to stop, think about this:

HATE TAXES?

- ~ Do not use Medicare or Medicaid.
- ~ Do not use Social Security
- ~ Do not become a member of the US military, who are paid with tax dollars.
- ~ Do not ask the National Guard to help you after a disaster.
- ~ Do not call the police to stop intruders in your home.
- ~ Do not summon the fire department to save your burning home.
- ~ Do not send your kids to public schools.
- ~ Do not drink clean water or live in areas with clean air.
- ~ Do not visit National Parks.
- ~ Do not visit public museums, zoos, and monuments.
- ~ Do not eat or use FDA inspected food and medicines.
- ~ Do not walk or run on sidewalks.
- ~ Do not apply for educational or job training assistance when you lose your job.
- ~ Do not ask for an attorney when you are arrested and do not ask for one to be assigned to you by the court.
- ~ Do not use cures that were discovered by labs using federal dollars.
- ~ Do not fly on federally regulated airplanes.
- ~ Do not listen to severe weather warnings from the National Weather Service.
- ~ Do not ask for FEMA assistance when everything you own gets wiped out by disaster.
- ~ Do not ask the military to defend your life and home in the event of a foreign invasion.
- ~ Do not eat USDA inspected produce and meat.
- ~ Do not apply for government grants to start your own business.
- ~ Do not buy any vehicle that has been inspected by government safety agencies.
- ~ Do not buy any product that is protected from poisons, toxins, etc...by the Consumer Protection Agency.
- ~ Do not save your money in a bank that is FDIC insured.
- ~ Do not use the G.I. Bill to go to college.
- ~ Do not apply for unemployment benefits.
- ~ Do not live in homes that are built to code.
- ~ Do not apply for any government job whatsoever as all state and federal employees are paid with tax dollars.
- ~ Do not use public libraries.
- ~ Do not use airports that are secured by the federal government.
- ~ Do not apply for loans from any bank that is FDIC insured.
- ~ Do not ask the government to help you clean up after a tornado.
- ~ Do not take walks in National Forests.
- ~ Do not ask the Army Corps of Engineers to rebuild levees when they break.
- ~ Do not expect to see animals that are federally protected because of the Endangered Species List.
- ~ Do not expect plows to clear roads of snow and ice so your kids can go to school and so you can get to work.
- ~ Do not work anywhere that has a safe workplace because of government regulations.
- ~ Do not eat in restaurants that are regulated by food quality and safety standards.
- ~ Do not seek help from the US Embassy if you need assistance in a foreign nation.
- ~ Do not apply for a passport to travel outside of the United States.
- ~ Do not use elevators that have been inspected by federal or state safety regulators.
- ~ Do not use money printed by the US Treasury.
- ~ Do not attend a state university.
- ~ Do not use any water from municipal water systems.
- ~ Do not work for any company that is required to pay its workers a livable wage, provide them sick days, vacation days, and benefits.
- ~ Do not expect to be able to vote on election days. Government provides voting booths, election day officials, and voting machines which are paid for with taxes.
- ~ Do not ride trains. The railroad was built with government financial assistance.

“I like to pay taxes. With them, I buy civilization.” ~Oliver Wendell Holmes

This is a condensed list. For the full list please visit:

<http://www.addictinginfo.org/2011/05/18/102-things-not-to-do/>

WHERE YOUR INCOME TAX MONEY REALLY GOES

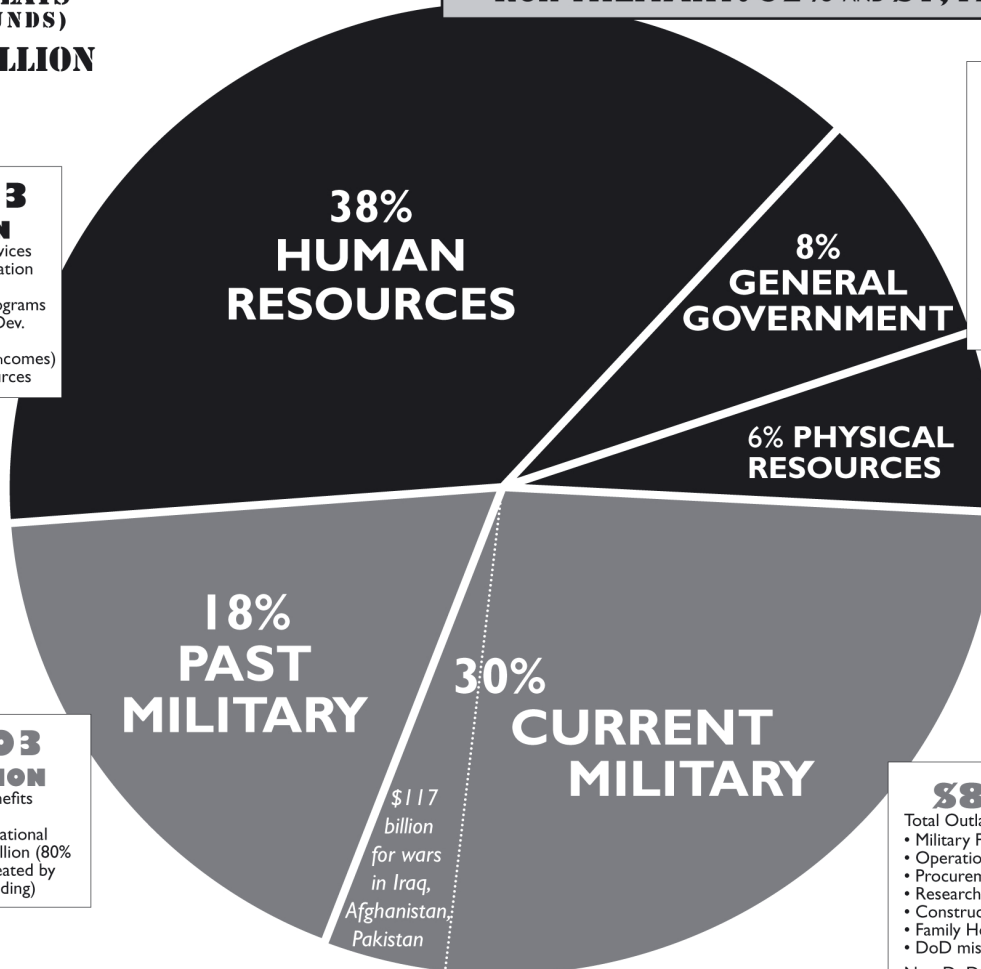
U.S. FEDERAL BUDGET 2012 FISCAL YEAR

TOTAL OUTLAYS (FEDERAL FUNDS)
\$2,847 BILLION

Non-MILITARY: 52% AND \$1,475 BILLION

\$1,093 BILLION

- Health/Human Services
- Soc. Sec. Administration
- Education Dept.
- Food/Nutrition programs
- Housing & Urban Dev.
- Labor Dept.
- Tax Credits (lower incomes)
- other human resources



\$218 BILLION

- Treasury, incl. 20% Interest on debt (\$95B)
- Government personnel
- Justice Dept.
- State Dept. (partial)
- International Affairs
- NASA (50%)
- Judicial
- Legislative
- Allowances (proposals)
- other general govt.

\$164 BILLION

- Agriculture
- Interior
- Transportation
- Homeland Security (\$10B)
- HUD
- Commerce
- Energy (non-military)
- Environmental Protection
- Nat. Science Fdn.
- Army Corps Engineers
- Fed. Comm. Commission
- other physical resources

\$503 BILLION

- Veterans' Benefits \$123 billion
- Interest on national debt \$380 billion (80% est. to be created by military spending)

\$869 BILLION

Total Outlays DoD \$707 billion:

- Military Personnel \$159 billion
- Operation & Maint. \$302 billion
- Procurement \$134 billion
- Research & Dev. \$78 billion
- Construction \$19 billion
- Family Housing \$3 billion
- DoD misc. \$12 billion

Non-DoD military spending includes:¹

- Retiree Pay/Healthcare \$67 billion
- DoE nuke weapons/clean up \$20 billion
- NASA (50%) \$9 billion
- Internl. Security Asst. \$16 billion
- Homeland Secur. (military) \$36 billion
- State Dept. (partial) \$4 billion
- FBI military \$7 billion
- other \$3 billion

¹analysis includes non-DoD activity based on coding and on the military nature of the activity, such as armed agents on flights, border control, DoD space flights, etc.

MILITARY: 48% AND \$1,372 BILLION

HOW THESE FIGURES WERE DETERMINED

“Current military” includes Dept. of Defense (\$707 billion) and the military portion from other departments as noted in current military box above (\$162 billion). “Past military” represents veterans’ benefits plus 80% of the interest on the debt.* For further explanation, please go to www.warresisters.org.

These figures are from an analysis of detailed tables in the *Analytical Perspectives* book of the *Budget of the United States Government, Fiscal Year 2012*. The figures are federal funds, which do not include trust funds — such as Social Security — that are raised and spent separately from income taxes. What you pay (or don’t pay) by April 18, 2011, goes to the federal funds portion of the budget. The government practice of combining Trust and Federal funds began during the Vietnam War, thus making the human needs portion of the

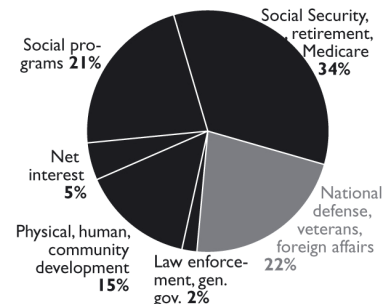
budget seem larger and the military portion smaller.

*Analysts differ on how much of the debt stems from the military; other groups estimate 50% to 60%. We use 80% because we believe if there had been no military spending most (if not all) of the national debt would have been eliminated.

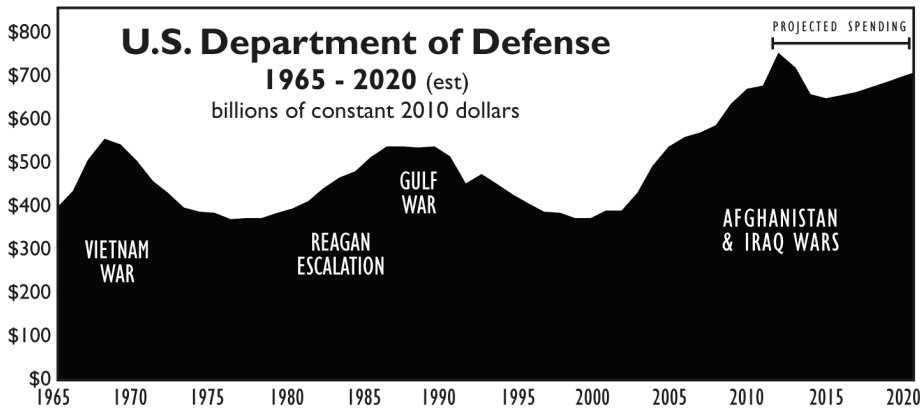
The Government’s Deception

The pie chart (right) is the government view of the budget. This is a distortion of how our income tax dollars are spent because it includes Trust Funds (e.g., Social Security), and the expenses of past military spending are not distinguished from nonmilitary spending. For a more accurate representation of how your Federal income tax dollar is really spent, see the large graph.

Source: 1040 Forms and Instructions 2010, Federal Outlays for FY 2009



THE PERMANENT WAR ECONOMY



SOURCE: U.S. Dept. of Defense, National Defense Budget Estimates for FY 2011, Table 6-11—DoD Outlays by Appropriation; Budget of the United States for FY 2012: Analytical Perspectives, Table 33-1—Federal Programs by Agency and Account

“The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan — not to mention the Pentagon’s voracious appetite for expensive weapons systems — have been a gold mine for the Big Five.”

- 1 Lockheed Martin
- 2 General Dynamics
- 3 Raytheon
- 4 Northrop-Grumman
- 5 Boeing

“From Pentagon, a Buy Rating on Contractors,” Joe Nocera, *New York Times*, Feb. 11, 2011

While local governments cut teachers, firefighters, senior centers, and other essential services, military contractors are laughing all the way to the bank. On Jan. 17, 2011, media attention was given to the 50th anniversary of former President and General Dwight D. Eisenhower’s warning that “we must guard against the acquisition of unwarranted influence, whether sought or unsought, by the military-industrial complex.” Today Congress is part of that complex, with money and staff flowing back and forth between Congressional offices and corporations.

Ready for a change? See below and take action!

“[O]ur analysis suggests that there is no battlefield solution to terrorism.”

“How Terrorist Groups End,” Rand Corp. (rand.org), 2008

“Together we must learn how to compose differences, not with arms, but with intellect and decent purpose.”

President Dwight D. Eisenhower, Jan. 17, 1961

CAMPAIGNS

New Priorities Network (national)
newprioritiesnetwork.org

True Cost of War (national)
mfso.org

Healthcare Not Warfare (national)
pdamerica.org/get-active/healthcare-not-warfare-campaign

CODE PINK: Bring Our War \$\$ Home (national), codepink.org

Campaign to Bring Our War \$\$ Home (ME)
bringourdollarshome.org

Bring the \$Billion\$ Home (Seattle)
wwfor.org

Peace Economy Project (St. Louis)
peaceeconomyproject.org

25 Percent Solution (Boston)
25percentsolution.com

Campaign for Smart Security (PA)
smartsecuritypa.org

25 Teachers’ Salaries (CA)
25teacherssalaries.org

Our Funds (MD)
ourfunds.org

Global Day of Action on Military Spending (international), demilitarize.org

... or start your own campaign!

source: defundwar.org

WHAT YOU CAN DO

• Leaflet with this flyer now, on Tax Day — **April 18, 2011** — and in the months before a new budget is passed in October.

• Write elected officials and local newspapers. **Send them copies of this flyer.** Demand that the Pentagon budget be slashed.

• Protest with your money! Sign up at **wartaxboycott.org**. Refuse to pay all or part of your federal income tax. Whatever you choose to refuse—\$1, \$10, or a percentage—send a letter to elected officials and tell them why. Though illegal, thousands of people openly participate in this form of protest. Contact us for information or referral to a counselor near you. Contribute resisted tax money to organizations that support the common good.

• Watch **Death & Taxes**, a 30-min. film featuring war tax resisters from across the country. Online at nwtrcc.org/deathandtaxes.php.

• For more about **refusing to pay for war**, contact the National War Tax Resistance Coordinating Committee, PO Box 150553, Brooklyn, NY 11215, (800) 269-7464, nwtrcc.org. Support the Peace Tax Fund bill: peacetaxfund.org.

• Support military personnel who refuse to fight in Iraq and Afghanistan. For more information see ivaw.org or griprights.org. Call the GI Rights Hotline if you are in the military and need help: (877) 447-4487.

RESOURCES

• Additional copies of this leaflet are available for 10¢ each (1-199), 7¢ each (200 - 499), 6¢ each (500+) plus 20% postage or call for exact amount.

• For sample brochures and resources on war tax resistance, send a self-addressed stamped (61¢) envelope to War Resisters League at the New York address below.

• *War Tax Resistance: A Guide to Withholding Your Support from the Military*, 144-page handbook with history, methods and resources. \$15 plus \$4.95 priority mail; \$3 media mail.

LOCAL CONTACT:

If no group is listed, check for a WRL chapter on the website below, or start your own. Contact WRL for more information.

War Resisters League
339 Lafayette Street, New York, NY 10012
Tel (212) 228-0450
Fax (212) 228-6193
wrl@warresisters.org
www.warresisters.org


Grandmothers for Peace International

PHONE: (916) 730-6476; E-MAIL: lorraine@grandmothersforpeace.org; WEB: http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org

INVENTORY REDUCTION PRICES!!

ORDER FORM

-Not All Sizes Available-

	Prices	Sizes:						TOTAL
		Sm	Med	Lge	X-Lge	XX-Lge	XXX-Lge	
1. Women's Sweatshirts (Navy)	\$19.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
2. Women's Crewneck T-Shirts (Navy)	\$12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
SALE! 3. Women's Crewneck T-Shirts (White)	\$12.00 \$5.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
SALE! 4. Women's Scoopneck T-Shirts (Navy)	\$15.00 \$10.00	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	n/a	_____
SALE! 5. Women's Scoopneck T-Shirts (White)	\$15.00 \$10.00	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	_____
SALE! 6. Men's Auxiliary Sweatshirts (Navy)	\$19.00 \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
SALE! 7. Men's Auxiliary T-Shirts (Navy)	\$12.00 \$10.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
SALE! 8. Children's T-Shirts	\$10.00 \$8.00			XS/2-4	Sm/6-8	Med/10-12	Lg/14-16	_____
SALE! 9. Children's Sweatshirts	\$12.00 \$10.00			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	_____
10. Baseball Cap with Logo (adjustable size) 	\$12.00						<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
11. Bumper Sticker (postage included) [Volume discounts available]	\$ 2.00						<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
12. Buttons (S&H included) [Volume discounts available]	\$ 2.00						<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

SHIPPING: \$4.50 for 1st item = \$ _____

\$2.00 for each additional item x _____ = \$ _____

Subtotal = \$ _____

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New!

Grocery/Everything Tote



Navy — \$12.00 _____

(12 oz. Cotton Twill, 15.5" H x 13" W x 7" D)

Bigger & Wider - Perfect for groceries and anything else you want to carry. Cut down on plastic - Help the environment.

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E-MAIL: lorraine@grandmothersforpeace.org
WEB: <http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org>

Newsletter Editor/Publisher: Patricia Altenburg

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No GFP POLITICAL ENDORSEMENTS PERMITTED
Although Grandmothers for Peace, as an organization or chapter, can not endorse any political candidate or group due to our non-profit status,
WE DO THANK EVERYONE WHO SUPPORTS PEACE.



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Elk Grove, CA 95759 USA

11/2009

Numbers You Need

4,475 US Military Deaths in Iraq*
1,777 US Military Deaths in Afghanistan
Cost of Wars:
\$1,252,755,589,828.00 (Trillion)*

President Barack Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

E-mail: go to Website:
www.whitehouse.gov/contact
Switchboard: (202) 456-1414

Comment Line: (202) 456-1111

Fax: (202) 456-2461

First Lady Michelle Obama

E-mail: comment@whitehouse.gov

Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton

Switchboard: (202) 647-4000

Secretary of Defense Leon E. Panetta

Pentagon Switchboard: (703) 545-6700

Members Of Congress

Senate & House: (202) 224-3121

(*icasualties.org; costofwar.com; 9-21-11)



CONSIDER THIS

The estimated cost of the Afghanistan War is

\$120,000,000,000.00 / per year

OR:

\$10,000,000,000.00 / per month

\$2,307,692,307.69 / per week

\$328,767,123.29 / per day

\$13,698,630.14 / per hour

\$228,310.50 / per minute

\$3,805.18 / per second

\$120 Billion dollars - out of your wallet.

(www.costofwar.com)

COST OF WAR: TRADE OFFS

Taxpayers in the United States will pay \$169.4 billion for Total Iraq & Afghanistan war spending for FY2011. For the same amount of money, the following could be provided.

- * 78.0 million Households with Energy Costs for One Year, OR
- * 86.8 million Children with Low-Income Healthcare for One year, OR
- * 2.5 million Elementary School Teachers for One Year, OR
- * 16.4 million One-Bedroom Apartments for One Year, OR
- * 2.8 million Firefighters for One Year, OR
- * 22.3 million Head Start Slots for Children for One Year, OR
- * 73.1 million Households Converted to All Solar Energy for One Year, OR
- * 153.4 million Households Converted to All Wind Energy for One Year, OR
- * 21.7 million Military Veterans with VA Medical Care for One Year. OR
- * 80.9 million Individuals with Groceries for One Year, OR
- * 34.8 million People with Low-Income Healthcare for One Year, OR
- * 2.4 million Police or Sheriff's Patrol Officers for One Year, OR
- * 21.5 million Scholarships for University Students for One Year, OR
- * 30.5 million Students with Pell Grants of \$5,550.

FINDING THE TRADE OFFS FOR YOUR STATE

1. At the **www.costofwar.com** Home Page, in the bar under the Cost of War, click on Trade Offs
2. There is a box with the title Choose State, City, County, Con. District. Under the title State is a green oblong button below with United States, either keep the United States or click on the United States button and select the desired state. Ignore the other three buttons in the box, they do nothing.
3. In the box with the title Choose Program and Trade Off, click on the green button Afghanistan war spending for FY2011 and choose what you want. Then under Trade Off, click on the green button All and select what you want.
4. Under the Choose Program and Trade Off box, to the right is a white button: Get Trade Offs. Click.
5. This page gives you the answers to your selections. You can make new selections on the page and click the Get Trade Offs button for those selection answers.

Grandmothers for Peace International Newsletter insert - Fall 2011

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