

“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

Spring 2017

## GRANDMOTHERS FOR PEACE - 35 YEARS - NEVERTHELESS, WE PERSIST



Indianapolis, IN: Some GFPI Indiana members at the Indiana Rally. Other members and family were at marches around the country and the world.



West Virginia: GFP Soleil Gregg, left, and Sandy Sowell from Hurricane, WV.



Washington, D.C.: GFP Dorothy Wolden and husband, David, represent the Superior, WI, /Duluth, MN, Northland Chapter.



Sacramento, CA: GFP Sally Weinland, seated, and her granddaughter Jillian Jackson with husband Eric Bettancourt. Sally assured us - "I'm wearing my gfp shirt under my coat!"

*To announce that there must be no criticism of the president, or that we are to stand by the president, right or wrong, is not only unpatriotic and servile, but is morally treasonable to the American public.*  
— Theodore Roosevelt, (1918)

*There are not enough jails, not enough police, not enough courts to enforce a law not supported by the people.*  
— Hubert H. Humphrey

*We must not confuse dissent with disloyalty. When the loyal opposition dies, I think the soul of America dies with it.*  
— Edward R. Murrow

**Women's March  
January 21, 2017**



Chicago, IL: GFP September Bowmen, right, and her husband traveled from Goleta, CA, to participate with their daughter, Summer, left, a March organizer and their granddaughter.



San Jose, CA: GFP Joanne Thompson with daughters and granddaughters.



Sacramento, CA: GFP Linda Miller, left, her daughter, Larissa Miller, and her daughter, Lillian.



Duluth, MN: GFP Diane Kruger, granddaughter Sophia.

## *Civil disobedience is not our problem.*

*Our problem is civil obedience. Our problem is that people all over the world have obeyed the dictates of their leaders and have gone to war, and millions have been killed because of this obedience ... Our problem is that people are obedient all over the world in the face of poverty and starvation and cruelty. Our problem is that people are obedient while the jails are full of petty thieves, and the grand thieves are running the country. That's our problem. — Howard Zinn, 1922-2010*

## Women's March January 21, 2017



San Jose, CA: GFP Gisela Foster and friends at Light Rail. "It was the biggest march I have ever been in. They said 25,000."



Phoenix, AZ: GFP Penny Williams, right, is the woman in the dark coat and sun glasses behind the man wearing a baseball cap.



Sacramento, CA  
GFP Diane Bader.

### Linda Miller Elk Grove, CA

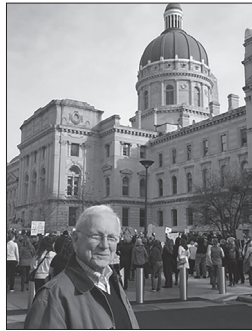
Linda, with daughter, Larissa Lerch, and granddaughter, Lillian Lerch, attended the Sacramento Women's March. (See picture on front page.)

It was Lillian's first "March" and she was thrilled to see other young women and even some boys there.

Larissa's husband, acting as our "Uber" driver, dropped off my husband Zach and me at 11<sup>th</sup> Street. We walked to the State Capitol through huge crowds. About 20 minutes later, Larissa and Lillian were dropped off.

We connected via text and calls. It took them about 30 minutes to thread their way through the huge crowds to join us in front of the Capitol! What a wonderful day!

*From Lorraine:* Since 1999 Linda and Zach have been our next door neighbors and both are involved activists. About 10 to 12 years ago (at the height of the Iraq war), they brought us a Christmas present — a very large PEACE sign, the words, not the image! It was a duplicate of the one they had. We put it over our garage and never took it down. A few years ago it was stolen, ripped down. When I told Zach and Linda, in a matter of hours they brought their sign over for us! It still hangs over our garage, with hope, thanks to Linda and Zach.



Indianapolis, IN

### Christie Stephens Indiana

*GFPI members attending the Rally.*

Christie Stephens, Stan Stephens, Gail Smith, Paul Smith, Sharon Miller, Kay Shively, Nancy Hoffman, Norma Abbey, Lois Rockhill, Erv Rockhill, Kelly Rockhill, Dawn Herr, Bruce Herr, Bodhi Herr, and other family members were at marches around the country and world. (See picture above and on front page.)

### Joanne Thompson San Jose, CA

"It was wonderful to share this day with my daughters and grandchildren, standing for what we believe in. Three generations of women from ages 6-months to 69-years old marching for peace and justice is a historic moment for me." (See picture on front page.)

### Soleil Gregg Hurricane, West Virginia

My friend and neighbor, Sandy Sowell, went to the WV Women's March with me. Sandy was part of a group of musicians leading the marchers in some inspirational songs. (See picture on front page.)

My daughter Sara and her husband Matt Schmitz (Loretta's son) and their three children live in El Sobrante in the East Bay, near Matt's father, Dennis Schmitz.

*From Lorraine:* This is how we become a large "family" of solidarity. Matt is the son of the late Loretta Schmitz (see "Those we lost") and I believe Loretta introduced GFP to Soleil. Solidarity of purpose ...



Duluth, MN:  
Christina Gallup, left,  
GFP Diane Kruger, and  
Julie Urban.

### Diane Kruger Superior, WI

Christina Gallup, Julie Urban, and Sophia Kruger, my granddaughter, were my companions at the Woman's March in Duluth, MN. About 1,500 people attended. (See picture above and on front page.)

It was important to me personally to participate in this and to be united with women around the world marching for justice and

**35 Years**

equality, taking a stand for women and making a strong statement.

I am extremely proud of the special women in my life who marched along side me. Sophia will remember this for the rest of her life. She was very excited to see a classmate of hers on Superior Street. They hugged and have something to tell their teacher on Monday.

**Joan Kroll  
Sun City, AZ (Phoenix Area)**

On January 21<sup>st</sup>, two of our members opted to skip our regular demonstration and join the large group of demonstrators at the Women's march.

*Carolyn Modeen* wrote:

"So happy to have been part of the 27,000 rally attendees in Phoenix, AZ, January 21. It was peaceful. It was loving. It was fun. Just what the world should be."

*Penny Williams* wrote:

"I can't say it was specifically a peace event, but it was definitely, well, peaceful. A very diverse crowd of people were warm, friendly and welcoming. All ages, all colors, probably all religions. There was wonderful, positive energy everywhere among the approximately 30,000 people who attended.

There were no disrupters or counter protesters. There were police along the march route for crowd control, but they were friendly & non confrontational.

Main focus of the March was of course women's issues. But there were demonstrators there supporting many progressive causes: immigrants' rights, labor unions, public education, civil liberties, nuclear disarmament."

**Random Sharings**

"We were able to walk in the Women's March through Texas Tech University in Lubbock, Texas.

*GFP, Jerry*

At the last minute, I became aware of the Pussy Hat movement. I found three friends and we knitted nine hats to donate to the Boston and Washington Marches.

*Devika/Ellen Hill, Gilbert, AZ*

My Granddaughter, Veronica Lund, a teacher in Minneapolis, will be marching this Saturday.

*Marilyn Bowes, MN*

Thank you Lorraine. On Saturday, Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> I will be joining the New York City March at Dag Hammarskjold Plaza on 1<sup>st</sup> Ave., for equality, women's & civil rights, environmental health and more.

My 11 year old granddaughter and her mom will be marching in Washington, D.C.; I'm very proud of them.

*Joy Christena-Gordon, NJ*

I plan to participate in the Women's March on Saturday, Jan 21.

*Kathleen McLean, Sacramento, CA*

There was a wonderful program honoring Martin Luther King, Jr yesterday in the auditorium of Sonora High School. Sorry, I have no pictures, but the huge building was over 3/4 full and speaker Dr. Mimi Kim spoke on Transformative Justice. Very inspiring. This Saturday I will join many from Tuolumne County and surrounding counties on buses and ride to Sacramento to take part in the march. We are glad to be moving forward.

*Lane Willey, Sonora, CA"*

**Other Doings**

**Joan Kroll  
Sun City, AZ (Phoenix Area)**

In response to an action idea from Lorraine, I have posted 10 postcards to the president and various political "leaders." I found the effort therapeutic as I hand wrote individual messages to each person expressing my feelings. I know they may never be read but at least, I vented. I was pleasantly surprised when some people actually wrote to thank me for forwarding the action alert.

Our group is involved in various activities. I believe having alternate activities allows us to continue our peace activities without burnout.

In winter months we are privileged to be joined by a wonderful woman who happens to be a concert pianist. Rosemary Schroeder is a dedicated peace activist whether in Arizona or back in Illinois. When she and her husband travel, she always arranges to do a concert at destinations that have fund raisers for women's causes.

Each of our group has non-peace related activities. Carolyn Modeen is also a pianist and she is involved in politics. Penny Williams is also politically involved and has a special connection to a food bank for an impoverished community North of our community. Also, she regularly plays Mahjong with lady friends. Heather Rosa does wire wrapping of jewelry and polishes gems for jewelry. James Stewart is involved in music, bagpipes and ukulele, and his wife Claudette Cohn is an artist. Protestors and passing motorists alike are inspired when James brings his bagpipes to our demonstrations and plays. Joanna Mola is involved in her church and writes biographies of church members.

My husband Bob and I volunteer weekly at our local food bank where, at the front desk, I wear my Grandmothers for Peace button and am happy to answer inquiries about our group. I sing in a local community choir, The Westernaire's, and I find music to be very soothing to my mood. Bob is also involved in the wood club and the computer club. Each one of these varied people feels strongly about the need for Peace and we continue to demonstrate.

**Prescott, AZ**



**GFP Ordell Nelson and friends participate in the Martin Luther King, Jr Day parade.**

**Superior, WI**



**Grandmothers for Peace, Northland Chapter, held their Annual Meeting/Potluck May 21, 2016.**

## DIRECTOR'S NOTE

*Dear Grandmothers for Peace,*

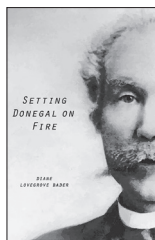
Thirty-five years and we continue! 1982 to 2017—persistent, eh? We may not be billionaires who “run” things, but we have a far greater calling — a better safer world for our children, grandchildren and all the generations to come. Our job is much tougher than being a money changer. We want to change the human condition.

In early January, I sent a message asking for comments on upcoming protests, vigils and marches. Many of you responded and participated. It is First Amendment time GFP! Please read how very involved and active we can be. And I also suggested a postcard writing campaign for all, but particularly for those of us who can't march or get out easily. (Postcards because they don't go through special processing, as do letters, looking for whatever they look for these days). We can all do something to be engaged.

There is a lot of propaganda being thrown at us. Listen to comments from the White House: “it would be/is a disaster” and “trust me.” I think not. Read, but check sources and sort out sensible reality. Listen with skepticism. Yes, that is our new reality. Solidarity of purpose will get us through. And remember this

*“If you begin to burn out, I will step in. When I get exhausted, another will step in, when another burns low, you or I step in again and help shake the embers to burn again. Together we can make a difference.”*

*Peace to all of us,  
Lorraine*



**Setting Donegal on Fire**, by **Diane Lovegrove Bader**. In 1877, Daniel Sweeney, who has become a wealthy Irish immigrant, leaves San Francisco and returns to Ireland with his wife and eight children. Appalled at the miserable conditions in which he finds the uneducated peasants of his native land, he challenges what he believes is a policy of neglect by both the landlords and the authorities. He gives fiery speeches which stir thousands into resistance against their unjust landlords. Find out what happens as a result.

The book is available for purchase from the author directly, or from Amazon.

Diane Lovegrove Bader  
9425 Montevideo Dr.  
Wilton, CA 95693

Also, check out Diane Lovegrove Bader on Facebook for photos from her Ireland book launch.

*Editor's Note:* Diane is a Sacramento GFP member.

## Resource Information

### Senators of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

Alphabetical Directory:

Address

Office Phone Number

E-mail Address

<https://www.senate.gov/senators/contact/>

Senate Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

### Representatives of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress

Directory:

Office Phone Number

<http://www.house.gov/representatives/>

No E-mail Addresses Available

House Switchboard: (202) 225-3121

TTY: (202) 225 1904

Current Legislative Activities: <http://beta.congress.gov/>

### Some tips to help you make that call

1. Call congressional offices directly or through the switchboard.
2. Ask to speak to the aide who handles the issue about which you are calling.
3. Let them know that you are a constituent.
4. Know your facts.
5. Be brief.
6. Be timely.

## American Civil Liberties Union

For almost 100 years, the ACLU has worked to defend and preserve the individual rights and liberties guaranteed by the Constitution and laws of the United States.

*Contact Information*

**National Office:**

ACLU

125 Broad Street, 18<sup>th</sup> Floor

New York, NY 10004

(212) 549-2500-2400

E-mail: [infoaclu@aclu.org](mailto:infoaclu@aclu.org)

[www.aclu.org](http://www.aclu.org)

## Southern Poverty Law Center

This non-profit organization, SPLC is “dedicated to fighting hate and bigotry and to seeking justice for the most vulnerable members of our society. Using litigation, education, and other forms of advocacy, the SPLC works toward the day when the ideals of equal justice and equal opportunity will be a reality.”

*Contact Information:*

Southern Poverty Law Center,

400 Washington Ave.

Montgomery, AL 36104

(888) 414-7752

[www.splcenter.org](http://www.splcenter.org)

## Those we have lost ...

**Loretta Schmitz**  
(d. August 15, 2016)



Loretta was a longtime member of GFP, even “BL” (before Lorraine ...). She had no fear of standing alone on a corner, wearing her shirt to protest injustice. She didn’t “do” the computer, but I used to get long, activism filled letters from her, even writings in the margins and on the envelope! She was unwavering in her convictions for Peace and Justice, with non-stop dedication. Loretta, your passion for “right” lives on. I shall miss your enthusiasm and love for GFP, always.

**Jean Stead**  
(d. December 2, 2016)



I “met” Jean Stead via e-mail right after Barbara Wiedner died. We shared our thoughts and memories and then became fast friends, although virtual until January 2015. I then had the joy of meeting Jean at her home in London. We didn’t have near enough time together, but planned a

return visit. Sadly fate stepped in. You will remember the many riveting articles she contributed to our newsletter over the years, being our U.K. contact for GFP. Jean was an investigative journalist with The Guardian (please search her name for their detailed obituary) for many years, and it was always a privilege to have her write for us. She

had an extraordinary life and it was an honor to call her a friend.

**Charlie Liteky**  
(d. January 20, 2017)

My first meeting with Charlie was at the gates of Ft. Benning, GA, as he stood a silent, solitary vigil against the School of the Americas. Over the years he and his wife, Judy, became my friends. Many of us greeted Charlie after his release from a year in prison for civil disobedience. Charlie was a chaplain in Vietnam and was awarded the Medal of Honor. He eventually gave it back. He left the priesthood and became an activist for peace and justice. He also married Judy, a former nun. Together they were a formidable team.



If you do a search on both Charlie and Judy, you will be able to read about them in detail.

**Judy Liteky**  
(d. August 20, 2016)

Judy died five months before Charlie. She was a college educator and a devoted activist along with her husband Charlie. This was an unbeatable couple with wit, devotion and dedication. It pains me to think they are both gone.

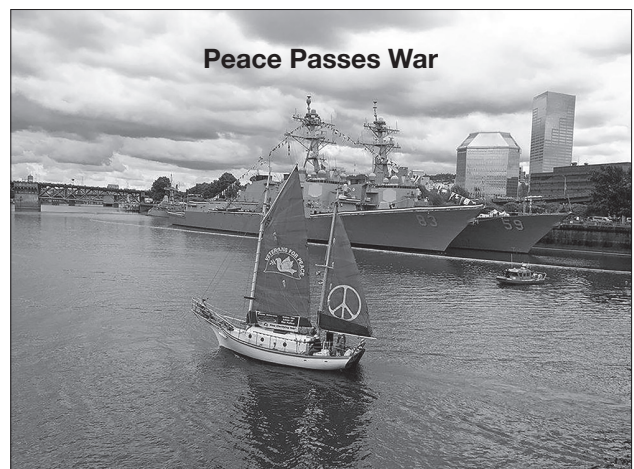
*May all who have passed remain in our hearts and give us strength to continue ...*

**Dorothy Runnicles**  
Gloucester, England  
United Kingdom

The debate about how to secure Peace is very active in the UK at present. I did hope to see more progress in the last 70+ years that I have monitored and supported peace movements in Britain, particularly those supported by women. I camped at Greenham Common with other women to protest the Cruise Missiles.

Currently, I do recognise this is a very serious and complex debate, and wonder how women can improve it.

*Editor Note:* GFP Dorothy Runnicles is our U.K. contact for GFP.



Fleet week, Portland, Oregon, June 2016  
- The Golden Rule -

# Mikhail Gorbachev: 'It All Looks as if the World Is Preparing for War'

Mikhail Gorbachev  
Jan 26, 2017

**Ideas** Mikhail Gorbachev was the president of the Soviet Union and is the author of *The New Russia*.

The world today is overwhelmed with problems. Policymakers seem to be confused and at a loss.

But no problem is more urgent today than the militarization of politics and the new arms race. Stopping and reversing *this ruinous race* must be our top priority.

The current situation is too dangerous.

More troops, tanks and armored personnel carriers are being brought to Europe. *NATO* and *Russian* forces and weapons that used to be deployed at a distance are now placed closer to each other, as if to shoot point-blank.

While state budgets are struggling to fund people's essential social needs, military spending is growing. Money is easily found for sophisticated weapons whose destructive power is comparable to that of the weapons of mass destruction; for submarines whose single salvo is capable of devastating half a continent; for missile defense systems that undermine strategic stability.

Politicians and military leaders sound increasingly belligerent and defense doctrines more dangerous. Commentators and TV personalities are joining the bellicose chorus. It all looks as if the world is preparing for war.

## It could have been different

In the second half of the 1980s, together with the U.S., we launched a process of reducing nuclear weapons and lowering the nuclear threat. By now, as Russia and the U.S. reported to the Non-proliferation Treaty Review Conference, 80% of the nuclear weapons accumulated during the years of the Cold War have been decommissioned and destroyed. No one's security has been diminished, and the danger of nuclear war starting as a result of technical failure or accident has been reduced.

This was made possible, above all, by the awareness of the leaders of major nuclear powers that nuclear war is unacceptable.

*In November 1985*, at the first summit in Geneva, the leaders of the Soviet Union and the U.S. declared: Nuclear war cannot be won and must never be fought. Our two nations will not seek military superiority. This statement was met with a sigh of relief worldwide.

I recall a *Politburo* meeting in 1986 at which the defense doctrine was discussed. The proposed draft contained the following language: "Respond to attack with all available means." Members of the politburo objected to this formula. All agreed that nuclear weapons must serve only one purpose: preventing war. And the ultimate goal should be a world without nuclear weapons.

## Breaking out of the vicious circle

Today, however, the nuclear threat once again seems real. Relations between the great powers have been going from bad to worse for several years now. The advocates for arms build-up and the military-industrial complex are rubbing their hands.

We must break out of this situation. We need to resume political dialogue aiming at joint decisions and joint action.

There is a view that the dialogue should focus on fighting terrorism. This is indeed an important, urgent task. But, as a core of a normal relationship and eventually partnership, it is not enough.

The focus should once again be on preventing war, phasing out the arms race, and reducing weapons arsenals. The goal should be to agree, not just on nuclear weapons levels and ceilings, but also on missile defense and strategic stability.

In modern world, wars must be outlawed, because none of the global problems we are facing can be resolved by war — not poverty, nor the environment, migration, population growth, or shortages of resources.

## Take the first step

I urge the members of the U.N. Security Council — the body that bears primary responsibility for *international peace and security* — to take the first step. Specifically, I propose that a Security Council meeting at the level of heads of state adopt a resolution stating that nuclear war is unacceptable and must never be fought.

I think the initiative to adopt such a resolution should come from *Donald Trump* and Vladimir Putin — the Presidents of two nations that hold over *90% of the world's nuclear arsenals* and therefore bear a special responsibility.

*President Franklin D. Roosevelt* once said that one of the main freedoms is freedom from fear. Today, the burden of fear and the stress of bearing it is felt by millions of people, and the main reason for it is militarism, armed conflicts, the arms race, and the nuclear Sword of Damocles. Ridding the world of this fear means making people freer. This should become a common goal. Many other problems would then be easier to resolve.

The time to decide and act is now.

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[HTTP://TIME.COM/4645442/GORBACHEV-PUTIN-TRUMP/#](http://time.com/4645442/gorbachev-putin-trump/#)

# Grandmothers for Peace International

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11/2009

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1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

*Comment Line:* (202) 456-1111

### **Members Of Congress**

Senate Switchboard: (202) 224-3121

House Switchboard: (202) 225-3121

TTY: (202) 225 1904

*For Senate and House addresses,  
please see page 4.*

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National office: (212) 549-2500

*For ACLU address, please see page 4*

### **Southern Poverty Law Center**

Montgomery, AL: (334) 956-8437

*For SPLC addresses, please see page 4.*

