

"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

Fall 2006

Founded 1982

Iraq War Update

U.S. Military Deaths = 2,578

Iraqi Civilian Deaths = 30,000-100,000

U.S. Military Wounded = 18,000-48,100

Cost = \$300,104,489,575*

***Instead, US Tax Dollars could have:**

Funded pre-school for 39,228,885 children for a year;

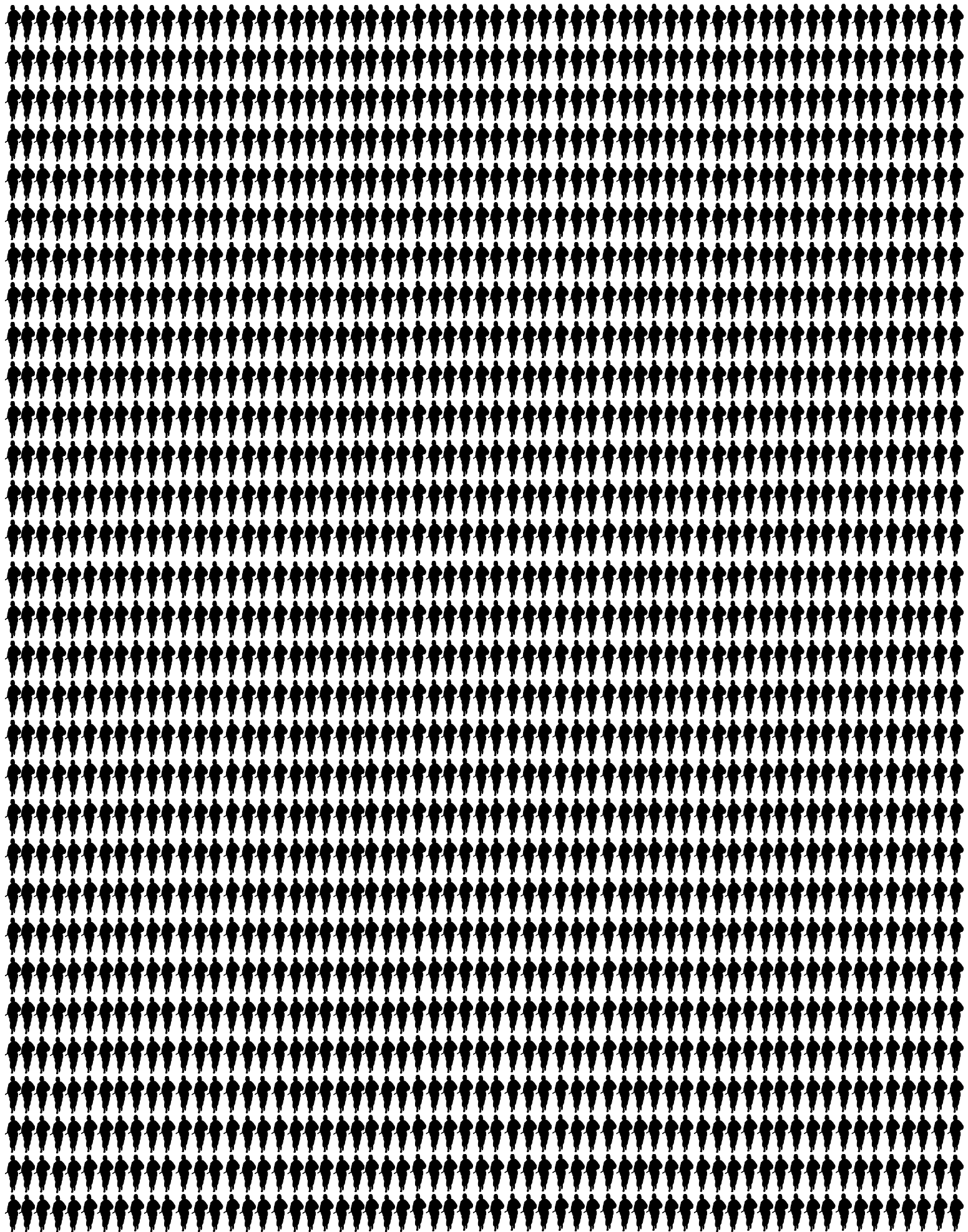
Hired 5,472,330 teachers;

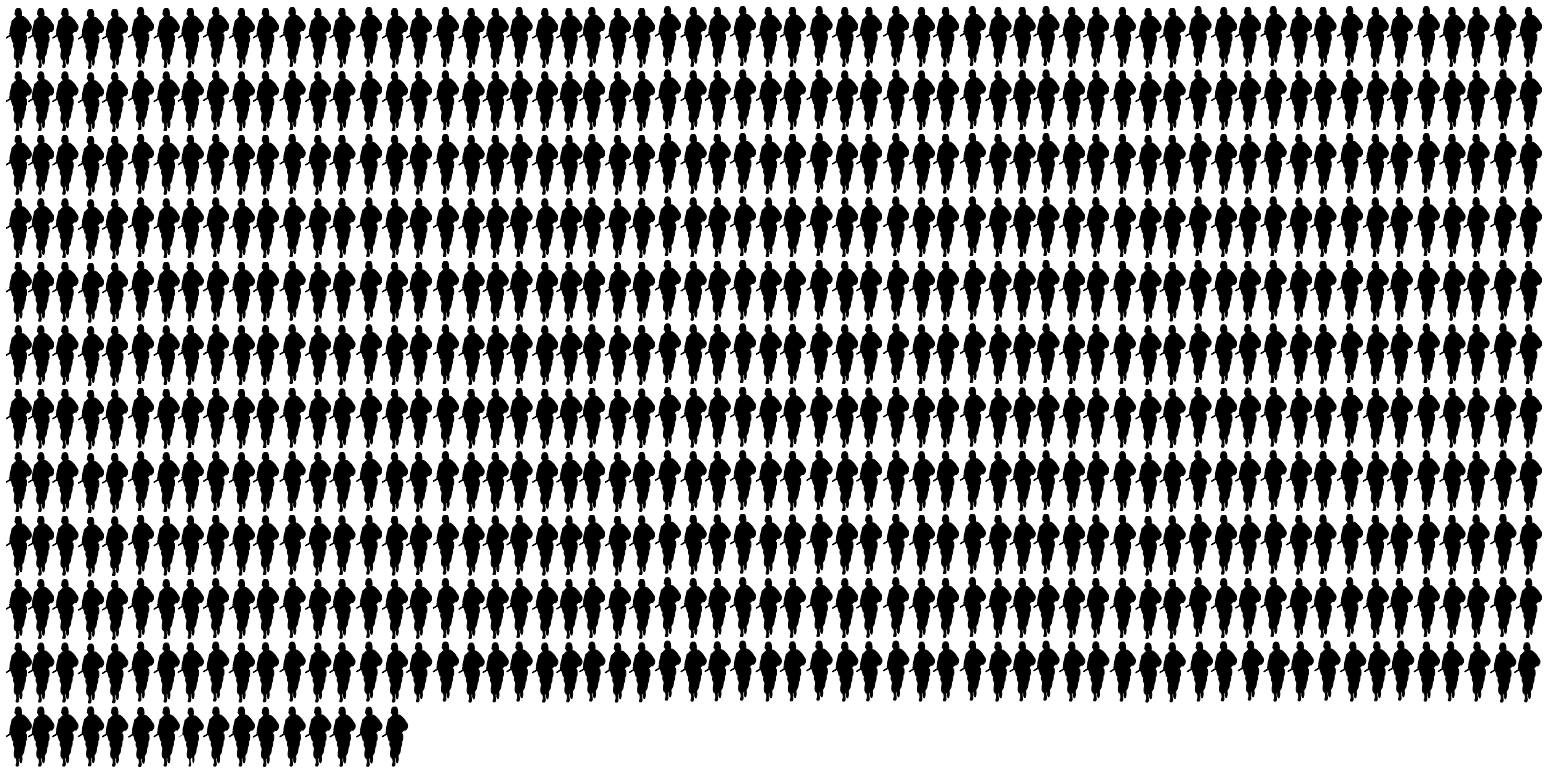
Built 2,666,808 affordable housing units;

Funded 14,358,215 students with four-year college scholarships;

Provided 71,717,012 people with health care;

**And funded neglected infrastructure, jobs, world hunger problems,
world immunization, environmental concerns, etc., etc., etc. ...**





2,578 US Military Loved Ones Are Dead



An accurate Iraqi civilian death count does not exist. As General Tommy Franks, US Central Command, states: “We don’t do body counts.” However, the *IRAQ BODY COUNT Database** does report civilian deaths resulting from the US-led military intervention in Iraq, and their count is between 39,116 - 43,568 deaths. They derive these casualty figures “from a comprehensive survey of online media reports from recognized sources.” If the source figures differ, a range of minimum/maximum is given.

Another source of Iraqi casualty figures is the British Medical Journal *Lancet***. Their estimate: 100,000 civilians killed.

The GFP newsletter would need between 20½ - 23¾ pages of silhouettes to display the IBC figures, and 52¾ pages for the *Lancet* figures.

*www.iraqbodycount.org/database; **www.antiwar.com

Director’s Notes

I realize it was shocking to open this newsletter. But, the only way to represent the impact of those that are gone is to do this. And, if we were to show the Iraq casualties, we would need 52 pages, based on the 100,000 count. Pass it on, or show it to someone who still supports the war. Perhaps the graphic of how many we have lost will make an impact.

We have no President to pin our hopes on, only ourselves. And to use an old, but very appropriate phrase right now: “If the people will lead, the leaders will follow.” If ever we need that, it is now. As we go to press, the Middle East is in chaos. There is little leadership to guide the world. In 2003 we were at the Federal Building in Sacramento lobbying our Con-

gress people to vote against the war. A reporter from National Public Radio interviewed me and asked about what I thought would happen. I said, “If George Bush starts a war in Iraq it will not stay within the borders, it will spread like a cancer and the entire Middle East will be aflame.” I am not an expert. Why could I see that and the “learned ones” could not? Yes, I see your head nodding, “money, profit and power.”

This has been a busy six months, both for our chapters and for me personally around Sacramento. **Sharon Medhi** read from her wonderful little book “The Great Silent Grandmother Gathering.” **Laurie Loving, of Military Families Speak Out**, spoke of her heart wrenching experience of having a son in Iraq. On Earth Day, 1,500 people “greeted” George Bush as he toured a fuel cell company in West Sacramento. **Shirley O’Key**, a long time GFP



Sacramento, CA: Guest speaker, Laurie Loving, left, of Military Families Speak Out, with Lorraine Krofchok, Feb. 25, 2006, GFP meeting.

gress member, spoke about her return trip to Albania after being a **Peace Corps** member there in 1992-1993 at age 72. Many of us have spent considerable time on street corners protesting.

Our chapters continue to grow. **Flo Weber**, in the San Fernando Valley of Southern California, spent Easter at Camp Casey. Flo has made a grand success out of her efforts by never giving up!

◆ PLEASE SEE DIRECTOR’S NOTES, PAGE 4

Director's Notes:

◆ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

She now has a weekly vigil-for-peace at a local Farmer's Market.

Barb Humphreys in Palm Springs, CA, has done a magnificent job of organizing the "desert people"! She has a strong and dedicated group thanks to her leadership.

Please read the many reports of activities around the country and look over several new chapters that are developing.

Just before George Bush invaded Iraq, I had the privilege of going to Modesto, CA, for the dedication of the billboard that is pictured on this page. The lovely, smiling faces of the children should have stopped any war. But, that was not to be. Recently, the **Modesto Peace Life Center** and other sponsors wanted to put the billboard up again. They were turned down by the national advertiser—the copy was "not accepted." An executive said that there were some complaints about the ad last time and that, had he known about the ad then, he would not have run it the first time (apparently it got by him). Hmm ...

NO WAR!

War destroys precious lives ...



... on ALL sides

• Modesto Church of the Brethren
• College Avenue Congregational Church-UCC
• Delta Friends Meeting (Quakers)

• The Modesto Peace/Life Center
• Committee for Peace in the Middle East
• Unitarian Universalist Social Action Committee

Image: David Radcliff

And, our **Opt-Out** booklet for students and parents is now available on line in Spanish. Please, if you are not connected and want a copy, just write to me and I will mail you one. We have had great success with this program and hope to continue as long as they are needed. Young people should have a choice, and other options are open. They just need to learn about them and we must help.

Please consider sending in a picture—in your GFP shirt—to the **Freedom Against War** website that is mentioned in this newsletter. We are in solidarity with them.

My thanks and gratitude to each of you who speak out against this and any war. The cycle of violence, hate and destruction has to stop if we are ever going to save our planet.

Please vote in November. The people of the world need us. We all must say "**Enough!**"

Peace to all of us, Lorraine

Bernice Kring



Bernice Kring arrested May 29, 1997, at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory protesting the construction of the National Ignition Facility.

Last February, as our newsletters were in the mail, our friend Bernice Kring died. Bernice was a friend, an activist, a mother and a grandmother. Her knowledge and dedication will be missed, as well as her friendship and laughter. This is Bernice's favorite picture! She was a member of the Grandmothers for Peace Board and extremely knowledgeable about many issues.

The nuclear problem was foremost in her mind. Bernice stood on the tracks several years ago in Sacramento when the nuclear fuel rods were being transported through town. She protested at Livermore and stood on many street corners with me. As time marched on, she was not able to participate as often as she would have liked, but her dedication will live forever. Each of us will now have to do a little more.

Bernice cannot be replaced, we just have to remember she walks beside us, as dedicated as ever, and an inspiration always.

—Lorraine Krofchok

Granny Peace Brigaders Trek to Washington

By Joan Wile: Director, Grandmothers Against the War and Granny Peace Brigader

The **Granny Peace Brigaders** completed the final leg of their trek from New York City to Washington under a sweltering, blazing sun in the nation's capitol. But the extreme heat was not enough to curb our actions.

Our Washington sojourn began on July 3 in Dupont Circle, where we were met by **Cindy Sheehan, Daniel Ellsberg, Dick Gregory, Medea Benjamin**, and others. They escorted us to the main event—a rally at the beautiful Gandhi Statue. **Vinie Burrows**, our famed Broadway actress/playwright granny, gave a powerful speech which received world-wide press and media coverage.

Other eloquent speeches were made by Ms.

Sheehan, Mr. Ellsberg, Mr. Gregory, and a marvelous orator from San Francisco, **Rev. Yearwood**, mesmerized the audience.

Our entire peace entourage then walked through Northwest Washington to Lafayette Park across the street from the White House. We grannies chanted, sang and displayed banners and signs right at the gate of the President's residence (so-called on the rare occasions when he actually is there).

There were many **CodePink** people in Lafayette Park preparing for a fast to begin at midnight. Two of our grannies—**Vinie Burrows and Diane Dreyfus**—undertook the fast for 24 hours in solidarity with many people around the world protesting this terrible war.

The next day: Independence Day! What to do as a final expression of our mission to awaken the public to the need for direct action to end the war in Iraq? Well, who besides Bush is principally responsible for the whole mess in Iraq? You guessed it—Dick Cheney. So, early in the morning, we hiked off to the Naval Observatory residence of Mr. Cheney (another non-resider), where we again chanted and sang. We were amazed at the number of passing cars which honked in support of us. Given the kinds of cars and the very tony neighborhood we were in, we speculated this might be a sign of further slippage of support for Bush and the war.

After more vigils and walks along the National Mall, we piled wearily into our bus for the ride back to New York.

In discussing our trek, the consensus seemed to be that although it had been quite difficult and enervating, especially given the extreme heat, it was a worthwhile and interesting endeavor. There was universal agreement that the people who housed and fed us along the tour were magnificent in their commitment to peace and to the hospitality they showed all of us.

Our entire journey, from beginning to end, was filmed by documentary film producers, **Bob Sann and Fran Sears, and a crew of 10**. They doggedly followed us and hope to produce a miracle and have the film ready for release by mid-September. In their words, "*The real gift of the Grannies is the living, breathing lesson they give every single day about what it is to be a participating member in our democracy. With these remarkable women on the road, we watched in awe as they tirelessly—and with humor and grace—kept spreading the word that 'Democracy is not a spectator sport.' As filmmakers, our task is to take their message across the United States. Like their tee-shirts proclaim: 'WE WILL NOT BE SILENT,' and neither will we.*"

FROM COAST TO COAST AND BEYOND

Superior, Wisconsin
Joyce Kramer

This is a report of the first day of the **Grannie Trek** from New York City to Washington, D.C.



New York City, NY: Joyce Kramer and her Northland Chapter GFP banner, spent day one with the Grannie Peace Brigade Trekkers before they left for Washington, DC. June 24, 2006.

I am so glad that I went. There were about fifty women there—many of them considerably older than I, some in wheel chairs or using walkers. The group was ethnically diverse, plus some men joined us in sympathy. It rained very heavily at times, but the group was obviously plucky. We walked first from Columbus Circle up Broadway, about 15 blocks, to Times Square where the military recruitment station is located. It is in the very center of the Square with traffic coming and going in all directions. The Police politely escorted us, which was helpful since some were slow in getting across the streets.

Our **Northland Chapter banner** was greatly appreciated, as no one else had anything like it. The leaders wanted me up front, so I got my photo taken by multiple media folk, plus lots of tourists. CNN was there as well as others. I was interviewed by two different journalists because I had come so far for



Superior, WI: The GFP Northland Chapter shared a float with Veterans for Peace, and Peace North in the 4th of July Parade, 2006.

the event. The original 18 “Grannie jailbirds” thanked me multiple times for coming. They then journeyed on to Washington, D.C., making multiple stops for rallies along the way. They walked in the cities, but traveled from city-to-city by chartered bus.

(Ed: Please read Joan Wile’s *Washington, DC, account of the Grannies Trek* on page 4)

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Marlene Santoyo

On Wednesday, June 28, 2006, **11 members of Philadelphia Grandmothers for Peace Chapter** were arrested at the U.S. Military Recruitment office, 125 N. Broad Street, and charged with “defiant trespass.” Among those arrested were acclaimed poet **Sonia Sanchez** and 91-year-old, wheel-chair bound **Lillian Willoughby**.

The Grannies entered the recruitment office at noon carrying an apple pie for the military recruiters. They informed the sergeant that they had come to enlist and would stay until they were permitted to do so. The women engaged the recruiters in conversation and spoke to several young people who had come to the office to obtain information or to enlist. The recruiters closed the office, but the Grannies remained inside until they were arrested by Philadelphia police around 4 p.m.

Outside the recruitment center, the **New York Grannies Brigade for Peace** and representatives from **Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom, Brandywine Peace Community, Philadelphia NOW, United for Peace and Freedom**, and other peace and justice groups from the Philadelphia region rallied in support of the Philadelphia Grannies.

The Philadelphia Grannies are part of a large United States network of grandmothers who tell recruiters: “**Take me to Iraq, not our grandchildren.**” On Valentine’s Day this year, grandmothers in over fifteen cities across the country participated in enlistment actions at recruiting centers. Grannies offer themselves to replace the young men and women needlessly put in harm’s way due to Bush’s occupation of Iraq.

Inspired by the actions of grandmothers in New York City, Tucson, Detroit, Cleveland, Minneapolis, southern Florida and Oakland, the Philadelphia Grannies are acting in the tradition of those patriots who dissented from the policies of King George of England and started the movement for independence. In the city of Philadelphia, the birthplace of a new

republic, the Philadelphia Grannies have taken as a basic responsibility the right to dissent, to oppose the use of the military to carry out an irresponsible foreign policy.

(Ed: Contact Marlene Santoyo at (215) 247-4385 or marlsan@cavtel.net for more information about the Philadelphia Grannies.)



TOP: In Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, the Philadelphia GFP have their first event as a group, a Tax Day protest against the Iraq War, at Rittenhouse Square, April 17, 2006.

BOTTOM: New York City, New York: The Philadelphia GFP participate in the April 29, 2006, anti-war rally.



San Jose, California
Margaret J. Marumoto

Since joining a few months ago, besides sending many letters of opinion and/or support, my big project was to write to many public school boards and private high schools encouraging them to distribute the brochure “**What Families Need to Know about Military Recruiting in High Schools and Colleges.**”

As a result of this effort, I received positive response from two of them: The chaplain at San Jose State University and a small private high school with mostly Spanish-speaking students and families. I am gratified by this small success.

Fairbanks, Alaska
Bryson Dean

We have educated ourselves about **Bertha Von Suttner**, the first woman recipient of the

Nobel Peace Prize, and her vision that women should be participants at all levels of decision making and at all tables where the fate of humanity is at stake; the protection of women during violent conflict and for the prevention of violence as a solution to conflict.

We have participated in deploying some toy soldiers with “Bring me Home” on them. Two members completed training for becoming counselors for the **G.I. Rights Hotline** and one member has become a counselor.

We have also taken on a project of selling Fair Trade Coffee in order to donate funds to the local G.I. Rights Hotline to help cover their phone bill. We will be at the Tanana Valley Fair, August 4th — 11th in GFP T-shirts promoting Fair Trade, Peace, and G. I. Rights.

(Ed: For G.I. Rights counseling in Alaska, call (888) 554-2822 or (907) 374-2822)

Indiana-Kentucky-Illinois

Pat Galbraith

The **Tri-State Chapter of Grandmothers for Peace** had their first meeting in June. The turn-out was sparse, but better than expected for a first meeting. Many more expressed an interest in future meetings.

Our newly formed group decided to hold a regular scheduled peace vigil at a to-be-determined location, and to meet once a month.

We contacted the **Evansville Chapter of**

Veterans for Peace and joined them in a delayed July 4th parade at Newburgh, Indiana, on July 8th. On July 13th, we presented information at the Veterans for Peace meeting.

Beginning in August, **Penny Lane Coffee House**, Evansville, has agreed to host GFP Tri-State meetings.

Malone, New York

Jeanne Norris

Dear Grandmothers for Peace, Your organization has really helped me focus this year. There are so many issues and so much going wrong on a daily basis that sometimes it's difficult to know just what to do next. My friends and I live in a very lightly populated, rural area of northern New York State. Every Saturday that it is possible—a day with no blizzard, rain storm or 100 degree heat—we gather at the center of the town of Malone from 12 to 1 p.m.

There are usually a dozen or less people attending these vigils for peace, although many of the town's people drive by and give us encouraging honks and waves. Once in awhile we get a negative yell or gesture, but not often, considering this is supposed to be redneck country.

We are mostly town elders. **Allison and Martin Murie** are the most reliable attendees. Martin is the son of the well known environmentalist Muries, a published author and a WWII vet. Allison is a weaver, homesteader and political activist. And, a grandmother.

Barbara (Bonnie) Ida is this year's New York State most creative art teacher and will be a grandmother sometime soon. She is originally from Chicago and grew up as a “red diaper” baby, with American Communist activist parents.

Lynn Stewart is the famous (or infamous) lawyer who defended (by court order) the “blind cleric” terrorist and Lynn is now in legal limbo awaiting sentencing on charges of treason. She is also fighting breast cancer. Her husband, **Ralph Poynter**, is a school teacher and union organizer from New York City who has been a Black American leader for political change for many years.

I am a business owner, have been a political activist since 1965 and have five grandchildren. I have Multiple Sclerosis and can only get around using a walker, so I kind of stand

out in the crowd, especially with my Grandmothers for Peace shirt on! My daughter **Beth**, a newly graduated college student and single Mom, usually accompanies me. Several other people join us from time to time, some of them younger people from the community college.

Thank you for being such an inspiration and for all that all of you are doing to change things.

Love, peace & solidarity, Jeanne (aka Grandma Jeanne)

Anderson, Indiana

Christie Stephens

The **Indiana Chapter of GFPI** meets weekly and continues to be involved in a number of peace and justice issues. Recently Grandmothers **Kay Shively and Dondena Caldwell** were instrumental in bringing **Carol Rose of Christian Peacemaker Teams** to Anderson where she presented several conferences on the work of Christian Peacemakers around the world. Grandmothers continue to participate in monthly peace rallies at City Hall. Visible support for the antiwar message is increasing among those who witness the rallies. Grandmother **Norma Abbey's** letters to the editor keep the voice of GFP Indiana before the public in our area.

Grandmother **Lois Rockhill** writes a weekly column about hunger and poverty.

Grandmothers **Gail Smith and Nancy Hoffman** work daily with adults and children at risk for a number of reasons including addictions and abuse.

I recently met with a mayor of a small town in Palestine. This mayor and a mayor of a small town in Israel are planning jointly to create a “Garden of Peace” for the children so they can experience a place of hope. GFP Indiana has asked to be kept informed about their needs and we have expressed our desire to be supporters of and contributors to this project. This action of cooperation between these two mayors, one Palestinian and one Israeli, is evidence of what can happen when enemies get to know one another as human beings. We are inspired by the Garden of Peace and this peacemaking project. Soon we will be meeting again with our representative to discuss the concerns we have with the administration's policies and actions.

Mesa, Arizona

Roma Jo Thompson

The **GFP East Mesa Chapter** is getting started with several new members. I will be making contact with people soon and new members are welcome. We plan on having a time of fellowship, discussion and information beginning early this Fall.



TOP: Newburgh, Indiana: Tri-State GFP members Jim and Pat Galbraith join VFP July 8 for the delayed 4th of July parade. Gary May, right in wheelchair, is Co-Chairman of the Evansville VFP Chapter 104.
BOTTOM: Jim and Pat Galbraith proudly display their GFP shirts.



Jeanne Norris
Malone, New York.

San Francisco, California

Helen Isaacson

Grandmothers for Peace Affiliate, Grandmothers Against the War (San Francisco/East Bay) has launched **The Grandmothers' Letters Project**. It was inspired by one woman's urge to "write something to my 10-year-old granddaughter—not to scare her about the Iraq war and the state of the world, but to help her to live positively in the world she must grow up in." Our plan is to gather letters, to publish them in some form, and to disseminate them widely.

We are using letters, not lectures, sermons, or slogans, to describe our own real experiences—we've lived through so many wars!

We urge you—regardless of gender—to write a letter that explores how experiences in your own life have brought you to oppose the current war and occupation. You can address actual or imaginary children and young people. You are encouraged to send copies to friends, relatives, newspapers—to distribute it widely, and above all, please send one to The Grandmothers' Letters Project.

(Ed: Contact Grandmothers Against the War, Letters Project, P.O. Box 9476, Berkeley, CA 94709. GAWletters@hotmail.com)

St. Augustine, Florida

Peg McIntire

Greetings to grannies everywhere! The **Grandparents for Peace Affiliate** got off to a good start on Valentine's Day when six sign-bearing grannies stormed the recruiting offices of the Army, Navy and Air Force politely saying: "**Take Us Instead!**" We got headlines, TV coverage and even a column on **Michael Moore's website**.

Every second Tuesday we attend the **People for Peace & Justice** meeting; every third Saturday we do a "**Bring Our Troops Home**" rally at the Bridge of Lions, from 10 a.m.- noon, with between 15 to 40 people attending. There has been a very definite increase in the number of friendly salutes, and more honking.

The 4th Friday we help at the **Food Pantry**. Every other Monday night we write to prisoners and prison officials with **Amnesty International**.

We are members of the **Florida Coalition for Peace & Justice** and we just completed two weeks of Peace Camp. Most of the counselors were from **Americorps**, and a majority of the campers were Hispanics. Their parents are members of the **Farm Workers Union**. Diversity was the name of the game. Ages ranged from 10 to 15 in one session, from 15 to 20 in the other. Differences in color, cultures,

economic status and languages presented a host of challenges. Youth-oriented issues were discussed. The older group worked one morning for **Habitat for Humanity**, and joined Gainesville activists that evening in an anti-war demonstration. It was a learning experience for all of us.

It is a sizzling summer in St. Augustine!

Kennewick, Washington

Susie Gaul

Dear GFP, Just having started up here in the eastern part of Washington I am as of now a lone voice, but I am a voice. As **Edmond Burke** said "**No one makes a greater mistake than he who did nothing because he could do only a little.**"

Peace to all, Susie

Sun City West, Arizona

Ordell Nelson

Our dedicated **West Valley Chapter** demonstrates every other Saturday at 99th & Bell in Sun City, Arizona. We are mostly seniors, as well as one teenager. Progressively hotter weather prompted us to change our gathering time from 10 a.m. in February ... to 9 a.m. in May ... to 8 a.m. and then to 7:30 a.m. in June ... and finally to 7 a.m. in July.

A welcome bagpiper wearing a kilt joined us one Saturday; he played at all the corners of our demonstration! People (driving by) have made comments like "Better over there than here!", "Get a life!", and "Thank You!". Some people have given us money to help with our costs.

One demonstrator made a fantastic suggestion that we get business cards to give passers-by. **Thanks to Lorraine Krofchok** for providing the business card format. Members of our group donated nearly \$100—enough to buy the cards. We've placed a rack of cards at the nearby Unitarian Church.

We have received publicity from **Phoenix's Air America show "A Different View."** The details of our demonstrations are mentioned nearly every Saturday on this radio program.

Our intense sun prompted a demonstrator to create an umbrella "sign" with anti-war statements written on it. As she carries her umbrella, she rotates it to display everything! She's made her unique umbrellas for others, too.

We've experienced a police attempt to limit our speech! One day a volunteer police officer blocked traffic by parking his car on the curb in front of our demonstrators. He informed us that it was illegal for us to carry "Honk for Peace" signs. We called to complain and his supervisor completely agreed with us; so we continued using our "Honk" signs. Since we demonstrate at an extremely busy corner, we generate lots of honking.

We joined a large demonstration on March 18 which was the third anniversary of the invasion of Iraq. Another demonstration was at Rep. Trent Franks office. Very recently some joined the **CodePink's Troops Home Fast** gathering in Phoenix.

And finally, we've recently ended our demonstrations with breakfast at a nearby restaurant. During one memorable breakfast, **Joan Kroll sang an anti-war song she'd written to the melody of "Amazing Grace."** Following are the words to Joan's song:

Anti-War Song

*Twin Towers fell,
A day from hell
But Iraq played no part.*

*Our "War on Terror"
Based on hot air,
We've lost the world's heart.*

*This War is Wrong
We must come home.
'Twas founded on a lie.*

*There were no Nukes,
Saddam is gone
And still our children die.*



Cartoon by TMC member Josh Bellin

London, England

Jean Stead

Grandmothers for Peace International in the United Kingdom have been busy this year, not only protesting about their government's plans to upgrade the fleet of Trident submarines carrying missiles leased from the U.S. and their warheads (each of which is eight times the size of the Hiroshima bomb), but also against the cutting of civil liberties. It is said this is being done to strengthen the anti-terrorism laws, but campaigners say it is actually being used to cut down on protest

Chapter News: England

◆ CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

Now you can get arrested for wearing a T-shirt with a protest slogan, for forming groups of more than three, and even, recently for carrying a copy of "Vanity Fair" with an article by Henry Porter closely examining all the laws and regulations which have been passed (without a Parliamentary vote) to cut ancient liberties.

This was the reason two of our courageous members, **Helen John** and **Sylvia Boyes**, deliberately crossed the yellow line at the entrance to the Menwith Hill "listening post" used by the Americans in Yorkshire. They did it on the day in April this year **when it first became illegal to do so under the new serious organised crime act**. They also carried hammers, as they declared at the entrance, an even greater offence which made them liable to a 10-year prison sentence if it came to court.

But though they were held in the local police station for many hours, there seems to have been a strange reluctance on the part of the authorities to deal with their case. The Attorney General decided not to prosecute for the hammers. The case of Helen and Sylvia crossing the line is to come before a local court, not a higher court with a jury, in August. But the lack of a jury may mean the maximum sentence the lower court can hand out—51 weeks. A jury would probably set them free.

Helen and Sylvia also **did the same act** of crossing the line at the Lakenheath base in Britain where the US nuclear bombs are housed. Helen was told to put up her hands and surrender by a young US soldier. "You are too young for me to surrender to," said Helen. "I'm 22" he said indignantly.

"That's what I mean," said Helen, a grandmother well into her sixties. "You're too young to surrender to." No dramatic court cases followed this one. Meanwhile, they have both been on bail, not allowed to go anywhere near the Menwith Hill base.

Down in the south-west of England, where the Trident-carrying submarines are refitted at Devonport dockyard (now mainly owned by Dick Cheney's old firm) protest has been growing, and members of Grandmothers for Peace Intl. have been enthusiastic organisers and supporters of demonstrations in Exeter and Plymouth, the city where Devonport is situated.

Raymonde Hainton, one of our members in Exeter, has been one of the most supportive organisers of demonstrations on Hiroshima Day and Stop Trident protests. There have been peace camps at the base. A statement handed to the commander of the Devonport base said protesters were there "to protest against the

recommissioning of the Vanguard fleet of Trident submarines. In 2000 the UK government stated its unequivocal commitment to the abolition of nuclear weapons under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and signed up to 13 steps to global nuclear disarmament. To date none of these steps have been implemented."

Finally, an exhibition and seminar commemorating the 25th anniversary of the women's protest against the arrival of American Cruise missiles at Greenham Common in the south of England is scheduled for September, with many of the former Greenham Common women attending, as well as members of Parliament. The women are planning a year-long protest at the Faslane base of Trident in Scotland. It will start in October, with all women who were at Greenham or who would like to have been there, forming a rota of week-long vigils at the camp.

THINGS TO KNOW

Washington, DC & Nation-wide

September 21-28

Peace Pledge

The **Declaration of Peace** is a pledge to take nonviolent steps for the immediate withdrawal of US troops—and to engage in peaceful protest if a comprehensive, concrete, and rapid plan for an end to the US war in Iraq is not established and begun by September 21, 2006, *International Peace Day*.

Contact: to sign the pledge online, or to download it: www.declarationofpeace.org; e-mail info@declarationofpeace.org; call (773) 777-7858.

Fort Benning, Georgia

November 17-19

Shut Down the SOA

Join thousands from across the nation at Fort Benning, Georgia, to demand a dramatic shift in U.S. foreign policy and the closure of the controversial U.S. Army's School of the Americas (SOA).

In South America, because of the efforts of Fr. Roy Bourgeois and his workers, support for the SOA/WHINSEC continues to erode. Earlier this year, the governments of Argentina and Uruguay announced that they would cease all training at the school,



**NO GFP POLITICAL
ENDORSEMENTS PERMITTED**

Grandmothers for Peace, as an organization or chapter, can not endorse any political candidate or group due to our non-profit status.

becoming the second and third countries to announce a cessation of training. In January of 2004, Hugo Chavez announced that Venezuela would no longer send troops to train at the school.

Contact: www.soaw.org; call (202) 234-3440

Freedom From War



"What can I do to make a difference?" This is the question David Dionisi received countless times

from the readers of his book:

"American Hiroshima: The Reasons Why and A Call to Strengthen America's Democracy."

And the answer is: *Freedom From War*.

FFW resulted from the brainstorming sessions of Dionisi, Ruben Arvizu, Richard Lees, Michael Pach, Nancy Patterson, and Mary Wind. They realized that although there are many peace groups in the U.S., and the majority of Americans oppose the Iraq war, the war continues.

A big reason is the peace movement is fragmented—"a movement of pieces." Most organizations do not share information or work together on a state or a national level. As a result, educational and advocacy campaigns are often a fraction of their potential effectiveness.

FFW sees the key lever to ending the war in Iraq and to preventing future wars is "to combine our influence so that efforts are no longer a few hundred or thousand voices for peace, but millions of people demanding immediate freedom from war."

To accomplish this, FFW provides education, technology and advocacy for those desiring a world of nonviolence, peace and social justice. As an umbrella organization, they are an open source peace model—to access resources for your organization, just ask. Individual online membership is free.

Their "Stand Up For Peace" program is a massive peace collage of individuals (18 yr./older) and organizations who send a digital picture holding a sheet of paper with a peace statement.

The SUFP (displayed, rt.) newspaper will be sent to the Middle East to show the world we care.

Contact: www.freedomfromwar.org; Freedom From War, 539 J St., Davis, CA 95616.



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***Sources of Information
for the figures used on the front page:**

www.icasualties.org; www.costofwar.com;
www.nationalpriorities.org

LEGISLATIVE INFORMATION from the
Library of Congress:

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

A great resource to find the status of
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