

“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 2010

## And, it continues ... **NUMBERS YOU NEED**

### US Military Deaths: 2001-2010

4,375 = Iraq War

984 = Afghanistan War

### Cost of The Wars: 2001-2010

**\$957,235,503,787.00**

That is **BILLION** - edging a trillion.

(icasualties.org; costofwar.com; 2-5-2010)

**I**t is estimated that just the war in  
Afghanistan will cost  
**\$75,000,000,000.00** / per year  
**OR:**  
\$6,250,000,000.00 / per month  
\$205,479,452.05 / per day  
\$8,561,643.84 / per hour  
\$142,694.06 / per min  
\$2,378.23 / per sec  
“*What’s in your wallet?*”

### **President Barack Obama**

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500



*E-mail:* go to Website:

[www.whitehouse.gov/contact](http://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](mailto:comment@whitehouse.gov)

### **Secretary of State Hillary R. Clinton**

*Switchboard:* (202) 647-4000

### **Secretary of Defense Robert M. Gates**

*Pentagon Switchboard:* (703) 545-6700

### **Members Of Congress**

Senate & House: (202) 224-3121

*Who’s in their wallet?*

“**T**he cost of sending **one U.S. soldier** to Afghanistan for **one year** is **\$1 million** . . . according to Steve Daggett, a specialist with the Congressional Research Service.” ([thehill.com/blogs/](http://thehill.com/blogs/))

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

*Dear Grandmothers for Peace:*

On the front cover, the yearly cost of the Afghanistan war is broken down into the cost per month, per day, per hour, per minute, and per second. It literally takes 47 seconds to say those amounts, and while you were reading those numbers, \$111,776.81 was spent.

January 20, 2009, was joyous for many of us and now a year later to the day, we have the Supreme Court bent on changing the face of America. We have all struggled for the last year, through disappointments and angst. President Obama's decision on Afghanistan is devastating. It continues the past eight miserable years. There must be another way. Years of war, tyranny and occupation have not solved the problems in Afghanistan. We heard candidate Obama say he would increase troop levels, we voted and yet hoped ...

President Obama's State of the Union address had some fire. He criticized both parties! And, yes to stopping the spread of nuclear weapons, yes to eliminating "don't ask, don't tell," yes to helping community colleges and higher education, yes to helping small businesses, yes to green research, yes for bringing home the troops, yes to health care for all, and yes to rebuking the Supreme Court on their recent ruling. NO, to more nuclear power plants (where do you store the radioactive waste?), no to offshore drilling, and what IS "clean coal?"

Please note our new tote bag offer on the back page. In the north Pacific Ocean, there is an "island" mass twice the size of Texas, filled with plastic waste. If you have a computer, please check this link: [www.greatgarbagepatch.org](http://www.greatgarbagepatch.org). It is frightening to see and think about how it destroys our ocean life. Use less plastic, help the environment and GFP.

I got a call from a young man the other day, selling something. We started talking (I try not to waste any phone calls!) and I told him what we do and why. He thanked me and at 26 he thought HE would not see peace in his lifetime. He was very articulate and I told him if half the people in his age group were like he was, peace would happen. And, I always wear my peace symbol necklace. It has started many conversations, and a great "opener" for talking about GFP. A supermarket manager upon seeing it, commented that "peace is a struggle." The young woman helping him also said she doubted peace in her lifetime.

We as Grandmothers for Peace must continue. I have said over and over, just do something. Collectively it makes an impact, maybe not in the way we want, but it is still something YOU have done. Perhaps your discontent is a call for action — you can effect change. Just read our Margaret Mead quote and take it to heart!

It is time to dust ourselves off, awaken from our malaise, disappointment and depression. Our country and world needs us!

*Peace to all of us, Lorraine*

We extend our sympathy to the **Anderson, Indiana, GFP Chapter** and to **Ron Clark on the passing of his wife Sandra**. The Anderson group has been together for over seven years. Sandra was dedicated to peace and justice. She tried to make a difference.

The **Northland Chapter** has lost two members, **Bertha Kurki and Tess Koenig**. Our sympathy to their families. (See Northland article)

Each of us has to work a bit harder now — we have lost three of our own ... Lorraine

## Father Roy Bourgeois and SOA Watch Nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize

Father Roy Bourgeois, MM, and School of the Americas Watch (SOA Watch) have been nominated for one of the most prestigious awards in the world - the Nobel Peace Prize - for their sustained, faithful nonviolent witness against the disappearances, torture, and murder of hundreds of thousands of civilians (peasants, community and union organizers, clerics, missionaries, educators, and health workers) by foreign military personnel trained by the U.S. military at U.S. taxpayer expense at the School of the Americas at Fort Benning, Georgia.

The candidacy of Father Roy and SOA Watch for the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize has been officially submitted to the Nobel Committee in Oslo, Norway, by the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), a Nobel Peace Prize Laureate. The official announcement was made by AFSC representative John Meyer on Sunday, November 22 at the gates of Fort Benning (home of the School of the Americas) during the annual November vigil to close the SOA.

*"We are deeply honored, and deeply humbled, to be nominated for this prize for peace,"* commented Bourgeois, a Vietnam veteran, Purple Heart recipient and a Catholic priest, who helped found SOA Watch. *"This nomination is a recognition of the work of the thousands struggling against militarism across the Americas."*

SOA Watch is a nonviolent grassroots movement that works through creative protest and resistance, legislative and grassroots media work to stand in solidarity with the people of Latin America, to close the School of the Americas (renamed the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation) and to change oppressive U.S. foreign policy that institutions like the SOA/ WHINSEC represent.

At the November 2009 SOA Watch, thousands gathered at the gates of Ft. Benning to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the killings of 14-year-old Celia Ramos, her mother Elba Ramos, and the six Jesuit priests she worked with at the Central American University in San Salvador in November 1989. Human rights defenders from Colombia, and Bertha Oliva, founder of the human rights organization the Committee of Family Members of the Detained and Disappeared in Honduras, COFADEH, have been actively resisting the SOA graduate-led coup as part of the resistance front.



Lorraine Krofchok and Father Roy Bourgeois

*"Grandmothers for Peace: If this happens, YOU will be a part of the honor, the Nobel Peace Prize. Grandmothers for Peace has supported Closing the SOA for over 15 years, and you as a part of Grandmothers for Peace automatically belong to SOA Watch. Symbolically, you too will win." — Lorraine.*

I am only one  
But still I am one

I cannot do everything,  
But still I can do something.

And because I cannot do everything,  
I will not refuse to do the something I can do.

— Edward Everett Hale

# PEACE IN THE NEW YEAR : An Exhibit at the Local Library

by Ellen Broms, GFP

Lately, there has been a proliferation of peace symbols on garments and accessories. What is the fashion industry telling the American public? Is it a throwback to the 60's fashions and hippie styles? What do the young people think when they buy and wear these clothes?

It occurred to me that this could be an educational opportunity and I put together a **Peace in the New Year** exhibit for the local library. A display case was available and the branch librarian was willing.

The display had to be eye catching. Items included are decorative and colorful. Among other things, there are bright Mardi Gras beads with peace signs, Peace candy canisters, a red vest decorated with various Peace buttons, a pink dress from the early 70s with peace signs woven into the fabric, a wire dog carrying a peace sign, a wooden angel with a peace sign, a fan from the Sacramento Peace Garden at Capitol Park, a papier-mâché mask with the peace sign and the word Peace, a blue banner with the word Peace in many languages, and paper cranes that were used on a recent peace walk.

***“I think that this is an idea that can be used in libraries and classrooms everywhere.”***

news recently. One sign gives an overview of the Nobel Peace Prize: *“The Nobel Peace Prize has been awarded 90 times to 120 Nobel Laureates between 1901 and 2009 – 97 times to individuals and 23 times to organizations. Since the International Committee of the Red Cross was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1917, 1944 and 1963, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1954 and 1981, that means 97 individuals and 20 organizations have been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize.”*

Another sign lists some Nobel Peace Prize winners. One sign quotes **Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**: *“Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal.”* There are books by and about Nobel Peace Prize laureates.

There is a wonderful book in the display about an international education program, **PeaceJam/Change Starts Here**, built around leading Nobel Peace Laureates with their goal of inspiring a new generation of peace activists. You can also visit their website: [www.peacejam.org](http://www.peacejam.org).

There is a hope that when library patrons, young and old, see the display they will want to read the books and learn more about it.

I think that this is an idea that can be used in libraries and classrooms everywhere. I was careful not to be political or controversial. This is not an in-depth history of war and peace, but rather, a display that seeks to look at the concept of peace beyond the symbols.



In addition, the display contains 8½ x 11 inch signs explaining Peace Symbols:

- ~ A peace symbol is a representation or object that has come to symbolize peace.
- ~ The dove and the olive branch, or a dove carrying an olive branch in its beak, are ancient symbols of peace.
- ~ In the latter part of the twentieth century, the peace sign, developed by the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, and the V hand signal came into use around the world.
- ~ The peace flag is a series of seven rainbow stripes with the word for peace printed in the center.
- ~ The crane is a traditional symbol in Japan for, among other things, peace. Paper cranes are often folded, especially around the time of the New Year; a thousand origami cranes is a symbol of good luck.

Also included in the exhibit are books for children and adults. A librarian friend helped set up the display and found some great books, including the *“Big Book of Peace”* featuring **Maurice Sendak’s Wild Thing** on the cover and *“The Great Peace March”* by **Holly Near**.

Our focus was on the Nobel Peace Prize because it had been in the



## LIBRARY DISPLAY PROJECT

### Grandmothers for Peace Everywhere:

*We are launching this project, thanks to Ellen, and challenge all of you to try and put peace “out there.” Most every town has a library with a display case of some sort. I know each of you, over the years, have collected many items that reflect peace. It can rev up your creativity as well as give us a needed boost to “do something.”*

*Please contact your local librarians and ask about such a display. Some may give leeway and allow Grandmothers for Peace items, others will want it more neutral. But, whatever the choice, we must try and keep the idea of peace in the minds and hearts of people.*

*In the last two weeks, I have had conversations with two young people in their 20s. Each said they did not think they would see peace in their lifetime. This is whom we work for and we must prove them wrong. Our goal is a better, safer world for the future.*

*I have a display attachment about “Peace Symbols” available. Please contact me.*

Lorraine



### Superior, Wisconsin

**Dorothy Wolden and Jan Provost**

Our **Northland Chapter** continues to hold third Friday vigils at a busy intersection in Superior despite the frigid weather. Our original message to call for an end to the war in Iraq has sadly expanded to include opposition to the escalation of the war in Afghanistan as well as trying to raise awareness of how the billions spent on warfare could be providing health care. The hardy souls braving the cold have been met with an increasingly positive response from passing traffic.

We had a successful toy drive in spite of the economy. As in the past, people were quite generous.

Also because our chapter has grown over the years we have decided to form a **Core Group of Grannies** and they share all the decisions and are in charge of various activities. It is working beautifully. Members of the Core Group are: **Donna Howard, Dorothy Wolden, Lyn Pegg, Coral McDonald, Penny Cragun, Diane Rookey and Jan Provost.**

We are mourning the loss of two of our wonderful Grannies: **Bertha Kurki** (she was our first Northland GFP member) and **Tess Koenig** who along with her late husband **Bob** were one of the wonderful Peace activist couples in the Northland.

We continue to be hopeful and continue our work for a Peace-filled future for our grandchildren and all the grandchildren in the world!

### Constable, New York

**Jeanne Norris**

Here's one of our **GFP Franklin County** demonstrations. As you can see we have a variety of issues - peace and healthcare being our main focus for this year. We are all suffering from disillusionment and disgust as our new president follows in his predecessor's footsteps... I'm guessing they can't help it and are controlled by powers larger than any single world government!



Left: Carol Thompson, Jeanne Norris, Sue Stevens, Flossy Powell.  
Photo: Bonnie Ida.

We want to do some action at local recruiting stations this coming year and also have a campaign in place, "**Santa Doesn't Like War Toys**," for next Christmas season. Keep at it Grannies! We are making the world a better place, even though we can't always see it. Love/struggle/peace, Jeanne

### Arizona

**Ordell Nelson**

Our **Northwest Valley Chapter** (Phoenix area) had several visitors at our vigils... some stayed and others didn't. **Diane Snyder** saw our GFP flyer at the Unitarian Universalist Church, Surprise, AZ. She laughed when she noticed "Rain or Shine" on the flyer because it almost never rains here. On her first day demonstrating with us, we had a highly unusual 30-minute heavy downpour. Everybody got drenched. We kidded Diane that she'd been initiated!

Three young visitors from Germany joined us last fall. Diane brought her friends **Andrea & Florian Tiede** and **Katharina Nehring**. It was a joy to meet them, plus they replaced three who were missing that day!

On December 19, **Spencer & Audrey Albert** took our photos. In past years, photos have dramatically increased our attendance; not so this year. **Ann Timmer** joined us for this. Spencer demonstrated with

GFP years ago; he enjoyed sharing about his picture with a "Honk for Peace" sign that appeared in a local newspaper.

Snowbird **Janice Snell** recently rejoined our demonstrations. We're so glad she's back!

A visitor from Chicago, **Tom Durkin**, attended our vigil after hearing about GFP at **GRRROWLL\***.

We have music at nearly every demonstration thanks to **James Stewart** playing bagpipes! It's a wonderful treat and passersby often open their car windows to listen.



Left: Ordell Nelson, Diane Snyder, Joan Kroll, and Ann Timmer

In addition, we've participated in larger events. **Joan Kroll** and I proudly walked with Veterans for Peace in the Phoenix Veterans Day Parade, and **Bob & Joan Kroll** attended the End the War Coalition vigil oppos-

ing President Obama's planned escalation in Afghanistan.

Thanks to the dedicated regulars who are at 99th & Bell every first and third Saturday... **Mary Bilyeau, Bob Brandel, Bob & Joan Kroll, Carolyn Modeen, Diane Snyder, James Stewart, and Ordell Nelson.**

\*GRRROWLL = Geezer/Geezerette Rabble Rousers Resisting Oppression, War, & Loss of Liberties; "a think-tank for progressive activists" which meets in Sun City, AZ

### United Kingdom

**Jean Stead**

Britain is on the verge of a General Election, to be held in a few months time. It will decide whether the present government, New Labour, will stay in power. But the run-up to the election is happening at a time of mass protest against government policies, particularly its part in the invasion of Iraq, its continuing build up of its nuclear arsenal by updating the Trident nuclear weapon system, and its encouragement of bankers to use Britain as a focus for the rash investments which led to the world's financial crisis.

Grandmothers for Peace members, including **Helen John**, one of the veterans of the women's peace camps, joined the **Day of Judgment** demonstration outside the Queen Elizabeth conference centre in London, when the former Prime Minister, Tony Blair, was called to give evidence before the official inquiry into the Iraq war. **The Stop the War Coalition** movement, joined by other organisations, including the **Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament**, held a **Naming the Dead Ceremony**, when the names of those killed in the conflict were called out, including Iraqi names. There was street theatre in commemoration. Stage and film stars, as well as writers like the playwright **David Edgar** and the comedian **Alexei Sayle**, joined them. Riot police were put on standby alert to deal with the crowds of protesters at the heart of London's Westminster Parliamentary area under Big Ben.

Meanwhile, during the recent freezing weather, the protest at Menwith Hill, the U.S. national security listening post, has continued. **Lindis Percy**, Grandmother for Peace, is one of the veterans and the leading campaigner against U.S. bases in this country and protests at Menwith Hill every week. It is in a bleak, upper moorland part of Yorkshire and in the heavy snowdrifts recently, she threw a snowball at a Ministry of Defence officer outside, hitting him on the head. It didn't count as

violence from a non-violent organisation, she thought. He thought so too, and smiled.

Lindis has a court injunction against her to stop her from entering the Mildenhall U.S. Air Force base, but managed peacefully to break it by offering her driving license to gain entry. It was accepted. But as she stood beneath the American flag, a senior officer driving out recognised her, and called the police to arrest her.

She has been bailed three times, but is still unclear about the conditions. She has also taken out a case against an American airman at another base whom she alleges harmed her during a protest.

"There are at least a dozen major American bases in Britain and 800 internationally," she says. She is not afraid to use legal procedures where necessary in her long campaign with other supporters against the American bases, and points out how much money the U.S. could save if it closed them.

A big protest in February is designed to close down all seven gates of the Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment in the Berkshire countryside, where huge building work is going on to design and build new Trident nuclear warhead equipment. There will be a **Women's Gate** blockade at one of the most used entrances, organised by a number of women's organisations, including the **Aldermaston Women's Peace Camp**. GFP members will, of course, be there.

Greenpeace has estimated that the UK is planning to spend £1bn (approximately \$1.6 bn) every year for three years to modernise the weapons.

The demonstration is being held in February because it is only three months before the the nuclear **Non-Proliferation Treaty** review, and they say the new US administration is more committed to international co-operation to reduce nuclear weapons. In Britain, there is a financial crisis. The cuts in public spending and the looming General Election make it a critical time for a re-think, because spending scarce resources on the Trident update could be a vote loser.

### Ellicott City, Maryland

#### Kay Weeks

Peace is action. My plan was to write about a dance retreat in Mexico, but what really promotes peace in my view is engagement, not retreat. I don't mean going to meetings, but working in the community to make mutually satisfying "connections" with others. I worked for 30 years for DOI, NPS in a national historic preservation program, so now my time is more or less my own.

One such community volunteer activity is going to ARC, an organization in Columbia, Maryland, to assist cognitively impaired adults—I come up with a theme for a group art project, and then go in with ink pens, crayons, and an upbeat attitude. We work together for an hour; they sign their names; and everyone is satisfied.

Another volunteer activity consists of tutoring once a week at the main Howard County, Maryland, library, also in Columbia. The program is called Project Literacy, and is state-funded. My student is a Chinese woman about my age, named Yunji. She is studying for her citizenship test; we also enjoy reading poetry aloud.

Of all things peaceful and peace-making, helping others tops the list, in my view. It cuts both ways.

### Costa Rica

#### Elizabeth Huibregtse

Greetings from the **Quaker Peace Center** in Costa Rica, Lorraine and other GFP friends.

On December 26, 2009, I left Colorado so that I could live in Costa Rica until March 23, 2010. The first month was in the Dominical area

at the Hacienda Baru National Wildlife Refuge. It was heartening to interact with so many other visitors from throughout the world who are dedicated peace and environmental activists, who came to spend a few days or a week to experience the continuing progress of this Wildlife Refuge. **Diane and Jack Ewing** had immigrated there from Greeley, Colorado, in the early 1970s - you can discover more about the outstanding results from their work at [www.haciendabaru.com](http://www.haciendabaru.com).

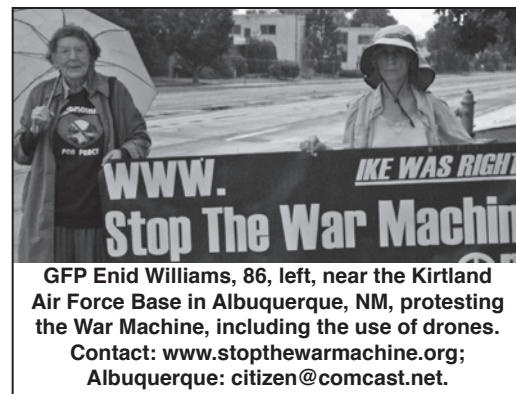
I visited friends in Cartago before arriving at the capital, San José, and everywhere Costa Ricans have told me they really are more hopeful because of feeling that many in our present administration are reaching out to the the rest of the world - and will continue to have greater understanding of current extreme difficulties.

Monday I'll take the bus to Monteverde, where I've again rented a cabin from a fine Costa Rican family, as my late husband Ken and I did when we were there together in 1999 and 2001. It's within walking distance of the Quaker School and the other schools where I will again volunteer helping teachers with English as a Second Language. There will be insights to share after the weeks of living there - meanwhile, it's great to hear the thankful reactions when I've assured people that there are multitudes in the United States continuing to actively volunteer for Peace!

### Albuquerque, New Mexico

#### Enid Williams

Dear Lorraine, I applaud you most heartily for all you, and the other Grandmothers for Peace do! Raging Grannies feel very proud to be affiliated with you.



GFP Enid Williams, 86, left, near the Kirtland Air Force Base in Albuquerque, NM, protesting the War Machine, including the use of drones.  
Contact: [www.stophthewarmachine.org](http://www.stophthewarmachine.org);  
Albuquerque: [citizen@comcast.net](mailto:citizen@comcast.net).

I wear my GFP blue sweatshirt proudly almost every time we perform or participate at a protest gathering; and I am a real "Johnny Appleseed" about giving out GFP buttons.

Bravissimo, dear, dedicated Grandmothers! We are

working for a more positive, peaceful, future, in which we honor ALL of God's creatures.

### Santa Clarita, California

#### Barbara Cloud

Dear Lorraine: I recently found an old box of jewelry and came across a pendant that my mom, my aunt, and I all used to wear in the 1960s. The pendant was sold by an organization called **Another Mother for Peace** and states: "War is not healthy for children and other living things" and has a sunflower carved into it. I have started wearing it again and not only does it make me feel closer to my mom who died many years ago, but I love the message that it imparts. Just thought I would share this with you ... take care and thanks for all the hard work that you do for GFP. Sincerely, Barbara

### North Carolina

#### Lynn Heritage

Our Grandmothers For Peace group is looking forward to becoming even more involved in community activities this year. There are so many wonderful opportunities to bring messages of peace.

We'll continue our ongoing project, **Food for Thought**, with Pomegranate Books (an Indie bookshop in town), in which customers bring in non-perishable food items in exchange for a free book (publisher's



advanced copy). We keep our **Red Wagon** there and every time it fills up, we take the food to the **Wilmington Food Bank**. It's been a successful program for almost a year now. All the groups that meet there are asked to bring something for the wagon.

We joined forces with the **YWCA** and **Wilmington SEACC** in the **Martin Luther King Jr.** parade. Our signs focused on promoting peace, ending racism and empowering women.

We're joining the YWCA as mentors for "**What's Wrong with Different?**" program. This is a hands-on program which teaches elementary school students to value, appreciate, and respect the differences between people, rather than to view a person who is different as inferior.

We co-sponsor **Wilmington Black and White**, which is a group of folks trying to promote an understanding between all races within our diverse community. We meet once a month to continue the dialog of how we can best create a more peaceful community.

We work with one of the middle schools to help promote peace and raise funds for **Pennies For Peace**. This is something I am hoping to expand ... one school at a time.

On Mother's Day, we'll have our 3rd Annual Mothers Day Silent Peace Vigil, which is a very quiet and peaceful event on the Riverwalk in downtown Wilmington.

Our monthly meeting at Pomegranate Books is a wonderful opportunity to share our concerns, vent our frustrations, re-nourish and re-energize each other. We realize that we are the ones who can bring peace even if it begins with one community at a time.

Peace, y'all ... Lynn

### Henderson, Nevada

**Sandra J. Collier**

My everyday quest for peace:

1. Wearing my Grandmothers for Peace button on my purse and sticker on my car.
2. Displaying signs in my home window.
3. Writing to president/cabinet members at least two times a week.
4. Talking IT UP whenever I get a chance with friends and family, as well as strangers.
5. Signing all documents with PEACE.
6. Praying and offering daily works to God for His intervention in peace making.

Peace, love, and God's blessings to you and yours, Sandra

### Arizona

**Janet Vernon**

When I am home, and the weather is not too windy or wet, the **Peace Flag** hangs out on the corner of the garage all day. When it has to



be down there is always a picture of a Peace Flag in the front bedroom window with the little Peace Bear who wears the Peace Symbol over her heart. How grateful I am that the neighbors don't complain!

I have also held the Peace Flag at the busy intersection where we have signs with "many messages." We certainly get lots of different responses on these corners, don't we?

Peace To All Janet

### California

**Corine, Nate, Lorraine**

**Nate Thornton**, 95, made this wood plaque in 1999 for our founder, Barbara Wiedner. It is a carved piece and a wonderful tribute to Grandmothers for Peace. Recently it was passed on to me and I am proud to have it. Nate was with the **Abraham Lincoln Brigade** during the Spanish Civil War and **Corine** is a board member of GFP. Both still actively work for peace and justice. Lorraine



### San Jose, California

**Mary**

Again, thank you for lifting spirits and reminding everyone (me!) how important PEACE really is to all of us. I've been very lucky in establishing a great communication with my 17-yr. old grandson. Seeing the world thru young eyes is always a challenge, however, the rewards are great.

The very best to you in 2010. Always, Mary

### Iowa City, Iowa

**Bryson Dean**

A weekly antiwar vigil continues in downtown Iowa City every Friday afternoon. We are a small but dedicated group.

I was at Ft. Benning, Georgia, for the annual November vigil, wearing my GFP sweatshirt. I saw a few others as well, including a young woman who had a GFP t-shirt under another shirt which she pulled up as she said, "*You don't have to be a grandmother to be a GFP!*"

A very touching and meaningful incident happened at the vigil. People were moving around Sunday waiting for the procession to start and I began to talk to a gentleman nearby — my GFP shirt was a good "opener." We chatted a bit and then he pulled out a peace flag and asked me to sign it. He then told me that he was entitled to have the American flag on his coffin as he was a veteran, but he was planning to use the flag I had just signed instead.

**We the people are the rightful masters  
of both Congress and the courts,  
not to overthrow the Constitution  
but to overthrow the men  
who pervert the Constitution.**

— *Abraham Lincoln*

## The Supreme Court Kills Campaign Finance Reform

Ten years ago, I walked from California to Washington, D.C., to help gather support for campaign finance reform. I used the novelty of my age (I was 90), to garner attention to the fact that our democracy, for which so many people have given their lives, is being subverted to the needs of wealthy interests, and that we must do something about it. I talked to thousands of people and gave hundreds of speeches and interviews, and, in every section of the nation, I was deeply moved by how heartsick Americans are by the current state of our politics.

Well, we got some reform bills passed, but things seem worse now than ever. Our good government reform groups are trying to staunch the flow of special-interest money into our political campaigns, but they are mostly whistling in a wind that has become a gale force of corrupting cash. Conditions are so bad that people now assume that nothing useful can pass Congress due to the vote-buying power of powerful financial interests. The health care reform debacle is but the most recent example.

The Supreme Court, representing a radical fringe that does not share the despair of the grand majority of Americans, has today made things considerably worse by undoing the modest reforms I walked for and went to jail for, and that tens of thousands of other Americans fought very hard to see enacted. So now, thanks to this Court, corporations can fund their candidates without limits and they can run mudslinging campaigns against everyone else, right up to and including election day.

The Supreme Court now opens the floodgates to usher in a new tsunami of corporate money into politics. If we are to retain our democracy, we must go a new direction until a more reasonable Supreme Court is in place. I would propose a one-two punch of the following nature:

A few states have adopted programs where candidates who agree to not accept special-interest donations receive, instead, advertising funds from their state. The programs work, and I would guess that they save their states more money than they cost by reducing corruption. Moving these reforms in the states has been very slow and difficult, but we must keep at it.

But we also need a new approach—something of a roundhouse punch. I would like to propose a flanking move that will help such reforms move faster: We need to dramatically expand the definition of what constitutes an illegal conflict of interest in politics.

If your brother-in-law has a road paving company, it is clear that

you, as an elected official, must not vote to give him a contract, as you have a conflict of interest. Do you have any less of an ethical conflict if you are voting for that contract not because he is a brother-in-law, but because he is a major donor to your campaign? Should you ethically vote on health issues if health companies fund a large chunk of your campaign? The success of your campaign, after all, determines your future career and financial condition. You have a conflict.

Let us say, through the enactment of new laws, that a politician can no longer take any action, or arrange any action by another official, if the action, in the opinion of that legislative body's civil service ethics officer, would cause special gain to a major donor of that official's campaign. The details of such a program will be daunting, but we need to figure them out and get them into law.

Remarkably, many better corporations have an ethical review process to prevent their executives from making political contributions to officials who decide issues critical to that corporation. Should corporations have a higher standard than the United States Congress? And many state governments have tighter standards, too. Should not Congress be the flagship of our ethical standards? Where is the leadership to make this happen this year?

This kind of reform should also be pushed in the 14 states where citizens have full power to place proposed statutes on the ballot and enact them into law. About 70% of voters would go for a ballot measure to "toughen our conflict of interest law," I estimate. In the scramble that would follow, either free campaign advertising would be required as a condition of every community's contract with cable providers (long overdue), or else there would be a mad dash for public campaign financing programs on the model of Maine, Arizona, and Connecticut. Maybe both things would happen, which would be good.

I urge the large reform organizations to consider this strategy. They have never listened to me in the past, but they also have not gotten the job done and need to come alive or now get out of the way.

And to the Supreme Court, you force us to defend our democracy — a democracy of people and not corporations — by going in breathtaking new directions. And so we shall.

Doris "Granny D" Haddock  
Dublin, New Hampshire  
January 21, 2010

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## Human Rights Advocates Given Maximum Federal Prison Sentences

On Monday, January 25, 2010, U.S. Magistrate G. Mallon Faircloth sentenced three human rights advocates to six months in federal prison for taking a protest against the School of the Americas onto the Fort Benning military base in Georgia. This school, re-named the Western Hemisphere Institute for Security Cooperation, is a controversial U.S. Army training school for Latin American soldiers. It made headlines in 1996 when the Pentagon released training manuals used at the school that advocated torture, extortion and execution.

Sentenced were:

**Nancy Gwin**, long-time activist from Syracuse, New York  
**Father Louie Vitale**, veteran and priest from Oakland, CA  
**Ken Hayes**, SOA Watch Council member from Austin, TX

**Father Roy Bourgeois**, a Roman Catholic priest and the founder of SOA Watch, the organization that works to close the School of the Americas said: "*Judge Faircloth has sentenced our sister and brothers to 6 months in federal prison for speaking the truth about*

*the SOA/WHINSEC. We are saddened by the court's continued blindness and hardness of heart, but we are stronger than ever in solidarity. These sentences are symbolic of our nation's misdirection, but they are also great steps forward for our resistance movement. It is truer today, than ever before, that although they jail the resisters they have not, and cannot, jail the resistance!*"

A fourth arrestee, **Michael Walli**, Washington, DC, a member of the Catholic Worker movement, refused to appear for the trial in Georgia. Walli had told the court during his November arraignment that he would not pay any bail and that he would not voluntarily return for the trial. Judge Mallon Faircloth issued a warrant for Michael Walli's arrest.

Tens of thousands gathered November 20-22, 2009, outside the gates of Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia, to demand a change in U.S. policy in Latin America and the closure of the SOA/WHINSEC.

# Cuban Health Care

by Jerry Bozeman, GFP, with Lon Jones

With the health care reform package slowly winding its way through the halls of Congress it may be useful to look at what it doesn't deal with, and there is no other system that shows this contrast as much as our neighbor just south of Miami.

My husband and I were privileged to travel with a group of 25 health care experts to Cuba where we spent 10 days looking at their system from the top, with discussions at the Ministry of Health, to the bottom, with visits to a local neighborhood doctor. Also included were visits to the National HIV/AIDS center, a psychiatric clinic, and to their diminishing leper colony.

The sick may go to their neighborhood doctor (preferred), or the central clinic, called a 'polyclinic,' which has 10 to 15 neighborhood doctors, or they can go to the regional hospital. All treatment is free regardless of which facility is chosen. One of the first things done at the clinic or hospital is to contact the local doctor and get them on board with the patient's treatment. When the treatment involves specialty care, this bond with the patient and family doctor also serves as the primary method of continuing education.

At all levels of care, it was clearly apparent that Cuba places a significant emphasis on the mother-child bond. Like France, the Cubans recognize that a large part of psychosocial disease in later life stems from maladaptations of the infant to problems in an early environment, and that those adaptations could easily be made healthier by improving that environment.

This recognition exemplifies one of the better aspects of the Cuban healthcare system: it is based on the bio-psychosocial model that recognizes mankind as an adaptive organism. It honors the wisdom of Cuba's poet laureate, Jose Martí, who over a century ago contrasted the humanity of mankind with the machines of civilization. Man is not to be confused with a machine. Yet that is what we do in western medicine as we analyze the human being by taking it apart as if it were nothing more than a complicated machine.

Analytical thinking such as this predominates in all areas of our lives. We take things apart to find out what is wrong. We analyze our children's learning with endless testing to find what is missing. We try to balance affairs with other nations as if they were on a scale. None of them are machines or are capable of being analyzed to the point where we can predict the results of our interventions. They are all living systems that adapt to changes in their environments, and the adaptations are often novel and completely unforeseeable.\*

*All treatment is free regardless of which facility is chosen.*

The Cubans have not escaped analytical thinking despite their poet laureate's admonition. Pharmaceutical products based on analysis make up the third highest area of national income after nickel and doctors. One product, Policosanol, is made from Cuban sugar cane. Over 50 studies have reported significant reductions in plasma cholesterol using it. This drug is available in the United States as a supplement, but no credit has been given to the Cuban research behind it.

We were denied access to the main psychiatric hospital in Havana because, as we found out later, our visit coincided with the deaths of 26 patients due to the cold. Critics of the Cuban health system are quick to lay the blame at their feet, and that's appropriate because the Ministry of Health is responsible, and blankets were not provided. But, we can also attest to the degree of the cold. Furnaces are rarely needed and most hotels, such as ours, do not have them. Nor did they have extra blankets. Most of our group survived by sleeping in layers of clothing and about half of us came down with colds. We were saddened, but not surprised by the deaths and wondered if they were not more widespread. Temperatures in Cuba rarely drop to the 30s, a challenge to anyone especially the elderly; it dropped to 38 the night in question.

The unanimous conclusion of our group is that Cuba has done wonders with their health care. The World Health Organization's ranking of health care systems is based on a complicated meshing of life expectancy, infant and maternal mortality, ease and equity of access and efficiency of delivery. The U.S. and Cuba both rank consistently in the low 30s after most European nations, Japan and others. But, the U.S. spends an enormous amount while Cuba is going broke paying far less.

Exporting health care has cost Cuba some needed doctors at home, but has bought them worldwide recognition and honors abroad. The U.N. vote on the U.S. embargo recommended its termination in a vote that was unanimous but for the votes of the U.S., Israel, and Palau. Micronesia and the Marshall Islands abstained.

People in the U.S. need to know more about the Cuban health care system, and allowing travel to Cuba would be the best way to accomplish that. Please ask your congressional representatives to lift the travel ban on the only country in the world to which American citizens cannot travel.

*\*For more information about adaptations in health care, see our book: *The Boids and the Bees: Guiding Adaptation to Improve our Health, Healthcare, Schools and Society.**

## E-MAIL ALERTS

**If you used to receive e-mail alerts from GFP and lately have not, AND still want to, please let me know if your e-mail address has changed. I have had to delete several addresses that have been returned. Lorraine.**



# *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

**“Obama’s Budget Calls for Billions in New Spending for Drones”**

Truthout, February 3, 2010, (online)

**“Gates pitches \$768.2 B defense budget to Congress”**

The Associated Press, February 2, 2010, (online)

**“Vermont Nuclear Power Plant Leaks Renew Debate Over Aging Plants”**

Yahoo! News, February 1, 2010, (online)

Carcinogenic, radioactive tritium was found in dangerous levels in the groundwater at the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant.

**“Supreme Court OKs unlimited corporate spending on elections”**

The Los Angeles Times, January 22, 2010, (online)

**“AIG to pay \$100 million in new round of bonuses”**

The Washington Post, February 3, 2010, (online)

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▶ [CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9](#)

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## E-MAIL ALERTS

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Link to **Other Granny Groups** at  
[www.grandmothersforpeace.org](http://www.grandmothersforpeace.org)

## 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.*

# Grandmothers for Peace International

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

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2. Women's Crewneck T-Shirts (Blue)	\$12.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
<b>SALE!</b> 3. Women's Crewneck T-Shirts (White)	\$ 9.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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5. Women's Scoopneck T-Shirts (White)	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	_____
6. Men's Auxiliary Sweatshirts (Blue)	\$19.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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8. Children's T-Shirts	\$10.00			2-4	6-8	10-12	14-16	_____
9. Children's Sweatshirts	\$12.00			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	_____
10. Baseball Cap with Logo ( <i>adjustable size</i> ) 	\$12.00						<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
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*(Please see Director's Notes, page 2.)*

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# Barbara Wiedner and Dorothy Vandercook Memorial Scholarship Foundation, Inc.

Leal Portis, President • 301 Redbud Way • Nevada City, CA 95959 • USA • Phone/Fax (530) 265-3887 • E-mail: portis.leal@gmail.com

## 2009 Scholarship Foundation Winners

### Conner Cress: Acworth, Georgia - \$500



In 2005, Connor learned what happens to children when they are pushed to extreme dehydration and malnourishment; they cannot even cry real tears. Their tear ducts are dried up, so they cry "dry tears." He learned that 80 % of the diseases in third world countries are due to contaminated water. Determined to help, Conner enlisted the aid of four friends and began selling bracelets to raise money to build wells in Africa that would provide clean safe water. As founder and president of Dry Tears, Inc., a nonprofit organization, he has raised over \$80,000 and eight water projects have been undertaken in four different countries in Africa. Conner has 13 more projects identified and has received several awards for his work. One village leader told him: We have no voice in America; you are our voice."

### Ericka Vivyan: Farmington Hills, Michigan - \$500

Following her participation in the 2006 University of Michigan's Youth Dialogues on Race and Ethnicity, Erika stepped forward with an exceptional idea to create Youth Dialogues in her own community in Michigan. Metropolitan Detroit is among America's most segregated areas, and more than 85 languages are spoken there. Seeing the need for multicultural understanding, she planned and wrote the curriculum for Youth Dialogues which has now become an accredited class in her high school district. It is coordinated with the community as well as the University of Michigan. She has been a member of the Farmington Hills Mayors' Youth Council for the past four years and has received several awards for her social justice work as an outstanding youth leader.



### Carolina Beltran: Nevada City, California - \$250



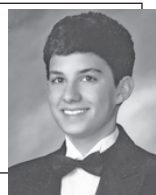
Carolina revived the inactive Spanish club in her high school focusing on the importance of bilingualism and the complexities of the Hispanic culture. She began and implements a bilingual reading program twice a month at her local library, but perhaps her greatest achievement is bringing Cesar Chavez's non-violent teachings to her community. Her Spanish club puts on assemblies about Chavez for elementary schools in which she has spoken to hundreds of children about non-violence. She started a Cesar Chavez movie night at her school and hosted a Festival of Non-violence honoring Cesar Chavez. As Carolina inspires trust and compassion in others, she has learned that one person can create a ripple effect which will get bigger and bigger.

### Elizabeth Carlton, Nevada City, California - \$250

Always concerned about others, Elizabeth has promoted peace and championed non-violence since her pre-school days. For the past two years, she has been Nevada Union High School's Anti-Bullying Commissioner. This group puts on an annual event called "Breaking Down the Walls." Nearly the entire school of 2,500 students participates. They are organized into small groups with people they do not know well. There they learn more about each other in facilitated discussions. She has been a speaker at the Domestic Violence and Abuse Coalition as well as the Peaceful Future Event in her community. Elizabeth attended the Department of Peace Campaign 2009 National Conference in Washington, D.C. She plans to major in International Development Studies.



### Alex Darwish: Sacramento, California - \$250



Inspired by the experience of a family friend whose son died of a scorpion bite in Al-Afadra, Egypt, Alex determined to help the children of that country. His goal was to reduce scorpion bites among children in the village of Al-Afadra. He kept a journal and made a documentary about this small village. To prevent scorpion bites, he collected gently-used shoes from schools in Sacramento, took 500 pairs of shoes to Egypt himself and sent an additional 500 pairs the following summer. He received help shipping them from the Egyptian Consulate General in San Francisco and was asked to show his documentary and give a presentation for the Egyptian American Society of Northern California in Santa Clara.

### Conrad Egan: San Jose, California - \$250

Three years ago, Conrad made a trip to India and discovered that children in some remote village schools do not have basic school supplies. Since that time, he has personally visited elementary schools in San Jose and collected used pencils, erasers, markers, crayons, scissors, rulers, posters and wildlife pictures for distribution to four schools in different villages in India. These items were sent through the Kasturba Gandhi Memorial Trust in Calcutta. This organization, which helps empower poor women and children, was founded by Mahatma Gandhi in honor of his wife. Conrad also volunteers at a Cambodian Community Center where he teaches children arts and crafts.



**Ernestine Fu, Northridge, California - \$250**



When Ernestine's sister was diagnosed with clinical depression, she wanted to help her and accomplished this through their common interest in music. They played flute duets and gradually her sister began to recover. To help others like her sister, Ernestine started a new organization: VAMS (Visual Arts and Music for Society). It consists of high school artists and musicians who use their talents to perform at hospitals, nursing homes, and homeless shelters. Ernestine intends to obtain a BA in sociology and public policy.

**Haithem Hammad: Annandale, Virginia - \$250**



After 9/11, Haithem experienced some of the backlash against Muslims. As a result, he determined that the first Eagle Scout Service project in his all-Muslim troop be a friendly gesture to a Christian community. He coordinated a drive to collect food and personal hygiene items for an impoverished Appalachian nursing home. Over a period of six weeks, his troop gathered over 1,700 pounds of supplies. He worked with a Catholic nun and the Knights of Columbus who were ecstatic to receive this donation. Haithem plans to major in international business and wants to continue to be a bridge between Arab and Western communities.

**Alexandra Hsu: Andover, Massachusetts - \$250**



As a bi-racial student, Alexandra has always been interested in race relations and social justice. Three years ago, she created the after-school program "Stories, Songs and Snacks" to help promote tolerance and acceptance among very young children in Lawrence, MA, an impoverished community with a high rate of gang violence, arson, teen pregnancy and high drop out. She felt helping young children to be more successful in school would help them later as teenagers. To assist these children in learning English, she recorded the entire first grade curriculum (50 books) and burned CDs so the children at 11 elementary schools could listen to spoken English and read along. Also, she created an annual Literacy Night. Alexandra has received several awards for her work in race relations.

**Gregory Obee: Toledo, Ohio - \$250**



Greg has been a member of his school's Social Justice Alliance Club for three years and has participated in many projects with them. He is especially focused on the closing of WHINSEC, the School of the Americas in Fort Benning, Georgia. Last summer he traveled to San Salvador, El Salvador, with 15 other Jesuit students to visit the memorial of Bishop Oscar Romero, who was assassinated by a gunman trained by the SOA. He has taken part in the annual protest at Fort Benning three times and returned home to lobby his state representatives and senators as well as providing information packets to other members of Congress in Washington, D.C.

**Bethany Miles: Victoria, Minnesota - \$250**



A Key Club member for three years, Bethany has developed a passion to help impoverished people in Africa. First she collected money for Nets Against Malaria, raising more than \$2,000 to purchase mosquito nets that would be shipped to Africa. The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matched her earnings. Her second project was to address the AIDS crisis in Africa. She created a video and sold tee-shirts, raising \$2,000 for HIV/AIDS medication. Her third project was collecting Books for Africa. She collected more than 2,000 books to be shipped to Africa. As current president of the Key Club, she is organizing a project that will raise money for Life Straws, a personal water filtering device to be used in areas experiencing substandard or contaminated water situations. She desires to change the world and fully expects her future lies in Africa.

**Michael Loy: Portland, Oregon - \$250**



Because of his Asian heritage, Michael became active in the Japanese-American League, an organization dedicated to social justice and civil rights. He organized the Minidoka Swing Band to honor the strength and perseverance of his grandparents and others who used music to maintain their spirits during their WWII internment. His grandmother had told him how the Saturday night camp dances lifted her spirits. When he learned that Friends of Minidoka was seeking entertainment for a National Park Service's restoration project event, he jumped at the opportunity to re-create WWII era music. He got together a 17-piece band, raised \$16,000, traveled to Minidoka, Idaho, and performed to standing room only crowds. He is determined to keep the band alive as a reminder to his generation and future generations that the bridge to civil liberties and democratic ideals must never be crossed by intolerance and injustice.

**Elizabeth Rule: Shippensburg, Pennsylvania - \$250**



Elizabeth, a Native American, works hard to educate the community about her culture. Each weekend she travels to Powwows to dance, to represent and to educate others about her particular tribal customs. She is not afraid to stand up for her beliefs. She is also president of the gay-straight alliance. When she learned of a growing movement to increase awareness of the negative impact of military recruitment tactics on students, she requested to have an information table during lunch on the days that military recruiters presented their information. Her request was denied because it was considered "offensive." The school lawyer was contacted and after several months, it was determined that she was legally entitled to her information table. She has followed up for the past two years every time military recruiters come to her school. She hopes to become a lawyer or a politician in order to work for peace and justice for Native Americans.