

“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 2016

## Your Income Taxes Are Due April 15, 2016

Every hour, taxpayers  
in the United States are paying  
**\$615,482** for the **Cost of Military Action Against ISIS.\***

Every hour, taxpayers  
in the United States are paying  
**\$4 million** for the **Cost of War in Afghanistan.\***

Every hour, taxpayers  
in the United States are paying  
**\$117,035** for the **Cost of War in Iraq.\***

Every hour, taxpayers  
in the United States are paying  
**\$3.42 million** for the **Cost of Pentagon Slush Fund.\***

Every hour, taxpayers  
in the United States are paying  
**\$2.19 million** for the **Nuclear Weapons in 2016.\***

Every hour, taxpayers  
in the United States are paying  
**\$116,063** for the **Predator and Reaper Drones in 2016.\***

Every hour, taxpayers in the United States are paying  
**\$57.52 million** for the **Department of Defense in 2016.\***

***The Cost of Keeping One American Soldier in  
Afghanistan for a year = \$3.9 million.\*\****

\*nationalpriorities.org/cost-of/; \*\* time.com/3651697/afghanistan-war-cost/

## DIRECTOR'S NOTES

**Dear Grandmothers for Peace:**

*Several weeks ago I sent an e mail indicating a new newsletter was in the works. I asked for comments, updates, or tell us what you are doing. Previously, I asked for comments on the explosive presidential campaigns, the language, the hate talk, the fear mongering, and the exaggerated vitriolic speeches. Some of these comments are below.*

*Grandmothers for Peace cannot endorse candidates, but we can talk issues. Some of you wrote, faithful to one candidate or another and wanted GFP to rise up in support. We have a non-profit status and the rules say we cannot endorse.*

*Peace,  
Lorraine*

**Rob  
GFP, Men's Auxiliary, Portland, Oregon**

Americans have an important decision to make this November: who will be hosting Thanksgiving this year. Will we elders do it, upholding tradition, should we let one of the kids do it, or should we just chuck it all in and head to a restaurant? If we go to a restaurant, do you suppose they'd mind if we slept in our cars after the meal? Family members will debate the pros and cons, voices might be raised, economic issues might be discussed, and someone will inevitably question someone else's family values. If pic-

**DIRECTOR'S NOTES** PAGE 2

### US MILITARY DEATHS 2001-2016

IRAQ WAR = 4,495;

AFGHANISTAN WAR = 2,381

118,829 = Iraq and Afghanistan veterans  
diagnosed with PTSD since 2002.  
www.nerdwallet.com/blog/health/2014/05/19/  
ptsd-post-traumatic-stress-disorder-statistics-  
veterans/

### CIVILIAN DEATHS

IRAQ = 1 MILLION; AFGHANISTAN = 220,000  
"Body Count: Casualty Figures after 10 Years  
of the "War on Terror," March 2015.  
Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR)  
Physicians for Global Survival  
Int'l Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War  
www.psr.org/assets/pdfs/body-count.pdf

### COST OF THE WARS, 2001-2015

\$4 TRILLION - \$6 TRILLION  
"The True Cost of the Afghanistan War  
May Surprise You,"  
by Mark Thompson, Jan. 1, 2015.  
time.com/3651697/afghanistan-war-cost/

nics were debated like this, Earth might not have any ants left.

I nearly forgot: also in November, we once again have to decide which of the presidential candidates least offends us.

Just like deciding who will host Thanksgiving, many things have to be considered when picking the least offensive presidential candidate. Today let's look past all the bluster and egos and tantrums and consider each candidate's view on peace.

Right away, problems begin. You and I know that peace can mean different things to different people, and it is both a wonderfully simple and wonderfully complex state of affairs. For the sake of brevity though, let's look at a simple dictionary definition. The English word peace comes from the twelfth century Anglo-French word *pes*, which meant freedom from civil disorder. *Pes* came from the ancient Latin word *paix*, which referred to an agreement to end a war.

There is a way to compare candidates then: who is most likely to avoid war?

We've all heard the phrase "change is the only constant." Language is no exception to that rule; if language didn't change and evolve we'd all still be speaking Latin right now. So our definitions of peace are rightfully different now than they were a thousand years ago. Peace in 2016 is much more than an agreement to end war. Where do the candidates stand on other issues related to peace?

In 2010, the World Health Organization published a paper titled "**Violence Prevention: The Evidence.**" They described their work as follows:

*This [paper] summarizes the evidence for the effectiveness of the following seven-main strategies for preventing interpersonal and self-directed violence: (1) increasing safe, stable and nurturing relationships between children and their parents and caregivers; (2) developing life skills in children and adolescents; (3) reducing availability and harmful use of alcohol; (4) reducing access to guns, knives and pesticides; (5) promoting gender equality; (6) changing cultural norms that support violence; and (7) victim identification, care and support.*

This paper gives us some more ways to compare candidates. Where do they stand on such important issues?

You might be surprised to learn that

despite the media's focus on just a handful, that there are hundreds of presidential candidates! Here's a random website that lists many of them, and includes links to many of their websites: [www.politics1.com/p2016.htm](http://www.politics1.com/p2016.htm). Check the candidate's websites for their positions on the peace-related topics above. If a candidate's website doesn't indicate a position, write to them and ask about it! Tell them how important peace is!

### GFP Member on her grandson

I have a wonderful, 15-year-old grandson who will be starting psychotherapy next week and the main reason why is all of the violence. He has severe depression and anxiety. He is half African-American being raised by his white family. He is afraid of being black because of all the violence against black men by the police and the prejudice which is running rampant. He can't even go to the homes of a few of his friends because the parents are racists.

With all the terrorist attacks and threats, and now this attack in San Bernardino. What are we doing to our children? What are we doing turning our backs on the children of Syria?

### Helen GFP, New Jersey

This is a mixture of **Steven Hawking** and me! He says humans may not survive another 100 years and the problems will be of our own making: nuclear war, global warming, and/or genetically engineered viruses! And I'll add one more: humanoid robots that we create may do us in - or send us all packing to another planet!

I've often wondered if we aren't actually products of another planet in the first place! Somehow we've never seemed to fit in the way the rest of nature has. We just go around messing things up! It's like a big, sloppy family with a bunch of spoiled kids who move into a nice, pretty, new

house, spend years wrecking it, then leave a pile of junk behind and move to another house – the Moon, Mars or some galaxy far, far away! Just some wild thoughts as I add more seeds to the bird feeder and watch the snow flakes whiz by!

### Kathy New York

I would like the candidates to proclaim specific plans to deal with poverty and hence peace. Neither word comes up in the campaigns. Both words lie at the heart of what our country has to be about if we are to survive as a civilization.

### To those we cared about

On May 3, 2015, **Sarah Johnson**, a GFP Board member, died following a brief illness. You will remember Sarah took care of our "orders" and mailings for several years. She leaves behind a large and loving family including her mother, who in her 90s is an active GFP Board member. Sarah was smart and sensible in solving problems — a good negotiator. She can never be replaced, but we can continue her work for peace. There can be no better tribute.

In September our GFP **Zohreh Whitaker** lost a beloved son, **Nicholas**, after a long struggle with cancer. He was a teacher at Castro Valley High School here in California and was a favorite of his students. His legacy will continue with a memorial scholarship fund. His dedication will now help others achieve.

In October we lost **John Kiene**, a member of GFP Men's Auxiliary. His wife **Marie**, also a member, and granddaughter **Pearl** spent many hours protesting war and injustice. The family can be seen on our website wearing our shirts. It is a ten-year-old picture and will remain as our memory and tribute to a family for peace.



Thank you, Mort Walker, for permission to use your work.

# What We Are Doing

**Joan Kroll**

**Arizona, Northwest Valley Phoenix**

Our stalwart group continues to demonstrate for Peace on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month. The photo below shows six of our most dedicated members.



Seated in front, left: Carolyn Modeen, who has been demonstrating for Peace since before we invaded Iraq, and Heather Rosa a recent addition from Minnesota. In back left, are: Penny Williams, James Stewart, Joan Kroll and Bob Kroll.

After we demonstrate for 90 minutes, some of us go for brunch to a local restaurant where we are joined by **Joanna Mola** who can't stand on the corner for health reasons, but loves being part of the effort. She wears her Grandmothers for Peace sweatshirt. Our friendly chatter reminds us that we are joined in our disappointment with our country's seemingly endless wars.

When we set up at the Southwest corner of 99<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Bell Road, we are quite a presence because we have three large signs and two sandwich boards. During the Holiday season we have added a banner with a large Peace Dove in front a picture of our earth. It features the word "Peace" in several languages.

**James Stewart** always brings his Peace flag and sometimes adds to our inspiration with melodies on his bagpipes. We carry business cards with our demonstrations' location & times on the back.

When someone asks about the "Grandmothers for Peace" button which I almost always wear, I offer them a card and invite them to join us.

Recently I was asked how long I intend to continue as a Grandmother for Peace. After a moment of reflection, I responded, "I will continue until I am no longer physically able or until Peace breaks out, whichever comes first."

Sadly, I am aware our country is run by huge corporations who have determined the world must continue to have war so that arms manufacturers can continue to enrich themselves at great cost to the human race.

Many manufacturing jobs have been moved out of our country, but not those jobs involved in the manufacture of weapons of war. We export those weapons to warring countries and supply our own military. Sometimes it appears we are arming both sides in a military conflict.

I am sadly amused by the names we give to our military efforts. To give something a noble sounding name doesn't make the war less brutal. The sad truth is the original name of the project to invade Iraq was "Operation Iraqi Liberation" (O.I.L.).

"Operation Enduring Freedom" in Afghanistan was supposed to end soon. Recently I heard that our country's involvement there may be as enduring as our involvement in South Korea.

So the weapons manufacturers celebrate their profits as humanity cries.

Demand Peace — join us. We love the honking horns of passing motorists telling us that they too are tired of war. War isn't working. Give PEACE a chance.

Contact Person:

Joan Kroll@JoanK4Peace@msn.com

## Trident Nuclear Warheads

**Jean Stead**

**GFP, London, England**

In Britain, as in other countries, nuclear weapons are not usually a popular subject for discussion. But, at last, this has changed and the renewal of the Trident nuclear warheads is in the headlines, along with the billions of sterling pounds this will cost which could otherwise be used for much-needed schools and hospitals.

Recently, the main Government Opposition, the Labour Party, elected a new leader, **Jeremy Corbyn**. He received an overwhelmingly large vote. He is a bearded 67-year-old Member of Parliament with a history of supporting nuclear disarmament and said he "would never put my finger on the button" which caused an outcry among pro-nuclear Parliamentarians.

The revelation shook his own party. He

was anti-Trident while his party were officially supporting the Government policy of renewing the Trident missiles and the submarines. Was that why he received such a popular vote from ordinary members? Now a damaging row has broken out in the party.

One good result is that Trident is at last being discussed and judged. *Each warhead on the missiles carried by the submarines is at least ten times the size of the Hiroshima bomb. Britain and France, the only nuclear-armed countries in Europe, have hundreds and Russia and the US thousands of weapons of mass extermination.* A retired naval commander, **Robert Green**, who served on a nuclear submarine said, many years ago: "The awful irony is that this grotesque investment in overkill will not deter terrorists or tin-pot dictators ... because of their excessive and irreparable effects, no sane aggressor would use nuclear weapons." (And that is the problem — an insane aggressor might, no matter what the opposition was.)

Senior naval spokesmen in Britain are protesting at paying for Trident (leased from the US) instead of the provision of more naval ships and aircraft carriers.

**Angie Zelter**, a leading and long-established campaigner, is calling for support for a month of nonviolent civil resistance (blockades, citizens' inspections, and cutting fences at the Atomic Weapons Establishment in Burghfield). "Nuclear weapons and the militarisation of civil society undermine humanitarian law and basic human compassion, turning us all into terrorists," she says. "Threatening mass murder cannot be allowed to dominate our defence system, it dehumanises all of us and will, if not eliminated, destroy our world ... it may seem as if we cannot stop the Trident nuclear weapons system being replaced in Britain, but we can."

She is a powerful voice and has led many successful anti-nuclear campaigns, including the historic women's encampment against nuclear missiles at Greenham Common. There will be a strong protest at Burghfield, joined by groups from all over Europe. Grandmothers for Peace will be there.

**Jan Provost**

**Superior, Wisconsin**

The Northland Chapter had a very successful Toy Drive in Nov-Dec. It was our 28<sup>th</sup> year!!

What We Are Doing | PAGE 4



Our first toy collection, 28 yrs. ago, happened at the University of Wisconsin-Superior when a student gave a talk on her class trip to Russia. We asked that all attendees bring a toy for the Salvation Army to distribute to local low-income/homeless children. It was so successful we decided to do a toy-drive the next year. And “the rest is history,” as they say!!

Now all these years later, that student, **Pat Passero**, is a GFP member and is one of our greatest “toy collecting” Grannies.

**Karen Barschdorf, Donna Howard, and Penny Cragun** attended the Hiroshima Commemoration, August 8, 2015, in Duluth, Minnesota.

We have a Core Group of Grannies that meet a few times a year to discuss what projects we might consider. At last weeks meeting, we made plans to maybe get a bus or van of Grannies to go to the SOA this year. Several of them have gone many times.



**Zohreh Whitaker, Sheryl Anderson, from the Buffalo, NY, area, and Lorraine Krofchok at lunch after the MLK March in Sacramento, CA 2-18-2016.**

**MOBILIZE TO THE US-MEXICO BORDER**  
**OCTOBER 7-10, 2016**  
**NOGALES, ARIZONA & NOGALES, MEXICO**  
**FROM THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS TO THE BORDER**

- EXPOSE THE ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION
- END U.S. INTERVENTION IN THE AMERICAS
- RESIST BORDER MILITARIZATION
- ENGAGE IN NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION, EDUCATION, ART AND CULTURE

\*you should be here

This October 7-10, meet in Nogales, Arizona, for the first bi-national convergence at the U.S./Mexico border to demand a fundamental shift in U.S. foreign policy.  
[www.soa.org](http://www.soa.org)

**GFP and VFP at Veterans' Day Parade, 11-11-15, Prescott, AZ**





*Facebook. Yes, Facebook, the “social media” for this new century. Yet, amongst the animal videos, the personal messages and pictures we can learn a lot. Most groups and organizations have Facebook pages. Then, you can stumble onto things as I did. Somehow, I found the following very poignant poem through forwarded and re-forward postings. Brian Crandall tugs at the hurt we sometime do not want to think about. It is the reality of war. And, Brian now is member of GFP, Men’s Auxiliary. Lorraine*

**- It Never Stops -**

Home from war I got a medal  
They said I am a hero  
In my mind there is a devil  
I see the horrors of ground zero  
Bombs turned fields into craters  
Shrapnel ripped the skin from bone  
If I run I am a traitor  
There were six, now I’m alone  
Pain in my body  
Pain in my mind  
It Never Stops  
Now home, I’m walking to the grocery store  
To get food and things I need  
I see ghostly images I wasn’t looking for  
Soldiers dying as they bleed  
Small children on their way to school  
Were caught up in the horror  
Once I was a killing tool  
Now I question just what for  
Tormented body  
Tormented mind  
It Never Stops  
I cry myself to sleep at night  
Tears fall when I start to dream  
The echoes of the last gun fight  
I awaken to my screams  
The bombs go off inside my head  
The machine guns rapid fire  
Friends and enemies, they’re all dead  
Of this dreaded life I tire  
Losing my body  
Losing my mind  
**It Never Stops**

© brian crandall 01/27/2015

Brian Crandall  
[https://www.facebook.com/  
EmpathyGloballyPainfulPortraitsOfPoetry/](https://www.facebook.com/EmpathyGloballyPainfulPortraitsOfPoetry/)

“It Never Stops” was written for a friend of mine who asked me to write about his friend who survived P.O.W. camps in Vietnam, only to live a life of nightmares. At least six Vietnam vets have re-posted this to their page and publicly stated that it brought them to tears because it expresses how they feel. Many more have privately messaged me, telling me the poem puts into words what they were unable to say, to help their family understand them.

I write poetry about people who struggle, and people who suffer. I write about the hungry, the homeless, the bullied child, the abused wife, innocent civilians caught up in a war they never wanted, immigrants fleeing a dangerous situation, and soldiers who survived the horrors of war, but live a life of nightmares as they can not get the images of death out of their mind.

It is usually a picture I see that inspires me to write. A homeless man, woman or child, an abused wife, a child in war or a soldier tormented. I can see it in their eyes, a level of pain that most will never experience, both their mind and body are suffering immensely, and the inspiration to write is overwhelming, and unavoidable.

I write to raise awareness about difficult situations that some people prefer not to think about. I write in an effort to ask some people not to judge, and even hate others, without really knowing anything about them. I write in an effort to encourage compassion and inspire people to try to get involved in their own community in some small way to help somebody in need.

I am humbled by the countless messages from current or former domestic violence survivors and homeless people who thank me for raising awareness about their struggles and asking for compassion. Vietnam War veterans share to their page what I write about **PTSD** and publicly comment that the poetry brought them to tears because it expresses so well what they feel, what they are going through. They tell me they show the poetry to family members and say, “This is what I’ve been trying to say. This is what I’m going through.”

**During 2015:**

Psychologists read poetry I write about Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and asked if they could use the poetry during their counseling of soldiers. One clinic that uses my poetry counsels one hundred soldiers each week.

What I have written has brought together homeless people, including a homeless military veteran in my community, with people who are in a position to offer financial help or jobs.

I wrote a poem that was printed in a mental health magazine that is distributed across Ireland for patients in mental health facilities to read and enjoy various forms of art. I wrote to try to help them ease their mind, as the poem explained there is nothing wrong with being different than others.

I wrote a poem for the first-ever English edition of a magazine in Bangladesh that encourages Peace.

I wrote a poem that was read out loud to a group during a protest in Saudi Arabia regarding a poet sentenced to death.

I contributed poetry to two books that raise awareness about social issues

My poetry was included with the global efforts of a Rabbi, a Reverend, a Father, a Cleric, a Buddhist Monk, plus accomplished artists in a publication to promote peace on earth.

The **National Coalition of Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces** messaged me, telling me my poetry gives them strength to continue their fight for freedom versus the Syrian authoritarian ruler **Bashar al-Assad**. The Syrian Revolution and Opposition Forces shared my poetry on their social media sites including twitter and Facebook as they try to unseat a ruler responsible for the deaths of 200,000 - 400,000 innocent civilians.

I hope to have a book of my own sometime during 2016.

### Twenty Two Soldiers

Twenty two soldiers died today  
Their mind overwhelmed with fear  
Flagged casket lowered into the ground  
While loved ones shed a tear

Twenty two soldiers died today  
Their thoughts filled with despair  
I wish they'd found another way  
I wish they knew how much we care

Twenty two soldiers died today  
Keep fighting, yes they tried  
Too many souls are lost this way  
Each one a victim – of Suicide

© brian crandall 06/14/2015

- According to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, two young veterans commit suicide every day.
- The suicide rate among veterans remains well above that for the general population, with 22 former servicemen and women committing suicide every single day.

## Southern Poverty Law Center

### Lorraine Krofchok

Sacramento, CA

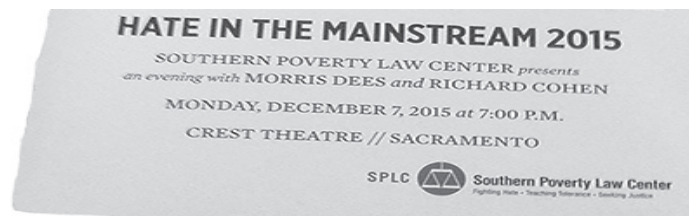
This past November, I received a mail invitation to a Sacramento event at our downtown Crest theater. It was from the Southern Poverty Law Center (SPLC). There was no publicity locally, you applied for tickets on-line and received them in the mail. The December 7, 2015, event, "Hate in the Mainstream," was an evening with **Morris Dees**, Founder of SPLC, and **Richard Cohen**, President.

My husband and I received the tickets and that evening drove downtown. As we approached the parking garage there was a steady stream of cars. We parked, walked to the corner with many people heading in the same direction. We looked down toward the Crest and saw at least three police cars, lights flashing and several police. I thought: "life in America now." The event was not even listed on the theater marquee.

We later found out from Richard Cohen, that he and Morris Dees have their lives threatened with "to kill" almost daily. So at any venue they speak, they ask for protection from the local police! It was strange, and frightening being in the audience hearing that statement.

It was an invite only event for those that support SPLC and it was a packed house.

The talk was frightening and enlightening, so many hate groups. One slide showed a defendant on trial, his shaved head tattooed with "F##K SPLC." How sick is that?



SPLC tracks and exposes hate and extremist activity. From their program brochure:

*"With nearly 800 hate groups, including white supremacists and Neo-Nazis, the radical right in America remains at alarmingly elevated levels. The potential for extremist violence remains high and, disturbingly, there is more mainstream acceptance of radical-right ideas today than ever before.*

*With the help of our supporters, the SPLC has become the leading authority on hate and extremism, law enforcement, at every level, and the public rely on the vital intelligence and free tracings we provide to keep them and our communities safe."*

I encourage each of you to support the SPLC, at the least subscribe to their messages or follow them on Facebook. A subscription supports their work, reduces hate crimes, and might get you an invite for the next event in your town.



# Launch of the *Golden Rule*, again!

**Lorraine Krofchok**

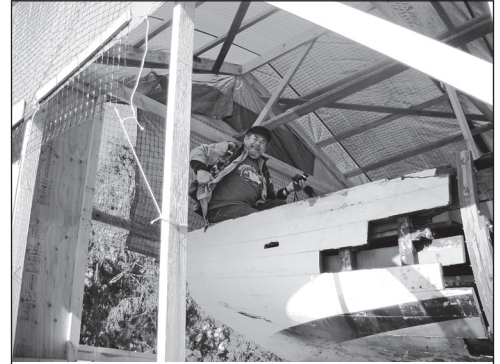
**Sacramento, CA**

June 20, 2015, was the launch of the refurbished *Golden Rule* that I call “the vessel for peace.” Five years ago my husband and I visited the boatyard where the restoration was being done by volunteers. (See GFP newsletter Spring 2011). The *Golden Rule* sails today because of the vision and determination of **Fredy Champagne** of Garberville Veterans for Peace. The broken hull of a boat, now restored, is majestically in the water, sails fluttering!

The launch was attended by many. My great honor came when I met and talked to **Orion Sherwood** the youngest of the original *Golden Rule* crew. I mentioned to him I had a piece of the original hull from the restoration visit five years ago. He was most eager to see it and we walked back to our car. When he saw it his eyes lit up, a smile on his face, giving the plank a gentle touch with I surmise, memories of days long ago.

“At 28 years of age, Orion was the youngest of the *Golden Rule*’s crew, and the only Methodist. Prior to that, he had been a teacher at a Friends school in Poughkeepsie, New York. Known for his gentle disposition, he was also a graduate engineer, and had studied for the ministry. After the voyage, he returned to teaching at a Friends school in New Hampshire.” From the website <http://www.vfpgoldenruleproject.org/history/>.

The launch was thrilling and my thoughts went back to the rather sad hull, full of holes five years ago. Now the *Golden Rule* is a proud vessel, ready to sail the seas promoting peace for a nuclear free world.



Fredy Champagne, coordinator of the Golden Rule Project. This photo appeared in our Spring 2011 Newsletter.



Fredy Champagne and Lorraine Krofchok.



Orion Sherwood and Lorraine Krofchok.



## Golden Rule History

The *Golden Rule* was the very first of the nuclear protest peace vessels to go to sea. In 1958, a crew of anti-nuclear weapons activists set sail aboard her in an attempt to interpose themselves and the boat between the US government and its atmospheric testing of nuclear weapons in the Marshall Islands in the Pacific Ocean.

In 1958, the *Golden Rule* sailed from San Pedro, CA, toward the US Nuclear test zone at Eniwetok Atoll in the Marshall Islands, but she never made it that far. She was twice boarded by the US Coast Guard near Hawaii, and the crew was arrested, tried, and jailed in Honolulu. But, far from being defeated, their example helped to ignite a storm of world-wide public outrage against nuclear weapons that resulted in the **Limited Nuclear Test Ban Treaty of 1963**, and which has continued down to the present in the many organizations still working to abolish weapons of mass destruction.

The example set by the *Golden Rule* and her crew was also the inspiration for subsequent environmental and peace voyagers and craft that followed in her wake including the *Phoenix of Hiroshima*, and later *Greenpeace* and the *Sea Shepherds*.

Just as importantly, the use of nonviolent direct action as a basic guiding principle of the *Golden Rule's* crew would also influence future generations of activists. The seas of the world have never been quite the same since.

"We are not telling you WHAT to think, but we are saying, in the most dramatic way we can, that there is a NEED to think." **Albert S. Bigelow, Captain** — *The Voyage of the Golden Rule, 1959.*

This project was started by Veterans for Peace Chapter 22, Garberville, CA, with the wisdom and vision of **Fredy Champagne**. It now has a complete committee, with Officers, Advisory, and Project Restoration Coordinators to keep the *Golden Rule* sailing! (*As written in the Launch Program, June 20, 2016.*)



The *Golden Rule* at Fleet Week, San Francisco, CA  
October 6-11, 2015

## 2016 SAILING SEASON

"We will be sailing throughout the northwest for a peaceful and sustainable world," says **Gerry Condon**, Vice President of Veterans For Peace. The VFP *Golden Rule* Project will collaborate with local activists and experts to tell our story and to amplify nuclear, peace, and environmental messages in a dramatic way!

When the *Golden Rule* is in port, the public will be invited to tour the boat. Friends and supporters can even go sailing with us!

## Tentative *Golden Rule* 2016 Sailing Schedule

- Actions against a Liquid Natural Gas Facility, Coos Bay, OR.
- Astoria, OR, April or May.
- Fleet Week, Portland, OR, June 8.
- Hanford Nuclear Reservation, late June.
- Actions against oil and coal trains and ports, Vancouver, WA.
- Lake Union Wooden Boat Festival, Seattle, WA early July.
- Port Angeles, WA and Vancouver and Victoria, BC, late July.
- Peace Fleet Action during Fleet week, Seattle, WA, August 3.
- Bangor Trident Submarine Base, Bangor, WA, August 5 – 9.
- Wooden Boat Festival, Pt. Townsend, WA, September 9 – 11.
- Various Puget Sound and Lake Washington events, July through September.
- Return trip to Humboldt Bay by mid-October.

As Restoration Coordinator **Chuck DeWitt** said, "*The Golden Rule* is a weapon of mass education!"

### For a Sailing Schedule update

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

[vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com](mailto:vfpgoldenruleproject@gmail.com)

Veterans For Peace

P.O. Box 87

Samoa, CA 95564

## Welcome to ARLINGTON WEST SANTA MONICA A project of Veterans For Peace

Each Sunday from sunrise to sunset, a temporary memorial appears next to the world-famous pier at Santa Monica, California, and at Stearns Wharf in Santa Barbara, California.

Veterans For Peace is a global organization of military Veterans and allies whose collective efforts are to build a culture of peace by using our experiences and lifting our voices. We inform the public of the true causes of war and the enormous costs of wars, with an obligation to heal the wounds of wars. Our network is comprised of over 140 chapters worldwide whose work includes: educating the public, advocating for a dismantling of the war economy, providing services that assist veterans and victims of war, and most significantly, working to end all wars.

### ARLINGTON WEST MISSION STATEMENT

IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE VETERANS FOR PEACE  
STATEMENT OF PURPOSE, THE ARLINGTON WEST  
MISSION STATEMENT IS TO REMEMBER THE FALLEN  
AND WOUNDED, TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE HUMAN COST OF  
WAR, TO PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT THE DOMESTIC  
COSTS OF A PERMANENT WAR ECONOMY, TO ENCOURAGE  
DIALOGUE AMONG PEOPLE WITH VARIED POINTS OF VIEW,  
TO EDUCATE THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE NEEDS OF THOSE  
RETURNING FROM WAR, AND TO PROVIDE A PLACE TO GRIEVE.



## SOA Watch is moving to the Border

At the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Vigil at Ft. Benning, GA, last November, SOA Watch Field Organizer **María Luisa Rosal** and movement Founder, **Father Roy Bourgeois** announced SOA Watch's decision to move the popular mobilization to the U.S./Mexico border in the Fall of 2016.

*This October 7-10, in Nogales, Arizona, is SOA Watch's first bi-national convergence at the U.S./Mexico border to demand a fundamental shift in U.S. foreign policy.*

### Why the change was made:

“At a time when refugees who are fleeing U.S.-sponsored violence are being branded as criminals, rapists and terrorists, and as anti-immigrant rhetoric continues to poison the public discourse in this election year, it is important for people of conscience to take a stand and to offer a different narrative.

### **As politicians build walls, we must build bridges.**

We need to build grassroots power to challenge the racist status quo and we need to take action. Immigration has been the biggest issue so far in the 2016 presidential election campaign, yet every major candidate has remained silent about the connections between militarized U.S. foreign policy and the reasons why people flee here for their lives.

Instead of welcoming refugees as required under international humanitarian standards, they are treated as criminals and imprisoned for profit in the U.S. Moreover, **the U.S. “solution” to the so-called child migrant crisis has been to further militarize the borders of Mexico and Central America. Mexico now departs more Central Americans than the U.S. does - with our tax dollars.** Enough is enough! We must answer the call to solidarity, speak truth to power, and demand an end to the current manifestations of U.S. violence in Latin America and beyond!

Beginning in the Spring of 2015, we began a discussion focused on moving the annual vigil to the U.S./Mexico border in order to expand our focus and shine a light on the many human rights violations caused by destructive U.S. foreign policy that the SOA represents. In the months that followed, we began an engaging and intentional series of conversations within our movement, as well as with partner organizations. In the month prior to last year's vigil, we embarked on a listening tour to consult with communities and organizers on the front lines of resistance along the U.S./Mexico border and were able to come to a consensus - **SOA Watch needs to move to the border!**

**The SOA Watch movement began as a response to what was happening in El Salvador in the 1980s when many people joined the solidarity movement.** The patterns of violence and forced migration established during the dirty wars of the 20<sup>th</sup> century have continued unabated as a direct result of U.S. economic and security policies in Mesoamerica as well as the U.S.-led Drug War. How do we respond to this current reality in the same way we responded to the violence in the 1980s? Where should our energies lie?

**This year's vigil in Nogales is a response to the present-day call to solidarity.**

The border mobilization in Nogales is one more way to fight for the closure of the School of the Americas, and to work towards a world that is free of suffering and violence. We cannot forget that many of our immigrant brothers and sisters are survivors of

U.S.-sponsored atrocities in Latin America. In calling attention to the militarization of the border, we continue to demand an end to state-sponsored terrorism and violence against our communities on both sides of the border.

**Join us! Organize your community to join human rights activists, torture survivors, union workers, veterans, community organizers, migrants, faith communities, students and educators from across the Americas.”**

### SOA Watch

#### To get involved:

- Fundraise or Donate.
- Order a box of the bilingual Spring 2016 **¡Presente!** newsletters to distribute in your community.
- Download, print, and distribute the 2016 Vigil flyers

**For questions:** 202-234-3440 or 202-710-2343.

## Plastic Bags

**Governor Jerry Brown** of California made history on September 30, 2014. We were to become the first state to ban single use plastic bags. The plastic bag manufactures rapidly revolted. The “*American Progressive Bag Alliance*,” a group of American plastic bag manufactures, led the charge. They gathered enough signatures to stall the ban, and we here in California will vote on the initiative in November. The plastic bag industry has spent \$3.2 million campaigning against the ban. We will see what happens in November.

*The World Economic Forum reported that our oceans will have more plastic than fish by 2050.* Unfortunately, most plastic packaging is used only once then discarded. Forty percent of plastics end up in landfills and just five percent are efficiently recycled. The study found that 32 percent of all plastic packaging escapes collection systems and finds its way into natural ecosystems, including the ocean.

We can do our part. We can help the world, “one bag at a time!” Consider this:

**California has about 38,000,000 people.  
If each person used ONE less bag a week:  
38,000,000 X 1 X 52 = 1,976,000,000**

YES! That is **ONE BILLION 976 million** less plastic to clutter, pollute, clog and make way to our oceans and streams endangering our wildlife.

Take a smaller state:

**Arizona with a population about 6,700,000.  
6,700,00 X 1 X 52 = 348,400,000 less bags!**

Please look up your state population, your city or town and use this simple formula. Better yet, how about **TWO** less bags a week? It **ALL** makes a difference. It is inconvenient, for now, but our planet needs our help. We can get used to less plastic. It will take time and determination, but we have no choice. Have you walked past your roads or waterways? What do you see? I will almost guarantee some form of plastic. Let's try . . .

Peace to all of us — including our planet, Lorraine.

**CONVOCANDO A TODXS LXS ORGANIZADRXS\***

# MOVILÍZATE A LA FRONTERA ENTRE MÉXICO Y LOS EE.UU.

7 AL 10 DE OCTUBRE  
NOGALES, ARIZONA Y  
NOGALES, MÉXICO

DE 2016

**DESDE LA ESCUELA DE LAS AMÉRICAS HASTA LA FRONTERA**

- DESENMASCARAR LAS CAUSAS RAÍCES DE LA MIGRACIÓN
- PONERLE FIN A LA INTERVENCIÓN ESTADOUNIDENSE EN LAS AMÉRICAS
- RESISTIR LA MILITARIZACIÓN DE LA FRONTERA
- PARTICIPAR EN ACCIÓN DIRECTA NO VIOLENTA, EDUCACIÓN, ARTE Y CULTURA

\*deberías estar aquí

**PARA INVOLUCRARTE, PONTE EN CONTACTO CON:** María Luisa Rosal, organizadora de base de SOA Watch  
marialuisa@soaw.org, 202-710-2343

**CALLING ALL ORGANIZERS\***

# MOBILIZE TO THE US-MEXICO BORDER

OCTOBER 7-10, 2016  
NOGALES, ARIZONA & NOGALES, MEXICO

**FROM THE SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS TO THE BORDER**

- EXPOSE THE ROOT CAUSES OF MIGRATION
- END U.S. INTERVENTION IN THE AMERICAS
- RESIST BORDER MILITARIZATION
- ENGAGE IN NONVIOLENT DIRECT ACTION, EDUCATION, ART AND CULTURE

\*you should be here

**TO GET INVOLVED, CONTACT:** María Luisa Rosal, SOA Watch Field Organizer  
marialuisa@soaw.org, 202-710-2343



# Grandmothers for Peace International

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

## ORDER FORM

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		Sm	Med	Lge	Lge	Lge	Lge		
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2. Women's Crewneck T-Shirts (Navy)	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
3. Women's Crewneck T-Shirts (White)	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	_____	
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7. Men's Auxiliary T-Shirts (Navy)	\$15.00	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	n/a	n/a	<input type="checkbox"/>	_____	
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11. Buttons (1 3/4") <i>Free Shipping</i>	\$ 2.00							<input type="checkbox"/>	_____
12. Buttons (2 1/4") Make any hat a GFP Hat (Four Buttons = \$10.00; Ten Buttons = \$20.00) <i>Free Shipping</i>	\$ 3.00							<input type="checkbox"/>	_____

**INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING IS EXTRA**

SHIPPING: \$5.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> item = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

\$1.00 for each additional item x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Subtotal = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## Grocery/Everything Tote

Navy — \$15.00

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

**Cut down on plastic - FREE SHIPPING**



Make **check** payable to **Grandmothers for Peace International\*\*** for the TOTAL: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

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# Grandmothers for Peace International

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11/2009

### Numbers You Need

**4,495 US Military Deaths in Iraq\***  
**2,381 US Military Deaths in Afghanistan**

**Cost of Wars:**

**\$4 Trillion - \$6 Trillion\*\***

**President Barack Obama**

The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

*E-mail:* go to Website:

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\*[icasualties.org](http://icasualties.org); \*\*[time.com/3651697/afghanistan-war-cost/](http://time.com/3651697/afghanistan-war-cost/);  
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